



"Since we started, the wine world has grown and changed considerably, but our commitment to offering a well-considered and in-depth selection of wines to our customers has remained constant."



J. Emerson, Inc.

FINE WINES & CHEESE



2016 Holiday Newsletter

Happy Holidays to all of our Customers and Friends!



This is the time of year to offer better wines to your friends and family and this newsletter has wonderful suggestions for Holidays wine gifts as well as wines perfect for the Holiday dinner table. Emerson's is always 63° and wines are stored on their side with indirect incandescent lighting or LED lighting (which emits NO UV!) so you can purchase with confidence. Please remember that we offer gift wrapping with a wide variety of bags and boxes for one to six bottles as well as local delivery to selected Richmond zip codes.

Thank you for shopping with us and Merry Christmas! -J. Emerson, Inc.

This Year Give a Gift of place!

The best wines are about place. With minimal intervention in the winery, they reflect the vines, the soil, the wind, the climate, collectively called Terroir. This reflection of place, and the snapshot of time marked by vintage, separates wine from all other fermented or distilled beverages. At Emerson's we celebrate place and this Holiday Newsletter focuses on distinctive wines from distinctive places. **This year give more than wine, give a gift of place!**

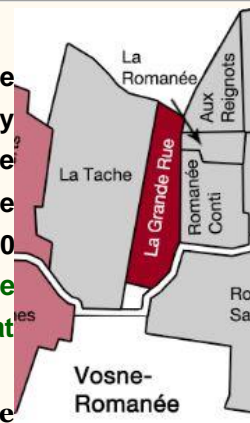
Holiday Gift Baskets

Here is a wonderful and thoughtful gift for friends' customers and family. Choose your favorite wines and the basket, a box of Emerson chocolates, wrapping, and bow are an additional: \$9.95 for two bottles, \$11.95 for three bottles and \$13.95 for four bottles (not including wine of course!). We would be happy to consult with you on additional accessories to add to your basket. Plus - we can deliver to Richmond and West End addresses for as little as \$10.

An ultimate gift of Place: La Grande Rue.



The tiny 4 acre Monopole, (meaning one winery owns the entire Appellation) La Grand Rue is bordered on the left by the monopole Grand Cru appellations of La Tache and on the right by Romanee Conti. This is ground zero, the epicenter, of Pinot Noir. La Tache routinely retails for \$2,500 a bottle and above; Romanee Conti \$15,000 a bottle. **The rare, (600 cases produced), La Grande Rue is a bargain at \$399.99**



2011 Domaine François Lamarche La Grande Rue

Grand Cru, Burgundy France – "Relatively generous wood frames the cool red berry fruit nose that is lavishly spiked with an impressive array of spice and floral notes. There is a sophisticated mouth feel to the supple yet well-detailed middle weight flavors that exude a fine dry extract on the gorgeously complex, persistent and utterly delicious finish. This highly seductive effort should also drink well in its youth but amply reward longer-term cellaring." Burghound Issue: 53

A note on the place: Romanee -Conti lies on brown limestone soils 60 cm deep with a major clay component. La Tâche and La Grande Rue share brown limestone soils, rather shallow at the top end with deeper rendzinas lower down. The underlying rock is hard Premeaux limestone dating from the Jurassic (175 million years BC). The gentle slope with eastern exposure is perfect for grape growing.

2015 Marcel Lapiere, Morgon Beaujolais

The only wine Peter Neff buys by the case!

Located between Beaune and Lyon in Beaujolais, the cru appellation of Morgon has a certain evident character that is imparted to the grapes by the ageing schist and crumbling granite soils in which the vines thrive. There is also a well-known affinity between the Gamay grape and the soils leached from granitic rocks and ancient schist. Lapiere farms organically with minimal intervention, uses indigenous yeast, and bottles unfiltered. These are wines meant to be devoured.



2015 Marcel Lapiere •Morgon Beaujolais, France - "The 2015 Morgon has a clean and vibrant bouquet with perfumed dark cherries, redcurrant, a touch of gravel and touches of rose petal. The palate is nicely structured, brimming over with energy. The acidity is very well judged, quite sturdy as Morgon should be, no hard edges here but just the background "hum" of tension from start to finish. This is just a superb Morgon from Mathieu and Camille Lapiere." (WA #226) **\$35.99**

VERTICALS AND SIX BOTTLE CASES



**2013 Ridge Monte Bello
Santa Cruz Mountains, California**
3 bottle case - \$539.99 or \$201.99/btl.

High atop the Santa Cruz Mountains at 1300' to 2700' is the iconic Monte Bello vineyard. Bush trained Cabernet Sauvignon struggles in the unique green stone and clay soils layered over decomposing limestone. Here Paul Draper grows Bordeaux varietals and arguably the finest red blend in California. Very little is grown and it is very allocated.

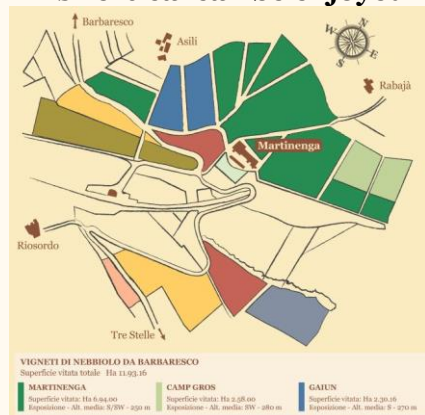
A Review from Wine Advocate: "Tasted out of bottle, the 2013 Monte Bello is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot, 7% Cabernet Franc and just 5% of Merlot (Merlot struggled in 2013 due to the drought). Surprisingly, given the higher Cabernet content, it's more voluptuous and layered than the '12, and has awesome concentration and depth on the palate to go with classic crème de cassis, vanilla bean and violets. Reminding winemaker Eric Baugher of the 1985 (sorry, before my wine drinking time), I suspect this beautifully pure, elegant and seamless beauty will drink nicely in 3-4 years, and have upwards of three decades of overall longevity." (WA 221)



A 6 bottle Vertical Vintage Collection from Marchesi Di Gresy
Cru Barbaresco Gaiun Martinenga
2 bottles each of the 1998, 2001 and 2005 vintages - \$899.99

Gaiun is situated in the Commune of Barbaresco and is a special section of the cru vineyard of Martinenga. It has a south facing exposure at 280mt. and is produced only in the best vintages.

This vertical can be enjoyed now.



A review of the 2005 vintage from Vinous: "a round, sensual wine laced with perfumed fruit. This is an especially soft, elegant Gaiun with impeccable balance and tons of style. The wine remains understated - as the di Gresy Barbarescos often are - but the plumpness and inner sweetness of the fruit gives the wine wonderful volume. The French oak is very nicely integrated here. This is another delicious Barbaresco from Marchesi di Gresy. The Gaiun is made from a parcel adjacent to Asili and it too shows many of that site's qualities."

2013 Opus One Proprietary Red Wine, Napa Valley, Ca.



Opus One Winery sits near the crossroads of Highway 29 and Oakville Cross Rd and grows grapes in the rich soils of the Rutherford Bench both in its own vineyards near the winery and in vineyards sections of the famous To--Kalon vineyard across the road. This is the heart of Napa Valley and no one does it better.

"Dark cherries, plums, smoke, licorice, new leather and menthol race across the palate in the 2013 Opus One. Firm yet also voluptuous, the 2013 has it all. The combination of fruit and structure is superb. Today, the 2013 reminds me of the 2010 when it was young, especially in its energy and pure power. The flavor remain quite primary, one of the signatures of this great Napa Valley vintage."-- Antonio Galloni Vinous

6 Bottles case: \$1599.99 or single bottles at \$284.99

An exquisite gift from one of Spain's top producers.
CVNE, Compañía Vinícola del Norte del Espana
 (The Northern Spanish Wine Company)
2009 Gran Reserva Rioja from 3 wineries.

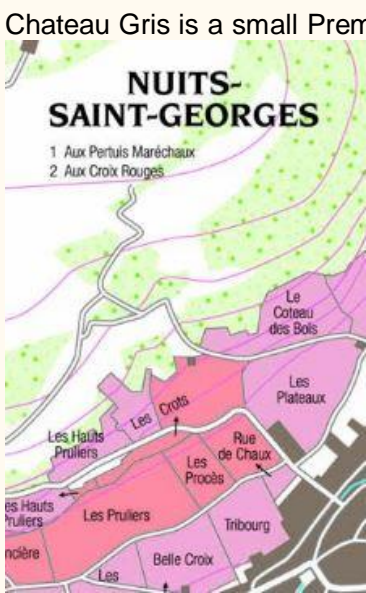


A very good vintage and all wines have wonderful reviews!

Founded in 1879 in the town of Haro in Rioja Alta, Cune consists of 4 wineries. In this special release there are three Gran Reservas (two bottles of each) all beautifully bound in a wooden case. The case includes 2009 Contino Grand reserve, 2009 Imperial Gran Reserva and the 2009 Viña Real Gran Reserva. (Rioja Gran Reserva wines have been aged at least two years in oak and three years in bottle.)

6 bottles in wood case: \$359.99

2014 Domaine du Château-Gris Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er Cru Burgundy, France



Chateau Gris is a small Premier Cru Monopole vineyard on the higher slopes of the Cote d'Or above the township of Nuits-Saint-Georges. The vineyard is essentially a small lieu-dit of the Les Crots climat, and the vineyard's steep slope has had a considerable effect on the terroir, and the site has been terraced to make it easier to work. Regardless, the soil is thinner and rockier than on the land below, and covers a hard layer of limestone. Chateau Gris' east-facing position on the hill also gives it an excellent exposure to sunlight for much of the day. This warming influence is important in Burgundy, as it helps to ensure that the grapes reach maximum ripeness despite cool continental influences. This vineyard is named for the Chateau Gris (gray castle) building that can be found in the vineyard. The chateau's position on the hill above the town has made it something of a landmark in Nuits-Saint-Georges.

A Review from Vinous: -"Good medium red with a touch of amber. Discreet smoky, earthy aromas and flavors of strawberry, raspberry and underbrush. Plump, pliant and voluminous but classically dry, offering a rather elegant texture and lovely inner-mouth perfume. Finishes seamless and suave, with subtle sweetness, sound acidity and very good persistence."

\$123.99/btl or a six pack in wood for \$629.99



2010 Domenico Clerico Barolo Aeroplan Servaj Piedmont, Italy



A spectacular 6 bottle presentation with custom artwork.

A review from Robert Parker, Wine advocate –“The 2010 Barolo Aeroplan Servaj is a wine of celestial aspiration. It soars in beauty and intensity, imparting delicate aromas of wild berry, blue flower and balsam herb as it makes its steady ascent. It shows the best of Serralunga d'Alba. The quality of fruit is tonic and compact with enormous inner tension and verve. There is a subtle, but determined, vein of acidic freshness that adds impressive length and persistency to the finish. It drives the wine forward over the palate with increased momentum and forward thrust.

Barolo Aeroplan Servaj definitely needs more cellar time to lose some of its nervous energy. This wine should age gracefully and very slowly. (WA 219)

6 bottles with wood presentation case: \$767.99



Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Asinone

**Single vineyard Library release
6 bottles - 2 each of the 2000, 2003 and 2007 Vintage - \$559.99**

Located in Tuscany, the Asinone vineyard, planted in Prugnolo Gentile (Sangiovese), is at an altitude of 380 to 400 m above sea level, and has a western exposure. It is characterized by a steeply sloping terrain and the soil is of Pliocene origin – French clay, mixed with tufaceous zones, and a skeleton of crushed red stone. The soil is generally thin with poor hydration.

Reviews from The Wine Advocate:

The 2000 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Vigna Asinone is unquestionably a top source of superior Sangiovese. Darker, more ruby and blacker in tonality than the regular bottling, warm and ripe in aroma with berries, vanilla, and cinnamon front and center, its flavors are long and focused. The continuity of flow across the palate is impressive, the density level high, and the force and elegance in excellent balance. The suppleness suggests a readiness which could well be deceptive. The wine will still be drinking well between 2012 and 2014

The 2003 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Asinone is weighty in its expression of super-ripe, jammy, dark fruit and scorched earth. Warm and ample on the palate, it displays outstanding overall balance as well as a seductive personality. Today it is still a bit tight and will require several hours of air or, even better, another year or two in the cellar. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2018.

The 2007 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Asinone is a single-vineyard offering from 45 year-old vines that spent months in French oak. Explosive, ripe and totally seductive, the Asinone presents a heady array of dark fruit, new leather, and licorice, along with menthol, spices and a host of other balsamic nuances that come to life in the glass. The French oak is already beautifully integrated, but the fruit is still quite vibrant, suggesting the wine needs at least another few years in bottle to develop its full range of aromas and flavors. Today, I can only marvel at the wine's exceptional balance and drop-dead gorgeous personality. The Asinone is a winner from Poliziano. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2027.

"PERFECT" WINES from CALIFORNIA

Here are two "Almost perfect" very allocated Estate Grown Chardonnay's



2014 Peter Michael Winery Chardonnay 'Ma Belle Fille', Knights Valley, Sonoma, Ca- "The 2014 Chardonnay Ma Belle Fille has essentially the same aromatic and flavor profile as well as huge body and concentration that also characterized the 2015, with oodles of caramelized citrus and honeysuckle in its explosive aromatics and intense flavors. Both are fabulous Chardonnays like their siblings and should be drunk over the next 10-12 years." (WA 227) \$121.99



2012 Marcassin Chardonnay Marcassin Vineyard, Sonoma Coast, Ca- "displays great minerality, notes of honeysuckle, orange marmalade, poached pear, and white flowers as well as a touch of quince. A wine of great intensity, yet incredibly ethereal elegance, this light greenish gold-colored wine is full-bodied, stunningly rich, and altogether remarkable. When you consider that they use 100% new French oak and 100% heavy toast for both their Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, it is remarkable how little oak appears in these wines. This wine should age well for 10-15 years, as most of the Marcassin Estate Chardonnays have done to date." (WA 223) \$249.99

...And 3 "Perfect" expressions of Cabernet Sauvignon:



2013 Hall Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Kathryn Hall, Napa Valley- The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Kathryn Hall from their Sacrashe Rutherford Vineyard delivers a relatively profound set of aromatics even for a wine that's only 11 months of age. With almost unreal richness of blue and black fruits, spring flowers, graphite and spice, this is a sensational inky, full-bodied wine that will come close to being a perfect wine when bottled after its full élevage in barrel. Spectacular!" (WA #215) \$171.99



2012 Chappellet Cabernet Sauvignon Pritchard Hill, Napa Valley - "The dense purple-colored 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Pritchard Hill Estate (one of Napa's fashionable go-to terroirs) exhibits a striking bouquet of spring flowers, blueberries, raspberries and blackcurrants. This is a compelling wine with profound depth and flavor, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and a velvety integration of tannin, acidity and wood. Pushing perfection in Cabernet Sauvignon, this multidimensional, skyscraper-like offering has all the intensity one expects, but it never comes across as heavy. This gives it an ethereal character that is nearly impossible to articulate, but genius is often hard to explain. It is clearly a major superstar of a great vintage." (WA 215) \$204.99



2006 Colgin IX Proprietary Red Estate, Napa Valley - "From the Pritchard Hill Vineyard, the 2006 IX Proprietary Red Estate is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot. The good news is that there are 1,500 cases of this cuvee. It, too, reveals the noble sweetness of tannin, the extraordinary rich, intense mouthfeel, and sumptuous aromas of flowers, burning embers, blackberries, blueberries, spice box, and cedar. With extraordinary intensity, beautiful purity, a texture and flavors that build incrementally on the palate, and a significantly long finish, this is a perfect wine." (WA 180) \$649.99

LARGE FORMAT

We offer a variety of wines in larger formats. They have a certain wow factor and make a great gift! Here are a few examples:



- 6L 2010 Chateau Larose Trintaudon, Haut-Medoc, France: \$276.99
- 9L 2008 Roland Champion Champagne Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru, Brut France: \$999.99
- 1.5L 2011 Fattoria Selvapiana Chianti Rufina Riserva Bucerchiale, Italy: \$89.99
- 1.5L 2006 Chateau de Chorey Les Beaune Premier Cru Cuvee *Tante Berthe*, Cote de Beaune, France: \$199.99
- 1.5L 2007 Domaine Jean-Louis Chave Hermitage, Rhone, France: \$519.99
- 1.5L 2000 Clos i Terrasses Clos Erasmus, Priorat DOCa, Spain: \$499.99
- 1.5L 2008 Vietti Castiglione, Barolo DOCG, Italy: \$143.99
- 1.5L 1995 Chateau de Fieuzal, Pessac-Leognan, France: \$219.99

PORT

The fortified wines from Portugal make an excellent gift and after dinner drink. Here are a couple of our favorites, nicely presented.



1963 Barão de Vilar Feuerheerd's Colheita Tawny Port- "The 1963 Colheita Port (Feuerheerd's), coming in at 142 grams per liter of residual sugar, is brilliant. Lush and gorgeously constructed, it shows off its power and its intensity of acidity on the finish, but also its remarkable viscosity and intensity of flavor. It is often wonderful, frequently fabulous. It's a beauty that touches all the bases. This was scheduled for release in September 2015." (221, The Wine Advocate) \$179.99

Taylor Fladgate - A Century of Port -aged in larger oak casks these blended tawny ports are rich and mellow, 4 - 1/2 bottles (375ml) each of 10/20/30 and 40 year tawny in a wood presentation case. What a wonderful gift. \$299.99



**1995 Bordeaux -
A Vintage Filling Out Beautifully**

1995 was universally praised as a good vintage on both sides of the Gironde. Although overshadowed by the excellent 1996's, 1995 is full of gems. As they mature, they are becoming more and more interesting and represent a good value in aged, ready to drink Bordeaux.



- 1995 Château Léoville Barton, St. Julien Bordeaux, France: \$200.99**
1995 Château Calon-Ségur, St. Estèphe Bordeaux France: \$244.99
1995 Château Margaux, Margaux Premier Grand Cru Classé, Bordeaux, France: \$869.99
1995 Château La Cabanne Pomerol Bordeaux, France: \$75.99

OLDER BURGUNDY

Here are some older Vintages of Pinot Noir Burgundy France.
The home of Pinot Noir.



- 1969 Remoissenet Père et Fils Morey St. Denis 1er Cru Les Charmes, Burgundy France: \$289.99**
2002 Maison de Partage Clos de la Roche Grand Cru, Burgundy, France: \$322.99
2004 Domaine Drouhin-Laroze Chapelle-Chambertin, Burgundy, France: \$114.99
1990 Maison de Partage Latricières- Chambertin Grand Cru Burgundy, France: \$584.99

*AND we could go on with Rhone wines, Champagne, Dessert wines White Burgundies...etc. etc. etc.
Come visit for the Holidays!*