



Your Source of Wine for Every Occasion

## Notes From The Cellar "NFTC" Newsletter May 28, 2009

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### **Muga, part II, The critics agree: 95ST/95WS/96WA**

Almost half way into the year time sure flies. With all the rain we got over the long weekend I had a chance to spend more time cleaning and organizing. A good chunk was naturally devoted to wine, the cellar and record keeping. This led me to revisit some bottles that I have been wanting to try for a while and I got to share some of those with good friends. It reminded me what a wonderful and rewarding activity collecting wine is.

One of the interesting things I have learned over the years is that while I have spent some good chunks of change on some bottles -ultimately I have seldom regretted purchasing wines I liked. By stretching a bit at times, I got rewarded with drinking wines that I would have a hard time justifying purchasing today.

Everyone is feeling the impact of these economic times, yet, these are the times where the greatest opportunities present themselves to the savvy. Wine is no exception. I have been repeating myself over the past year or so describing how everyone in the wine distribution business is tightening up. Many distributors are limiting availability to established brands It is harder to get the more exotic and special wines -the artisan small production ones, exactly those that tend to represent the best values and the ones we all like to drink. ( while the rest of the world spends their money on mass produced junk with cute critter labels). More often we have to commit to pre- ordering direct Import wines -what is referred to in the Biz as DI wines.

With distributors going more to the DI route and slashing prices on existing inventory there are a lot of so called "specials" around. Unfortunately my predictions of great deals on availability of really good wine actually decreasing is already coming to fruition It's no wonder that I keep hearing from many clients that their old wine & liquor store doesn't seem to carry the great wines like they used to....

Here at NFTC I have been trying to concentrate on what I believe to be the finest wines for the \$, and the ones that are the least available in volume -since they are the ones that disappear fast. Such is the case with todays featured wine which fall into the Collector's Corner category. Yet there are other excellent selections that do not make it into this newsletter. From easy every day drinkers to wines you can enjoy now, and over the next few years. **If you are in the market for great wines at modest prices:** Give me a call and I will be glad to mix a match a case for you and your friends -be it \$15 bottles \$30 a combination, or any price range for that matter.

**\$\$\$ Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$**

## Collector's Corner:

[Last week](#) some of the wines we featured were from Muga - an easy call, as their wines known amongst international collectors for offering great value since the 70's, have gotten even better over the past decade. Spain is unquestionably one of the greatest sources of traditional old world style wines. The quality age ability and value are some of the wines is hard to beat from anywhere in the world. Add to it one of the finest wineries, and some of the wine to ever come out of that winery and it's no wonder that I am so enthusiastic about these offerings -one taste is all that is going to make you a believer as well.

### **Bodegas MUGA Rioja, TORRE MUGA (Reserva) 2004 \$75-**

This is arguably this bodegas most recognized and celebrated wine. The ones that gets the finest accolades from wine critics and gets collected by fine wine aficionados the world over. 2005 represents another great vintage in Spain and The recent release Torre Muga will once again has it's share of fans. Ratings are not out yet but unfortunately prices are going up.

Yet you will know from [last weeks](#) newsletter that I considered the wines we offered from them last week to be better. **If you want the 2005 Torre Muga I will gladly get it for you.** But here is the real scoop: While I was calling the distributor for final deliveries of last week's wine I found out that with the 2005 shipment they also received a small amount of the 2004! Perhaps the finest Torre Muga ever with a 96 point rating from Parker's wine advocate and a 95 points ratings from Steve Tanzer and from Wine Spectator. Well this is truly a wine that should be in your cellar.



Quantities are very

limited, but we are lucky to get another kick at the can -if you missed it before or just want to add a few more to your stash, here is your chance.

From Wine Advocate: *"The 2004 Torre Muga is 75% Tempranillo, 15% Mazuelo, and 10% Graciano. It is aged for 3 months in large wood vats before spending 18 months in new French oak. Inky purple-hued, it exhibits a superb nose of wood smoke, pencil lead, spice box, scorched earth, and blackberry. This leads to a layered, opulent wine with 5-7 years of aging potential. It has great balance and should drink at its best from 2015 to 2025."* 96 points.

Thanks for all your support and referrals.  
Tell your friends, share the wine, & spread the good vibe. Cheers!

*Paul David*, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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