



Your Source of Wine for Every Occasion

Notes From The Cellar "NFTC" Newsletter July 16, 2009

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Crazy German deal: back filling on some classic vintages -for a song!

The deals keep coming, it's a great time to be a wine collector, yet in a recent review of the Wine Auction market by Wine Spectator Magazine it was noted that the high end of the market is picking up with prices in the 2nd quarter; up by about 10%. I think that it will be a while before this trend works its way to the more common wines, yet, sooner or later prices will firm up as supplies of wine being liquidated are shrinking. In any case we will keep looking for the deals and stick to our conviction; we are only interested in deals on great wine, after all no price reduction will cause a mediocre wine to taste good. While the selections and true deals are actually becoming rare, today we feature some real gems.

Long time readers know that in order to get the best selections, we often feature German wines in Direct Import offers. That's the best way to secure these. Unlike wines from more popular regions, no one along the distribution chain, likes to commit to large inventory positions. After all the market for those wines is limited (Thankfully, which keeps them as some of the best bargains in the wine world as far as quality for the price). So while they can be terrific value, great German wines are not easy to get a hold of. I am always on the lookout and taste these at all opportunities. After several recent tastings of new offerings, I was on the hunt for older vintages. What is referred to as "back -filling" : In addition to being able to obtain some better pricing we sometimes find wine from better vintages and the added bottle aging can result in wines that are more pleasing to drink now.

This week, I got to taste several such wines which are currently available at the importer's East coast warehouse. So while only one is a DI from Germany, the entire offering is a pre- arrival offer. The wine will arrive via refrigerated delivery in about 3-4 weeks. 3 bottle minimum per wine, Payment is due with your order confirmation, and all canceled orders will be charged a 15% restock fee. Quantities are very limited yet the prices are truly incredible. Stock up now on these easy drinking food friendly wines while the deals are here. Gute Jagd (Good Hunting).

*** For more information on this region as well as notes from some of these estates you may want to check out **Ben Wineberg's** article from his recent visit there several weeks ago:
[here](#)

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

KNIPSER Riesling Kabinett from Pfalz 2006

\$25/bottle, or \$24/bottle- with our cash discount

(note: image not exact)

This was an excellent vintage in the Pfaltz and it is hard to find Kabinett level wines from this vintage that have been perfectly stored and below the original release price. This is a classic example of a wine which has it all: bright orchard fruit, crisp with good acidity to make it food friendly, a very well balanced wine with lots of layered structure and a solid long finish. With a few years of bottle age this is ready to drink now (although you can easily cellar it for another 5+ years).

* Note -this is a pre-arrival deal: 3 bottle minimum order required



CLUSSE RATH-WEILER Riesling Spatlese Trittenheimer Apotheke 2007 Mosel

\$34/bottle, or \$32.50/bottle- with our cash discount

This famous estate has earned a 5 out of 5 star rating from the most famous German wine critic **Gerhard Eichelmann** (only 6 mosel wineries share this honor). Add to it the fact that 2007 is now widely getting a recognition (along with the 2001's) as one of the best vintages in the past 40 years. (I have often voiced my high opinion of the 2007's here in NFTC since I first tasted them).

Very impressive quality of tropical fruit, flavors and balance. This big and impressive wine will be long lived and at this quality level an excellent back fill opportunity. With a **93 point rating** from Wine Spectator I was surprised to discover that there is any of this around, but, we won't argue with a good opportunity....

As a side note; This estate produces a wine called the Fahrrels - from one of Germany's most famous vineyards, planted with native vines some of which are 109 year old (those wines are very limited and cost double the price). I had a chance to taste a 5 year vertical of those wines, along with the winery's full 2008 line up. And than, there it was- the 2007 Tritt, Apotheke Spat. featured here. For my money the 2007 Tritt. was right up there as the "QPR" leader. The fact that it showed so well next to the finest Fahrrels, - is indeed an indication of the superb value and quality this wine achieved in this now legendary year -do not miss.

* Note -this is a pre-arrival deal: 3 bottle minimum order required



HEINZ SCHMITT Riesling Auslese Klusserath Bruderschaft **2001** Mosel Special bottling Gold Capsule

\$33/bottle, or \$31.50/bottle- with our cash discount

This is really an insane deal -based on what's in the bottle, Wines of this quality routinely fetch \$50 or more for a half bottle! This is a full 750!

When Auslese from the legendary 2001 gets released as library offerings, even average bottles are often priced at 2 to 3 times this price. This vino was fantastic: Not too sweet, with a beautiful combination of small red berry fruit and white pit fruit, wrapped in citrus peel and a lick of that famous Mosel mineral on the finish.

It is surprisingly delicate and soft in context of this vintage, yet there is plenty of structure & nuance here - it is that very feature that makes it such an elegant and intriguing bottle. One to drink now, and over the next 20 years. How can this be so cheap? There had to be a story here and indeed there was:

Apparently this was a special Cuvee -selected and bottled under the supervision of **Jurgen Fendt** (who received recognition as Germany's top Sommelier of 2007). The entire run was pre- selected for a shipment to a special client in Japan. Somehow there were 64 extra cases of this nectar which were stashed deep in the cellars in Germany. I guess someone decided to release this and there it was. I am not going to ask too many questions. The wine is superb, the price is a give away -when an opportunity like this comes along -you strike. (I am getting a case for my cellar)

* Note: This will take longer to come in, as this will be joining the 2008 DI wines from Germany -expected in the Fall. I would say it's worth the wait. Enough said.
-this is a pre-arrival deal: 3 bottle minimum order required

**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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