

Notes From The Cellar (NFTC); Winepairings e-letter November 19,2008

Pinot Noir and Chateauneuf du Papes ready to drink. And some cult Cali.

This is a very busy time in the wine business. So today's newsletter is sweet and to the point. A couple of excellent wines perfectly stored with some age on them at a recession busting price -aged, highly rated wine, at prices below where the very same bottles from current release are priced. Unfortunately quantities were limited to stock on hand, but they are here & ready to go, just in time for the upcoming Holiday. Happy hunting, Also don't miss a very special collector's corner.

Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$

High quality Pinot Noir at good prices is very hard to come by. I am a big fan of the Central Otago valley in New Zealand, an area I have wrote about several times. This part of the world is gaining international recognition for the high quality & superb value of its Pinots. Located on the 45th parallel similarly to Burgundy & Oregon just in the Southern hemisphere it is a very scenic mountainous region with hot days and cool night -perfect for the complexity of flavor development of the PN grape. I got presented with a deal on a proven older vintage -my only question was how much of it can I get.

Rockburn Central Otago Pinot Noir (NZ) 2003 \$35-

Bright red fruit profile, with nice spice notes and good acidity on the finish and a touch of earthy hints, this is quite mouth filling (for a NZ -don't expect a central coast fruit bomb here). Shortly after it's release this got a 90 point rating from Wine Spectator: Jul 2005, : "*Tangy and rich, with lovely, ripe strawberry and blackberry flavors supported by zingy acidity, all of it lasting nicely on the generous finish. Drink now through 2009*".

Since then the wine had a chance to age and gain complexity and is now in it's optimal drinking window although it should hold out well in your cellar for several more years at least.

The 2003 Rockburn was awarded a **Gold Medal** at the New Zealand International Wine Show. As well British wine critic Jancis Robinson gave it a very lofty score of 18/20 points. Add to it the fact that the discounter's are selling the current (un-reviewed as of yet, 2006 vintage) at \$40 and above, this 5 year old Pinot in perfect condition makes it a hard one to beat for value.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Domaine du Pégaü Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Réservee 2001 \$80-

This 95 point Parker rated wine does not require much of an intro. A classic CDP it is one of the most famous wines from this region. The 2001 was the next great vintage after the famous 1998, a vintage that now commands prices in the stratosphere. With 2003 Pegau prices routinely at the \$125 level and the 2005's moving towards the triple digit as well, the smart money was after the 2001 for that ultimate combo of quality age and price. I searched for a while and came across a perfectly stored small stash that was recently imported directly from the estate. We got a great deal -grab your's while you can.

Wine Advocate # 151 Feb 2004 Robert Parker **95 Points** Drink: 2006 - 2020 : "*The 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reservee is a prodigious effort. The dark plum/ruby/garnet color is followed by a spectacular smorgasbord of aromas, including roasted meats, lavender, ground pepper, and thick, sweet blackberry and brandy-macerated cherries. Full-bodied, dense, and chewy, it has high*

levels of tannin, a huge finish, and a monster upside. Although less voluptuous than the 2000, the 2001 looks to be potentially the longest-lived and finest Cuvee Reservee since the wonderful duo of 1989 and 1990, both of which are aging splendidly. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2020."

We also have 4 bottles of the 2004 at the same price (\$80-).

Robert (Bob) Foley is one of California's most celebrated wine makers. At the time he was in charge of the cellar at **Pride** he made some of the hottest in demand wines of the region. When he started his own label under his name several years ago the wines became instant collectibles and were quickly sold to an eager mailing list. Today we have a few bottles originally purchased direct from the wineries on release and perfectly stored. Act fast

Pride Mountain Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 \$70

Also available a rare Magnum only one available at \$160

Foley Claret 2003 \$125-

Robert Parker 96 points Wine Spectator 95

Thanks again for all your support and referrals, tell your friends, Cheers

Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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