

## ***Notes From The Cellar (NFTC); Winepairings e-letter Dec. 19, 2008***

### **Today: Last minute wine for the holidays & deal on Fonseca Port**

With all the hectic activities of the year end I will keep today's offering short. We did get a fantastic price on some great vintage port which is under Special wine deals section.

To date I have not offered a "wine of the month club" type of deal to our clients. This is a popular item with some retailers where you receive or gift a case of wine every month or pre-determined time interval. Instead of a cookie cutter deal, I have had several clients who give me specific information on the wines they like: details such as- Is it for drinking now or aging, Price range and how often they need restocking... I make sure to get them wines specifically tailored to their needs. It offers much more flexibility as we can also select a few special high end wines for special occasions to be delivered with the everyday drinkers, different combinations styles types etc... -no 2 clients are the same and as such, everyone should get the wines most suitable to their circumstance. I believe that you end up with much higher quality wine to drink that way....And we can adjust and tweak the selections based on feedback.

If you are in need of last minute wine and want me to mix and match a case please contact me ASAP so we can get it into your hands -same as if you would like to send someone a gift as we ship wine out of state ( where allowed to by the local laws...) Either way consider spending a few minutes and setting up a plan to take care of your wine requirements or arrange for a wine delivery for someone special -you will benefit from our access to some great product and some wines that never make it into this newsletter.

**I would also like to wish all our friends and Customers a Joyful Holiday Season and all the best for the upcoming New Year .**

### ***\$\$\$ Special wine deals \$\$\$ Collector's corner***

#### **Fonseca 2003 Vintage Port \$70 (instead of \$95)**

Year in and year out Fonseca is considered one of the top vintage ports period. This is a port that while delicious young also makes for one of the most age worthy wines on the planet, so if 2003 was a special year in your life this is an excellent choice for a bottle which will make tremendous drinking in 15, 25 or 30 years from now. The 2003 is a classic vintage for Fonseca considered by some to be the finest since the 1994. It is questionable when the next vintage of such caliber will be declared, perhaps the 2007 but that will not be released for a while and if it measures up, expect prices to increase dramatically. The 2003 has already received glowing reviews and a 98 point ratings In "For the Love of Port" newsletter from Roy Hersh considered by many to be the authority on ports today. In addition it has rated 97 points in Tanzer's IWC and 96 points by Wine Spectator. A word or two about prices: Bottles of the 1994 vintage are selling for \$160+ other great vintages such as 1970 and 1977 are seldom seen under \$200 and the 63 vintage of this wine retail at \$350-550. So it doesn't require much to imagine the potential for price appreciation here....With the decline of the dollar and increasing global demand for the top quality port these

prices have only one way of going which is up .... Supplies which were purchased at stronger \$ are dwindling. Most discounters are offering this wine at starting prices in the mid 80's (I have contacted several sources advertising lower prices but in what is now becoming a standard practice -the wine was not available .... ) We got a close out from the local distributor on a few bottles so the wine comes with perfect provenance...we are offering them at the lowest price in the US today. Very Limited act fast to avoid disappointment.

### **Events:**

A couple of quick reminders as the year end approaches: Most restaurants and clubs offer special New Years eve packages -the good ones are popular and tend to sell out. If you have been too busy with life to make reservations you may want to do so over the next few days....

Also there is still time to donate to you favorite charity to take advantage of year end Tax deductions and book in profits or losses for the year.

Thanks again for all your support and referrals, tell your friends, Cheers ! Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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Please note that **you must be at least 21 years old** to order or receive alcohol from this newsletter. All orders require the signature of a person at least 21 years of age.