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Notes From The Cellar "NFTC" Newsletter
December 22, 2009

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90 point WS top 100 wine from Tuscany under \$11-

Yesterday was the Winter Solstice; one of my favorite days of the year -from here on, the days get longer... I also look forward to taking a few days off, but if the right deals come our way- we will keep putting them out.

I have been waiting for something special to come across my desk and with all the economic challenges that marked this past year this seems particularly appropriate.

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

MONTE ANTICO Toscana IGT 2006

Special 6pack pricing \$72/6 bottle, or \$69-/6 bottle- with our cash discount (checks are ok) That's only 11.50 per bottle

Save even more:

Special case pricing \$131/12 bottle, or \$125-/12 bottle- with our cash discount (checks are ok)

That's 10.42 per bottle !

Today's wine ended up with the no. 61 spot on the Wine Spectator's top 100 for 2009. No doubt the Spectator was also putting a greater emphasis on some selections at lower price to keep in touch with the times. **Monte Antico** is always a solid wine; it's a blend made for importer Neil Empson based on a core of the local Sangiovese grape

(75% with 15% merlot and 10% Cab to round it off). This wine gives you a lot of value for the \$ -the consultant wine maker here is no other than **Franco Bernabei** who also works for wineries such as Felsina and Fontodi, to name just a few of the top wineries in Italy today.

If you are going to stash away a quantity of inexpensive wine to have as a "house wine" or an "everyday drinker", It's always good to keep an eye out for some of the lower priced wines from a great vintage. You will often end up with better wine than many more expensive wines from a lesser vintage. Knowing how well Tuscany did in 06 made this an easy pick.

James Suckling is one of the more respected critics for the Wine Spectator and also is their main Italian specialist (he actually lives in Italy) pointed to this wine early. Here is what he had to say in his Blog:

" I came across an incredible value in my office in Tuscany today. Tasting a range of wines from \$10 to \$25 with Neil and Maria Empson of Empson & Co., I found some excellent wines. But what was the most impressive for the money was the Monte Antico 2006.... Granted, I have not tasted it blind yet. But it's in the very good to outstanding range. The wine is 75 percent Sangiovese, 15 percent Merlot and 10 percent Cabernet Sauvignon. It is made from 25-year-old vines minimum, mostly from Pisa, Maremma and Chianti Classico areas. Of course, the quality of the 2006 vintage in Tuscany shined through on this wine. This is a superb Sangiovese year. The aromatic quality of Sangiovese is mind-blowing for most wines from Tuscany. The 2006 Monte Antico has beautiful plums, berries and fresh acidity. Fantastico!"

The wine got some serious recognition as the top 100 wine list came out recently. Here is the official 90 point review from the Wine Spectator:

Score: 90 Country: Italy Region: Tuscany Issue: Oct 31, 2009

Top 100: 2009, Rank: 61 Designation: Best Values: "Bright plum, dried cherry and flowers on the nose. Full-bodied, with fine tannins and refined berry and cherry flavors. Drink now. "

Our local distributor offered me a very nice deal to close off the year. In order to keep margins super tight we are offering it today in 1/2 and full case quantities. For those of you who were looking for a nice inexpensive wine to stock up on -well this is very hard to beat -this is going to be very popular. Available now & we will keep ordering until they cut us off.

Happy Holidays everyone!

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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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.