

# December Wine Bargains

## Red Wines:

### **Santa Barbara Crossing Pinot Noir, 2013, Santa Barbara, California**

This gorgeous Pinot Noir is enticing and seductive. This wine reveals a strawberry, black-cherry, earthy, and spiced-scented nose, a seductive, creamy texture, ripe fruit on the palate, medium to full body, a hint of toasty oak, and a soft, layered finish. A delicious Pinot Noir for holiday parties or dinner on Tuesday. \$15

### **Quinta Pacheca Douro Red, 2013, Douro Valley, Portugal**

90 points from Wine Enthusiast confirms our thoughts on this amazing bargain made from indigenous Portuguese grapes. "This rich wine has a firm structure as well as ripe fruit. Foot trodden in stone troughs. It has a generous Port-like texture that is balanced by the black currant acidity and delicious fruitiness. Drink from 2017." \$12

### **Domaine Martin Vin de Pays Vaucluse, 2014, Languedoc, France**

This 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family run estate offers great wine at every level. This dark plum colored, delicious, robust cuvée of primarily Grenache is a knock-out bargain in a southern Rhône dry red wine. It offers soft, delicious, black cherries, blackberries, pepper, and earthy notes, a fine texture, a modicum of complexity, and satisfying levels of fruit. It is an excellent value. Very versatile with food – great party red! \$14

### **Bootstrap Red, 2014, California**

Bootstrap Red was created as a wine to enjoy after a long hard day at work. It's a delightful blend of Zinfandel and Petite Sirah sourced mostly from Lodi and reveals a southern Rhône-like, peppery, herbes de Provence, dried herb scented nose intermixed with toast and cherry liqueur. This is an immensely satisfying, rich, expansively-flavored wine for consuming over the next 3-4 years. It pairs beautifully with grilled foods. \$13

### **Pascual Toso Malbec, 2015, Mendoza, Argentina**

With the famed winemaker Paul Hobbs at the helm, Pascual Toso turns out amazing wines at every price point. Their Mendoza Malbec is loaded with notes of black cherry and blueberry leading to a rich, smooth-textured, forward wine with tons of flavor. \$15

### **Corral de Piedra "Gran Seleccion" Cabernet Sauvignon, 2013, Mendoza, Argentina**

Corral de Piedra is the name given to certain vineyards where there are so many stones that you could build a wall around the vineyards, like a corral. This Cabernet was aged for 15 months in mostly French oak. The nose gives up toasty oak scents along with mineral, spice box, and black currant. Medium-bodied, on the palate it has savory flavors, wonderful depth and concentration, good balance, and a fruit-filled finish. It will evolve for 1-2 years but definitely can be enjoyed now. \$12

## **Sparkling & White Wines:**

### **Lobetia Bubbles, N.V., La Mancha, Spain**

Organically farmed Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Viura are the base for this delightful sparkling wine from La Mancha. The bubbles are tender with aromas of flowers and almond. On the palate there's tropical notes of pineapple, mango and honeysuckle. The finish is clean and crisp with nice lingering fruit notes. \$14

### **Recorba Verdejo, 2015, Rueda, Spain**

With a supple texture, this fruit forward white is a perfect Pinot Grigio alternative. It has flavors of citrus zest, melon and a hint of fresh herbs. Perfect for party appetizers or with salads and delicate seafood. \$12

### **Oveja Negra Sauvignon Blanc / Carmenere, 2015, Maule Valley, Chile**

An extremely interesting combination, this blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Carmenere shows peachy overtones to the green apple and melon flavors. White pepper and spice accents emerge on the finish, revealing some chamomile hints. \$12

### **Dr Hans Vonmuller Riesling Kabinett, 2014, Mosel, Germany**

This beautiful expression of Riesling will pair amazingly well with almost everything on your holiday table. Riesling's versatility is unmatched by anything but sparkling wine. This drier-styled Riesling Kabinett is light and delicate, as well as round and charming with flavors of white peach, apple blossom and green tea. \$13

### **Lujon Pinot Gris, 2014, Willamette Valley, Oregon**

The nose is bright with pineapple and grapefruit aromas, while the palate is balanced with moderate weight, gently unfurling with flavors of baked apple, quince and pear to a very appealing nutmeg and hazelnut scented finish. \$15

### **Ironstone Chardonnay, 2014, Lodi, California**

Wine Enthusiast gave it a "Best Buy" designation, 89 points, and said, "There is a lot of life in this very affordable wine. Fruit-bowl and flower aromas lead to light spice and toast. The flavors are fruity and vivid, with the texture crisp and tangy, despite the full body. " \$12