July Wine Bargains

Red Wines:

Maison Nicolas Pinot Noir, 2016, France
This perennial “Best Buy” has scents of ripe red berry and cherry that are upfront on the nose of this friendly red, with hints of sweet spice, cherry cola, plum sauce and cinnamon adding depth and interest. Lightweight and easy drinking, it boasts silky tannins and a fresh finish. $11

Mont Gravet “Vieilles Vignes” Carignan, 2016, Languedoc, France
My tasting notes on this were simply “Porch Pounder”. Put it in the fridge for an hour or drop it in a bucket of ice and you’re off to the races. This delicious, easy-down-the-gullet red has a dusty cocoa and fruity blackberry aroma, with a welcoming, almost figgy note, acidity that sits nicely between the fruit and the earthiness, and just enough tannins to do the job. It’s everything you could want in a $9 wine – or a $15 wine, for that matter. Definitely in the Cheap Inexpensive Wine Hall of Fame. $9

Rocca Delle Macie “Rubizzo” Sangiovese, 2014, Tuscany, Italy
This Sangiovese based wine (the Chianti grape) has a splash of Merlot added. It reveals bright fruit flavors of Bing cherry and red currant. There are notes of violet and freshly cracked pepper as well. It’s a traditionally styled Tuscan red that is perfect with grilled sausage as well as meatballs and red sauce. $14

Bodegas Aletta "Veraz" Garnacha, 2014, Campo de Borja, Spain
Veraz is a cuvee of old vine (60+ years) Garnacha fermented and raised in stainless steel. Purple-colored, it offers up an enticing nose of mineral, lavender, and black cherry. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has excellent volume, savory flavors, and a finish with no hard edges. Drink this pleasure-bent value over the next 4 years. $10.50

Barossa Valley Estate Shiraz, 2013, Barossa Valley, Australia
This Shiraz opens to aromas of crushed blueberries, blackberries and chocolate covered cherries with menthol and cloves hints. Medium to full-bodied, the palate shows good intensity and freshness with ripe, rounded tannins and good length. $15

Estampa Malbec / Petit Sirah, 2013, Colchagua Valley, Chile
This is such a fantastic blend. We’re surprised more people don’t make it. The rich blueberry and spice notes of Malbec is bolstered with flavors of toasted blackberry and cracked pepper. The finish is long & full bodied with ripe tannin & a hint of espresso bean and dark cocoa $13

Bodegas Lagarde Altas Cumbres Cabernet Sauvignon, 2013, Mendoza, Argentina
Aromas of toasty oak, black tea, cedar, espresso, and black currants lead to a dense, savory, nicely proportioned Cabernet that is an excellent value meant for drinking now and over the next five years. $13
Sparkling, White & Rosé Wines:

Robertson Winery “Freshburst” Sauvignon Blanc, 2015, Robertson, South Africa
Wow, this is super fun. It’s lightly sparkling Sauvignon from the cool vineyards of South Africa. The flavors in the glass are all fresh herb, crisp apple and citrus with a little spice on the finish. Fabulous for fresh seafood. $15

Galerna Verdejo, 2016, Castilla La Mancha, Spain
From the land of Don Quixote, this lovely little Pinot Grigio look alike that has aromas of spring flowers, honeyed citrus and melon. It really sings with fresh fish and roasted chicken. $12

Les Dauphins Cotes Du Rhone Reserve Blanc, 2015, Rhone Valley, France
This pretty, crisp and gulpable white is a spectacular value. It has fabulous aromas of white peach, pear and hints of white flowers, medium-bodied richness and exceptional purity. Don’t miss it! $12

Drumheller Chardonnay, 2015, Columbia Valley, Washington
The aromas burst from the glass with super-ripe apple and pear. A broad, baking-spiced Chardonnay, it offers a soft texture in addition to an appealingly long finish. This well balanced white pairs perfectly with lemon and herb crusted halibut or chicken and pasta with cream sauce. $14

Zorzal “Terroir Unico” Pinot Noir Rosé, 2016, Tupungato, Argentina
Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate gave it 90 points and said, “It has a bright color, between salmon and roses, and a floral, clean nose. The palate shows some herbal notes that provide freshness and ends dry, with a mineral note. A serious rosé, delicious and fresh.” $14