



## Buried Roots

By Braydon Scully

### 'Tis the Season!

Holiday wishes, Season's Greetings and all the best to everyone at this special time of year!

At this time of year gifts are exchanged, parties are attended and good spirits and friendships are reinforced. But what to give the people you love?

Wine is always the answer for me!

It's tough this time of year with so many events going on to decide what to get or what to bring your hosts at the various dinners, parties and get-togethers you will no doubt be attending.

We are in luck in that the recent Vintages release at the LCBO has not only some outstanding wines to choose from, but at a wide variety of price points to suit every budget. Normally these releases heading into Christmas highlight some of the most expensive wines of the year, and that is definitely still the case, but there are also some quality values available to help you entertain the crowds without having to resort to a bankruptcy filing in the new year! In this issue we will explore some quality offerings for hosting friends and for gift giving this season.

Before I dive into my suggestions, I would like to put in a kind word for the hardworking folks at our local LCBO's. While I have been (and will continue to be) hard on the LCBO as an organization, I want to be clear that my issues with our Liquor Control Board do not extend to the fine people who work there. So have a thought for them as you wade through the longer than normal line-ups and holiday chaos to procure your seasonal libations.

#### **Under \$20 - Red**

##### **Fincas Las Moras PAZ Malbec 2017, Argentina - \$17.95**

if prior vintages hold true this will be a big bold red with ripe fruit flavours balanced by decent acidity

##### **Zuccardi Q Malbec 2016, Argentina - \$19.95**

Good producer and well reviewed by Louis Gutierrez of roberparker.com at 92 points.

##### **Montes Limited Selection Carmenere, Chile 2016 - \$14.95**

excellent producer who's Purple Angel Carmenere @ \$60 per bottle shows they know what to do with this grape-excellent value

##### **Chateau Le Cap AC Cotes De Bordeaux, France 2016 - \$16.95**

great vintage year for Bordeaux which should trickle down to this very accessible price point, well reviewed at 91 points by Roger Voss of Wine Enthusiast

##### **Tessellae Old Vines Grenache Syrah Mourvedre, France 2017 - \$18.95**

I have not tried this new vintage but have been a multi case buyer of past efforts. Expect big dark fruit, spice and a full bodied mouth feel. Perfect big wine to sip by the fire to keep warm

##### **Three Rings Shiraz, Australia 2016 - \$17.95**

-Second release of this wine, big lush fruit, and well structured

#### **Under \$20 - White**

##### **2027 Falls Vineyard Riesling, Canada 2017 - \$18.95**

- Well reviewed from a quality producer, dry to just off dry, high acidity and well balanced. Great food wine with Christmas Turkey

##### **SOHO White Collection Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand - \$19.95**

- Expect typical NZ Sauvignon Blanc character, grassy and fragrant with big fruit and acidity

##### **Gerard Bertrand Reserve Speciale Viognier, France 2017 - \$14.95**

- One of my favourite lesser known grapes and a great food wine, untried by me but from a quality producer and well reviewed

#### **Higher Priced Offerings: For that very special someone!**

##### **Chateau Montelena Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley 2016 - \$74.95**

Serious Cabernet from one of Napa's oldest producers. Well priced in the context of fine Napa Cabernets and from a high quality vintage year

##### **E&E Black Pepper Shiraz, Barossa Valley Australia 2016 - \$99.95**

Iconic flagship wine from one of the best Producers in Australia

##### **Caparzo La Casa Brunello Di Montalcino, Italy 2013 - \$79.95**

2013 was a fabulous benchmark year in Tuscany and this higher end bottling from Caparzo should make for excellent drinking 10 years from now

##### **Solaia, Italy 2016 - \$457.95**

Okay realistically I get that likely no one reading this column, including me, is going to go out and buy this wine. Having said that I did get to spend a day, almost exactly a year ago, visiting Antinori in Tuscany and got to try it. Absolutely breathtaking and deserving of the multiple 100 point ratings it is receiving from wine writers around the world. Primarily Cabernet Sauvignon blended with 20% Sangiovese and some Cabernet Franc. Price for this wine has doubled from just 4 vintages ago!

##### **Marchese Antinori Tenuta Tignanello Riserva Chianti Classico, Italy 2015 - \$49.95**

This is the one to buy if you were intrigued by the Solaia! Grown in the same exact vineyard at Antinori as the Solaia on the Tignanello estate. The blend is different as this is pure Sangiovese. A superb vintage and while not "quite" as good as the Solaia, at 1/10th the price I know where I will be putting my money

##### **Quintarelli Rosso Ca'Del Merlo, Italy 2011 - \$114.95**

- Wonderful legendary producer making wines the same way they have been forever. Traditional blend of Veneto grapes, Corvina, Corvinone, Rondinella blended with some outsiders. Half the fruit is dried before ferment as for Amarone, when blended the full wine does a secondary fermentation on the lees of the houses Amarone. Aged 7 years in Slavonian oak. Can be drunk now or aged for decades.

In Vino Veritas!

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@threegablespec