



\aut\ BAR

Wine by the bottle

Michigan Law now allows you to take unfinished bottles of wine home with you. If you desire one of our fine wines by the bottle, you no longer need to worry about leaving the bottle unfinished and wasting good wine. Simply ask your server to recork your bottle. We'll be happy to prepare the bottle in accordance with Michigan law.

Naturally, you are still subject to the "open bottle" laws. In other words, for your protection you should store the bottle in the trunk of your car while driving, or as far removed from driver and passengers as possible.

Red Wines

Liberty School Cabernet Sauvignon 2002 23.00

California Paso Robles

120

Paso Robles is the perfect climate for the cabernet grape. I first tasted Liberty School Cabernet the first week of \aut\ BAR, and its been one of my favorite cabs ever since.

This wine has very engaging aromas of blackberry brambles, layered with dark cherry, chocolate and cassis. On the palate, initial softness amplifies in to a warm, supple firmness.



Mendocino Wine "Big Yellow" Cabernet Sauvignon 2 21.00

California Mendocino

131

Even the darkness feels hungry as I wait. The perfect cab appears, like the surprise visit of an old friend. As I slide in, the rich leather sheets feel worn and warm with the faint scent of cigar lingering from some previous fare. Headlights glint blackberry red off the wet pavement as we pull away from the curb. "Where to?", asks the smooth rich voice of the cabbie.

"Yes, Where to?" I wonder. Traveling through all the best of my senses, I smile, ready for a soft smooth ride. This Big Yellow is just what I'm looking for.



Grangeneuve Cuvee Vieilles Vignes 2000 32.00

France Rhone Coteaux du Tricastin

112

"You say Shiraz, I say Syrah. Let's call the whole thing off".

In France they call the grape Syrah, and is typically the main ingredient in rhone wines. This small vinyard in the southern part of the Rhone region has had wine made from its grapes for 2000 years! Owned by the Bour family since 1964, the Vieilles Vignes is 90% Syrah and 10% Grenache. Oak-aged this wine posses rich, complex aromas. The only thing more enjoyable than smelling it is tasting it!



Marilyn Merlot 2004 60.00

California Napa Carneros

141

Sam Shaw took the photo of Marilyn used on the label for the 2004 vintage, and it celebrates the many sides of this 1950s glamour goddess and immortal legend.

Marilyn Merlot is always an excpetional wine. The 2004 is 90% merlot and 10% cabernet for a fuller bodied wine. The name may seem gimmicky, but this is an exceptional merlot.



Au Bon Climat " La Bauge au Dessus" Pinot Noir 2005 54.00

California Santa Maria Valley

154

Au bon climat is known for their Pinot Noir. 2005 was a particularly good vintage. And this particular vineyard has been getting a lot of press and attention as one of the best of the year. We think you'll agree with winemaker Jim Clendenen that this is one of the best since his outstanding 1990 version.

Full and rich with flavors of plums, and warm spices of black pepper, clove, and juniper. this Pinot is a crowd pleaser. The fruit is all Dijon clones. La Bauge au Dessus translates into "the decadent party up above". Perhaps it should be renamed "party in your mouth"!



Consilience Pinot Noir 2004 48.00

California Santa Barbara

134

A very limited production (only 550 cases) from an exceptional vineyard. Everything we've tried from Consilience we've enjoyed. Pinot noir is a very fussy grape. Russian River and Santa Barbara produce my favorite Pinot Noir grapes. That alone makes this worth trying. This features a silky texture and great overtones of cherry and strawberry.



Silvan Ridge Pinot Noir 2005 33.00

Oregon Willamette Valley

148

The Willamette Valley is one of the world's best places to grow Pinot Noir grapes. The pacific winds gently caress the grapes and tell them, "Be great wine". The grapes oblige. The Silvan Ridge Pinot Noir is characteristic with cherry and berry overtones, and the velvety feel that makes drinking a good pinot such a pleasure.



McNab Ridge Pinotage 2002 24.00

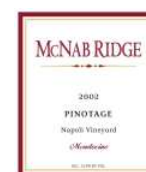
California Mendocino

107

Notes from Richard Parducci, winemaker:

Pinotage is a South African varietal, which resulted from a cross of Pinot Noir and Cinsault at the University of Stellenbosch in 1925. In spite of the fact that neither parent showed a lot of color, Pinotage is deeply colored and fully flavored.

The bouquet is very fruit forward with aromas of raspberry, spice and dried rose petals. Lush, ripe essences of jammy blackberry, plum and chocolate enhance the concentrated fruit flavors. Well balanced and structured, the rich mid-palate is followed by a lingering finish with just the right amount of soft tannin.



De Lisio Quarterback 2005

34.00

Australia McLaren Vale

151

The 2005 is nearly as powerful as the 2004. An intriguing blend of Shiraz, Grenache, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon aged in mostly old French wood, the deep ruby/purple-tinged 2005 Quarterback reveals notions of new saddle leather, black currants, licorice, and spice box. Full-bodied as well as elegant, restrained, and Eurocentric in character.



Project 3000 Syrah 2003

33.00

California Lake County

153

Can we have TOO many wines by Peter Franus in the house? I don't think so. The guy's passion for great wine shows up in every bottle. And while not inexpensive, comparable quality wine is often double the price of PF's wine.

This wine is Peter's venture into the world of Syrah/Shiraz. It is a collaboration between Peter Franus and Jim Fore, the vinyard owner (the vineyard is at 3000 foot elevation, ergo Project 3000) a man passionate about this grape. Rich nose with plums and cherries, and a very spicy wine with black pepper



Eos The French Connection 2001

32.00

California Paso Robles

119

The Arciero Family has been making wine in California for several generations. In 1994 they created the Eos label for their estate bottled wines. The "French Connection" is a bordeaux-style wine of 52% cabernet sauvignon, 30% cabernet franc, and 18% merlot.

I've been impressed by several of the wines from Eos, but this may be the best wine produced at the winery. In addition to using only french varietals, and using french aging techniques, Paso Robles was blessed in 2001 with an unusually cool summer, allowing for a longer ripening time and yielding intense ripe flavors.



Citizen Zinfandel 2002

26.00

California Alexander Valley

139

Along with a REALLY fun label, we've got a very fun Zinfandel. This is a big-fruit Zinfandel from the Alexander Valley and a splash of Petit Syrah. Tasty, easy drinking and full bodied red. This is great with tomato based sauces and spicy foods. Try it with our burrito veracruz, blackened steak salad, or an \aut\ BURGER.



Peter Franus Zinfandel 2002

39.00

California Napa Valley

115

Peter Franus is well-known and respected among winemakers. Wine drinkers are finally discovering what the "wine geeks" have been raving about! He blends Zinfandel from three vineyards to produce a bold rich wine.

Many Cabernets would love to see the deep, dark, ruby displayed in this wine. Creamy cinnamon, white pepper notes, rose petal and sweet vanilla overtones lead you in to an extravaganza of cassis, boysenberry, and blueberry jam. Raspberries and allspice fill out the mouth in a wine that is serious and playful at the same time. And it won't require much of a search to discover depth of flavor here.



Peter Franus Brandlin Ranch Zinfandel 2004

52.00

California Napa Valley

149

This is not your ordinary Zinfandel. The Mt. Veeder Brandlin Ranch Zinfandel is a signature wine from noted winemaker Peter Franus. Less than 1000 cases were produced. We have a few at a price you won't find anywhere else. The grapes are grown from vines planted in the 1920's. PF has been producing wines from Brandlin since 1991, and is rightly proud of every one. Deep ruby color, lots of spice, and a long finish.



Rodney Strong Zinfandel 2001

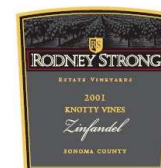
24.00

California Sonoma

102

Zinfandels often have a designation of "Old Vines" or "Knotty Vines". This originally appeared on wines which were produced entirely from vines planted in the pre-Prohibition era. However, there are no regulations, and the term can mean whatever the vintner wants it to mean.

Regardless of just how knotty the vines may be, this is an exceptional Zinfandel. The wine dances around the glass with a deep mahogany color. The nose offers mixed berry preserves, chocolate cherries, violets, toasted oak, fresh earth, a hint of cinnamon and a zing of alcohol. Punches of concentrated fruit flavors like stewed berries, currant, prune, fig, raisin, cherry, and strawberry jump into the ring with vanilla, spice and oak.



Seven Deadly Zins Zinfandel 2005

26.00

California Napa Valley

146

Wow! We LOVE this wine. Its our house wine at home for most any meal...or just because we're feeling a little...zinfu!

Seven of Lodi's best growers gave their souls and the firstfruits of each of their old vine vineyards to contribute to the layered complexity of this fanciful blend. Soft, supple pepper and licorice-clove notes merge into a sinful marriage of deep, brambly blackberries and lustful cherries. The finish is clean on the palate with hints of rich vanilla, cocoa, and mild tannins.



Sparkling Wines

Dom Perignon

175.00

France Reims
130

Okay, I prefer Taittinger. But Martin (and a lot of other people) still say that nothing is better than Dom Perignon. What can you say. Its the champagne named for the guy who INVENTED champagne. Dom Perignon was a Benedictine monk frequently credited with the invention of Champagne. The quote attributed to him - "Come quickly, I am tasting the stars!" - is supposedly what he said when tasting the first sparkling Champagne.



Cook's Brut NV

16.00

California
127

Cook's is an inexpensive sparkling wine, but we think its a great value. It is extremely drinkable. We have several friends who love champagne, and this is their "house" sparkling wine.



Taittinger's Champagne

52.00

France Reims
129

Taittinger is one of the classic champagnes. I like it every bit as much as Dom Perignon (no casting aspersions on Dom, it's a lovely champagne), at 1/3 of the price. The bubbles will stay with you all night long. Perfect for special celebrations...or just because you love champagne!



Mumm's Cuvee Napa

30.00

California Napa Valley
125

Mumm is one of the great champagne producers in Reims, the home of champagne. In 1979 Mumm sent their master winemaker, Guy Devaux, to California to find a soil and climate that would ripen grapes as elegantly as in Champagne. He succeeded, California winemaking was changed, and we have an outstanding domestic sparkling wine.



Massolino Moscato 2005

32.00

Italy
145

From the Piedmont region, this superb dessert wine is light, slightly effervescent, and obvious peach and nectarine flavors. I love this because it is a nice light finish to a meal.



Hardy's Sparkling Shiraz NV

33.00

Australia
142

We had never heard of sparkling shiraz a few years ago. Since we have discovered that it is an Australian art form. Celebrate with a twist!



White Wines

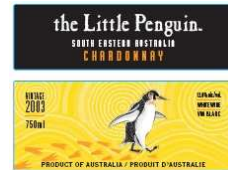
Little Penguin Chardonnay

17.00

Australia South East

110

Little Penguin burst on the scene in late 2004. We like several of their wines, but are especially fond of the chardonnay. While California was figuring out how to make the biggest, boldest, most oaky chardonnays, those wily Australians were figuring out how to make a traditional chard with lots of fruit, melon overtones, and just the right amount of buttery finish. One of the best bargains in our cellar!



Yangarra Park Chardonnay 2001

20.00

Australia

124

A blend of chardonnay grapes from the cooler coastal regions and the warmer inland vineyards yields both tropical fruit flavors and a soft finish. Barrel-fermented and aged in french oak barrels.



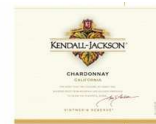
Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay NV

24.00

California Sonoma

101

Estate grown and bottled, KJ's Vintner's Reserve chardonnay is the standard for California chardonnay. Oak barrel-aged, this chardonnay is big and robust; fat and sensual. The trend for many years in California chardonnays was BIG, and Kendall-Jackson is the epitome of that movement.



Varner Chardonnay 2002

48.00

California Santa Cruz

136

Varner is a small boutique vineyard that produces some of the best wines I've tasted (If you can ever find their Pinot Noir, try it at any price). The chardonnay grapes are grown on a small two acre vineyard on a southeast facing slope from 23 year old vines. The vintners age it in 40% french oak barrels. A stunning chardonnay.



Chappellet Chenin Blanc 2002

22.00

California Napa Valley

117

Elegant and refined. 2002 had a long mild growing season. The grapes were picked frequently to ensure intense fruit flavor. A good chenin blanc gives up bountiful tropical fruit, and this one gives mandarin orange, lemon zest and pineapple mingle seamlessly with minerals, fresh cut hay, a hint of vanilla and delicate floral notes.



Vesevo Greco di Tufo 2004 26.00

Italy

121

The "Greco di Tufo" grape was originally developed on the slopes of Vesuvius, thus, this wine is named "Vesevo", the ancient name of Vesuvius. The original name of the grape was "Lacryma Christi" ("Tears of Christ"). This is an unusual varietal, but goes beautifully with seafood. Try it one night with our shrimp pesto pasta!



Guenoc Lake County Sauvignon Blanc 2005 20.00

California

150

From Langtry Estates, we first discovered the vineyard on a trip to Key West. We met the vintner there at a big food and wine event benefitting the local AIDS organization. It was a special event, and a special wine. This is a delightful crisp wine, with tropical fruit, lemon grass, and a long finish. Gold Medal winner at the 2006 California State Fair Wine Competition.



Leelanau Wine Cellars Late Harvest Riesling 2004 17.00

Michigan Leelanau

109

Riesling is a cold weather grape, so we can do a good one here in Michigan. I've tasted this one against Rieslings at twice the price. Its just as good or better.



Avanti Pinot Grigio 2002 19.00

Italy

135

A delightful wine for warm summer days on the patio. But it's also great for some of our seafood pastas. It also goes great with cheese, so you might pair it a cheese quesadilla or Mrs. Orr's Macaroni & Cheese.

This pinot grigio has a stronger nose than most, with strong scents of apple blossoms. The finish is tight and coppery.



Cortanova La Rosa Pinot Grigio 2005 19.00

Italy Delle Venezie

147

This Venetian Pinot is an easy drinking wine...perfect for summer patio evenings. Brilliant straw color with emerald reflections. Fresh and floral bouquet with a hint of pears, apricots and bananas. Pairs well with shrimp pesto pasta!



Huia Pinot Gris 2006

34.00

New Zealand Marlborough
152

Pinot Gris and Pinot Grigio are the same grape. One is the french name, the other the Italian. The distinction outside of those countries is usually one of style. Pinot Gris tend to be richer than the light and fruity Pinot Grigio. This one has a hint of caramel in the finish that keeps intensifying the more you drink.



Grove Street Sauvignon Blanc 2004

20.00

California Lake County
138

We had the pleasure of a wine tasting with the vintner. The 2004 Sauvignon blanc is just a delight. The wine hits the sweet tastes buds first, with a fruity finish of pineapple and pear.



Pepi Sauvignon Blanc 2004

18.00

California
123

Not only does Pepi have one of the coolest deco logos, but they are making very drinkable, unapologetic everyday wines. They are leaders in the screwtop revolution. Its a better closure. No wine goes bad. Its consumer friendly (just twist, no hardware required). Its also unconventional outside of the very low end market. Crisp and light, with melon and grapefruit overtones, this is delightful in summer, or when you are dreaming of summer!



David Girard Viognier-Roussanne 2002

32.00

California
143

There were only 180 cases of this produced. Both grapes have been little known or used outside of the Rhone region of France. Suddenly Viognier is becoming a popular varietal in the United States. This Viognier-Roussanne makes a great crisp summer wine.

