

SPARKLING

ZARDETTO 'PRIVATE CUVÉE' BRUT – PROSECCO, ITALY – N.V. 12

Dry, refreshing and bursting with energy! The bubbles release aromas of pear, apple, and peach. On the palate, it offers a hint of spice and a crisp sensation. A fun and lively Prosecco sure to start any occasion off right.

'GREEK ROSÉ' – KIR-YIANNI 'AKAKIES' | MACEDONIA, GREECE – 2023 16


Made from the native grape Xinomavro, this one sure is Greek to me—and probably to you too! But hey, the producer, Kir-Yianni, has crafted this native variety into one of the most aromatic and delicious wines around. Its bright wild strawberry notes suggest sweetness, but it finishes completely dry and balanced.

 **PRO-PAGNE** – PROSECCO MEETS CHAMPAGNE + A CRÉMANT 22

Look out — this wine list is on fire! Three half flutes are placed before you. One is Prosecco, one is Crémant de Loire, and one is the real deal—true Champagne. Your task is to identify all three, and if you succeed, you'll be a Champ-ion! You know what they say, 'no 'pagne, no gain!'

BARBIE SPARKLES – DOMAINE RONDEAU BUGEY CERDON, FRANCE – N.V. 13

One of the most intriguing wines from France is unapologetically pink, slightly sweet, and bubbly. This wine hails not from a town or even a small village, but rather from the tiniest of hamlets in the south of France. Typically enjoyed as an aperitif, it also pairs beautifully with our array of Chocolate Boards and Crème Brûlée.

 **FIGHT KIWI FIGHT!** – A PAIRING OF NEW ZEALAND SAUVIGNON BLANCS 17

It's the 'wine fight' that started it all! Behold two half glasses of Sauvignon Blanc from the smoking Marlborough region of New Zealand. One scored 93 points from the reputable *Tasting Panel* magazine and the other is an unrated selection chosen by our Sommelier. Can you identify the 93-point wine? Is the more expensive, higher-scoring wine really that much better?

 **SANCERRE WHERE?** – SANCERRE & A LOIRE VALLEY SAUVIGNON BLANC 16

Two French white wines are placed before you. One hails from the renowned region of Sancerre, crafted by none other than Château de Sancerre. This French region has produced sought-after white wines for over a thousand years! But there's a challenger looking to give Sancerre a run for its money: Jacques Dumont's Sauvignon Blanc from the Val de Loire, is a third of the price. Can you identify the true Sancerre? Is the other a worthy competitor? Prefer just a glass of the Sancerre? It's only \$22.

WHITE WINE

OVUM 'BIG SALT' – WHITE BLEND | WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON - 2023 14

It's a long drive—or an expensive flight—to get to the ocean! But order a glass of Big Salt and be instantly teleported to the beach. This dry, un-oaked wine has a saline or sea spray quality to it. A real vacation in a glass!

 **TWO WHITE BURGUNDIES** – A CHABLIS & ALIGOTÉ FROM BURGUNDY 19



Two exceptional white wines are placed before you. One is a Chablis made by Paul Nicolet. Typically, Chablis is crisp and clean in its youth, but this one has a bit of age on it being a 2021 vintage. It's fuller and funkier than the other wine before you. The second is an Aligoté from Bader-Mimeur. While 95% of White Burgundy is Chardonnay; the Aligoté varietal makes up the remaining 5% of production. Full transparency: I've tried dozens of Aligotés in my career, and not one was worth writing home about. But rest assured when I tasted this one, I broke out the stationery and stamps!

JEAN-BAPTISTE GUNDERLOCH – RIESLING | RHEINHESSEN, GERMANY – 2023 11

People often ask me which wines pair with this pasta or that tartare, but no one's ever asked, "which wine goes best with colder weather?" Since moving to Minnesota, I've discovered the very specific pleasure of standing outside in the cold, while it's snowing, sipping on the chilliest glass of German Riesling! My top choice for this experience is the kickass Riesling by famed producer Gunderloch. Don't knock it 'til you try it... perhaps on the Milly's patio this winter!

MOSCATO D'ASTI – PIEDMONT, ITALY 13

It's sweet, and it's freaking out-of-this-world awesome! Super peachy, with a frizzante (slightly sparkling) texture that keeps it light and ultra-refreshing. Milly's rotates and features the best Moscatos on the market today. Candy in a glass!

ROSÉ & ORANGE

 **ORANGE WINE & PÉT-NAT** – THE HOTTEST WINE PAIRING IN 2024 16

Orange wine reigns as the hottest wine style among cool drinkers. But have you discovered the latest rage, Pét-Nat? Simply put, a Pét-Nat is a sparkling wine made in a style that predates Champagne. Try 'em both and see what all the kids are into these days. We receive Orange wines and Pét-Nats weekly to consider, and the best discoveries of both are offered here.

 **GUNS & ROSÉ** – FRENCH ROSÉ VS. THE WORLD 15

Two pink wines are set down; one is French and one is not. While seemingly every wine-producing region in the world makes Rosé, the benchmark is that fresh watermelon wonderfulness that hails only from Provence. There's an appetite for destruction when it comes to beating out France. Can you spot the Frenchie, and the one gunning for it?

🍷 A PINOT, ONE YEAR, OR ANOTHER — COMPARING TWO VINTAGES OF OREGON PINOT NOIR 19

“One way or another, I’m gonna get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya.” If Debbie Harry of Blondie played wine games, this would be her favorite. Two half glasses of red-fruit-packed Willamette Valley Pinot Noir from Denison Cellars are placed before you. One is the 2021 vintage and the other is just one year younger, the 2022 vintage. Does vintage really matter? Is there any real difference from one growing season to the next? You’re tasked with correctly identifying both vintages. Sure, it’s a tough one, but just conjure up those lyrics and whisper to yourself, “One way or another, I’m gonna find ya. I’m gonna get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya.”

“MARTHA STEWART” — RED BLEND | MENDOCINO, CALIFORNIA, 2022 18

No, Snoop Dogg, we are not pouring Martha Stewart’s wine, nor are we pumping out 19 Crimes either. What we are featuring is a hype-worthy wine by California winemaker Martha STOUMEN. Next time you’re rolling down the street to Milly’s, sip on Stoumen’s wild Mendocino Red Blend, ‘Benchlands.’ Hazy and soft red-hued, it presents a dizzying array of aromatics—whiffs so unique that orange wine lovers will rejoice! This wine is most definitely “a good thing.”

🍷 FIND RON BURGUNDY — A RED BURGUNDY & WEST COAST PINOT NOIR 24



Two thrilling half glasses of red wine are placed before you. Simply put, one is a Burgundy and one is not. Correctly identify the ‘Ron Burgundy,’ and you may find yourself in a glass case of emotion! Honestly, Burgundy can sometimes disappoint. But here, you’re guaranteed to experience a stunning Burgundy alongside another rockin’ Pinot Noir. If you can identify the Ron Burgundy, and guess where the other Pinot comes from, the Sommelier will reward you! [Here’s a hint: it’s either Oregon or California.]

A MASTER SOMMELIER’S FRENCH RED — CINSAULT | SAINT-CHINIAN, FRANCE — 2022 13

Years ago, I was seated with six or more Master Sommeliers for dinner in California. This was quite a high concentration of Master Somms, given that there are only 273 in the world! The moment was tense with anticipation when the server brought over the wine list. What wines do Master Sommeliers order? Turns out, they zero in on great wines that are—get this—very inexpensive! So, behold a wine they would have ordered: the 2022 Domaine Rimbart from Saint-Chinian, France. This French Cinsault is a medium-bodied blend, lightly funky, and certainly Master Sommelier-approved.

ISN'T IT HAPPY HOUR ANYTIME? — A KILLER COST-EFFECTIVE RED 9

This red wine selection can rotate almost daily at times. Discovering incredible value-driven wines is important in a sea of overpriced offerings. You don’t need to spend a fortune to get an exceptional glass here at Milly’s. Just ask your server what’s being poured. And if you prefer a seasonal Happy Hour White, we’ve got you covered on that too.

PASO D’ORO — CABERNET SAUVIGNON | PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA — 2022 14

This past summer, we featured the inaugural 2021 release of this Paso Robles Cabernet. Because it behaves as a balanced, ‘heat tolerant’ Cabernet, that inaugural vintage was served all summer long. Now we are featuring the second release, the 2022 vintage—for it slaps even harder than the first! This new vintage is better suited for chillier days: its flavor profile seems to have donned a heavier coat of dark fruit and mocha thickness. This wine is bundled up and ready for the temperatures to head south.

🍷 BORDEAUX DEUX — TWO BREATHTAKING BORDEAUX 19

Bordeaux can be tricky! Finding wines that truly rock in relation to their price can be quite a challenge. Here are two being featured that meet the high standards we set at Milly’s. One is a 2019 vintage from Clos St. Anne in the Cadillac sub-region of the Côtes de Bordeaux. It’s 90% Merlot and is drinking youthfully, with vibrant fruit that really shines. The other, the 2018 Château Loudenne from the Médoc region of Bordeaux, is twice the price. It’s also drinking quite youthfully, but is full and on-point. Can you identify the more expensive wine?

🍷 RUTHERFORD DUST & THE THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER — RUTHERFORD CAB. VS. PENFOLDS 29

Any other restaurant in the country would charge double this price for these stunning wines! One is Penfolds Bin 389 from Australia, a Cabernet/Shiraz blend that’s so dark and delicious, there are not enough adjectives to describe it. It’s smoother than velvet pants! The other is from Napa and is made by Jesse Fox of Sequoia Grove; he just joined the winery two years ago, having previously been at Harlan estates, whose bottles would set you back a cool three grand. The 2021 Sequoia Grove has that dustiness typical of Rutherford wines. Can you find the Rutherford dust, and can you identify the Penfolds Thunder?

CLETO CHIARLI ‘CENTENARIO’ — LAMBRUSCO | MODENA, ITALY — 2021 12

What a fantastic red wine! Lambrusco is the grape, and refreshment is the game. Served chilled, it’s frizzante (slightly sparkling), and finishes with just the right amount of light sweetness. Embrace this wine!