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March 1, 2005

Dear Wine Club Member,

"I do like to think about the life of wine, how it's a living thing. I like to think about what was going on the year the grapes were growing, how the sun was shining that summer or if it rained... what the weather was like. I think about all those people who tended and picked the grapes, and if it's an old wine, how many of them must be dead by now. I love how wine continues to evolve, how every time I open a bottle it's going to taste different than if I had opened it on any other day. Because a bottle of wine is actually alive—it's constantly evolving and gaining complexity. That is, until it peaks—like your '61—and begins its steady, inevitable decline. And it tastes so ... good." Maya (played by Virginia Madsen)

"I don't know. It's a hard grape to grow. As you know. It's thin-skinned, temperamental, ripens early. It's not a survivor like Cabernet that can grow anywhere and thrive even when neglected. Pinot needs constant care and attention and in fact can only grow in specific little tucked-away corners of the world. And only the most patient and nurturing growers can do it really, can tap into Pinot's most fragile, delicate qualities. Only when someone has taken the time to truly understand its potential can Pinot be coaxed into its fullest expression. And when that happens, its flavors are the most haunting and brilliant and subtle and thrilling and ancient on the planet." Miles (played by Paul Giamatti), talking about Pinot Noir

If you've seen the recent movie "Sideways," you'll recognize these lines. This lovely little gem follows the exploits of two friends on a weeklong trip through California's Central Coast wine country. I highly recommend this film for its portrayal of a wine geek, er, I mean wine aficionado, in the form of Miles, a down-on-his-luck writer, and also for the great scene in which Miles speaks of his love for Pinot Noir and Maya waxes poetic about the virtues of wine. Her sentiments about wine closely mirror my own. I must confess I fell in love with Maya based on that scene. Of course, Maya is a fictional character, so I don't think my chances of meeting her are too great, but I can dream... (Too much information, huh?)

This movie has generated a tremendous amount of interest in wine, and has strongly increased sales of Pinot Noir. Food-store scan data show that consumers bought 22 percent more Pinot Noir in the four weeks that ended January 15 than in the same period the year before, an increase many experts are attributing to the movie and especially the scene in which Miles rhapsodizes about Pinot. Whether or not you like Pinot Noir, I do recommend this film. Highly enjoyable.

A reminder that each of you already has an online account. If you don't know your online ID and password, please contact us and we will send you your information via email. Please make sure we have your email address so that you can to log onto our website to place orders and manage your account. Feel free to call or email if you have any questions. 800 247-5987 ext. 2740 or davero@klwines.com.

Cheers,

Dave Rosenzweig
Wine Club Director

Please note: Shipping increases take effect this month. Yes, the time has come. As we mentioned a while back, the shipping companies raised their rates in January, and UPS added a fuel surcharge. This month we in turn are increasing our shipping charges. If you have your packages shipped via UPS, you'll see an increase of about fifty to seventy-five cents per two-pack. If you use DHL or Fed Ex, you will see a slightly higher increase.

Signature Red Wine Club

The Signature Red Wine Club offerings for March 2005 include a spectacular Australian Red blend and a tremendous Burgundy from Henri Gouges, considered the top producer in Nuits St. Georges.

2001 Nuits St-Georges, Chaine Carteaux, Premier Cru, Domaine Henri Gouges

Burgundy's Côte D'Or, or "golden slope," includes the viticultural regions of the Côte de Nuits (producing red wines made from Pinot Noir) and Côte de Beaune (producing red and white wines from Pinot Noir and Chardonnay). The Côte D'Or has the most minutely parceled vineyards in the world. Unlike Bordeaux, Burgundy never had a great influx of capital with which to establish great estates. For the most part, its land has been continually managed and owned by individual "smallholders." The combination of the Napoleonic Code, with its insistence on equal inheritance for every family member, and the great value of the land, has caused small family holdings to be divided and subdivided over many generations. One vineyard may be owned by scores of different individual owners, each cultivating as few as a row or two of vines.

Bordeaux, of course, consists of great estates, each of which grows its own fruit. The great Bordeaux estates may make 25,000 cases or more of their flagship wine, whereas the great Burgundies may only be made in quantities of less than 500 cases. This is why Burgundy can be so expensive.

Nuits-St-Georges lies on both sides of the town that straddles the river Meuzin. The town boasts 27 Premier Cru vineyards, but no Grand Crus. According to esteemed wine writer Jancis Robinson, this could be because Henri Gouges, the town's leading *vigneron*, was too modest when the classifications were agreed to in the 1930s.

Henri, born in 1899, was the son of Henri-Joseph Gouges, chef de culture for the négociants Misserey-Rollet in Nuits-St-Georges and owner of a few parcels of wine. On his return from the war in 1919, Henri presented his father with an ultimatum: Either you sell me your vines or I shall remain in the army. (He was the deputy head of music in his regiment.) Father acceded, and today's Domaine Gouges was born. Henri made some additional vineyard purchases, but the estate has not been altered since 1934. Today, the land is the responsibility and passion of Pierre Gouges, born in 1948. He joined his father and uncle in 1967, and was joined in 1974 by his younger cousin Christian, who holds a degree in oenology and is responsible for the cellar and the commercial side. The two have been jointly in charge since 1986.

The Gouges domaine extends over a little more than 11.5 hectares, all of it in Nuits-St-Georges. The domaine has been a pioneer in a number of ways. Henri Gouges was one of the first in the whole of Burgundy to market his wines in bottle, back in the 1920s; and, with the exception of a dip in the early 1980s, the quality of the Gouges wines has always been of the very highest. Moreover, Pierre Gouges and his cousin Christian, in charge of the vineyards and the wine respectively, have been among the first to plant a special grass in order to prevent erosion. The grass persuades the vine roots to delve deeper, resulting in wine with better acidity and extract.

This 100% Pinot Noir shows lovely notes of cherries, spice, vanilla and earth. Though still young, the wine is impeccably balanced, with a sense of finesse and elegance. Drink now after allowing it an hour or two of aeration or hold for five to fifteen years. A great choice with roast pork or wild salmon.

When Keith brought this in for us to taste, many of our staff put their orders in for this wine, recognizing both the quality and the ridiculously low price. This is listed at \$47.99 and can be found for \$42 to \$55 a bottle. We were not able to purchase very much and when it sells out, there will be no more available. Don't hesitate to order.



2002 Torbreck "The Steading", Barossa Valley

This wine represents a rare opportunity to offer a "cult" wine through our wine clubs. Torbreck has a huge following and their wines frequently garner big scores. This wine received 93 points from Robert Parker.

David Powell founded Torbreck Vintners in 1994, naming it after a forest in Scotland where he had worked as a lumberjack. Previously, Dave had worked at Rockford winery, where he discovered and began to clean up a few sections of dry-grown, near-lifeless old vines. He nurtured them back to health and was rewarded with small parcels of fruit, which he made into wine. David was then able to secure a contract for a supply of grapes from an ancient, decrepit Shiraz vineyard. He managed to raise enough money to "share-farm" the vineyard, paying the owner a percentage of the market rate for his grapes in return for complete management of the vineyard. This share-farming principle has enabled Torbreck to use fruit from the very best vineyards in the Barossa Valley.

David is part of the "third wave" of Australian winemaking. The first wave began when a few winemakers recognized the potential of the Barossa Valley to produce wines equal to those of anywhere else in the world. Max Schubert, with his Penfold's "Grange," is the most famous of this early group. The second wave took place in the difficult 1970s and '80s, when a few winemakers stood tall against the homogenizing, economic rationalism of the time. Large multi-national corporations were swallowing up many small wineries. Peter Lehmann, the Burges, Bob Melton, and a few other winemakers were the leaders during this time. They worked tirelessly against the South Australian government's decision in the early '80s to pull up ancient Shiraz, Grenache and Mataro vines, which at the time were uneconomical. They produced rich, intense wines and firmly established the Barossa Valley as one of the great wine regions of the world. The third wave consists of winemakers who make small quantities of deeply flavored red wines marked by intensity of fruit and rich complexity. These winemakers include David Powell, Rick Burge (who made last month's selection "The Renoux"), Rolf Binder of Veritas, and a few others. They share a focus on quality at all costs and a penchant for old, low-yielding vineyards. They also share a preference for the spicy flavors of French oak as opposed to the sweeter flavors of American oak.



According to David, this wine most exemplifies what Torbreck is all about. He calls it his ode to the great old vines, planted at the turn of the last century, that survived the vine-pull scheme of the early 1980s. The wine consists of fruit from 45 different parcels, all fermented and matured separately and brought together only during the final blending. This blend consists of 60% Grenache, 20% Shiraz and 20% Mataro.

Robert Parker has this to say: "David Powell consistently excels with The Steading. Aged 22 months in 300 liter barrels, it represents Australia's version of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The 2002 The Steading's big, spicy, earthy nose reveals notions of cherry liqueur, licorice, pepper, dried provençal herbs, raspberries and leather. Ripe, medium to full bodied, chewy and heady, it is best drunk during its first seven to eight years of life, although it will last a lot longer."

Signature Red Club, March 2005 wine re-orders

For the month of March, 2005, these selections are available to Signature Red Club members only. Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Torbreck "The Steading," Barossa Valley @ \$23.95 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Nuits St-Georges, Chaine Carteaux, 1er Cru, Domaine Henri Gouges @ \$23.95 per bottle

Premium Wine Club

For the Premium Wine Club, we offer a brilliant Argentine Malbec and a superb Chardonnay from Jed Steele.

2000 Steele “DuPratt Vineyard” Chardonnay, Mendocino

This wonderful Chardonnay comes from Jedediah Tecumseh Steele, one of the best Chardonnay winemakers in California. (He is known as Jed, but I love the full name.) Steele and Shooting Star Wines was founded in 1991. Prior to that time, winemaker/owner Jed Steele was the founding winemaker, general manager, and VP of Production at Kendall Jackson, overseeing its first nine vintages. During this period, Jed became known, unofficially, as “The King of Quality Chardonnay.” Prior to his adventures at Kendall Jackson, Jed worked for ten years as winemaker and vineyard manager for Edmeades, then a small independent winery in the Anderson Valley of Mendocino County. He began his career in the wine business at Stony Hill Winery in the Napa Valley, in 1968.

Here is Jed’s basic philosophy, in his own words: “Now entering my fifth decade as part of the California wine business, I made the decision in 1991 to put my winemaking skills and philosophy, which had slowly developed over the years, into my own label. A winemaker’s creativity can be limited, as directed by legal edict, in many of the world’s winemaking areas, if he or she is confined to work with the grapes of only one vineyard, one region, one appellation. During my time as a winemaker,

I have blended thousands of tons and millions of gallons of wine from the best vineyards California has to offer, ranging from Mendocino to Santa Barbara Counties. I have come to realize that the ultimate creation can only be achieved if one goes beyond the *terroir*.”

Jed is a very prolific winemaker. He currently produces seven single-vineyard Chardonnays, five single-vineyard Pinot Noirs, three single-vineyard Zinfandels, and bottlings of Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Viognier, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and even a late-harvested Chardonnay. Whew!

DuPratt is a small mountain vineyard in southwestern Mendocino County at 1200 feet of elevation. This is part of the new Mendocino Ridge Appellation, where it is the elevation, rather than other features, that marks the boundaries. Rainfall here can exceed 60 inches per year. Most famous for its 80-year-old Zinfandel vines, DuPratt has five acres of Chardonnay planted in 1983.

This is a “Mountain” wine in the sense that it has great backbone, acidity and structure. It is always the last Chardonnay to be harvested in any vintage. It is 100% Chardonnay, aged in French oak for eight to ten months and given full malo-lactic treatment. It’s creamy and smooth, with aromas of apples and pears leading to a palate that echoes the same flavors and adds a touch of hazelnut and spice. A long finish leaves you wanting more. Great with roast chicken. Drink now and over the next two to three years.



2002 Clos De Andes, Argentina

Currently one of the most dynamic wine-producing countries in the world, Argentina is most famous for its juicy Malbec wines. Malbec, a rather obscure grape in France, is used in minor amounts in Bordeaux and known as Auxerrois in Cahors. Though it has never achieved greatness in France, Malbec has become Argentina's flagship single varietal, known as a sublime accompaniment to the local steaks. Argentine wine production was initiated by Spanish colonizers in the 1540s and spread around the country with the Jesuit missionaries. In the 1820s, a huge influx of European immigrants contributed to the growth of the wine industry. The 20th century saw highs and extreme lows for Argentina, but the industry survived and is now growing at record speed. The principal wine region is Mendoza, with 90% of wine production; top wineries include Norton, Trapiche, Weinert and Navarro. Mendoza is a spectacularly beautiful area close to the eastern Andes, which separate Argentina from Chile. Argentina long concentrated on quantity rather than quality in its wines, but in the beginning of the 1990s it began to produce higher quality wines such as Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon to meet growing worldwide demand for quality. Now, Argentinean wineries have embarked on a program of modernization of their winemaking infrastructure as the country continues to focus more and more on the export market.



A vineyard in Mendoza, Argentina's principal wine region.

The country that was called the “sleeping giant” of the global wine industry by *The Wine Spectator* (Sept. 1996) is now producing excellent wines. The biggest factor in their explosion of exports has been the widespread influence of foreign consultants. Helene Garcin, owner of some of the top properties in Bordeaux, including châteaux Clos L'Eglise in Pomerol, Barde-Haut in Saint-Emilion, and Haut-Bergey and Branon in Pessac-Leognan, owns the Clos de Andes vineyard. Peripatetic consultant Michel Rolland, “the flying winemaker,” oversees the winemaking. Michel Rolland consults with over 100 wineries in ten countries, including Chile (Casa Lapostolle), and California (Robert Mondavi). His clients in Saint-Emilion and Pomerol read like a “Who's Who” of elite properties. Numerous properties have increased the quality of their wines by following his suggestions. His influence is as pervasive as that of Robert Parker. His mantra includes harvesting riper grapes and using more new oak in the aging process.

The Clos de Andes vineyard in Mendoza, established in 1935, is planted solely with original Malbec vines. The grapes are handpicked and aged in French oak for ten months. A lovely nose of black cherries and spice lead to a fruit-driven palate with notes of raspberry and blackberry framed by toasty oak. Well balanced, with a combination of power and elegance, this would make a great match with grilled steak with Chimichurri sauce. Drink it now and over the next five to eight years.

Premium Wine Club, March 2005 wine re-orders

For the month of March, 2005, these re-order selections are available to Premium Wine Club members only. Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Steele “Dupratt Vineyard” Chardonnay, Mendocino @ \$13.99 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Clos De Andes, Argentina @ \$13.99 per bottle

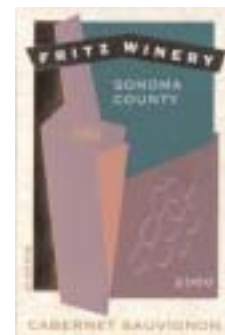
Best Buy Wine Club

This month's Best Buy Wine Club selections include a tremendous 1999 Single vineyard Cabernet and the return of our New Zealand version of Kirkham Peak Sauvignon Blanc.

1999 Fritz "Rockpile Vineyard" Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma

Jay and Barbara Fritz purchased this winery, tucked away in the Dry Creek Valley of Sonoma County, in 1970. After spending weekends at the property for many years while living in San Francisco, the Fritz family decided to build a winery in 1979. They started slowly, but beginning in 1996, they made dramatic changes and improvements. They slashed the volume of wine produced to ensure the highest quality, brought in state-of-the-art winemaking equipment and began to bottle only single-vineyard wines.

Their new winemaking equipment is both esoteric and state-of-the-art. An underground cave ages all of their red wines. The vast majority of the wines are vinified on native yeast. This approach allows the true expression of their different vineyards to fully express itself through the fruit. They approach winemaking as an art form. Art, in its truest sense, inspires a shift in consciousness. Their stated mission is to create wines of genuine artistry, capable of transforming the way we think about the potential of Sonoma County's premier appellations.



Winemaker Christina Pallmann works closely with consultant winemaker Merry Edwards, one of the leading figures in California wine. Christina grew up and trained within the wine regions of Germany, France and South Africa, and was an apprentice in Bordeaux, Burgundy and the Napa Valley before taking control of the wines for Fritz Winery. Interestingly, she spent time as an apprentice to Michel Rolland, who consulted on the Clos de Andes, a Premium Club selection this month.

Rockpile is a terraced, high-altitude (2000-foot) mountain vineyard of eleven acres planted to Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petit Verdot. Thin, iron-rich, and rocky metamorphosed basalt and chert soils limit production to only three to four tons per acre. The vineyard is 14 miles from the ocean and sited above the fog line. Open-canopy management techniques ensure fully ripe and flavorful varietal fruit character, defined by expressive black cherry and mint accents. All grapes from this extraordinary property are reserved exclusively for Fritz Winery.

This 100% Cabernet is far more complex than most Cabernets at this price point. In fact, it is nearly impossible to find a single-vineyard Cabernet for under \$20. The wine shows currant and cherry flavors with notes of chocolate and mint. Soft tannins and a long finish make this a truly outstanding value in California Cabernet. This will sell quickly. Drink now and over the next three to five years. Try with leg of lamb.

2004 Kirkham Peak Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough

The return of a true favorite. Last year, when we offered the 2003 Kirkham Peak Sauvignon Blanc from the Marlborough region of New Zealand, we made a mistake and inadvertently let people know the name of the producer. Oops. The producers were not pleased, as their brand is quite well known and sells for significantly more than the Kirkham Peak. This time around, we promise, I mean promise, not to let you know who made this wine. Suffice it to say, however, that this year's version is even better. This is true Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.

New Zealand is best known for Sauvignon Blanc, and Marlborough is the premier wine region for this varietal. Lying at the northeastern tip of the South Island, Marlborough is the largest of the country's wine regions. Industry giant Montana established the South Island's first commercial vineyard in 1973, and other producers soon followed. In 1985, Cloudy Bay produced a wine that established Marlborough's worldwide reputation for Sauvignon Blanc.

Marlborough Sauvignon Blancs are pungent, aromatic wines that blend tropical fruit flavors with gooseberry and a mild herbaceousness. As I have noted before, I really don't know what a gooseberry tastes like, as I have never had the pleasure of eating one. Nevertheless, most descriptions of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc contain that descriptor, so I would be remiss if I failed to mention gooseberries myself.

This 100% Sauvignon Blanc is tank fermented with lees contact, and offers a focused red-pepper and classic grassy nose that carries through on the palate in a clean, crisp, focused style with undertones of white peach and citrus. The wine has an excellent acid structure, lending an affinity for food. A great choice with lobster or crab. Drink now and over the next two to three years.



A vineyard in New Zealand's Marlborough region, which is famous worldwide for Sauvignon Blanc.

Best Buy Wine Club, March 2005 wine re-orders

For the month of March, 2005, these selections are available to Best Buy Wine Club members only. Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 1999 Fritz "Rockpile Vineyard" Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma @ \$8.49 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Kirkham Peak Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough @ \$8.49 per bottle

Re-order Form

As a member of a K&L Wine Club, you have the opportunity to order previous offerings of any of our clubs. The following pages contain the full “backlist” of each club. Please note the prices for each wine. Our phone numbers for the Wine Club are (650) 364-8544 ext. 5, then 1; or outside the 650, 415, 510, and 408 area codes (800) 247-5987 ext. 5, then 1. The order desk is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We have a voice mail system, and if we can't take your call immediately we will return it as soon as possible. In addition, you can e-mail us at theclubs@klwines.com.

Signature Red Club: Previous Offerings

All wine can be purchased by the single bottle. Prices are shown after each wine listed Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Burge Family “The Renoux,” Barossa Valley @ \$23.95 per bottle
This wine was created by Rick Burge in honor of one of his culinary heroes, Michael Renoux, chef at The Galloping Goat restaurant. A blend of 54% Shiraz, 24% Merlot, and 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, it's made to match with food. It is aged in a combination of French and American oak and features blackcurrant, licorice and vanilla notes mixed with an attractive earthiness. Drink now after giving it an hour's aeration or hold for five to seven years. Great choice with rib-eye steak.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Babcock “Grand Cuvee” Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara @ \$23.95 per bottle
This is a beautifully balanced wine, 100% Pinot Noir, fully extracted with layers of intriguing flavors. Aromas of juniper berries, violets, and earth are brought together in the developing nose. They are joined by rich flavors of dark cherries, bathed in sweet oak. Drink this wine now or hold it for three to five years. Excellent with roast chicken or ham. *Wine Enthusiast* magazine recently awarded this wine **92 points**.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Schweiger Cabernet Sauvignon, Spring Mountain @ \$23.95 per bottle
The wine consists of 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged for 20 months in a combination of French and American oak. Aromas of blackberry, currants and plums lead to a lovely palate where the fruit is comforted by lush tannins, leading to a long and lingering finish. This wine is approachable now, but will hold for another seven to ten years. Great with Prime Rib.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Oakford Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville @ \$23.95 per bottle
This 100% Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon was bottled unfiltered and unfiltered to retain as much of its natural character as possible. Aged in French oak for 24 months, the wine begins with aromas of blackberry and ripe-red-raspberry liqueur with notes of spice and vanilla from the oak. On the palate, the wine is soft and juicy with very lush tannins and layers of fresh ripe fruit. On the finish, the subtle character of the oak, adding more spice and perfume, frames the lovely fruit. Drink now or hold for five to eight years. Try with lamb sirloin.

_____ Bottle(s) of 1998 Clos du Val “Stags Leap” Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle
This wine consists of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Cabernet Franc, aged for 20 months in French oak. Aromas of spice and menthol nicely complement the ripe, dark flavors of blackberry and blueberry. This wine has an extremely elegant mouth feel with subtle nuances of bright fruit and toasty oak, which lead to a dense, long finish. This wine shows the quality of the vintage beautifully and will stand up to many years in the cellar, developing an earthiness that is unmistakable in wines produced from the Stags Leap District.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Snowden Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle
A blend of 78.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.4% Cabernet Franc, 6.3% Merlot and 6.4% Petit Verdot. This is a well-balanced wine of depth and complexity. Fruit flavors of wild berry and cassis are mixed with notes of leather, coffee and earth. The flavors are persistent and though tannins appear on the finish, this is a marvelous wine to drink now after giving it an hour or two of aeration. It may also be held for seven to ten years. Suggested retail price is \$60!

Premium Wine Club: Previous Offerings

All wine can now be purchased by the single bottle. Prices are shown after each wine listed Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Chateau Bois Martin, Pessac-Léognan @ \$13.99 per bottle

This Bois Martin is typical of many wines from the vintage. Still very young, it shows excellent structure, with good acidity and tannins balanced with lovely fruit. Black cherries and dark berries are the predominant flavors and it also has a touch of spice and almonds. This wine will benefit from one to two hours of aeration and will continue to improve for five to eight years. Good choice with Filet Mignon.

_____ Bottle(s) of 1999 Van Asperen, "Signature Reserve" Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley @ \$13.99 per bottle

The 1999 Signature Reserve consists of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot, aged for 21 months in a combination of French and American oak. The grapes come from the Robinwood, Stagecoach and Spring Lane vineyards. This is an elegant wine with some real depth. Flavors include black cherry, currants, and chocolate framed by spicy oak. A lush mouth-feel leads to a lingering finish. Outstanding with rack of lamb or lamb sausage.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Buehler "Reserve" Chardonnay, Russian River @ \$13.99 per bottle

This 100% Chardonnay rests *sur lie* for ten months with the lees stirred weekly to flesh out the mid-palate to a creamy textured, seamless wine. The wine does not leave the barrel until it is time to bottle. Flavors and aromas of peach, graham cracker and citrus are presented on a creamy palate, with hints of oak and butter, leading to a long finish. Great with roast chicken.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Iby Blaufränkisch Hochäcker @ \$13.99 per bottle

The wine shows wonderful aromas of Bing cherries, red berry fruit, smoke and spice. The palate shows more cherries with blackberries and a hint of vanilla. The finish is long and rich. Although dry, this wine has a lovely fruitiness and soft, ripe tannins that make it a real pleasure to drink. Drink now and over the next three to seven years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Eagle Vale Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc @ \$13.99 per bottle

A blend of 73% Semillon and 27% Sauvignon Blanc. Lovely aromas of lemon-citrus are balanced by a rich mid-palate with stone and herbal notes. This is a great match with fish. Drink now and over the next one or two years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Katnook Estate Shiraz, Coonawarra @ \$13.95 per bottle

100% Shiraz, aged for 21 months in a combination of French and American oak *barrisques* (small barrels), 50% of which were new. Aromas of ripe raspberry and a hint of licorice lead to a palate that echoes the raspberry and adds plum and blueberry with notes of spice, pepper and subtle smoky oak. Relatively soft tannins make this ideal for drinking now or laying down for six to eight years. Great with game birds and red meat.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Wattle Creek Sauvignon Blanc, Mendocino @ \$13.95 per bottle

100% Sauvignon Blanc from the Mendocino Ranch vineyard, this shows lovely aromas of lime, lemon and citrus which follow through to the palate with a crisp, vibrant feel. This is a great summertime wine, excellent with grilled fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Frazier "Lupine Hill" Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$13.95 per bottle

85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, aged for 18 months in a combination of new and used French and American oak. Aromas of strawberries and earth lead to a deep palate with notes of blackcurrant and red meat. The wine will benefit from at least one hour's aeration and will hold for four to six years. Try with lamb tenderloin. Incidentally, *The Wine Spectator* lists this at \$45!

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Griffin Pinot Noir, Marlborough @ \$13.95 per bottle

Lovely plum and cherry aromas lead to a palate in which a touch of oak and earth are added to the mix. This wine would pair beautifully with turkey or salmon. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Pascal Jolivet "Attitude", Loire Valley @ \$13.95 per bottle

This wine shows juicy fruit flavors of apple and grapefruit balanced by a refreshing minerality and grassiness. It's

very clean and crisp, excellent for warm spring and summer days. A great choice with grilled fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Edgewood Estate Syrah, Napa @ \$13.95 per bottle

100% Syrah aged in French oak for nineteen months. The complex nose shows hints of black cherries, spice and violets. The palate echoes those flavors and adds black pepper and plums to the mix. This deep, full-bodied wine will benefit from one to two hours of aeration and can be held for eight to ten years. Great with game.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Fournas Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc @ \$12.00 per bottle (**Special price**)

Lovely and elegant, with notes of cassis, coffee, toasty oak and a hint of cedar. Soft tannins and a long finish will have you finishing every last drop. Try with grilled filet mignon. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

Best Buy Wine Club: Previous Offerings

All wine can now be purchased by the single bottle. Prices are shown after each wine listed Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 1999 Campo Viejo Tempranillo Reserva, Rioja @ \$8.49 per bottle

The wine consists of 75% Tempranillo, 15% Graciano and 10% Mazuelo grapes aged for two years in American oak, lending notes of vanilla, with a small use of French oak, which lends more spicy nuances. By combining the two, Elena Adell San Pedro was able to achieve aromas of great complexity, including coconut, vanilla, spices, and toasted wood. The flavors include ripe berries, cherries and vanilla with a hint of spice. The mouth-feel is wonderfully soft. The finish lingers just enough to pair well with food, particularly red and game meats, wild mushrooms, and Spanish cheeses such as Manchego or Iberico.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Nugan Estate, Chardonnay, Australia @ \$8.49 per bottle

This wine consists of 98% Chardonnay and 2% Semillon. A portion of the wine was aged for ten months in a combination of French and American oak. Robert Parker enjoyed this wine and offered this review: "Readers will enjoy the 2003 Chardonnay, a Mâcon-Villages-styled white exhibiting notes of lemon meringue, orange, and citrus. While it sees a bit of oak, that component is not apparent in its elegant, fruit-driven, medium-bodied personality." I agree. This wine is complemented rather than dominated by oak. This is a very clean and fresh Chardonnay that will make an excellent match with roast chicken or Dungeness crab.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Chateau Routon Zinfandel, Amador County @ \$8.49 per bottle

This 100% Zinfandel is juicy and brimming with dark berry fruit and spice. It has the intensity that comes from 60-year old vines. Another wine that is easy to enjoy by itself, this also makes a great match with barbecued ribs or hamburgers. Drink now and over the next two to four years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Domaine Rimbert, Saint Chinian @ \$8.49 per bottle

This wine is 40% Carignan, 30% Syrah and 30% Cinsault, aged in fermentation tanks to highlight its fruitiness. Aromas of berries and currants lead to a palate of plums, cherries and a hint of pepper. Fruity and very easy to drink, this would be a good match with ham or pork roast. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Chateau Maine-Bonnet, Graves @ \$8.49 per bottle

This blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon is an outstanding example of white wine from the Graves region. Aromas of pears and apples lead to a palate with citrus and mineral notes. The wine is rich and crisp, and has a refreshing aftertaste. This is a great match with grilled fish or chicken dishes. Drink now and over the next two to three years

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Kalinda Sauvignon Blanc, Lake County @ \$8.49 per bottle

Lip-smacking tropical fruit, crisp acidity and a clean, refreshing finish make this a steal and a no-brainer for parties or Tuesday night suppers, whenever a white-wine dish is served. Notes of gooseberry and grass on the finish elevate this from the sea of so-so Sauvignon Blanc!

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Domaine de Verquiere Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau @ \$8.49 per bottle
A typical Côtes du Rhône blend of Grenache (70%) and Syrah (30%). Aromas of truffle and berry lead to a palate with more berry flavors and a hint of raspberry and spice. This is a deep, thoroughly enjoyable wine that is meant to be drunk now and over the next three to four years. This would be a great choice with beef stew and game meats. Also good with hard cheeses that are not too salty.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Segura Viudas Creu de Levit, Penedès @ \$8.49 per bottle
This lovely wine, made of a native Spanish grape variety called Xarel-lo, has a floral nose with hints of spice, leading to a palate with notes of apples, a bit of citrus and a hint of pepper. A third of the wine ages *sur lie* in oak, lending a slightly creamy mouthfeel that leads to a long, yet crisp finish. This is an excellent match for grilled fish or chicken. Drink now or hold for two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 McDowell Syrah, California @ \$8.49 per bottle
90% Syrah, 6% Grenache, 4% Durif aged in two-year-old American and French oak. A dense, full-bodied Syrah, full of lovely berry-spice flavors, with jammy berry aromas and a bit of toasty oak. The mouth feel is big and round, with flavors of ripe blackberry and blueberry fruit and white pepper spice. This is a versatile wine that goes great with almost everything: burgers, ribs, pasta, grilled salmon, pizza and even fajitas. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Purisima Canyon Cabernet Sauvignon, North Coast @ \$8.49 per bottle
82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17.5% Merlot, and 1.5% Petite Sirah. A wonderfully lush wine, with loads of fruit and soft tannins. A perfect red for summertime. Drink now and over the next two to three years. Great with hamburgers on a sunny day.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 La Posta Cabernet Sauvignon, Argentina @ \$8.49 per bottle
100% Cabernet Sauvignon from vines with an average age of over 30 years. It spent nine months in second-use French and American oak barrels. Notes of currants and black cherries with a hint of sandalwood lead to a palate of cassis and plums and a touch of earth. This is a great choice with hamburgers or roast chicken. Drink it now and over the next three to six years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 1999 Jean-Luc Colombo Syrah “Les Collines de Laure” @ \$8.49 per bottle
100% Syrah. The nose exhibits a wide range of ripe red fruits with spicy overtones and silky tannins. The palate shows dark black and red fruits with a hint of spice. This is a rich and generous wine that is very easy to enjoy. Great with roasted meats and stews. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

We don't want you to miss any shipments! Please get in touch with us:

- Whenever you change your credit card number or the expiration date changes.
- Whenever you change shipping addresses or phone numbers.
- If you will be away when the shipment arrives during the first two weeks of the month. We will hold the shipment until you are there to receive it.
- To give us your e-mail address. Through e-mail, we can let you know of Wine Club member-only specials in a more timely fashion than through the Club newsletter.

Special Offers—Available to all club members!

2003 Langwerth Von Simmern Riesling

We sent the 2002 vintage of this wine last summer to our Best Buy members. It was a big hit and sold out fairly quickly. In this world of rising prices and falling dollars it's nice to see some wineries that are willing to suck it up a little so we can get some great wine in here for a great price. We have a very good relationship with the Von Simmern Estate and are able to offer the 2003 Langwerth Von Simmern Riesling, Qba for \$9.99. The unmistakable earthy flavors of riverfront Rheingau predominate, with a spicy overtone and long finish confirming the pedigree of the vineyards. The combination of top sites in a ripe, rich vintage, bright, racy acidity, and the skilled craftsmanship of one of the Rheingau's leading family-owned estates add up to a big winner for Riesling fans. This wine is bright and elegant, full of warm soil character and that lovely silkiness typical of the area. The palate bursts with spiced apricot and hints of citrus and the long mineral finish carries this on endlessly. Drink now and over the next eight to ten years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Langwerth Von Simmern Riesling @ \$8.49 per bottle

2002 Water Wheel “Memsie” Red, Bendigo

This is “a wonderful value,” according to Robert Parker. “Its deep, ruby/purple color is followed by copious quantities of flowery blue and black fruits, impressive purity, and a nicely textured, medium-bodied finish.” *The Wine Spectator* gave it 89 points and designated it a Smart Buy: “Jazzy and snappy, brimming with blueberry, blackberry and bright spicy flavors that skip merrily through the juicy finish. Delicious stuff. Shiraz, Malbec, and Cabernet Sauvignon.” (August 2003.)

Winemaker Peter Cumming fashioned this terrific wine from 84% Shiraz, 11% Malbec and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Bendigo region in Victoria. The bouquet is full of smoky blackberry fruit with notes of earth, chocolate and anise. On the palate, the wine is rich and juicy with fine tannins and a hint of mint in the finish. And one more thing... it's the first red wine in a screwcap to hit our shelves from Down Under. Don't miss this great value.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Water Wheel “Memsie” Red, Bendigo @ \$9.99 per bottle

Chateau Routon Vintage Character Port

You can read about Chateau Routon in our January newsletter; Best Buy Club members received their Zinfandel. This Vintage Character Port has the deep color and intense complexity of Vintage Port, tempered by long aging. Smooth and silky, it's a fine match for all things chocolate. Very tasty!

_____ Bottle(s) of Chateau Routon Vintage Character Port, California @ \$9.99 per bottle

2000 Dominus Estate, Napa

This is the flagship wine of Dominus Estate. Robert Parker says, “Christian Moueix and his talented winemaking team continue to rewrite the definition of a Napa Valley reference point wine.” This wine lists for \$99 on the *Wine Spectator* website. We believe nobody else in the country is offering it as low as our member-only price of \$59.99. The 2000 vintage is 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, aged for 18 months in French oak barrels. It's a big, complex wine with flavors of blackcurrants and dark fruit and notes of coffee and earth. The aromatics are a bit more open than the palate impressions at this early stage and the wine is still fairly tannic. It will require two to four hours of aeration if opened now. It can be held for eight to twelve years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Dominus Estate, Napa
Special Price: \$59.99 per bottle