

JANUARY 2025 CLUB SELECTION



2022 FONDO ANTICO NENÈ NERO D'AVOLA SICILIA DOC, ITALY

This estate, owned by the Polizzotti-Scuderi family since the early 1800s, was originally dedicated to the cultivation of wheat and cotton. Around 1920 the first vineyards were planted, and the family started to produce wine. From 1960 when Giuseppe Polizzotti took over the management of the estate, the annual harvest had been shared amongst the local wine cooperatives. In 1995 he decided to transition to estate production, and Fondo Antico was born.

Tradition and heritage combined with knowledge of the terroir and state-of-the-art production techniques contributed to the winery becoming what it is today. 80 hectares of vineyards are planted to several indigenous varieties (Grillo, Nero d'Avola, Inzolia, Grecanico, Zibibbo), and a handful of carefully selected international varieties, all surrounded by prickly pears, olive trees and lemon groves.

This lovely bottling was named Nené, after the protagonist of the story *Il Mare Colore Del Vino* (The Wine Dark Sea) by Leonardo Sciascia. 100% organically grown Nero d'Avola, the grapes were carefully harvested by hand and vinified and aged in temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks.

Inky purple color. Aromas of sweet red berries, juicy blackberry and a touch of violet. The palate shows flavors of blackberry, fig, dark cherry and a symphony of red bramble fruits. Delicately textured with a touch of volcanic minerals on the relatively long, juicy finish.

MIXED AND RED CLUBS

- RETAIL: \$20.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$17.00
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Spicy Winter Burrata Pizza w/ Pistachio Chili Honey



JANUARY 2025 CLUB SELECTION



2023 ALTÙRIS CHARDONNAY, VENEZIA GIULIA IGP VENETO, ITALY

Founded in 2009 by Marco and Massimo Zorzettig, the Altùris winery is located in the heart of Cividale del Friuli, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Altùris translates to “a plot of land overlooking the surrounding countryside,” in the local Friulan language. The Zorzettig family has a rich history of winemaking, now led by the third generation of vintners, dedicated to crafting wines that reflect the diverse flavors of the land. The vineyards stretch over a complex mix of flat and hilly land; the wine cellar is located in the foothills close to Cividale del Friuli, the ancient Roman Forum Julii. In keeping with the tradition of the region of Friuli—a land particularly renowned for its great white wines—70% of their total production is dedicated to exactly that.

Altùris adheres to sustainable farming practices, and has 60 hectares under vine between the two appellations of Colli Orientali and Friuli Grave. The winery itself is a model of modern winemaking, combining a commitment to sustainability with state-of-the-art technology. Each bottle embodies the family’s dedication to quality, from the meticulous cultivation of the grapes to the refined production process.

100% Chardonnay. The whole grapes were gently pressed, followed by cold static decantation. Fermentation and aging took place sur lie in temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks.

Subtle aromas of yellow apple and fresh sliced pear. The palate is lively yet elegant, showing flavors of Golden Delicious apples and ripe tropical fruits, with a hint of jasmine and a lovely minerality. Nicely balanced and flavorful, with a charming, tapered finish.

MIXED AND WHITE CLUBS

- RETAIL: \$20.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$17.00
- [SUGGESTED RECIPE: Chicken Florentine w/ Winter Greens](#)



JANUARY 2025 CLUB SELECTION



PLEIADES WINE CO. XXXI OLD VINES RED WINE CALIFORNIA

Thackrey & Company—now the Pleiades Wine Co.—was founded in 1981 by the late, great wine genius of Bolinas—Sean Thackrey. A true renaissance man Sean owned an internationally important art gallery in San Francisco, and by the late 1970s he moved back to off the map Bolinas to study the ancient methods of wine making. He employed his multi-lingual skills and embarked on translating old wine instructional texts from Latin, Greek, French and Italian, some of which can be found on his web site.

Armed with the knowledge of how the Ancient Greeks made wine, Sean developed an unconventional philosophy of wine making. One might even say he was one of the original “natural” winemakers. As the ancients did before him, he left his hand harvested grapes outside to “rest under the stars” for 24-48 hours to begin the fermentation process before doing anything inside the winery. Working exclusively with sustainably farmed grapes from low yielding crops in Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties. The Pleiades Wine Co. wines are truly handmade, and exemplify Sean’s two defining markers; “a wine must be delicious, and it must be interesting.”

The Pleiades XXXI Old Vines Red is a unique blend of Sangiovese, Tempranillo, Carignan, Pinot Noir, Viognier, and Petite Sirah. It has an inviting, fruited perfume and a round, robust palate with flavors of black cherry, blue plum and cassis. The fruitiness is balanced with ample acidity and smooth tannins, it finishes clean with subtle notes of sweet oak and lingering spice. A terrific value, this delectable and versatile red can be paired with a variety of different dishes.

RED CLUB

- RETAIL: \$20.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$17.00
- [SUGGESTED RECIPE: French Dip](#)



JANUARY 2025 CLUB SELECTION



2023 LE FRAGHE GARGANEGA, CAMPORENGO VENETO IGT, ITALY

Founded in 1984 by Matilde Poggi, Le Fraghe is a charming, artisanal winery located in the heart of the Bardolino appellation, nestled between Lake Garda and Valpolicella. Matilde, hails from a grape growing family, who until her inaugural vintage, sold their grapes to local winemakers—including her uncle. She fondly recalls those, “Octobers when we went right from school to harvesting the grapes.” Today, she is one of Italy’s most respected winemakers, and also the president of the Federazione Italiana Vignaioli Indipendenti (or FIVI, the Italian Federation of Independent Winegrowers) and vice president of the Confédération Européenne des Vignerons Indépendants (or CEVI, the European Confederation of Independent Winegrowers).

Le Fraghe (in dialect) means “strawberries”, which are found among her vineyards. The soil at Bardolino is a glacial schist leftover from the glaciers that carved out lake Garda and helps to impart a nice base of minerality to the wines. Poggi has been working organically since 2009, and everything is picked by hand. The 2023 Camporengo bottling is 100% Garganega, sourced from 19-year-old vines; the grapes were whole cluster pressed. The must—55% free run juice—was vinified entirely in stainless steel. Aged on fine lees in 50hL stainless-steel tanks until bottling, the following Spring.

Enticing bouquet with scents of ripe peach, pineapple and a touch of sweet herbs. The palate delivers, with flavors of yellow peach, cantaloupe, Meyers lemon and a hint of marjoram. Fleshy with great structure and juicy acidity. The finish is a harmonious mélange of bright, tart fruit mingled with a delightfully refreshing salinity.

W H I T E C L U B

- RETAIL: \$20.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$17.00
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: [Squid Ink Fettuccine w/ Shrimp, Squid & Scallops](#)

