

# FEBRUARY 2020 CLUB SELECTIONS



## 2016 CARACCIOLI CELLARS 'ESCOLLE VINEYARD' PINOT NOIR SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS, CALIFORNIA

A family run winery, Caraccioli Cellars takes pride in developing wines that deliver an expression true to vintage and site. Founded in 2006, Caraccioli Cellars' commitment starts in the vineyard through the utilization of only Santa Lucia Highlands' grapes. Caraccioli aims to highlight the quality of local Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes by producing fruit centric still wines, and Brut and Brut Rosé in their sparkling wine program. Michel Salgues, previously head winemaker at Roederer Estate, is now head winemaker at Caraccioli and through his techniques and expertise the family vision is precisely executed. Caraccioli Cellars' wines begin in the vineyard under the meticulous supervision of Michel and Scott.

The grapes are hand-picked and placed in small totes; by not using large bins they are able to limit incidental stress and pressure on the grapes, thereby limiting premature crushing and juicing. The grapes are hand-sorted, gently de-stemmed, and undergo small-lot fermentation. After fermentation they are pressed off directly into barrels and remain in oak for eight months. These labor-intensive procedures ensure the rich expression of full fruit flavors while eliminating any undesirable notes. The boutique nature of Caraccioli Cellars enables meticulously craft the wines they produce, rounding the edges and integrating the flavor profile to ultimately deliver a distinctly smooth and supple wine.

Bright, beautiful garnet robe with aromatics of black cherry, pomegranate plum and fragrant baking blackberry pie. Nuances of cedar, sarsaparilla and crushed violets balancing the fruit with earthy aromas. The palate shows ripe cherry, rhubarb, bramble and beet greens with a fine, powdery tannin on the enticingly long finish.

## RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Veal Chop with Portabello Mushrooms
- RECOMMENDED CELLARING: 2 - 3 years
- RETAIL: \$44.00  
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$37.40

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## 2017 DOMAINE LA BOUÏSSIERE GIGONDAS, RHÔNE VALLEY, FRANCE

Domaine la Bouïssière cares for some of the highest vineyards in Gigondas, thus estate wines are markedly more balanced, elegant and age-worthy than wines from the lowlands. In the 1960s, estate founder Antonin Faravel began to carve his vineyards out of the crumbling stone cliffs of the Dentelles de Montmirail (pictured on the family's wine labels). He knew that the cooler temperatures and rocky soils would produce perfectly ripe grapes, with better acidic balance and lower alcohol, too. While other winemakers quickly followed Antonin's lead, Domaine la Bouïssière without question is the original, high-altitude Gigondas. Top soils are thin and very rocky, sub-soils are solid rock. These vineyards are so steep that the Faravels must use a tractor with caterpillar treads to get up and down! Vines are cared for according to organic principles with the oldest vines being between 60 and 70 years old.

A blend of Grenache (74%) and Syrah (26%) the grapes for this Gigondas were harvested by hand, partially destemmed and lightly crushed. Spontaneous fermentation with indigenous yeasts took place in temperature-controlled cement tanks; with the resulting wine being aged in a combination of cement tank (35%) and older (2-5-year-old) foudre (65%). The finished wine was then moved via gravity and bottled unfiltered, and unfiltered, with minimal sulfur addition.

Deep garnet color with aromas of red fruits and garrigue. The palate shows blackberry, brandied cherries and currant with a hint of herbes de Provence and roasted meats. It is a youthful wine with loads of fruit, great acid and balanced tannin.

“WITHOUT QUESTION...  
THE ORIGINAL, HIGH-ALTITUDE  
GIGONDAS



## RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Beef Tagine with Fried Cauliflower
- RECOMMENDED CELLARING: 5 - 7 years
- RETAIL: \$42.00  
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$35.70

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## 2017 CÔTIÈRE 'WESTGATE' PETIT VERDOT, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Founded in 2006, Côtierre is a small production, winemaker-owned operation out of Santa Maria specializing in producing exceptional wines from California's Central Coast. The Mateo Vineyard is located on the far western edge of the Happy Canyon appellation in Santa Ynez. This distinct valley descends in elevation northeast to southeast towards the ocean and to the famous Santa Rita Hills. This location and tiny AVA is the warmest micro-climate in the Santa Ynez Valley. Mid-morning fog lifts to sunshine, where summertime temperatures can easily hit the mid-nineties. The soils here are a mixture of loam, clay, chert, and serpentine cobbles.

The grapes for this unctuous wine carefully harvested and fermented with minimal intervention, before being aged for 20 months in a combination of new (20%) and used (80%) American oak barrels before being bottled unfiltered and unfiltered; showcasing the uniqueness of the Mateo Vineyard in this beautiful expression of Petit Verdot.

Deep, dark purple in color with fragrances of blue plums, black tea, forest floor mint and eucalyptus. Mostly black fruit flavors are distinctly noticeable—ranging from plum, blackberry, and blueberry to cassis. Intriguing herbal and floral notes of violets, lilac and the slightest hint of black licorice add complexity. The 20% new oak brings in a wonderful hazelnut and mocha accent as well, which adds a sweet note to the long finish.

## RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Garlic-Crusted Roast Rack of Lamb
- RECOMMENDED CELLARING: 6 - 8 years
- RETAIL: \$29.00  
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$24.65