

Wine Discount Center

1350 Old Skokie Road, Suite 203, Highland Park, IL 60035

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Bodegas Ilurce "Rio Madre" Rioja 2010.....7.99

88+/100 - *Our Score*.
90/100 - *International Wine Cellar*. "(100% graciano): Glass-staining purple. Highly aromatic bouquet offers dark berry and cherry compote scents along with spicecake and licorice. Chewy tannins firm and focus the wine's deep bitter cherry and cassis flavors, which are complemented by notes of cracked pepper and spices. Finishes with building sweetness, an echo of licorice and impressive persistence, especially for a wine at this price." (Spain)



Wine Discount Center

Hot New Arrivals from Italy!



Inama Soave Classico 2010.....12.79

90/100 - *Our Score*.
90/100 - *International Wine Cellar*. "(\$15; 12% alcohol) Richer on the palate than I expected, with lovely concentration and length; this is a very serious entry-level Soave and one of the best versions from Inama in years. Very well done." (Italy) See page 6 for complete review.

Felsina "Berardenga" Chianti Classico 2009.....18.99

A perennial Wine Discount Center favorite!
91/100, "Smart Buy" - *Wine Spectator*. "In a darker, balsamic vein, this red evokes tar, black cherry, underbrush and tobacco flavors. They're all held together by the dense, fine tannins. Oak spice emerges on the taut finish. Best from 2014 through 2025." (Italy)



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Wine Discount Center

Hot New Arrivals!

- February 2012 -

This month we give top billing to an absolutely sensational pair of Chardonnays. Quoting a price of \$14, Antonio Galloni calls the 2010 Foxglove Chardonnay "one of the top values in California wine." He writes that the price is "mind-boggling for this level of quality." At our price of \$11.99, this may be the best Chardonnay value available in the market today! And if you like big, rich, oak-driven bottlings, then you absolutely cannot miss the 2009 Maldonado "Parr Vineyard" Chardonnay. With incredibly pure and intense flavors of caramel and butterscotch, this one will absolutely knock your socks off!

Read below for details on these two Chardonnays and then look inside for 46 more spectacular new arrivals from around the world!

Foxglove San Luis Obispo Chardonnay 2010.....11.99

90/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "I was blown away by the two wines I tasted from Foxglove, Bob and Jim Varner's negociant label. The Varners clearly have the magic touch. These are among the finest values readers will find anywhere in the world. The 2010 Chardonnay is one of the top values in California wine. It possesses tons of ripe, varietal fruit in a style that is quite rich but not heavy. Clean citrus and floral notes add freshness on the long finish. Lees stirring gives the wine much of its richness, while aging in steel helps maintain freshness. There is remarkable depth and textural finesse here, never mind a price that is mind-boggling for this level of quality. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014." (California)



Maldonado "Parr Vineyard" Sonoma County Chardonnay 2009.....24.99

90+/100 - *Our Score*. Wow! This has as much butterscotch and caramel as you will ever find in a Chardonnay! Big and rich with apple, pear, vanilla ...and all that butterscotch. One might think that a Chardonnay of this style would be gloppy and clumsy, but thanks to the Maldonado's impressively balanced acidity, that's not the case here. This is a totally enjoyable Chardonnay that will make lovers of hardcore Chardonnay very, very happy. (California)



Casa Silva "Reserva" Colchagua Valley Pinot Noir 2011.....8.99

88/100 - *Our Score*. From one of the oldest and most traditional wine producers in the Colchagua Valley, this Pinot Noir was created for immediate gratification! Purple and violet in color with a very impressive nose of tea leaf, cherries and spice. Bright cherry, raspberry and strawberry flavors along with a supple mouth feel engage the palate. This is a thoroughly enjoyable weeknight Pinot Noir if there ever was one! (Chile)

Sequana "Sundawg Ridge Vineyard" Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2009.....42.99

93/100 - *Our Score*.
95/100 - *Wine Enthusiast*. "(\$50) Another great release from Sequana of this single-vineyard bottling, which hails from the golden slopes of the cool, southwestern part of the Russian River Valley. It's rich in raspberry, pomegranate and persimmon fruit, elaborated with sweet new French oak, but saved from being merely ripe by a firm minerality and brilliant acidity. Should develop interestingly over the next 10 years." (California)

Wine Tastings Every Saturday!

Join us on Saturday, February 11th from noon to 4:00 as we taste the following ten great wines from this month's newsletter...

Bastianich Friulano 2009

Thomas Labaille "Les Monts Damnes" Sancerre 2010

Trenza "Blanco" Edna Valley White 2009

Maldonado "Parr Vineyard" Sonoma Chardonnay 2009

Jorge Ordenez "Victoria" Sweet Muscatel 2007



Evening Land "Blue Label" California Pinot Noir 2009

Smith & Hook Central Coast Cabernet Sauvignon 2009

G.D. Vajra Langhe Nebbiolo 2009

Condado de Haza Ribera del Duero 2007

Thurston Wolfe "Howling Wolfe" Zinfandel 2009

Friendly Knowledgeable Staff!

FEBRUARY 2012

Lowest Prices Every Day!

Lowest Prices Every Day!

Chardonnay

Foxglove
San Luis Obispo Chardonnay 2010 **11.99**
 90/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "I was blown away by the two wines I tasted from Foxglove, Bob and Jim Varner's negociant label. The Varners clearly have the magic touch. These are among the finest values readers will find anywhere in the world. The 2010 Chardonnay is one of the top values in California wine. It possesses tons of ripe, varietal fruit in a style that is quite rich but not heavy. Clean citrus and floral notes add freshness on the long finish. Lees stirring gives the wine much of its richness, while aging in steel helps maintain freshness. There is remarkable depth and textural finesse here, never mind a price that is mind-boggling for this level of quality. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014." (*California*)

Catena
Mendoza Chardonnay 2010 **13.99**
 90/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "There is no let up in quality at Catena Zapata, where Nicolas Catena remains in charge, assisted by his daughter, Dr. Laura Catena. The 2010 Chardonnay was barrel-fermented, put through full malolactic fermentation, and aged for 9 months in 30% new French oak. The enticing nose offers up hints of toast, pear, and tropical fruits, leading to a well-balanced wine with the fruit buttressed by vibrant acidity. Drink this tasty effort over the next 3-4 years. It is an outstanding value." (*Argentina*)

Rusack
Santa Barbara County
Chardonnay 2009 **19.99**
 90+/100 - *Our Score*.
 91/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "I was very impressed with the Chardonnays and Pinots I tasted from Rusack. The 2009 Chardonnay is quite attractive in its expressive tropical fruit, sweet French oak and minerals. All of the elements come together nicely in this poised, mid-weight Chardonnay. There is a lovely interplay of minerality and textural creaminess on the generous finish. Hints of melon, pears and vanilla linger on the close. Rusack aged the Chardonnay in 40% new barrels. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014." (*California*)



Maldonado "Parr Vineyard"
Sonoma County Chardonnay 2009 **24.99**
 90+/100 - *Our Score*. Wow! This has as much butterscotch and caramel as you will ever find in a Chardonnay! Big and rich with apple, pear, vanilla ... and all that butterscotch. One might think that a Chardonnay of this style would be gloppy and clumsy, but thanks to the Maldonado's impressively balanced acidity, that's not the case here. This is a totally enjoyable Chardonnay that will make lovers of hardcore Chardonnay very, very happy. (*California*)

More Whites

Brancott
Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2011 **8.99**
 88/100 - *Our Score*. Lovely grapefruit and lemony citrus notes dominate the aromas and flavors of this value New Zealander. Racy acidity provides a crisp clean mouth feel and helps reveal a lemon/lime and SweetTarts finish. This shows good value for its under \$10 price point. (*New Zealand*)

Ravines
Finger Lakes Dry Riesling 2010 **12.79**
 89/100 - *Our Score*. This is absolutely delicious! The 2009 vintage of this wine made the Wine Spectator Top 100 list, and the 2010 is an incredible follow up performance! This wine is all about balance, with lightly floral notes accompanied by crisp citrus fruits. The Finger Lakes region can produce a wonderful minerality and it really shines here. Time to take this one to your favorite sushi BYOB! (*New York*)

Schloss Gobelsburg "Gobelsburger"
Gruner Veltliner 2010 **12.99**
 91/100 - *Our Score*. Schloss Gobelsburger is one of the best producers in all of Austria. This 2010 "Gobelsburger" Gruner is really something special. In his latest catalogue, importer Terry These gives this the nod as his Austrian Wine of the Vintage, stating... "It's the best-ever bottling of this wine, ripe and focused and complex, juicy and extract-dense. Absurd quality in its class." With its ripe orchard fruit, complex herb and earth flavors and long, complex finish, this might easily be confused for a \$25 bottle. It is a stellar value. Once tasted, you'll be coming back to buy cases. (*Austria*)

Trenza "Blanco"
Paragon Vineyard Edna Valley 2009... **15.99**
 90/100 - *Our Score*. Though all of the fruit for the 2009 Trenza was sourced from Edna Valley's Paragon Vineyard, this wine's spiritual home is deep in the heart of Europe. A 50/50 blend of Albarino and Grenache Blanc, the Trenza Blanco combines the wonderful peachy character found in the best Albarino from northwest Spain with the creamy rich mouthfeel of a good Rhone Valley white. The delicate flavors of peach and pear are complemented by a touch of minerality and a subtle wrapping of creamy sweet oak that lead to the long zesty finish. This is a terrific new taste experience. At our lowest-in-country price, this is well worth a try. (*California*)



Wine Discount Center Scoring Scale

- 96-100 Extraordinary
- 90-95 Exceptional
- 85-89 Above Average
- 84 and below You won't find at the Wine Discount Center



France

WHITE

Gérard Bertrand "Réserve Spéciale"
Viognier 2010 **10.99**
 88/100 - *Our Score*. We find the aromas that Viognier offers to be nearly impossible to resist. This wine presents fragrant white flowers along with tangy orange zest on the nose. The mouthfeel is lush with ripe tropical fruit and honey. The finish remains rich, but is balanced by crisp acidity and a touch of nuttiness. This would be perfect for the next time you have Chinese take out!
EXPECTED ARRIVAL FEBRUARY 8TH

Benjamin Leroux
Bourgogne Blanc 2008 **21.99**
 91/100 - *Our Score*. Benjamin Leroux is on an absolute tear! We went from knowing nothing about this estate not too long ago to being completely in love with everything that they make! (Keep your eyes open for upcoming offerings of their reds!) This lovely Chardonnay is completely mineral driven, with white rock and chalky notes. American Chardonnay fans will enjoy the hints of butterscotch and salted honey notes. Burgundy lovers will be attracted to the nutty, leesy "batonnage" flavors and to the noticeable green apple skin and fresh and bruised pear nuances. At a modest 13% alcohol, this wine is long and tasty and will easily fool your "expert" friends into thinking that it is a \$35 bottle! The only bad news is that we have a limited supply, so act quickly!

Thomas-Labaille "Les Monts Damnés"
Chavignol Sancerre 2010 **21.99**
 91/100 - *Our Score*. Sure you can spend \$35 for Sancerre, but why? Labaille is one of our favorite growers and in the high-acid 2010 vintage they have fashioned a wine of precision and complexity. Look for intense flavors of minerals, citrus fruit and green herbs. Another outstanding release from this estate.

Louis Michel "Vaillons"
1er Cru Chablis 2010 **29.99**
 92+/100 - *Our Score*.
 89-92/100 - *Burghound*.
 92/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "The estate's 2010 Chablis Vaillons is a striking wine graced with exquisite perfume and layers of fruit, all supported by a persistent vein of chalkiness. This is one of the more nervous, wiry wines of the lineup, but its class and pedigree are impossible to miss, even at this early stage. Hints of grapefruit and lime linger on the bright, articulate finish. In 2010, the Vaillons is made from parcels in Roncierres, Chatains and Melinots. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025."

ROSÉ

Mas Carlot
Costieres de Nimes Rosé 2010 **5.99**
Blowout price on this deliciously fresh Rosé!
 89/100 - *Our Score*.
 88/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "Mas Carlot does an admirable job with roses, and although this wine is probably sold out (as it should be), the 2010 Rose Tradition is a blend of 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 10% Mourvedre. What makes it one of the better roses is its display of minerality as well as dry, intense flavors with good grip, something most roses tend to lack."

RED

Ch. Paraza "Cuvee Speciale" Minervois 2009 **8.99**
 88/100 - *Our Score*. A blend of 40% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 20% Mourvedre, this latest release from Paraza has all of the wonderful ripeness that you've come to expect from the 2009 vintage in southwest France. Medium in body, it offers cherry and blackberry fruits as well as some pepper and cinnamon spice. This bargain from Minervois can compete with many Côtes-du-Rhône at twice the price.

Chateau de Pena "Cuvee de Pena"
Vin de Pays des Pyrenees-Orientales 2009 **9.99**
 89/100 - *Our Score*.
 90/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "The as usual Carignan-based red 2009 Cuvee de Pena is simply the finest of its illustrious bargain-priced breed that I have tasted (and I go back 20 years with this cuvee and its predecessor), which also makes it a mind-boggling value! Clean and polished, concentrated but unexaggerated, this delivers sweet fruit with soil and soul. Ripe cherry, black raspberry, and purple plum are shadowed by their distilled counterparts in a high-toned nose and practically gush on the palate. Pungent, resinous herbs, smoky black tea, toasted pecan, brown spices, and crushed stone all serve for aromatic and gustatory interest, leading to a brightly juicy yet deeply rich finish. Buy it by the case, or buy it by the bag-in-box; delight and - if you dare reveal its price - amaze your guests over at least the next couple of years, though quite possibly longer. (And we wine snobs need to stick this into some blind tastings to put quality-price rapport into perspective, and perhaps some prejudices to rest.)"
EXPECTED ARRIVAL FEBRUARY 7TH

Domaine des Escaravailles "Les Antimagnes"
Côtes-du-Rhône 2009 **13.99**
 90/100 - *Wine Spectator*. "This shows concentration, along with poise and polish, offering gorgeous linzer torte, blackberry and mulled cherry notes laced with alder wood, spice and iron hints. Solid length. Drink now through 2013. 600 cases imported."

Domaine des Escaravailles "La Ponce"
Côtes-du-Rhône Villages Rasteau 2009 **18.99**
 91+/100 - *Our Score*.
 91/100 - *Wine Spectator*. "Very pure, with lovely range to the cherry, blueberry and black currant fruit, which all mingles together seamlessly, while spice and plum eau de vie notes chime in on the finish. Fruit-driven, but with juicy acidity well-embedded for balance. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2013. 600 cases imported"

Domaine Francois Lamarche
Hautes Côtes de Nuits Rouge 2009 **29.99**
 91/100 - *Our Score*. Domaine Lamarche is sole owner of the famed "La Grand Rue" Grand Cru, a sliver of a vineyard resting between La Tache and Romanee-Conti. Nice real estate! Save for hard-core Burgundy geeks, however, Lamarche is an off-the-radar producer. Their style is quite traditional, as is evidenced by the lean, bright character of this 2009 Hautes Côtes de Nuits. (Most 2009's are dark and ripe - not here!) Look for lifted flavors of sour cherry, tree bark, tobacco leaf and dried orange peel along with earth flavors of salty oyster shell and dried mushroom. There is no obvious oak flavor, just classic Pinot Noir notes with tang and length. Only 12% alcohol. Medium-plus acidity and medium tannins.

Italy

WHITE

Inama Soave Classico 2010 **12.79**
 90/100 - *Our Score*.
 90/100 - *International Wine Cellar*. "(\$15; 12% alcohol) Bright straw-green. Floral, high-pitched aromas of stone fruits and fresh herbs on the clean, enticing nose. Shows very good balance and energy to its flavors of lemon icing, green apple, pear and herbs. Richer on the palate than I expected, with lovely concentration and length; this is a very serious entry-level Soave and one of the best versions from Inama in years. Very well done."

Bastianich Friuliano 2009 **13.79**
 91/100 - *Our Score*. This was the white wine of the day in one of our recent marathon tasting sessions. From Lidia Bastianich (the queen of Italian cooking) and her son Joseph, this northeast Italian white shows tremendous character. Floral aromatics lead to a rich body with flavors of melon and baked apple and a crisp, dry, refreshing finish. An absolute steal at \$13.79, this is much weightier and significantly more complex than you'd expect for the price.


RED

Pico Maccario "Berro" Barbera d'Asti 2010 **7.99**
 87/100 - *Our Score*.
 87/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "The 2010 Barbera d'Asti Berro is a fresh, vinous wine meant for near-term drinking. Sweet red strawberries, flowers and spices are some of the nuances that emerge from this fleshy Barbera. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014."

Palazzino "Argenina" Chianti Classico 2006..... **15.99**
The Advocate gave this an 89-Point review way back in 2009, quoting a price of \$26. Over the past 2 1/2 years the wine has developed nicely in the bottle - and the price has come down nearly 40%!
 90/100 - *Our Score*.
 89/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "The 2006 Chianti Classico Argenina is especially beautiful in this vintage. Medium in body, the wine reveals plenty of Sangiovese character in its red cherries, tobacco, earthiness and flowers. The ethereal, soft style makes this a very versatile wine. Served slightly chilled it is perfect for the warm summer months. This is a gorgeous, polished entry-level Chianti that continues to improve in the glass. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2012."

Felsina "Berardenga" Chianti Classico 2009..... **18.99**
 91/100, "Smart Buy" - *Wine Spectator*. "In a darker, balsamic vein, this red evokes tar, black cherry, underbrush and tobacco flavors. They're all held together by the dense, fine tannins. Oak spice emerges on the taut finish. Best from 2014 through 2025."

G.D. Vajra Langhe Nebbiolo 2009..... **19.99**
The Wine Advocate's write-up really says it all. Another wonderful bottling from Vajra...
 90+/100 - *Our Score*.
 90/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "This is another superb set of wines from Aldo and Milena Vajra. What else is new? I am sure one day the Vajras will receive the broader recognition they so richly deserve. In the meantime, savvy readers know the exceptional quality these wines deliver for what remain very modest prices. The 2009 Langhe Nebbiolo is a beautiful wine bursting with expressive dark cherries, plums and crushed flowers. This is a fairly generous, large-scaled vintage for the Nebbiolo. There is no shortage of intensity and sheer juiciness in the glass. Vajra's Langhe Nebbiolo will deliver considerable pleasure over the next handful of years. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017."



Luigi Pira "Margheria" Barolo 2007 **38.99**
Typical retail on this one is \$50. Looks like we've got the lowest price in the country here!
 94/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "This is a head-spinning set of wines from Luigi Pira from top to bottom. I would be thrilled to drink any of these wines any day of the week. As always, Pira favors a style based on textural richness. At their best, the wines show an equal amount of elegance. The 2007 Barolo Margheria is superb. The vintage has smoothed out some of the more angular contours this wine tends to show when young, while not overpowering what remains a structured expression of Nebbiolo. Sweet dark cherries, tar, smoke, flowers, licorice and saline notes wrap around a radiant, energetic finish supported by plenty of grip. This is a fabulous wine from Giampaolo Pira. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022."
NOT AVAILABLE IN FOREST PARK OR NAPERVILLE

**Join Us for
 In-Store Wine Tastings
 Every Saturday 12:00 - 4:00**

Super Spanish Sweetie!

Jorge Ordonez "Victoria" Malaga Moscatel 2007 375ml **16.99**
 93+/100 - *Our Score*.
 92/100 - *Wine Advocate*
 93/100 - *Wine Spectator*. "(\$25) Orange peel, tea, chamomile, honey and spicy vanilla flavors mingle in this silky, sweet white. This is rich yet lively, with a long, spicy finish. Drink now. 500 cases imported." (Spain)



Cabernet Sauvignon

Milbrandt "Traditions" Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 **12.79**
 88/100 - *Wine Enthusiast*.
 88/100 - *Our Score*. A Bordeaux-style blend of 77% Cabernet, 15% Merlot, 6% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot that showcases everything that Washington State has to offer. The wine starts on the palate with black plum, black cherry and cassis. As you savor the fruit you may note a playful hint of minty herb. This is a traditional wine with a modern flair! (Washington)

Catena Mendoza Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 **13.99**
 90/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (100%) was aged in French and American oak, some of each portion new, for 16 months. Cedar, Asian spices, incense, black cherry, and black currant notes lead to a surprisingly elegant Cabernet for its humble price. Spicy, smooth-textured, and easygoing, with a bit of underlying structure, it will provide enjoyment over the next 6-7 years." (Argentina)

Smith & Hook Central Coast Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 **16.99**
 88+/100 - *Our Score*. Sourced from vineyards primarily in Monterey and Paso Robles, the Smith & Hook Cabernet gives sweet and savory flavors of raisin, black raspberry and sweet blackberry fruit, as well as notes of chocolate, barbecue sauce and black pepper. This is a full bodied Cabernet with easy, soft tannins that provide for a very pleasurable drinking experience. (California)

Snowden "The Ranch" Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2009..... **35.99**
Make sure to allow this one a few hours in the decanter!
 91+/100 - *Our Score*.
 93/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon The Ranch bursts from the glass with masses of dark red fruit, tobacco, licorice and cassis. The wine shows marvelous depth and texture as the aromas and flavors build effortlessly to the dramatic, sweeping finish. This is a superb effort, and certainly one of the very finest Napa Valley wines available for the money. This is a big and hugely delicious wine. In 2009 the blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18.2% Cabernet Franc and 6.8% Petit Verdot. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019." (California)

Zinfandel

Thurston Wolfe "Howling Wolfe" Zephyr Ridge Vineyard Zinfandel 2009 **17.99**
A deliciously hedonistic bottle of Zin. From the first sip, this will absolutely put a big smile on your face!
 90+/100 - *Our Score*.
 91/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "Thurston Wolfe is an artisanal producer of wines with personality. The production of these wines ranges from 48 cases to 588 cases so interested parties are advised to get on the mailing list. [Or better yet, on the Wine Discount Center mailing list!] The largest in production of the new releases, the 2009 Howling Wolfe Zinfandel was aged in American and European oak for 14 months. It offers up a fragrant, expressive bouquet of black raspberry and black cherry with a hint of brier and underbrush. Elegant on the palate (despite its 15.5% alcohol) with splendid varietal character, it is a Zinfandel that would please even the Martinelli's and Turley's. It is an outstanding value." (Washington)

Ridge "Ponzo Vineyard" Russian River Valley Zinfandel 2009 **25.99**
The 2009 vintage has been absolutely epic for Ridge Winery. This year marks the 11th bottling of fruit from Bob Ponzo's small Russian River Valley vineyard, and it's another winner...
 90/100 - *Our Score*.
 91/100 - *Wine Enthusiast*.
 90/100 - *International Wine Cellar*. "(includes 2% petite sirah): Bright ruby. Raspberry, blueberry and vanilla aromas are complicated by tobacco and dried flowers and lifted by a spicy element. Sweet and dense but lively, with energetic spicy cut and a vanillin oak nuance to the flavors of plum jam, blue fruits and licorice. A peppery, refreshingly bitter herbal note adds nerve to the long, smooth finish. I'd serve this with a spicy piece of grilled lamb or steak." (California)

Orin Swift "Saldo" Zinfandel 2009..... **24.99**
 90+/100 - *Our Score*. The 2009 Saldo is richly packed with flavors of blackberry, raspberry, cherry, mocha and licorice right out of the bottle. A tickle of black pepper on the finish completes the package, leaving you craving more. Be patient and give this one some time so can experience the evolution to include even denser fruit and more spice. This wine still made us say "wow" when we tasted the same bottle three days later! (California)

Big Reds In Barrington!

Come join us on Friday, March 9th, from 7:00-9:30 pm for our 3rd annual Big Reds in Barrington tasting! This year's event will be held at Makray Memorial Golf Club (1010 S. Northwest Hwy), just a five minute drive from our Barrington store. We'll be popping the corks on over 75 highly-rated "Big Reds" from around the globe. This year's event will showcase top California producers such as Pride, Lewis, Silver Oak, Caymus, Chateau Montelena and Duckhorn along with top selections from Barolo, Bordeaux, Ribera del Duero and so much more. We'll even have a handful of top white wines and Champagnes on hand! In addition to our already low prices, special discounts will be offered at the event. To accompany these stellar wines, Makray will prepare a grand display of cheeses, breads and hors d'oeuvres. The cost is only \$50 per person. Space is limited so please make your reservation early for this world class tasting event!

When: Friday, March 9th (7:00 - 9:30 pm)
Where: Makray Memorial Golf Club, Barrington
Cost: \$50 per person

For reservations call Pete or Jim at 847-277-0033



Lowest Prices Every Day!

More Big Reds!

Calina

Maule Valley Carménère 2010 6.99
88/100 - *Our Score*. Calina has done it again with their delicious 2010 Carménère. Blackberries, blueberries, spice, and some black pepper dance on top of slightly smoky ripe tannins. At our lowest-in-country price, this continues to be a top value and a perfect wine for everyday drinking. A Wine Discount Center favorite. (Chile)

Veedha

Douro 2008 11.79
90/100 - *Wine Spectator*. "A taut, muscular red, boasting concentrated dark plum, black fig and dark cherry flavors that ooze notes of chocolate mousse. Dense midpalate, with notes of cream and hazelnut on the long finish. Drink now through 2016." (Portugal)

Catena

Mendoza Malbec 2009 16.99
This Wine Spectator "Top 100" Selection is back in stock!
91/100 - *Wine Advocate*.
91/100, "Top 100 Wines of 2011" - *Wine Spectator*. "A rich red, with ripe flavors of linzer torte, plum pudding and fig paste flavors by layers of mesquite, olive paste and grilled herbs. Grippy tannins add weight to the long, vibrant finish. Drink now through 2013." (Argentina)

South Africa

WHITE

A.A. Badenhorst "Secateurs"

Swartland Chenin Blanc 2011 13.79
90/100 - *Our Score*. Chenin Blanc is most famously grown in places like Vouvray and Savennieres. In South Africa, where Chenin Blanc used to be called Steen, the wines vary in style and when they're good, can remind you of bottlings from the French motherland. This offering from Badenhorst Family Wines in Swartland reminded us of a slightly fruitier and more giving example of Savennieres. It is packed with old-school tasting honeyed fruit flavors along with nuances of lively citrus, bruised orchard fruit and dried apricot. Dry, but generous, dense and rich on the palate - most likely because it was aged on its lees for seven months. It carries its 14% alcohol well, with lift and drinkability. The grapes here were farmed naturally from 40-year old bush vines. An absolutely perfect match for aged goat cheeses.

RED

A.A. Badenhorst "Secateurs"

Swartland Red Blend 2010 13.79
90/100 - *Our Score*. From South Africa's coastal region, this is an elegant 14% alcohol blend of 74% Shiraz, 10% Cinsault, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Grenache and small amounts of Carignan and Mourvedre. While you'll note ripe and fresh fruit flavors, the wine also possesses distinctive qualities that will make you think of the old world. With all its peppery fresh and dried red fruits and gritty tannins, it reminds us of some of the great blends of Provence, like Mas de Gourgnonier. What a cool wine!

Friendly Knowledgeable Staff!

Lowest Prices Every Day!

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Pinot Noir

Casa Silva "Reserva"

Colchagua Valley Pinot Noir 2011 8.99
88/100 - *Our Score*. From one of the oldest and most traditional wine producers in the Colchagua Valley, this Pinot Noir was created for immediate gratification! Purple and violet in color with a very impressive nose of tea leaf, cherries and spice. Bright cherry, raspberry and strawberry flavors along with a supple mouth feel engage the palate. This is a thoroughly enjoyable weeknight Pinot Noir if there ever was one! (Chile)

August Kessler "Pinot N"

Spätburgunder 2008 16.99
Pinot Noir from Germany!
89/100 - *Our Score*.
90/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "Fresh blackberry, red currant, kirsch, soy, pistachio paste, and marzipan lend Kesslers 2008 Pinot N Spätburgunder a combination of almost confectionary sweetness, saline savor, and sheer refreshment such as, among reds, only Pinot Noir can deliver, and that nevertheless engenders no sense of disharmony. Chewy fruit skin and piquant fruit pit notes add to the sense of invigoration; marrow-like meatiness lends an aura of mystery; while generous glycerin adds to the richness and textural allure displayed by this astonishing value that should continue to shine for at least 2-3 years." (Germany)

Evening Land "Blue Label"

California Pinot Noir 2009 22.99
90/100 - *Our Score*. Showing a bit of tightness at first, it opens to reveal beautiful dark fruit and lush sweet tannins. After some time in the decanter it was singing with clearly defined flavors of blackberry, black cherry and plum. Juicy and ripe with good acidity that provides a lasting finish, this is a terrific under \$25 Pinot Noir that will have you going back for another glass. (California)

Shea Wine Cellars "Shea Vineyard Estate"

Willamette Valley Pinot Noir 2009 35.99
94/100, "Highly Recommended" - *Wine Spectator*. "Supple, rich and complex, layering its dark berry, black cherry, pink grapefruit and exotic spice flavors on a velvety frame. The finish lingers effortlessly. Drink now through 2019. 3,555 cases made." (Oregon)

Sequana "Sundawg Ridge Vineyard"

Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2009 42.99
93/100 - *Our Score*.
95/100 - *Wine Enthusiast*. "(\$50) Another great release from Sequana of this single-vineyard bottling, which hails from the golden slopes of the cool, southwestern part of the Russian River Valley. It's rich in raspberry, pomegranate and persimmon fruit, elaborated with sweet new French oak, but saved from being merely ripe by a firm minerality and brilliant acidity. Should develop interestingly over the next 10 years." (California)



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Pinot and Pork!

On Thursday, March 22nd, the Wine Discount Center in Chicago will host an event that combines two of the most wonderful things in life: Pinot Noir and Bacon! Complimenting an array of Pinot Noir from top producers in California, Oregon, France and New Zealand will be an array of bacon from Paulina Meat Market and The Butcher and Larder. This will be a Pinot and Pork event like no other!

When: Thursday, March 22nd (7:30-9:00 pm)
Where: Wine Discount Center, 1826 N. Elston Avenue
Cost: \$35 per person

Call us at 773-489-3454 to make your reservations!



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Spain

WHITE

Dominio de Eguren "Protocolo"

Vino de la Tierra de Castilla Blanco 2010 5.99
Crisp, refreshing and only \$6 a bottle. It's hard to go wrong here!
87/100 - *Our Score*.
88/100 - *International Wine Cellar*.
85/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "The 2010 Protocolo Blanco is made up of 70% Airen (Spain's most widely planted grape variety) and 30% Macabeo fermented and raised in stainless steel. Tasting and smelling like a fresh fruit cocktail, on the palate it displays lively acidity with just enough fruit for balance. Drink it over the next 12-18 months."

Eidos de Padrinan

Rias Baixas Albariño 2010 21.99
91+/100 - *Our Score*.
91/100 - *International Wine Cellar*. "Bright gold. Complex bouquet evokes orange, pear skin, chamomile, anise and minerals. Spicy and sharply defined, offering mineral-laced orchard and pit fruit flavors, succulent herbs and a hint of lemon gelato. Gains weight with air and finishes with serious punch and spicy persistence."

RED

Garnacha de Fuego

Aragon Garnacha 2010 6.99
88/100 - *Wine Advocate*.
89/100 - *International Wine Cellar*. "Dark purple. Seductive cherry and boysenberry aromas are complemented by a sexy floral note. Lush and weighty, with distinct sweetness to its round, jammy blackberry and boysenberry flavors. Finishes fresh and lively, with a spicy component lifting the dark fruit and adding focus. This is one of the best red wine values in the market."

Condado de Haza

Ribera del Duero 2007 21.99
The International Wine Cellar's Josh Reynolds gave this 90-points when he tasted it in mid-2010. It's showing even better now!
91/100 - *Our Score*.
90/100 - *International Wine Cellar*. "(\$29) Musky aromas of berry skin and cherry, with complicating notes of dried flowers and herbs. Firm on entry, then fleshier in the middle, offering sweet red fruit flavors and a subtle peppery quality. Sweeter on the anise-tinged finish, where the cherry element lingers with good intensity. This will be drinking well soon, or could even be enjoyed now with a little aeration."

Muga

Rioja Reserva 2007 21.99
91+/100 - *Wine Advocate*. "The 2007 Reserva is a blend of 70% Tempranillo with the balance Garnacha, Mazuelo, and Graciano aged initially for 6 months in wood vats followed by 24 months in 60% new French and American oak prior to bottling without filtration. It displays classic Rioja aromas of cedar, leather, mineral, a hint of balsamic, and assorted black fruits. Layered on the palate but slightly austere at present, it has the structure to evolve for another 4-6 years at which point it is likely to have filled out thus meriting a higher rating. Drink this impressive Rioja from 2015 to 2027."

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