

Club d'Argento

The Meeker Vineyard Merlot Alexander Valley 2016

Retail: \$20

Alcohol: 14.8%

The Meeker Vineyard is a classic, family-owned operation in the heart of Sonoma. Charlie and Molly Meeker founded the winery in Dry Creek Valley in 1977 and their first red release was a 1984 Zinfandel to wide acclaim. Since then, they've expanded their stable of releases to include cabernet sauvignon, merlot, grenache, and a bevy of others. The 2016 merlot has a smidge of syrah in it, a tradition going back 200 years when Bordeaux producers would add a little syrah from Hermitage to their final blends for some depth and color.

The syrah adds some spice and pepper that gives this bottle some heft. Notes of cinnamon, black cherry and currant play around subtle oak, tannin and ample ripeness. This is a great bottle and will be versatile for pairing with different meals.

Cave Anne de Joyeuse Merlot IGP Pays d'Oc 2016

Retail: \$12

Alcohol: 13.5%

As early as 1868, grandfather of modern viticulture Dr. Jules Guyot claimed that the red wines of Limoux should rightfully be listed among the great wines of France. Cave Anne de Joyeuse set to work to fulfill this assertion in 1929 and through trial and error, discovered that merlot thrived in certain regions, thus becoming one of the first and most important wineries to grow site-specific merlot in southern France.

This wine is gorgeously expressive and showcases the quality that Limoux can produce. Aromas of gooseberry and cherry evolve on the palate to include a subtle earthiness. It is full-bodied and delivers a fabulous finish. No need for any further time in the cellar; enjoy with some BBQ or just raise a glass with friends.

Château Pey La Tour Bordeaux Superieur 2017

\$23

Alcohol: 14.5%

Château Pey La Tour is located in the region known as Entre deux Mers, just northeast of the city of Bordeaux. While the history of the estate extends back to the 1700s, it is really since 1990 when it was purchased by Douthe that the estate really began to shine. Major renovations in the vineyard and meticulous farming upped the quality of this 400-acre estate. Given the size of the property, it is no surprise that there are a variety of soil types and parcels that are vinified separately, creating a marvelously complex expression of terroir. The Pey la Tour comes from the finest parcels and is 97% merlot, with cabernet sauvignon making up the rest.

The very dense and deep color with purple reflections precedes a powerful nose of black fruits, underlining elegant woody notes. The fleshy mouthfeel offers a nicely dense and ample fruit supported by silky tannins. Decant for 30 minutes if enjoying soon, but feel free to cellar it for another 5-8 years.