

## 2020 Terres Blondes Chardonnay Pays d'Oc, France



The Corbières AOC, established in 1985, is the largest in the Languedoc and represents the South of France in transition. Though viticulture here dates back to the Romans, only within the last twenty years have Corbières wines begun to reclaim their reputation. Hilly terrain and the Atlantic Cers wind moderate the Mediterranean heat, giving the wines balance and complexity. The Chardonnay comes from a 30ha estate located in Corbières between Carcassonne and Narbonne. The name of the Château comes from the Canos chapel, the main property of the estate, founded in the 12th century and used by monks of Fontfroide Abbey. All stainless steel aged, mineral driven (slate!), with citrusy fruit and fresh white flowers, with white grapefruit and grapefruit pith, underripe pineapple and passionfruit, medium plus acid, and a clean mineraly finish. Organically farmed. Pair with a Nicoise salad, sushi, or a pork chop.

**Thieves' price: \$11.99**

## 2020 Bent Press Malbec Agrelo, Mendoza, Argentina



Mendoza is half the size of Italy! Naturally, there would be several microclimates within an area this big! Enter Agrelo, a small wine-producing wine region about 20 miles (35km) south of the city of Mendoza. Located on the southern side of the Mendoza River just south of Pedriel, around the village from which it takes its name. The Bent Press story began with three Sonoma families coming together with sleeves rolled up and babies in carriers while harvesting to create our first wine at home. Three men were sent to complete one simple

task. The task of picking up the wine press. Turning the corner on our way home, we watched wide eyed as the press hurdled out of the truck and into the intersection of Hwy's 29 and 121. Ripe blueberries, walnuts and dried herbs on the nose. Medium body with creamy tannins. Dark, plush and fruity with vivid acidity. From organically grown grapes. Pair with asado, burger, tomato-based pastas, grilled Portobello mushrooms.

**Thieves' price: \$11.99**

## 2021 Suavia Blanco Soave Classico, Italy



Made from 100% Garganega, widely grown in the Veneto region of Northeast Italy, particularly in the provinces of Verona and Vicenza. It is Italy's 6th most widely planted white grape. The history of Suavia consists of a castle, a heritage from the Middle Ages, when the town was still called by the old name of Suavia. The vineyards are planted on volcanic soils which are very dark and deep in the Fittà and Tremenalto areas, and rich of basaltic stones in the Castellaro zone. Some of these vineyards are very steep. On the nose it shows fresh notes of apple, Kaiser pear and jasmine together with tropical fruit. On the palate it's smooth and creamy, it offers almond and mineral brightened by crisp acidity.

It makes an ideal aperitif, goes well with fish and vegetable first courses, white meats and fresh cheeses. Make it super regional and pair with Gnocchi with tomatoes and parmesan cheese!

**Thieves' price: \$15.99**

## 2019 Opolo Grand Rouge Paso Robles, CA



A blend of 48% Grenache, 29% Syrah, 20% Counoise, and 3% Petite Sirah. They say good fences make good neighbors, but it was a love of wine and winemaking that was the connection between Opolo proprietors Rick Quinn and Dave Nichols. Their two families have lived side-by-side in Camarillo since 1996. As Nichols remembers, "I knew Rick to say hello to, but that was about it. Then one day, he said to me, 'Hey Dave, I just planted 10,000 grapevines!'" And so began the evolution of Opolo, one of Paso Robles' premier labels. Quinn and Nichols have been neighbors in two counties since 1997 when Nichols bought vineyard property adjoining Quinn's. Together they now own and farm nearly 300 acres of vines on the east and westside of Paso Robles. Abundant smashed cranberry, clove, and fresh cracked pepper waft from the nose, leading into rich density of smoked meats and worn leather. Towards the end, it all transforms back into tart cherry, vanilla, and graham cracker. Pair with braised meats, tomato sauces, lamb burger.

**Thieves' price: \$17.99**

## 2019 Arzuaga Crianza Ribera del Duero, Spain



Made from 100% Tempranillo. Founded at the beginning of the 1990's by the Arzuaga-Navarro family, the wine cellars named after them, are a fine sample of dedication and passion for land and wine. Florentino Arzuaga is an enthusiast of the boundless horizons and wide open spaces of Castile where there is still room for nature and wildlife to exist undisturbed. Here, not far from the silent-running waters of the Duero River, Florentino bought an estate, which due to its large size has horizons of its own. Clean and bright. Dark cherry color with purple flashes. Powerful nose, high aromatic diversity, with a predominance of ripe red and black fruits with spicy touches and balsamic notes with a roasted finish. Large volume in the mouth passage providing soft and mellow sensations that last over time thanks to its great fruitiness amplitude and length. The wine in the mouth is a faithful reflection of such a complex nose. These connotations give wine elegance and personality. Pair with ribeye!

**Thieves' price: \$34.99**

## 2019 Tonti Artisan Reserve Zinfandel Russian River Valley



Peter Tonti's interest in wine making began in the 1940's when he was just a kid, watching his father, an Italian immigrant, make wine with a hand cranked press. They turned out about a half-dozen barrels from their home's basement. The fruit was grown on an arbor in our back yard in Columbus Ohio. They drank that every evening with dinner. Planted to Zinfandel in the early 1900's, their Vineyard consists primarily of Old Vine Zinfandel, as well as small separate blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon. The vineyards enjoy views North into the Russian River Valley. To the Northeast, stands the majestic Mount St. Helena. Aromas of dried berries and nut brittle with a satiny, vibrant, fruity medium body and a warming, complex, long pomegranate granita, honey-roasted nuts, and

raspberry pastilles finish with medium, well-integrated tannins and moderate oak flavor. A rich Zinfandel with piles of dried fruit and roasted nuts; a lovely cool-weather Zin.

**Thieves' price: \$36.99**