

2020 Steve Bird Pinot Gris Gisborne, New Zealand



Gisborne is a little known appellation on the east coast of the north island of New Zealand, 80 miles north of Hawkes Bay. Gisborne's Kaiti Beach is the place where British navigator Captain James Cook first landed in New Zealand in 1768. The Waipaoa River snakes its way through the valley on its way to the ocean. Steve Bird got a degree in wine science in Australia then returned home to make world class wines. Steve has found that this site in Gisborne produces Pinot Gris grapes that retain a wonderful flinty, minerality in the wine, for which the region is so renown. The aroma is intensely varietal, showing fresh pear with hints of exotic spice on the nose. The palate has both richness and poise with the ripe fruit favours highlighted by the wine's sensuous texture. This is a Pinot Gris with the power to match richer dishes such as slow cooked pork belly with apples.

Thieves' price: \$10.99

2020 Saracosa Governo Rosso Toscana, Italy



A blend of Sangiovese and Merlot. Sofia Barbanera, whose family has been tending vines, overlooked by the Saracosa hill in Tuscany, since the 1940's. Sofia Barbanera, a rising star in Tuscany's wine world, turned to the historic *Governo* method, dating back to the 14th century, and allowed a portion of her ripe Sangiovese to air dry for 20 days. This process dials the flavor concentration and complexity of the wine way up. Adding a dash of Merlot imparts a soft, plummy smoothness, aging for four months in small oak barrels, weaves inviting spice notes throughout. *Governo Rosso Toscano* brims with succulently ripe, red fruits (think strawberry and cherry), plus creamy chocolate raisin and vanilla oak notes. Decant and serve with a rich casserole or slow cooked beef.

Thieves' price: \$11.99

2020 Forge Cellars Dry Riesling 'Classique', Seneca Lake, NY



Founded in 2011, Forge Cellars has quickly become the benchmark producer for bone-dry Riesling in the Finger Lakes region. Partners, Louis Barruol (Château de Saint Cosme in Gigondas), and Richard Rainey have been working together since their first vintage in 2011. Focusing on the east side of Seneca Lake—the deepest of the Finger Lakes at 620ft—the duo works with several premier sites with considerable slope and an abundance of different clones and soils. The vineyard has a unique soil composed of shale, gravelly loam, limestone, and clay. Fermented spontaneously in neutral barrels and bone dry (2g RS.) Notes of crushed stone, quince, and freshly cut

flowers with nice body and length. Pair with: grilled shrimp, Thai curry, cheese plate.

Thieves' price: \$16.99

2019 Walking Tree Merlot Alexander Valley



A blend of 94% Merlot, 4.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Malbec, 0.5% Petite Verdot. Walking Tree is a second label by Geyser Peak Winery, which has a long and storied history. Founded in 1880, it became the 29th bonded winery in California, and was named for the tremendous view of Geyser Peak Mountain directly outside the winery's window. Alexander Valley is essentially the vineyard land east of the Russian River, leading up to the Mayacamas Mountains. Viticulture in the area dates back to 1843, when Cyrus Alexander used vine cuttings collected from Fort Ross on the Pacific coast, to establish vineyards in the area. The 2019 Alexander Valley Merlot shines with attractive garnet hues and a bouquet of dark fruit, mature plums and hints of nutty Italian Panforte. The rich palate follows suit with warm spices and crushed raspberries. Ample tannins bring a wonderful presence to the palate, offering good body and grip, balanced nicely with a silky finish. Pair with Italian sausage, spaghetti w/ meatballs, braised short ribs, or a burger.

Thieves' price: \$17.99

2019 Gust Syrah Petaluma Gap, Sonoma



Gust is the second-generation offshoot of Sonoma's Cline Family Cellars. The project of Megan Cline and Hilary Cline, these wines were launched to tap the potential of California's most exciting new wine appellation: the Petaluma Gap. Owing to a mixture of foresight and luck, the Cline's father, Fred, planted vineyards in the Petaluma Gap in the late 1990s, before the area gained grape growing renown. The Petaluma Gap AVA, officially recognized in 2017, spans an area of more than 200,000 acres stretching from the Pacific coast at Bodega Bay and running southeast to Highway 37 at Sears Point on San Pablo Bay; it straddles northern Marin and southern Sonoma counties. Purple red in color with aromas of violet, Doris plum, lavender, fresh cracked pepper and bacon fat. There are also flavors of plum, a hint of leather, green olive and vanilla spice. The body is full with big, lush and balanced tannins. The acid is lively and the finish is long and brilliant. Pair with roast leg of lamb, braised beef, and sauteed chanterelles.

Thieves' price: \$36.99

2018 Five Daughters Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley



After years of dreaming, discussing and drinking wine, our two families headed to the Napa Valley to begin making our own. Our first endeavor was to try our hand at crafting Chardonnay. The response blew us away. The triumph excited and emboldened us to step up and take a crack at our first Cabernet Sauvignon. We source only the finest fruit from the best vineyards throughout the Napa Valley for our premier small-lot Cabernet. Our wine is aged in premium oak barrels for 28 months, then painstakingly blended to perfection before release to our private and restaurant clients. This exquisite example of a finely structured Napa Valley Cabernet is drinking beautifully now

and will continue to do so for another decade. Round and supple, earthy, with rich dark fruit flavors and aromas of vanilla and sweet toasted oak. Pair with ribeye, burgers, and eggplant parmesan, and mushroom risotto.

Thieves' price: \$36.99