## 2021 "Vino" Pinot Grigio Columbia Valley, WA



ViNO CasaSmith is a collection of Washington wines produced from classic varietals of Italy. Planted in 1998 by Jerry Milbrandt, the Evergreen vineyard lies along a stretch of steep cliffs above the Columbia River, in the Ancient Lakes. A cooler site due to river influence, the soils are composed of fragmented basalt, gravel, silt, and caliche deposited during ice age floods. As with all of Milbrandt's vineyards, Evergreen is farmed using sustainable practices. This site produces fruit with sublime mineral character

and great acidity, a balance that winemakers adore. Stunning, engaging, and absolutely delightful. Meyer lemon, Italian melon, and white peach jump at you instantly, followed by a sophisticated bouquet of hibiscus flowers, white lilac, and fresh hay. The flavors linger for what feels like forever, with amazing balance and grace. A mouthful of kumquat, guava, wet slate, and a hint of mint – completely satisfying. Pair with chicken salad, seared scallops, and lighter pastas.

Thieves' price: \$11.99

## 2021 Los Morros Carmenere Central Valley, Chile



Carmenere. That varietal which was thought to be the Merlot varietal until discovered by, you guessed it, a Frenchman! Up until the 1990's this grape was picked too young in the growing season. Carmenere needs to hang until the end of the growing season. It ripens slowly and needs every bit of the fall to get to phenolic ripeness. Carmenere used to be one of the original six Bordeaux varietals, but lost its way in France, only to find its home in Chile. Winemaker Miguel Besoain is classically trained, with a master's degree in oenology from the University of Dijon. Los Morros, the hills, is his negociant label, come from the rolling hills of vineyards that run alongside Miguel's family home in Maipo Valley. Noseof toffee, leather, cedar, and strawberries. Lively, fresh acidity on the palate, with black cherries and strawberries on the palate. Silky tannins,

round texture, and tasty. Super food versatile, pairing well with braised pork shoulder, salmon, and grilled lamb chops.

Thieves' price: \$10.99

#### 2021 Benito Santos Albariño Rias Baixas, Spain



Benito Santos is a central figure in the modern history of Albariño and the Rías Baixas D.O. He began working in his grandfather's vineyards in the 1930s and made wine for serving in his bar – wines that repeatedly won prizes in the annual Fiesta de Albariño in Cambados. He was instrumental in the creation of the Rías Baixas D.O. in the 1980s. The current owners now farm three vineyards in the Val do Salnés subzone of Rías Baixas, each of which is next to and named after an ancient church: Saiar, Bemil. and Xoan. All of the vineyards are now certified organic a rarity in rainy, mildew-prone Rías Baixas – and winemaking uses only native yeasts and minimal sulfur. This Albariño is salty, mineraly, and structured, with ample fruit. It is ripe and balanced, with notes of peaches, green apples, white flowers, and tropical fruit.

Its soft texture is countered by great acidity that keeps the flavors fresh and lively. Pair this with shellfish, octopus, and chevre salad.

Thieves' price: \$16.99

## 2019 Catena Cabernet Franc San Carlos, Mendoza, Argentina



Mendoza is half the size of the country of Italy. In other words, it's big! You might imagine it would have several sub appellations. San Carlos is a sub appellation of Uco Valley, which is a sub appellation of Mendoza. It is close the Andes, and the Tupungato River. Bodega Catena Zapata is one of Argentina's high altitude Malbec pioneers. The Catena family began making wine in Mendoza in 1902. Nicolas Catena, third generation family vintner, was one of the first to see the potential of Mendoza's mountain vineyards for producing high quality Malbec. This Cabernet Franc is sourced from the family's historic vineyards in San Carlos. Here, the sandy-loam soils and mountainous climate yield a wine with concentrated ripe red berries, a touch of eucalyptus and black pepper, robust tannins and smooth lengthy finish. Pair with charcuterie, sausages, veal, and roasted duck.

Thieves' price: \$17.99

#### 2015 Chateau Moya Rouge Vin de Bordeaux, France



A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Located in the heart of the Cotes de Castillon region on the prestigious right bank area. The region was named after the last battle 'Castillon la Bataille' that ended the Hundred Years' War in 1453 between England and France. Today this remarkable terroir neighboring Saint Emilion is producing some of the finest Bordeaux wines. Under the care of Damien Landouar a star winemaker who using traditional farming techniques as well as very ''avant

garde'' methods such as genodics (playing music of a certain frequency to the vines enhancing their health and quality of the fruits.) The production of this fully Organic growth has made Moya a cult wine with many followers. On the nose, the wooden, toasted, and spicy notes stand out. Ripe red fruit notes are present. On the palate, it has a frank, very round onset with a beautiful evolution towards acidity. The red fruits are present throughout the tasting, and the tannins are well blended and round.

Thieves' price: \$35.99

# 2021 Cave Cluzel Syrah Saint-Joseph, Rhone, France



Saint-Joseph is located in the Northern Rhone, and a favorite of the French court of Louis XII, when the appellation was known as "Vin de Mauves." Not bad! The first official record of vineyards in "Saint-Joseph" date back to 1668, owned by Jesuits, and now by French powerhouse Guigal. Alexandre and his brother Vincent started their winery from scratch in 2013, producing only 7,000 bottles their first year. Cave Cluzel is located in the heart of the northern Rhone Valley, 40km south of Lyon with vineyards in the Valley. Grown on steep slopes above the Rhône river. Slopes are terraced using stone walls. A dense

and powerful expression of terrior. On the nose red plums, prunes, violets, and white pepper. On the palate, supple and smooth. Balanced tannins and freshness. Intense, long finish. Pair with roasted turkey, and chicken, pork chops, or mushroom risotto.

Thieves' price: \$34.99