

February Wine Picks (Continued)

- (5) **'01 Andretti North Coast Merlot** Reg. \$13.99; Sale \$11.99 A rich merlot, fruit forward, full body, and smooth finish. Andretti proves that wine quality comes from the vineyard. An ability to select from the finest grape growing regions assures the consistent quality and style.
- (6) **'01 Argyle Willamette Valley Chardonnay** Reg. \$12.99; Sale \$10.99. The flavors of pear cream, vanillin, roasted oak, and sweet centered hazelnut are seamless. The finish is fresh fruit and lingers. Welcome back Argyle!
- (7) **'00 Raymond Estates Merlot** Reg. \$11.99 Sale \$9.99 Black cherry, blackberry, boysenberry, and currant flavors, finishing long with warm toasty oak, cedar, and spice. Pairs nicely with baked pastas, grilled meats, and roasts of pork and beef.
- (8) **'02 St. Supery Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley** Reg. \$15.99; Sale \$12.99. A great follow-up to the fabulous '01; refreshing citrus and crisp acidity on the palate with an attractive lingering finish. An exciting varietal that's perfect with foods or on its own.
- (9) **'99 Kendall-Jackson Great Estates Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon** Reg \$38.99; Sale \$29.99. "Its dense purple color is accompanied by smoky black currant fruit intermixed with minerals and toasty oak. Although closed, it possesses medium to full body, good richness, and plenty of tannin." Robert Parker, Jr.
- (10) **'01 Crios de Susana Balbo Syrah-Bornarda Mendoza** \$12.99 Blends of wine from a selection of the finest barrels, to create Crios (offspring). Displays ripe fruit flavors, excellent balance, and are meant to be enjoyed in their youth. 89 pts. WS.
- (11) **'03 Kanu Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch.** Reg. \$11.99; Sale \$10.99. "Rich with lots of lemon and pink grapefruit flavors offset by a strong grassy edge [...] chive, mineral and floral hints enter on the finish where the richness fans out." 89 pts. WS.
- (12) **'01 Hogue Fume-Blanc Columbia Valley** Reg. \$8.99; Sale \$5.99. Lemon zest and fresh herbs mark this fruit forward dry white wine. Perfect compliment to a complete meal. Try it with grilled seafood, fresh oysters, or a turkey dinner.
- (13) **'00 Hogue Cabernet-Merlot Columbia Valley** Reg. \$8.99; Sale \$7.99. A fruit forward, dry, red wine blends bright berry flavors. The combination is just right for simply cooked meats, pizza and pasta, backyard barbecues, and grilled salmon.
- (14) **'01 Barossa Valley Estate Shiraz Spires** Reg. \$11.99; Sale \$9.99 From one of the Barossa's best-known estates. Ripe mulberry, peppery spice, and vanilla flavors are the signature of this wine. A richly flavored wine. 86 pts. WS.
- (15) **'02 Nobile Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough** Reg. \$11.99 Sale \$9.99. Another great flavor from New Zealand's Marlborough region. Bright fruit flavors and aromas of gooseberries and melons. A touch of herbaceous-ness that is pleasant to the touch.
- (16) **'00 Seta Signorello Napa Valley White Wine** Reg. \$26.99 Sale \$17.99. Barrel-fermented blend of 60% Semillon and 40% Sauvignon Blanc made in a traditional white bordeaux-style. A lush, silky blend, only 897 cases produced. Limited.
- (17) **'99 Kendall-Jackson Great Estates Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley** Reg. \$38.99; Sale \$29.99 "This opaque purple-colored Cabernet...No shy wine at 14.5% alcohol, it exhibits aromas of vanilla, black currants, cedar, and loamy soil in addition to loads of concentrated fruit. Well bodied and impeccably-balanced." Robert Parker, Jr.
- (18) **'02 Sebastiani Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast** Reg. \$15.99; Sale \$14.99. Fruit forward with richness and complexity. Aged in both French and Hungarian oak, the finished wine exhibits sandalwood and vanilla aromatics. Aromas of nice cherry fruit flavors.
- (19) **'01 Chateau St. Jean Fume Blanc** Reg. \$12.99 Sale \$11.99. The blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon offers generous citrus, melon, and herbal aromas and flavors. Fermented and aged in French and American oak for 6 months to enrich the flavors and textures.
- (20) **'01 Masi Modello Delle Venezie** \$8.99. Corvina and Rabosa Veronese give this wine unique structure and flavor. Deep tone of ruby red, flavor of cherries, , tannins, richness, and vitality.
- (21) **'02 Sebastiani Chardonnay Sonoma County** Reg. \$13.99 Sale \$10.99. A perennial WS favorite, "displays lingering honey, pear and apple flavors [...] the wine finishes with a toasty creaminess and supple complexity." 88 pts.
- (22) **'02 Brancott Vineyards Marlborough Reserve Sauvignon Blanc** Reg. \$21.99; Sale \$18.99. "This is essentially a reserve Sauvignon Blanc... Tanga and lively, it has green melon, fig and citrus flavors, echoing beautifully on the vibrant finish." WS.
- (23) **'01 La Famiglia di Robert Mondavi Moscato Bianco California** \$14.99. Captures the enticing floral and fruit character of the muscat grape. Delightful scents of orange blossoms and ripe peaches weave through the sweet flavors, making this wine delicious to sip alone or with light desserts.
- (24) **'00 Kenwood Merlot Sonoma County** Reg. \$17.99; Sale \$13.99. A familiar name for great Cabernet, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir; here's the '00 Merlot—medium-bodied with ripe plum and berry flavors. Plenty of fruit and a full finish.
- (25) **'00 Frei Brothers Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley** Reg. \$21.99; Sale \$17.99. Tried true and tested, we've put this up against reds twice the price and this Reserve cabernet does not disappoint. Ripe plum and black currant.
- (26) **'01 Rabbit Ridge Primitivo Westside** \$12.99 Dark and ruby colored, aromas of big cherry, violets, white pepper, and rhubarb. Drink while it is young.

The Wine Spectator's Annual Top 100

I can think about a dozen or so wines (from the Top 100) that one store or the other still has on hand. Many have already sold through but several highly sought-after wines remain. Take for instance the **'01 Chateau Souverain Chardonnay Winemaker's Reserve Russian River Valley**. No. 20 on Spectator's 100 list the Souverain Chardonnay is rated 93 pts. "Opulent display of fruit and oak flavors," says WS. Extended sur lies aging ensures that this wine is complex offering nuances of vanilla and toasty oak flavors. Another wine you don't want to miss is the **'03 Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough**. Rated a 90 by WS, this wine comes with a screw-cap for easy access! No corkscrew required. "Impressively balanced to show touches of ripe melon against tart grapefruit and lime flavors," says WS. [I might add that at the time of print the '03 K. Crawford Sauvignon

Blanc was out-of-stock at my distributor.] Our Ingersoll location inventories the **'03 Mulderbosch Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch**. (No. 28 on WS Top 100) This is another clean and unoaked-style of wine from South Africa, also known for producing intense fruit flavors in their whites. [An alternative should the Kim Crawford be sold-out; or perhaps the other way around.] Other noteworthy mentions include #66 and #58 on the List. The **'01 d'Arenberg Footbolt Shiraz McLaren Vale** (rated 90 pts.) shows concentrated red fruits with a velvety mouth-feel of more expensive reds. The wine is very approachable now and has the markings of a food-friendly red wine. Aged 12 months in French and American oak. No. 72 on the List is the **'00 Franciscan Oakville Estate Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**. The '00 Franciscan is a good example of how good winer-

ies can buck the trend in lesser vintage years. Very drinkable now, the Franciscan cabernet sauvignon is one that can benefit for further cellaring. And for under \$30 its easier on the wallet as well. Other noteworthy cabernet sauvignon price under \$20 include the **'01 Louis Martini Sonoma County (\$12.99)**; the **'01 Liberty School California (\$13.99)**; and the **'00 Sebastiani Sonoma County (\$13.99)** which still evokes much of that seamless red and black fruit found in the 1999. Finally, Washington-state and the single vineyard wines of Chateau Ste. Michelle continue to impress. The **'02 Eroica Riesling** (No. 64); and the arrival of the **'01 Cold Creek Merlot Columbia Valley** (rated 90); the Eroica is a joint venture between Dr. Loosen of Germany and the acclaimed Washington-state producer located in Woodinville. It's a partnership that has been successful and the 2002 vintage is no exception, scoring 91 pts.

Wine Tidbits & Premier Tasting Events

New Arrival 2002 Riesling from the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer And Beyond Including wines from JJ Prum

The name Joh. Jos. Prum is synonymous with great Mosel Riesling. The Wine Spectator's Bruce Sanderson writes, "At the kabinett level of quality, one finds a seductive combination of lightness with intense flavors and underlying slate character." Indeed the '02 JJ Prum Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett (\$25.99) rates WS 92 pts. "screams slate, along with peach and lime flavors all finely matched to a delicate yet tensile structure [...] terrific intensity in a light frame ending with an aftertaste of peach and smoke." Also available are the '02 JJ Prum Riesling Kabinett (\$19.99) and the '02 JJ Prum Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spatelese (\$30.99).

Wine Advocate's Robert Parker Jr. 'Best Wine Value' in his 25-year career (Issue 147) is in stock now!

Did you read what R. Parker has to say about the **'02 Las Rocas Garnacha De San Alejandro**? How about "this offering which may be the greatest wine value I have ever tasted.." Rated 91 pts. by RP, this 100% garnacha is fashioned from 75-year old Grenache vines planted on pure slate. Would you believe all this for only ten bucks? Also check out the **'01 Castell Del Remei Gotim Bru (\$13.99)**; and the **'02 Castano Monastrell Yecla (\$10.99)**. Respective Parker points for these wines are 89+ and 90 respectively. Castano also produces a 'Hecula' for \$12.99.

South African Wines Continue to Make A Splash — Great Sauvignon

Blancs; Intense Reds Including Big-Big Shiraz That Rival Australia

Great sauvignon blancs so balanced and appealing one would think it was summer again! 'Sincerely', no that's really the name of the wine — Sincerely. We were captivated by the finesse and elegance of this wine not to mention its price (\$11.99). Other wines arriving include the '02 Goat-Roti, '01 Fairview Pinotage Primo, Fairview Shiraz and the Neil Ellis Sauvignon Blanc Groenekloof. These wines expected date of arrival is March 1, 2004.

Reminder — Annual Wine Classic is Wednesday, Feb. 25th from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Hotel Fort Des Moines 10th & Walnut St. Downtown DSM

See the insert with this newsletter for details!!

Newsletter of Ingersoll Wine & Spirits

3500 Ingersoll Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312
(515) 255-3191

1300 50th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50266
(515) 327-9191

Address Service Requested

*Purveyors of Fine Wine & Spirits
Since 1987*

*Visit Us
Online at
www.ingersollwine.com*



Say 'Yes' to Eric Solomon — European Cellars Selection

Find out what Robert Parker Jr. is raving about in **Issue 147 (6-30-03)** of the Wine Advocate! The usually reserved Parker exclaims, “[t]his may be the greatest discovery of my 25-year career!” RP continues writing, “This old vineyard which previously sold its entire production to a cooperative has produced custom bottlings for importer Eric Solomon.” So you may wonder just who is this Solomon guy?? Eric Solomon started European Cellars Selection in 1989. His focus is on hand-selected wines from France, Spain and Portugal. Like Kermit Lynch Imports, there is a story behind the wines. The **‘01 Pazo De Senorans Rias Baixas Albarino** is a good example of the breadth and uniqueness of Solomon’s wines. Rias Baixas is home to a uniquely fragrant and delicious grape variety known as Albarino. This highly sought-after wine has achieved almost cult-level status in northwest Spain.

Ingersoll Wine is pleased to announce the arrival of Eric Solomon wines including Robert

“There are 20,000 cases of this offering which may be the greatest wine value I have ever tasted.” Robert Parker Jr.

The Wine Advocate Issue 147.

Parker’s ‘greatest wine value I have ever tasted’. Introducing the **‘02 Las Rocas De San Alejandro Garnacha (\$9.99)** rated 91 pts. “Gorgeous nose of kirsch liquor intermixed with melted licorice and white flowers .. [the] sumptuously-textured 2002 is loaded.” The staff at IWS tasted side-by-side the Las Rocas, the **‘01 Castell Del Remei Go-**

tim Bru Costers Del Segre (\$13.99) and the **‘02 Castano Monastrell Yecla (\$10.99)**.

While impressive, the Las Rocas showed second to the Gottim Bru, a blend of merlot + cabernet sauvignon + tempranillo. Parker rates this one an 89+ which is not a shabby score. Ben likes this one for its more complex nose and cellar-worthiness. Finally, the ‘02 Castano Monastrell offers the intense spice one would expect from 100% Mourvedre grapes. Rhone in origin, mourvedre brings with it plenty of black and red fruit with moderate tannins. Parker rating 90 pts. In the words of RP — “these are wines to purchase by the case.” Also arriving is the **‘02 Castano Hecula (\$12.99)** bottled un-fined and unfiltered. A full-bodied red made from 40 year-old vines. Indeed, now is the time to try Spanish reds and white. Welcome to the wines of European Cellars Selection. Cheers!