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Grapevine

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Searching for Wine Treasures From France's Rhône Valley

The Rhône Valley begins in Vienne, 18 miles south of Lyon, and is divided in two: the northern Rhône, from Vienne to Valence, and the southern, from Montelimar to Avignon. The north includes among others Côte-Rôtie, Condrieu, Crozes-Hermitage, Hermitage and Cornas; the southern appellations include Côte-du-Rhône Villages, Gigondas, Vacqueyras, Baumes-de-Venise, Tavel and Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

The Rhône's main red grapes are Syrah in the north and Grenache in the south, with many other supporting grapes. Little white wine is made in either place, but what is made in the north comes mostly from Viognier, Marsanne and Roussanne grapes. In the south, the main white grapes are Viognier and Muscat. Tavel, in the south, produces a Rosé.

Côte-du-Rhône, more rustic and simple than the region's more expensive wines accounts for the majority of Rhône Valley reds. A blended wine, it can include up to 20 grape varieties; but typically, it is

made from Grenache with proportions of Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault and Carignan. More than decent and certainly enjoyable, Côte-du-Rhône wines are great bargains; while Côte-du-Rhône Villages costs a little more.

Unlike the northern Rhône vineyards that cling to the riverbank, the vines of the Southern Rhône spread 20 or 30 miles east and west of the river, where Côte-du-Rhône wines predominate.

The best northern Rhône wine is from Hermitage, a bold red made from the Syrah grape. Grown in gravelly soil, they are full bodied wines with aromas and flavors of red berries, chocolate and leather, and they become smooth and mellow with aging.

In the south, the most well known and esteemed wine is from the Châteauneuf-du-Pape region, meaning 'the pope's new castle,' so named when the Papacy was moved from Rome to Avignon in 1309 for nearly seventy years. Though Châteauneuf-du-Pape is softer and faster-maturing than any of the top northern



Vineyard in the rocky soil of Gigondas in the Southern Rhône.

Rhône red wines, the best are powerful and dry, owing to the hard work the vines must do to survive on the mistral-battered hillsides and plateaus of the dry, rocky region where olives trees also grow.

Gigondas is considered the second best wine of the the Southern Rhône. It was given the appellation in the 1960's to distinguish it from the more accessible Côte-du-Rhône. At its best, Gigondas is a full-bodied, concentrated red wine that approaches Châteauneuf-du-Pape in complexity.

Rhône winemakers like Guigal and Perrin who are committed to new grape-growing and wine-making techniques have managed to retain a certain rusticity while making increasingly more sophisticated wines. Like a diamond in the rough, Rhône wines can but should not be overlooked. Do yourself the favor of giving them a try. ♦

**Winter Savings! 15%
off all Wine Continues
Every Bottle,
Every Day!!!**

Winter Savings with Sale Prices Continues! 15% off all wine: Every Bottle, Every Day!

Value Priced Wines from the 90's Club — Fine Wines Rated 90 or Above...Under \$20.00

Lan Rioja Reserva 2004	90 pts. WS	Spain	\$15.99	(reg \$18.99)
Klinker Brick Farrah Syrah 2007	91 pts. WS	Lodi	\$16.49	(reg \$18.99)
Layer Cake Malbec 2008	90 pts. RP	ARG	\$13.99	(reg \$15.99)
Monte Antico Sangiovese/Merlot/Cabernet 2006	90 pts. WS	Tuscany	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Bogle Cabernet Sauvignon 2007	90 pts. WE	CA	\$10.29	(reg \$11.99)
Marquis Philips Shiraz 2008	91 pts. RP	Australia	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Foxglove Zinfandel 2007	90 pts. RP	CA	\$13.99	(reg \$15.99)
Solanera Monastrell/Cabernet/Tinotera 2005	91 pts. RP	Spain	\$11.49	(reg \$13.99)
Bodegas Bilbainas Vina Zaco Tempranillo 2006 Top 100 (WS)	90 pts. WS	Spain	\$11.99	(reg \$13.99)
Thorn Clarke Shottfire Shiraz 2008	90 pts. RP	AUST	\$18.99	(reg \$22.49)
Kaesler Stonehorse Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvedre 2007	90 pts. RP	Australia	\$14.99	(reg \$17.99)
Chateau Malmaison Merlot/Cabernet 2006 Top 100 (WS)	90 pts. WS	Bordeaux	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Santa Ema Merlot Reserve 2007	90 pts. RP	Chile	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
DaVinci Chianti 2007	90 pts. WE	Tuscany	\$10.99	(reg \$13.99)
Michael & David '7 Deadly Zins' Zinfandel 2007	90 pts. RP	Lodi	\$13.59	(reg \$15.99)
Louis M. Martini Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon 2007	90 pts. RP	Sonoma	\$10.99	(reg \$13.99)
Las Rocas Garnacha 2007	90 pts. RP	Spain	\$10.29	(reg \$12.99)
Alamos Malbec 2008	90 pts. WS	Argentina	\$ 8.59	(reg \$10.49)
The Winner's Tank Shiraz 2008	90 pts. RP	Australia	\$11.89	(reg \$13.99)
Marquis Philips Sarah's Blend 200X	91 pts. RP	Australia	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Woop Woop Cabernet Sauvignon 2007	90 pts. ST	Australia	\$ 9.49	(reg \$10.99)
Selection Laurence Feraud Seguret Cotes Du Rhone Villages 2007	90 pts. RP	France	\$14.49	(reg \$16.99)
Fincham Red Note 2006	90 pts. RP	France	\$11.99	(reg \$13.99)
Trapiche Broquel Malbec 2007	90 pts. XX	Argentina	\$11.99	(reg \$13.99)
Casajus Vendimia Tempranillo 2005	92 pts. RP	Spain	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Artesa Carneros Chardonnay	90 pts. WS	Carneros	\$15.49	(reg \$18.29)
Foxglove Chardonnay 2008	90 pts. RP	California	\$13.59	(reg \$15.99)
King Estate Pinot Gris 2008 (Top 100 WS)	90 pts. RP	France	\$13.59	(reg \$15.99)
Chateau Ste. Michelle Chardonnay 2008	90 pts. RP	Washington	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Snoqualmie Naked Riesling 2008	90 pts. WE	Washington	\$ 8.33	(reg \$ 9.99)
Craggy Range Te Kahu 2006	91 pts. WS	New Zealand	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Beaulieu Vineyard Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2006	90 pts. WS	Napa Valley	\$15.99	(reg \$18.99)
Gascon Malbec 2008	90 pts. WE	Argentina	\$10.49	(reg \$12.99)

Super Specials

Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio 2008	Italy	\$19.99	(reg \$26.99)
Merchesato Degli Aleramici Rosso di Montalcino 2006	Tuscany	\$14.99	(reg \$25.99)
Joseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon 2007	Napa Valley	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Joseph Carr Pinot Noir 2007	Napa Valley	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Wente Morning Fog Estate Grown Chardonnay 2008	California	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
J. Lohr Riverstone Chardonnay 2008	California	\$ 9.99	(reg \$14.99)
Rodney Strong Chardonnay 2007	Sonoma	\$ 9.99	(reg \$13.99)
Four Vines Chardonnay 2008	California	\$ 9.99	(reg \$12.99)
Chateau Ste. Michelle 2008	Washington	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Menage a Trois Red 2008	California	\$ 8.99	(reg \$11.99)
Windmill Lodi Syrah 2006	Lodi	\$ 8.33	(reg \$11.99)
Windmill Lodi Chardonnay 2006	Lodi	\$ 8.33	(reg \$11.99)
Clos du Bois Chardonnay 2008	California	\$10.99	(reg \$14.99)
Chateau St. Jean Sonoma Chardonnay 2008	Sonoma	\$ 9.99	(reg \$13.99)

Keep Wine Out of Grocery Stores, Convenience Stores, Gas Stations & Drug Stores!!! SEND A LETTER TODAY

Control Underage Drinking...Save Our Stores & Save Our Jobs

Go to The Last Store on Main Street web page where you will find letters already composed and ready to be sent to the Governor and your congressmen and senators. Thank you!

<http://www.lastmainstreetstore.com>

You can also sign up for Lobby Day. We need thousands of supporters there!!!

Check out our newly expanded New York State wine section!!!

More Great Sale Prices + Mail-in Rebates = Winter Savings

Wines from the Rhone Valley

Domaine Saint Paul Châteauneuf-Du-Pape 2006	\$31.99	(reg \$37.99)
Père Anselme Châteauneuf-Du-Pape NV	\$31.99	(reg \$37.99)
Domaine La Bouïssiere Gigondas 2007	\$25.99	(reg \$30.99)
Chateau-Fortia Châteauneuf-Du-Pape 2004	\$25.99	(reg \$30.99)
M. Chapoutier Belleruche Côtes-Du-Rhône 2007	\$ 9.39	(reg \$10.99)
Selection Laurence Féraud Côtes-Du-Rhône Villages Seguret 2007 90 Pts. (RP)	\$14.49	(reg \$16.99)
Paul Jaboulet Aine Côtes-Du-Rhône 2006	\$ 9.99	(reg \$12.49)
Paul Jaboulet Aine Côtes-Du-Rhône Rosé 2008	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Perrin Cotes-Du-Rhone by Beaucastel 2007 89 Pts. (RP)	\$ 8.59	(reg \$10.99)
Clos des Brusquieres Chateauneu-Du-Pape 2007 94 Pts. (ST)	\$33.99	(reg \$39.99)

Smirnoff Premium Vodka

\$ 19.99 1.75 ltr
Regular \$23.99

Bacardi Rum Superior

\$ 23.99 1.75 ltr
Regular \$25.99

Dewars

"White Label"

\$ 37.99 1.75 ltr.

- \$ 3.00 Mail-in-rebate

\$ 34.99 Final Cost

Regular \$39.99

Save \$7.00 on 2-btl purchase

Captain Morgan

Spiced Rum

\$ 29.99 1.75 ltr

Regular \$32.99

Seagrams VO

\$ 22.99 1.75 ltr

- \$ 4.00 Mail-in-rebate

\$ 18.99 Final cost

Ruffino Chianti

\$ 77.99 6-btl sale price

- \$ 14.00 Mail-in-rebate

\$ 63.99 Final 6-btl cost

\$ 10.66 Final per-btl cost
Regular \$15.99

**Winter Savings Continues! 15% off all
Wine: Every Bottle, Every Day**



Cline Wines

Mix & Match 12 Bottles

and Receive \$30 Mail-In Rebate

Ancient Vines Mourvèdre 2007...\$12.99...(reg \$14.99)

Ancient Vines Zinfandel 2008....\$12.99...(reg \$14.99)

(SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2.50 PER BOTTLE
WITH MAIL-IN REBATE)

February Staff Wine Picks

Sheila: Bearboat Chardonnay 2006 (Russian River Valley) **\$12.99** (reg \$14.99) With aromas of ripe apple, vanilla and toast, this Chard has supple body and a buttery texture. Serve with crab cakes over mixed greens.

Damian: Shotfire Shiraz 2008 (AUST) **\$18.99** (reg \$22.49) With lifted fruit aromas and a palate of chocolate and plum, the restrained oak aging leads to subtle vanilla flavors. A big, dark and delicious wine.

Denise: Château Fortia Châteauneuf du Pape 2004 (Rhone Valley) **\$25.99** (reg \$29.99) Rich barnyard aromas with elegant notes of licorice and black raspberry on the palate. Nicely structured, well balanced.

Ian: Domanie La Bouïssiere Gigondas 2007 (Rhone Valley) **\$25.99** (reg \$30.99) A sophisticated oak character with delicate aromas of pepper and red fruits. Serve with red meats, wild game or bold cheeses.

Graham: Chateau-Fortia Chateauneuf-Du-Pape 2004 (Rhone Valley) **\$25.99** (reg \$27.99) Medium bodied with good fruit concentration of currants and cherries. Characteristic Garigue spicy notes; finishes with fine tannins.

James: Layer Cake Malbec 2008 (ARG) **\$13.99** (reg \$15.99) 91 Pts. (RP) Notes of blackberry, earth and a hint of spice, this wine exhibits great fruit, delicious, full-bodied texture, silky tannins and a long finish.

Michele: Excelsior Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 (SA) **\$6.79** (reg \$7.99) Ripe black currants and plummy fruit on the nose lead to soft ripe tannins that balance toasty oak aromas and sweet fruit flavors.

Wine Tastings Fri, 4-8 & Sat,

Fridays: 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26: New Arrivals:
Taste our newest finds and discover your new favorites!

Sat 2/6: Of Course, Wines for Superbowl!: Beer is not a requirement. Come in and find your favorite chili and chips wines for Superbowl Sunday, and taste them with Sheila's awesome Kahlua Chili!

Sat 2/13: Valentine's Wines: A steamy selection of reds and whites to sweeten your night with chocolate dipped strawberries made by Perfect Blend Cafe.

Sat 2/20: New York State Wines: With our newly expanded wine section, we've got more NYS wines than ever for you to try.

Fri 2/26: 90s Rated Wines: So many wines, so little time. We'll help you find a few new 90s + rated gems from our spectacular 90s Wine section.

Sat 2/27: Staff Picks: Come by and taste a few of our favorites with this wonderful staff picks tasting.

Food & Wine

Chocolate Hazelnut Mousse Cake

(Courtesy of Bellini's Italian Eatery)

Cake: 1 3/4 c sugar	2 eggs
1 3/4 c flour	1 c milk
3/4 c cocoa	1/2 c veg oil
1 tsp baking powder	2 tsp vanilla
1 tsp salt	1 c warm water
Mousse: 13 oz semi-sweet chopped choc.	2 T hazelnut liqueur
2 oz butter	2 1/2 c heavy cream
1/3 c egg yolks	1 c ground hazelnuts
1/3 c sugar	
Ganache: 2 c heavy cream	1 1/2 lbs semi-sweet
2 oz butter	chopped chocolate

Directions: For cake, combine dry ingredients; mix wet ingredients, add to dry and mix well. Pour batter into two greased 10" cake pans and bake at 350° for 30-40 min. Remove from oven, let cool.

For mousse, melt chocolate and butter in double boiler, stirring until smooth; remove from heat. Whip in egg yolks, then liqueur, and whip until smooth. Beat heavy cream to stiff peaks; add sugar, mixing until combined. Fold whipped cream mixture, one cup at a time, into chocolate mix. Gently fold in hazelnuts and let mousse set 90 mins.

For ganache, bring cream and butter to a boil. Remove and pour over chocolate. Mix well, until combined and let cool slightly.

To assemble cake, place mousse on top of cooled cake. Spread evenly and allow to set for 1-2 hrs. Pour ganache over cake and smooth edges with cake spatula. Garnish with chopped hazelnuts. Happy Valentine's Day!

Wine News, Events or Musings

Keep Wine out of Grocery Stores and Keep Local Wine Shops in Business

Communities in New York State are facing the potential loss of significant business revenue and a vital component which gives every city and town its distinct personality: small businesses. With the renewed threat of legislation allowing grocery stores, convenience markets and gas stations to sell wine, towns and cities are at risk not only for losing tax revenue, but the small-business-feel that goes into making communities more than just vast suburban desserts filled with malls and super stores and four-lane roads.

Fewer small businesses with owners and employees who recognize you and come to know your tastes and make suggestions when you are at sea, who take the time to become informed about new wines and impart their enthusiasm to you, and who are cognizant of the importance of respecting wine's power and integrity and the legal ramifications of purchasing it by minors will all be lost if wine is allowed in grocery stores.

Please visit The Last Store on Main Street website by going to www.lastmainstreetstore.com and signing your name to letters to the Governor and the Legislature. Two minutes is all it takes to make a difference and help local wine stores to survive as well as controlling accessibility of alcohol to minors. With your support, we can be successful in our endeavor to keep local wine stores in business and help your community to thrive.

Look for *California's Sonoma Valley Wines* in the March 2010 issue of *Grapevine*.

Winter Savings! 15% off All Wine --
Every Bottle, Every Day

Check out Our Ongoing Store Specials

Mix & Match — Three for \$24.99 on select bottles
The 90s Club — Wines rated 90+ Pts for under \$20
Wine & Spirits offers year-round custom made gift baskets and a variety of wine bar gifts and accessories: Riedel glasses, foil cutters, corkscrews, decanters, wine stoppers and wine bags.