

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Brandborg 2021 Fleur de Lis White Pinot Noir

I bought this wine after a single sip last week, Brandborg 2021 Fleur de Lis White Pinot Noir from Oregon. It's not often we have a White Pinot Noir, which is distinctly different from Pinot Grigio or Pinot Gris, in the store. While the latter are light-skinned grapes, White Pinot Noir is made from red Pinot Noir grapes but with no skin contact (so it's not a rosé either). This one comes from Oregon's Umpqua Valley, located farther South than the more common Willamette Valley. It's a transitional region between the cooler winegrowing regions to the north and warmer California to the south, with dozens of microclimates and soil types, allowing it to grow over 50 different kinds of grapes successfully. Brandborg is located in the very north of the Umpqua Valley where Pinot Noir and Alsatian grapes thrive. With 91 points from Wine Enthusiast, "the aromas have stone fruit notes, white pear, with some Rainier cherry, lime, fennel and wild herbs. These fruit flavors are apparent on tasting with a nice savory crispness helping to round out the white fruit flavors. The wine is fairly big, lush and round in the mouth. Pair this wine with your favorite pan seared fish with a wine and lemon reduction. It would also work well grilled fish or chicken. The mouthfeel is rich enough to stand up to creamy, cheesy dishes as well." It's \$32.99 for this very unique and versatile wine that would be incredible with our Fresh Halibut this week!

WINE PICK

Bodegas Ramírez 2020 Ramírez de la Piscina Rioja Crianza

Back to reds with our Pick, Bodegas Ramírez 2020 Ramírez de la Piscina Rioja Crianza. This is a Jorge Ordóñez selection, and we trust our good pal Jorge. You can probably tell by looking at the bottle, but this is a classic, traditional Rioja from northern Spain. It comes from estate vineyards where 35-75 year old vines are sustainably dry-farmed and hand-tended, no mechanization whatsoever. In fact, the Ramírez de la Piscina family has been growing grapes in Rioja since the 13th century... their family crest is on local historic landmarks. Take that in for a second. While many Riojas are Tempranillo-dominant blends, this one is 100% Tempranillo, the king grape of Spain. We talk about Barolo in Italy, well Tempranillo is that in Spain. "An expressive Rioja Crianza showing some grilled herbs, black cherries and spiced dark plums. Medium body with firm tannins and a textured, medium-long finish." Reviews say you can drink or hold, but at \$19.99, I'd be drinking.