

# The PICKS

## FEATURE WINE

### Penner-Ash 2022 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir

We finally snagged another of the Top 20 wines from last year, Penner-Ash 2022 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir. It's comprised of Pinot Noir grapes from 12 sites across Willamette Valley and is the primary focus of winemaker Kate Ayres' entire winemaking program at Penner-Ash. (As a woman in wine -- and with Lynn Penner-Ash the founding winemaker at the house -- this also happens to be the perfect choice to kick off Women's History Month.) It's sustainably grown and aged 10 months in French oak, giving it subtlety and finesse. "Capturing the essence of Willamette Valley, this Pinot is elegantly structured and vibrant with acidity yet plush and polished. Flavors of raspberry and cherry are accented by orange peel, floral tea and spices as this glides along the vibrant finish," tinted with the savory mint leaf that is iconic to America's west coast. Sleek, elegant, and composed. This bottle received 94 points across the board and retails for \$55.99 a bottle.

## WINE PICK

### Substance 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon

As many of you are big fans of the Substance Red Blend that we have on our wine list at the bar, we decided to bring in another of Charles Smith's wines from this line, the Substance 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon. Now Charles Smith makes a lot of wines under a lot of different names, almost if not all of them in Washington's Columbia Valley. The Substance line is entry level in price but not entry level in flavor. This is a rich, rich Cab. It got 91 points from Wine Enthusiast and is a heck of a bargain at \$14.99 a bottle. I don't know how my good bud Chuck does it. He says himself, "Cabernet Sauvignon elixir. Blackberry, currant, pencil lead, cedar. Layered and deep, resting in the glass, inviting you to sip and sip. Rich, complex, and just plain delicious - the best vintage to date." Wine Enthusiast says it's "a bowl of boysenberries flecked with vanilla cream and a bit of lemon." If you want a big, bold red that knocks the breath out of you in a good way, this is the wine for you.