

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Jonata 2020 Todos Red Blend

The feature this week is an exciting new offering that we brought in last week, Jonata 2020 Todos Red Blend. At \$56.99, this may not be an everyday bottle, but it certainly would shine for a special occasion. Jonata is owned by Stan Kroenke who also owns Screaming Eagle in Napa Valley. Jonata is his outpost on the Central Coast, specifically Ballard Canyon in the Santa Ynez Valley. There, there are unique sandy soils that make it hard to grow wine, but the vines that do grow are exceptional. Winemaker Matt Dees has a degree in Soil Science, not oenology, so he has a true understanding of the land and the soil and how they build the character of a wine, and he never uses fungicides or herbicides (the wine is certified organic). This bottle is 57% Syrah, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petite Sirah, 6% Cabernet Franc, and 3% other. The winemaker describes it with words like boysenberry, cacao nibs, blueberry, clove, bacon, big fruit, bold personality, "a fascinating cascade of flavors, aromas, and most importantly, textures." Reviews say it is a no-brainer purchase and that it punches way above its weight. So to sum up... you should buy this bottle. You can find it in our new Bar Reserve cooler in the bar.

WINE PICK

Christophe Mittnacht 2023 Terres d'Etoiles Pinot Blanc

After months of searching (half-heartedly, I must admit), we finally found a Pinot Blanc that we like, and it's even under \$20. Domaine Christophe Mittnacht 2023 Terres d'Etoiles Pinot Blanc from the land of my people, Alsace, at \$17.99. No wine shop is complete without an Alsatian Pinot Blanc. Though technically, I'm not sure we can actually call this a Pinot Blanc as it's more of a blend... 70% Pinot Blanc, 30% Pinot Auxerrois. I bet you're asking, what the heck is that??? It's actually a sibling of Chardonnay, grown almost exclusively in Alsace. The vines for this bottle are 40+ years old, organic and biodynamically farmed, and the grapes are then aged in old French barrels, giving the wine a body and creaminess that would make it a wonderful accompaniment for food... cheeses, fish, creamy pasta, Asian cuisine, etc. The winemaker says, "This is a richer style of Pinot Blanc, yet still fresh and elegant. Mouthwatering acidity enlivens flavors of citrus, apricot and lemon zest, leading to a stony and floral finish." I think what I may like the most about this wine though is that the name translates to "land of stars," and the winemaker... "Christopher Midnight."