

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Black Slate 2021 Gratallops Priorat

I mentioned this wine last week, but it's time to write about it and give it the lip service it truly deserves: Black Slate 2021 Gratallops Priorat. Heard of Priorat? Priorat is in Catalunya in Northeast Spain, just across the mountains from France. It is the produces the highest tier of wine in Spain, a designation shared only with Rioja, which I'm sure you have heard of. Black Slate itself is named after the soil in which the grapes grow, which forces their roots deep into the ground, creating a complex and rich red wine. It's a blend of Garnatxa Negra (Grenache), Carinyena (Carignan), and Syrah from the oldest vineyard in Priorat, some of the vines over 65 years old. "This Gratallops Priorat offers aromas of crushed blackberries, violet, and cracked pepper. On the palate, it is full-bodied and opulent, with flavors of black cherry, espresso, and baking spices. Silky tannins and a long, lingering finish." I also get some notes of mushroom and Mediterranean herbs, which always make a wine more interesting. Normally \$26.99, it's currently on sale at \$18.99 a bottle, and if you want a case, we can talk about even more of a deal. If you like red blends, you need to give this a try.

WINE PICK

Mouton Cadet x Nathan 2023 Sauvignon Blanc

Another Sauvignon Blanc bargain for you this week, the Mouton Cadet x Nathan 2023 Sauvignon Blanc from Bordeaux, France. Mouton Cadet is a part of the famed Château Mouton Rothschild wine family in Bordeaux, and Nathan is one of Baron Philippe de Rothschild's great-grandchildren and helped to develop this wine. It's vegan, sustainable, and organic, which Nathan sees as both the past and the future of good wine. "Bright citrus aromas of lemon and grapefruit, complemented by hawthorn, jasmine, and fresh apricot on the nose. Crisp and refreshing with flavors of Kaffir lime, green apple, and lively minerality, leading to a clean, lingering finish." It's rich, mineral-forward, and also has lower acidity for a Sauv Blanc, so it's just made to go with food. 90 points from Wine Enthusiast and \$12.99 a bottle (normally \$18-20).