

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Massican 2024 Gemina White Blend

Featuring a beautiful bottle of white wine this week, Massican 2024 Gemina White Blend. Massican is the North Coast's only winery that makes exclusively white wines. Their wines are sustainably produced, organically grown (with certification in process), low intervention, vegan, and with no added sugar or sulfites. That's about as clean as you can get. We enjoyed several of Massican's offerings, but the Gemina stood out. It is a blend of traditional Southern Italian white grapes grown in Napa and Sonoma, consisting of 49% Falanghina, 45% Greco, and 6% Fiano. The owners' family is originally from Southern Italy, so this bottle is a personal favorite of theirs as well and explains why they focus on these Mediterranean grapes. I'll just pull the review right from Wine Spectator... "Wow. This white offers a distinctive, mouthwatering, vibrant and fresh mix of lime zest, lemongrass, lemon verbena and freshly squeezed Meyer lemon flavors, all centered on an intense core of acidity. Pomelo, yuzu and lemon oil notes linger, as does a touch of crunchy sea salt."

WINE PICK

Megalomaniac Much Obligated Baco Noir

I guess it's kind of a blue theme today with these bottles... Megalomaniac Much Obligated Baco Noir from... any guesses? Anyone? This is a dry red wine from across the border in Canada. Baco Noir is a grape variety created in 1902 by a French botanist named François Baco. It's a hybrid of European rootstock (*vitis vinifera*) and American rootstock (*vitis riparia*). It thrives in the cooler climates of Canada, New York, and a little bit in Oregon. It's kind of similar to Pinot Noir but much easier to grow. This bottle from Megalomaniac is a lighter bodied red with nice acidity, fruit-forward with notes of red berries, dried flowers, and just a touch of baking spice. It will be a very nice red for the warmer weather, particularly if you put some chill on it with 20-30 minutes in the refrigerator before drinking. And it's worth mentioning, as you can tell from the label, that this wine honors first responders, with a portion of proceeds going to healthcare charities. If you're feeling adventurous (or altruistic), come and try something new with this bottle of Canadian wine for \$19.99.