

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Château Fontanche 2019 Les Uyères

This week's feature comes to us from the beautiful south of France. It is a classic French blend of 40% Grenache, 40% Syrah, and 20% Carignan. No, it's not from the Rhône, if that was your guess... it's from Languedoc-Roussillon, the region just west of Provence. Languedoc-Roussillon is actually the largest wine-producing region in the country, with 1 in 3 French wines grown and produced there. It's a region full of small, family-owned wineries dating back generations. Château Fontanche is located in Saint-Chinian, one of the region's most prestigious appellations, situated between the Pyrenees and the Mediterranean with 60+ year-old vines. It's aged in stainless steel instead of oak, so the fruit is the real star of the show here. "The wine is complex, spicy and mineral, with aromas of ripe red fruits, licorice, and garrigue spices. On the palate, it is fruity, spicy, and bold, with a long well-structured finish. Drink over the next 5 years with meats, cheeses, or hearty dishes." At just \$19.99, it's a blend worth trying.

WINE PICK

Ippolito 2022 Pecorello Bianco

Have you had a Pecorello before? We sure hadn't, but it's quite an enjoyable white wine and my pick for this week. It's described as "complex and elegant on the nose with notes of citrus, yellow-fleshed fruit and mineral tones. The palate is vibrant, balanced, and persistent." This wine is from Calabria, Italy, also known as the toe of the boot. Calabria, with its extreme temperatures, is largely known for the production of elegant reds, so this bottle is more the exception than the rule... but the producer, Ippolito, is working to change that. Ippolito, located in the heart of Calabria, has been working for decades to discover, rediscover, and preserve the ecosystem and viticultural heritage of Calabria, including reviving several grapes like Pecorello which had been lost to history. So if you see a bottle from Ippolito, you know it's a little bit special. And if that weren't enough... it's Fair Week, and there's a sheep on it. I'd say that's worth \$19.99.