the PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Bodegas La Eralta 2017 Señorio de la Eralta Rioja Gran Reserva

One of the best deals we've had in quite a while, and there have been a few, the Bodegas La Eralta 2017 Señorio de la Eralta Rioja Gran Reserva. This bad boy is normally $75 retail (even more expensive online from what I can see), and through some kind of magic, we were able to get it in at $29.99. There's not much better than an aged Rioja, and this one already has almost 10 years on it with the potential to lay down for another 5 years. It is primarily Tempranillo from 40+ year old vines with a hint of Graciano, all from the Rioja Alta region, considered the best Spain has to offer. It spends 3 years in barrel and 2 in bottle after that, "allowing the wine to develop elegance and complexity. It offers rich aromas of ripe plum, fig, and fruit compote, enhanced by notes of vanilla, caramel, black pepper, and subtle smoke. On the palate, this Gran Reserva is well-structured, showing ripe, sweet tannins and a finely layered texture that promises further aging potential. Its aromatic profile includes savory wood spices, baking spices, and bright red and black fruit tones such as cherries and berries, framed by fine-grained tannins and a long, focused finish." I'll be taking one of these home with me, that's for sure.

WINE PICK

Cosentino 2024 “The Zin” Zinfandel

Well we told you all last year that Cosentino had closed their doors and sold their property but the buyer had not purchased the brand or the wine. Well, turns out someone eventually did, and the Cosentino products you remember and love are back on the market, and at a lower price at that. This includes the Franc which we used to carry, but this time, we brought in the Cosentino 2024 "The Zin" Zinfandel. Like all of the "The" wines from the winery, it is from Lodi, but it's a little lighter than most Lodi Zins you're used to, probably due to the cool growing season two years ago. "On the nose, you can expect to find enticing aromas of ripe blackberries, dark cherries, and a hint of spice, with flavors of blackberry jam, plum, and a touch of vanilla. The tannins are well-integrated, providing a smooth and velvety texture." A great fruit-forward wine for those who enjoy them, $14.99.