

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Caymus 2022 California Zinfandel

Something I think many of you will enjoy, the Caymus 2022 California Zinfandel, \$37.99 a bottle. Caymus of course is one of the biggest names in wine, especially when it comes to Napa Valley, but they've extended beyond those borders. If you recall the Caymus California Cabernet that we had last year, this is similar to that in that the grapes are sourced from all over California... Napa, Lodi, Monterey, and on. Truly representative of the entire state and the Zinfandel it can produce. My good friend Ken said this about the wine: "This slightly opaque and dark ruby colored Zinfandel from Caymus opens with a black cherry and boysenberry bouquet with hints of shortbread and wintergreen. On the palate, this wine is full bodied with integrated medium acidity. The mouthfeel is balanced, round, and dense. The flavor profile is a boysenberry and cherry Twizzler blend with notes of mushroom and oak. We also detected hints of stone dust, black pepper, and thyme. On the finish, its flavors, acidity, and moderate dusty tannins are nicely extended." 'Tis the season for big, bold reds, and this one hits the mark.

WINE PICK

Chateau German 2022 Côtes de Bordeaux

One of our best selling wines last year during the holiday season is back, the Chateau German 2022 Côtes de Bordeaux. We tasted this again just to make sure we still like it, and honestly? It might be even better than last year. It's a classic Bordeaux blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Cabernet Franc from the Côtes de Castillon area of the Right Bank, just east of Saint Émilion. On the palate, "Blackberry, blackcurrant, blueberry aromas with toasted notes. Authenticity of the terroir through the tannic structure and fruitiness of the wine. The nature of the sandy-gravelly soil acts as a flavor enhancer and is found in the minerality of this wine." A little spice from the oak rounds it out perfectly. With 92 points from Wine Enthusiast, this is the absolute definition of a bargain at \$16.99 a bottle.