

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Tenuta La Massa 2021 La Massa Toscana

Moving on to another Dad pick this week, Tenuta La Massa 2021 La Massa Toscana from the heart of Chianti. This is your classic Super Tuscan, consisting of 50% Sangiovese, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, and a 25% blend of Merlot, Alicante Bouschet, and Petit Verdot. You probably know this already, but Super Tuscan simply means a blend with grapes that are grown in Tuscany but are not of Tuscan origin, in this case the Cab and the Merlot blend which are French. The winemaker says, "The freshness and minerality of Sangiovese, expertly blended with the opulence and nobility of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, allow for this wine to convey our idea of joy and happiness." This bottle received a whopping 94 points from Robert Parker, and his review was... dare I say glowing? "The 2021 La Massa is superb. Dark cherry/plum fruit, new leather, tobacco, licorice, mocha and spice fill out the layers effortlessly. Best of all, La Massa is a terrific value. The 2021 is one of the best vintages yet from this estate. I can't think of too many wines in Tuscany that offer this much quality for the money," the money being \$39.99. No need to expound further, so I'll just leave it at that.

WINE PICK

Grandissime 2025 Le Hameau Sauvignon Blanc

If you are a fan of the Liberty Elia white blend that's been out of stock (but hopefully back soon), I've got another one for ya: Grandissime 2025 Le Hameau Sauvignon Blanc. Le Hameau is French for "hamlet" to reflect that the grapes in the bottle come from many different growers in Southern France. As they say, "the real winemaking skill lies in selecting each parcel of grapes, all of which have slightly different characteristics, and blending them into a wine that has several layers of flavor." This is a light and fruity Sauvignon Blanc with notes of pear, Granny Smith apple, and a hint of minerality. It's extremely easy to drink (people pleaser) and will serve you well on your patio this summer (patio pounder), and at only \$12.99, you can afford to take at least a couple of them with you.