

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Goldschmidt 2023 Chelsea Merlot

It's a special one this week... the Goldschmidt 2023 Chelsea Merlot. I don't want to hear it about Sideways, okay... Whether or not you're a Merlot person, this is a solid wine, and you should give it a try. If you don't know Nick Goldschmidt, he's a winemaker that hails from New Zealand but has worked making wine there, Australia, Argentina, Chile, and now Napa and Sonoma. This bottle is named after one of his five children and comes to us from Alexander Valley in California where the combination of climate and soil create an environment where Merlot grapes can really thrive without overextending themselves. "This is a deep and pretty intense take on Merlot, with aromas of black plum, cassis, cinnamon, and coffee dominating the nose. The palate is rich and weighty, with rich tannin balanced by vibrant acidity and flavors of roasted cherries, spiced plum compote, licorice, and mint echoing through the finish." I mean, could that possibly be bad? Not to mention it got a nice 92 point rating, and before you ask... yes, Chelsea likes it.

WINE PICK

Stolpman Vineyards 2025 Love You Bunches Rosé

It is almost Valentine's Day, after all, so I have to go with the Stolpman Vineyards 2025 Love You Bunches Rosé. It's not quite rosé season yet, but it's close... I mean we're going to hit 60 degrees next week, so why not. Stolpman Vineyards is in the Santa Ynez Valley of Santa Barbara County, and they're known not just for their organic and sustainable practices but also for producing some of the most concentrated grapes in the region. This rosé, which is actually the first 2025 wine we got in this year, is 100% Central Coast Grenache. "Light- to medium-bodied and energetically fresh, the palate delivers crunchy red fruit—strawberry, raspberry, and blood orange—balanced by crisp lemon-lime acidity and a sleek, silky texture. The wine's structural lift and dry profile make it exceptionally refreshing." Don't be fooled into thinking rosés are sweet... the best rosés are tart and crisp and leave you wanting more. This is a perfect introduction to 2025 wines.