

# *The* PICKS

## FEATURE WINE

### Catena 2021 Cabernet Franc

The feature this week — a red and white bottle, mind you — is Catena 2021 San Carlos Cabernet Franc from Mendoza, Argentina. The Catena family, who have been family vintners for over 100 years, is extremely well-known in South America for their pioneering of high-altitude viticulture... AKA, making wine in the mountains. We have carried several of their wines over the years, but this Cab Franc is relatively new to us. It's big, velvety, and pairs with almost anything... meats, red sauce, spicy foods, chocolate, cheese, you name it. "The nose offers elegant aromas of spices, and fresh herbs as thyme and rosemary, red berries, cassis and raspberries, with layers of cedar. The mouthfeel is full and rich with cassis, raspberries flavors and notes of black pepper and oregano. The finish is bright and fresh with finely grained tannins." It's good value at \$24.99.

## WINE PICK

### Better Half 2020 Pinot Noir

This week's pick — a blue bottle... see what I did there... — is Jules Taylor 2020 Better Half Pinot Noir. Have you ever had a Pinot Noir from New Zealand? Sauvignon Blanc has been, and probably always will be, their dominant grape, but vineyards are growing selection of Pinot Noir there as well, as winemakers discover some of the land is suitable for one of the world's toughest grapes. If you can grow Pinot... you grow Pinot. Winemakers George and Jules Taylor, the latter of which is the former winemaker for Kim Crawford, of course decided to join the charge. "With a palate full of juicy red fruit, this wine flaunts raspberry, cherry, and plum flavors, well balanced with chocolate undertones and a hint of spice." It pairs well with grilled meats and roasted vegetables, both of which may be on your menu for tomorrow. Grab a bottle or two for \$19.99.