

Santiam Wine & Bistro November 2021

Cheap & Cheerful Red \$72.90

2020 Callia Bella San Juan Syrah-Malbec Argentina \$8 60% Syrah, 40% Malbec. Exotic aromas of blackberry, violet, juicy plum, ripe figs, and sour cherries. Palate offers a balanced mouthfeel with flavors of raspberry, ripe cherry, and chocolate. This enticing red blend has a touch of sweetness. Great on its own or with appetizers; Serve chilled. Born from passion and legend, Bodegas Callia named for a young woman who arrived in the land of San Juan many years ago. She wrote to her family describing San Juan as paradise endowed with abundant fruits, despite the desert landscape. Her name was Callia and today, for the people of Argentina, Callia is synonymous with hope, endurance and success. Fruit-friendly, youthful and dynamic, Callia wines inspire consumers to find some “me” time; to take a break and reward themselves for all their daily efforts that propel them forward. Callia’s philosophy is based on the notion that reconnecting with oneself and others while enjoying the simple pleasures in life, helps us to restore balance and find happiness.

2018 Michele Chiarlo LE Orme Barbera D’Asti Superiore \$14 The 2018 Michele Chiarlo Le Orme Barbera d’Asti a ruby red color with hues of violet. An elegant and intense nose, with notes of fresh mature red fruit, such as cherry and currant. Harmonious palate, with good structure and roundness and a beautiful savory finish. This wine is a great companion to pasta with tomato

2018 Achaval Ferrer Malbec Mendoza Argentina \$15 Bright violet in color, this wine is fresh and floral, featuring blackberry, plums and violets on the nose and palate. The wine is soft and round with a noticeable minerality. Silky tannins mark a lengthy finish. A must try for Malbec enthusiasts. My rating for this vintage is a solid 4.6.

2017 Browne Visionary Red Blend Columbia Valley \$14 Good value red blend with interesting profile of upfront fruit of red berries and cocoa that ramps up and then back end that slopes down to a nice finish. Not too much acidity. Has enough tannins to give it structure.

2018 Substance CS Cabernet Sauvignon \$15 A zesty, fruit-forward Cabernet that opens with black cherry, bittersweet mocha and spice flavors. Drink now through 2026. 90 Points Wine Spectator

2019 Pasqua Passi Mento Veneto Rosso \$15 A dense and deeply colored wine, full of concentrated black and red cherry flavor, and hints of leather and spice. The palate has a layered texture, with muscular tannins providing a long finish.

Santiam Wine & Bistro November White Cheap & Cheerful \$65.70

2020 Pike Road Pinot Gris Oregon \$12 The 2020 growing season started with a small fruit-set and mild summer weather. Soon we faced the challenges of farming during a pandemic and wildfires, but we, along with our growing partners managed to adapt to the difficulties of the vintage. We ran more laboratory tests than ever before, with dozens of samples sent to multiple laboratories, and are committed to releasing only wines free of smoke-affect that passed our rigorous tests. In 2020 you can expect wines with great concentration and freshness of the fruit. All the fruit for Pike Road Pinot Gris is hand-picked and gently pressed. The juice is then cold fermented in small stainless-steel tanks to preserve its delicate aromatics and finished with a screwcap so that it tastes fresh. Pike Road Pinot Gris made from 100% Willamette Valley fruit. Primarily grown on our estate vineyards, the wine also includes smaller lots of fruit grown by our longtime, trusted partners here in the Willamette Valley. We believe this “multi-vineyard” approach results in a more complex, flavorful wine. Screw cap!

2020 Casual Garcia Vinho Verde White Portugal \$8 Vinho Verde is a widely consumed white wine from Northern Portugal. Made from local grapes such as Alvarinho (Albarino), Loureiro, Arinto, and Azal. Screw cap! Vinho Verde is a light, refreshing wine with floral and green fruit notes. The wine often has a slight carbonation.

2020 Casa Santo Lima Portuga Rose Portugal \$9 This is a soft wine with attractive ripe strawberry fruits and a soft texture. There is balancing acidity giving an edge of freshness to the otherwise gentle fruity texture. Screw cap!

2020 La Pépie Muscadet Sèrve et Maine sur Lie France \$16 Very good, and well balanced for what it is. The yeast notes are subtle and come up like fresh bread, with the more dominant notes of lemon zest and sea salt. Pairs well with Seafood like fresh Oysters or Shrimp!

2019 Rey Santo Verdejo Rueda Spain \$10 Screw cap! Another bargain! Thought to have originated in North Africa, Verdejo has found a hospitable climate and soil in central Spain. Full-bodied and aromatic, this wine often compared to Sauvignon Blanc. One of Spain's most popular cultivated white wines, Verdejo should hold a place in any wine enthusiast's collection. To qualify as Verdejo the grape in question must account for at least 50% of the juice in the bottle. Expect bright and fresh acidity with prevailing lemon, green apple, kiwi, and pear. You will also enjoy fennel, mushroom, and a hint of grass. The wine is dry and served chilled. This wine pairs well with poached proteins and shellfish. The acidity cuts through and compliments asparagus, tomatoes, olives, and greens with vinaigrette dressing. Consumed within 3-4 years of bottling.

2020 Amity Vineyards White Pinot Noir Willamette Valley \$18 Screw cap! The Amity White Pinot Noir sourced from a mix of vineyards found in the Eola-Amity Hills AVA of the Willamette Valley. The fruit picked in the cool early morning and gently pressed to minimize color and tannin extraction yet supply the subtle layers of tart and juicy fruit. After settling for 24 hours, the juice is cleanly racked and fermented in a stainless-steel tank. We age this wine sur lie to create a generous yet soft texture and supply balance to its mouthwatering finish.