

# Santiam Wine & Bistro September 2021

## Red Cheap & Cheerful \$72

**2018 Delas Cote Rhone \$12** Grape varieties that thrive in the region are well-suited to the hot, humid summers, and Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre are by far the most common plantings. The vast majority of Rhône wines found on the market are labeled as Côtes du Rhône AOC (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée). Many are excellent and inexpensive, making them one of the most consumer-friendly French wines to explore. Stylistically, they are rich, easy-drinking wines with moderate tannins and alcohol levels that fall between 14-15%. Châteauneuf-du-Pape is one of the better-known sub-regions of the Southern Rhône, and while the wines can be somewhat expensive, the quality is generally exceptional. Pairs well with Lamb, Beef

**2017 Nugan Estate Scruddy's Shiraz Australia \$15** Rosemary, white pepper, and mineral notes add precision to the blueberry, blackberry and maraschino cherry flavors, with plenty of concentration on the finish. Drink now 89 Points Wine Spectator

**2019 Pendulum Columbia Cabernet Sauvignon \$16** Polished and lively, with sleek black cherry, espresso and graphite tones that pick-up speed toward the finish. Drink now through 2028. 91 Points Wine Spectator

**2015 Note Book Red Blend WA. \$11** This popular Columbia Valley red is 31% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Syrah, 23% Merlot, and 2% Malbec. Made by Bookwalter Winery

**2017 Mercer Bros. Edge of Heaven \$13** The aromas are bursting with notes of blueberry, plum, black pepper, orange peel and dried herb. Ripe, plump blue fruit flavors follow, tapering toward the blue fruit and chocolate-filled finish. 89 Points Wine Enthusiast

**N.V. Lujon Red Blend Syrah & Merlot Columbia Valley \$13** We developed the Red Blend to deal with barrels that wouldn't fit into our other wines. I would buy small amounts of Merlot and Malbec and other varietals to use for blending and then have left over wine with no home. It was such a success that we now buy fruit specifically for the blend and produce over 1000 cases annually. It has always been a 60/40 Syrah-Merlot based blend with varying amounts of other varieties. The wine is blended to be a solid everyday wine that will accompany most any food.

## **Santiam Wine & Bistro September 2021 White Cheap & Cheerful \$64.80**

**\*Means screw cap top**

**\*\*2020 El Coto Blanco Rioja, Spain \$11** Apple blossom, apricot, pear and blanched hazelnut on the nose. Some anise, too. It's full-bodied with fresh acidity and a waxy texture. Fruity and spicy. Viura. Drink now. 91 Points James Suckling

**\*\*2020 Domaine des Cassagnoles Cuvee Gros Manseng \$12** Pleasantly ripe and juicy, this offers complex flavors of mango, kiwifruit, and red peach. Mint and lemon tart notes chime in on the rich, mineral- and spice-accented finish. Drink now.

**\*\*2021 MAN Chenin Blanc Free Run Steen South Africa \$9** Hints of lanolin, waxy green-apple skin and lime peel add depth to the pear, melon rind and honeycomb core of this delicious white wine. It's light, refreshing and balanced, with zingy lime-juice acidity adding verve to the palate while accents of sweet grass and green fig dance on the finish.

**2018 Terrapin Pinot Gris Oregon \$15** A fantastic buy, this Willamette Valley white has aromas of pear with floral notes. On the palate apricot, pear, and creamy lemon flavors are accented by minerality leading to a long, smooth finish. A tasty everyday white that can be enjoyed with salads, pad Thai, or on its own.

**\*\*2019 Fidora Organic Pinot Grigio, Italy \$11** Pinot Grigio must work hard to earn itself a place as Wine of the Week. It's not that I don't like the grape variety. I do – very much – but not the neutral, light style that northern Italy has made its own. This single-vineyard, organic wine is miles away from that: not remotely powerful but with delicious liveliness and intensity and a creamy, lees-enriched texture, plus leafy, lime and delicate bread-crust notes on the nose and a mouthwatering, saline, mineral, grapefruit twang on the palate.

**\*\*2020 Emmolo Sauvignon Blanc CA \$14** The color of golden silk, this wine offers scents of barley ripened nectarine and honeydew, layered with citrus blossom and a savory Meyer-lemon scone. A mineral character distinguishes the nose, which evokes the freshness of an early-morning mist. Entry is light and lean, then the palate brightens and expands as the flavor of juicy lemon emerges but never overpowers. Vibrant acidity carries through to the finish, which brings a refreshing crispness and lingering impression of wet stone.