

## **Wines for Lowell Boys and Girls Club Dinner November 2023**

### **Aubert Pinot Noir UV Vineyard 2021**

From a vineyard named for Aubert's frequent collaborator, Ulises Valdez, and still farmed by his family, the 2021 Pinot Noir UV Vineyard (1,000 cases produced, from a Laguna Road site that's slightly warmer than Aubert's other Pinot Noir sources) features bold notes of cherries, cinnamon and wood spice. It's medium to full-bodied and silky across the mid-palate, finishing long and softly tannic. Nicely balanced and structured, it should age well for more than a decade. 94+ Points \$100

### **Kongsgaard Syrah 2014**

The two finest Syrahs that Kongsgaard has made to date may well be the 2014 Syrah and the 2015 Syrah, which has all of the characteristics of a potentially perfect wine. The 2014 Syrah, 100% from a two-acre block in the Hudson Vineyard that rarely ever gives more than .5 tons of fruit per acre and was planted to the specifications of Kongsgaard. The wine has a meaty, flowery, blood and blackberry scented nose, plenty of pepper, lard and a touch of oak. It is dense, full-bodied and cascades over the palate. This is aged 24 months in 50% new French oak prior to being bottled unfiltered. It should drink well for 20 or more years. 96 Points \$180

### **Morlet Coeur de Vallee Cabernet 2019**

The first vintage produced entirely from the family's own Oakville vineyard, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Coeur de Vallee boasts dark aromas and flavors of cassis, loam and mocha. Full-bodied, rich and velvety, it flows easily across the palate, easing into a soft, plush finish. 95 Points \$250

### **Abreu Rothwell Hyde Cabernet 2018**

The 2018 Rothwell Hyde is outrageously good. Make that outrageously great. This is the best vintage of the Rothwell Hyde I can remember tasting. A few lots from Madrona Ranch that did not into that blend work wonders here. Readers will find a vivid, exuberant wines the delivers the goods, big time. 94 Points \$250

### **Contino Vina del Olivo Rioja 2020**

I love the youth and freshness of the 2020 Viña del Olivo, a blend of 69% Tempranillo, 23% Graciano and 8% Mazuelo that is even lower in alcohol than in 2020 (at 13.52%). It was harvested early but with full ripeness and higher acidity and more freshness. The wine feels very young and tender, with very integrated oak after 14 months in barrel and two months in oak vats. It's fragrant, floral and aromatic, juicy and fresh, with very fine tannins and a long finish. It has abundant fine-grained tannins and a dry, chalky finish from the limestone soils. This is one of the finest vintages of Olivo; there is a floral quality here that I loved and hadn't seen in previous vintages of this single-vineyard red. 15,667 bottles and 7500 magnums were filled in March 2022. 95+ Points \$150

### **Turley Zinfandel Dusi Vineyard 2021**

The 2021 Zinfandel Dusi Vineyard, from vines planted in 1945, is a bold, potent Paso Robles Zinfandel. A blast of dark red cherry, plum, spice, menthol and licorice saturate the palate. This plush, explosive Zinfandel has a ton going on. There real old-vine gravitas and texture here. What a gorgeous wine this is. 93 Points \$45

### **Favia Rompecabezas Blend 2016**

Rompecabezas means "jigsaw puzzle" in Spanish—this GSM blend is made up of 51% Grenache, 33% Mourvèdre and 16% Syrah. The Grenache is whole cluster and co-fermented with the Mourvèdre, with the final blend aged for 20 months in neutral French oak and 600-liter concrete eggs. Pale to medium garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Rompecabezas Red Wine features redcurrant jelly, kirsch and mulberries scents with hints of garrigue, menthol, tilled soil and rose hip tea scents plus a hint of dried lavender and salami. Medium to full-bodied, it has a firm frame of grainy tannins and bags of red fruit, savory and earthy layers, finishing long and perfumed. 233 cases produced. 93+ Points \$75

### **Rebbiano d'Abruzzo White Wine 2018**

This is a gorgeous wine that will undoubtedly evolve toward additional silkiness and finesse with more bottle age. This is one of the icon wines of Italy, and its reputation has been carefully built over generations. The 2018 Trebbiano d'Abruzzo plays its best cards in the mouth thanks to its seamless and fluid delivery. The wine is creamy and dense with peach cobbler and bakery aromas, yet it's fleeting and ethereal at the same time. There is a lot of movement and dimension to this vintage that saw a cool spring and a hot summer. 96+ Points \$200

### **Morlet Coup de Coeur Chardonnay 2019**

Coup de Coeur is a barrel-selection blend of Morlet's Chardonnay vineyards, using exclusively Old Wente clone selection. A barrel sample to be bottled in February 2021, the 2019 Chardonnay Coup de Coeur comes skipping out of the glass with bright, cheery scents of fresh pineapple, passion fruit, pink grapefruit and lime blossoms with suggestions of fresh ginger, almond croissant and chalk dust. The medium to full-bodied palate has an electric intensity of citrus and tropical fruit layers with compelling tension and a beguiling, mineral-tinged finish. 195 cases are due to be made. 98-100 Points \$175

### **Eisele Sauvignon Blanc 2020**

The 2020 Sauvignon Blanc comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of nectarines, grapefruit and orange blossoms, plus hints of chalk dust, white pepper and oyster shell, with a gentle waft of beeswax. Medium-bodied, elegant and refreshing, the palate delivers impressive intensity with a backbone of racy acidity and a long, chalky finish. 93 Points \$100

### **Kistler McCrea Vineyard Chardonnay 2021**

The 2021 Chardonnay McCrea Vineyard has a powerful expression, with highly concentrated flavors and generous, juicy acidity. Wafts of iodine, seaweed and lemon peel give way to undertones of almonds and beeswax waiting to emerge. Medium-bodied and lively, the palate catches you off guard with its bursts of concentrated, grapefruit-tinged flavors, tangy acidity and satiny mouthfeel, and a touch of grip draws out the candied-citrus finish. It deserves 2-3+ years to unfold in bottle and will be long lived. 95+ Points \$105

### **Vilmart Les Blanches Voies Blanc de Blancs Champagne 2012**

The 2012 Extra-Brut Blanc de Blancs Les Blanches Voies is elegant, weightless and crystalline in its purity. Lemon peel, white flowers, crushed rocks and marzipan abound. Another six months has done the 2012 wonders. A wine of transparency and crystalline purity. Even with more than years of disgorgement, the 2012 is tightly wound. It's all understatement and class here. 95 Points \$275