



Southbury Package Store Uncorked



OPEN BOTTLES ALERT!

Wine Down the Week with SPS

Every Friday 3:00pm - 7:00pm

Cool, casual, interesting, and delicious bottles to start out your weekend right!

Four Daily Drinker Red Wines You MUST Try

If you've been in the store, you may have seen the **Sentinel de Massiac Minervois 2020 (\$13.98)** stacked in front of our cigar selection. Minervois is in the western Languedoc in southern France and if you've never tasted it, you might be inclined to scoff it off as a Rhône wine wannabe. Not the case. Minervois has been making high quality, but extremely pocketbook friendly wines for decades. The Boudouresques family has been producing world-class, organic wines for some time now and the Sentinel is their crowd pleaser. Comprised of two-thirds Syrah and a third Carignan this wine is exceptional. Ripe raspberry, blackberry, and a touch of Luxardo cherry, this little guy sees no oak and is pure on the palate. As the weather warms, fill your glass and enjoy as you appreciate your first fire pit nights of the season.

Tuscany is home to so many top end wines; Brunello, Chianti, and "Super Tuscans" to name a few. Occasionally, we're able to unearth a delicious and ridiculously affordable rosso. The **Avignonesi 'Cantaloro' Rosso 2018 (\$11.98)** was a wine we could not pass up. A classic blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. At this price, this wine is not rushed along as it ages for 18 months in both steel and Slavonian Oak. It's medium bodied with red fruits and spices. This wine over-delivers. Do not pass this one by.

Bordeaux as a source of quality wine goes unnoticed these days in the mind of the consumer. I am unsure why this happens, but I am here to attest that Bordeaux makes outstanding values of red wine. The **Château Lorient Bordeaux Rouge 2020 (\$10.98)** has everything you could be looking for in a red wine at this price point. Made from grapes? Check. Red in color? Check. Fruit forward? Check. Noticeable oak ageing? Check. Pleasant mouthfeel and finish? Check. If you enjoy drinking the

\$10 - \$12 reds from California or South America, give this petite château a spin. You won't regret it.

Portugal has a reputation for value driven wines. **Herdade do Rocim Touriga Nacional 2019 (\$16.98)** is absolutely delicious and warrants a glance. This estate is located in the Lower Alentejano region in the southern half of Portugal. Catarina Vieira and Pedro Ribiero have invested in her father's estate by restoring the vineyards and building a new state of the art winery. The Rocim is a dark, aromatic wine with ripe black currants, cedar, coffee and underlying layers of supple tannins. A solid wine exuding structure and density and worthy of your first grilling session. Remarkable value in this bottle.

SPS WINE SCHOOL

Spring Semester

April 27th

Tuscany 101 - Learn the ins and outs of Italy's most famous wine region.

May 18th

Argentina & Chile - So close, yet so far apart...

June 15th

The South of France - Set up your Summer with crisp rosé, patio pounder whites and those grillin' n chillin' BBQ reds.

Classes to be held at:

*Heritage Hotel and Convention Center
522 Heritage Road
Southbury, CT 06488*

6:30pm

Seating is limited.

Reservations Required.

\$30 per person/class



Southbury Package Store Uncorked



In the Spotlight

This month at SPS we're Highlighting our new assortment of Tequila. We've more than doubled our already eclectic and artisanal selection, stocking more than 95 different expressions made by more than 40 producers. A favorite of ours is **La Gritona Reposado (\$39.98)**. A subtle and distinctive tequila distilled and aged by *Melly Barajas* at her small distillery in the Jalisco Highlands of Mexico. La Gritona is made from 10-year-old mature Agave Piñas (Agave plant), the extra ageing of the piñas allows for more complexity of expression in the final tequila. The Agave Piñas are grown in iron rich, red highland soil, harvested at the height of their sugar production and put in natural, thick-walled earth ovens to roast slowly. The process of steaming lasts for 24 hours after which the fruit rests for a day before fermenting in stainless steel vats. Once distilling finishes the tequila is transferred to reused and freshly charred whiskey barrels to rest (reposado), for 8 months before filtering and bottling. Every step of La Gritona production takes place under a single roof. The entire process is overseen by Melly and a staff of local women that work each process from start to finish. In the end 12,500 bottles of La Gritona produced per batch. The leftover agave remnants are donated to local farmers to use as cattle feed (I hear the beaches are nice in Jalisco but imagine being one of these cows!). Bottles are hand-blown using recycled Mexican glass at an artisan shop in Zapopan, about an hour from the distillery. La Gritona Reposado is light on sweetness and vanilla notes and is carefully rested to bring out a more herbal quality of the agave. It has crisp qualities of an excellent silver tequila while expressing the subtleness of Melly's careful aging process. The finish is round and plush with no burn. A perfect sipper for Cinco de Mayo.

Quick Hits

When I first stepped into the wholesale wine world it was at the onset of what the business referred to as the rise of the "critter" wines. The success of a small brand called Yellow Tail caused many importers and wholesalers to seek out sources of Australian wine to slap a furry animal on the label and try to be the next YT. The fad was short lived, but the effects on quality Australian wine in the US market suffers still to this day. The **Hollick Shiraz 2019**

(\$19.98) contradicts the once trend driven Australian wines of the early 21st century. More than just a big, fat, alcohol powered wine, the limestone subsoil allows this Shiraz to have tones of minerality, complexity, and elegance. Intense flavors of plum, blackberry with a spicy finish complemented by a fine-grained tannic structure. Throw a couple more burgers on the barbie!

We're advocates of traditional wine. We accept that some areas have a higher propensity to produce certain varietals more classically than others. There are however exceptions and Ginny Povall is rocking some non-traditional grapes from the Western Cape of South Africa. The **Botanica Wines Flower Girl Albariño 2020 (\$29.98)** may very well be one of the most interesting white wines we've tasted. Grown in soils comprising of shale gravel, this wine screams clean, citrus, acid and vibrance with brilliant flavors of nectarine, lemon zest and grapefruit. A Wine worthy of your *Summer wines to drink* bucket list. You can thank us later.

I'm verbose, I know it. Super, super quick, the **Terre Monte Schiavo Verdicchio Classico 'Ruviano' 2020 (\$13.98)** is a must have for your next fish or vegetarian meal. A clean, modern, and approachable style of Verdicchio from 100% estate-grown grapes that's packed with fresh citrus and peachy aromas with hints of passion fruit and balanced by zesty acidity with a ripe, crisp finish. Excellent!

In Store Tastings

1:00 - 5:00

Saturday, May 21st

- How low can we go? Wines from the southernmost reaches of the planet. You have no idea how low.

Saturday, June 18th

- It doesn't have to be expensive to be good - Grillin' and Chillin' edition

Saturday, July 16th

- Beach Bottles - Perfect wines to sip while watching the surf or pool, lake, water sprinkler, garden hose, etc...

LIFE IS SHORT.... DRINK BETTER!

Follow us on Facebook , Instagram , & Twitter 