



Southbury Package Store

Uncorked



Summertime, Summertime, Sum, Sum Summertime....

School's out, the days are getting longer, and the temperatures are, well it's better than February. While I love red wines, this is my third Summer of shouting from the rooftops about rosé. The rosé wines in our little shop are **DRY**. Sure, we have a couple of selections of white zinfandel (we're not proud of it), but we like to focus on the always entertaining dry versions of pink. Sit back, relax, and take a few suggestions from your bro-sé. This wine angel would like to whisper a little secret in your ear: you do not need to overspend for pink wine.

Domaine de la Provenquière's whimsical **Péché Coquin Rosé 2021 (\$11.98)** is an absolute bargain! However, you do not need to have Provence on the label, a Provençal winemaker will make IGP Pays d'Oc rosé in a similar style at a fraction of the price. Producing wines since 1954 the Robert-Boularand family make a wine that fits this bill. The Péché Coquin (loosely translated to naughty peach) erupts with red and citrus fruits while smacking you with pungent acidity. Easy on the eyes (classic pale pink color) the palate is clean and fresh with notes of crushed flowers, stone fruit, and a balanced mouthfeel. At this price it is hard not to pick up two.

And the truth will set you free! We love wine. Nothing new there, but it has been our mission statement to find the producers who actually "put their hands in the dirt." On occasion we must tip our cap and acknowledge an earnest effort. The **Arrumaco Garnacha Rosé 2021 (\$9.99)** does not have a romantic story, or even a family behind it. Dan Kravitz is the founder and leader of his now, national wine import and distribution company. This rosé has his fingerprints all over it. Without giving too many trade secrets away, sometimes when you have relationships with wineries and grape growers opportunities are presented to you. Dan capitalizes on these opportunities by creating labels and wines that far exceed their price point. IGNORE THE COLOR if you are a pale pink seeker. Made from 100% Garnacha, the Arrumaco is a rich hue of Nantucket Red. A fruit-driven, crisp wine that throws off red raspberry and plum as you gulp (not sip) this thirst-quenching pinky. Do not let the color and price prejudice you, Arrumaco has a purity of

fruit and a focused presence. Weed out the label snobs in your group with this one.

If I were guessing and I saw the term "Coteaux Varois en Provence" I would guess (incorrectly) that this region is a larger region than that of the Côtes de Provence. We tend to over-generalize and dismiss things we feel may be inferior (whether price or pedigree). Coteaux Varois wines should not be deemed inferior to those of Côtes de Provence, they're different. Sporting a continental climate (not Mediterranean) with high altitude vineyards the wines of Varois resemble wines from other regions in France more closely (Loire Valley comes to mind). A favorite of ours is the **Chateau Routas Rosé 2021 (\$15.98)**. There, sustainably farmed estate vineyards coexist with olive trees, black truffles, red poppies, and sunflowers which contribute to the diversity of the crop and complexity of the vines. If all that doesn't impress you, there is a nine-hundred-foot-deep hole (Devil's Hole) created by a meteor on the property. The soil varies radically, resulting in small, diverse vineyards. Some are red as crushed brick, while others are grey limestone mixed with bright red stones that bleach in the sizzling summer sun. The elevation is among Provence's highest, providing cool nights that slow the ripening of the grapes, contributing complexity, and dictating harvests that are up to a month later than those nearer to the coast.

We'll squeeze one more pinky (more of a smoked salmon color) in for good measure. The **Quinn Cote d'Azur Rosé 2021 (\$17.98)** is the brainchild of Duncan Quinn, one of the many party planners for the 2012 Grand Prix de Monaco. He had a special cuvée made and the rest is history. Dry, light and refreshing with hints of peach and melon. Hey, if it's good enough for St. Tropez....Just sayin'.

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!

*BEER, WINE & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.



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SPS WINE SCHOOL

Fall Semester

October 5th - November 9th - December 7th

Reservations Required.

Stay tuned for times, class topics and pricing.

*Classes to be held at:
Heritage Hotel and Convention Center
522 Heritage Road
Southbury, CT 06488*

Quick Hits

The Principiano estate was founded in the 1950's by Americo Principiano, in Serralunga di Alba, part of the Barolo appellation. Until 1993 the estate was mixed agriculture. It was then the current proprietor, Ferdinando Principiano, convinced his father to focus exclusively on wine production. He joined the domain following an apprenticeship at two iconic Barolo producers, Giacomo Conterno & Roberto Voerzio, the best of both worlds you could say; one grower steeped in traditional techniques and the latter an unabashed modernist. Initially seduced by the 1990s fashion for making supped-up wines that 'guaranteed' 100-point scores in American magazines, Ferdinando changed direction in 2003 when he found that these same wines proved to be less drinkable with age. Today he makes wine along traditional lines with long, slow fermentations and ageing in large neutral barrels. Moreover, Ferdinando's focus is firmly with the vineyard, where his open-minded approach has helped bring about the sterling reputation of the estate. Now the production is all organic and biodynamic and he farms some 21 hectares of Nebbiolo, Barbera and Dolcetto. The

Dosset Vino Rosso 2020 (\$19.98) is an eminently poundable wine. Clocking in at a mere 11% alcohol don't let this little guy pass you by. Fresh, juicy, and easy to drink on its own, but pairs fantastically with food especially barbecue.

Bodega Bonfanti is a third-generation family winery located in Lujan de Cuyo in Mendoza, Argentina, and dates to 1915. Bodega Bonfanti is a small, family run operation; Roberto, the grandfather, manages the vineyard; Sebastian, one of his two sons is the winemaker, and Alejandro, the other son, runs the business side. They are situated on a beautiful plot with olive trees intermingled in the vineyards and views of the Andes to the west. Everything is farmed and produced by hand, from harvest to bottling, all on the estate. Their **Bonfanti Malbec Joven 2020 (\$12.98)** belies my stereotype of Malbec. Too often in my opinion, Malbec is merely masquerading as Cabernet-like to fool the consumer into purchasing it. The Bonfanti is a fresh offering. Expressing a purity of fruit, this wine sees no wood, which sets itself immediately apart from its price point competition. It'll be enhanced at your BBQ or picnic with a slight chill. Enjoy multiple bottles and wake up feeling fresh on Monday morning. Enjoy!

In the Spotlight

The Redwood Empire stretches from San Francisco to Humboldt Bay and on to the Oregon border. It is a rugged, sparsely populated area still dominated by forest, including the protected groves of Muir Woods and the massive forests of the Humboldt Redwoods. From Master Distiller Jeff Duckhorn, SPS is featuring The **Pipe Dream Bourbon (\$34.99)** this Summer. Made from a mash bill that includes rye, corn, malted barley and wheat from the Midwest and California. With a deep golden hue and heavenly notes of sweet maple, vanilla and carefully toasted oak on the nose, the whiskey has flavors of roasted pecans, honey, chocolate, and a pinch of black pepper on the palate. Smooth and complex, this is a true sipping whiskey.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

LIFE IS SHORT.... DRINK BETTER!

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