



KERMIT LYNCH
WINE MERCHANT

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS
Open Sunday, December 19
& Monday, December 20
11 A.M.—6 P.M.

- **JOIN THE CLUB**
- **HOLIDAY SAMPLER**
- **PRE-ARRIVAL CORNAS**

OPEN • TUESDAY—SATURDAY 11 A.M. TO 6 P.M. CLOSED • SUNDAY & MONDAY

DECEMBER 2010

WINE CLUB

AFTER YEARS OF HEARING CUSTOMERS ASK, Do you have a wine club? Why don't you have one? and When will you have a wine club? we are now proud to announce The Kermit Lynch Wine Club. Thirty-eight years in the making!

Nobody has more experience sourcing France and Italy's finest wines than Kermit. Our specialty is helping clients navigate these complex waters by select-

ing only the best, while focusing on the simplicity and beauty of enjoying wine on a daily basis at table. Kermit's imports are very particular and personal, yet accessible, down to earth, and easy on one's pocketbook. He is always value-conscious.

This club is your opportunity to discover a few of our special imports, on a monthly basis, in a convenient manner. Whether you join it yourself or give a

membership to someone else, it is a gift that keeps on giving. Sign up by Monday, December 6, and have your first wine shipment arrive by Christmas.

As an added bonus, sign up this month, and you'll receive a FREE copy of Kermit's book *Adventures on the Wine Route* (normally \$18.95).

Here are the details:

- Receive two bottles of Kermit Lynch personally selected imports each month
- Each monthly package will include our wine club newsletter, with a profile on the producers as well as notes on the wines (with a recipe or two from time to time)
- Pick up your wines at our Berkeley retail shop or have them shipped
- There is no monthly minimum, and you may cancel or suspend your membership at any time

\$39 per month

(not including applicable tax and/or shipping charges)

To sign up for the club or to give the club as a gift, visit kermitlynch.com/wineclub or give us a call at 510.524.1524.

All club member sign-ups occurring after Monday, December 6, will have their first shipments sent on January 4, 2011.



—AMAZING VALUE—PRICELESS VINEYARD—

2007 CORBIÈRES
“RÉSERVE LA DEMOISELLE”
DOMAINE DE FONTSAINTE

by Steve Waters

STANDING ON A DIRT ROAD overlooking La Demoiselle, the more-than-one-hundred-year-old Carignan vineyard owned by Domaine de Font-sainte, I turned in the opposite direction and suddenly thought I was back in California during wildfire season: a scarred landscape as far as the eye could see, with the withered remains of several vineyards burnt beyond recognition.

“My god, what happened here?” I asked Bruno Laboucaricé, the winemaker at Domaine de Font-sainte.

“A lightning storm,” he said. “It scorched over 2,400 acres. Lucky for us, the fire stopped at the road where you’re standing and spared our vineyard.”

Lucky for us, indeed.

The inspiration for this story of my visit to Corbières was a bottle of the 2001 Domaine de Font-sainte Réserve La Demoiselle I had recently with friends. Without great expectations, I was simply astounded by how well-preserved the wine was. The dark fruit aromas were so fresh; the texture was like velvet, and the smell of the *garrigue*—the herb and scrub brush of the Languedoc—was so pronounced, I felt like I was standing in the vineyards with Bruno again. Considering the small price I paid when I purchased it (a whopping \$14.95), I couldn’t ask for a better return on my investment.

In my excitement after drinking the 2001 Demoiselle, I realized that I had to spread the gospel of this amazing wine. To experience this wine aged, at its peak, and be completely blown away by its quality versus cost—isn’t that what great wine drinking is all about?

Here is a golden opportunity for you. We have a good supply sent recently from France of the 2007 Domaine de Font-sainte Réserve La Demoiselle, an incredible vintage in the Languedoc and quite similar to 2001. The beauty of La Demoiselle is that it does drink well young, but please be patient, because the benefits you’ll receive with five to ten years of age are enormous. In fact, that’s the best route to take with the wine—twelve or more bottles to drink over twelve or more years.

This could be a brilliant gift idea for Christmas. Include a note if you wish: “Age this beauty five to ten years.” Just don’t miss out purchasing, in my opinion, the greatest value our portfolio has to offer—an extraordinary wine at a painless price.

\$16.00 PER BOTTLE

\$172.80 PER CASE

ANDRÉ OSTERTAG

Oh André, hats off to you for your current collection. Tasting them, I wondered, were you feeling the effects of the recession, so you went to work and made even better wines to grab our attention?

While in Provence this summer, I received a carton of André's new releases. I called Daniel Ravier from Domaine Tempier to come by and taste with me because I had to. He once told me to call him whenever I receive samples from André.

As Ravier and I sniffed and tasted, we were not blasé. We were blown away. When we finished, he asked if he could take the leftovers home to show off and share with his wife.

2009 PINOT BLANC "BARRIQUES"

This bottling has been a favorite for years and the '09 is the best version ever. Full, fine, and flavorful—what a treat!

\$23.00 PER BOTTLE **\$248.40** PER CASE

2008 MUSCAT "FRONHOLZ"

A dazzler! Complex, assertive, the perfume's to die for, and, unlike most Alsatian Muscats, the palate lives up to the aroma. Grandiose—the word fits this marvel. Calling all Jaded Palates to Rally Round the Muscat.

\$35.00 PER BOTTLE **\$378.00** PER CASE

2008 PINOT GRIS "FRONHOLZ"

This Pinot proves to be very versatile at table. Try it with all sorts of cuisines. There is a peat-like complexity in its ripe fruit, an ethereal *touch* on the palate, and a long, spacious finish.

\$48.00 PER BOTTLE **\$518.40** PER CASE

2008 RIESLING "HEISSENBERG"

The vineyard name means "hot mountain," by the way, and the wine smells as exotic as a hothouse flower. The aroma seems deep and thick. Behold then the brilliant palate: stony with great clarity. Call it luminous.

\$43.00 PER BOTTLE **\$464.40** PER CASE

LOIRE

2009 VOUVRAY SEC • DOMAINE CHAMPALOU

Here are two of the reasons to take this one home. First, it shows the good stuff that earned vintage 2009 such rave reviews from wine critics. Second, it is one of the finest dry Vouvrays of my career, and I've had some beauties. The nose has real depth and announces that you have something abnormally good in your glass. Notice that little tinge of apricot pit—yum! Then it slowly leaves your palate happily saturated with mineral, fruit, and floral flavors.

\$18.95 PER BOTTLE **\$204.66** PER CASE

2009 VOUVRAY “LES TRIES DE VENDANGE” DOMAINE CHAMPALOU

This is Champalou's masterpiece—picked grape by grape when they are ultra-ripe and shriveled on the vine. What nectar. You will wonder how it can be so sweet, yet so harmonious. In order to expand the staff's tasting experience, I uncorked it the other night alongside the domaine's stunning 1990. How long will the 2009 age? “We won't be around to know,” said Didier Champalou.

\$57.00 PER 500-ML BOTTLE **\$615.60** PER CASE

2008 CHINON “LA CROIX BOISSÉE” DOMAINE BERNARD BAUDRY

The vineyard is named “the wooden cross,” because drinking wine from its vines is a religious experience. The real miracle awaits those of you with cellars, because this is a Chinon to hide away until some special occasion when only a great red will suffice. You'll be glad you saved some.

\$39.00 PER BOTTLE **\$421.20** PER CASE

2009 BOURGUEIL “NUITS D'IVRESSE” CATHERINE & PIERRE BRETON

And this wine is named “nights of drunkenness.” God forbid! Yes, the demon alcohol lurks within. The Kinks had a song titled “Demon Alcohol,” and Jerry Lee Lewis sang “The Alcohol of Fame.”

This is Breton's no-sulfur berry explosion cuvée—so deep, dark, round, and penetrating, it tests the limits of deliciousness—pure deliciousness with a rambunctious wild side.

\$32.00 PER BOTTLE **\$345.60** PER CASE

BIG BOTTLES

IS BIGGER ACTUALLY BETTER? Well, when it comes to gift-giving, it seems that the bigger the box, the more impressive the gift. Below you'll find an extensive list of large-format bottles of varying price and style. From this list, which includes some fabulous white Burgundies, you will find the perfect gift for somebody:

PER MAGNUM

2006 MEURSAULT-BLAGNY "LA GENELOTTE" <i>IER CRU</i>	
DOMAINE DE CHERISEY	\$154.00
2007 MEURSAULT-GENEVRIÈRES • ANTOINE JOBARD	234.00
2007 MEURSAULT • ARNAUD ENTE	152.00
2007 MEURSAULT "CLOS DES AMBRES" • ARNAUD ENTE	205.00
2007 MEURSAULT "GOUTTE D'OR" • ARNAUD ENTE	284.00
2005 POUILLY-FUISSÉ "LES CARRONS" • ROBERT-DENOENT	110.00
2007 POUILLY-FUISSÉ "LES REISSES" • ROBERT-DENOENT	88.00
2003 BRUT <i>GRAND CRU 100%</i> • PAUL BARA	162.00
2004 BLANC DE BLANCS BRUT <i>IER CRU</i> • VEUVE FOURNY	146.00
2004 GIGONDAS • DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES	74.00
2006 GIGONDAS • DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES	72.00
2007 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE <i>ROUGE</i>	
DOMAINE LA ROQUÈTE	82.00
2006 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE "LA CRAU"	
DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE	150.00
2008 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE "LA CRAU"	
DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE	142.00
2000 BANDOL <i>ROUGE</i> • DOMAINE DU GROS 'NORÉ	90.00
2003 BANDOL <i>ROUGE</i> • DOMAINE DU GROS 'NORÉ	79.00
2006 BANDOL <i>ROUGE</i> • DOMAINE DU GROS 'NORÉ	72.00
2007 BANDOL <i>ROUGE</i> • DOMAINE TEMPIER	90.00
2008 CAHORS • CLOS LA COUTALE	32.00
2008 ROSSO DI MONTALCINO • SESTI	70.00
PROSECCO • SOMMARIVA	32.00



THE HOLIDAY SOLUTION SAMPLER

by Lori Varsames

LET'S FACE IT: the holidays are fun, but they can get ugly quickly if you fail to anticipate the hidden loopholes. The stress brought on by entertaining, gift-giving, and traveling all starts with the unwelcome surprise. Whether it is the last-minute gift (for which I've become infamous in my family), the extra dinner guest at the table, the awkward unreciprocated gift, or worse—no wine with which to console yourself after this year's family drama—you may find more humbug than joy at this time of year. Be not dismayed! This Holiday Solution Sampler is designed to be that proactive, secret weapon to keep all of the December annoyances at bay. A case of these carefully selected bottles will prepare you for just about any occasion. This assortment represents a wide array of taste profiles, too, so that you find just the right bottle for just the right person. The convenience of having such delicious wines so easily at hand (at our discounted case price) only stands to improve your sanity. We can all certainly use a little help with that at this time of year!

PER BOTTLE

2009 LUMASSINA • PUNTA CRENA	\$16.95
2009 LANGHE ARNEIS • TINTERO	12.50
2009 COTEAUX DU LANGUEDOC <i>BLANC</i> CHÂTEAU DE LASCAUX	16.00
2008 ALSACE <i>BLANC</i> • KUENTZ-BAS	13.95
2009 POUILLY-FUMÉ • RÉGIS MINET	21.00
2008 FLEURIE "LES MORIERS" • DOMAINE CHIGNARD	26.00
2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON • CHÂTEAU FONTANÈS	12.95
2007 HAUT-MÉDOC "CRU BOURGEOIS" • CHÂTEAU ANEY	22.00
2009 BOURGUEIL "TRINCH!" • CATHERINE & PIERRE BRETON	22.00
2008 CÔTES DU RHÔNE "CYPRESS CUVÉE" BLENDED BY KERMIT LYNCH	14.95
2007 CÔTES DU RHÔNE "CAIRANNE" CATHERINE LE GOEUIL	19.95
2008 PIC SAINT LOUP <i>ROUGE</i> • CHÂTEAU LA ROQUE	16.95

Normally \$215.20

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$160**

A 25% discount

SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS WITH KERMIT LYNCH

OPEN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

& MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

11 A.M.—6 P.M.

WE WILL BE OPEN TWO EXTRA DAYS in December—Sunday, December 19, and Monday, December 20, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you've ever wanted to say hi to Kermit, here is an opportunity. He'll be here in the store on those days from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day, whether you want to chat about wine, music, your favorite lunch spots in France, or anything else on your mind. Don't miss this chance to pick up one of his books or CDs (his newest, *Kitty Fur*, might have arrived by then) and have him sign one for you or a friend.



UNDRINKABLE GIFTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND A PERFECT GIFT for a gourmet friend who already seems to have everything? Take a peek at our list of non-wine items for that special little gift or stocking stuffer. Consider some delicious edibles for your pantry, too, from the wine regions of France and Italy.

KLWM PARAPHERNALIA

KLWM SIX-BOTTLE CARRYING BAG (BURGUNDY OR BLACK) . . .	\$5.00
KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT T-SHIRT (BLACK)	14.95
DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE T-SHIRT (GRAY)	14.95
DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES BASEBALL CAP (YELLOW WITH RED OR BLUE TRIM)	17.50
KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT CORKSCREW	7.95
INSPIRING THIRST POSTER BY GAIL SKOFF	10.00
OLIVE TREE POSTER BY GAIL SKOFF	20.00

BOOKS & CDS BY KERMIT LYNCH

ADVENTURES ON THE WINE ROUTE (PAPERBACK)	\$18.95
MES AVENTURES SUR LES ROUTES DU VIN (FRENCH VERSION) . .	19.95
INSPIRING THIRST (HARDCOVER)	24.95
QUICKSAND BLUES (CD)	12.95
MAN'S TEMPTATION (CD)	13.95
KITTY FUR (CD) PRE-XMAS PRICE	9.95

GROCERY ITEMS

MAUSSANE “LES BAUX” EXTRA-VIRGIN PROVENÇAL

OLIVE OIL *LITER* \$49.00

PUNTA CRENA EXTRA-VIRGIN LIGURIAN OLIVE OIL 750ML . . . 29.00

DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES CHERRY JAM 10.00

NATURE PROVENCE ORGANIC LAVENDER HONEY 19.00



INDULGE YOURSELF SAMPLER

by Steve Waters

IDON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, but for me, this has been a long year. I've scrimped, saved, and slogged on through like the ancestral Irishman I am, but you know what? Now comes the holiday season, and I intend to enjoy myself. My plan this year is to relish home, hearth, and family, and, believe it or not, there's going to be a lot of great food and wine involved.

Maybe you have had some similar sentiments. If so, here's a chance to save money and SPLURGE on some great bottles. This is a selection designed to share with family and friends during the holidays. Are you in a hedonistic frame of mind? Maybe you deserve a dose of French hedonism. Take a look at these great domaines and appellations.

	NORMALLY
2004 LALANDE-DE-POMEROL • CHÂTEAU BELLES GRAVES	\$30.00
2006 NUITS-SAINT-GEORGES	
DOMAINE ROBERT CHEVILLON	59.00
2007 CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE <i>ROUGE</i> “TÉLÉGRAMME”	
VIGNOBLES BRUNIER	38.00
2004 BANDOL <i>ROUGE</i> • DOMAINE DE TERREBRUNE	58.00
2008 SANTENAY <i>BLANC</i> “LE BEAUREPAIRE” <i>1ER CRU</i>	
DOMAINE VINCENT	48.00
2008 CHABLIS “LES TRUFFIÈRES” • DOMAINE COSTAL	28.00

Normally \$261.00

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$195**

A 25% discount

CULT WINES

2009 CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE “L’ÉLÉMENTAIRE” DOMAINE GRAMENON

One goes to Gramenon for a lesson in just how wonderful a Côtes-du-Rhône can be.

First, take a look. The color is gorgeous, as vivid as wine can be. And the aroma of juicy grapes is exquisite—classy juicy Grenache grapes. Then revel in those tannins—so thick and voluptuous as they sink into your palate.

I imagine pouring this one up at a picnic table in Tilden Park with barbecued whatever: chops, burgers, sausages, red peppers, eggplants, and . . . like that!

\$27.00 PER BOTTLE **\$291.60** PER CASE

2008 NOWAT • DUPÉRÉ BARRERA

This red is from the Côtes-de-Provence appellation. If you can find one better, I predict that it, too, will have been produced by Dupéré and Barrera.

NOWAT! Look, Ma, no watts—yes, a wine made without the use of electricity. And no, it is not a gimmick. This is how wine was made for centuries. Chew that around in your head while you gnaw on the wine itself.

It is an eloquent red, loaded with the fruits, herbs, and spices of Provence—a tasting experience not to be missed.

\$30.00 PER BOTTLE **\$324.00** PER CASE

2009 PATRIMONIO BLANC “HAUT DE CARCO” ANTOINE ARENA

Haut de Carco is Arena’s pride and joy, a vineyard he planted on a Patrimonio hillside surrounded by majestic peaks and the awesome blue Mediterranean. Well, most of Patrimonio could be described in the same words, but Haut de Carco is from the highest slope and a stony, decomposed oyster shell soil which gives the Vermentino a depth and balance that reminds me of Meursault. Of course the flavors are not from Meursault. The 2009 has discreet fruit, limestone complexity and finesse, great length, and the perfume of the surrounding maquis in bloom.

Will it age? I don’t care. I enjoy it now. To my taste buds, it is one of the top dry whites in the store at any price right now.

\$38.00 PER BOTTLE **\$410.40** PER CASE

—PRE-ARRIVAL OFFER—

2008 CORNAS

by Dixon Brooke

AUGUSTE CLAPE

KERMIT JUST WROTE ME after tasting some samples of the 2008 Clape Cornas that I brought back from my recent trip to the Rhône Valley. “It’s a perfect vintage, the Cornas I grew up on before global warming.” As recently as 1990, a vigneron in Cornas told Kermit that he had never seen such high alcohol in a wine—at only 12.8 degrees! It really brought home the point that the fabled, dark, chewy, inky wine of Cornas is not all about overripe fruit or high alcohol. This is the real deal, folks, classic northern Rhône Syrah, Syrah that couldn’t come from anywhere else. That’s why we go all the way to Cornas to buy it for you (and some for ourselves, *bien sûr*). Clape’s flagship Cornas bottling contains three of the best Syrah vineyards in the world: Reynards, La Côte, and Les Sabarottes (purchased from Noël Verset).

2008 CORNAS “RENAISSANCE” \$53.00 PER BOTTLE

2008 CORNAS \$82.00 PER BOTTLE \$166.00 PER MAGNUM

THIERRY ALLEMAND

THIERRY ALLEMAND was on point in 2008, as one might expect, with two Cornas cuvées of impressive depth and purity and, of course, classic *goût de terroir*. I also discussed the phenomenon of rising alcohol levels in Cornas with Thierry, and he described how he is changing the way he works the soil and the pruning of his vines in order to increase yields slightly to lessen the alcohol content. He fabricates all of his own metal hand-plows in the garage underneath his house in Cornas. A truly self-sufficient vigneron, he doesn’t count on anyone but himself to supply the tools for success.

His old-vine Reynard bottling is the stuff of legend—a dark, chewy, gamey, leathery, bloody, granitic Syrah masterpiece. Chaillot has more charm and drinks well earlier.

2008 CORNAS “CHAILLOT” \$78.00 PER BOTTLE

2008 CORNAS “REYNARD” \$94.00 PER BOTTLE

Pre-arrival terms: Half-payment due with order; balance due upon arrival.

ARTISANAL SAUTERNES

WHY ARTISANAL? Well, is it from one of those pricey classified châteaux owned by an insurance company or giant corporation and vinified by a recent enology school graduate? NO.

Knowing what I know now, what would I change about my personal wine cellar? Back in the early seventies there was plenty of great and even aged Sauternes for sale, including Yquem. We all imagined it would always be so. Plus, I was broke. Back then I'd have to save up just to buy a two-buck harmonica. Anyway, I didn't cellar enough Sauternes.

Yes, Sauternes, a glorious creation with its noble rot. Instead of The Roaches, why did I not name my band Noble Rot? On my tombstone, please: "What rot, of the noblest variety." (Just kidding, Gail.)

Come along—it's easy. You cellar half-bottles, which age well enough besides being handy. I uncorked a tenth of 1977 Yquem last year that was just the right size for my wife and me—about two glasses each—and it had aged in quite a positive manner. I like Sauternes with foie gras, truffles, and Fourme d'Ambert (a mild blue cheese), for example, but mainly I like it as dessert—it, the tenth of Sauternes, being the dessert, not served *with* a dessert.

I have two tenths to recommend. They are both from Hervé Dubourdieu and his ultra-noble-rot *terroir*. Hervé is out there harvesting his grapes and he makes the wine. "Knowing which grapes to include is 98% of making a great Sauternes," he says.

2006 CHÂTEAU ROÛMIEU-LACOSTE

Nothing less than perfect and it thoroughly expresses what is lovable about Sauternes. It is pure and classic and there is a wonderful "facility" to it.

\$19.95 PER TENTH **\$430.92 PER CASE**

2005 CHÂTEAU ROÛMIEU-LACOSTE "CUVÉE LÉON"

From an old-vine parcel bordering Climens—Hervé named the bottling after one of his two sons. It seems more penetrating and forceful—more *roti* in the aroma, too.

\$22.50 PER TENTH **\$486.00 PER CASE**

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT—TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All wines purchased from Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant are deemed sold in California and title passes to the buyer in California. We make no representation relative to the customer's right to import wine into his/her state. In placing an order, the customer represents to Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant that he/she is at least 21 years of age and the person to whom delivery will be made is at least 21 years old.
