

---

# ROSÉ TIME!

*by Dixon Brooke*

**A**NOTHER YEAR, another fresh crop of young beauties. As spring works its way welcomingly into our lives, we plan to keep you supplied with a continuous flow of new and exciting rosé wines—among other colors, of course. Raise your glass to our first shipment of the new vintage!

## 2010 CORBIÈRES “GRIS DE GRIS” DOMAINE DE FONTSAINTE

It couldn't be finer. The palest, most thirst-quenching rosé in the world, made by the dear Laboucarié family in the beautiful rolling hills of the Corbières.

## 2010 CHIARETTO • CORTE GARDONI

Chiaretto, the local name for Bardolino rosé, is a lovely creation. As Kermit has reminded us many times in the past, it is particularly tough to beat when lounging along the shores of Lake Garda and snacking on local specialties. It works equally well in the Bay Area and on the Florida Panhandle, in my experience, and most places in between.

## 2010 TAVEL ROSÉ CHÂTEAU DE TRINQUEVEDEL

Guillaume Demoulin outdid himself in 2010, producing my favorite Trinquedel in recent memory. It is fresher than the 2007 and 2009 vintages with more stuffing than the 2008. It is the ideal Tavel for my taste, balancing the bold, stony flavors of the southern Rhône with a certain Provençal graciousness.

## 2010 BANDOL ROSÉ • DOMAINE DU GROS 'NORÉ

We wouldn't be true to our school if we didn't offer a Bandol rosé to complement the season's debut. Alain Pascal's stunning rosé is a delicious reminder of Bandol's rightful place at the top of the rosé hierarchy. It is right at home with a bowl of black olives and a sunset.

---

---

---

— MAY SPECIAL —

**M**IX A CASE of 3 bottles each of these 4 Coteaux du Languedoc rosés for an interesting comparison and receive a 15% discount.

**2010 COTEAUX DU LANGUEDOC ROSÉ  
CHÂTEAU FONTANÈS**

This rosé and the La Roque below are vinified by the same winemaker, Cyriaque Rozier. Cyriaque planted his own vines near La Roque and puts the techniques he perfected while working with Jack Boutin to good use. His 2010 rosé sports a thick, saucy nose and a round, soft palate—as smooth and silky as they come.

**2010 COTEAUX DU LANGUEDOC ROSÉ  
CHÂTEAU LA ROQUE**

La Roque's rosé sure is interesting to compare side by side with the Fontanès: the older vines seem to give a deeper and less take-me-I'm-yours style of wine. Dark and Tavel-like in color, it is juicy, full, sappy, and dry, with spice and wild herbs to finish things up—yes, a complex rosé!

**2010 COTEAUX DU LANGUEDOC ROSÉ  
CHÂTEAU DE LASCAUX**

The Lascaux, as always, is a blast of limestone freshness. *Lascaux* is the local word for *calcaire*, and the domaine's plateau is home to some of the finest values in wine. This rosé is a step up in concentration from the Gris de Gris but similarly bright and invigorating.

**2010 COTEAUX DU LANGUEDOC ROSÉ  
SAINT MARTIN DE LA GARRIGUE**

I love the delicate hue and the alpine strawberry perfume of Saint Martin's gorgeous rosé. I had it with *moules frites*—a great marriage. Now it's up to you to create your own combo.

---

---

---

## —PRE-ARRIVAL 2009 ENTE—

*by Dixon Brooke*

**A**RNAUD ENTE IS KNOWN to harvest a little earlier than most of his colleagues in Meursault, preferring to lock in plenty of nerve than to roll the dice looking for more ripeness and weight. Arnaud is also experimenting with a vinification more similar to that commonly practiced in Chablis: fermenting his wines in stainless steel before racking them to barrel. Arnaud has always marched to the beat of his own drum, and we've always followed. The wines are exceptionally pure and chiseled and are clearly pampered from grape to bottle. His style married particularly well with the influence of Mother Nature in 2009. Ente makes fine Burgundies that are built to last.

*Inquire about availability of magnums.*

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

### VISIT THE NEW KERMITLYNCH.COM

**A**FTER MANY BOTTLES of wine, years of contemplation, and overcoming Kermit's hesitations, we are proud to launch our new website, [kermitynch.com](http://kermitynch.com).

Kermitynch.com is *the* place to stay current on all subjects relating to Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant.

On this new site you can access detailed info on each of our producers, find events featuring our wines, and download newsletter and wine club bulletin archives. Check it out and check back regularly for updates on new producers and new arrivals.

Due to the complexity of interstate shipping laws and the nature of being an importer, wholesaler, distributor, and retailer, we cannot accept orders for wine through our website at this time. We're working on it, though.

---

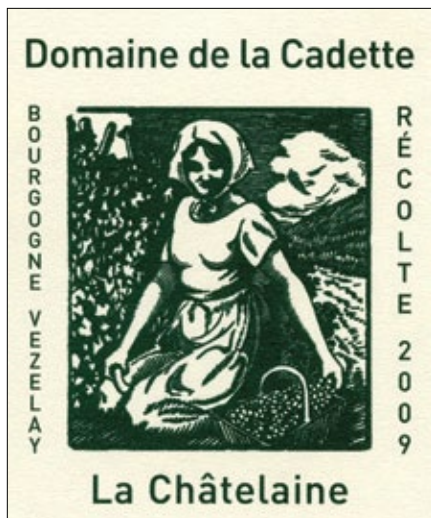
# VALUES OF THE MONTH

by Lori Varsames

**W**E HAVE ALWAYS prided ourselves on making the eclectic more approachable. Off-the-beaten-path appellations can offer exceptional values, and we are lucky enough to be working with such creative, passionate growers. They treat their vines *and* their wines with the same respect as those in nobler areas, and that extra T.L.C. really shows. If you buy these, be prepared for some *oohs* and *ahhs*.

## 2009 BOURGOGNE VÉZELAY DOMAINE DE LA CADETTE

Vézelay is one of the best-kept secrets of Burgundy, far off the *Route des Vins* and deep into the Morvan Mountains. Although most growers sell to the local co-op, the Montanet family has taken the high road, farming organically in a challenging climate to bottle their own beautiful wines. The vintage may take credit for a softer mid-palate than usual, but it's the limestone that gives this zesty Chardonnay its citrusy nose and juicy finish. Here's one white Burgundy whose price tag won't send you into a cold sweat.



## 2009 PIC SAINT LOUP • CHÂTEAU LA ROQUE

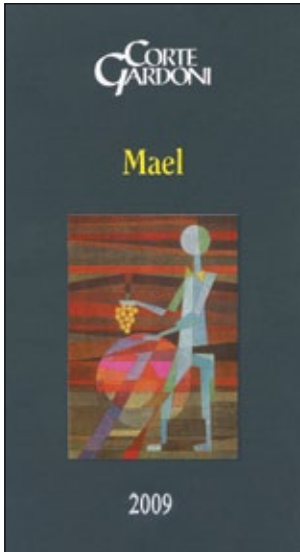
Pic Saint Loup is regarded as one of the great growths of the Languedoc, and it's easy to see why. This bold red is all about the *terroir*—the lavender, *réglisse*, and spicy *garrigue* are just as present in the glass as they are in the vineyards. It is rare finding a wine this earthy and aromatic that has such beautifully balanced, integrated tannins. Fortunately, it still has a wild side that has me thinking more of the wolf (*loup* in French) than of the patron saint for whom the appellation is named. Some of our customers claim that drinking a bottle alongside red meat has them howling for more.

---

---

# ITALY

by Dixon Brooke



## 2009 BIANCO DI CUSTOZA “MAEL” CORTE GARDONI

This is a stunning value from our longest-standing relationship in Italy. Mael is vinified in the same fashion as their classic Custoza, but the blend is slightly different and the wine is aged longer on its lees. The principal grapes are the indigenous Garganega and Trebbianello. Sun-kissed, aromatic, dry, and flavorful, this is a classic Venetian white.

## 2009 PINOT GRIGIO • LA VIARTE

Why drink watery, insipid Pinot Grigio when you can drink La Viarte’s fresh, vigorous, and interesting rendition? This discounts to only \$12.60 by the case. That’s after buying it in euros and shipping it in temperature-controlled containers all the way from the Slovenian border. Do you ever wonder how we do it?

## 2007 BARBARESCO “VICENZIANA” SILVIO GIAMELLO

We were thrilled for our very own Silvio Giamello (humblest citizen of Barbaresco) when the *New York Times* recently awarded his 2005 Vicenziana best of show *and* best value as it was the least expensive wine of the tasting! Silvio’s wines don’t scream, they develop slowly in the glass with measured nuance. They age exceptionally well. It is a classic style of Barbaresco—the more feminine side of Nebbiolo, with a plethora of latent power and energy.

---

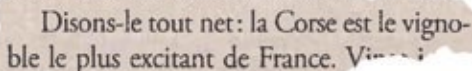
---

# ANTOINE ARENA

by Chris Santini

CORSICAN WINES have long been viewed by the French as some sort of exotic oddity that doesn't merit much attention. It seems now that

those days are over, as just last month the *Revue du Vin de France*, by far France's leading and most influential wine magazine, made a cover feature on their "discovery" of Corsican wine. After tasting all the top growers, they were clearly awed and went so far as to proclaim in their opening paragraph, "Let's say it clear: Corsica is *the* most exciting wine region in France." Of special mention was the one they called the "locomotive," Antoine Arena, the "indisputable leader of Patrimonio and Corsica in general," setting the standard high and pulling along an entire island behind him. So if Corsica is the most exciting wine region in France, does that make Arena the most exciting winemaker in France?



Disons-le tout net: la Corse est le vignoble le plus excitant de France. Vins de Corse

## 2008 PATRIMONIO ROUGE "MORTA MAIO" ANTOINE ARENA

Here is the perfect introduction to quintessential Patrimonio. One hundred percent Niellucciu from vines grown on clay-limestone soils, fermented and raised in a cement tank in the garage beneath Antoine's house that serves as his winery. The 2008 vintage in particular lets the typicity of Patrimonio shine, and then some. There's a lot of juice and earthiness in there, enveloped in Arena's signature smooth and silky style.

## 2008 PATRIMONIO ROUGE "CARCO" ANTOINE ARENA

One of many things that sets Arena apart from his neighbors are his parcels of vines on high-altitude exposed limestone. While others long ago gave up farming grapes on solid rock, Arena excels at it. The Carco is brimming with minerality and infused with the wild Corsican *maquis* that surrounds it. If there's a reason Arena is the indisputable Corsican champ, this wine may well be it. Here's your chance to taste what all the excitement is about.

---

---

# INTRODUCING FOLLIN-ARBELET

by Dixon Brooke

**I**T IS WITH PRIDE and excitement that we welcome Franck Follin-Arbelet into the KLWM portfolio of fine Burgundies. Franck's family domaine and his wines are a perfect fit for us. It has been a while since we offered anything from Aloxe or Pernand, for starters. We've missed them. Our first shipment just arrived—three reds from Aloxe-Corton and the outstanding 2008 vintage. These are authentic *vins de terroir*, with heart, soul, and style. Now it's your turn to discover them.

## 2008 ALOXE-CORTON

Rustic yet polished, this is classic. You sense the grandeur of the wines of Corton, with a welcome accessibility. This is the type of wine you'd want with a simple but satisfying *coq au vin*, for example. It is open and silky already, but you chew on the wine. There is no filtration at Franck's place.

## 2008 ALOXE-CORTON PREMIER CRU "CLOS DU CHAPITRE"

Fixin also has a *premier cru* Clos du Chapitre. The name signifies that the parcel, surrounded by an old stone wall, was the property of a religious order. Two growers now work the Clos at Aloxe. Follin-Arbelet's is fresh, lively, and seems to dance upon one's palate. To drink or allow some aging.

## 2008 ALOXE-CORTON PREMIER CRU "LES VERCOTS"

Franck calls this wine "macho." It is always one of his most powerful cuvées, with a firm tannic structure. He says it opens up after six or seven years and then ages for twenty or twenty-five. He is currently enjoying the 1993 and 1995 vintages from his cellar.

---



*The Roman-era cellar chez Louis Barruol*

© Gail Skoff

---

# SOUTHERN RHÔNE

## 2008 GIGONDAS • DOMAINE DE DURBAN

This is proof of *terroir*, if proof is still required. It is Grenache. It is Gigondas. But look at its *bright* color. Smell the fresh fruit—the fresh, *bright* (again) fruit. Not what you’d expect at all. And taste how high-strung it is—not violinish, but it certainly ain’t no cello, or double bass. So, are we really in Gigondas? Yes, but on the southern side of the Dentelles, where the soil is quite different.

The result is a gas, gas, gas . . . I mean, is rather stimulating.

## 2009 CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE ROUGE “CYPRESS CUVÉE” BLENDED BY KERMIT LYNCH

The Heart of Darkness. That’s what popped up in my mind when I uncorked this dark beauty last night—black cherry, black currant, blackberry—does anyone detect a whiff of black truffle in there, too?

The palate is sumptuous—loaded with flavor. It fills the mouth without aggression, and the texture is velvety—black velvet, of course.

You’ll have your work cut out for you this year, finding a better bargain than this.

This blend is a collaborative effort—yours truly and Louis Barruol of the Château de Saint Cosme in Gigondas.



## 2008 CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE VILLAGES DUPÉRE-BARRERA

From black fruits to red, just like that. A total contrast to the Cypress Cuvée above—lighter in color, body, and, it seems, lighter in alcohol, this is the streamlined model. While the red fruits like raspberry and strawberry dominate, the palate shows riverbed stones, liveliness, and finesse.

It is not an in-your-face wine. It grows on you.

---

---

# THREE BANDOLS

## 2008 BANDOL ROUGE “INDIA” DUPÉRÉ-BARRERA



“Why India?” I asked.

“We saw some Bordeaux bottles from the late 1800s that had *Return From India* on the labels, indicating that the wines spent time in the hull of a sailing ship. And we know that barrels of Bandol used to spend time at sea to render them more palatable. And our Bandol

has a striking exotic spiciness. So we named it India.”

Okay, got it, thanks.

We obtained ten cases only. Don’t miss it. That spiciness is wonderful with smoky grilled meats.

## 2007 BANDOL ROUGE DOMAINE DE TERREBRUNE

This drinks beautifully already and we know how well Terrebrune ages—even their white and rosé. It is one hundred percent true and undeniable that if you put down a dozen bottles you will never regret it, ever. I’ll stake my credibility on that one.

The perfume has a dusty stoniness mingled with delicious Mourvèdre fruit. I am struck by its elegance for the vintage, and by that neat bitter touch in the aftertaste.

## 2007 BANDOL ROUGE DOMAINE DE LA TOUR DU BON

Tour du Bon’s vines are closer to Tempier and Gros ’Noré, and make a fuller-bodied, more rustic Bandol than Terrebrune. The nose opens slowly—I allow it up to several hours breathing now—and gives mineral and kirsch-like cherry fruit. In the old days, one would have called it a more masculine wine, even though a woman vinified it, while Terrebrune is vinified by a black-belted hombre.

---

---

# LANGUEDOC REDS

by *Chris Santini*

## 2009 COTEAUX DU LANGUEDOC ROUGE “**PODIO ALTO**” • **DOMAINE DU POUJOL**

At a recent visit to the domaine, Robert Cripps was comparing vintages of Podio Alto, his flagship wine. The 2008 and 2010 Podio Alto he calls “suit and tie” vintages, as they show elegance but are still a bit buttoned up and closed. The 2009, however, he refers to as the “Hawaiian shirt” vintage: easy, relaxed, and a lot of fun. Robert is a relaxed and easy kind of guy, so it’s no surprise he also added that this is the kind of wine he lives to make. It’s a field blend of Syrah, Grenache, and Cinsault, with Mourvèdre poured in to ice the cake.

## 2009 COTEAUX DU LANGUEDOC ROUGE **CHÂTEAU DE LASCAUX**

This is the hands-down bread-and-butter, everyday-drinking, guilt-free, excellent-value Languedoc red. Who could ask for more than southern French *garrigue* aromatics, unctuous juice with weight and power, all while remaining supple, fresh, and inexpensive. Stack it high in the cellar and open for any and all occasions, in good company, bad company, or no company at all. You can always go back for more.

## 2007 PIC SAINT LOUP ROUGE “**CUPA NUMISMAE**” • **CHÂTEAU LA ROQUE**

The Languedoc isn’t all easygoing and fun. Here’s a beauty with an inner beast. By the time this bottle gets to you, the wine has been aged and tamed for eighteen months in large wooden casks, and bottled unfiltered in all its glory. This lush and smoky cuvée, from old-vine Syrah and Mourvèdre planted on ancient terraces, is just beginning to awaken. Try some now with your next barbecue, but be sure to keep a stash aside in the cellar to realize its full potential.



---

—NEW RELEASE—

## KITTY FUR

by Kermit Lynch and His Mean Bloodhounds

I FEEL STRANGE writing about my own CDs, so I won't tell you about the singer—I'll talk about my all-star band.

On pedal steel: the great Lloyd Green, who has recorded with the likes of Bob Wills, Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bob Dylan—I could fill the page. And now he backs up your friendly neighborhood wine provider! I asked Lloyd what it was like recording with Jerry Lee. He said Jerry Lee walked into the studio and put a fifth of whiskey on one side of the piano and a pistol on the other. Wow, that's hard to top. All I brought with me was some Gigondas, which, when we broke for lunch, went pretty well with Tennessee ribs. I can swear to that.

Producing and playing drums: Ricky Fataar, who has recorded with Bonnie Raitt, Boz Scaggs, and The Beach Boys, for example. (Am I dropping some dandy names or not?) Ricky earns the spotlight with his percussion work on Bunny Wailer's song, "Cool Runnings."

And the pianist, whose playing knocks out all of us—just one gem after another—is Michael Omartian. His home outside Nashville is wallpapered with Grammy awards. His playing is so tasteful, so soulful, you don't need a better reason to listen to *Kitty Fur*.

On stand-up bass is Dennis Crouch, who has recently recorded with the likes of Robert Plant, Loretta Lynn, and Willie Nelson. Listen to his magic on Sonny Boy Williamson's "Mighty Long Time"—you can zero in on his bass because that's just me singing, Dennis on bass, and Rick Vito's bluesy bottleneck guitar. Play it when you're lonely in the late, late hours and there's not a drop of Meursault left to kill . . .

The rest of the cast of players is listed on the CD jacket—more guitars, harmonica, organ, fiddle, and so on.

Songwriters include Cole Porter, Jimmy Reed, Jagger/Richards, Hank Williams, Bob Dylan, me, and more.

We have some CDs here in the store. We can send one to you anywhere. Amazon and others sell it. Or come on by. You could leave with a loaf of bread (from Acme), a bottle of wine, and some *Kitty Fur*.

---

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.*

---

---

## THE BLOSSOMING OF A WINE MASTER'S MUSIC CAREER

*A review from [hyperbolium.com](http://hyperbolium.com):*

Kermit Lynch is well-known to oenophiles for his unique wine importing business; but even his most ardent customers would be surprised to find he's also a gifted musician. With Ricky Fataar once again in the producer's seat (and drummer's throne), Lynch offers up his third course, adding an original title track to ten covers. Much like his taste in wines, Lynch's music is varied and at times eclectic. He sings country, rock, blues, folk, reggae, Cole Porter's "Every Time We Say Goodbye," and even the romantic WWII-era "It's Been a Long, Long Time." His voice is a bluesy instrument with the weathered edges of someone more partial to grain than grape, and it adds new shades to each interpretation. The opening original "Kitty Fur" has the blue jazz feel of Mose Allison, the Rolling Stones' "Winter" is played more like Sticky Fingers than Goats Head Soup, and Dylan's slight "Winterlude" (from 1970's *New Morning*) is slowed into a luscious waltz that's more classic country than the original's old-timey vibe. Lynch is backed by top-notch players, including Rick Vito on guitar, Michael Omartian on piano, Dennis Crouch, Michael Rhodes on bass, Glen Duncan on fiddle and Lloyd Green on pedal steel. The core players are augmented by a horn section for Bobby Blue Bland's "She's Puttin' Something in My Food," and sound really together as a band, suggesting Lynch is as accomplished at leading a band as he is leading a business.



---

# SPRING FEVER

by *Lori Varsames*

2009 **CHIGNIN BERGERON**  
**“ÉLEVÉ EN Foudre DE CHÈNE”**  
**A. & M. QUENARD**

Pretty, pretty, pretty! I have yet to try a white from the Quenards that was not as juicy as it was aromatic. This Chignin Bergeron may have been aged in cask, but there is no fear of getting whacked with oak—the subtlety it imparts only raises the natural fleshiness of the Roussanne grape to new heights. Notes of honey and flowers make this the perfect nectar for ham or seasonal fare like spring peas. And, personally, I love it solo.

2008 **RIESLING “FRONHOLZ”**  
**ANDRÉ OSTERTAG**

André Ostertag’s wines are magical. In their youth, they are stunning, but they only hint at the serious wines they will become with age. The shy cornucopian nose and the high-toned acidity of the ’08 Fronholz Riesling suggest bounty for those who wait, yet there’s a force to it that’s worth tasting when young. The quartz in the soil imbues the grapes with a vibrancy that seems to radiate. Sun + quartz + André = something divinely inspired.

2009 **CHINON “LES PETITES ROCHES”**  
**CHARLES JOGUET**

Les Petites Roches, or “little rocks,” assembles Cabernet Franc grapes from the gravelly, alluvial parcels along the Vienne and Loire rivers. This cuvée’s gentle nose of rose petals and cherries coupled with an assertive stoniness and brambly tannins had me instantly thinking of the ’80s power ballad, “Every Rose Has Its Thorn.” When I drink Chinon, I seek that edgy kick. Petites Roches is presented as an early drinking cuveé, but I’m convinced I can enjoy my little stash over the next decade. There appears to be a lot of “stuff” in there.



