

Spec's Countdown to the Holidays

2010

Mon Tue Wed Thr Fri Sat



Featured Wines

1. Quill Wines
2006 Howell Mountain Cabernet
2006 Diamond Mountain Cabernet
2006 Bismark Mountain Syrah
2. 2008 DuMol Chardonnay
Russian River Valley
3. 2005 Francois Gaunoux
Meursault "Tavaux Monopole"
4. 2007 Mica (Buccella)
Napa valley Caberne
6. 2007 Gemstone "Facets"
Napa Red Blend
(48% Cabernet Sauvignon,
42% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet
Franc and Petit Verdot)
7. 2006 Piaggia Carmignano Riserva
2007 Piaggia IGT Poggio de' Colli
-Cabernet Franc
8. 2009 Abiouness Rose (Pinot Noir)
9. 2006 Fairchild Estate
Cabernet "Napa"
2006 Fairchild Estate
Cabernet "Sigaro"
10. 2008 Pride Mountain
Vineyards Merlot
11. XVIII Sean Thackrey "Pleiades"
13. 2008 Scholium Project
"Gardens of Babylon" Red Blend
14. 2006 Paolo Bea Montefalco Rosso
"Vigna San Valentino"
15. 2007 Andre Brunel "Les Cailloux"
Chateauneuf du Pape
16. 2007 Phelps "Insignia"
17. 2007 Erna Schein
"Knock Out" Cabernet
18. 2009 Turley "Juvenile" Zinfandel
20. 2007 Staglin Cabernet
21. 2007 Altamura Cabernet
#5 Wine Spectator Top 100
22. 2007 Semper Pinot Noir
"Gold Ridge" Russian River Valley
"Ellenbach" Sonoma Coast
23. 1985 Veuve Clicquot "Rare" Brut
Rosé Champagne.
24. 2002 L'Extravagant de Doisy -
Daene Sauternes





Spec's Allocated Wine Offer

Day 24

2002 L'Extravagant de Doisy – Daene
Sauternes



\$267.18 per bottle cash!
2 bottle max allocation
3 case Allocation for Spec's

What a month! To end it on a high note I offer this 100 point Sauternes that was shipped directly from France to our front door earlier this month. This is 100 Point Parker from a dinner listed in the “Hedonist Gazette”.

“The Doisy-Daëne vineyard is unsurprisingly typical of Barsac, a mix of red sand and clay, with a solid limestone bedrock, peppered with fossilised shellfish. The vines are mature, the vineyard having been extensively replanted in the 1950s and 1960s, and thus they average more than 40 years of age. There are 15.9 hectares altogether, sandwiched between Climens and Coutet, two admirable neighbours indeed.”

Cases made – 100
Winemaker – Denis Debens
Wine Enthusiast Score –
Wine Advocate Score – 100 Points
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT
Wine Spectator – 93 Points
Nate's Score - NT
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words:*
I am opening this for NYE!

Day 23

1985 Veuve Clicquot "Rare" Brut Rosé
Champagne



\$118.74 per bottle cash!
2 bottle max allocation
5 case Allocation for Spec's

This offer is another “Christmas Miracle”. About 3 months ago I was able to get my hands on a few cases which some of you snatched up with abandon! This bottle was disgorged in 2007 from bottles taken from the Original 1992 release. Perfectly dosaged, this is hands down my favorite Sparkler of 2010. I have “Drank” it 5 times!!

Cases made – 1000
Winemaker – ?
Wine Enthusiast Score –
Wine Advocate Score – 92 Points
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT
Wine Spectator – 93 Points
Nate's Score - 95 Points
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words:*
Totally Unique, Tiny Bubbles, Dried Cherry!

Day 22

2007 Semper Pinot Noir
"Gold Ridge" Russian River Valley
"Ellenbach" Sonoma Coast



\$84.54 per Bottle!
3 each bottle max allocation
10 case Allocation for Spec's

The much heralded 2007 California Pinot Vintage has captivated all of us for the past 18 months. This could be your last chance to grab a piece of this historic vintage. Tuck Beckstoffer (Yes, that Beckstoffer) has crafted two of the finest bottles I tasted this year. No expense was spared to create these legendary small production bottles. Each is packaged in a gorgeous wood 3 pack. Perfect gift for the wine person who has everything. These 2 wines are made by Kenneth Juhasz (Auteur, Robert Stemmler, Donnum)

Cases made – Ellenbach Pinot Noir 213
Gold Ridge Pinot Noir 192
Winemaker – Kenneth Juhasz
Wine Enthusiast Score – (On the Cover!)
Gold Ridge – 97! Ellenbach – 95!
Wine Advocate Score - NT
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT
Wine Spectator – NT
Nate's Score - 94
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words:*
Tasted and Loved Both. Huge!

Day 21

2007 Altamura Cabernet
#5 Wine Spectator Top 100



\$84.54 per Bottle!
12 bottle max allocation
20 case Allocation for Spec's

I know I am asking for trouble by sending this offer out, but hey I sent out Turley? The 2007 Altamura requests have been backing up on my desk for close to 2 months. Located in Wooden Valley this Cabernet is singular. This will sell out. The winery has put a 3 bottle limit on this amazing Cabernet!

Cases made – 3000
Winemaker – Frank Altamura
Wine Advocate Score - NT
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT
Wine Spectator – 96 Points and #5 Top 100!
Nate's Score - 94
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words:*
Coffee, Earth, Dark Fruit, Classic

Day 20

2007 Staglin Cabernet



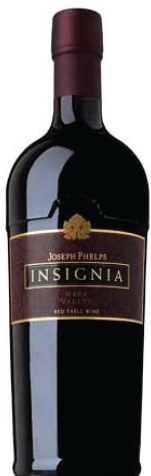
\$173.99 per bottle cash!
3 bottle max allocation
5 case Allocation for Spec's

This Napa "Blue Chip" property celebrates its 25th Anniversary with this stellar 2007 Cabernet. This Rutherford jewel did land in Wine Spectator's Top 100 this year making it even more impossible to find. This historic bottle will sell out.

Cases made – 2500
Winemaker – Fredrik Johansson
Wine Advocate Score – 94 Points
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – NT Points
Wine Spectator – 98 Points! #16 Top 100
Nate's Score - 96 Points
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words*
Massive, Dense, Classic Rutherford Dust

Day 18

2009 Turley "Juvenile" Zinfandel



\$21.71 per bottle cash!
2 bottle max allocation
10 case Allocation for Spec's

This is the starting point in the Turley Portfolio. Always fresh and vibrant. It is also a tradition going back 7 years that there is a bottle of Turley on my Christmas table. FYI Helen Turley has not been involved in this project since 1995. My gift to you is securing enough for an offer this year! This will sell out!

Cases made – Around 4000
Winemaker – Ehren Jordan
Wine Advocate Score – NT
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – NT Points
Wine Spectator – NT
Nate's Score - 90 Points
Your Score - ?
Pepper, Plum, Medium Body, Drink

Day 17

2007 Erna Schein “Knock Out” Cabernet



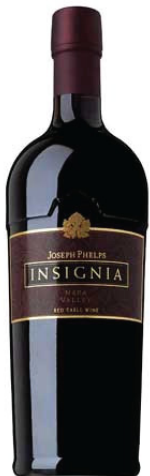
\$90.99 per bottle cash
6 bottle max allocation
? case Allocation for Spec's

One of my favorite wineries on the planet can be found high up on Spring Mountain. This winery used to be called Behrens & Hitchcock. With a eye towards the future they have made wines that are both “Classic Napa” and “New Napa” This wine is explosive, impossible to find, a instant conversation starter and a great gift!

Cases made – 280
Winemaker – Les Behrens and Lisa Drinkward
Wine Advocate Score – NT
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – 91 – 93 Points
Wine Spectator – 93 Points
Nate's Score - 95 Points
Your Score - ?
Wow, Big, Bad, Bold, DECANT!

Day 16

2007 Phelps “Insignia”



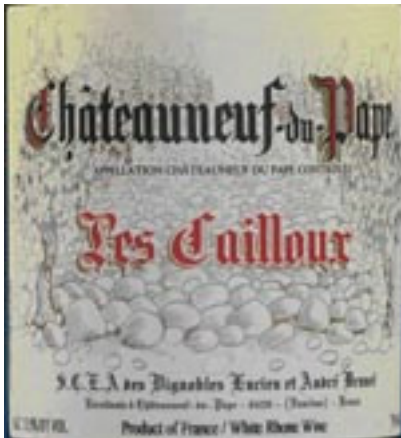
\$151.99 per bottle cash
6 bottle max allocation
? case Allocation for Spec's

How do they keep quality so high at Phelps with a case production so high? Meticulous attention to detail, great Vineyards, and a passionate staff that builds on tradition. This is the best Insignia I have ever tasted. It is most certainly as classic as 2002 (which I have cracked recently). The winery is asking \$225 for this bottle. Our price is unheard of!

Cases made – 13,500
Winemaker – Ashley Hepworth
Wine Advocate Score – 97–100 Points
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – 94 Points
Wine Spectator – 96 Points
Nate's Score - 95 Points
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words:*
Cedar, Blueberry, Cocoa, Smooth, Huge!

Day 15

2007 Andre Brunel “Les Cailloux”
Chateauneuf du Pape



\$44.59 per bottle cash
6 bottle max allocation
14 case Allocation for Spec's

I don't need to tell you how good these 2007 CDPs are, you already know. Most of you have been bugging me non-stop for almost 2 years to get my hands on as many of these wines as possible. This wine just got to Texas and it is showing like a champ. Made up of 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre, 12% Syrah, and 3% Cinsault. Open one now, open one every year for 10 years and watch this evolve into a classic.

Cases made – 3,750
Winemaker – Andre Brunel
Wine Advocate Score – 93 Points
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – NT
Wine Spectator – 92 Points
Nate's Score - 93 Points
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words: *
Huge Fruit, Subtle Meat, Vibrant

Day 14

2006 Paolo Bea Montefalco Rosso “Vigna San Valentino”



\$32.18 per Bottle!
4 bottle max allocation
4 case Allocation for Spec's

To expound on the theme of the last 2 wines I have chosen this stellar Italian producer's Red Blend. Made in the same way, with no intervention Giampiero Bea crafts wines naturally. This wine is a blend of 70% Sangiovese, 15% Sagrantino and 15% Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. All of Bea's wine are stellar but this one especially so for it is half the price of previous vintages! It was declassified due to being light in color by the DOC?

Cases made – less than 600
Winemaker – Giampiero Bea
Wine Advocate Score - 90
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT
Wine Spectator – NT
Nate's Score - 92 Points (tasted once)
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words: *
Leather, Spice, Kirsch, Acid, DECANT

Day 13

2008 Scholium Project

“Gardens of Babylon” Red Blend



\$33.89 per Bottle!

3 bottle max allocation

? case Allocation for Spec's

Scholium Project is now available in Texas! This wine will make you think. It is not for the faint of heart. If you have been wanting to try something new and interesting now is your chance. 55% Petite Sirah, 17% Merlot, 11% Mourvedre, 11% Cinsault, 3% Syrah, 3% Sangiovese!
<http://scholiumwines.com/>

Cases made – 420

Winemaker – Abe Schoener

Wine Advocate Score - NT

Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT

Wine Spectator – NT

Nate's Score - 93 Points

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Dark, Brooding Fruit, Balanced, Unique

Day 11

XVIII Sean Thackrey “Pleiades”



\$25.57 per Bottle!

6 bottle max allocation

8 case Allocation for Spec's

Sean Thackrey's wines are as elusive as he is. This is his “Work Horse” field red. I have let a few of these go to some of you already to rave reviews. These wines are made in open top fermentors under the stars. Sean's neighbors in Bolinas say they can tell when he is making wine for the can hear the bee buzz.

Cases made – 500

Winemaker – Sean Thackrey

Wine Advocate Score - NT

Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT

Wine Spectator – NT

Nate's Score - 91 Points (Drank 3 times)

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Sweet Nose, Floral, Spice, Cherry

Day 8

2009 Abiouness Rose (Pinot Noir)



\$18.29 cash price
3 bottle max allocation
5 case allocation for Spec's

Winemaker Nicole Abiouness has made wine all over the world including Bugundy and Australia. In California she crafts Pinot from some of the most respected vineyards. This Rose is most certainly my favorite Rose of the year and certainly in my top 10 wines of the year. Produce Saignée from the Hudson and Stanly Ranch Pinot this is full bodied and wonderful. I know you are asking why I am offering a Rose while it is cold outside? The reason is simple; Rose at my house as a warm up to the Holiday meal is mandatory!

Cases made – 106!
Winemaker – Nicole Abiouness
Wine Advocate Score - NT
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT
Wine Spectator – NT
Nate's Score - 95 Points
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words:*
Bone dry, full bodied, Stellar

Day 7

2006 Piaggia Carmignano Riserva
2007 Piaggia IGT Poggio de' Colli –
Cabernet Franc



Carmignano
\$45.50 per bottle cash
Poggio de' Colli
\$51.99 per bottle cash
6 bottle each max allocation
7 case Allocation for Spec's

As you already know Joe Kemble is our Italian Wine buyer. Working closely with Joe allows me to taste more Italian wines than should be allowed by law. After tasting these 2 wines with him I begged for him to allow me to offer these to you.

“Late harvests, low yields, lengthy macerations and no fining/filtration are the rule at Piaggia. These new releases from proprietor Mauro Vannucci show exceptional balance, and his 2006s are the best wines I have ever tasted from the estate.” – The Wine Advocate, Aug. 2009

Cases made – both around 1000
Winemaker - Mauro Vannucci
Wine Advocate Score – Carmignano
94 Points , Poggio de' Colli
92 Points
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – Carmignano 92 Points ,
Wine Spectator – NT
Nate's Score - Both Awesome – 93 +
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words:*
One of the best Italian!

Day 10

2008 Pride Mountain Vineyards Merlot



\$37.29 per Bottle!

6 bottle max allocation

20 case allocation for Spec's

This is the 10th vintage of Pride Merlot I have had the pleasure of tasting. Robert Foley is no longer the Winemaker but I see very little in change of style. This is one of the most sought after wines from behind my desk. This will sell out!

Factoid: Pride Mountain is the only winery that is both in Napa and Sonoma.

Cases made – 5052

Winemaker – Sally Johnson

Wine Advocate Score - NT

Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT

Wine Spectator – NT

Nate's Score - 91 Points (tasted twice)

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Napa – Ripe, blue fruit, cigar box.

Day 9

2006 Fairchild Estate Cabernet "Napa"

2006 Fairchild Estate Cabernet "Sigaro"



Napa - \$121.99

Sigaro \$142.99

3 bottle max allocation

5 case allocation for Spec's

This is another wine I chased for about a year just so I could offer it to you! Owner Larry Fairchild stated with a goal of making small production Cabernet with the one of the best winemakers around, Paul Hobbs. He succeeded and in 2002 released his first vintage. With production this small you can guess the amount of begging I had to do! You will not find these wines retail anywhere in Texas except here. They are at the top restaurants in Houston! Jim Barbour is the vineyard manager!
www.fairchildwines.com

Cases made – Napa 150 / Sigaro 100

Winemaker – Paul Hobbs

Wine Advocate Score - NT

Stephen Tanzer IWC Score - NT

Wine Spectator – NT

Nate's Score - 96 Points

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Napa – fruit, smooth tannins, classic

Sigaro - Cedar, Spice, everything nice. Awesome!

Day 6

2007 Gemstone “Facets”

Napa Red Blend

(48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot)



\$64.99 per bottle cash

4 bottle max allocation

5 case Allocation for Spec's

This “second label” may be harder to secure than the first label “Gemstone”. Philippe Melka (Hundred Acre, Roy, Seavey, Vineyard 29) is not only a master wine maker but also a master blender. The hillside vineyards at Gemstone produce richly layered wines vintage after vintage. Usually only available to restaurants this may be your only chance to purchase this juice. The G stands for Great!

“Their second label, Facets, is one of the finest second wines made in Napa”
– Robert Parker

Cases made - 600

Winemaker – Melka

Wine Advocate Score – 93 points

Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – NT

Wine Spectator - NT

Nate's Score - 94 Points

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Silk, Layered Terroir, Blackberry

Nate's Score - 93 Points (tasted twice)

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Baked Apple Nose, Brioche, WOW

Day 4

2007 Mica (Buccella)

Napa valley Cabernet



\$60.79 per bottle cash

4 bottle max allocation

5 case Allocation for Spec's

Last year you guys swallowed this wine up in record time. 2007 was just released and as you can imagine it is showing better than the 2006. Made by Cult darling Celia Welch (Scarecrow) from leftovers of the blending process of Buccella. This second label is in no way second fiddle. This short, stout, bottle packs one heck of a punch!

Cases made - 562

Winemaker – Celia Welch

Wine Advocate Score – NT

Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – NT

Wine Spectator - NT

Cal Wine – 93 Points

Nate's Score - 93 Points

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Depth, Cocoa Powder, Black Fruit

Day 3

2005 Francois Gaunoux Meursault “Tavaux Monopole”



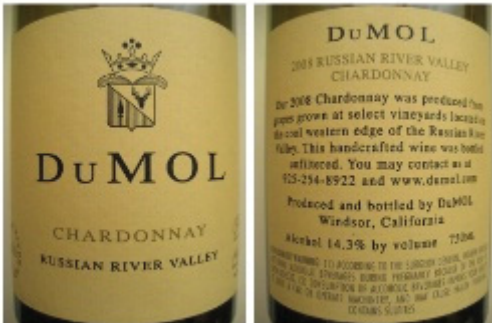
\$58.89 per bottle cash
6 bottle max allocation
10 case Allocation for Spec's

Yes, this an 2005 Mersault for under \$100! This just arrived from across the pond and it is a stunner regardless of price. The father / daughter team of Francois and Claudine Gaunoux purchase no fruit and are true stewards of the land. Thank you Doug Skopp for another wonderful selection!

Cases made – ?
Winemaker – Francois and Claudine Gaunoux
Wine Advocate Score – NT
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – NT
Wine Spectator – NT
Nate's Score - 93 Points
Your Score - ?
Nate's 5 Words:*
Apricot, Nutty, Medium Weight, Awesome

Day 2

2008 DuMol Chardonnay Russian River Valley



\$56.33 per bottle cash
4 bottle max allocation
4 case Allocation for Spec's

Let us first start with “No, I did not get any Pinot!” Now that that is out of the way let us talk about Dumol Chardonnay. This 8 vineyard blend is sourced from vineyards you should recognize 62% Dutton Ranch 24% Heintz, 9% DuMOL Estate & 5% Searby. Another cult darling, this workhorse Chard screams Sur Lie, with depth not often found in California Chardonnay.

Cases made –4,400
Winemaker – Andy Smith
Wine Advocate Score – 90 -92 Points
Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – 89
Wine Spectator – 91 Points

Day 1

Quill Wines

2006 Howell Mountain Cabernet

2006 Diamond Mountain Cabernet

2006 Bismark Mountain Syrah



\$56.33 per bottle cash

4 bottle each max allocation

7 case Allocation for Spec's

These offers may look easy on the surface but I am here to tell you it took almost a year for me to facilitate getting Quill into Texas for one of my offers. This is the first vintage from what will become a household name in the Cult wine world. I have made some of you appointments at this property and you agreed with me, these wines are special! I grouped them together on one offer for you have to taste all three in order to fully grip this wine and this winemaker. www.quillwine.com

Cases made – Howell 216 / Diamond 264 / Syrah 144

Winemaker – Abe Schoener! (Scholium)

Wine Advocate Score – NT

Stephen Tanzer IWC Score – NT

Wine Spectator – NT

Nate's Score - all three 95 Points (tasted four times)

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Buy and try for yourself!

Nate's Score - 93 Points (tasted twice)

Your Score - ?

Nate's 5 Words:*

Baked Apple Nose, Brioche, WOW



All wines must be picked up at will call in the Smith Street location All wines are allocated on a first come first served basis. All prices are cash per bottle. If you would like to purchase the wine in this offer please respond to this email with your request. I will then put your order together and will confirm with an email response. Please print this confirmation email, if possible, to present at pick up. If I am slow to respond or do not respond at all please call 713-526-8787 ext. 21243. It may be a technical issue. Please check your receipt for errors before you leave the store.

Due to overwhelming response to these allocation offers I take all requests in the order I receive them. All wines will sell out quickly and these offers are time sensitive. Unless other arrangements are made I will hold all allocations for 14 days. Any orders not picked up during this time period will be re-allocated to the waiting list.

These wines are not available on any shelf at Spec's. They are only available through this offer!

*I will describe all wines with 5 words. Wine, like all art, is subjective. By keeping my descriptions to 5 words my hope is to convey a thought and leave true judgment up to you!

- Nate Rose

Allocation Specialist / Fine Wine Consultant - Spec's Wine, 713.526.8787 ext. 21243

TO BE REMOVED from this list, please reply to this email with the word "Remove" in the subject line. If your email address we sent to is different than the one you are replying from, please let us know how we have you listed so we can process your request.