



December 2016—TL CLUB

Josef Spreitzer "101" Riesling 2015

Rheingau, Germany

The Spreitzer estate, founded in 1641 and one of the oldest in the Rheingau, benefits from a long tradition in winemaking as well as the recent modern winemaking innovations of sons Andreas and Bernd Spreitzer who have controlled the estate since 1997.

Viticulture practices are as natural as possible at Spreitzer, and include alternating cover crops of herbs, greens, and lentils in the summer with grains in the winter. The Spreitzers strive to maintain fruit and finesse of their grapes by pumping over the must of their wines by gravity for 24 hours after whole-cluster pressing, then allowing the wines to rest on their lees and only filtering once (a painstaking, manual process). The Spreitzers employ a long fermentation, and extended lees aging to protect the juice from oxidation. Mostly ambient (natural) yeasts are employed for fermentation in both temperature controlled stainless steel and 1200 liter casks of German wood, called stückfass. The resulting wines show great pedigree and intensity.

We chose this particular Riesling for its depth of flavor and finesse. Notes of just baked apples marry seamlessly with gripping acidity and culminate in a wine that is as indulgent as it is refreshing.



Masseria Furfante Uva Di Troia 2013

Puglia, Italy

Masseria Furfante is the 2nd label of Rivera, one of the more iconic wineries in the north of Puglia. The De Corato family roots go deep into the agriculture of Puglia. Sebastiano de Corato founded the Azienda Vinicola Rivera in the late 1940s, inspired by a vision of realizing, and bringing to the world's attention, the enormous viticultural potential of the Castel del Monte area.

Widespread recognition quickly followed and since then Rivera, has become the benchmark of Puglia quality wine production and the force driving its rebirth, thanks also to innovations in both vineyards and winemaking introduced since the early 1980s by his son Carlo.

Today, with the involvement of the third generation of the family represented by Carlo's sons Sebastiano and Marco, Rivera continues with pride and renewed commitment the production of wines that eloquently express the intense yet elegant character of this land and its native grape varieties.

This is a wine pressed from the varietal called Uva di Troia or more popularly, Nero di Troia, which is a semi-aromatic grape that thrives in warm, coastal vineyard sites in Puglia, Italy. Showcasing 100% Estate grown fruit that is fermented in only stainless steel to preserve its varietal characteristics, the resulting wine is aged for an additional year in the bottle before being released to the market.

Highly aromatic and fruity on the nose leading to a palate of dried cherries, tobacco, and subtle spiciness with lively acidity and mild tannins, this wine will serve as a welcomed accompaniment to herb rubbed pork and risotto.





December 2016—B2 CLUB

Chateau Le Puy 2012 "Emilien"

Bordeaux, France

Owned by the Amoreau family since 1610, Château Le Puy overlooks the Dordogne valley on the same geological plateau as Saint-Emilion and Pommerol, once called by the Ancients the "Plateau of Wonders". The Château was originally built at the beginning of the 17th century.

Currently the family of Jean-Pierre, Françoise and Pascal are the 15th generation of winemakers. They tend to look towards their ancestry for guidance as the winemaking methods are very old and reminiscent of those used in the 1940's and 1950's with a great respect of the terroir. They work using biodynamic principles, implying no chemicals on the soil, low yields, no pitching of commercial yeast strains or chaptalization, resulting in long ageing practices and very low added sulphites. These practices then allow the Amoreau family to express the pure expression of the terroir and to produce incredible wines that will be able to age for decades. Also, the names of the wines are inherited from their ancestors' names, expressing all their gratitude to them.

Jean-Pierre's definition of a wine grower:

"Being a wine grower is being an artist with method, audacious with reflection, enthusiast with meditation, ardent with patience, stubborn with imagination, thrifty with generosity".

This bottling expresses the culmination of a plot of vines planted to 85% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Carménère. Emilien is matured in oak barrels and casks for 24 months before being bottled.

The nose is fruity, with ripe red fruit aromas dominated by currant, accented with roasted almond notes and hints of mushrooms and forest undergrowth. The palate is well-rounded, full-bodied but precise, with velvety tannins paving the way for a finish that is long and enjoyably complex. A wine of great finesse, with smooth tannins in its youth but the potential to age and grow for several decades, revealing the full depth and character of this prestigious terroir.

