



March 2017—TL CLUB

Columna 2015 Albarino, Rias Baixas Spain

Made from 100% Albarino grapes tended in granite soil. The vineyards are located next to the Miño river in Galicia (Northwestern Spain) within the Condado de Tea subzone of Rías Baixas. Out of the 5 Sub-zones of Rías Baixas, Condado de Tea is the most southern and furthest from the Atlantic Ocean. Northwestern Spain is known for making the best white wines in the Iberian Peninsula. Out of the 200+ indigenous grapes found in this area, Albariño is the queen. Columna is a very unique expression of this varietal due to its southern, interior location which results in a style that is bright, floral, mineral and at the same time rich.

The winemaker Rodri Mendez is no less than Raul Perez's disciple and right hand man. In fact, Columna is vinified in the same winery where Sketch (the under the water wine) is produced. The goal in producing Columna is to showcase the purity of the Albariño grape in a 100% unoaked style from a unique micro-climate that produces richer, fuller, and often more balanced Albariño wines.



Wind Gap 2015 "Soif" Red Blend North Coast, CA

Wine lovers will know the name Pax Mahle from his first winery - PAX - which garnered high scores and much notoriety. Though he has always been influenced by French styles of winemaking, it was the bold, powerful Syrahs that first brought praise and attention to Pax in his new chapter as Sommelier-turned-Winemaker.

Pax was sourcing fruit from a number of different vineyards within northern California. One year, a particular vineyard had an unusually cool growing season. Fermenting the fruit in single barrels, Pax found that the wines produced from this cooler site had the alluring freshness he had always loved in French wines. He believed they were the kind of wines one could drink every night with dinner, regardless of season. Pax continued experimenting with fruit from cooler growing regions and began picking at lower sugar levels, and in the mid-2000s created the Wind Gap label as an outlet for his new direction.



Soif is the French word for "thirst". This is an absolutely delicious wine that is bound to make you thirst for more of it after your first sip. Old-Vines, Carbonic Maceration in concrete and aging in concrete create a wine of intensity and electricity. Composed of 30% Valdigue, 25% Zinfandel, 15% Carignan, 12% Petit Sirah, 10% Dolcetto, 5% Negro Amaro, and 3% Mourvèdre.





March 2017—B2 CLUB

Benevelli Piero 2012 "Ravera Di Monforte" Barolo Piedmont, Italy

It was in 1978 that Piero Benevelli started out with five hectares of vines in Monforte d'Alba and focused on the traditional grapes of Piedmont: Nebbiolo, Dolcetto, and Barbera. His son, Massimo, started his training in the vineyard at age 14 and quickly learned the core principle that still guides him today - to make great wine, you must first have great grapes.

The young Massimo Benevelli has developed into an extremely talented Piemontese grower. He exhibits a total command of the production process, from vine to bottle. When tasting his production during various stages of aging-in barrel, tank, and bottle-there is a consistency, a touch, an intangible quality that is the mark of something great. His wines show character, soul, and originality.

The Benevelli holdings are mostly concentrated in the southeastern-facing hillside cru of "Ravera" in the deep southeast of the Barolo zone. The wines from Ravera have the distinction of combining the structural strength of neighboring Serralunga d'Alba with the concentration and richness of Bussia and the other crus further north. Massimo's Baroli are approachable young but like any great Barolo, reveal their true potential after at least five years or more in bottle. His Dolcetto and Langhe Nebbiolo are true Piemontese delights as well-classic and full of pleasure.

