



June 2017—TL CLUB

Hans Wirsching 2016 Rosé, Franken, Germany

Wirsching is one of the largest privately owned estates in Germany. In 1630 Hans Wirsching donated a vineyard to the Abbey at Ebrach, this sale is one of the first instances documenting the Wirsching family's involvement in wine. Throughout the centuries the Wirsching's have continued their love for, and involvement in, the business of agriculture and wine growing.

In the late 19th century, the phylloxera plague devastated the European wine industry. Andreas Wirsching died at an early age, and his widow focused on a shop which fed children in the village. Andreas' passing could have easily spelled the end of wine production for the Wirsching family. However, in 1918, Andreas' son Hans Wirsching returned from World War I. Hans was only 23 at the time, but he made the decision to put all of his energy into rebuilding the vineyards.

This Rosé is produced from 100% Pinot Noir. Juicy with notes of red berries and stone fruit that lead the way to a crisp minerality, and a dry finish. Perfect for pounding on the patio, porch, or pool while chanting the mantra "Rosé All Day!"



Sierra De Toloño 2014 Tempranillo, Rioja, Spain

After working her way around wineries in Bordeaux, Chianti Classico, Marlborough, California and Priorato, Sandra Bravo Marin returned home to La Rioja to make a single vineyard, natural wine. Located in Labastida at 650m, the vineyard is one of the highest in Rioja, and is protected from the northern winds by the winery's namesake, Sierra de Tolono.

The conditions of the vineyard, including its north/south orientation, calcareous clay soil, altitude and moderate rainfall allow the fruit to ripen gradually, retaining its natural acidity while allowing sugar to accumulate slowly. Practicing minimal intervention, Sandra harvests, racks and bottles on dates that are determined by the moon.

Winemaker Sandra Bravo uses minimal intervention in the crafting of her wines, allowing for the pure elegance of the fruit to shine through. The vineyards are at a relatively high altitude in Rioja Alavesa, which is known for its poor soils. For winegrapes though, poor soils are a plus, because they lead to fruit with greater concentration and acidity. This wine shows great balance between dark, rich fruit and delicate, floral aromatics. Great acidity keeps it lively and fresh. Intense color with purple hues. The aromas of violet and Mediterranean herbs complement the delicate chocolate and toasted notes from the subtle maturation in oak.





June 2017—B2 CLUB

Rafael Et Fils 2013 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Oak Knoll, Napa

Rafael Et Fils is the culmination of two generations of family viticulture and winemaking. Run by Marc, the son of Georg and Rosie Rafael, they've successfully transformed a history of supplying premier Napa Valley grapes to other producers into their own estate winery. Georg and Rosie purchased their acreage in Napa 30 years ago at a time when still doing so was still somewhat affordable. In 1985 an opportunity presented itself to own a magical patch of dirt in the then unnamed Oak Knoll District; 50 acres of former cattle ranching land, so steeply inclined that only 25 acres could be planted.

Today the family still sells some of it's fruit to other Napa producers but reserves their favorite plots to create wines under their own label. With a bent towards respecting Old World traditions Marc uses minimal intervention in his vineyards to craft wines of balance still bear the signature of their Napa Valley home.

Marc's Cab is an inky ruby purple in color. Classic aromas of blackberry, cedar, black currant and licorice are initially expressed. With time in the glass, complex notes of blueberry, dark chocolate, plum, black tea and cherry are also revealed. The wine has a rich, elegant structure that allows it to be enjoyed on its own or with food. The experience is capped off by rich, smooth long finish. Additional layers of complexity and richness will be revealed over multiple days. The wine will age gracefully for 15-20 years. 778 cases produced.

