

# WINE CLUB

APRIL 2019

## French Exploration

### Rouge

#### **Rouge - Chateau Unang Ventoux, France**

Grape: 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Cinsault  
The Ventoux is North of Marseille, the site where grape vines were first planted in France! This is an historic region for wine growing in the Mediterranean, with vineyard sites spanning back millennia. Unang is a famous Chateaneuf du Pape producer, and this is their wine from just next door in Ventoux.

#### **Rouge - Chateau Mourgues du Gres 'Galets Rouges' Costieres de Nimes, France**

60% Syrah, 30% Grenache, 10% other Rhone varieties  
Compare this tasty wine to the Unang Ventoux. Both wines are Grenache-Syrah blends, but the Mourgues is 60% Syrah and the Unang was 60% Grenache. Comparing these two blends illuminates the difference a predominance of Grenache or Syrah will bring to a blend. Mourgues farms using biodynamics-- a low-intervention form of organic wine making. Their production is small, and the wines are delicious.

#### **Rouge - Yohan Lardy 'Les Michelons' Moulin-a-Vent, Beaujolais, France**

Grape: Gamay  
The soil in the Michelons vineyards is crumbly pink granite full of Manganese. Yohan is low-intervention, eschewing sulfur and interference during fermentation. He believes in using indigenous yeasts to get complex flavors. He ages the wine in Burgundy barrels. A fine example of Burgundy's Cru of Moulin-a-Vent!

### Blanc

#### **Blanc - La Croix des Pins 'Les Villages' Ventoux, France**

Grape: Marsanne-Roussanne-Grenache Blanc-Clairette  
Rhone blends made from Blanc varieties tend to be richer and more concentrated than wines of, say, the Loire. The unctuousness of Marsanne and Roussanne, and their deep fruited flavors of peach and melon always give southern Rhone blancs a hefty palate.

#### **Blanc - Betes Curieuses 'La Perdrix' Muscadet, Loire, France**

Grape: Melon de Bourgogne  
Grown just off the coast of the Mediterranean in France's Loire valley, this vineyard sits on a granite outcropping. The result is a wine with a firm texture, with all the crisp brightness you find from the Melon de Bourgogne grape. Muscadets have long been go-to choices for seafood wine pairings.

#### **Blanc - Buisson Saint Romain, Burgundy, France**

Grape: Chardonnay  
There is no place quite like Saint Romain. Most villages in Burgundy are dominated by hills that rise up from the landscape. Saint Romain is a little different: here, it seems as if someone scraped a valley into the land. The vineyards are planted on both sides of the valley, and the planting site is small, with just a few producers. When you stand at one end of the valley, you can clearly see the other end, and you can walk to it over the length of a few football fields. Buisson farms organically and makes stunning, breathtaking, wine that unfolds endlessly on the palate.