

# MAY 2021 CLUB SELECTIONS



## 2018 HOURGLASS HG III RED BLEND NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Hourglass is two vineyards, a winery and a compilation of estate wines: a vision unfolding..



Jeff Smith founded Hourglass in 1997 from his family's 4-acre parcel located just north of St. Helena, where Napa Valley forms its narrowest point, the "pinch" of the Hourglass. The storied Cabernet Sauvignon produced from this vineyard started the journey that continues to unfold today. The magic of this vineyard property would soon prove itself, as it debuted in a blind tasting alongside the recognized California Cabernet giants of the day and held its own in that rare company.



The Blueline Estate was acquired in 2006. This vineyard property was formed by the "blue-line" streams that drain the canyons sweeping up into the mountains above the property, creating the riverbed soils that underpin the character of the wines from Blueline Estate. Here, Hourglass farms the five classic Bordeaux varieties, and produces small quantities of deeply concentrated, yet vibrantly alive wines.



Today, under the guiding hand of winemaker Tony Biagi, Hourglass continues to refine its approach and bring its estate wines to new heights of craft and expression. Hourglass strives to farm their vineyards mindfully, and produce terroir-driven wines of the highest character.



HG III is Tony Biagi's riff on a Napa Valley red blend. Created with select lots from the Blueline Estate and carefully sourced vineyards in Napa Valley, HG III embodies the deft balance of richness and vibrancy that is at the heart of what they do at Hourglass. Merlot offers sleek, approachable texture and bright red fruit components. Petite Sirah provides the anchoring bass notes of dark blue and black fruit, and Cabernet Sauvignon weaves these together with structural framing and elegant refinement; the final blend was aged for 15 months in a combination new and seasoned French oak.



Deep purple with a garnet rim. Lifted aromatics of dark plum and subtle hints of grilled meats and garrigue. The palate is saturated with flavors of blackberry, blueberry and sweet cedar. Voluptuous, with a very sumptuous texture; rich and concentrated yet balanced by juicy acidity and well-integrated tannins. Just delicious!

Cellaring Recommendation: 10 - 15 Years

## RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

■ SUGGESTED RECIPE: Grilled Boneless Short Ribs with Scallion-Sumac Gremolata

■ RETAIL: \$50.00  
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$42.50

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## 2017 POPLAR GROVE “MUNSON MOUNTAIN VINEYARD” CABERNET FRANC OKANAGAN VALLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



Founded in 1993, Poplar Grove Winery is one of the original five wineries on the Naramata Bench in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. Barb and Tony Holler purchased their original homestead property in 2004, and purchased the Poplar Grove winery in 2007. Holler Estate Vineyards started with their original five acres of Merlot. Today, the family farms more than 130 acres of estate vineyards featuring eight key varietals which include Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Viognier, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. The family is widely recognized for crafting their outstanding signature red blend The Legacy, as well as delicious Cabernet Franc and Merlot focused red wines and an exceptional Pinot Gris. The Hollers are leading the journey to put Okanagan Valley wines on the map with an unwavering commitment to traditional farming and winemaking principles.



The 2017 Cabernet Franc (100%) is a micro-selection of the best lots from the estate vineyard on the slope of Penticton's landmark Munson Mountain, just below the winery. The Cabernet Franc was hand-picked and sorted in the Munson Mountain estate vineyard by the Poplar Grove Winery team. The berries were crushed and cold-soaked for three days. The wine lots were kept separate for 18 months in both new and older French oak barrels before the final blend was assembled for bottling. It was then aged in bottle for an additional 18 months prior to release.



Dark garnet with purple hues. Complex aromatics of dark fruit, black olive and mint. Mouth-filling flavors of blackberry, blueberry, plum and a hint of pipe tobacco. Very opulent. Beautiful texture. An extremely sexy and sophisticated iteration of Cabernet Franc, and a fine testament to the potential of the Okanagan. Absolutely fabulous!



Cellaring Recommendation: 5 - 7 Years



## RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

■ SUGGESTED RECIPE: Cedar Plank Smoked Stuffed Portobello Mushrooms

■ RETAIL: \$40.00  
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$34.00

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## 2018 DOMAINE LA BOUÏSSIERE ROUGE CÔTES DU RHÔNE AOP, FRANCE



Domaine la Bouissiere cares for some of the highest vineyards in Gigondas, thus their estate wines are markedly more balanced, elegant and age-worthy than wines from the lowlands. In the 1960s, estate founder Antonin Faravel began to carve his vineyards out of the crumbling stone cliffs of the Dentelles de Montmirail (pictured on the family's wine labels). He knew that the cooler temperatures and rocky soils would produce perfectly ripe grapes, with better acid balance and lower alcohols. While other winemakers quickly followed Antonin's lead, Domaine la Bouissiere without question is the original, high-altitude Gigondas. These vineyards are so steep that the Faravels must use a tractor with caterpillar treads to get up and down! This "higher-is-better" philosophy extends as well to the family's Vacqueyras, where their older vines grow on a plateau that catches the cooling mistral as it sweeps down from the Alps. Winemakers (and brothers) Thierry and Giles Faravel border on the fanatical when it comes to the health of their vines and grapes. Theirs are wines that are intimately tied to and faithfully reflect the rugged, sensual beauty of the southern Rhone landscape from which they're born.



This enchanting Côtes du Rhône blend is sourced from 30-year-old vines from the south-east facing estate vineyards (sitting at 1,050 feet altitude), with soils that are a mix clay and limestone, and from a selection of declassified, younger-vine fruit from plots in the Beaumes de Venise AOC. The grapes were hand-harvested, destemmed and lightly crushed, before being fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled cement tanks. The wines was aged in cement tank and moved via gravity, before being bottled unfiltered and unfiltered, with minimal sulfur addition.



Dazzling garnet robe, with flashes of red. Juicy aromas of black fruits and wild herbs. The palate bursts with luscious flavors of sweet red fruits, blackberries, and a hint of cured olive. Velvety tannins with a touch of baking spices on the finish. A lovely example of the succulent charm typical of Southern Rhône Grenache!

Cellaring Recommendation: 3 - 5 years



## RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

■ SUGGESTED RECIPE: Porterhouse with Summer Au Poivre Sauce

■ RETAIL: \$25.00  
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$21.25