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Kalin Classics

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A Rostaing Triumph

A Côte Rôtie Legend Scores Big in the Great 2005 Vintage

"I have at this quite early stage to place 2005 in the realm of 1978."

*John Livingstone-Learmonth
on the 2005 Northern Rhône*

As in nearby Burgundy, the Northern Rhône was blessed with a year for the ages in 2005. Its Syrah grapes reached a perfect maturity in which powerful depth of fruit is balanced against superb structure.

Nowhere was this more true than in Côte Rôtie, whose best wines bear more than a passing resemblance to the best 2005 red Burgundy. In fact, Livingstone-Learmonth* urges Burgundy lovers to experience them, if only to learn "why you didn't stray south earlier."

The Great Rostaing '05s

For much of the past two decades, Côte Rôtie's most Burgundian wines have been those of René Rostaing. This is again the case in 2005. His Côte Rôtie trilogy—Classique, La Landonne and Côte Blonde—have surreal balance and that incredible combination of texture and bouquet that we most often associate with great Burgundy.

**John Livingstone-Learmonth has for over three decades devoted himself to the wines of the Rhône Valley. He's the author of several books on Rhône wines, including *The Wines of the Northern Rhône* (University of California Press 2005). His subscription website, www.DrinkRhône.com, is an outstanding source of tasting notes and grower profiles.*



At left, René Rostaing, and at right, his vines just below La Turque.

Rostaing's Côte Rôties are magical—their character at least in part attributable to his awesome vineyards, a number of which once belonged to Marius Gentaz-Dervieux and Albert Dervieux-Thaize. But others in Côte Rôtie have great vineyards and don't make wines like René's. The secret, we believe, is his obsessive perfectionism and his distrust of fashion.

Essentially a traditionalist, his methods have evolved slowly and painstakingly over the past 25 years. He uses only enough new wood (about 20%) to produce perfectly aged wines, without overwhelming the subtle Syrah perfume. He seeks optimum maturity in the vineyard, so it's no surprise that his wines are consistently marvels of elegance, refinement and sublime bouquet.

This Offer

René Rostaing's 2005s rival anything made that year; they offer great richness and intense fruit delicately balanced against superb acidity and tannin. These are 20+ year wines that will reveal enormous complexity as they age.

Rostaing believes this is his finest vintage yet, surpassing even 1991, his previous favorite. Not only does he have better vineyards now, but the 2005s are more powerfully structured. On page 2, please find our offer of these monumental wines. ►

NO. RHONE & GRAVES

The Monumental Rostaing 2005s

2005 Côte Blonde 94 Raynolds \$149.95

Josh Raynolds: "Deep cherry and creme de cassis aromas are complicated by cured tobacco, olive, licorice, espresso and minerals, along with a suave floral overtone. Deep, sweet and palate-saturating, offering intense dark berry and cherry flavors and a lovely energizing minerality that builds with air. Delivers serious flavor impact but has a compellingly graceful character, finishing with persistent sweetness and outstanding clarity."



2005 Côte Rôtie 89-92 Raynolds \$67.95 *bt.* \$149.95 *mag.*

Josh Raynolds: "Fresh, mineral-driven red berry aromas are clear and spicy. Snappy red fruit flavors display striking freshness and purity, with a very light tannic bite on the back. This has excellent verve."

2005 La Landonne 92-96 Raynolds \$129.95

Josh Raynolds: "Explosive dark fruits on the nose, complicated by an array of pungent floral tones. A strong boysenberry quality is complicated by a deeper and even sweeter note of chewing tobacco. Really expands on the finish, picking up a spicy, peppery quality and displaying suave, silky tannins."

John Livingstone-Learmonth: "★★★★★ ... intense black berries, solid. Fruit is well wrapped, robust but still elegant texture"

Rostaing's Ambrosial 2006 Condrieu "La Bonnette"

The *Viognier* grape's Garden of Eden is in Condrieu—a small stretch of earth just below Côte Rôtie. In this providential setting, *Viognier* produces some of the richest, most opulent and aromatic white wines on earth.

But not all Condrieus are created equal. For us, René Rostaing's examples come as close to perfection as any we've found. The key is not only Rostaing's brilliant winemaking, with little use of new oak. It's also his ownership of vines on the Côte Bonnette.

Here, very near to Côte Rôtie itself, the soil represents a transition between Condrieu and Côte Rôtie.

From this unique *terroir*, Rostaing makes a Condrieu that is not only dazzlingly rich—Andrew Jeffords calls it "shimmering with honeysuckle scent"—but has superb balance and delineation. Its aging potential is also extraordinary for Condrieu.

The 2006 is sublime, but you'll be lucky to find any. A mere 35 cases were allocated to the U.S. Hurry.

2006 Rostaing Condrieu "La Bonnette"

\$67.95 *extremely limited*



2004 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc Half Bottles

Alongside Haut Brion Blanc and Laville Haut Brion, Domaine de Chevalier Blanc has long been one of the three greatest white Graves. And just as the prices of its illustrious neighbors have soared since 2000, Domaine de Chevalier is also quickly climbing in price.

While the current market price for 2005 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc (92 Parker) has been hovering around \$150 a bottle, the superior 2004 is now approaching

\$200. Consequently, it's a delight to be able to offer the 2004 in desirable half bottles at a bargain price. Quantities are very limited, however.

2004 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc 95 Robert Parker \$59.95 *half bottle*



Born of a Mythic Terroir

Adelina's "Wendouree" Ancestry has Yielded a Noble Shiraz

Wendouree could be Australia's most iconic Shiraz. It has been made in tiny quantities for more than a century, is virtually never exported, and easily rivals Henschke's Hill of Grace as a collectible Down Under. And it is still made from the same Clare Valley vineyards planted at the turn of the 20th century by the legendary Alfred Percy ("A.P.") Birks.

But despite the apparent futility of ever finding *Wendouree* in America, we have just discovered that a Shiraz *is* imported—albeit in miniscule quantities—that is made from the early *Wendouree* plantings. The wine is Adelina Shiraz, and it is made from a two-acre block planted by A.P. Birks's son Roly about 1920.

In 1973, this block of vines—long a component of *Wendouree's* flagship Shiraz—was sold to Chris Sullivan, at the time *Wendouree's* winemaker. In 1986, Sullivan sold the land to William and Elaine Gardner, whose daughter Jennie—with her husband Colin McBryde—have been making Adelina Shiraz since 2000, creating one of the most compelling Australian cult wines of recent years.

Preserving a Heritage

While Jennie and Colin are both PhD's in enology, they see themselves as stewards of an historic vine-



Above, one of Adelina's old Shiraz vines and the old Wendouree logo.

yard; thus their approach is minimalist and completely traditional—including an extended post fermentation maceration on the skins for up to fifty days—that honors the heritage of this historic site.

The vineyard itself—at 450 meters in Clare Valley's Springfarm district—is separated from the surviving *Wendouree* Shiraz block by only the width of a road. The soil is the same, shallow red loam topsoil on a base of limestone and slate, and yields are tiny. Production is a scant 200 cases.

The gnarled old vines produce a wine of extraordinary richness, depth and structure. There is something in the high altitude, the soil and the Gardner-McBryde approach that produces a Shiraz with a balance of fruit and acidity of which most Australian Shiraz makers can only dream.

This Offer

The 2006 Adelina Shiraz captures the essence of the *Wendouree* *terroir*, with notable precision, generosity and structure for aging. You will also find the site's distinctive rose, mineral and *fines herbes* aromatics.

Historically, the *Wendouree* *terroir* has been known in America only to insiders, but that is starting to change, particularly with Adelina now shipped to the U.S. (albeit in tiny quantities). This is a rare opportunity to experience one of the world's noble wine heritages at a mindbogglingly low price. Don't miss it.

2006 Adelina Shiraz
92 Josh Raynolds
\$39.95 *bt.* \$465.00 *cs.*



Josh Raynolds: "Inky violet. Intensely perfumed nose offers explosive dark berry and cherry liqueur aromas accented by graphite, licorice and black cardamom. Deep and sweet but focused, with pure red and dark berry flavors framed by firm tannins. Picks up a floral pastille note and gains in brightness with air. Finishes sweet and long, with a lingering strawberry note. In a very elegant style."

Adelina Grenache

Twenty years after planting his block of Shiraz in 1920, Roly Birks planted a small block of Grenache. These 65-year-old vines, in fine sandy loam over sandstone, yield about 100 cases of astonishing red wine.

2006 Adelina Grenache39.95

Josh Raynolds: "93 rating ... **Maybe the best red wine value in this price range that I've had this year, from anywhere** ... I find the energy and depth of sweet but focused red fruit flavors here utterly compelling, and am dumbfounded at the price. This could pass for upper-level New World pinot. Finishes clean and silky, with outstanding persistence.

RED BURGUNDY

Nicolas Potel

A Breathtaking Array of 2005 Reds from Low-yielding Old Vines

Of *Burgundy's* new breed of *négociants*, none has gotten the critical acclaim of Nicolas Potel. And while Potel's rise since just 1997 has been stratospheric, his 2005s are easily his best vintage yet—ripe, full, structured, with fantastic definition and expression of *terroir*.



Nicolas Potel

Like his father, Nicolas believes that to make great Burgundy, the fruit must come from non-cloned old vines, with a deep root system to resist drought and to express *terroir*. He also believes in organic and biodynamic farming, which he demands of his growers.

What is most remarkable about Potel is that he achieves such quality over a large number of appellations. From a vintage that Potel described to *Burghound's* Allen Meadows as "basically perfect", he has vinified a dizzying array of great Burgundies—each bearing 2005's trademark vibrancy of fruit coupled with great intensity and flavor persistence.

At His Father's Knee

Potel isn't simply a quick study. He learned much of what he knows from his father, Gerard Potel, who was Pousse D'Or's winemaker for three decades. When his father died in 1997, Nicolas created his own negociant label by building an extraordinary network of old vineyards throughout Burgundy.

He's a traditionalist like his father, eschewing cultured yeast, enzyme and acid additions. He uses long, cool fermentations, with punch downs for extraction, and in a vintage like 2005, whole clusters for aromatics and structure. Aging is on the fine lees for about 18 months before bottling without fining or filtration.

The results in 2005 are stunning across the board; in fact, we can't think of a better example of how consistently great this vintage is than Potel's superlative range. The village wines have *premier cru* complexity, volume and length; the *premier crus* rival *grand crus* and the top vineyards are off the charts. It's an honor to be able to offer a few wonderful examples from Potel in this highly touted vintage.

2005 Beaune Grèves 59.95

Wine Advocate: "92 rating ... from vines planted in 1904 ... aromas of distilled plum, violet, and ocean breeze ... the same silkiness as the Teurons, mingling plum, floral inner-mouth perfume ... superb length of chalk"

2005 Beaune Teurons 59.95

Wine Advocate: "92 rating ... Potel's own vines ... silky and refined in texture ... takes you far away from mere fruits ... a fascinating, exceptionally long finish"

2005 Gevrey-Chambertin Petite Chapelle 115.00

Wine Advocate: "93-94 rating ... smells intensely of fresh, ripe cherry dusted with cardamom, mace and cinnamon ... serious chalky mineral notes and suggestions of dark chocolate, this finishes expansively and memorably"

2005 Charmes-Chambertin 149.95

Wine Advocate: "92-93 rating ... a silky textural sensation ... black tea and herbal distillates hover persistently."
Tanzer: "91-94 rating ... sexy ... kirsch, violet and minerals ... terrific intensity and lovely length."

2005 Latricières-Chambertin 245.00

Wine Advocate: "94-95 rating ... A dramatic combination of black truffle, flowers, roasted meat, ripe black cherry and chocolate ... paves the palate in wet stone, bitter chocolate, and cherry liqueur."

2005 Volnay "Clos des Chènes" \$69.95



Tanzer: "91-93 rating ... Pure aromas of black cherry and licorice ... powerful, sappy black cherry and bitter chocolate flavors show superb energy and intensity. This, too, offers terrific palate coverage, and the dusty, bright finish leaves the mouth feeling refreshed."

Burghound: "90-93 rating ... elegant nose of ripe red and black pinot fruit ... flavors that exude grace and class on the gorgeously long finish ... Impressive juice."

2005 Volnay Vieilles Vignes 49.95

An incredible value. *Burghound*: "Full-bodied flavors are frank, rich and direct ... supple but admirably dense finish." Tanzer: "25% is declassified premier cru ... aromas of raspberry, violet, stone and chocolate ... ripe flavors of black cherry and chocolate. This is a big boy, with noteworthy solidity but also ripe framing acidity."

2005 Bonnes Mares* 385.00

Burghound: "94-95 rating ... hugely long"

Tanzer: "93-96 rating ... superb lift and perfume."

Wine Advocate: "93-96 rating ... scintillating"

Classicism meets Hedonism

Heroic 2003 Barolos from Bruno Giacosa & Mauro Mascarello

In Piemonte, there are years in which making fine Barolo is like falling off a log: almost anyone can do it, so long as they have good vineyards with which to work.

Then there are years in which a handful of growers soar above the rest. Take 2003 as a very notable example. The combination of record temperatures and virtually no rain so stressed the Nebbiolo vines that only truly driven growers were able to maximize the year's considerable potential.

The Old School Rules in '03

Yet even with superb fruit, one problem remained in 2003: how, in the cellar, to create a Barolo of balance and precision, with good structure, noble acidity, and the nuance that can come only from Nebbiolo grown in an exceptional terroir. In this task, the greats of Barolo's "Old School" clearly prevailed over the Modernists, producing Barolo that is classic in every detail, with no whiff of excess and only a cerebral richness to remind us of this singular year.

Consequently, our favorite 2003 Barolos, hands down, have come from the likes of Giacomo Conterno,



Mascarello & Giacosa

Bruno Giacosa, Teobaldo Cappellano, Bartolo Mascarello and Mauro Mascarello.

But this should come as no surprise to anyone who's been drinking old style Barolo for the past two decades. You only need look at what Giacosa, Giacomo Conterno and Mauro Mascarello accomplished in 1985, 1990 and 1997 to understand their mastery of ripe years. In each of these years, we believe that the wines of the vintage came from these three producers.

This Offer

We are pleased therefore to offer what are surely two of the top half-dozen Barolos of 2003: **Mauro Mascarello's Monprivato** and **Bruno Giacosa's Rocche del Falletto**.

Through intelligent vineyard management (the result of long experience) and absolutely classic vinification and aging, both wines offer all of the complexity and depth we are used to in these cuvées—with the added benefit that they will provide rapturous drinking much earlier than a more "classic" year. Neither wine should be missed.

2003 Giuseppe Mascarello Barolo Monprivato*

93 Antonio Galloni

\$69.95 bottle \$835.00 case



Antonio Galloni in *The Wine Advocate*: "... made in an atypically big, powerful style loaded with ripe fruit supported by plenty of structure. It boasts an enticing palate presence and a uniquely intense personality. The classic Monprivato notes of ripe cherries, roses, minerals, flowers and herbs are present ... Mascarello was more severe than normal in his green harvesting of the vineyard as he wanted to lighten the load on his plants to reduce their stress ... Mauro Mascarello is one of the few producers who prefers his 2003 Barolos to his 2001s as he finds they have more power and intensity while also maintaining finesse and a sense of classicism."

2003 Bruno Giacosa Barolo Rocche del Falletto

94 Antonio Galloni

\$149.95 reg. \$300



Antonio Galloni: "... classic Giacosa, with a lovely core of sweet roses, raspberries, licorice and menthol that is currently hiding under an imposing wall of tannins. It is also a wine of contrasts, at times open and accessible, at others brooding and shut down. As it sits in the glass the fruit gradually emerges to fill out the wine's structure. **\$300 retail.**"

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Dr. Leighton's Magic

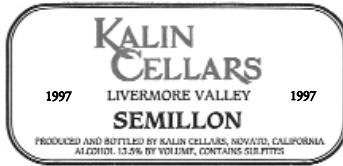
"The Wines of a Genius" Robert Parker

The brilliantly idiosyncratic wines of Kalin's Terry and Frances Leighton come about as close as any in California to our wine ideal; they are truly remarkable expressions of time, place and winemaker. With no tricks and no illusions, they are wines that demand and reward long aging.

A biochemist, Terry retired from UC Berkeley in 2002, but he and Frances have been making wine for nearly 30 years. They call most modern winemaking "industrial," arguing that it minimizes the chances of something going wrong but strips wine of its soul. All of their wines are handmade, using methods that could have been found in Burgundy cellars a century ago.

Nothing by the Book

Terry and Frances own no vines but find vineyards that produce wines of unique character. Just from Sonoma's Long Vineyard they make three highly distinctive Chardonnays. The obscure Potter Valley provides their nonpareil Sauvignon Blanc, while the little-known Livermore Valley produces the iconic Semillon and Cuvee W Chardonnay. The latter is from the old Wentz Estate, with its genetic material



brought from Burgundy a century ago.

Terry and Frances hold wines back for what would be an eternity to other winemakers. Terry's view: "We're not hung up on maintaining any kind of vintage sequence; we release what tastes good." Parker says that Kalin "stands nearly alone in the Golden State when it comes to producing Chardonnays that require considerable cellar-ing. Most California Chardonnays drop their fruit by the time they are three years of age. Kalin's Chardonnays do not begin to open until they are four or five."

This Offer

We are pleased, therefore, to offer three gorgeous new Kalin releases, each at least a decade old. We have two brilliantly-aged whites from the Livermore Valley: the 1997 Semillon and 1994 Cuvée W Chardonnay. And for a showstopping red, Terry and Frances have let us have their 1997 Cuvee DD Pinot Noir, from David Demostene's vineyard in Alexander Valley.

All three are highly recommended, not only as examples of their craftsmanship, but as totally unique examples of California winemaking.

**1997 Semillon
Livermore Valley**
93 Parker 93 Tanzer
\$29.95

Parker: "... magnificent ... still young and fresh at ten years of age. A light gold color is accompanied by a waxy, honeyed nose revealing hints of citrus oil, earth, and a touch of Thai lemon grass. Full-bodied, rich, and dense with superb acidity as well as freshness, this offering may last another decade."

Tanzer: "I'd love to serve this blind next to a bottle of Laville Haut-Brion."

**1994 Chardonnay
Livermore Valley**
"Cuvee W"
\$34.95

Light gold in color; the nose is sexy in its opulence, featuring profound notes of hazelnut, honey, eucalyptus and tangerine overlaid with minerals. Quite round in the mouth and richly textured with subtle notes of pineapple and citrus, excellent palate-cleansing acidity and no dominating oak influence. The finish is very long, persistent and refreshing.

**1997 Pinot Noir
"Cuvee DD"**
91 Parker 91 Tanzer
\$45.00

Parker: "... exhibits smoky, gamy, forest floor, herb, fresh mushroom, meat, plum, fig, and cherry characteristics. Made in a northern Cote de Nuits style ... this beautiful wine should last for another decade."

Tanzer: "Cherry, strawberry, minerals, clove, spices and underbrush on the captivating, slightly decadent nose. At once firm and exotic"

2004 Tempier La Tourtine

A Towering Bandol in a Great Vintage

Between the 1940s and 1960s, Domaine Tempier's Lucien Peyraud restored Bandol to its 19th century glory, leading the restoration of the Mourvèdre vines that had been all but abandoned after Phylloxera.

Peyraud made Tempier the touchstone for great, classic Bandol. But starting in 1968, his sons Jean-Marie and François carried Tempier's wines to an even higher level, launching their series of coveted single-vineyard cuvées. These wines have even greater personality than the cuvée classique, owing to their unique *terroirs*. And the most distinctive of these is La Tourtine.

La Tourtine's sweeping south-facing slope is particularly well suited to Mourvèdre and produces one of Bandol's most powerful wines, with intense aromas and flavors of black cherry, meat, earth and pepper. In a great vintage, it is capable of aging for 30 to 40 years.

La Tourtine experienced such a harvest in 2004. We

were fortunate, therefore, to pick up a small parcel of this magnificent wine in both bottles and rare magnums which we can offer at an attractive price. Hurry.

**2004 Domaine Tempier
La Tourtine***
94 Neal Martin

\$57.95 bt. \$125.00 mag.



Neal Martin on *erobertparker.com*: "A beautiful Bandol from Tempier with another bewitching nose of blackberry, boysenberry, leather and a touch of tar. The palate is full bodied, well defined with exquisite balance and purity ... there is a minerality here that lends the wine character. Touch of bitter cherry lingers on the after taste. Very long and persistent. Cellaring essential for this stupendous wine."

Pioneering Priorat

The Sensational 2003 Rotllan Torra Tirant

Of those who pioneered Priorat's renaissance in the 1980's, perhaps the least well-known is Jordi Rotllan Torra. Having previously been a winemaker in nearby Penedès, he arrived with his family in 1984.



*Rotllan Torra's
16th-century cellars*

That was the start of the area's revival, and so Torra had his choice of ancient vineyards. Most other pioneers concentrated on sites around the village of Gratallops, but Torra chose to buy great old hillside vineyards in Torroja del Priorat. For the next decade he worked quietly from his 16th-century cellars, producing traditionally styled Priorat wines aged in American oak.

Then in the late 1990's, he created a more refined wine, Tirant, aged in new Tronçais barrels. He named the cuvée for a heroic medieval knight, Tirant Lo Blanc.

Having offered the 2001 Tirant in February 2005, the next vintage to catch our eye was the prodigious

2003—made from 30% old-vine Garnacha, 30% old-vine Cariñena, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Syrah, and 5% Merlot. With its huge rating, this is one of the hottest numbers in today's Spanish wine market. Hurry!

2003 Rotllan Torra Tirant*
96 Jay Miller
\$74.95



Jay Miller in *The Wine Advocate*: "... fermented in foudre and aged in French oak for 12 months, it is a more refined version of (Rotllan's) Amadis with more complexity and elegance, but nevertheless still a beast of a wine. The purple/black color is followed by aromas of melting tar, blueberries, blackberries, and a touch of vanillin. The wine is dense and rich ... give this bad boy another 4-6 years of cellaring and drink it for 15 years thereafter."

ITALY

Ebony Nectar

Tommaso Bussola's Monumental 2003 Recioto "TB"

Over the past decade, Tommaso Bussola has emerged as the finest living maker of the Veneto's classic, explosively rich, nearly black, sweet wine, Recioto.

Yet, it has become apparent that Bussola is not content merely to have no rivals. He also wants to create something that has never been made before—a wine that blurs the line between liquid and solid. And so, with each passing vintage, his Recioto becomes richer, sweeter, darker, denser, more monumental.

His newly released 2003 establishes a new benchmark for what Bussola is capable of achieving in Recioto. It is a remarkably rich, intensely flavored after-dinner wine which—despite its incredible weight, density and sweetness—has an astonishing ease in the mouth and an effortless grace unheard of in a wine so big and rich.

It is also a marvel of complexity, drawing its magic not only from the vineyard, but from 32 months of aging

in oak. Of course, Recioto at this level can only be made by hand, and so in 2003 Bussola produced just 125 cases of half-liter bottles, with only 17 for the entire U.S. This is not only a wine of great stature, it's a wine of great rarity, too. Don't miss it.

2003 Bussola Recioto "TB" 95 Antonio Galloni

\$115.00 500 ml



Antonio Galloni: "This opulent, silky-textured wine possesses gorgeous aromatics ... mineral, licorice, chocolate, spice and dark cherry flavors ... dazzling style, superb persistence and a long, finessed finish. It is not to be missed. For his Recioto, Bussola gave the fruit six months of air drying to intensify sugars ... the wine may very well merit a higher score in the future."

Talenti's Rare 2001 "Paretaio" Brunello Riserva

Pierluigi Talenti cast a long shadow over Brunello's history, having guided the great Il Poggione estate from 1958 to 1999. And in 1980 Talenti purchased his own property, "Pian di Conte," south of Montalcino.

Since Talenti's death in 1999, his grandson has steered the Talenti estate in a somewhat more modern direction. The top wine is the **Brunello Vigna del Paretaio Riserva**, a limited-production wine from the estate's best vineyard. This site, with an exceptional microclimate, was planted by the Talenti with a special Brunello clone. Our price is nothing less than astounding.

2001 Talenti "Paretaio" Brunello Riserva

\$64.95 Reg. \$90

Wine Spectator: "93 rating. Gorgeous aromas of crushed berries, spices and meat. Decadent. Full-bodied, with lots of ripe, velvety tannins that caress and coat the palate. Long and delicious. Solid and serious. \$90 retail."



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