

THE RARE WINE CO.
21481 EIGHTH STREET EAST
SONOMA, CA 95476
email: sales@rarewineco.com



1-800-999-4342
1-707-996-4484
Fax: 1-707-996-4491
Fax: 1-800-893-1501

Inside on Page 3
Holy Grail
Madeiras

Inside on Page 7
Rare Balsamic
Vinegars

DECEMBER 2006

Holiday Cheer

121 Simply Unforgettable Stocking Stuffers, starting with ... 1976 Comtes de Champagne

Champagne's two leading writers—Richard Juhlin and Tom Stevenson—both hold up Taittinger's Comtes de Champagne as *the* great example of Blanc de Blancs in its biggest, richest style. In fact, Juhlin cites the 1976 Comtes de Champagne as sparking his obsession with the region and its wines. Of the thousands of Champagnes he has drunk, it stands as one of the monumental Champagnes of his life.

In late September, we got a call from a British friend who happened to read our praise of the '76 in our September Comtes de Champagne offering. He just happened to have a couple of pristine cases, and would we be interested? Erring on the side of caution, we had a bottle sent for tasting: it was stunning. Hurry!

1976 Taittinger
Comtes de Champagne
98 Juhlin
\$425.00



Juhlin: "One of the Champagnes that sparked my obsession with the area and its wines. An enormous nose and taste of sweet lemons have now replaced the butteriness. These can be found in many mature Champagnes, but never as clearly as in the Comtes de Champagne '76. A classic milestone, and absolutely one of the ten Champagnes I would pick out for someone who doubts that Champagne can be really good and big. A champion in its class!"

- 1990 Pol Roger Methusalem 6-liter1050.00**
Juhlin: "93 rating.. Pol Roger in a nutshell. Sophisticated and utterly charming. Fruity, creamy, balanced, and long."
- 1996 Pol Roger Magnum115.00**
Juhlin: "93 rating ... tons of bread, licorice, and chocolate ... Big and mellow like the '90."
- 1982 Deutz Vinothèque Late-Release125.00**
Juhlin: "94 rating ... the wine has matured in a slow and wonderful way."
- 1996 Jacquesson Avize Blanc de Blancs59.95**
Juhlin: "95 rating ... a potentially great bottle that the Chiquet brothers should be very proud of."
- 1989 Veuve Clicquot Trillennium Magnum185.00**
Veuve Clicquot created these special low-dosage, late-disgorged magnums for the millennium. Now rare.

- 1966 Philipponnat Clos des Goisses Magnum1095.00**
Juhlin: "97 rating ... unparalleled finesse and a fantastically euphoria-creating, toasted bouquet." *From Philipponnat's cellar.*
- 1974 Philipponnat Grand Blanc Late-Release.....150.00**
Juhlin: "Wonderful acacia notes and luscious, luxuriant magnolia character ... pure as an alpine stream, with great beauty. See what long storage can bring about!"
- NV Philipponnat Brut Reserve Rosé39.95**
- NV Philipponnat Brut Reserve Rose Magnum85.00**
A stunningly fine rosé for its price; its explosive strawberry flavors can be traced to its free-run pinot noir.
- NV Rare Wine Co. Le Mesnil Blanc de Blancs29.95**
100% grand cru blanc de blancs from the towering *terroir* of Le Mesnil. Magical marriage of brown butter and chalk that's both creamy and sleek. An astonishing value.

Rhone Valley Icons

1972 Hermitage La Chapelle

This fall, we jumped at the chance to buy **1972 La Chapelle** directly from Jaboulet's library. How could we not? Jancis Robinson recently tasted 33 vintages of La Chapelle, placing the 1972 second only to the legendary 1961, and ahead of both 1978 and 1990. She wrote: "Violets. Game. Tender. Lovely wine that no one could object to. Fresh, jewel-bright. Hint of torrefaction. Very complete. Quite impressively long. Intriguing. You want to drink more! Long, doesn't give everything initially."

1972 Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle *ex-domaine*
18.5/20 Jancis Robinson
\$275.00



2000 Bonneau Célestins

No other Southern Rhône winemaker is as revered as Henri Bonneau, and no wine is as sought-after as his Célestins. He released his great 2000 earlier this year, and we've already seen prices above \$300. Be warned.

2000 Henri Bonneau Réserve des Célestins
92-95 Parker
\$189.95



Parker: "... herbes de Provence, licorice, black cherry liqueur, Asian spice, and balsamic notes ... superb fatness and flesh with considerable glycerin ... the only thing that seems certain is that whatever comes out in bottle is usually much better than what you taste out of barrel."

Beaucastel Rarities

Pristine Cases from the Domaine

1998 Ch. de Beaucastel
96 Parker
\$89.95 bottle



Parker: "... unquestionably one of the great modern-day Beaucastels, but because of its high Grenache content, it is different from some of the other classics ... the greatest effort produced since Beaucastel's 1989 and 1990 ... There is superb concentration, full body, low acidity, and high tannin, but it is surprisingly drinkable for such a young Beaucastel."

1989 Ch. de Beaucastel179.95

Parker: "97 rating ... extraordinarily sweet, rich ... one of the most powerful ... Beaucastels I have ever tasted."

1990 Ch. de Beaucastel179.95

Parker: "96 rating ... an incredible perfume ... Lush, opulent ... will last another 15-20 years."

2003 Ch. de Beaucastel "Homage" 3-Liter* ...1450.00

Parker: "95 rating ... extraordinary nose of smoke, camphor, blackberry, cassis, sweet cherry ... superb richness ... massive concentration, and a monster finish."

2001 Ch. de Beaucastel Roussanne V.V.125.00

Parker: "97 rating ... surreal ... pure liqueur of rose petals, marmalade, and honeysuckle ... one of the most singular expressions of white wine in the world."

Germany: Rare 1971 Schloss Eltz Auslesen

...from the personal cellar of a former director

1971 Erbacher Marcobrunn Auslese Auction 750ml..... 195.00

Very rich, late harvested Marcobrunn, equivalent in sweetness to *goldkapsule auslese*.

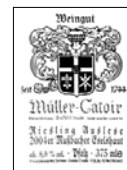
1971 Rauenthaler Rothenberg Auslese 750ml..... 195.00

Legendary—even better than the great Baiken—from the Golden Era of Schloss Eltz.

and one more coveted '71 Auslese:

**1971 Schloss Reinhartshausen Riesling Hattenheimer
 Wisselbrunn Auslese Artist Label Auction 750ml ... 225.00**

**2004 Müller-Catoir Riesling
 Mussbacher Eselshaut Auslese**
96 Wine Advocate
\$29.95 half bottle



Wine Advocate: "... peach jam, plum paste and honey with smoky botrytis-typical top notes ... the balance and layered complexity of this wine is poised and elegant, a fast-flowing, incredibly deep, rich river of fruit and honey managing somehow to come off as ethereally light and delicate."

Holy Grail Madeiras

"The finest retail source in the U.S. for authentic Madeira is The Rare Wine Co." Robert Parker

1795 Barbeito Terrantez 99 Parker

\$3100.00 bottle

A legend. More than a half century ago, Barbeito purchased this wine from Madeira's illustrious Hinton family. For decades, Barbeito drew out a few bottles a year for friends, family and valued customers. Finally, the wine has come to an end, with this fall's bottling of the last 23 bottles. The end of a glorious era.

1834 Barbeito Malvasia 98 Parker

\$450.00 bottle

On June 2, 2006, Robert Parker hosted a dinner at the French Ambassador's home in Washington to raise funds for the Wine Advocate Fund for Philanthropy. The wines were all legendary, the likes of 1900 Margaux, 1989 DRC Montrachet, 1959 Lafite, 1947 Petrus, 1961 Latour a Pomerol, 1985 La Tache and 1975 and 1976 Yquem. There was only one non-French wine, and it came at the end: **Barbeito's 1834 Malvasia**. Parker called this epic Madeira "an extraordinarily fresh, complex elixir that topped off a perfect evening that raised over \$600,000 for charity."

1900 D'Oliveira Moscatel 97 Wine Spectator

\$450.00 bottle

Along with Terrantez and Bastardo, Moscatels are the rarest Madeiras. And D'Oliveira's 1900 could be the ultimate example. In 2004, D'Oliveira stopped selling this wine because its stocks had run too low. However, this year they offered to part with a small stock of this rare, sought-after wine bottled in the 1970s.

The bottles are in impeccable condition and were recorked just prior to shipment to assure many decades of further aging. *Wine Spectator*: "Very dark brown ... showing dark cocoa and slightly burnt treacle. Noticeably sweet and extremely concentrated, tasting like the essence of dried fruits, citrus, caramel and hazelnut. Very harmonious and long, with a hint of astringency that keeps the finish going."

1830 Quinta do Serrado Malmsey ★★★★★ Michael Broadbent

\$895.00 bottle

Broadbent: "A deep, rich, glowing oloroso-coloured amber; chocolatey, sweet nose with fabulous, penetrating yet ethereal crystallised violets flavour and aftertaste."

The Historic Series Madeiras

"These set the bar as benchmark offerings of non-vintage Madeiras"
Wine Enthusiast 11/06

We have long believed that most of today's blended Madeiras offer little of the nobility of the great vintage and solera Madeiras of the past. With that in mind, we set out several years ago to create a series of affordable Madeiras that reflect the style and complexity of Vintage Madeira. The Rare Wine Co.'s Historic Series was born. With each wine named for an American city with strong ties to Madeira, they deliver Vintage Madeira character at a compellingly low price. A fantastic gift!

**New York Malmsey,
Boston Bual
& Charleston Sercial**
\$39.95 each

3-bottle Sampler \$110.00



Wines may be sold and delivered only to persons who are at least 21 years old. All wines are sold in California and title passes to the buyer in California. We make no representation to the legal rights of anyone to ship or import wines into any state outside of California. We are not responsible for typographical errors. All items and prices subject to availability. Request a copy of our terms of sale or read them at www.rarewineco.com. An * indicates pre-arrival. Issued 16 times yearly. Copyright 2006 The Rare Wine Co.

Spanish Legends

- 2003 Pingus** 435.00
Parker: "96-100 rating. A candidate for perfection ... one of the most profound wines ever made in Spain."
- 1970 Lopez de Heredia Rioja Viña Tondonia** 85.00
These bottles have rested in a private Spanish cellar for nearly two decades and are in impeccable condition. From a great Rioja vintage, the palate is as smooth as silk.
- 2002 Descendientes La Faraona** 185.00
"The Pharaoh." Alvaro Palacios' ultimate cuvée in Bierzo, of which only 45 cases were made. Magnificent bouquet and texture from very low yields. An icon-in-the-making.
- 1995 Alvaro Palacios L'Ermita** 295.00
Parker: "94+ rating .. deep, powerful, and rich" Tanzer: "95+ rating ... Huge, sensual and deep"
- 2003 Alvaro Palacios L'Ermita** 395.00
Parker: "94-97 rating ... only 240 cases were produced ... a huge nose of creme de cassis, flowers, crushed rocks, and a hint of smoke ... tremendous structure, great definition."
- 1991 Vega Sicilia Unico** 229.95
Parker: "95 rating ... sweet vanilla notes intertwined with black currants, cherry liqueur, flowers, spice box, and tobacco leaves. Full-bodied and intense"
- 1968 Vega Sicilia Unico** 995.00
Parker: "98 rating ... massively rich ... should take its place in wine history beside the greatest clarets of the decade of the sixties ... An amazing wine!"
- 2003 Termanthia** 169.95
Parker: "96+ rating ... "thermonuclear" ... incredibly rich."

1967 Taylor Quinta do Vargellas

A Fabulous Vintage Port, Turning 40 Next Year

Traditionally, top British port houses don't declare back-to-back vintages, occasionally forcing difficult choices between pairs of fine years.

And what of the years not chosen? Taylor Fladgate, for one, produces "Quinta do Vargellas," a single-vineyard vintage port from the great vineyard it has owned since 1893. Made the same way as Taylor's vintage port, Vargellas is bottled two years after the harvest,



Vargellas

yet unlike the flagship wine, it is held in Taylor's Oporto cellars for a decade or more prior to release.

We've acquired a small parcel of the rare 1967 Quinta do Vargellas. As Roy Hersh recently wrote in his *For the Love of Port* newsletter, Vargellas is second only to 1967 Quinta do

Noval Nacional for top honors. An outstanding port and a prime choice for those turning 40 next year.

California

- 2001 Marcassin Chardonnay "Three Sisters"** 235.00
Parker: "95 rating ... beautiful honeyed richness, great definition..." *Wine Spectator*: "98 rating ... ultrarich..."
- 2002 Marcassin Pinot Noir "Marcassin Vyd."** 275.00
Parker: "98 rating ... profound"
- 2002 Blankiet Cabernet Paradise Hills** 225.00
Parker: "95 rating." Tanzer: "96 rating."
- 2003 Ramey Jericho Canyon Cab/Merlot** 89.95
- 2003 Ramey Jericho Canyon Cab/Merlot Magnum** 189.00
- 2003 Ramey Jericho Canyon Cab/Merlot 3-liter** ... 525.00
Tanzer: "93-96 rating ... exhilarating sweetness ... Magically fresh and light on its feet for such a large-scaled wine ... Finishes extremely long ... Offers great potential."
- 2003 Dalla Valle Cabernet** 105.00
Wine Spectator: "91 rating...rich, chewy ... packs a wallop."
- 1993 Dalla Valle Maya** 495.00
Parker: "98 rating ... unbelievable concentration."

1967 Taylor "Vargellas" Vintage Port 119.00

Roy Hersh in *For the Love of Port*: "95 rating ... at the top of the list (of 1967 vintage ports) is the Quinta do Noval Nacional, but I would have to put this bottle of Vargellas 2nd ... Aromas of crème de cassis, licorice and eucalyptus ... flavors of nuts, blackberry and cassis ... very rich, exceptionally full-bodied ... a complex and superlative finish with toffee, walnuts and a touch of spirit as well. Although this still has years left on this plateau, I think it is at its best now. Yowza!"

For the Love of Port

Few Americans know more about Port than Roy Hersh. Over the years he attracted such a following on the internet that in 2004 he launched his own periodical, **For the Love of Port**. Roy is also passionate about Madeira, which he covers increasingly. Nineteen issues are available from his website as Pdfs and, for now, subscriptions are free. To subscribe go to www.fortheloveofport.com.

Red Burgundy

- 1993 Dom. Chezeaux Griottes Chambertin** 199.95
 Parker: "94 rating." The other half of Ponsot's '93 Griottes production, bottled under *metayage*, went to the vineyard's owner, Chezeaux. Heroic like its sibling.
- 2002 René Engel Clos Vougeot** 125.00
 Rovani: "93-95 rating ... concentrated, deep, and intense."
- 2002 René Engel Grands Echezeaux** 115.00
 Rovani: "92-93 rating ... bursts from the glass ... beautiful, precise, juicy ... highly expressive and complex."
- 2002 René Engel Vosne Romanée** 39.95
 Burghound: "... pure black fruit aromas ... plenty of delineation on the long finish. This is a notably fine village that displays excellent balance."
- 1995 Henri Mayer Echezeaux** 1500.00
 A mythic wine from Mayer.
- 2003 Jos. Roty Charmes Chambertin Tres V.V.** ... 189.95
- 2003 Jos. Roty Charmes Chamb. Tres V.V. Mag.** .425.00
 Burghound: "... completely mouth coating ... the level of dry extract here is exceptional ... dramatic, powerful and high caliber." The magnums are particularly rare.
- 1996 Hubert Lignier Gevrey Chambertin** 69.95
 A bargain for Lignier in this great vintage. Pristine.
- 2002 Henri Gouges Nuits St. Georges Pruliers** 79.95
 Rovani: "93-95 rating ... big, bold ... licorice, asphalt, candied blackberries and cherries ... awesome length"

Sauternes

- 1955 Ch. d'Yquem château-bottled** 1095.00
 Michael Broadbent: "★★★★★" Superb condition.
- 1986 Ch. d'Yquem ex-château** 345.00
 Parker: "98 rating ... reminiscent of the 1975 ... Several highly respected Bordeaux negociants who are Yquem enthusiasts claim the 1986 Yquem is the greatest wine produced at the property since the legendary 1937."
- 1981 Ch. Coutet "Cuvee Madame" ex-château** 295.00
 Parker: "96 rating ... huge honeyed aroma ... oranges, toast, coconuts ... thick, unctuous ... a colossal wine."
- 1986 Ch. Coutet "Cuvee Madame" ex-château** 295.00
 Parker: "96 rating ... unbelievably decadent ... the type of extract that one normally finds only in a great vintage of d'Yquem."
- 1988 Ch. Climens** 125.00
 Parker: "96 rating ... fabulously long ... a great wine."
- 1978 Ch. Rieussec ex-château** 49.95
 Michael Broadbent: "★★★★" Astonishing price.
- 1989 Ch. Rieussec Half Bottle ex-château** 44.50
 Parker: "93 rating ... luxuriously rich."
- 1990 Ch. Suduiraut Half Bottle ex-château** 33.50
 Parker (*Bordeaux*, latest edition): "94 rating ... a gorgeously rich, fat, concentrated wine ... marmalade-like."

The Best of Tea

In 1986, France's revered tea merchant, Dammann, created a revolution by putting its finest teas in transparent nylon tea bags called *crystal sachets*. The sachets not only eliminate the taste of paper, they also increase water flow and capacity—allowing for full aromatic infusion. To showcase its sachets, Dammann has created this beautiful velvet-lined wood presentation case, containing eight of its best teas.

Each case contains six *crystal sachets* each of **Breakfast, Darjeeling, Earl Grey, Ceylon O.P., Lapsang Souchong, China Green Gunpowder, China Green Mint Tea and Soleil Vert**—each sachet in its own foil pouch.* These presentation cases will make fantastic gifts for tea drinkers.

**Dammann
 Presentation Case**
with 8 teas (6 sachets each)
\$59.50



*add'l sachets available to replenish the case

White Burgundy

- 2001 Sauzet Batard Montrachet** 179.95
 Burghound: "93 rating ... explosive ... extremely powerful."
- 2002 Roumier Corton-Charlemagne** 225.00
 Burghound: "92 rating ... the overall impression is one of elegance, purity and controlled power."
- 2001 Paul Pernot Bienvenue Batard Montrachet** 110.00
 Tanzer: "91 rating ... fresh, pure aromas ... an impressively layered texture and excellent backbone for aging."
- 2002 Paul Pernot Batard Montrachet** 159.95
 Burghound: "93 rating ... big and very rich ... I admire the purity of expression here ... Impressive."
- 2003 Raveneau Chablis Grand Cru Valmur** 115.00
 Burghound: "... lovely iodine and oyster shell notes with precise, edgy and punchy flavors that offer beautiful texture and terrific finishing minerality ... undeniable breed."
- 1996 René & Vincent Dauvissat Les Clos** 245.00
 Tanzer: "96+ rating ... great focus ... taut minerally, chalky flavors ... extraordinarily long ... fabulous grand cru Chablis."
- 2004 René & Vincent Dauvissat La Forest** 47.50
 A grand-cru vintage for Dauvissat's great over-achiever.
 Tanzer: "wonderful energy" Burghound: "seriously impressive"
- 1993 Coche-Dury Corton-Charlemagne** 1450.00
 Burghound: "96 rating ... marvelously textured, discreetly muscular, subtly intense ... prodigious length"
- 2002 Coche-Dury Bourgogne Blanc** 79.95
 Coche's highly sought-after Bourgogne from a great year.

Red Bordeaux

1961 Ch. Palmer ex-Mahler-Besse2250.00

Parker: "99 rating ... a legend ... at its apogee ... intensely concentrated, offering a cascade of lavishly ripe, full-bodied, opulent fruit ... and a voluptuous finish." These bottles are direct from one of the chateau's owners.

1970 Ch. Palmer ex-Mahler-Besse395.00

Parker: "96 rating ... one of the great wines of the vintage ... fabulously complex, exotic nose of licorice, over-ripe plums and blackcurrants, soy, cedar, and minerals. Rich and concentrated ... drink through 2015."

1990 Ch. Gruaud Larose ex-chateau189.95

Parker, *Bordeaux* (2003): "96 rating ... continues to get better and better ... a stunning nose of licorice, earth, cedar, Provençal herbs, black currants, asphalt and cherries soars from the glass ... fabulous concentration, seamless texture."

1990 Ch. Montrose495.00

Parker: "100 rating ... massive character ..."

1990 Ch. L'Evangile275.00

Parker: "96 rating ... one of the great modern day L'Evangiles ..."

1989 Ch. Léoville Las Cases 175.00

Wine Spectator: "96 rating. Greatest Léoville Las Cases ever produced. Superb concentration with a great velvety texture and ripe fresh flavors."

1990 Ch. Grand Puy Lacoste*225.00

Parker: "95 rating ... magnificent extract, excellent delineation, outstanding purity, and layers of intensity ... the finest Grand-Puy-Lacoste since the 1982."

2000 Ch. Pichon Baron Magnum275.00

Parker: "96 rating. This wine has great purity, tremendous texture, and fabulous upside potential ... prodigious."

2003 Ch. Bellevue, St. Emilion59.95

Parker: "93+ rating ... a stony, mineral liqueur-like intensity ... concentrated attack ... blockbuster, long ..."

Truffle Fest



Within hours of being gathered, Alba's truffles begin to lose their haunting fragrance. But if quickly preserved in olive oil or butter—and used over warm dishes as the *Piemontese* do—the experience can be magical.

The Rare Wine Co. has sourced the best of these products, and to go with them, Inaudi's transcendent egg *tagliolini* pasta. We are pleased to offer them all for the holidays in two compelling gift sets, with an evocative recipe booklet.

Truffle Fest Gift Set84.50

One TartufLanghe truffle butter (300g), one Inaudi white truffle caviar (30g), one Tartuflanghe *L'Oro in Cucina* truffle oil (100ml), and two 250g boxes of Inaudi's *tagliolini all'uovo*, with recipe booklet.

Truffles & Barolo134.50

The above assortment plus one bottle of the great 1999 Giuseppe Mascarello Barolo Monprivato (95+ Antonio Galloni, *Wine Advocate*).

Classic Magnum Decanter

Seven years ago, we decided to recreate one of the most beautiful and rare decanters we'd ever seen: a taper magnum produced circa 1770. We commissioned John Jenkins & Sons, an old UK company specializing in handmade glass, to handcraft 120 of these decanters, each signed, dated and numbered. After three years of painstaking effort, our 120 hand-blown, -cut and -engraved decanters were completed, each as beautiful as the original.

Our first run is nearly exhausted, but we have completed a second run of 120 more stunning magnum decanters. Due to the weak Dollar, the price of these will be going up after January 1st. But for now, we can offer them at the same price as in 2003.

Magnum Decanter based on a 1770 design — signed, dated, numbered 325.00



To learn more, go to "Classic Wine Decanters" at www.rarewineco.com

Attention California residents. Proposition 65 WARNING: Consuming foods or beverages that have been kept or served in leaded crystal products will expose you to lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.

Balsamico Treasures

Save 5% on any Balsamico purchase of 6 bottles or more

With their ebony hues, towering bouquets, and intensely rich, sweet palates, Modena's great *Balsamico Tradizionale* vinegars rival the world's greatest wines for complexity and pleasure.

The Rare Wine Co. has the finest range of these vinegars in America. Artisanally aged in the attics of houses around the northern Italian city of Modena, they are matured in barrel for a minimum of 12 years (and up to a century or more).

As in years past, we're honored to feature the glorious vinegars of Acetaia del Cristo, unquestionably Modena's



Barrels resting at Acetaia del Cristo

greatest producer of *Balsamico Tradizionale*. And to round out our selections, we're pleased to offer vinegars from two other fine small producers: Pedroni and San Giorgio.

Drizzle these amazing vinegars over aged Parmigiano Reggiano, meats, fish, vegetables, fresh berries and melon, and ice cream.

Though our prices are already the lowest in America, you can save a further 5% with a purchase of six or more bottles. Treat yourself ... and your friends. They make sensational holiday gifts.

Pedroni Traditional 12-year-old 59.95

One of Modena's most respected small producers, Pedroni makes a beautiful 12-year-old. Unusually concentrated, it boasts great balancing acidity and seductive aromatics.

Cristo Extravecchio 25-year-old 95.00

A blockbuster—thick, rich and deep in color with fantastic concentration. Phenomenal volume; *awesome* length.

San Giorgio Extravecchio 110.00

One of the older *extravecchios* around—San Giorgio reports it to be 40 years old. Lush, concentrated, beautifully focused, with compelling length. A beauty.

Cristo Extravecchio Special Selection 40-year-old ... 145.00

One of the great Balsamicos—nearly black in color, with a luxuriously rich texture. Intense flavors of coffee, hazelnuts and figs. Truly profound.

Ultimate Rarities

Cristo Selezione 'Nonna' 225.00

Made from three barrels dating to 1885, 1890 and 1908. Each year, just 30 bottles are taken from this ancient battery. Incredibly smooth and explosively scented.

Cristo Selezione 'Paradiso' 225.00

Drawn from an ancient battery, this year's Paradiso is a masterpiece of richness. Just 30 bottles produced.

Cristo Selezione 'Amelia' 225.00

As old and sweet as Nonna, Selezione Amelia may be even more of a head-turner. Primordially viscous. Fewer than 20 bottles produced each year. Fabulous.

Explosive Single-Wood Vinegars

The Barbieri family of Acetaia del Cristo has long aged a small amount of vinegar in single-wood batteries. In recent years they've shared a little of this nectar with us.

Cristo 'Juniper' 12-year-old 69.00

Intensely rich and smooth Balsamico with sweet evergreen flavor. Amazing on grilled meats and roasted vegetables.

Cristo 'Cherry' 12-year-old 75.00

With deep black cherry flavors and a sweet, tangy finish. Its round opulence makes it heaven on vanilla ice cream.

Cristo 'Mulberry' 12-year-old New! 79.95

Mulberry has an ancient history in Modena, its leaves used to nourish silkworms there. Even today, among vinegar makers, mulberry is considered the King of Woods. Sadly, most of the trees are now gone. Cristo drew only 130 bottles from its mulberry casks in 2006. Fabulous!

Cristo Extravecchio 'Juniper' 25-year-old 119.95

Aged entirely in juniper for more than 25 years, this marvel is astonishingly thick and rich with subtle undertones of sweet herbs, cedar and mint. Miniscule production.

Cristo Extravecchio 'Cherry' 25-year-old 119.95

25 years of aging in cherry barrels has given this unique Balsamico its explosive kirsch and dark chocolate aromas and flavors. Must be tasted to be believed. Tiny production.

Saba

Some Modena producers also make Saba—pure, cooked, unfermented grape juice (*mosto cotto*) that would otherwise be used to make Balsamic vinegar. With its concentrated sweetness, Saba is a staple in local kitchens and can be diluted as a sweet beverage.

Malpighi Saba 250ml 15.95

Balsamic Necessities



(from left to right in the photo)

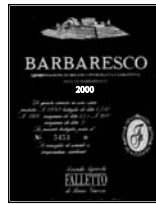
Blown-Glass Stopper-Pourer 7.95

Ceramic Tasting Spoon ...6.95

Stopper-Pourer5.95

Italy's Benchmarks

**2000 Giacosa Barbaresco
Asili Riserva
98 Parker
98 Wine Spectator
\$415.00 magnum**



Parker: "... a spectacular wine ... expansive texture and an extraordinary finish" *Wine Spectator*:
"Decadent ... One of the greatest wines ever from Giacosa."

**1997 G. Mascarello Barolo
Riserva Ca' d'Morissio
95 Galloni
\$825.00 3-liter**



Antonio Galloni: "... irresistible wine that balances the opulence of the vintage with a classic sense of proportion. It opens with an exotic nose of roses ... that melds seamlessly onto the palate, where the wine explodes with masses of super-ripe fruit ... built to age."

Mythic Barolos: 1961-1979

- 1961 Giacomo Conterno Barolo.....275.00**
Deservedly legendary—from a great Northern Italian cellar.
- 1964 Giacomo Conterno Barolo.....295.00**
Antonio Galloni: "97 rating very sweet and perfumed ... great length and an indescribably fresh, lingering finish."
- 1964 Bartolo Mascarello Barolo395.00**
Sheldon Wasserman: "★★★★ Incredible bouquet, rich and complex ... near perfection"
- 1971 Bartolo Mascarello Barolo395.00**
Antonio Galloni (*from a 1.9 bottiglione*): "95+ rating,"
Not 1.9L, but pristine bottles from a superb Italian cellar.

- 1974 Ceretto Barolo Zonchetta
delle Brunate Magnum175.00**
A superb 32-year-old Barolo in amazing condition.
- 1977 Ceretto Barolo Prapo79.95**
We've had few '77 Barolos ever, and never one as good as this. A shocker!
- 1978 Paolo Scavino Barolo175.00**
Made by Enrico's father, years before the family became famous. Incredibly rare.
- 1979 Bruno Giacosa Villero245.00**
Rich, powerful, classic Giacosa Barolo in great condition.

Wine Spectator's Wine of the Year in Rare 3-Liter Bottles

**2001 Casanova di Neri
Brunello Tenuta Nuova
97 Wine Spectator
\$475.00 3-Liter**



Wine Spectator: "... intense blackberry, chocolate and lightly toasted oak. Full-bodied and ultravelvety, with caressing tannins. Vanilla, chocolate and berry."

More Rare Big Bottles

- 2000 Sassicaia 6-liter Incredibly Rare!..... 2500.00**
- 1995 Quintarelli Alzero 3-Liter1895.00**
- 1994 Dal Forno Amarone Magnum895.00**
- 2001 Bussola Valpolicella Magnum75.00**
- 2001 Bussola Valpolicella 5-liter275.00**
- 1999 Bartolo Mascarello Barolo Magnum150.00**
Classic Bartolo vintage and one of his last. Rare in magnum.
- 1989 A. Conterno Barolo Bussia Soprana 3-Liter ..895.00**
Parker: "94 rating."
- 1983 Gaja Barbaresco Sori Tildin 3-Liter595.00**

THE RARE WINE CO.
21481 EIGHTH STREET EAST · SONOMA, CA 95476
1-800-999-4342 1-707-996-4484
Fax: 1-800-893-1501 1-707-996-4491
email: sales@rarewineco.com

Holidays 2006

VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

1st CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONOMA, CA
PERMIT NO. 50

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**FOOD & WINE BEST WINE
2002 AMERICAN WINE AWARDS IMPORTER**