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NOVEMBER 15, 2005

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PIEDMONT

# Granbussia & Co.

## *The Legendary Barolos of Aldo Conterno*

In the 1960s, the cantina of Giacomo Conterno was for many the ultimate source of Barolo. But the Conterno family had come to a crossroads; Giacomo Conterno was ill and needed to turn the estate over to a son, but which one? Both Giovanni and Aldo had shown themselves talented winemakers, but only one could head the cantina.

Inevitably, it was the older son, Giovanni, who took over and with time added considerable luster to the Giacomo Conterno name. Aldo went his own way, acquiring superb sections of Bussia Soprana near the family home in Monforte d'Alba. And so he set up shop as a promising young Barolista.

Within a decade, Aldo Conterno had joined the Barolo elite. From Bussia Soprana, he had created five different Barolos. Three—Cicala, Colonnello and Romirasco—were from specific sections. A fourth, Bussia Soprana, was a blend, while the fifth, Granbussia, was made from the best barrels.

### **A New Chapter**

In the 1980's, Aldo's reputation soared. Cicala became famous for its complexity and depth, and Colonnello for its richness. Meanwhile, Aldo's

### *On Aldo Conterno's Barolos:*

*"One of the great masters of his craft." Robert Parker*

*"Without question among the finest in the zone. They are finely balanced, stylish wines, rich in fruit, displaying depth and class."*

*Sheldon Wasserman (1991)*

*"It would be unreasonable to demand greater finesse from so masculine a wine. Many would argue that this man is today the single greatest winemaker in Barolo"*

*Michael Garner & Paul Merritt, Barolo: Tar and Roses (1990)*

Granbussia emerged as one of Piedmont's most coveted wines.

One key to Granbussia's ascendancy in the 1980's was Aldo's decision to limit the proportions from Cicala and Colonnello to about 15% each, relying on the nuanced freshness of Romirasco to carry most of the load.

He also changed how Granbussia was aged. During the 1970's, it spent two years in wood and then several years in demijohn. In 1982, he switched from demijohn to stainless steel tank for the extra aging. Today, Granbussia spends two or three years in large Slavonian casks, followed by two years in stainless steel and one year in bottle.

### **This Offering**

It has been several years since we've done a major offering of Aldo Conterno's top Barolos. But we've made up for lost time with the offer that follows.

It includes the monumental and now-rare 1989s and 1990s, as well as the legendary 1985 Granbussia. But it also features the superb recent vintages of Granbussia, Cicala and Colonnello—all at compellingly low prices. *Here's your chance.* ►

PIEDMONT

# Granbussia

*“Every nuance of which great Barolo is capable.” Nicolas Belfrage*

**1997 Barolo Granbussia  
Riserva  
95 Wine Spectator  
\$142.95**



**1998 Barolo Granbussia  
Riserva  
93+ Tanzer  
\$124.95**



*Wine Spectator:* “Thought-provoking. Masses of leather and spice, with very ripe fruit on the nose. Full-bodied, with superrich fruit and loads of vanilla and ripe fruit character. As decadent and rich as the best chocolate mousse. Goes on for minutes. **\$210 retail.**”

Tanzer: “... highly nuanced nose combines hints of superripe red berries, minerals, truffle, mocha and tar. Rich, thick and velvety ... Wonderfully dense Barolo, at once round and solid. Very long, slow-mounting finish features big, broad, horizontal tannins. **\$214 retail.**”

**1996 Barolo Granbussia Riserva .....169.95**

Tanzer: “95+ rating ... a wine of compelling perfume. ... with great sappy verve and powerful framing acidity. Fruit flavors are lifted by an exotic suggestion of orange peel ... a long future, perfectly representative of this great vintage.”

**1995 Barolo Granbussia Riserva .....129.95**

Tanzer: “92+ rating ... Knockout perfumed nose ... Powerfully structured, dense and sweet ... already extremely aromatic in the mouth ...”

**1990 Barolo Granbussia Riserva\* .....325.00**

Parker: “93-96 rating ... super-concentrated.”

Parker: “93 rating ... offers classic scents of rose petals, melted asphalt, kirsch liqueur, and dried herbs. Sweet, full-bodied, and rich, it is a terrific effort for the vintage.”

**1985 Barolo Granbussia Riserva .....350.00**

Wasserman: “★★★★ Tartufo and ripe fruit aroma, fragrant scent, berry notes; soft and open, great intensity of flavor, lots of tannin, but soft ones, a lot of texture, impressive.”

**1989 Barolo Granbussia Riserva .....395.00**

Parker: “98 rating ... nearly perfection. My notes included such words as ‘magnificent,’ ‘awesome,’ ‘frightening extract levels,’ ‘decadent,’ and ‘opulent.’ Not much more can be said.”

## Cicala



**2001 Barolo Cicala\*  
95+ Tanzer  
\$84.95**

Tanzer: “Quintessential Barolo perfume: minerals, tobacco, underbrush, tar, licorice, gunflint. Then wonderfully rich and seamless in the mouth, with superb concentration and purity of flavor ... strikingly complex from the outset...Great wine in the making. **\$139 retail.**”

**1996 Barolo Cicala\* ..... 110.00**

Tanzer: “95+ rating ... brooding aromas of roasted plum, cherry, tar and mint. Powerful and large-scaled ... A massive Barolo that is not at all heavy. Really chewy with extract. Finishes with big, lush tannins and superb persistence.”

**1990 Barolo Cicala .....189.95**

**1990 Barolo Cicala Magnum ..... 399.00**

Parker: “95 rating. ... super-concentrated ... outstanding.”

**1999 Barolo Cicala\*  
95+ Tanzer  
\$89.95**



Tanzer: “A powerful, penetrating wine with superb acidity and grip. Firmly tannic, tough and long, but the tannins are nonetheless buried under explosive fruit ... this rather masculine Barolo has uncanny persistence. One of the stars of the vintage.”

## Colonnello

**2001 Barolo Colonnello\* .. 82.50**

Tanzer: “94+ rating. Highly nuanced nose ... very brisk, firm flavors of red berries and minerals. At once superripe and gripping ... Slow-building finish is long and perfumed. **\$139 retail.**”

**1990 Barolo Colonnello ..... 179.95**

Parker: “96 rating ... outstanding ...”

**1989 Barolo Colonnello Magnum .....425.00**

Parker: “96 rating ... spectacularly rich, voluptuous Barolo.”

# AUSTRALIA

## The Juggernaut Rolls On

*Aussie Stars Anointed in the New Wine Advocate*

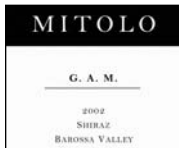
*Down Under* is on a roll. With four fantastic vintages in a row, its current run is beginning to resemble the hot streaks enjoyed in recent years in Piedmont and the Southern Rhône.

The new *Wine Advocate* runs through the latest Australian releases, covering wines from 2002, 2003

and 2004. And, like last year, a number of wines received huge scores.

As we continue to round up the most compelling wines reviewed by Parker, we can offer the following. Please note, however, that for most wines quantities are very limited.

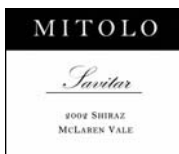
### Ben Glaetzer



**2004 Mitolo GAM Shiraz\***  
**97 Parker**  
**\$59.95**

Parker: "... an exceptional example of a precise yet full-flavored, concentrated Shiraz ... gorgeous perfume of blueberries, blackberries, camphor, licorice, and pain grillé ... superb purity, full-bodied richness, and gorgeous depth as well as texture ... another example of Ben Glaetzer's brilliant talents."

**2004 Mitolo Savitar Shiraz\***  
**98 Parker**  
**\$69.95**



Parker: "... Bordering on perfection ... an extraordinary nose of acacia flowers, blueberries, raspberries, and blacker fruits, melted licorice, and graphite ... amazing intensity, great equilibrium ... and a blockbuster finish ... should prove to be one of the legends of southern Australia's great 2004 vintage."

**2004 Godolphin Shiraz-Cabernet\* ..... 67.50**

Parker: "96-98 rating ... nearly perfect ... 105- to 115-year-old vines ... cropped at a minuscule .5 to 1 ton of fruit per acre ... Its gorgeously sweet, pure nose of crushed rocks, blueberries, cassis, and minerals soars from the glass ... nearly endless depth and persistence ... the stuff of legends"

### Kaesler

**2003 Kaesler "The Bogan"\* .....59.95**

Parker: "95 rating ... an exuberant, flamboyantly-styled Shiraz ... wonderful peppery, blackberry, and currant fruit, and hints of charcoal as well as spice box. This full, opulent offering was fashioned from a vineyard planted in 1899, 1961, 1985, and 1990."

**2003 Kaesler 'Old Bastard'\***  
**96 Parker**  
**\$125.00**

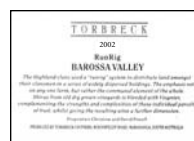


Parker: "... a candidate for Shiraz of the vintage from South Australia ... serious velocity and intensity ... A glorious perfume of charcoal, blackberry liqueur, smoke, and vanilla ... This big, pure, rich Shiraz can be drunk now or cellared for 10-15 years."

**2002 Kaesler "Old Bastard"\* .....125.00**

Parker: "96 rating ... from a vineyard planted in 1896 ... cropped at one ton of fruit per acre ... A spectacular perfume of raspberries, plums, blackberries, espresso, vanilla, and charcoal ... a huge palate, massive concentration, tremendous richness, and a multidimensional flavor profile."

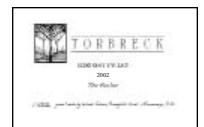
### Torbreck



**2002 Torbreck 'Run Rig'\***  
**99 Parker**  
**\$210.00**

Parker: "... the essence of old vine Barossa fruit. Extraordinarily opulent and rich ... one of the most remarkable wines made in either the Southern or Northern Hemisphere ...."

**2002 Torbreck 'The Factor'\***  
**99 Parker**  
**\$129.95**



Parker: "... even more awesome than the 2001 ... a blackberry liqueur-like intensity with chocolatey richness intermixed with blackberries, raspberries, and cherries. The unctuous texture, refreshing acidity, and sweet tannin frame-up this magnificent wine."

## WHITE BURGUNDY

# Billaud-Simon

### *Superb 2002 Chablis from a Mythic Domaine*

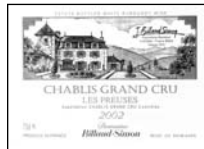
There's nothing like a great vintage or two to get an underappreciated wine "discovered." It happened for Barolo and Châteauneuf in 1989 and 1990. And history repeated itself in 2000 and 2002 for Chablis.

Once trapped in the Côte d'Or's shadow, Chablis' best wines today have huge sex appeal in the marketplace, especially those of the two greatest practitioners, Raveneau and Dauvissat. But the magic has also boosted demand for the wines of other fine small growers like Billaud-Simon.

Billaud-Simon is ranked just after Raveneau, Dauvissat and Fèvre among Chablis' elite domaines. Yet, its tiny production has made it far less well-known. The estate has been run by the Billaud family since 1815 and today boasts several prized *grand cru* holdings, including an acre each in both Les Clos and Les Preuses.

Billaud-Simon's wines have great richness and character, with the capacity for years of aging. We are proud to offer our four favorite Billaud-Simon 2002's at very attractive prices.

### **2002 Chablis Grand Cru "Les Preuses" 94 Burghound \$69.95**

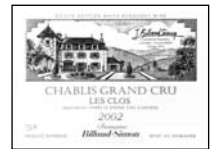


*Burghound:* "... from 80+ year old vines ... silky, pure, wonderfully well-balanced flavors that simply ooze extract of white peaches and a deft touch of minerality plus the incredibly long finish is both tangy and very sappy ... offers simply stunning harmony of expression ... an absolutely exquisite wine ..."

### **2002 Chablis 1er Cru "Mont de Milieu Vieilles Vignes" 92 Burghound \$45.00**

*Burghound:* "... from 50 to 55 year old vines ... sappy, dense and intense flavors that are quite round in the middle yet precise on the long, palate staining finish. This is extremely impressive and easily offers grand cru weight and power. Terrific at this level."

### **2002 Chablis Grand Cru "Les Clos" 93 Tanzer \$69.95**



Steve Tanzer: "Extremely complex aromas of lime, vineyard peach, flowers, powdered stone, menthol and licorice offer terrific lift. Dense, sappy and seamless; very rich and very precise ... very long, with a flavor of powdered stone, along with the vineyard-typical iodine and salty traces that always remind me of Le Montrachet. \$97 retail price."



### **2002 Chablis "Tête d'Or" \$24.95**

From a parcel of vines just below the great *premier cru* vineyard Montée de Tonnerre, and aged only 20% in wood, this is as pure and seductive a 2002 Chablis as you'll find, bursting with minerals and white fruit and a wonderfully luscious mouthfeel. A fantastic buy.

### *Louis Jadot's Incredible 2002 Corton Charlemagne*

### **2002 Louis Jadot Corton Charlemagne 96+ Steve Tanzer 94-97 Pierre Rovani \$129.95 bt. \$259.95 mag. \$65.00 half bt.**



Steve Tanzer: "... dense and penetrating, with elegant but seriously intense flavors of lime, lemon, powdered stone and mint. Wonderfully light on its feet for a wine with this degree of power and thrust ... This should age like a red wine and will be spectacular in 8 or 10 years."

Pierre Rovani: "... powerful, dense, explosive ... awesome aromatics ..."

PRIORAT

# Iberian Masterworks

*Alvaro Palacios' Great 2003's*

*Spanish wine* is at a crossroads. The country's growers have proven that they can make prodigious wines, marvels of power and richness. But few have yet to prove that they can create wines that are truly individual, as the Piemontese have, or express great *vineyards*, as the French have.

And so the question is raised: 25 years from now, which of today's Spanish wines will be classics ... having separated themselves from the herd by saying something truly unique? And which of today's winemakers will still be considered great?

A lot can happen in a quarter century, but Alvaro Palacios has earned his claim on such a future.

## Iconic Wines

Since the late '80's, he has probed the potential of Priorat's ancient vineyards, proving that they can yield massive wines. His '94's and '95's were celebrated worldwide, yet he wanted more. Having apprenticed at Ch. Pétrus, Alvaro understood why collectors revere a Coche-Dury Corton-Charlemagne or Jayer Cros Parantoux: they offer a unique experience. They're not valued for their scale, but for their singularity, and Alvaro was determined to make such an iconic wine.



*Alvaro Palacios' aging cellar*

His 1993 purchase of the great L'Ermita vineyard was the first step towards his goal. With its old Garnacha vines, L'Ermita proved to Alvaro that this was *the* noble variety of the region. And since L'Ermita's first vintage, it has been hailed by collectors and critics the world over.

## Challenging but Great

In 2003, Alvaro produced his finest wines in a decade: a near-perfect **L'Ermita**, a transcendent **Finca Dofi** and a stupendous **Les Terrasses**.

But such magical wines were not easily made. As in the rest of Europe, Priorat experienced record heat and no rain from July 1st through the harvest, creating unbelievable stress for the vines. It was possible to make great wines, but only if you relied on old vines in protected sites or if you left much of the crop on the ground.

Alvaro Palacios did both, making the most powerful wines so far in his career—though in quantities that are down sharply from previous vintages.

These are great wines that you won't want to miss. But to experience them, you'll have to hurry.



**2003 L'Ermita**  
**94-97 Parker**

**\$395.00** *bt.* **\$825.00** *mag.*

Parker: "... superb ... a huge nose of crème de cassis, flowers, crushed rocks, and a hint of smoke. The wine is full-bodied and opulent, with tremendous structure, great definition and purity, and a huge, but elegant, persistent finish."

**Also available:**  
**\$1650.00 3-liter**



**2003 Finca Dofi**  
**94 Wine Spectator**

**\$69.95** *bt.* **\$149.95** *mag.*

*Wine Spectator:* "Rich and mouth-coating, this red is packed with jammy fruit flavors of blackberry and black raspberry, with chocolate and coffee oak notes and accents of wild herbs and licorice. Muscular tannins lurk beneath the plush texture."

**Also available:**  
**\$325.00 3-liter \$550.00 5-liter**



**2003 Les Terrasses**  
**92 Wine Spectator**

**\$27.95** *bt.* **\$65.00** *mag.*

*Wine Spectator:* "Dense, rich and smooth. This polished red offers ripe blackberry, roasted plum, dark chocolate, licorice and tobacco flavors over ripe tannins. So plush and harmonious it's easy to overlook the complexity and concentration. Drink now through 2012."

**Also available:**  
**\$135.00 3-liter**

## WINE ANTIQUES

# Antique Wine Decanters

Each holiday season since 1993, we have offered a range of antique English and Irish wine decanters from the 18th and 19th centuries. As a direct result of this tradition, beautiful and rare decanters now grace the tables of many of our customers and their friends, enhancing their enjoyment of fine food and wine.

As always, each item is an original antique, representing one of the classic styles of the 18th or 19th centuries.

Each decanter is accompanied by a letter of authentication signed by Andrew Burne, one of England's foremost experts on early English and Irish glass.

The decanters shown here are just ten of the 25 decanters (or sets) available for delivery the week of December 12th. Photographs of the others are available on our website [www.rarewineco.com](http://www.rarewineco.com), or by fax or e-mail on request. Decanters are bottle size unless noted.



J2. George III Decanter with scalloped disc stopper, mallet shape, central band of polished arrowheads and engraved tulips. English C. 1770. \$895



J4. George III Decanter with scalloped disc stopper, plain taper body. English c. 1770. \$795



J6. George III Decanter with bull's eye stopper, 3 rings, classic plain body. English c.1790. \$825



18. George III Decanter with bull's eye stopper, 3 plain neck rings, flat finger flutes to shoulder and fine finger flutes to base. English/Irish c. 1790. \$790



I3. George III Decanter with heart shape lozenge stopper, 3 flattened applied neck rings, flat finger flutes at shoulder, fine finger flutes at base. Irish c. 1790. \$895



J13. Regency Decanter with cushion stopper, 3 cut neck rings, wholly diamond-cut body. English c. 1810. \$695



J15. George III Decanter with mushroom stopper, 3 neck rings, flutes at shoulder and slanting prisms at base. English c. 1820. \$695



J20. George IV Claret Jug with mushroom stopper, step neck, diamond cut arches. English c.1825. \$895



J25. Regency Decanter with cushion stopper, 3 neck rings, step to shoulder, wavy diamond band. English c.1820. \$795



J24. **Pair** Regency Decanters with mushroom stoppers, 3 triple neck rings, diamond bodies. Irish c.1810. \$1050

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.

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## PROVENCE

# Bandol's Aristocrat

## *The Rare & Compelling 1985 of Château Pradeaux*

The *Mourvèdre* grape flourishes throughout the Mediterranean, but its home is Provence, in Bandol, where it arguably achieves its greatest expression.

Bandol's steep south-facing amphitheatre gives *Mourvèdre* the warmth it needs to ripen fully, giving it the wonderfully spicy aromas and flavors of summer berries, wild herbs, leather and truffles that define the appellation and the varietal.

Before *Phylloxera*, *Mourvèdre* dominated Bandol's vineyards. But it proved difficult to graft onto American rootstock, fostering a wholesale replanting of the area to Grenache, Carignan and Cinsault. Yet, diehards, led by Domaine Tempier and Château Pradeaux, insisted that Bandol without *Mourvèdre* wasn't Bandol at all. Thanks to their efforts, today all Bandols are at least 50% *Mourvèdre*, and the best examples are even more.

### Château Pradeaux

In 1752, the Portalis family founded the Pradeaux estate, and now, eight generations later, Pradeaux is the bedrock of Bandol traditionalism. It has some of Bandol's oldest vines, which are almost entirely *Mourvèdre*. The fruit from these low yielding vines is hand

*"Ch. Pradeaux and its proprietor Cyrille Portalis are the Bandolian equivalent of Châteauneuf du Pape's Henri Bonneau and Jacques Reynaud—eccentric, idiosyncratic, at times reclusive, yet capable of making the greatest wines of the appellation." Robert Parker*

harvested late for maximum ripeness and never de-stemmed. In top vintages, aging is in old *foudres* for up to five years. Portalis doesn't use *barrisques*, feeling that they obscure the character of Bandol's *terroir*.

Pradeaux is prized as the archetypal example of Bandol as it was before *Phylloxera*. Huge and structured, it needs ten years to be approachable and can age for twenty or more.

We have acquired a few cases of Pradeaux's famous, and now rare, 1985 from a fine European cellar. Quantities are extremely limited.

### 1985 Ch. Pradeaux Bandol

**\$59.95** *very limited*



Classic "old-style" Bandol, wild and beautiful, a wine whose marriage of majesty and rusticity is utterly unique. This 1985, from a great Bandol vintage, boasts an intense perfume and flavors of woodsmoke, black plum, wild cherries, tobacco, herbs and black olive and a massively concentrated texture. Great now, it will keep in a good cellar for another 5 years or more.

## *Châteauneuf du Pape: Something Old, And Something New*

### 1978 Mont Redon Châteauneuf du Pape **\$69.95**



Forty years ago, Mont Redon was one of the elite domaines of Châteauneuf du Pape. Planted to vines since the 1300s, it set a standard for everyone else in Châteauneuf to follow. Earlier this year, Mont Redon released a small amount of their excellent 1978, which had never left the domaine. We were offered a few cases in beautiful condition, with high fills and bursting with character and flavor. A fabulous value.

### 2003 St. Préfert\* Châteauneuf du Pape "Collection Chas. Giraud" 96 *Wine Spectator* **\$54.95**



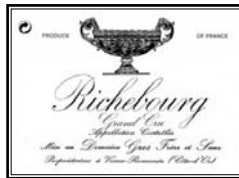
*Wine Spectator*: "Exotic flavors of anise, licorice and blackberry confiture, along with cocoa, floral and tar notes. Dense, but plush and silky for the vintage, with a raspberry ganache-loaded finish that won't quit. A real beauty. Drink now through 2025. 415 cases made."

## RED BURGUNDY

# Gros Frère's Fabulous 2002s

*In 2002, Bernard Gros made two wines that could well define his career. We are delighted to offer his coveted Richebourg and Clos Vougeot "Musigni."*

**2002 Gros Frère\***  
**Richebourg**  
**98 Parker (Hedonist's Gazette)**  
**\$249.95**



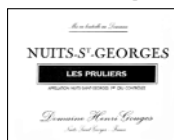
**2002 Gros Frère\***  
**Clos Vougeot "Musigni"**  
**96 Parker (Hedonist's Gazette)**  
**\$95.00**

Pierre Rovani: "... magnificent aromatic depth ... Silky-textured, deep, and holding much in reserve, this concentrated, elegant wine also displays an exceptionally long finish. Projected maturity: 2008-2020. Bravo!"

Pierre Rovani: "... a profound, mouth-watering nose ... Armed with awesome power and concentration ... Though intensely rich, this wine also reveals outstanding purity and freshness ...."

## Three More Essential Burgundies

**2003 Comte Armand**  
**Pommard**  
**"Clos des Epeneaux"**  
**93-95+ Pierre Rovani**  
**\$84.95**



**2002 Henri Gouges**  
**Nuits St. Georges**  
**"Pruiliers"**  
**93-95 Pierre Rovani**  
**\$75.00**

Rovani: "Explodes from the glass with waxy red and black cherries, roasting spices, and toasted oak. Medium to full-bodied, it is crammed with superb flavors of red fruits (cherries and raspberries), dark berries (boysenberries, black cherries, cassis), licorice, and tar. Dense, velvety-textured, and fresh, it exhibits a persistent, structured, ripe tannin filled finish. \$116 retail price."

**2003 Clos de Tart\***  
**94+ Pierre Rovani**  
**\$175.00**

Rovani: "... outstanding ... bursts from the glass with black cherries, blackberries, and roasting spices. Intensely powerful, this wine boasts superb concentration and depth. A mouth-coating, full-bodied, thick effort, it slathers the palate with black fruits. This sappy, chunky wine possesses an extremely long finish with firm, hard tannin."

Rovani: "... the dense, hugely concentrated 2002 Nuits-St.-Georges Les Pruliers is a big, bold, masculine wine. Licorice, asphalt, candied blackberries and cherries can be detected in this medium to full-bodied behemoth's personality. Possessing broad shoulders, awesome length, and exquisitely ripened tannin, this is a candidate for drinking between 2008 and 2020."

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November 15, 2005  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**