

Herb's Choices September 2011

Decatur Package Store ~ 1220 Clairmont Rd ~ Decatur GA 30030 ~ 404-633-5250

DecaturPackageStore.com

WHITES

2010 Vignale Pinot Grigio

This is a fabulous Pinot Grigio. It's made in a richer style (read: not the thin lemon water style) with baked apple and almond aromas. It has good weight on the palate with melon up-front and citrus on the backend. This white is fragrant as well with mineral notes too. The finish is crisp with apple flavors and good length. Terrific PG!

2010 Reverdy Sancerre

Finding a good AND affordable Sancerre is tough work. Luckily, I found this one from Reverdy. It has herbaceous and wet stone aromas and elegant flavors of passion fruit and slate on the palate. The mid-palate is somewhat round making this a softer, less bracing style. The finish shows citrus notes and more passion fruit. Excellent example of how *terroir* affects Sauvignon Blanc.

2009 Coppola Chardonnay

This new \$10 Chardonnay from Coppola is a tremendous value. It has lightly oaked aromas of pineapple and pear. On the palate, it's clean and fresh with good acidity and tangerine and mango flavors. It has a pleasant roundness and softer, pear fruit on the mid-palate. The finish shows a hint of pineapple and butterscotch and good length.

2010 Vilacentinho Vinho Verde

This is a perfect Vinho Verde. It starts with crisp, citrus and almond aromas and continues on the palate with a light spritz and medium bright lemon/lime flavors. This white is clean and juicy on the palate and quite refreshing. The finish shows more citrus and nice length.

2009 The Whip White

Hello Baby Conundrum! This white blend (Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, and Muscat) has lovely floral and apricot aromas with just a hint of oak. It's clean and pleasantly ripe on the palate with apricot, mango, light spice, and subtle oak. It has good body and enough acidity for balance. The finish has peach and apricot flavors with light toast notes. Solid easy drinking white!

The Wine Advocate – 91 Points!

2008 W. Hill Bench Chardonnay

"The '08 Bench Chardonnay offers a beautiful bouquet of crushed rocks, unbuttered popcorn, tangerines and honey. The medium to full-bodied Chardonnay went through malolactic, but has kept the oak component well-balanced in its overall personality. Enjoy it over the next year."

REDS

2008 Shannon Ridge Red

This is a solid red blend made from mostly Zinfandel, Syrah, and Petite Sirah. Let it aerate for 30 min and you'll find dark berry and clove aromas followed by ripe berry fruit, vanilla, and cloves on the palate. This blend has a solid fruit component and good acidity as well for structure. The finish is lengthy with dark, brambly fruit and vanilla notes. Well done!

Wine Enthusiast - 92 Points!

2008 Eberle VS Cabernet

"This is a beautiful *Cabernet* to drink now with a good steak. It's rich and complex in blackberry and black currant flavors, and is very dry, with lingering acidity. The tannins are thick but fine. The best *Cabernet* from Eberle in memory. Drink now."

Wine Enthusiast – 91 Points!

2007 Eberle Estate Cabernet

"This Cabernet is made in a leaner, earthier style you can describe as food friendly. It has complex flavors of blackberries, black currants and coffee. For those critics who knock California Cabernet as too ripe, this will come as a pleasant surprise. Drink now–2013."

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2009 Rioja Vega

This is a solid value from Rioja. It starts with aromas of dark berry fruit with a hint of vanilla. On the palate, you'll find slightly bright, cassis and black fruit with a note of spice. It has a dry backbone and the finish has medium tannins with raspberry, cocoa, and vanilla flavors. Perfect everyday drinking Rioja!

The Wine Advocate - 92+ Points!

2006 Ramey Larkmead Cabernet

"The '06 Larkmead is extremely promising. Its inky/ruby/purple color is followed by a gorgeous perfume of smoke herbs, graphite, creme de cassis, coffee beans, and toasty oak. With sensational fruit on the attack and mid-palate, and a finish filled with power, glycerin, depth, and impressive structure, this 2006 will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age, and should evolve for two decades or more."

2009 Medievo Seleccion Especial Rioja

This Rioja sees 4 mo. of oak and shows aromas of red fruits and spice. It has a solid mouthfeel with dark berry/black fruit and vanilla notes. This red has good weight on the palate and good structure, too. The finish has very good berry fruit, nice length, and vanilla and caramel notes at the very end. Great Rioja!

2009 Laetitia Estate Pinot Noir

This is a great example of the feminine style of Pinot Noir. It has a lovely aroma of ripe and juicy red berry fruit. This Pinot Noir is very pretty on the palate with ripe, red fruits, and floral notes. It has balanced acidity and solid concentration of flavor. The finish is lengthy with dark berry fruit. This is a lovely Pinot Noir!

2007 Taburno Fidelis Aglianico

This Italian Aglianico tastes significantly more complex than its price reflects. If you enjoy rustic, Old World Italian reds, then this is for you. Rich aromas of roasted berry fruit with tobacco and earth notes lead to layers of flavors on the palate – dried berry fruit, clove, earth, cinnamon, and even mint. The finish is complex as well with dried black fruit, herbs, and menthol notes. Neat wine!

2004 Jacuzzi Merlot

This Sonoma Coast Merlot is a great value. It starts with slightly roasted aromas of black fruits and plums. On the palate, you'll find slightly bright, concentrated blackberry and dark plum fruit. There's a pleasant hint of vanilla, too. This wine still has good grip and the finish is full-flavored with brambly, blackberry fruit. Solid, full-bodied red!

2008 Cuvee des Colosses

This Syrah/Carignane blend is a super wine. This Rhone-styled red has aromas of concentrated dark berry fruit and dried herbs. It's slightly soft on the palate with dried raspberry fruit, and herbs. It has a juicy mouthfeel and great concentration of flavor. The finish shows lovely ripe, berry fruit and good length. Solid blend!

Wine Enthusiast – 88 Points!

2007 Brophy Clark Pinot Noir

"Young and not showing much now beyond huge, powerful fruit and smoky, unintegrated oak. It floods the mouth with waves of black cherry jam, black raspberry tarts, red currants, cola and dusty, East Asian spices. Forward and simple now, but could develop bottle complexity over the next 4–6 years. The score reflects potential, not current reality."

The Wine Advocate – 93 Points!

2007 W. Hill Bench Cabernet

"This powerful, rich effort is the finest W. Hill Cabernet made in the last 25 years. An opaque purple color is followed by notes of charcoal, incense, crème de cassis and spicy oak. Full and rich with nicely integrated wood, acidity and tannin, it should drink well for 10-15+ years."

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ADVENTUROUS

2009 Scherer Gewurztraminer

I love Alsatian Gewurztraminer. It has lots of flavor. It's ripe but not overripe and has the ability to pair with a variety of foods. This example has a rich aroma of apricots and spice. It has smooth fruit cocktail, apricot, and peach flavors on the palate with a nice spice note. The acidity is perfect as well. Trust me on this one, especially if you're having any spicy Asian food or sushi.

2008 Writer's Block Cabernet Franc

I taste so many wines, so I can find this one. This is a **STELLAR** Cabernet Franc. It has a lovely aroma of sweet blueberries, vanilla, and caramel. It's quite smooth on the palate with black and blue fruit and vanilla flavors. The mid-palate shows good grip and the finish is very lengthy with rich, dark berry fruit and caramel. Fabulous wine for the \$\$\$.

2009 Shooting Star Blue Franc

This funky red from Washington State is made from Blau Frankisch. I love when a crazy varietal tastes this good. Earthy aromas of "blue" fruits lead to black-berry, vanilla, caramel, and dried herbs flavors on the palate. This wine has a good fruit component and surprising complexity. The finish has good length, ripe tannins, and dark berry fruit.