

WineClub

Welcome to the Club

After leaving a career in Human Resources, I dove headfirst into the world of wine - a passion that quickly became a calling. I earned my Certified Specialist of Wine credential during COVID, then gained hands-on experience in a vineyard & tasting room. A stint in London for the Wine & Spirit Education Trust Level 3 pushed me to my limits, but I passed with renewed confidence. It's been a winding journey, with a few HR detours, but now I'm fully immersed in wine and loving every moment. Thank you for joining the club - I can't wait to explore this world with fellow enthusiasts like you!

Sincerely,


Vietti Marche, Italy

Vietti was founded in the late 1800s in the heart of the Langhe, perched at the highest point of the medieval village of Castiglione Falletto—where it still stands today. Over generations, the Vietti family built a brand rooted in culture, vision, and enthusiasm, establishing a legacy that carried through to the 1990s.

Today, Vietti is recognized among Italy's top wine producers. Quality, tradition, and thoughtful experimentation have shaped its reputation. Art has been central to the winery's identity since the late 1950s, culminating in the introduction of Artist Labels in 1974—one of the most influential innovations of its time.

In 2016, the Krause family purchased the estate and expanded its holdings with renowned Crus in both Barolo and Barbaresco. They remain committed to preserving Vietti's identity and values while continuing to build toward the future.

Hilary's Note: *"You may know by now that the more obscure a wine is the more attracted I am to it. While Roero isn't as obscure as some, I know it is a grape not too familiar to many. I love this wine's brightness, balance, and floral aromas. This bottle is, in my opinion, easy to enjoy in one sitting."*

Lieu Dit Santa Barbara, CA

Born from shared passion and years of camaraderie, Lieu Dit (meaning "named place" in French) was founded in 2011 by friends determined to explore the deeper mysteries of wine. Justin Willett—raised in Santa Barbara and inspired after earning his B.A. from UCSB—began his winemaking career at Arcadian Winery before launching Tyler Winery in 2005. Known for small-lot Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, he also serves as consulting winemaker for Wenzlau Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills.

Fueled by countless bottles and formative trips to France, Justin and his likeminded companion created Lieu Dit to focus on Loire Valley varieties grown in Santa Barbara County's marine-based soils and varied micro-climates. Sauvignon Blanc leads the lineup, supported by limited Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Franc, and Rosé, totaling about 2,500 cases annually. Each vintage reflects their pursuit of purity, elegance, and balance.

Hilary's Note: *"We must give credit where credit is due. Cabernet Franc, a parent grape to Cabernet Sauvignon, has all the boldness and brightness with none of the pretention. Drink this wine with your next meal and a slight chill. Lieu Dit really puts themselves on the map with this wine."*

WINES OF THE MOMENT

Roero Arneis

This 100% Roero Arneis was first bottled in purity in 1967 by the Vietti family. I love this varietal—its relative obscurity makes it all the more intriguing. The grapes come from hand-harvested, select vineyards rooted in limestone- and clay-rich soils. The vines average 31 years of age and sit in the heart of the Roero region.



Roero, located in Piedmont just north of the Langhe, is known for its sandy soils, medieval hilltop villages, and distinctive DOCG wines made from native varieties. Roero Arneis is a fresh, aromatic white with floral notes, green apple, and crisp minerality.

This bottling shows bright floral, citrus, and melon aromas that continue to open in the glass. A clear mineral thread runs through both the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, fresh, and elegant, it offers enough complexity to really shine.

Perfect Pairings: From start to finish, this wine can carry a full meal. Begin with a caprese salad—fresh mozzarella and tomatoes let its minerality shine. Move on to crab cakes or scallops, where the wine's texture pairs beautifully, and finish with a light Alfredo, which the acidity cuts through with ease.

Cabernet Franc

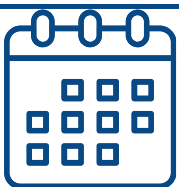
This 100% Cabernet Franc is sourced from vineyards in the Santa Ynez Valley and Santa Barbara County, grown in sandy, clay-loam, and alluvial soils. Cabernet Franc doesn't always get the recognition it deserves. It's an important black varietal worldwide—offering structure, lift, and character without showing off.



Cabernet Franc is a resilient, expressive grape capable of producing high-quality wines across a range of climates. It's known for its distinctive herbaceous notes and subtle bell pepper aromatics. Savory in profile and versatile in the cellar, Cab Franc typically ages well for 2–10 years.

This month's wine opens with aromas of black cherry, tomato leaf, violets, and graphite. True to the varietal, the nose leaps from the glass. On the palate, expect pomegranate, plum, and dried herbs. Like last month's selection, this Cabernet Franc also shines with a slight chill.

Perfect Pairings: Enjoy this Cabernet Franc with your new go-to pairing: mushroom risotto. For a more protein-forward option, try it with pork tenderloin finished with a bourbon-fig glaze or roast duck with a sweet citrus glaze. This wine is as versatile as it is beautiful in the glass. Be sure to save some to savor after the meal.



Upcoming Pick Up Dates:

Thursday, September 17th - Pick Up Party at PV Mall

Thursday, October 15th - Pick Up Party at McDowell

Thursday, November 19th - Pick Up Party at Mayo

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