

Recommendations: Wines that offer great value for the price

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Prices are approximate. Check Winesearcher.com to verify availability, or ask a favorite wine store to order through a distributor.

This is another installment of Dave McIntyre's occasional series of recommendations of wines that provide exceptional value for the price.

Campellares 2007

*** 1/2**

Rioja, Spain, \$12

This is an interesting contrast to the St. Francis: much lighter in texture and brighter in acidity, with straightforward cherry flavors.

Grapes of Spain/Elite: available in the District at Calvert Woodley, La Bodega, Rodman's; on the list at Et Voila!, Taberna del Alabardero. Available in Maryland at Chesapeake Wine Co. and the Wine Source in Baltimore. Available in Virginia at Fern Street Gourmet and Planet Wine in Alexandria, the Wine Seller in Herndon, various Whole Foods Market locations.

Domaine du Tariquet "Classic" 2008

*** 1/2**

Gascony, France, \$8

This blend of Ugni Blanc and Colombard is a simple, refreshing white for sipping or noshing, and it is a great value when on sale for even less than the suggested price. It's a good candidate to be your house white, and the screwcap makes it easier to save some for tomorrow. It's low in alcohol, too, at 10.5 percent.

Kacher/Washington Wholesale: available in the District at Calvert Woodley, Connecticut Avenue Wine & Liquor, Dixie Liquors, Morris Miller, Pearson's; on the list at Acadiana. Available in Maryland at Snider's Super Foods in Silver Spring. Available in Virginia at various Balducci's and Whole Foods Market locations.

St. Francis Winery "Red" 2007

*** 1/2**

California, \$11

This blend of merlot, syrah, cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc is quite nice for the price, lushly textured, sappy and a tad sweet, with black fruit and mushroom flavors.

Kobrand/Republic National: available in the District at Calvert Woodley, Circle Liquors, Cleveland Park Wine and Spirits, Morris Miller, Super Fresh, Whole Foods Market Tenleytown; on the list at CoCo Sala, Enology, Fogo de Chao, the Rookery.