

ANNA'S GROCERY STORE

WINE PICKS

4.21.2020

RED

BOTTLE: Charles Smith Wines SUBSTANCE "Cs" CABERNET SAUVIGNON, Columbia Valley, WA, 2017

PRICE: \$13.99 - \$19.99

PURCHASE: Midtown Fresh, Costco

This is the first of many Charles Smith wines you will inevitably see on future lists. From 'Kung Fu Girl' Riesling, to 'K' Syrah, Charles Smith has created affordable award-winning Washington wines that continue to compete! Smith has an extensive portfolio of wines so if you don't know where to start, try his 91+points rated Cabernet Sauvignon from his "Substance" line. This is the wine that made me a believer. It is a fuller-bodied find that brings the taste of Napa Valley fruit and Columbia Valley spice & herb to the table. For being more 'regal' in structure, this wine still has a solid amount of tannin. It also boasts a longer finish that you typically taste in more expensive wines...darn.

WHITE

BOTTLE: MONIKER CHARDONNAY, Mendocino County, CA, 2015

PRICE: \$9.99 – \$19.99

PURCHASE: Costco, Bronco Mart

Disclaimer: I will try not to go heavy on Chardonnay reviews in the future, but this bottle was on sale for a price I couldn't pass up!

You may be familiar with Moniker Wine Estates if you've perused Webster's Wine List within the last few years. Moniker's Cabernet Sauvignon was a staple bottle on our rotation list, specifically for its great taste and price. Their Chardonnay is no different, and it is a bottle I personally like to pour for the wine-drinker that believes they will never get into the grape. This wine tones down the baking spice notes of classic California Chardonnays and blends it with crisp pome fruit notes. In turn, you are getting the best of both worlds (pun intended): A bright yet slightly toasty wine, with minerality and texture! Jim Gordon from Wine Enthusiast also seems to agree, giving this wine a 91 point rating!

SPARKLING

BOTTLE: BAREFOOT EXTRA DRY CHAMPAGNE, CA, N/V

PRICE: \$8.99 – \$14.99

PURCHASE: Meijer, Target, Wal-Mart

Okay, so I realize the Barefoot brand is considered to be more of the college gateway into wines you can purchase at Walgreen's (their Pinot Grigio was my personal sophomore year choice), but please, in the year 2020, do not underestimate their bubbly. Over the last decade, Barefoot has been honing in on their sparkling skills and have created a solid line of dry to sweet offerings at a beyond budget-friendly price. I love prominent bubbles and Barefoot's line has a nice presence. Their Extra Dry Champagne boasts more of a velvety texture than the rest in their line which is why it wins out for me. In general, Extra Dry Champagne is a touch sweeter than a dry Brut (think more along the lines of a Prosecco). This nice in-between makes it the ultimate Brunch bottle to go down on its own, or as a Monday Mimosa.

Cheers!

Anna Schmitt

Food & Beverage Manager

Webster's Prime

