



THE CELLAR D'OR

WINE & CIDER

THE EPIC! HOLIDAYS 2014

Domaine de l'Arlot Cotes du Nuit Village "Clos du Chapeau" 2012: One of the top estates in Burgundy, l'Arlot makes absolutely the purest form of Pinot Noir you'll ever encounter. It's often found in the cellars of collectors across the world, and can be tough to find. This small 3 acre vineyard called "Clos du Chapeau" is comprised of limestone soils, perfect for growing Pinot Noir. Ruby red, floral, spicy and elegant, l'Arlot's wines are always beautiful, haunting masterpieces. Pinot Noir is an amazing wine at the holiday table, and it's always even more special when a bottle of Burgundy is open. 2012 is an amazing vintage in Burgundy as well, so this wine will be firing on all cylinders. Give it a good decanting a few hours before drinking.

Domaine Raymond Usseglio Chateuneuf-du-Pape 1998 : Another holiday dinner table staple is Chateuneuf, and why not one that has been aged to perfection? These wines are complex, fruit forward and powerful. They can be herbal and spicy, exhibiting that "garrigues" note from all the wild herbs that grow around the Rhone Valley. A second generation winery, Raymond took over the domain from his father and changed the name in 1964. This is a traditional estate, and the wines are aged in a combination of cement and large neutral oak foudre. Comprised of 75% Grenache and the rest Syrah, Mourvedre, and Cunoise, this offers up the beautiful aromas of an aged wine; sweet berry aromas, herbs, dried fruits, pepper, and a delicate but still powerful palate and finish. At 16 years of age, this wine is aging gracefully and is drinking perfectly right now.

Donnhoff Oberhauser Brücke Riesling Spatlese 2009: There's a special place in many people's hearts for the wines of Helmut Donnhoff. They're collectible and cellar-worthy. Not only is he one of the greatest Riesling producers in Germany and the world, but the family has been making these wines since the 1750s. Their vineyard sites are special, comprised of slate on steep slopes along the Nahe river. There is an electricity and balance in Donnhoff's wines that are unmistakable and they can age for decades. Riesling is also the quintessential pairing for so many foods, and will do well on your holiday table. This wine will give you aromas of tropical fruits, lime, orange, green apple, with a creamy, sweet, fruit forward mid palate that is backed up by a beautiful acidity and minerality. Give it some air and watch it evolve in your glass over the course of the meal. The Brücke vineyard is minuscule, taking up a whopping 1 acre! Very special juice here, with a nice amount of bottle age from a beautiful German Riesling vintage.