



The Cellar d'Or

Wine, Cider & Spirits

Wine Club • January 2024



JL Chave Selections (Rhône Valley, France)

Spanning 16 generations, Domaine Chave is an icon of the Rhône Valley in France. Jean- Louis Chave (current generation) began his *JL Selections* project back in 1995. The young Chave diversified his family's holdings by purchasing plots in Saint Joseph and Crozes Hermitage before buying the vineyards comprising the Cotes-du-Rhône we packed in the club. The Domaine wines garner more than \$300/bottle and I imagine this is part of the reasoning of Chave's *JL Selections* line of wine -- to ensure everyone gets to enjoy the wines of Chave! In the hands of the astute Jean-Louis, this 50/50 Syrah-Grenache blend wears the thumping, dark fruit we expect from these Rhône Valley varietals with poise. Brambly fruit, deep macerated plums, and wafts of dank cellar resonate with a persistent tension on the palate that will cut through hearty winter dishes!



Marco Gatti (Le Marche, Italy)

Italy produces an expansive diversity of wine from predominantly indigenous varieties. Rather than plant internationally recognized grape varieties, Italians continue to cultivate historically grown varieties that best suit their local climate and cuisine. If Italian wine feels rather foreign, this is why. Verdicchio belongs to the handful of need-to-know Italian white varieties, not because it shows a particular quality in an outsize proportion, but because it encapsulates the finesse, elegance and candid nature of Italian white wine so well. My favorite Verdicchio is sourced from the hills of Matelica (DOC) in Le Marche where Verdicchio attains a bit more crunchy acid structure. Marco Gatti's 2022 Verdicchio is absolutely stunning with notes of shaved apple, white flowers, lemon pith, flecks of herbs and incredible texture. Pair with oily or creamy pasta!