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Cellar Club January 2022

201 Addiah Cabernet Sauvignon- Mendocino County, California

Mendocino County wine region is home to some of the state's most progressive winemakers, who perfect organic sustainable techniques in their boutique vineyards. In fact, Mendocino County has the most acreage of certified organic vineyards in the country. At 1,400 feet of elevation, on the southern edge of Mendocino County's Sanel Valley, Topel Winery and Estate sits above the Russian River and its fog lines. Duncan Peak is to the west of the estate and is flanked by the Yorkville Highlands and Alexander Valley appellations, both to the south. Today, the Topel Winery Estate has a total of 160-acres, with only 15 prime vineyard acres planted to *Vitis vinifera* (wine grapes). The rest of this pristine land is left to nature; oaks, manzanitas, coyotes, hawks, and rattlesnakes add to its characteristic grandeur. The soil is weathered shale and sandstone. This 97% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Merlot wine is medium to full bodied with beautiful aromas of violets and cassis moving to the palate with flavors of dark fruit, figs, mocha, and currents all along with well-integrated tannins and a nice surprisingly long finish. Truly a fun bottle of wine!

Pairings: This wine will pair well with wild fowl, red cabbage, aged cheeses, truffles, honey-roasted carrots or grilled red meat — especially venison, lamb or well-marbled beef.

2018 Delphis de la Dauphine Fronsac Grand Vin Bordeaux- Fronsac, France

The château Delphis de la Dauphine was built between 1744 and 1750. Shortly after its construction, Maria Josepha of Saxony, the Dauphine of France (the wife of Louis-Ferdinand of France, and the mother of the last three kings of France), stayed at the château for a few days. This event contributed to the property's reputation, which was named in memory of the Princess's visit. Over the course of its 350 years, the property has gradually increased in size, and now has 53 hectares of vines. Most of the vineyards are planted with 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. The soil is sandy and silty. Fronsac is not one of the classified wine regions of Bordeaux (like the grand cru classés of the left bank's Medoc, Sauternes and Graves regions and the right bank's hierarchical Saint Emilion). But many would argue the wine quality here is superb, often competing with many of its right bank classified neighbors. La Dauphine's unsung hero status – and in fact, all of Fronsac's wines – make the region an affordable alternative and one of the best-kept secrets in Bordeaux. This 100 % Merlot is an intense garnet-red color. The nose is of fresh fruit (blackberries, raspberries) and menthol. Notes of caramel and spices broaden the aromatic palette on aeration. It is structured and balanced in the mouth, with a fruit-driven finish. It should be opened approximately 1 hour before serving.

Pairings: Try mushroom quiche, chicken tagine, pavlova. Fronsac wines are rich and well-structured, which makes them a perfect pairing to grilled or roasted red meat, game, aged cheese, poultry, or confit. Merlot pairs well with chicken and other light meats as well as lightly-spiced dark meats.