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Everyday Club January 2024

2020 Ancient Peaks Zinfandel - Paso Robles, California

Ancient Peaks is a family-owned winery specializing in estate-grown wines from Margarita Vineyard, the southernmost vineyard in the Paso Robles appellation on California's Central Coast. Composed of steep mountain slopes of ancient Salinas River origins at 900 to 1,400 feet in elevation, Santa Margarita Ranch is in the southern portion of the greater Paso Robles AVA. Franciscan missionaries first planted vines on Santa Margarita Ranch in 1774. Unapologetically bold, spice-driven and jammy, Zinfandel has secured its title as the darling of California vintners by adapting well to the state's diverse microclimates and landscapes. The 2020 Zinfandel makes an immediate statement with bright, jammy aromas of raspberry, cinnamon spice and vanilla cream. Luscious, rounded flavors of red cherry, raspberry and blackberry unfold across a beautifully weighted mouthfeel, all under-pinned by deeper hints of roast coffee and black pepper. Smooth, juicy acidity brings impressive balance to a uniquely elegant finish. 90 PTS WE

Pairings: Zinfandel is ideal with heavy, robust dishes such as roast lamb, meat stews, hearty pastas, or barbecued dishes. It is an excellent complement with burgers, grilled sausages, lamb chops, and pork.

2016 Chateau Moulin de Canhaut- Médoc, France

North of Bordeaux, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gironde Estuary, lies the Médoc Peninsula. On the left bank, the "road of the river" runs along the famous vine estates of Margaux, Saint-Julien Beychevelle, Moulis-en-Médoc, Listrac-Médoc, Pauillac and Saint-Estèphe. If you drive a little further north, you will discover the vineyards of the AOC MEDOC appellation, including the Vignobles Poitevin. The 2016 Moulin de Canhaut from Chateau Poitevin, is a blend of 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon matured in oak for 12 months. It has a well-defined bouquet with blackberry, truffle and tobacco notes, nicely focused with discrete use of oak. The palate is well balanced with fine definition, smooth and sensual with a really a quite gorgeous, pure and silky finish with black cherries lingering on the aftertaste. 90 PTS Vinous, 90 PTS JS

Pairings: Château Moulin de Canhaut is a typical Medoc wine to pair with grilled red meats, deep dish recipes, ragouts, blanquette of veal, as well as with lamb, game, and of course with many cheeses like Brillat-Savarin, Reblochon, Sainte-Maure-de-Touraine, and Stilton Cheese.