

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Friday, November 1st, 4-7 p.m.
The Priorat and Rioja with
Buil & Gine and Lopez de Heredia
\$10 Tasting Fee

Mestres Cava 1312 Reserva \$18.99

In the wine business since in 1312, the Mestres family uses the traditional grapes of Spain's Penedes terroir in Catalonia: Xarel.lo, Parellada and Macabeu, all hand harvested from their own vineyard with no insecticides or herbicides used.

All that work shines through in the glass, with bright, zesty, aromas and flavors of citrus, golden apple, and fresh toast. This is a leesy, biscuity Cava that stays fresh on the long finish where a touch of sweet lemon lingers.

Buil & Gine 2011 "Nosís Rueda Blanco" \$18.99

(100% Verdejo) It would be immodest to claim that this is the best Rueda that money can buy, but so many satisfied customers have said it already. It is Xavi Buil's conviction that only pure Verdejo yields a wine true to the region. In the face of this wine's explosively musky nose, its suave texture enlivened by vivid acidity, and its prodigious palate coverage, there is little room for argument. A benchmark if ever there was one.

Buil & Gine 2010 "Gine Gine Priorat" \$21.99

This unoaked old-vines cuvee of 40% Red Grenache and 60% Carignan from 50% old vines remains an exceptional bargain in this pricey neighborhood.

San Francisco Chronicle, May 5, 2013, 2010, "This family, one of Priorat's great success stories, has expanded into Toro, Montsant and more. But its core

offering, from Grenache and Carignan on the region's llicorella slate soils, remains sinewed and inky, with deep black currant, dark-stone intensity and a celery-seed spice bite. The core of Priorat, without makeup."

Lopez de Heredia 2005 "Vina Cubillo" Crianza \$26.99

(65% Tempranillo, 35% Garnacha, 10% Mazuela and Graciano)

91 points, Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate*; 91 points *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar*: "Deep red. Highly perfumed aromas of cherry, raspberry and baking spices, plus a hint of mocha. Sappy and seamless in texture, with very good depth and clarity to its spicy red fruit flavors. Fine-grained tannins come on late and add shape to the long, penetrating, spice-dominated finish. Pretty tasty right now but this elegant wine's balance bodes well for aging." (10/ 2011)

2003 Lopez de Heredia "Vina Bosconia" Gran Reserva \$37.99

"This wine has evolved perfectly showing a deep ruby color with shades of orange. Its nose is persistent, full bodied and showing a lot of mature fruit, being dominated by the Tempranillo grape. Its taste is round, smooth, fresh, full of body and persistent." Grape Varieties: Tempranillo (80%), Garnacha (15%), Mazuelo and Graciano, the remainder, from their own vineyards and aged five years in barrels. (92 Points, *Wine Advocate*)

2001 Lopez de Heredia "Vina Tondonia" Gran Reserva \$45.99

"Bright medium red. Expansive bouquet of musky red and dark berries, medicinal cherry, rose oil and Asian spices. Juicy raspberry and rose pastille flavors are framed by silky tannins and given a boost by zesty minerality. Packs a solid punch but comes off almost weightless*. Sweet fruit on the finish, which is strikingly pure and very persistent. Lovely right now." Edited from *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar*