

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Saturday, January 4th, 2-5 p.m.
Spain's Killer Wines II, The Sequel:
Penedes, Rioja and Ribera del Duero
\$10 Tasting Fee

Mestres NV "1312" Cava Brut Reserva \$18.99

Using the traditional grapes of Spain's Penedes terroir in Catalonia: Xarel.lo, Parellada and Macabeu, the Mestres family hand harvests the fruit from their own vineyards. Their effort shines through in the glass, with bright, zesty, aromas and flavors of citrus, golden apple, and fresh toast. This leesy, biscuity Cava stays fresh on the long finish where a touch of sweet lemon lingers. It's a very fine value offering fine and elegant bubbles.

Bodegas Arzabro 2012 Txkolí "Luzía de Rípa" \$21.99

Bodegas Arzabro is a family owned handcrafted winery, established in 2007, producing Txakoli wines from 15 acres of their own vineyards in the Basque Country of Spain, of the varieties "Hondarrabi Zuri" and the minor variety "Izpuriotza txikía".

This wine is clean and transparent, greenish yellow. It is fresh with a fruity nose that gives a powerful blast of fresh fruit aromas, showing white pear, green apple, citrus and herbs with reminders of peppermint and eucalyptus. The mouth is fresh, lively and persistent. Malic acid shows in the notes of green apple and allows a long life with an interesting evolution of its aromas.

2010 El Pedrosal Crianza \$21.99

From DO Ribera del Duero, this wine is 100% Tempranillo. "This is a stylish and sophisticated wine in a nostalgic style slightly orange and oxidative in flavor not to mention lighter in body than Riberas currently in fashion. And yet it feels fresh with a vivaciousness that lasts beyond all the dried fruit coffee and cherry flavor and

accomplishment entirely in tune with the style of the wines of Perez Pascuas." **92**
Points, Wine & Spirits Top 100 Wineries of 2013

Sabor Real 2008 Joven \$13.99

"The 2008 Sabor Real was produced from 70+-year-old estate vines. Dark ruby-colored, it offers up a splendid bouquet of crushed rock, spice box, tobacco, lavender, black cherry, and blackberry. On the palate it is full-bodied, sweetly fruited, spicy, and plush. This lengthy effort can be enjoyed now and over the next 6 years. It is an outstanding value that over-delivers big-time. Bodegas Sabor Real was created in 2003; most of its Tinta de Toro vines are 70-100+ years of age." **~90 points, Wine Advocate**

Lopez de Heredia 2005 Vina Cubillo Crianza Rioja \$26.99

A blend of 65% Tempranillo, 25% Garnacha, 10% Mazuelo, Graciano and Cubillo, this is the youngest Lopez de Heredia wine in their stable, referring to the vineyard of the same name. The average vine age is 40 years.

"The 2005 Cubillo Tinto Crianza has a wonderful bouquet with leathery red fruit augmented by subtle hints of undergrowth, tobacco and a touch of spice. The palate is medium-bodied with a bit of piquancy on the entry. The acidity is quite sharp and it is missing a little flesh and weight towards the tensile finish. Drink now-2018" **~91 points, Wine Advocate**

R. Lopez de Heredia 2002 Vina Tondonia \$48.99

Recently released, this blend of 75% Tempranillo, 15% Garnacha, 10% Mazuelo and Graciano is a 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. The tannins fade into the sweet fruit on the finish, which is strikingly pure and very persistent." **~Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar**