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What's new in the Grapevine this week?

- **Go big when you go home**
- **Olivelle gift packs**
- **Gift baskets**
- **Art Walk next Friday**
- **Sparkling deals**

Go big when you go home

It seems every year, our big season for gift baskets and large format (magnums and larger) wine bottles peaks in December. While the holidays provide an easy excuse for buying wine in large bottles, so do Tuesdays, book clubs, and dinners all year long. As Atlanta area wine critic and gourmand Everett Babcock says, “A magnum is the perfect amount of wine for two people if only one of them is drinking.” And let’s be real, in exceptionally good or naughty company, magnums add a lot to the occasion.

The large format is also more durable than the regular 750 ml bottle. That’s because larger bottles are made with thicker, heavier glass to protect them from wine’s major enemies: heat, light, and travel-related vibrations. Most large format options are bottled in dark green as opposed to clear glass, which keeps out harmful light. That thick glass also takes longer for summer heat or frigid winter temperatures to infiltrate, keeping the wine at a more consistent temperature. What all that really means is, if you’re traveling for the Holidays, definitely take home (or bring) a magnum with you. Likewise, added durability means you can feel safe storing magnum bottles at home in a cabinet or on a

countertop, since most small wine fridges (and regular fridges) don't hold large format bottles well.

Big bottles are just plain impressive, no matter the occasion. From the start, a big bottle screams celebration and sets a dramatic tone for everything from Super Bowl parties to date night. Plus, using a magnum as a centerpiece removes the need to build a time-consuming Martha Stewart-approved tablescape. Plus, watching your friends pick up a heavy, empty bottle and try to pour from it never gets old.

Leftover magnum and three-liter bottles are also fantastic bases for Pinterest-approved bottle crafts and creative home décor projects. Lamps, candleholders, and vases are all an easy afternoon project with a bottle, some glitter, and a glue gun, though I don't recommend drinking a magnum during construction.

What are the other reasons to buy large format wine bottles? Again to quote the sage (my brother Geoff) "Wine loves itself". Wine ages as microscopic amounts of air move in and out of the cork, interacting with the flavor components of a wine. With large format bottles, you've got the same surface area for air transfer — that tiny cork — but a much larger volume of wine. The result is that these bottles age at half the speed of their 750 ml counterparts. It's because of this aging potential that many top-notch wines are bottled in large format bottles. Big bottles age more gracefully and just plain better, according to some experts, because they age at a slower pace. As a result, producers typically bottle a portion of their best blends into large bottles to see their evolution.

Because these bottles can reach extremely high prices, they've earned a reputation for being expensive and "celebration-only" bottles. Happily, as wine has become more mainstream and less exclusive, so have magnums. You can now find great options here at the Wine Gallery.

Next time you're on a wine shopping spree, don't power past the large format display and dive into the clearance section. Big bottles need love, too. Check out these 1.5 liter offerings:

- 2015 Amavi Cabernet Sauvignon (92 Points) **\$69.95**
- Roederer Estate Sparkling Brut (93 Wine Spectator; #27 Top 100 2018) **\$64.95**
- **Mer Soliel 2015 Reserve Chardonnay** The wine's exotic flavors of core and stone fruit, as well as a creamy accent, make it satisfying from start to finish. **\$75.95**
- Veuve Cliquot Champagne (**\$149.95**)
- 2014 Cayuse Wallah Wallah Syrah (97 points Wine Advocate; **\$275**)
- 2016 Belle Glos Las Alturas Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands (**\$110**)

Olivelle Gift packs

Last June we took on the Olivelle line of oils and vinegars. We took them on because the products are the highest quality and the packaging is superb. Allyson and Gerri brought those characteristics together by making some cute grab'n'go gift packs for the Holidays. Our oils and vinegars are attractively packaged in small bags, and festively displayed with ribbon. You can choose from our pre-made assembled oil and vinegar gifts or have us make one to order. Gerri has also thoughtfully included a tested recipe using the ingredients you get in the bag. If you have any question about our Olivelle products, remember they are always available for a free taste!

Holiday Gift Baskets

We have already begun our season of gift baskets for Christmas. Each Wine Gallery basket is custom made with osier wicker baskets, pure aspen raffia, clear wrap, ribbon and greeting card. You can choose from our selection of 1600 wines, Olivelle products, chocolates, meats, cheeses, crackers, cookies, candies and gadgets to make up your basket. These baskets make great gifts for family, friends, neighbors, bosses, employees, colleagues, and clients. Call us at 586-8828 or send an e-mail to bozemanwinegallery@gmail.com to order yours.

Miller's Jewelry hosts Art Walk December 14th

Next Friday, December 14th, marks the last Art Walk of 2018. The folks at Miller's Jewelry will be open to show you artful arrangements of jewelry, delicately detailed estate pieces, diamonds direct from Antwerp and Yogo Sapphires direct from Montana. Now that Kay and Mark are retiring, there will be some fantastic deals (**50-70% off!**) as they liquidate inventory. And folks, they literally have some gems. I will also be there as part of the Miller's Jewelry hospitality by pouring some delicious samples of great wines for you to sip as you peruse their store for great Holiday gifts. The Art Walk goes from 6PM to 8PM so be sure you come by for some cheer.

Holiday Hours and Events

As we roll into the Holidays, the Wine Gallery will be adjusting our business hours to give you ample time to browse our selection of gourmet foods, Olivelle products and tasty wines. Walmart, Kohl's and World Market won't go out of business if you do your Holiday shopping at the Wine Gallery, so carve out some relaxing, unhurried time to shop our store.

- **The Wine Gallery will be open the four Sundays before Christmas from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. starting the first Sunday in December (December 2nd).** We will be open from 10:00 am to 6 p.m. every day after that until Christmas.
- **The Wine Gallery will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th as well as Tuesday, January 1st, 2019.**

Sparkling Deals

The Holiday Season is a time of great celebration and there is no beverage with a bigger association with celebration than Champagne and sparkling wine. We are well stocked and have a few specials that may interest revelers this Season.

Every year **Veuve Cliquot** offers us a special deal on America's favorite Champagne. This year we have the Veuve Cliquot Ponsardin (Yellow Label) for sale for just \$46.95 per bottle. The regular price for Veuve Cliquot is \$59.95 so this is a savings of \$13 per bottle or 21+%. At this special price we will not be able to offer any further discounts but you are invited to stock up on as many as you want.

You are probably tired of me telling you that I drink the **Louis Roederer Anderson Valley Estate Brut** every year on my birthday. This year the Roederer Anderson Valley received a 93 point rating from Wine Spectator and landed #27 on the Top 100 for 2018. This month the price is on special for \$26.95 down from \$28.95. I couldn't find one non-vintage sparkling wine in the last two years with a 93 point rating (or better) that wasn't at least double or triple the price of the Roederer. Seamless and silky, showing an almost effortless sense of complexity, with notes of lemon and pear paired with toasty brioche, fresh ginger and hazelnut, this is the highest quality sparkling wine made with great attention to detail.

The **Cleto Chiarli Vecchia Modena** is a drier style sparkling Lambrusco. With a frothy pink color, the Vecchia Modena isn't aggressively bubbly, but it is super refreshing, with citrus, red cherry, and strawberry fruit. The finish is tart and bright, like perfectly balanced lemonade, washing the palate with each and every sip. This bubbly is just the thing for Holiday get togethers because it is a crowd pleaser! **\$17**

For those who love to celebrate with the finest French Champagne, the **Bollinger Special Cuvee** has a matching special price for the Holidays. While this wine normally goes for \$99, the Wine Gallery made a special purchase and while I know it is communism, we pass the savings along to you and you can enjoy the Bollinger for just **\$79.95** while our supply lasts.