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What's new in the Grapevine this week?

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- **Classified Ad: Wine Closet for Sale**
- **Art Walk this Friday**
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Twelve Days of Christmas Raffle

In yesteryear, Christmas observances featured St. Nicholas giving gifts to the poor. On the twelfth day of Christmas, the Wise Men brought gifts to an infant in a stable. Neither St. Nick nor the Magi went shopping at midnight on Thanksgiving Day. They gave gifts to the poor and helped the hungry and homeless. This year the Wine Gallery will again have a raffle whose prizes extend for twelve days. In actuality, we hope the Gallatin Valley Food Bank will be the big winner. You see, all cash and in kind donations for the raffle go to the Food Bank to feed the folks who struggle with hunger in the dead of winter.

In that spirit The Wine Gallery will observe the true Christmas season by awarding a special gift for each of the **Twelve Days of Christmas** to lucky raffle ticket holders. We won't be awarding leaping lords or swimming swans but we have some really fun gifts to celebrate the Season. Each day the prizes get bigger and better so keep buying tickets, you will just get better prizes if you win and more hungry people will be fed.

How do you purchase tickets? There are two ways: Cash or In-Kind. For cash (check or credit card) purchase of tickets, the more you buy the better your odds.

- \$1 each
- 6 tickets for \$5
- 12 tickets for \$10
- 25 tickets for \$20.

For in-kind donations we will give you a ticket for each item of canned or other shelf stable product you donate to our collection box located in the front of the store.

In the past we have given away a wine encyclopedia, elegant stemware, a picnic backpack, three different magnums of wine, and a 3.0 liter bottle of a wine that is on the Top 100 as well as wines donated by our suppliers. This year the prizes are even better ranging from wine gadgets to more great bottles of delicious wine. Buy as many tickets as you want!!

Call us at 586-8828 or send an e-mail to bozemanwinegallery.com (Wine Club members may charge tickets to the credit card on file.)

Our first drawing will be on December 26 and we will pick a winner each day until January 6th.

Classified Ad: Wine cabinet for Sale

One of our long term customers is retiring to Arizona and he has to leave his wine storage unit behind. The unit itself is roughly seven feet tall and five feet wide. The capacity is approximately 250 bottles with room on top for large format bottles. As you can see in the picture, it will fit in most basements.

There is an optional temperature control unit that is included but this component may need some update/repair. For most basements in the Bozeman area and for most wine inventories, the cooling unit would be superfluous (in my opinion).

This unit is sold "as is" and the seller will negotiate delivery or pickup with the buyer. If you are interested, please call 579-1660.



Miller's Jewelry hosts Art Walk this Friday

This 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.

New Arrivals

This week we got some great picks for the Holidays!

First up is the **2016 Upshot Red Blend** from Rodney Strong Vineyards. Exclusively from vineyards in Sonoma County, predominantly Alexander Valley and Knights Valley, this Red Blend offers a sumptuous, almost magical outcome of the growing season and winemaking process. This rich, supple wine bursts with blackberry and dark cherries with hints of spice followed by lush, rounded tannins and a lingering finish. At the winery, a bottle runs \$28 but we bought a bunch and the Wine Gallery price is just **\$23.95**.

For those of you who missed the 2015 **Colene Clemens Dopp Creek Pinot Noir** (95 points Wine Spectator, #7 on the Top 100), we have received the 2016 vintage. The biggest difference in 2016 was the tiny cluster size, approximately two thirds the average weight of the previous two years. These tiny clusters with small berries considerably alter the skin-to-juice ratio of the fermenting grapes and this results in a fully saturated, dark Pinot Noir that is loaded with structure and fruit intensity. Our Wine Gallery staff tasting confirmed that the 2016 is a comparative brute compared to the elegance of the 2015 but has much more potential to age. The dark fruit and large boned structure lead us to think this wine will reach a peak in 5-6 years and rival any Pinot Noir from Burgundy in the next five years after that. It is still **\$26.95** in this vintage.

We also made another big buy on the **2016 Hahn SLH Pinot Noir**. It has a **91 point score from Wine Enthusiast** and is consistently one of the wines for which people return for more. Ripe cherry fruit is cut by touches of earthy minerality on the inviting nose. The mouthfeel is rich and mildly tannic, carrying rounded berry flavors, a hint of baking spice and some dried herbs on the back end. This wine normally sells for \$24.95 but we have it for the Holidays at just **\$19.95** (buy it in a mix or match case and it goes to **\$17.95!!**). Pinot Noir is always a great wine for Holiday get togethers and this outstanding value will be just the right touch for any festivity.

Another wine for the season is the **Cleto Chiarli Sparkling Rose'**. A blend of 85% Grasparrossa and 15% Pinot Noir, this lovely sparkler offers aromas of apple, berry and bread crust. The aromas carry over to the tangy palate together with red cherry and a hint of pastry cream alongside bright acidity and small continuous bubbles. The pink color adds to the festive nature of those bubbles. This sparkler might be a good candidate for Christmas brunch. **\$17**

One last reminder, the Season Deal on **Veuve Cliquot** is still going on. 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.

Schedule reminders

As we roll into the Holidays, the Wine Gallery has adjusted 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 next two Sundays before Christmas from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. I will be here on December 23rd from 9 am to 5 pm.**
- 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.**
- ***No Grapevine next week. Santa's elves will be in the workshop building baskets and spreading cheer. Watch for the next edition on December 26.***