

SOMMELIER'S SELECTIONS

The philosophy at AGR of sourcing high-quality products from local, artisanal purveyors is the same focus we share with our wine selections. As the sommelier, I take great care to seek out the 'farmer' winemaker, not the 'factory' winemaker. A staunch advocate of the best, quality-driven, value-priced small production wines I can find, I believe these wines offer more character of place' or 'terrior' & deliver something unique not found in mass production wines. After all, the beauty of wine is taking the journey!

- Champagne: Voirin-Jumel Blanc de Blancs Brut 1er Cru NV** 89
-100% Chardonnay, Voirin-Jumel is a true small-grower of Champagne
Why small-grower? Because they are the 'farmers' of ALL the 'big' label Champagne houses; small-growers grow the grapes, bottle the Champagne = quality; better value than the \$\$ houses; the quality of what's *in* the bottle is more important than the label *on* the bottle.
- White: Erbaluce di Caluso, Luigi Ferrando 'La Torrazza' 2008 (*Piedmont, Italy*)** 42
-made from the ancient Italian grape Erbaluce; crisp, bright acidity with a racy minerality. If you like Sauvignon Blanc, this is similar in style but a little more 'off the beaten path.'
- White: Chardonnay, Flowers 2007 (*Sonoma Coast, CA*)** 98
-organically grown & sustainably farmed, Flowers Winery excels in producing world-class estate grown wines from extreme climatic conditions of the Sonoma Coast. Balanced depth & complexity on the palate with a rich, round mouth feel.
- Red: Carignano Cab. Sauv./Merlot, Agricola Punica 'Barrua 2007 (*Isola dei Nuraghi, Sardinia*)** 108
-partnership of legendary Super Tuscan producer, Sassicaia and Sardinian producer Santadi, this expressive blend of Carignano, Cab. Sauv. & Merlot delivers rich, ripe fruit on the palate framed by smooth tannins & acidity. An incredible sea-like minerality makes this wine extra exciting & unique.
- Red: Cru Beaujolais Morgon (Gamay Noir), Domaine Pral 'Les Charmes' 2010 (*Burgundy, France*)** 42
-sourced from 30 to 40 year old Gamay Noir vines, aromas of black raspberries, bacon And game; Vibrant palate of pepper, tart berry & toasted hickory. Not to be confused with Beaujolais Nouveau, this is hands down one of the best values on the list.