

WINES OF FRIENDSHIP & LOVE



When one thinks of philosophy, wine often comes to mind (think togas, Plato and the Symposium!). This is not surprising. In terms of Ancient Greece, wine played an important role in culture, religion, family and society. In fact, many of the views on the proper use and role of wine closely mirrored important features of Ancient Greek social and moral philosophy. In symposium settings – a convivial meeting usually following a dinner for drinking and intellectual conversation – wine functioned largely as a social lubricant that helped to bring people together to discuss important topics. The worry of too much wine, of course, did not escape the host symposium who was tasked (among other things) with controlling both the strength and rationing of wine during an event “to ensure that speech flowed freely, reason prevailed, and madness was kept at bay.”

*The enjoyment of wine was also an interest for Ancient Greeks who, in large part, established the habit of distinguishing between types (regions) and ages of wine as a measure of quality (a tradition carried on by the Romans) and one of the earliest known forms of an aesthetics of taste. In light of this, it seemed fitting to offer up some **wine recommendations and notes (composed by Martin and Steven of Martin’s Wines) based on various aspects of friendship and love.** So...to all you friends and lovers out there...crack open a bottle, take a sip, and enjoy the dialogue. You’ll be honoring Socrates with every tilt of the glass!*

LIGHT & AIRY - Kung Fu Girl Riesling

Riesling, poor Riesling! A noble grape, ignobly treated, its identity diluted by the flood of mouthwash out of California. For a hint of what this grape can give when treated with respect, try this light and aromatic bottling from Charles Smith, of Washington State.

Some philosophers from Washington: Arthur Fine, William J. Talbott, S. Marc Cohen, Carole Lee, David Keyt, Michael A. Rosenthal, Carina Fourie

COMPLEX, ADAPTIVE & CHALLENGING – *Domaine Astros Rose’ of Provence*

Provence, on the Mediterranean coast of France, produces some of the most highly regarded Rose' of the world. Americans ignored them for years, having been classically conditioned by white Zinfandel to think sweet when they see pink. These wines can be complex but subtly so--they are pastels, not Technicolor –which makes them capable of matching a wide range of dishes and occasions.

Some philosophers from France: René Descartes, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Voltaire, Michael Foucault, Albert Camus, Jacques Derrida, Auguste Comte, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Blaise Pascal, Jean-François Lyotard, Emmanuel Levinas, Simone Weil

SPICY & FUN - Centonze Frappato

Frappato is indigenous to Sicily, a wine you can't refuse. And why should you? This is a light red with immediately engaging spicy aromas. Serve this one slightly cool, but not cold; either by itself or with light appetizers.

Some philosophers from Sicily: Archimedes, Empedocles, Gorgias

MELLOW & WARM - Masi "Passo Doble" Malbec + Corvina

Now this is a unique wine! Masi, of Argentina, has adopted the technique of Valpolicella Ripasso; the juice of Malbec is "passed over" sun-dried Corvina (the grape of Valpolicella) which adds richness and warmth to the tastes, textures, and flavor of the wine. Serve slightly cool with full-flavored cheeses.

Some philosophers from Argentina: Carlos Santiago Nino, Gregorio Klimovsky, Eduardo Rabossi, Enrique Dussel, Mario Bunge, Ada Albrecht

LOYAL & TRUSTWORTHY - Veramonte Cabernet Sauvignon

That would be Cabernet Sauvignon! Cab Sav is easy to grow, easy to vilify, easy to sell, and can be easy to enjoy..."can be" because Cab Sav is also capable of wines of dense structure whose full-flavors require lots of time in bottle to develop fully. This one from Chile is on the easy side of the scale, light and enjoyable right now, with classic aromas of red currant.

Some philosophers from Chile: Andrés Bello, Humberto Maturana, Francisco Varela, Helio Gallardo, Osvaldo Lira



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