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**Great & Rare**  
**1902 Madeira**

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**Important Offering**  
**of Vega Sicilia**

## SOUTHERN RHONE

# A Bright New Star

## *Amazing 2000 Châteauneufs from Pierre Usseglio*

The outstanding 1998, 1999 and 2000 vintages offered a perfect showcase for aspiring young winemakers in Châteauneuf du Pape. Roger Sabon, Janasse's Christophe Sabon, Ferrand's Philippe Bravay and Mordorée's Christophe Delorme are just a few of the talented young *vignerons* who have come out of nowhere to achieve worldwide fame.

But no one's rise to superstardom has been more swift than that of the Usseglio brothers, Thierry and Jean-Pierre. In their very first vintage working together, they made a set of 1998's that were among the best of that great vintage. And after excellent wines in 1999, they have repeated their '98 coup with a hat trick of monumental 2000's. No wonder, in his December *Wine Advocate*, Robert Parker called Domaine Pierre Usseglio a "superstar ... one of the most exciting estates in Châteauneuf du Pape."

### Steeped in Tradition

With roots in Italy's Piedmont region a century ago, three generations of Usseglio's have been winegrowers in Châteauneuf du Pape. The first two generations continued the old Châteauneuf tradition of selling most of their wine unbottled to negociants. Though

*"One of the most exciting estates in Châteauneuf du Pape ... These offerings are among the most concentrated of the village, yet are still steeped in the traditions of the region."*  
*Parker on Pierre Usseglio*

most of the wine disappeared into the negociant's blends, the quality must have been extraordinary —judging by the number of awards lining the walls of their cellar. Yet, few outside of Châteauneuf du Pape had the chance to experience Usseglio's wine on its own.

### Winds of Change

Things changed dramatically when the third generation came of age in the early 1990's. Since his father was still entrenched at the family domaine, the older brother, Jean-Pierre, established his own domaine, with an extraordinary 16 acres he leased on the great Le Crau plateau.

In 1998, Jean-Pierre was offered the chance to buy the 16 acres. Since his father was now retiring, and his younger brother Thierry was ready to enter the business, Jean-Pierre rejoined the family domaine — bringing with him the prized acreage on Le Crau.

The timing couldn't have been better: the great 1998 harvest. In just their first vintage together, Jean-Pierre and Thierry transformed the domaine, lowering yields in the vineyard, while investing heavily in new

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## TUSCANY

# Palazzi

*The wines* Andrea Franchetti has been making at his Trinoro estate since 1997 have been nothing less than brilliant.

Robert Parker has called them "the wines of a genius." Last December, he named Andrea one of his Wine Personalities of the Year for 2001. And, through Andrea's first three vintages, Parker consistently has had the most praise for his cuvée called "Palazzi."

### Cheval Blanc in the Mirror

In its conception, Palazzi is nearly a mirror image of Cheval Blanc, its 50% Cabernet Franc-50% Merlot shadowing Cheval Blanc's 66/34 blend of the same two varietals. And Palazzi also shares Cheval's distinctive cigar box perfume.

But in its huge body and richness, Palazzi is quite different from Cheval Blanc—and from every other red wine of Tuscany. Nestled between two mountains on the remote southern border of Tuscany, Trinoro has one of Italy's longest growing seasons. Palazzi routine-



*The Vines of Palazzi in winter.*

ly achieves incredible extract and alcohol levels approaching 15%.

Little of 1999 Palazzi was produced, yet it is a wine of amazing opulence, breathtaking richness, phenomenal texture and explosive aromatics. Though deserving of long-term cellaring, it's impossible to resist drinking it now. Prepare to be seduced.

### 1999 Palazzi

**\$89.95**



Parker: "93 rating. The 1999 Palazzi ... boasts a dense ruby/purple color in addition to a complex nose of currants, cigar box, plums, and cherry liqueur with a hint of toasty oak in the background. Full-bodied, elegant, and complex, with a savory mid-palate and sweet tannin, it will drink beautifully for 12-14 years. This wine ... was not fined, filtered, or stabilized, and essentially represents the most honest/authentic essence of their vineyard. This is the wine of a genius."

## BORDEAUX

# 1970 Palmer Direct from the Château

In 1970, Château Palmer made not only one of the two or three top wines of the vintage, they produced one of their finest wines since World War II. It is a quintessential Palmer: great lushness on the palate, with a compelling, exotic perfume that has as much to do with Pomerol as it does with Margaux, where the chateau is located. Once the taste and bouquet of this wine is experienced, it is not soon forgotten.

We have just purchased a small quantity of this wine that has been resting in the chateau's cellars since bottling. The condition of the bottles is perfect.

### 1970 Ch. Palmer

**96 Parker**

**\$245.00**



Parker: "The spectacular bouquet offers up an exotic concoction of cedar, oriental spices, vanillin oak and gobs of super-ripe black fruits. In the mouth, the wine has exceptional precision to its medium-bodied, intensely concentrated flavors. The finish is fabulous and must last for at least one minute. Anticipated maturity: Now-2010"