CALIFORNIA and ITALY are both great places to grow wine, this we know, but they are also more alike than we realize. The climate in both places has distinct seasons, and the terrain contains many different mountain ranges throughout and distinct soil diversity. And because of these high-quality growing conditions, both Italy and California are overgrown with vines that will sell to the masses. But our passion at Macchialina, and what drives our wine list, is to highlight the farmers doing things differently.

This month we look at producers like Hidden Society. This group of Latinos making wine promotes diversity in society in the same way that planting a Sangiovese vine in California diversifies the industry. We support everything they stand for and everything they are trying to do, because if we don't, their vines will be ripped up and replaced with a large market California Red Blend, unlikely to be grown with respect to nature.

In this box of Italian Ex-Pats we celebrate the beauty of Italy brought to America, promoting what the wine world has not always looked like. Promoting community and exploration. We all know the Sangiovese from Tuscany can be excellent, but let's start to celebrate what it can do in California. Above all, let's give the small guy the chance. Cheers!

#MacchInMyGlass

**KITCHEN NOTE**

Fregola and Cannellini Bean Salad
Tarragon, basil, red wine vinaigrette

Fregola is a Sardinian couscous, made by hand, sun-dried and toasted. Enjoy as an antipasti.

#MacchAtMyHouse
IDLEWILD
FLORA & FAUNA RED 2019

Producer: Idlewild
Name: Flora & Fauna Red
Variety: 53% Dolcetto, 44% Barbera, 3% Nebbiolo
Vintage: 2019
Location: Mendocino, Mendocino County, California
Follow: @idlewildwines

Flora and Fauna typically describes the plants and animal life of an era. At Idlewild, it represents the collection of varietals that make up the blend for that year. The focus of fermentation was for structure, versatility, as well as to emphasize the elements of each grape, and to achieve this the processes of carbonic maceration and traditional fermentation are married. The result has savory and acidic bass notes, to the light and refreshing carbonic high tones.

Serve chilled.

IDLEWILD
FLORA & FAUNA WHITE 2019

Producer: Idlewild
Name: Flora & Fauna White
Variety: 56% Arneis, 42% Muscat Canelli, 2% Cortese
Vintage: 2019
Location: North Coast, California
Follow: @idlewildwines

Idlewild focuses on Piedmontese wines that complement the table. The 2019 growing season had a late and wet start, but the heat was not overbearing. Warm days and cool nights into late September ensured all of the fruit was harvested before the October fires. The wines produced from these grapes are dense from their long hang-time, but also light and energetic due to the coolness of the season. From there the grapes were whole cluster pressed, fermented with native yeast, and aged in neutral oak.

The 2019 Flora & Fauna White has an intense depth of flavor while retaining a very moderate weight, just when the wine starts to feel rich in aromatics, the palate turns to a crisp rainwater lightness with a clean finish.

Serve chilled.
HIDDEN SOCIETY
SANGIOVESE 2020

Producer: Hidden Society
Name: Sangiovese 2020
Variety: 100% Sangiovese
Vintage: 2020
Location: Chance Creek, Redwood Valley, Mendocino County, California
Follow: @hiddensociety

Drawing from their name, one could guess that these winemakers are not from a traditional or established estate. Growers who are diversifying their vines from the norm and people of color are typically hidden in wine society. But Hidden Society, with their fresh and fruity red wine, their Sangiovese grapes grown in Mendocino County, and their foundation of an ethnically mixed husband and wife team, is here to change all of that. And we are here for it.

Crush this wine chilled, while promoting what the wine world has not always looked or tasted like.

METHODE SAUVAGE
‘IRUAI GIALLO’ 2019

Producer: Chad Hinds
Name: Giallo
Variety: Nebbiolo, Refosco, & Teroldego
Vintage: 2019
Location: Iruai Winery, Etna, California
Follow: @methodesauvage

All the grapes in this blend of Teroldego, Refosco, and Nebbiolo are originally from the Italian Alps. The name Giallo is meant to reference the intentional decision to bring together this group of grapes, as the word Giallo in Italian is a broad term that includes any genre involving crime, mystery, thrillers and horror films. The grapes are fully fermented whole cluster, going through two weeks of carbonic maceration, and then almost two months of daily foot-treading for extraction. Finally, they are aged for eight months in neutral barrels. The result is surprisingly light and bright but with firmness and tannins to give it structure.

Serve slightly chilled.
RAILSBACK FRERES
VERMENTINU 2020

Producer: Railsback Freres Wines
Name: Railsback Soeur Cuvee Speciale Vermentinu
Variety: 100% Vermentino
Vintage: 2020
Location: Santa Ynez Valley, California
Follow: @railsbackfreres

Vermentino is a white wine grape grown in various locations, and under various names, around the western Mediterranean. 80% of Vermentino wine is produced in northwestern Italy and the neighboring island of Sardinia. While the popularity of this grape is growing in Australia, only 2% of Vermentino is grown in the United States, mostly in California. Small producers are choosing to farm Vermentino vines because of its refreshing acidity, attractive aromas, and saline minerality. Railsback Freres Wines is planting these grapes in the Santa Ynez Valley and 2020 is their third release, with grapes from three different spots, the marine sedimentary loam of Camp Four, the pure sand of Brick Barn, and the clay/loam of the cooler NE-facing Santa Ynez Vineyard. Each were harvested by hand and aging was in neutral French oak for six months, then only a rough filtration before bottling.

Serve chilled and beware, these bottles empty themselves quicker than you can imagine.

RYME
AGLIANOICO ROSÉ 2020

Producer: Ryme Cellars
Name: Aglianico
Variety: 100% Aglianico
Vintage: 2020
Location: Heringer Vineyard, Clarksburg, California
Follow: @ryme_cellars

The climate in Clarksburg features warm days tempered by cool coastal winds moving inland from San Francisco Bay, much like the warm days and Mediterranean breezes across Sicily where the grape Aglianico thrives. Aglianico is a red wine grape variety known to produce full-bodied red wines with good aging potential. Even when grown in hot climates, Aglianico is capable of retaining high levels of acidity. In the Clarksburg AVA with rich alluvial soil, and cool fog rolling in, rather than dark and brooding, the fruit retains more delicacy and brightness, making a beautiful, aromatic yet serious rosé.

Serve chilled.