FEBRUARY 2022: BLACK-OWNED WINERIES

This month highlights Black-owned wineries. Proceeds for this month's box will go toward @thetwoeightyproject.

The Two-Eighty Project is a high-density vineyard focused on bringing diversity to the wine industry at Alemany Farm - the largest urban farm in San Francisco sitting off of the 280 Highway. It's public land with no garden beds or demarcations. A 3.5-acre organic farm ecosystem full of guava, mulberry, and apple trees, vegetables and herbs, native plants, vines and a greenhouse with vine cuttings. The farm sits on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula, and the original stewards of the land.

Christopher Renfro is a grape grower, educator, and co-founded and organizes The Two-Eighty Project, with his partner Jannea Tschirch. Chris hopes to connect people from his neighborhood to grapes. "What was missing was education and inclusion, and bringing it in for diversity. I'm talking to some young guys going off to college who are wanting to work with me and learn about wine and viticulture. People don't have to go to Napa, they can learn about it here in their neighborhood, and then they can go to Napa, or can they go with our program."

There is a problematic lack of representation in the wine world with Black-owned wineries. Here are ways to support and spread awareness for Black winemakers or producers:

- Visit the winery
- Share a review
- Tag them on social
- Give their wines as gifts
- Venmo: @Christopher-Renfro-2

Giardiniera
Pickled Vegetables
Cauliflower, Peppers, Mushrooms, Cucumbers, Fennel and Eggplant

Medium spice. Serve with charcuterie, on a sandwich, in a salad or however else you choose.
PRODUCER: Maison Noir
NAME: Other People's Pinot Noir
VARIETY: Pinot Noir
VINTAGE: 2020
LOCATION: Willamette Valley, Oregon
FOLLOW: @andrehmack

Maison Noir Wines was founded in 2007 by iconoclastic sommelier André Hueston Mack, a Per Se and French Laundry alumnus, who left a job in finance to pursue his passion for wine. His dream came to fruition when he set up shop under the moniker of Maison Noir Wines and incorporated his trademark attitude and personal perspective on wine subculture. The wines are unique and distinctive. The producer is a micro-négociant – a wine merchant who purchases grapes and vinifies/bottles them under their own name. André Hueston Mack sources the best fruit possible in the Willamette Valley region of Oregon to produce wines showing the individuality of their respective sites and terroirs.

Mack's wines are well respected and do not take themselves too seriously, as you will see from his labels – but don't be fooled, these wines are serious and worthy of getting to know better.

The 2020 vintage, despite numerous obstacles and lower yields, produced high quality fruit full of richness and complexity. This Pinot Noir stays true to the character of the vineyards from which it was born. Earthy, spicy, floral, cherry. Serve slightly chilled.

PRODUCER: Famille de Boel
NAME: Le Gras C'est La Vie!
VARIETY: 45% Caladoc, 40% Grenache & 15% Carignan
VINTAGE: 2020
LOCATION: Rhone Valley, France
FOLLOW: @famille_deboelfrance

Famille de Boel France is a small family estate owned and run by an enthusiastic and inspired husband/wife team in the high elevations of Saint Joseph. This is a project born from passion, not born from inheriting vineyards or a cellar. Nelly France is from Brittany, France, Arnaud De Boel is from Belgium. They met in 2009 in New Zealand where their love for food and wine brought them together. They quickly fell in love, and now with their two young children, the family chooses biodynamic farming and winemaking.

'Le gras c'est la vie' is a showstopper of a wine, with freshness and vivacity, as well as extraordinary value. Coming from a young plot of vines in the southern side of the Rhone Valley, this is a hand-harvested blend of Carignan, Grenache, and Caladoc (a cross between Malbec and Grenache). A delicate touch and a natural fermentation in stainless steel are the key factors that play into this wine's bright approach, so that even after only a few months' time in the tank, the finished wine is ready for the bottle and immediate consumption. A bright and brambly nose lead to a palate with red and black fruits, spicy texture, and plays well with foods of many kinds or to simply invite the next sip. Serve slightly chilled.
**Le Meilleur de Nous**

**"Guerrieres" Rouge**

2019

Producer: Nelly France  
Name: Guerrieres  
Variety: 50% Grenache, 20% Caladoc, 20% Carignan  
Vintage: 2019  
Location: Ste Cécile Rouge, Rhone Valley, France  
Follow: @famille_deboelfrance

Famille de Boel France is a small family estate owned and run by an enthusiastic and inspired husband/wife team in the high elevations of Saint Joseph. This is a project born from passion, not born from inheriting vineyards. They were the new kids on the block in the Rhône Valley, and Nelly France was sick of being called "the winemaker's wife", so she made a wine all her own.

Le Meilleur de Nous, the label, means: The Best of Us. Guerrieres, the name, means: female warrior.

Talk about fierceness. This woman of color in wine strives to build tools and jewels her children will be proud of. She is doing all the things to ensure a more equitable future for humans, the environment, the nature of soils and the ecosystem.

The label is a tribute to Mrs. Wangari Muta Maathai who, through her significant efforts in Kenya to fight for democratic rights and especially encourage women to better their situation, became the first African woman, and the first environmentalist, to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

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**Aslina**

**Cabernet Sauvignon**

2019

Producer: Aslina  
Name: Cabernet Sauvignon  
Variety: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon  
Vintage: 2019  
Location: Western Cape, South Africa  
Follow: @nbiyela

As South Africa's first black female winemaker, Ntsiki Biyela has forged a path to become one of the most recognized names in the world of wine. In 2016, she established Aslina Wines, inspired by the strength and determination of the biggest influence in her life, her grandmother. Today, Aslina is renowned for its range of premium wines and is the realization of Ntsiki's dream to create an exceptional world-class brand having been named 2009 South African Woman Winemaker of the Year and honored as one of the "Most Innovative Women in Wine" by Food & Wine Magazine and Fortune Magazine in 2017.

Hailing from the rolling hills of Zululand, the Aslina branding strongly echoes Ntsiki's Zulu culture and heritage and the label features the calabash, a traditional clay drinking vessel. Although used typically for beer, Ntsiki has added her own unique twist by adding grapes to the calabash, transforming it into a container for her distinctive wines. This Cabernet Sauvignon is a full-bodied wine with hints of minty characters, cigar box and lots of dark fruits. Bold palate with chewy tannins. Serve slightly chilled.
**MAISON NOIR**

"OTHER PEOPLE’S PINOT GRIS (O.P.P)"

2018

**Producer:** Maison Noir  
**Name:** Other People’s Pinot Gris  
**Variety:** Pinot Gris  
**Vintage:** 2020  
**Location:** Willamette Valley, Oregon  
**Follow:** @andrehmack

Maison Noir Wines was founded in 2007 by iconoclastic sommelier André Hueston Mack, a Per Se and French Laundry alumni, who left a job in finance to pursue his passion for wine. His dream came to fruition when he set up shop under the moniker of Maison Noir Wines and incorporated his trademark attitude and personal perspective on wine subculture. The wines are unique and distinctive. The producer is a micro-négociant - a wine merchant who purchases grapes and vinifies/bottles them under their own name. André Hueston Mack sources the best fruit possible in the Willamette Valley region of Oregon to produce wines showing the individuality of their respective sites and terroirs.

Mack's wines are well respected and do not take themselves too seriously, as you will see from his labels - but don't be fooled, these wines are serious and worthy of getting to know better.

The 2020 vintage, despite numerous obstacles and lower yields, produced high quality fruit full of richness and complexity. This Pinot Gris is enthralling, upbeat, fresh and deluxe. Serve slightly chilled.

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**MCBRIDE SISTERS**

**SAUVIGNON BLANC**

2020

**Producer:** McBride Sisters  
**Name:** Sauvignon Blanc  
**Variety:** 100% Sauvignon Blanc  
**Vintage:** 2020  
**Location:** Marlborough, New Zealand  
**Follow:** @mcbridesisters

Grown sustainably in Marlborough, New Zealand, this Sauvignon Blanc is made by two sisters who grew up on opposite sides of the globe, found each other, and then went into the business of making wine together. Since its inception in 2005, Robin and Andrea McBride have built a business that is now the largest Black-owned wine company in the United States. The McBride Sisters Collection currently consists of four styles of wines, each with their own unique characteristics that showcase the sisters' personal story and passion for wine.

"Our intention from day one has been really focused on making wine accessible. And, to us, a big part of accessibility is not only price, but it's also location," says Andrea McBride. "With our portfolio, we purposefully have concentrated on being available in grocery stores and large independent retailers so people could find us and so that we can over deliver on the quality to the price."

We love this wine, and yes, you can buy it at Target, because their mission as businesswomen is, "to transform the industry, lead by example, and cultivate community, one delicious glass of wine at a time."

Serve slightly chilled.
MCBRIDE SISTERS

CHARDONNAY

2019

Producer: McBride Sisters
Name: Chardonnay
Variety: 100% Chardonnay
Vintage: 2019
Location: Central Coast, California
Follow: @mcbridesisters

Two sisters who grew up on opposite sides of the globe, found each other, and then went into the business of making wine together. Since 2005, Robin and Andrea McBride have built a business that is now the largest Black-owned wine company in the United States. This Chardonnay is from Central Coast, California, which stretches from Santa Barbara to Monterey.

"Our intention from day one has been really focused on making wine accessible. And, to us, a big part of accessibility is not only price, but it's also location," says Andrea McBride. Their quality wines are available at Total Wine and Target because their mission as business women is, "to transform the industry, lead by example, and cultivate community, one delicious glass of wine at a time."

We will gladly toast to that with their pale golden, soft and balanced textured Chardonnay. Aromas of lemon curd and honey, pineapple, and ripe pear, with a slight hint of toasty oak that balances the palate and persists with the fruit. Complexity and character without weight. This is not your gramma's Chardonnay. Serve chilled.

FAMILLE DE BOEL

"ASSIÉGÉS" CÔTES-DU-RHONE

2019

Producer: Famille de Boel
Name: Assiégés
Variety: 45% Grenache, 25% Caladoc, 15% Syrah, 15% Carignan
Vintage: 2019
Location: Rhone Valley, France
Follow: @famille_deboelfrance

Famille de Boel France is a small family estate owned and run by an inspired husband/wife team in the high elevations of Saint Joseph. This is a project born from passion, not born from inheriting vineyards. Nelly France is from Brittany, France, Arnaud De Boel is from Belgium. They met in 2009 in New Zealand where they quickly fell in love, and now with their two young children, the family chooses biodynamic farming and winemaking.

The Assiégés Cotes-du-Rhone is from a young plot of biodynamically farmed vines. The blend makes for a very aromatic and elegant expression of the terroir in the estate's line up of red wines from the Rhone. The "Assiégés" was the Prussian 'assault' on Paris in 1870. Without food, a famine forced 'unconventional' dining. For Christmas that year, the famous Chef Alexandre Choron bought animals from the Botanical Garden and featured elephant broth, roasted camel, and wolf leg with roe deer sauce. This juice is new elegant black fruit, with beautiful floral, violet and garrigue tones. The floral palate is full, dense and supple at the same time. Serve slightly chilled.