



**Arlequin Wine Merchant**  
**Three Bottle Monthly Club: March 2018**  
*\$69.00 (tax & shipping not included)*

**OBRIGADO VINHOS “A TOURIGA VA NUA” ALENTEJO, PORTUGAL 2016**

*List Price \$29/ Arlequin Regular Price \$29/ Wine Club Exclusive Reorder \$26*

The Touriga Nacional grape is to Portugal what Cabernet Sauvignon is to Napa Valley. This king of Portuguese grapes produces inky, richly fruity reds redolent of violets and plums, with bright acidity and firm tannins that give the best examples magnificent structure. Traditionally, Touriga has been used as the backbone of Portuguese red blends, including its epically ageworthy, fortified Port wines. Here, Touriga is showcased by itself, in an unoaked, unblended offering from Fita Preta. The wine’s name is a play on “O Rei vai nua!”, a Portuguese expression meaning “The King goes naked!”. Fita Preta winemaker and owner Antonio Maçanita ferments some of the fruit carbonically (i.e., without crushing the berries), a technique which avoids extracting much of Touriga’s substantial tannins. The result is a warm, lush, surprisingly supple and lightly peppery red. “A Touriga Via Nua” makes a terrific pairing for roasted and grilled meats, but its low alcohol and lack of oak tannins make it a fine companion to lighter fare like charcuterie and medium-aged cheese. Just 830 cases made.

**BODEGAS LOS BERMEJOS DIEGO SECO LANZAROTE, CANARY ISLANDS 2016**

*List Price \$26/ Arlequin Regular Price \$24/ Wine Club Exclusive Reorder \$21*

While the Canary Islands may call to mind white sand beaches rather than fine wine, this string of volcanic islands off the coast of Africa is one of the world’s most astonishing and exceptional wine regions. Viticulture has been well established in the Canaries since the Spanish arrived in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Lanzarote, where the Los Bermejos winery is located, is the easternmost island; its thriving grapevines are a testament to human ingenuity. Each vine is protected on its windward side by low walls that allow moist ocean air to flow through, and a mixture of porous sand and volcanic ash collects the moisture. In a subtropical region that receives less than eight inches of rain a year, this tiny amount of water is crucial for the vines. Los Bermejos was founded in 2001 by winemaker Ignacio Valdera, on an estate whose vines average more than 80 years of age; under his direction, the resultant wines have become benchmark cuvées for the Canaries. The 2016 Diego Seco, made from 100% Diego (just one of the Island’s 30 indigenous varieties), provides an ideal introduction to this remarkable region’s myriad delights: medium-bodied and mineral-driven, it balances succulent, intense lime and green apple flavors with bright acidity, hints of sea salt and a long, green olive oriented finish. Fish and shellfish are a traditional pairing for Lanzarote whites, but this offering has enough body to stand up to light, zesty white meat dishes, including chicken, turkey and pork.

**PAS D’ESCALETTE “LES PETIT PAS” LANGUEDOC, FRANCE 2016**

*List Price \$25/ Arlequin Regular Price \$23/ Wine Club Exclusive Reorder \$21*

Spouses Delphine Rousseau and Julien Zernott of Domaine du Pas de L’Escalalette craft some of the most precise and surprisingly elegant, organic and biodynamically farmed wines in the Languedoc. Central to their wines’ distinctiveness is the singular terroir of their estate, which is situated in a remote, mountainous valley at the foot of the Terrasses du Larzac, a plateau high above the azure waters of the Mediterranean, near Montpellier. Perched at an altitude of 1,200 feet, the 50-acre domaine climbs the steep, limestone-rich slopes in some 40 stepped terraces on each side of the valley. The terraces were planted to Grenache, Syrah and Carignan more than a half-century ago; today, these precious, head-pruned bush vines yield a paltry few bunches of intensely concentrated grapes each vintage. Newer vines are all *massale* selections from the soils of the estate. Composed of 45% Grenache, 30% Carignan and 20% Syrah, “Le Petit Pas” (little steps), refers to the footprints of the couple two sons and, like its namesakes, is characterized by freshness, vibrancy and vigor. It boasts an expressive red fruit (strawberry, cherry, raspberry) nose, followed by a savory palate featuring plum, licorice and fresh violets, before concluding with a white pepper-inflected flourish. Enjoy in concert with a sunny afternoon or alongside pork roti and cabbage or veal meatballs with sage.