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A CELEBRATION OF JUBAN COOKING.

BATTLE OF
THE BULGE.

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SPECIAL WINES FOR SPECIAL GIFTS

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KEEPING WITH THE theme of international flavors, I chose some exceptional wines this month that would please the most discerning wine lover. Wines and spirits are a rather classic gift choice, whether for Chanukah or in general, and a bottle of wine presented in a gift box always makes a strong impression. However, the box or the label does not necessarily guarantee the quality of the contents. Here is a selection of five great wines that also come in a beautiful gift package:

1 TABOR LIMITED EDITION CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016

This is an elegant Cabernet Sauvignon from grapes harvested in a single vineyard that showcases big, bold black fruit aromas with layers of depth and complexity. Tabor is a winery that was established 20 years ago on a very small scale with about 30,000 bottles. It has grown to be one of Israel's largest wineries, producing more than 2 million bottles a year. Not only have they not compromised on the quality, but they have also increased it ten-fold, and this bottle is an excellent example of that. It comes in a beautiful gift package as well.

mineral core. The Herzog Lake County is an opulent, multi-layered Cabernet and it also has the potential to cellar for a decade. Ask for the gift box!

4 CHAMPAGNE BARONS DE ROTHSCHILD MAGNUM (1.5 LITER)

The House of Rothschild has been known for nearly 200 years for three outstanding branches of wines produced throughout the world. This Champagne, a blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, symbolizes that benchmark quality, resulting from the family's combined knowledge and experience. A magnum contains 1.5 liters, the equivalent of two regular-sized 750ml bottles, making it ideal for a family party. It is also mevushal, which can be a significant advantage on such occasions. Gifting a magnum of any wine makes an immediate effect, even more so when it's Champagne!

2 ELVI HERENZA RESERVA RIOJA 2014

One of the best kosher Spanish wines, the Elvi Reserva is an incredibly complex Tempranillo from the Rioja region. It features black plums, black forest berries with notes of herbs, spices and vanilla. This type of wine constantly evolves, developing secondary and tertiary notes over two decades or more. I would recommend picking up at least two bottles, one to drink now and one to open in 5-10 years, as it will reward your patience. The uniqueness and high quality make it a great gift, but it also comes wrapped in an elegant, chic, gold net that makes it stand out at first sight.

5 NETOFA DOR 2017

Netofa is a boutique winery located between Tzfat and Tiberias in the Galilee. The Netofa Dor is the winery's flagship wine, a single varietal wine produced from the variety that showed best in any given vintage. For 2017 it was Syrah, which is a grape that has been thriving and producing unique and delightful wines ever since it was first planted in Israel about 25 years ago. This wine shows a full body, with black and red berry fruit and a spicy aroma of black pepper and nutmeg. It is an Israeli wine, but the winemaking style takes its inspiration from France's Rhône Valley. It is available in a beautiful individual gift package. While it is tremendously enjoyable now, it will also benefit from a few years of further bottle aging.

3 HERZOG SPECIAL RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON LAKE COUNTY 2017

I like to say that Lake County is the Golan Heights of California. Indeed, they both are comparable in altitude — both regions are known for their volcanic soil — yielding wines with remarkable precision and focus, as well as a rich

