

# New shop offering big wine selection

By CHARLOTTE PERKINS  
*Journal Lifestyle Editor*

For true oenophiles, spending \$50 on a Bergstrom 2005 Pinot Noir might be the best investment of the weekend, even if it's supposed to be cellared for the next two years at the very least, and preferably for 10 years.

An oenophile, in case you aren't one, is someone who truly understands wine and takes an interest in vintage years, the provenance of oak barrels, and the protocols of uncorking, allowing wine to breathe, savoring the nuances ... well, you know what we mean.

Then there are those of us who are hoping to buy a good wine to go with a good meal, and wouldn't mind having a little advice or getting a recommendation for something, let's say, under \$15.

The good news is that Classic Bottle Shoppe has opened at the intersection of Russell Parkway at Highway 41, and Bonnie Chafin is there with a friendly smile to help with selections.

The shop has a special section for wines, and just walking around studying labels is an education. Wine labels, especially the ones that aren't from France, are lightening up and brightening up. The names are fun, the labels eye-catching.

There are staid French wines, of course, and the inevitable Chardonnays and Merlots if you're feeling cautious, but plenty of other choices from Spain and Italy to California and the Pacific Northwest, as well as New Zealand and Australia.

Want something adventurous for a party with friends, or something with an ancient-looking cream-colored label to impress the boss? Take a look around.

Names range from Pucilly-Fuisse to White Truck, from Electra (good with hamburg-



Journal/Charlotte Perkins

*This 2005 Pinot Noir, with limited sales in Georgia, is selling for \$50, with the recommendation that it be allowed to age until 2008.*

ers, Chafin says) to Seven Deadly Zins (a Zinfandel, naturally) and Menage a Trois. There's a prize-winning Rex Goliath featuring a label with a brightly colored rooster, and there are ice wines, which either go with desserts or are dessert. There are flavored wines, too. Chafin holds up a Pomelo, which has, she says, a hint of grapefruit.

You may not be quite ready for cellaring that Pinot Noir yet, but you'll leave knowing a little more than you did when you came in, and the browsing is fun.

Classic Bottle Shop is located at 4993 Russell Parkway, at the new shopping center with the big flag.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Friday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday.

Houston Daily Journal  
September 13, 2006



*Journal Charlotte Parkins*  
Chris Kitchens and Bonnie Chafin are the owners of the recently opened Classic Bottle Shoppe, which offers a special section for wines, with plenty of variety and a wide price range.



*Journal Charlotte Parkins*  
Classic Bottle Shoppe offers wide variety of wines from around the world.