



The Absolute Best Wine Shop in New York

*By Hugh Merwin
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Appellation Wine & Spirits

Don't be alarmed by the jumbo real-estate placard in the front window: Chelsea's venerated natural-wine shop will relocate in the near future, but it's not shutting down. Appellation has long been at the forefront of the organic and artisanal-wine scene, and its staff are the first to clear cut the jargon and explain what matters about that, and why, when it comes to flavor and composition. (The mission statement extends to liquor, too, so you may see the staff geek out over a new allocation of a terrific watermelon brandy made from heirloom fruit and Mennonite sorghum in Charleston.) Rhône River Valley gems and biodynamic blends from Austria share shelf space with a range from upstart California producer Dirty & Rowdy; there's Bregeonnette Muscadet, which is good for July rosé fatigue and comes with an unbeatable price tag.



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