

TRADE LIST 2024

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SYMBOLS			
NEW New	Prink now		White wine
<b>Vg</b> Vegan ✓ □	Drink or kee	ер	Rosé wine
Vegetarian       ► K	Геер	•	Red wine
Ø Organic † H	Half bottles	available •	Sweet wine
Biodynamic	Magnums av	vailable •	Port



Dear Customer

I regularly get asked "what's your favourite wine?", which is a difficult question for someone who loves all sorts of wine. I usually answer that it depends on the time of the year, the time of day, what we're eating and what kind of mood I am in.

This might seem unhelpfully evasive to someone expecting a certain grape variety from a particular region but there it is! So, in these pages you will find wines from a cornucopia of regions and grape varieties. We are not aiming to have an encyclopaedic coverage of every region in the world, just very good drinking wines which we would be proud to serve ourselves, and if that takes us on an enjoyable vinous journey – either mentally or physically – all the better.

Price is always in our minds too. For a very long time we have been ensconced in the Welsh Marches where value for money is important, so we try to ensure that for every extra pound you spend, you get a commensurately better wine.

I hope you enjoy our wines over the coming year.

James Tanner

#### **PRODUCTION**

The photos in this wine list were principally taken by James Tanner, Robert Boutflower, Stephen Crosland, Graham Mason and Simon Jones who always travel with notebook and camera in hand. Other photos are courtesy of Uta Heath and our producers. Cover design by Natasha Ward.

# Ordering from Tanners

- Shrewsbury 01743 234400
- Welshpool 01938 552542
- Llandudno 01492 874099
- www.tanners-wines.co.uk
- Tanners Wines Ltd, FREEPOST, 26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1XD
- trade@tanners-wines.co.uk

We accept Visa, Maestro & Mastercard credit & debit cards.

## TASTING NOTES

Full tasting notes are available on our website, www.tanners-wines.co.uk

## **PRICING**

AOC

All prices are exclusive of VAT. All wines are 75cl bottle size and spirits are 70cl unless otherwise indicated. Prices may be subject to alteration to reflect changes to exchange rates, customs or excise duty, tariffs, VAT or other fiscal changes outside the Company's control.

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée Appellation d'Origine Protégée **AOP** Denominazione di Origine DOC Controllata **DOCG** Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita **IGP** Indication Géographique Protégée or Indicazione Geografica Protetta Indicazione Geografica Tipica **IGT** VdT Vino da Tavola or Vino de la Tierra DO Denominación de Origen



# Tanners Labels

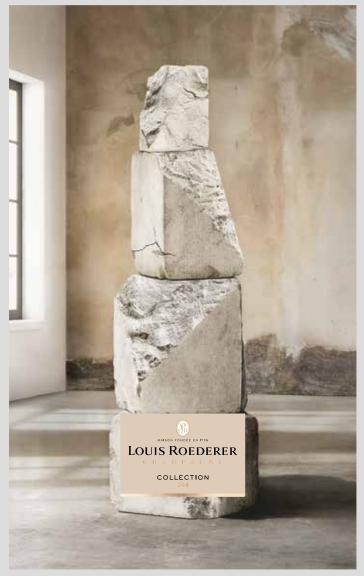
There's nothing like having your name above the shop and on a bottle to focus the mind. Enormous effort goes into the quality of these wines, after all, they should each be an exemplar of their particular grape or region. It is therefore very pleasing that Tanners ownlabels are always among the company's best sellers. Tanners doesn't own any vineyards, instead we go to producers who are at the top of their game in their given region, and then blend a wine in partnership with them to a style that we believe our customers will like. Often this will be with long-term, trusted suppliers, for example Maison Sichel, from whom we have bought Bordeaux wines since the 1890s. None is selected on price alone, each must bring the identity of the region to your table and be a wine you can rely on – after all, they are made by some of the best winemakers in the world!

France still dominates the range, but we are expanding our New World own labels, most recently with the arrival of Tanners New Zealand Pinot Noir. Consistency between vintages is key, however where the character of the vintage is more dominant, we have taken to spotbuying very special parcels to go under the 'Super' label, namely Super Claret, but when they run out, they run out! These, and the Tanners labels in general, tend to get some great reviews from the national press.

# CHAMPAGNE & SPARKLING

Tanners Claret, Bordeaux, 13% Vg

Tanners Cava Brut, Traditional Method, 12% Vg	FI000 I B		9.36
Tanners Prosecco Brut, Treviso, 11%	FI0048B		10.10
Tanners Extra Réserve, Brut Champagne, 12.5% Vg	FC0001B		23.17
Tanners Extra Réserve Spécial, Brut Champagne, 12.5% Vg	FC0002B		26.39
Tanners Extra Réserve Rosé, Brut Champagne, I 2% Vg	FC0035B		28.81
WHITE			
Tanners Chardonnay, Pays d'Oc 2023, 13% Vg	MW0024B23		7.88
Tanners Gascony Dry White, Côtes de Gascogne 2023, 10.5% Vg	MW0029B23		8.27
Tanners Chilean Chardonnay, Colchagua Valley 2023, 14% Vg	QW0098B23		8.47
Tanners Sauvignon, Pays d'Oc 2022, 12% Vg	MW0019B22		9.38
Tanners New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2022, 12.5%	NW0051B22		10.69
Tanners White Burgundy, Bourgogne Chardonnay 2022, I 2.5% $\mbox{Vg}$	BW0001B22		12.42
ROSÉ			
Tanners French Rosé, Côtes de Gascogne 2023, 10.5% Vg	MP0001B23		8.35
RED			
Tanners Merlot, Pays d'Oc 2022, 13.5%	MR0008B22	1	8.33
Tanners Argentinian Malbec, Mendoza 2023, 14% Vg	TR0052B23	I	8.49



LOUIS ROEDERER
HAND IN HAND WITH NATURE

# Champagne

The last two years of record sales of Champagne seem finally to have peaked, demand has slowed at the same time the 2023 harvest was generous, so prices, at least from some, should start to stabilise. At Tanners we try to offer you a range of the well-known brands such as Pol Roger, Bollinger and Louis Roederer, all very good houses, but also a small, carefully selected range of growers' champagnes. These are the farmers, if you like, that have decided to go one step beyond growing grapes and supplying the big Champagne houses. Instead, they bottle and market the wines themselves. With no big marketing budgets, they must rely on the quality of the wines they produce to speak for themselves.

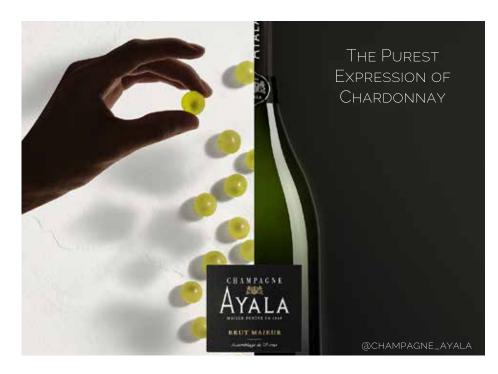
## BRUT NON-VINTAGE CHAMPAGNE

Non-vintage (NV) champagne is blended from dozens of individual cuvées and vintages, so that the 'house style' is consistent. It must have spent a minimum of 12 months on the lees. They are usually a blend of grape varieties: Chardonnay for fruit and body; Pinot Noir for elegance and structure; and Pinot Meunier for softness and fruit. All three Tanners Champagnes – our house, spécial and rosé – are supplied by **Beaumont des Crayères**, based in Mardeuil, a village west of Epernay. A highly impressive small co-operative of about 250 growers, with 90 Ha under the control of Matthieu Château and, President of Board of Growers, Jean-Noël Plançon. The vineyards are mostly located around the village in the Marne Valley. We also offer **Joseph Perrier** – the Perrier family has been producing Champagne since 1825. We can also provide a wide range of different champagne bottle sizes, including quarters, half bottles, magnums, jeroboams and methuselahs.

Tanners Extra Réserve, Brut Champagne, 12.5% Vg	FC0001B	23.17
Tanners Extra Réserve Spécial, Brut, 12.5% Vg	FC0002B	26.39
Baron de Beaupré, Brut, 12% 🐠	FC0003B	23.36
Ayala Brut Majeur, 12%	FC0043B	26.39
Joseph Perrier Cuvée Royale, Brut, 12% Vg	FC0008B	32.01
Pol Roger Réserve, Brut, 12.5%	FC0011B	36.73
Laurent-Perrier La Cuvée, Brut, 12% Vg	FC0074B	36.86
Billecart-Salmon Brut Réserve, 12%	FC0835B	38.70
Veuve Clicquot 'Yellow Label', Brut, 12.5% Vg	FC0010B	41.08
Louis Roederer Collection 244, Brut, 12.5% Vg	FC0244B	42.50
Bollinger Special Cuvée, Brut, 12%	FC0014B	45.00
Billecart-Salmon Brut Blanc de Blancs, Grand Cru, 12%	FC0109B	64.17

#### GROWERS' CHAMPAGNE

Traditionally these small, family-run operations, such as **André Clouet** and **Michel Arnould**, used to supply the big houses with grapes or wines. More recently some have decided to go it alone. Often this means you have a wine as good as, or even better than the well-known houses, punching well above their relatively modest price tag.



Michel Arnould & Fils Réserve, Brut, Grand Cru Verzenay, 12% 🛡	FC0016B	26.13
André Clouet Silver, Brut Nature, Grand Cru à Bouzy, 12%	FC0018B	31.08
André Clouet Grande Réserve, Brut, Grand Cru à Bouzy, 12%	FC0017B	31.55

# VINTAGE CHAMPAGNE

Vintage champagnes are only produced in the best years. They have undergone a longer maturation than their non-vintage counterparts and consequently have more depth and complexity along with more bready flavours and aromas. For champagne to be specified as 'vintage', 100% of the grapes must have been grown in the year on the label. Vintage champagnes spend a minimum of three years on their lees whilst some of the top champagne houses keep their wines on the lees in excess of five, or even ten years, in some cases. There is still good value to be had here in the likes of the Fleur Noire from Beaumont des Crayères.

Beaumont des Crayères Fleur de Prestige, Brut 2014, 12% Vg	FC0020B14	31.99
Beaumont des Crayères Fleur Noire, Blanc de Noirs 2014, 12% Vg	FC0080B14	35.52
Joseph Perrier Vintage, Brut 2013, 12% Vg	FC0047B13	55.84
Louis Roederer Vintage, Brut 2015, 12.5%	FC0026B15	57.50
Veuve Clicquot Vintage, Brut Champagne 2015, 12.5% ♥	FC0023B15 🗸	62.50
Pol Roger Vintage, Brut 2016, 12.5%	FC0024B16 🗸	79.17



 $C \ \ H \ A \ \ M \ \ P \ A \ G \ \ N \ E$  ALCOHOL ABUSE IS DANGEROUS FOR YOUR HEALTH, PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

Bollinger La Grande Année, Brut 2014, 12%	FC0025B14	/ 125.00
Pol Roger Vintage, Brut 2016 - Magnum, 12.5%	FC0024M16	/ 191.67

## PRESTIGE CUVÉE CHAMPAGNE

A prestige cuvée is a wine produced by a champagne house to represent the pinnacle of their range – therefore it is not hard to see why they have a price tag to match! Louis Roederer's Cristal, Moët & Chandon's Dom Pérignon, Pol Roger's Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill and Bollinger's RD lead the roll call in the who's who of Champagne. Krug bucks the trend slightly by only producing prestige cuvée wines. These are becoming increasingly soughtafter so may not be available all year round.

André Clouet "Un Jour de 1911", Brut, Grand Cru Classé, 12%	FC0027B / 54.17
Dom Pérignon, Brut, Vintage 2013, 12.5% Vg	FC0029B13 / 162.50
Pol Roger Champagne, Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill, Vintage 2015, 12.5%	FC0030B15 / 191.67
Krug Grande Cuvée 171ème Edition, Brut Champagne, 12.5%	FC0091B / 200.00
Louis Roederer Cristal, Brut, Vintage 2015, 12%	FC0033B15 / 233.34
Bollinger RD, Extra Brut Champagne 2008 - Gift Box, 12.5%	FC0028B08G / 291.67

#### DEMI-SEC CHAMPAGNE

Often overlooked, these wines are a great, decadent match to desserts. They are usually a

better match than their drier counterparts when served as a toast with cake! Pol Roger's Rich has an excellent balance ensuring it is not too sweet but just sweet enough.

Pol Roger Rich, Demi-Sec, 12.5%

# FC0831B

38.48

# ROSÉ/PINK CHAMPAGNE

Rosé or 'pink' champagne can be produced in two ways: either by the *saignée* method whereby the clear juice of black grapes is left in contact with its skins for a short time, or, more commonly, by adding a small amount of still Pinot Noir red wine to the sparkling wine blend. Rosé champagne is one of the few exceptions in the wine world where it is permissible to create rosé by adding red wine during blending. This method produces a colour that can be replicated, so each year the champagne looks the same, as you will see with the excellent **Billecart Salmon Rosé**. As the *saignée* method is comparatively expensive and more difficult for the winemaker, there are very few producers that continue to use it: **Laurent Perrier** and **Louis Roederer** are two that do.

Tanners Extra Réserve Rosé, Brut, 12% Vg	FC0035B	28.81
Michel Arnould & Fils Rosé, Brut, Grand Cru Verzenay, 12% Vg	FC0036B	27.19
Ayala Rosé Majeur, Brut, 12%	FC0053B	31.22
Joseph Perrier Cuvée Royale Rosé, Brut, 12% Vg	FC0044B	44.17
Bollinger Rosé, Brut, 12%	FC0039B	51.67
Laurent-Perrier Cuvée Rosé, Brut, 12% Vg	FC0038B	56.67
Billecart-Salmon Brut Rosé, 12%	FC0824B	62.50
Bollinger La Grande Année Rosé, Brut 2014, 12.5%	FC0040B14	150.00

# HALVES & QUARTERS CHAMPAGNE

Ideal for occasions when a full bottle is too much, though we are struggling to think of one!

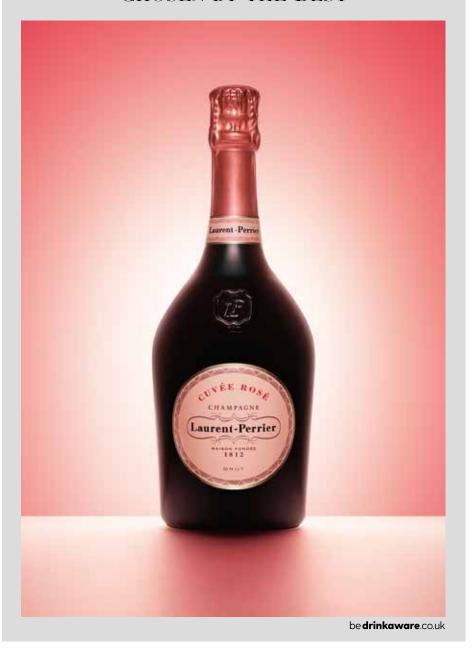
Tanners Extra Réserve, Brut - Half, 12.5% Vg	FC0001H	15.13
Ayala Brut Majeur - Half, I2%	FC0043H	15.62
Joseph Perrier Cuvée Royale, Brut - Half, 12% Vg	FC0201H	18.16
Louis Roederer Collection 244, Brut - Half, 12.5% Vg	FC0244H	21.34
Bollinger Special Cuvée, Brut - Half, 12%	FC0014H	22.93

#### LARGE CHAMPAGNE BOTTLES

As Winston Churchill famously said, "a magnum is the ideal size for two to share provided one of them isn't drinking!" For those who do want to share we have larger sizes too. A Jeroboam equates to four bottles; a Rehoboam is six; a Methuselah is eight; a Salmanazar is 12; a Balthazar is 16 and a Nebuchadnezzar is 20.

Tanners Extra Réserve, Brut - Magnum, 12.5% Vg	FC0001M	56.67
Ayala Brut Majeur - Magnum, 12%	FC0043M	60.00
Louis Roederer Collection - Magnum, 12.5%	FC0242M	100.00

# CHOSEN BY THE BEST



Bollinger Special Cuvée, Brut - Magnum, 12%	FC0014M	100.00	Sp
Beaumont des Crayères Grande Réserve, Brut - Jeroboam, 12%	FC0106J	158.34	Sparkling
Bollinger Special Cuvée Brut - Jeroboam, 12%	FC0014J	266.67	ling
Pol Roger Réserve, Brut - Methuselah, 12.5%	FC0011U	650.00	Wine
Pol Roger Réserve, Brut - Salmanazar, 12.5%	FC0011S	916.67	ne

# Sparkling Wine

It looks like we might have hit peak Prosecco with global sales slowing. Cava still looks great value to us and is in a good position to benefit. The other major success story of recent years is English Sparkling which continues to go from strength to strength so we are delighted to have added the Ridgeview Brut to our offering this year. With lovely peachy fruit character, Tanners Prosecco continues to be a hit with our customers. Tanners Cava still commands its place with its weightier style. For those looking for a real champagne alternative Nyetimber's English fizz is second to none, while the Blanquette de Limoux region predates Champagne in making sparkling wine. The Crémants from France's other regions, such as Jura, Alsace and Burgundy (Bourgogne) amongst others, are rapidly, and justifiably, gaining popularity. For those wanting something a little more frivolous for the summer months, try the brilliant dry rosé 'Malbec Bubbles' from master craftsman Patricio Gouguenheim's stable. Anyone eschewing alcohol should look at the So Jennie Alcohol Free from France as a good example.

#### **PROSECCO**

A charming sparkler made from the Glera grape variety, sourced from the regions of Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia in Italy. This light, dry, sparkling wine is perfectly suited to parties, summer evenings and/or serving as an apéritif. Prosecco is also the key ingredient for the classy Bellini cocktail: simply pour a measure of white peach purée into a flute glass and top up with well-chilled Prosecco to whet the appetite of your guests. The more recently created Prosecco Rosé DOC, with up to 15% Pinot Noir allowed, is proving a hit.

Tanners Prosecco Brut, Treviso, 11%	FI0048B	10.10
Ita Prosecco, Spumante Brut, 11%	FI0054B	9.34
Amori Prosecco, Spumante Extra Dry, 11% Vg	FI0053B	9.42
Fabio Ceschin Prosecco, Frizzante, Treviso, 10.5%	FI0036B	9.51
Prosecco Superiore DOCG, Conegliano Valdobbiadene Vigna Del Sole, 11% NEW	FI0192B	11.70

#### CAVA

Cava, one of the world's finest sparkling wines, is made by the bottle-fermenting 'traditional method'. Cava differs fundamentally from champagne only in the grapes used for the blend: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier of France are replaced by Parellada, Macabeo and Xarel.lo from the Catalan region. Although Cava can be made from other grapes and other regions across Spain, its heartland is San Sadurni d'Anoia, south of Barcelona, where

Tanners Cava Brut, Traditional Method, 12% Vg FI0001B 9.36
Can Xa Cava Brut, 11.5% Vg FI0187B 10.40

#### FRENCH SPARKLING

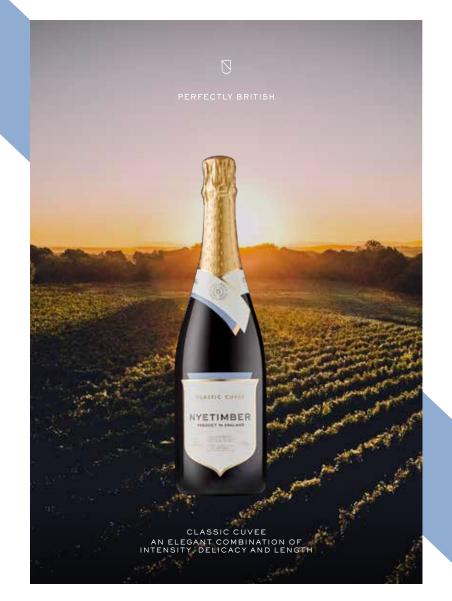
Sparkling Wine

Whilst dominated by Champagne, most wine producing regions of France also produce their own style of fizz, some of which are very good indeed. The best is produced in the same way as champagne, the traditional method, with a secondary fermentation taking place in bottle followed by prolonged ageing on the lees (the yeast cells, left after the fermentation has finished). First among equals must surely be **Blanquette de Limoux**. Documentary evidence suggests this sparkling wine, from the south-west of France, predates the 'invention' of champagne. Made from the Mauzac grape with the addition of Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay, the results are stunning and **Rives Blanques** produce one of the best. Sitting alongside this 'band' are the Crémants from across France such as: Crémant d'Alsace; Crémant de Loire; Crémant de Bourgogne and Crémant de Jura. All made from the local grapes of each region, they offer refinement and elegance at a fraction of the price of champagne. From the next tier, still made using the traditional method, are the likes of Saumur Brut from the Loire; less ageing on lees means a less complex wine, but sometimes we don't want too much complexity, just a decent glass of wine with bubbles!

Jules Larose Blanc de Blancs Brut, Vin Mousseux, 11%	FI0121B		7.50
La Grande Marque Saumur Brut, 12.5%	FI0806B		11.16
Vérizet, Crémant de Bourgogne Brut, Cave de Viré, 12.5% 🛡	FI0156B		14.60
Crémant d'Alsace, Blanc de Blancs Brut, Dopff & Irion, 12%	FI0125B		15.08
Blanquette de Limoux Brut, Château Rives-Blanques 2019, 12.5%	FI0010B19		15.93
Crémant du Jura, Brut Zéro Dosage, Champ Divin 2020, 13% 🚭	FI0046B20	I	19.05

#### ENGLISH SPARKLING

The belt of chalky soil, so prized by the Champenois in northern France, runs on northwest emerging in the southern English counties of Kent, Sussex and Hampshire (where **Nyetimber** straddles the county borders). The grape varieties from Champagne, namely Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, therefore find themselves quite at home. In recent years English sparklers, which need, like all sparkling wines, a little acidity to maintain their balance, have been propelled to the top of the quality pile. With the improvements in technology, and a warmer climate, the future looks very bright for English sparkling wine producers. Our range continues to grow alongside the industry with **Ashling Park Estate** which is on the chalky South Downs and **Ridgeview** from East Sussex, home to the Roberts family who put great emphasis on sustainable and ethical practices while making super fizz.



#NYETIMBER NYETIMBER.COM ENJOY RESPONSIBLY NYETIMBER PRODUCT OF ENGLAND



Away from the South-East, improvements are also bearing fruit with some fine sparkling wine produced in the South-West, and in Herefordshire.

Hencote Evolution, English Sparkling Wine 2021, 11%	FI0170B21	12.33
Hencote LXX, English Sparkling Wine 2018, 11.5% NEW	FI0172B18	23.11
Ridgeview Cavendish, English Sparkling Wine, 12% Vg NEW	FI0108B	26.33
Ashling Park Estate, Brut English Quality Sparkling Wine, 12% Vg	FI0161B	27.72
Nyetimber Classic Cuvée, English Sparkling Wine, 12% † ♦	FI0016B	28.44
Ridgeview Blanc de Blancs, English Sparkling Wine 2018, 12% NEW	FI0183B18	49.17

## OTHER BRUT SPARKLING

In all parts of the vinous globe there are sparkling wines produced, maybe not on the scale of champagne or Prosecco, but nevertheless where people make wine, they also like to put bubbles in it. Many follow in the footsteps of champagne using the same production methods and even grape varieties. There are some excellent examples: try the superb **Pelorus** from the Cloudy Bay stable in New Zealand; or closer to home the fizz of **Ancre Hill** Vineyards in Wales, where production is biodynamic, the potential of which is ably demonstrated by Richard Morris. From down-under the **Grounded Cru** Sparkling is fresh and characterful from the cooler Adelaide Hills region.

FI0191B	I	8.19
FI0059B22		9.10
FI0060B		12.28
FI0173B		12.98
FI0014B		22.88
FI0113B		32.66
	FI0059B22 FI0060B FI0173B FI0014B	FI0059B22 FI0060B FI0173B FI0014B

# ROSÉ/PINK SPARKLING

There is something irrepressibly romantic about pink fizz making it perfect for weddings and other events. These wines do, however, have a more serious side; beautiful and stylish, they are great with food, often being more full-bodied than their white counterparts and demonstrating great versatility.

Fabio Ceschin Rosé Vino Frizzante, Veneto, 11%	FI0037B	9.05
Ita Prosecco Rosé, Extra Dry 2022, 11% Vg	FI0055B22	9.47
Can Xa Rosé Cava Brut, 11.5% NEW	FI0 I 74B	10.70
Gouguenheim Malbec Bubbles, Sparkling Rosé Extra Brut, Mendoza, I 2% Vg	FI0119B	11.13
So Jennie Alcohol Free Luxury Rosé Bubbles, Paris, France, 0% Vg	FI0057B	16.75
Hencote Isadora Rosé, English Sparkling Wine 2019, 11.5% NEW	FI0171B19	22.30

# SWEETER SPARKLING

The ideal accompaniment to desserts, the sweeter styles of sparkling wines deserve to be more popular than they are. Elegant, light, fruity and often lower in alcohol, they are perfect to sip on their own and often suited to a toast taking place at the end of a meal.

Asti Martini, 7.5% F10025B22 8.96

Vigna Senza Nome, Moscato d'Asti, "Braida" 2022, 5.5% Vg F10026B22 13.18

## RED SPARKLING

A very small amount of red wine is turned into fizz. In the case of Australian Sparkling Shiraz, it is given a little sweetness to counteract the tannins in the wine, the effect of which would be heightened by the bubbles. These rich, chocolaty reds are great with smoky barbecue foods.

Brachetto d'Acqui, "Braida" 2022, 5.5%

IR0088B22 12.04

# South of France

A title that covers a vast geographical region, as well as a vast variety of styles, but also includes some of the most innovative and exciting wines in the country which continue to be hugely undervalued, alongside reliable varietal wines from producers large and small. The number of organic producers is also on the increase, particularly on the drier Mediterranean side, as well as those using different and less interventionist fermentation techniques.



Crisp dry white wines are abundant in Gascony and the South-West, some using grapes once destined for Armagnac. The whites of Languedoc-Roussillon, in contrast, tend to be bigger and gentler with Mediterranean and Rhône white grapes vying with Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay for space. Within the Languedoc, Picpoul de Pinet is *de rigueur* for delivering pure summer pleasure whilst the whites from the cooler climate of Limoux are more serious, Burgundian even, while those from Collioure on the Roussillon coast and further inland have great minerality. The pale rosé wines of Provence have caught the imagination in the last few years, but there are rivals – often better value – from the Languedoc and these lookalikes can be excellent. Gascony rosés, made from Bordeaux and south-western grapes, tend to be more blackcurranty in flavour.

Overall, **red wines** are the most important style in the South which has a diversity of climates and terroirs that allows it to produce a vast number of very different wines. **Languedoc-Roussillon** is arguably the area of the most wine innovation in France making both varietal wines alongside a roster of AOCs such as Minervois, Corbières and (Coteaux du) Languedoc. Provence's most famous red is from beside the sea at Bandol whereas Gascony and the South-West fields Bergerac, Pécharmant and Madiran as its star players.

#### DRY WHITE

# Pay d'Oc & Vin de France

These classifications give French producers a lot more freedom than they used to have and are increasingly popular, particularly the Vin de France name which gives them flexibility to blend wines from across IGP areas. It's also used by individual estates to make wines that don't conform, notably because their chosen grape variety is not authorised for their region and therefore you should look at the producer rather than the classification.

Pays d'Oc covers a big area from the Rhône to the Pyrenees foothills and, along with Vin de France, allows producers to compete with varietals from the rest of the world. Sauvignon and Chardonnay are very successful here as are Rhône varieties such as Viognier and Marsanne. IGP – 'Indication Géographique Protégée' is one down from 'AC' and covers many smaller, less well-known areas although producers often decide that it's best to use Pays d'Oc or Vin de France rather than the name of an obscure area

The La Cabane blends are packed with flavour and are made for us near Carcassonne by Xavier Roger, son of our Sancerre supplier, Jean-Max Roger. The Rémi & Jérôme wines come mainly from Foncalieu, a sizable but quality-driven co-operative also based near Carcassonne but with growers in Gascony and Provence too. Further east is the co-op of Alignan du Vent which makes very attractive varietals under the Domaine Grauzan label.

Tanners Chardonnay, Pays d'Oc 2023, 13% Vg	MW0024B23	7.88
Tanners Sauvignon, Pays d'Oc 2022, I 2% Vg	MW0019B22	9.38
Le Sautarel Medium White, Vin de France 2022, 11% Vg	MW0003B22	7.55
Le Sautarel Dry White, Vin de France 2022, I I.5% Vg	MW0001B22	7.84
Jean Balmont Sauvignon, Vin de France 2022, 11.5% Vg	MW0067B22	7.86
Jean Balmont Chardonnay, Vin de France 2022, 12.5% Vg	MW0068B22	7.86
La Cabane Reserve Marsanne/Viognier, Pays d'Oc 2022, 12.5%	MW0009B22	8.18
Rémi & Jérôme Sauvignon, Pays d'Oc 2022, 12% Vg	MW0018B22	8.29
Domaine Grauzan Viognier, Pays d'Oc 2022, 13.5% Vg	MW0088B22	9.25
Domaine Rives-Blanques Chardonnay/Chenin, Haute Vallée de l'Aude 2022, I 3.5% Vg	MW0026B22	11.08
Ardèche Chardonnay, Louis Latour 2021, 12.5%	MW0027B21	11.84

#### **GASCONY & SW FRANCE**

Dry whites from the hinterland of Bordeaux – Bergerac in particular – are made from Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, sometimes adding Muscadelle too. Travelling south into Gascony, lesser-known grapes come into play such as Petit Manseng, Gros Manseng, Petit Courbu and Arrufiac. Formerly used for Armagnac production, Colombard and Ugni Blanc are responsible for many simple dry whites often labelled IGP Côtes de Gascogne, Comté Tolosan or Gers. The Plaimont co-operative dominates the Saint-Mont appellation and has long been at the forefront of this crisp, fresh, white wine revolution.

Tanners Gascony Dry White, Côtes de Gascogne 2023, 10.5% Vg MW0029B23 8.27

2.1

Colombard, Côtes de Gascogne, Vignerons de Plaimont 2021, 11% Vg	MW0031B21	7.82
Château Le Fagé Sauvignon Blanc, Bergerac 2022, 14% Vg	MW0020B22	9.50
Château de Tiregand Sauvignon, Bergerac,	MW0012B22	11.24
Comtesse Saint-Exupéry 2022, 12.5% Vg		

# Languedoc-Roussillon

France - South of France

Collioure is a picturesque fishing village loved by painters, that produces wines of great minerality on steep slopes above and around the village. Up in the foothills of the Pyrenees are many dynamic producers making hugely complex, interesting wines of which **Le Soula** is one of the best.

Picpoul de Pinet, Domaine des Lauriers 2023, 13%	MW0013B23	10.22
Picpoul de Pinet, Terre d'Eole 2022, I 2.5% Vg	MW0085B22	10.34
Abbé Rous Chardonnay, Côtes Catalanes 2022, 13%	MW0087B22	11.68
La Cendrillon, Nuance, Vin de France 2022, 13.5% Vg	MW0080B22	12.64
Collioure Blanc, Cornet & Cie, Abbé Rous 2019, 13.5%	MW0086B19	15.27
Château Rives-Blanques Odyssée, Chardonnay, Limoux 2022, 13% Vg     ✓	MW0028B22	15.68
Château Rives-Blanques Occitania, Mauzac Blanc, Limoux 2021, 13%	MW0057B21	15.71
Trigone Blanc by Le Soula, Terroir d'Altitude, Lot 22, 13% S	MW0084B22	22.23
Le Soula Blanc, Terroir d'Altitude, Côtes Catalanes 2017, 13.5% Vg $\P$	MW0074B17	30.00
Provence		

MW0083B22

12.29

# Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence 2022, 12.5% SWEET

# Gascony & SW France

Domaine Pey Blanc 'Pluriel' White,

The sweet wines of the South-West are tangier and less grapey than the Muscats of Languedoc-Roussillon. Gascony's Pacherenc du Vic-Bilh relies on semi-dried grapes from the same local varieties that are used for the dry whites. Monbazillac is more akin to Barsac, being the product of botrytised Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon grapes. Along the slope from the landmark Château de Monbazillac and with tremendous views over the Dordogne Valley, the Gérardin family's Château Le Fagé makes inspiring Monbazillac as well as fine dry white, red and rosé.

Monbazillac, Château Le Fagé 2021 - Half, 12% Vg MS0003H21 7.18

# Languedoc-Roussillon

The sweet white wines of Languedoc-Roussillon are generally made from Muscat and are usually lightly fortified to make vin doux naturel. **Muscat de St-Jean-de-Minervois** and Muscat de Frontignan are both smaller appellations than Muscat de Rivesaltes which covers

much of the Roussillon region. The **Saint-Jean-de-Minervois** appellation is dominated by a small co-operative hidden in the foothills of the Montagne Noire. **Domaine Boudau** run by brother and sister, Pierre and Véronique Boudau, is based at Rivesaltes and makes lovely, sweet Muscat and Grenache wines, 'Grenat' being a fresh ruby style.

Muscat de St-Jean-de-Minervois, Tailhades - Half, 15%	MS0002H	7.35
Rivesaltes Grenat, Sur Grains, Domaine Boudau 2021 - Half, 15.5% &	MS0018H21	10.24
Muscat de Rivesaltes, Domaine Boudau 2022, 15.5%	MS0019B22	15.51

# ROSÉ

# Pays d'Oc & Vin de France

These can be very attractive without the price tag of wines from Provence. The Cinsault grape performs particularly well in rosé and is the backbone of our Sautarel and Nuit d'Arbres blends. The Piquepoul Rosé is from the rare Piquepoul Noir grape variety.

Jean Balmont Cabernet Franc Rosé, Vin de France 2023, I 2% Vg	MP0051B23	7.86
Le Sautarel Rosé, Vin de France 2023, 12% Vg	MP0052B23	7.98
Nuit d'Arbres Rosé, Pays d'Oc 2022, 12% Vg	MP0060B22	8.97
Piquepoul Rosé, Coteaux d'Ensérune, Foncalieu 2022, 13% Vg	MP0059B22	9.88
Domaine de la Cendrillon Minuit Rosé, Corbières 2022, 12% Vg 🕏	MP0054B22	12.11

# Gascony & SW France

**Rosé wines** from the South-West generally use Bordeaux varieties and tend to be a bit deeper in colour than those from further east but have excellent fruit flavours. **Domaine de Pellehaut**, a family-owned estate in Gascony that originally started in cattle farming, supplies us with both **Tanners Rosé** and Tanners Gascony Dry White.

Tanners French Rosé, Côtes de Gascogne 2023, 10.5% Vg	MP0001B23	8.35
Château Le Fagé Rosé, Bergerac 2021, 12% Vg	MP0050B21	9.53

#### Provence

East of the River Rhône, Provence is a large area and generally now best known for its rosé wines, consumed in large quantities by holiday makers in villas and restaurants, as well as on the yachts moored in the picturesque harbours along the coast! This has led to some of the best-known examples being able to sell for a lot of money and generally prices are high here. With a little effort, however, decent value can be found such as at **Château Pey Blanc**, just outside Aix-en-Provence where Gabriel Giusiano produces a lovely range of wines and is a true enthusiast. His No 1 rosé has a pale, classic, Provençal style and his Cyprès, sourced from outside the AOC area, and so is a Vin de Pays, has much of the Provence style without the price tag.

Les Cyprès Rosé, Méditerranée, Pey Blanc 2022, 12.5% 🐠	MP0046B22	10.27
No I Rosé, Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence,	MP0045B23	13.74
Domaine Pey Blanc 2023 12.5%		

## **RED**

France - South of France

# Pays d'Oc & Vin de France

Merlot and Syrah lead the way in the Pays d'Oc with Malbec coming on board, whilst there are also all those wonderful old Carignan vines. Le Sautarel represents a range of easy- drinking, appealing wines, the sort that you would expect to see in a good bistro in France. Xavier Roger's Martinfort wines are generally from older vines and lower yields. We are most proud, however, of the Tanners labels where we work with specialists in each grape variety to bring you the very best of the region.

Tanners Merlot, Pays d'Oc 2022, 13.5%	MR0008B22	8.33
Le Sautarel Red, Vin de France 2022, 12.5% Vg	MR0001B22	7.73
Rémi & Jérôme Merlot, Pays d'Oc 2022, 13.5%	MR0009B22	8.01
La Cabane Reserve Grenache/Syrah, Pays d'Oc 2022, 13.5%	MR0004B22	8.09
Jean Balmont Merlot, Pays d'Oc 2022, 14%	MR0087B22	8.10
Jean Balmont Cabernet Sauvignon, Pays d'Oc 2021, 13%	MR0087B22	8.10
Martinfort Carignan, Sélection Vieilles Vignes, Vin de France 2022, 12.5% Vg	MR0091B22	8.32
Martinfort Malbec, Sélection Belles Vignes, Pays d'Oc 2022, 13% Vg	MR0097B22	8.40
Rémi & Jérôme Syrah, Pays d'Oc 2022, 13.5%	MR0018B22	8.42
Domaine Grauzan Merlot, Pays d'Oc 2021, 14.5% Vg	MR0117B21	8.68
L&F Loron Pinot Noir, Vin de France 2022, 13%	MR0076B22	10.09
Domaine de Valmoissine Pinot Noir, Louis Latour, Var 2022, 12.5%	MR0907B22	13.42

# Gascony & SW France

**Pécharmant**, a favoured sub-appellation of Bergerac which has iron-rich slopes above the River Dordogne, produces another structured red wine. Here, **Château de Tiregand**, with vines now under the ownership of the Piat family, is making characterful, claret-like reds. Perhaps the leading red wine from the region is **Madiran**, based on the robust Tannat grape variety.

Château Le Fagé Merlot, Bergerac 2020, 15% Vg	MR0043B20	10.25
Château de Tiregand, Pécharmant,	MR0048B20	14.12
Comtesse de Saint-Exupèry 2020, 15% Vg ♦		

# Languedoc-Roussillon

Superb reds are produced throughout the Languedoc in an arc following the Mediterranean from Montpellier in the Hérault past Sète and Béziers, and down past Narbonne in the Aude department. The best wines tend to come from the slopes, often from vineyards

which are stony and difficult to work, while the valley floors produce more everyday wines. Organic viticulture is on the increase as growers decide that the warm, dry climate allows them to forgo conventional treatments. Arguably the best wines are blends based on Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre where the three complement each other admirably. Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, both interlopers, perform well as does indigenous old-vine Carignan as a single varietal wine. Please also see our Pays d'Oc & Vin de France section.

In the East, Pierre Clavel makes some of the region's best wines from vines in favoured sub-districts of Languedoc AOC (until recently called Coteaux du Languedoc) namely Pic St-Loup and La Méjanelle. Frédéric Albaret has expanded Domaine Saint Antonin from nothing to 30 Ha on the schist soil that is typical of the Faugères appellation, making various cuvées, all certified organic.

Minervois occupies the southern slopes of the Montagne Noire overlooking the Aude Valley. We have bought from pretty Château Sainte-Eulalie, close to La Livinière, for many years dealing with Isabelle and Laurent Coustal and their predecessors. Down the valley and close to Narbonne is Domaine de La Cendrillon. Owned by the Joyeux family for centuries, their aim is to be the top property in Corbières, something they are well on their way to achieving! Also in Corbières, but up the Pyrenees foothills, is the quality driven Castelmaure co-operative making superb fruit driven wines. This area of Corbières is sandwiched between Fitou vineyards on both sides.

Roussillon is the southernmost part of Languedoc-Roussillon and comprises many of the Pyrenean foothills north of the Spanish border as well as the picturesque coastline of the Côte Vermeille. The scenery here is spectacular with valleys running down from the Pyrenees, vineyards clinging to the sides and castles on top. Herby dry reds, evocative of the local, scented garrigue undergrowth, come under various epithets: Côtes du Roussillon, Côtes du Roussillon-Villages, Collioure, Côtes Catalanes and Pyrénées-Orientales included. Domaine Boudau, formerly specialising in sweet wines, now principally produces full and satisfying Roussillon reds. High up, near the village of Saint-Martin-de-Fenouillet – where the wild boar abound in the local garrigue – characterful reds are produced under the Le Soula and (earlier drinking) Trigone labels. Abbé Rous make a full flavoured Collioure red from steeply terraced vineyards above the sea.

Le Rouge Vigneron, Castelmaure, Corbières 2020, 14.5%	MR0106B20	10.65
Château Sainte Eulalie, Buona Pulcella Rouge, Minervois 2021, 14%	MR0035B21	11.21
Faugères, Les Jardins, Domaine Saint Antonin 2020, 14% Vg 🥩	MR0101B20	11.37
Domaine Boudau, Le Clos, Côtes du Roussillon 2021, 14% 🚭	MR0080B21	12.36
Domaine de la Cendrillon 'Essentielle', Corbières 2020, 14.5% Vg 🚭	MR0104B20	12.64
Le Mas, Coteaux du Languedoc, Domaine Clavel 2022, 13.5% Vg 🥩	MR0083B22	12.85
Faugères, Cazalet, Domaine Saint Antonin 2020, 14.5% Vg 🚭	MR0102B20	13.36
Collioure, Réserve des Peintres, Abbé Rous 2019, 14.5%	MR0116B19	13.49
Domaine de la Cendrillon Inédite, Corbières 2017, 15% Vg 💅	MR0105B17	16.53
Trigone Rouge by Le Soula, Terroir d'Altitude, No 22, 12.5% &	MR0115B22	18.17

Provence

Bandol is one of the best-known areas for red wines and makes big, long-lived wines based on the Mourvèdre grape. Céline and Jérôme Pascal's **Domaine Le Galantin** Bandol has great depth of flavour while their rosé wine has wonderful intensity, again mainly from the Mourvèdre grape.

Bandol, Domaine Le Galantin 2019, 15%

MR0042B19 / 16.70

# Loire Valley

This region continues to be an undervalued source of some excellent wines. Some recent small harvests have held them back but the 2023 was more generous. These days the reds are superb, and many will knock the spots off similarly priced reds from Bordeaux! The Loire is a tremendous region offering the wine lover great diversity. There are all the styles of wine one could wish for: dry, medium, sweet, white, red, rosé, still or sparkling. A vinous journey along the Loire Valley takes in crisp Muscadets around Nantes, the gorgeously sweet 'moëlleux' Chenin Blancs of the Coteaux du Layon and the superbly complex dry Savennières from around Angers, then the more immediately appealing whites and sparkling wines of Saumur. Cabernet Franc makes the luscious reds of Anjou and the autumnal reds of Chinon and Bourgueil. Continuing upstream leads you to the famous whites of Vouvray and finally on to Touraine, Sancerre, Pouilly-Fumé and Menetou-Salon where Sauvignon Blanc reigns supreme.

## DRY WHITE

#### Muscadet

Possibly the best value wine region in France, Muscadet is home to growers such as the very talented Jérémie Huchet at Domaine de la Chauvinière; and brothers Rémi and Jean-Jacques Bonnet at Bonnet-Huteau where they farm biodynamically. The region is undergoing a renaissance on the back of the creation of its new Crus Communaux, a classification system for the region's top vineyards which includes: Le Pallet, Clisson, Gorges, Mouzillon-Tillières, Monnières-Saint-Fiacre, Goulaine, Château-Thébaud, La Haye Fouassière, Vallet and Champtoceaux. Muscadet is the superlative seafood match, designed for drinking with langoustines and oysters in nearby Brittany. Get them now before everyone wakes up to the wines of this region!

Muscadet, Drouet Frères 2022, 12% Vg	LW0001B22	9.71
Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine Sur Lie,	LW0027B22	10.02
Domaine de la Chauvinière 2022, I2% Vg		
Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine Sur Lie, Domaine	LW0002B22	10.52
Le Fief de la Brie 2022, I 2% Vg †		

Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine Sur Lie, Les Gautronnières,	LW0025B21	13.01
Bonnet-Huteau 2021, 12.5% Vg €		
Château-Thébaud Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine,	LW0028B18	16.95
Huchet & Mourat 2018, I2.5% Vg		
Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine Goulaine,	LW0026B19	17.29
Bonnet-Huteau 2019, 12.5% Vg 🚭		

# Sancerre & Upper Loire

Terrific, world-renowned wines come from Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé in the Upper Loire, or Central Vineyards of France. The names here are as famous as any: Sancerre, the herbaceous, crisp, dry, white produced by the likes of Jean-Max Roger in Bué and the Dezat families in nearby Verdigny. The old Dezat estate is now split between cousins, Firmin on one side producing an ultra-fine mineral style and Stephanie and Arnaud on the other whose wines are slightly fuller. They both also produce wines in neighbouring Pouilly-Fumé, home to those textbook gunflint aromas and steely, refreshing wines. On this eastern bank of the River Loire, Alain and Jérome Pabiot produce whites from the celebrated flint/silex soil. A little upstream at Château de Tracy, a family that has been incumbent since 1396 produces a particularly intense and defined example. Slightly less well known but equally as interesting is the AOC of Menetou-Salon, where the Rogers create super wines. Twenty miles away at Quincy, grower Pierre Ragon at Domaine Trotereau produces rounder, softer wines from sandier soil.

Quincy, Domaine de Trotereau 2021, 14%	LW0004B21	14.54
Pouilly-Fumé, Domaine des Fines Caillottes, Jean Pabiot 2022, 13.5% <b>♥ †</b>	LW0012B22	16.51
Menetou-Salon, Morogues, Le Petit Clos, Jean-Max Roger 2021, 12.5% Vg	LW0008B21	16.63
Pouilly-Fumé, Domaine Thibault, Firmin Dezat 2022, 13% †	LW0013B22	17.11
Sancerre, Domaine Arnaud et Stéphanie Dezat 2022, 13% Vg †	LW0033B22	17.94
Sancerre, Firmin Dezat 2022, 12.5% Vg †	LW0010B22	18.15
Sancerre, Cuvée Marnes & Caillottes, Jean-Max Roger 2022, 12.5% Vg	LW0009B22	18.30
Sancerre, Domaine Balland 2022, 13%	LW0035B22	18.48
Pouilly-Fumé, Château de Tracy 2022, 13%	LW0022B22	23.05

## Saumur & Middle Loire

The 'Garden of France', between Angers and Tours, produces all styles of wines making it one of the most versatile regions of France. The food-friendly, steely wines of Savennières from the excellent **Domaines des Forges**, contrast with affable, appley Chenin Blancs from Anjou and Saumur. **Château de la Roulerie**'s P'tit Chenin is perfect quaffing for a summer's day. Further east along the Loire Valley at Vouvray, Alex Monmousseau of **Château Gaudrelle** produces his superb Clos Le Vigneau white which is a lesson in Chenin Blanc. Along the Cher tributary at Montrichard, in arguably the best sector of Touraine, the Lechat brothers, Arnaud and Albéric, at **Domaine Beauséjour** make a superb Sauvignon

Blanc, an alternative to Sancerre with just a nod to the elevated fruit of Marlborough.

Touraine Sauvignon Blanc, Les Silex,	LW0030B23	10.45
Domaine Beauséjour 2023, 12.5% Vg		
Le P'tit Chenin, Anjou Blanc, Château de la Roulerie 2022, 12% Vg 🥩	LW0032B22	13.77
Vouvray, Clos le Vigneau, Château Gaudrelle 2022, 13.5%	LW0020B22	15.71
Savennières, Le Clos du Papillon, Domaine des Forges 2022, 13%	LW0023B22	17.82

#### **SWEET**

The Coteaux du Layon and Bonnezeaux appellations produce the epitome of lightly sweet 'moëlleux' wines from late harvested Chenin Blanc grapes. Here Stéphane & Séverine Branchereau show what can be done with dedication, skill and tiny yields in the Coteaux du Layon, Chaume and Quarts de Chaume vineyards of their **Domaine des Forges**.

Coteaux du Layon, Saint-Aubin, Domaine des Forges 2022, 12% Vg	LS0001B22	12.99
Coteaux du Layon 1er cru Chaume, Les Onnis,	LS0005B19	20.58
Domaine des Forges 2019, 12% Vg		
Quarts de Chaume grand cru, Domaine des Forges 2020, 12.5%	LS0006B20	33.95

## ROSÉ

Brother and sister team **Arnaud and Stéphanie Dezat** offer wonderfully grapefuity Sancerre rosé while their cousin **Firmin Dezat** produces a light and delicate rosé, both from the Pinot Noir grape. Pale, subtle and gorgeous, it is the ideal match for shellfish or light summer salads. The Rosés from Anjou are mainly from the Grolleau grape and are charmingly off dry.

Rosé d'Anjou, Les Roseraies, Drouet Frères 2022, 11%	LP0002B22	9.21
Sancerre Rosé, Domaine Arnaud et Stéphanie Dezat 2022, 13%	LP0003B22	17.39
Sancerre Rosé, Firmin Dezat 2022, 12.5%	LP0001B22	18.17

# **RED**

The reds of the Middle Loire are dominated by Cabernet Franc making voluptuous wines in Saumur and Saumur-Champigny, where Philippe Vatan produces serious, world-class red wines at **Château du Hureau**. Then head towards Chinon where the wines of Domaine Charles **Joguet** can compete with fine Bordeaux for class. Those wanting something a little lighter in style should seriously consider the Anjou Rouge from **Château de la Roulerie**. Sancerre's reds are made from Pinot Noir and are therefore more akin to lighter Burgundies. The Dezat's red is juicy and lighter in alcohol, making it ideal for light dishes or lunch!

Anjou Rouge, Château de la Roulerie 2022, 13% Vg 🥩	LR0014B22	13.76
Saumur-Champigny, Tuffe, Château du Hureau 2021, 13.5% 🚭	LR0009B21	13.97
Chinon, Les Silènes, Charles Joguet 2018, 14% &	LR0004B18	16.51
Sancerre Rouge, Domaine Arnaud et Stéphanie Dezat 2021, 13%	LR0016B21	17.76

Saumur-Champigny, Lisagathe, Château du Hureau 2019, 13.5% S LR0010B19 26.23 Chinon, Les Varennes du Grand Clos, Charles Joguet 2016, 13.5% LR0006B16 32.27

# Alsace

Alsace is an area full of individuality in everything it does – food, buildings, scenery and, of course, wines, which are very different to any other region of France. As in many places, the flat ground produces good, standard, everyday wines while the 'grand cru' vineyards are on the slopes, although the process of deciding what is and isn't a grand cru has been beset by politics and vested interests. Perhaps the producers should move away from the German style 'flutes' for some styles, but don't let this bottle shape dissuade you



from trying the clean, fresh Pinot Blancs, the rich and intense Pinot Gris and the exotic and floral Gewurztraminers – they are normally drier than you would expect!

## DRY WHITE

# Various Grape Varieties

Famille Hugel's wines are always an excellent introduction to Alsace, from a company that still manages to operate out of its original cramped cellars in the middle of the tourist town that is Riquewihr. Kaefferkopf is one of the top Riesling sites in the region and that from Cyrille Ehrhart has great style and complexity.

Henri Ehrhart Muscat, Réserve Particulière 2022, 12.5%	JW0002B22	10.35
Gentil "Hugel" 2021, 12.5% Vg	JW0030B21	12.13
Henri Ehrhart Riesling, grand cru Kaefferkopf 2021, 13.5%	JW0009B21	13.70

#### Pinot Gris & Pinot Blanc

Dopff & Irion is based at the **Château de Riquewihr** and is once again in private hands, the Schoepfer family having bought back all the shares from the Pfaffenheim co-operative. We look forward to the continued development of these textbook varietal wines. Meanwhile, François **Sorg** has quietly been purchasing top sites from which he makes full and rich styles of wine.

Dopff & Irion Pinot Blanc, Cuvée René Dopff 2021, 12% Vg	JW0007B21	11.30
Dopff & Irion Pinot Gris, Cuvée René Dopff 2022, 13% Vg	JW0011B22	12.71
Famille Hugel Classic Pinot Blanc 2022, 13%	JW0031B22	13.01
Domaine Bruno Sorg Pinot Gris 2019, 13.4%	JW0004B19	16.44
Domaines Schlumberger Pinot Gris, Les Princes Abbés 2020, 13.5%	JW0906B20	16.47

## Gewurztraminer

Gewurztraminers are signature Alsace wines – all rose petals and lychees, silky and rich.

Schlumberger, in the South, make wonderful examples from their grand cru sites.

Dopff & Irion Gewurztraminer, Cuvée René Dopff 2021, 13.5% Vg $\dagger$	JW0006B21	12.71
Domaine Bruno Sorg Gewurztraminer 2019, 13.5%	JW0010B19	16.44
Domaines Schlumberger Gewurztraminer, grand cru Kessler 2019, 12.5%	JW0908B19	23.00
Domaine Bruno Sorg Gewurztraminer	JW0020B20	26.23

# Jura

With rolling green slopes and valleys, Jura lies to the east of Burgundy but is not an easy region to locate; ask a confirmed wine buff to place Jura on the map and they would probably struggle! Somewhat bucolic in character, you'll find it halfway between the Côte d'Or and the Swiss border, in an area that is also famous for Mont d'Or cheese. Its intriguing range of unique wine styles combined with a great number of artisan, often organic and 'natural', wine producers has made Jura a darling of sommeliers worldwide.

Chardonnay and Savagnin are used for the whites, Pinot Noir, Poulsard and Trousseau for the reds. The AOC districts of Arbois, Château-Chalon and L'Etoile sit within the Côtes du Jura appellation. In the South of the region near Lons-le-Saunier, Fabrice and Valérie Closset at Champ Divin make superbly individual wines using biodynamic cultivation from their five hectares of vines, as well as some rather good honey! White wine styles generally fall into two distinct camps. *Ouillé* wines are 'normal' whereas *sous voile* wines, including **Vin Jaune**, sit under a layer of yeast in the same fashion as Fino or Manzanilla sherry. We sometimes have Vin Jaune on our oddments list.

## DRY WHITE

Champ Divin, Cuvée Pollux Chardonnay/Savagnin, JW0034B18 27.03 Côtes du Jura 2018, 13.5% **S**∕

# Savoie

Savoie is most recognisable as the wine consumed 'après-ski' but write it off at your peril! With this region's higher altitude vineyards providing a cool, fresh edge to the whites you'll find a round, balanced flavour in the Marestel, while the red Mondeuse is soft and juicy, and naturally lighter in alcohol. We often have the well-known Roussette white too from the excellent Chevallier-Bernard family.

#### DRY WHITE

Marestel, Savoie, Chevallier-Bernard 2020, 13.5% NEW JW0049B20 18.48

#### RED

Jongieux Mondeuse, Savoie, Chevallier-Bernard 2020, 12% NEW JR0047B20 13.74

# Bordeaux

A run of very good to excellent vintages, coupled with ever improving techniques means that quality has never been higher. While there is still plenty of tradition, there is also plenty of innovation with the use of amphorae and concrete eggs becoming virtually a requirement as well as increasing numbers of growers looking to organic and more environmentally friendly practices. There has also been a noticeable change in winemaking styles over the past few years as many of the very late-harvested, heavily extracted and oaked wines are giving way to what we see as more balanced, fresher styles with a more restrained use of oak.

Dry white Bordeaux – made predominantly from Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc – is somewhat overlooked but in Pessac-Léognan and Graves, there are oak-aged wines of great complexity. The glorious, sweet wines of Sauternes and Barsac are the result of tiny yields, a lot of work in the vineyard and a reliance on nature so it can be very difficult for producers with the declining market for sweet wines. Many are looking at producing increasing amounts of dry whites.

# **CLARET**

## Bordeaux & Côtes

Tanners Claret, which, incidentally, has been on our shelves for over 50 years, is sourced from the Entre-Deux-Mers region and blended to make a good, early-drinking wine but in a 'classic' claret style. Tour de Luchey, Malbat and Moulin de Mallet are great for



Available at Tanners Wines Limited, Shrewsbury.



drinking young to enjoy the supple fruit while the Sichel family's **Argadens** is a more serious wine. The right bank 'Côtes' areas of Fronsac, Francs and Castillon all produce superbly concentrated and supple wines. François Thienpont's organically produced Sarmentine is sourced from vineyards in these areas.

Tanners Claret, Bordeaux, 13% Vg	CR0001B	8.63
Tanners Claret, Bordeaux - Half, 13% Vg	CR0001H	5.44
Tanners Claret, Bordeaux - Magnum, I 3.5% Vg	CR0001M	18.63
Château Malbat, Bordeaux 2021, 13%	CR0054B21	9.02
Château Tour de Luchey, Bordeaux 2020, 14%	CR0023B20	9.15
Château Moulin de Mallet, Bordeaux 2021, 13%	CR0030B21	9.32
Château Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur 2019, 14.5% † ♦	CR0064B19	11.41
Sarmentine, Bordeaux, FThienpont 2021, 12% €	CR0057B21	11.73
Château Laclaverie, Francs - Côtes de Bordeaux 2015, 14.5%	CR0025B15	14.06
Château L'Isle Fort, Bordeaux Supérieur 2018, 14.5%	CR0062B18	14.89
Château Brisson, Castillon - Côtes de Bordeaux 2016, 14.5%	CR0058B16	15.12
Château Puygueraud, Francs - Côtes de Bordeaux 2014, 14%	CR0040B14	16.16
La Violette du Manoir, Castillon - Côtes de Bordeaux 2017, 14.5%	CR0061B17	16.17
Château La Prade, Francs - Côtes de Bordeaux 2019, 14.5%	CR0039B19	17.37

# Claret Vintage Guide

The 2023 vintage looks good but the yields are down, some warm damp weather in summer means the Cabernets have out performed the more delicate Merlot. The wines of 2022 are excellent showing a lovely balance of ripeness and juiciness that give them great balance. The 2021 vintage has made wines that are medium bodied with good freshness, in a similar style to 2017. The 2020 vintage yielded wines that are aromatic and concentrated, quite big in structure with freshness and balance. The wines of 2019 are very concentrated, fresh, ripe and plentiful, all in all a very well-regarded vintage. 2018 was a very good vintage in the end but mildew, hail, and a heatwave all served to reduce yields. The harvest across the region took place in near ideal conditions. 2017 is good in terms of quality but short on quantity, following frosts in the Spring that decimated certain properties. 2016 is a worthy successor to 2015, on a par qualitatively and looking very promising across all wine types. A hot summer but with cool nights has produced wines with fruit and freshness. 2015 is exceptionally good across the region for reds, especially the Right Bank, Pessac-Léognan, dry whites (better for Sauvignon than Sémillon) and sweeties: it is certainly the best vintage since 2010. 2014 is a very good Cabernet vintage, particularly in the Médoc where the wines are fresh with fine tannins. Overall, ripeness levels are good and so are quantities.

## Médoc & Left Bank

The classic area of Bordeaux, this is home to the first growths and the majority of well-known properties that make the defining style of the area. When we find a suitable parcel, we release a wine under the 'Super Claret' label, usually in a traditional Médoc style. Château Semonlon is situated near Margaux and makes a supple and fruity wine with minimal oak. The Barton family have built a magnificent new winery at Mauvesin which is now turning out some wines with real elegance and depth; while close to Saint-Julien, Lanessan is making wines with style and balance. Further north, our old friends at Cissac and La Tour de By are making wines which are perhaps more fruit-forward than in the past.

Haut-Médoc is the area running alongside the Gironde Estuary north of Bordeaux, covering all the vineyards until north of Saint-Estèphe where the Médoc appellation takes over. Most of the classed growth properties are within the individual communal appellations but some of our favourites, such as Cantemerle, are under Haut-Médoc which also covers many excellent lesser-known properties. Margaux is the first communal appellation on the way north from Bordeaux on the 'Wine Route'. Its wines, characterised by elegance and pretty fruit, are generally lighter than the other communes. Our favourites include Angludet and Palmer, with Château Margaux as the epitome of the style. Claire and Gonzague Lurton make wonderful wines at Ferrière, La Gurgue and Durfort Vivens that are now certified organic, as well as experimenting with environmental protection and low sulphur winemaking.

In Saint-Julien, Ducru-Beaucaillou and the three Léoville estates are the leading properties but there are many others clustered around the village of St-Julien-Beychevelle. The Barton family at Léoville and Langoa-Barton have always made wonderful wines, very popular in this market, but others such as Gruaud-Larose, Talbot and Branaire-Ducru are also well worth following from this very consistent commune. Pauillac is perhaps the most famous of the Médoc communes containing three first growths and a host of other well-known names. The style here virtually defines Bordeaux with plenty of blackcurrant fruit and firm tannic structure. Apart from the firsts, Grand-Puy-Lacoste and Pontet Canet always produce superb quality, with Pédesclaux, Batailley and Haut-Bages-Libéral well worth looking out for.

Saint-Estèphe is the most northerly of the communes and the one which generally produces the most structured and powerful wines. Cos d'Estournel, Montrose and Calon-Ségur are the best-known properties here but others such as Lafon-Rochet and Lilian Ladouys are making excellent wines. The Pessac-Léognan appellation, created in 1987, covers the top properties in the communes of Pessac and Léognan just to the south of Bordeaux, including many properties within the city boundaries. Haut-Brion and Pape-Clément are foremost amongst these, while Léognan has properties such as Domaine de Chevalier and Olivier.

Tanners Super Claret, Moulis-en-Médoc 2018, 13.5% 🔮	CR0005B18	13.86
Château Semonlon, Haut-Médoc 2020, 14%	CR0468B20	12.45
Les Calèches de Lanessan, Haut-Médoc 2015, 13.5%	CR0495B15	15.35
Château Mauvesin-Barton, Moulis-en-Médoc 2021, 13% †	CR0490B21	16.07
Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc 2017, 13% ♦	CR0450B17	16.51

L'Impression de Mauvesin-Barton, Moulis-en-Médoc 2015, 13%	CR0403B15		16.51
Château du Retout, Haut-Médoc 2018, 14%	CR0507B18		16.88
Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc 2020, 13% †	CR0450B20		16.92
Château Lafont Menaut Rouge, Pessac-Léognan 2019, 14%	CR0565B19		19.38
Château Lafont Menaut Rouge, Pessac-Léognan 2020, 13.5%	CR0565B20		19.38
Les Allées de Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc 2018, 13%	CR0394B18		20.09
La Réserve de Sociando-Mallet, Haut-Médoc 2014, 13%	CR0508B14		20.09
Château La Tour de By, Médoc 2019, 13.5% †	CR0453B19		20.65
Château Cambon La Pelouse, Haut-Médoc 2015, 14%	CR0506B15		20.89
Château Mauvesin-Barton, Moulis-en-Médoc 2019, 13%	CR0490B19		20.93
Château Potensac, Médoc 2020, 13.5%	CR0466B20		26.07
La Réserve d'Angludet, Margaux 2016, 13%	CR0308B16		27.38
Château Lespault-Martillac Rouge, Pessac-Léognan 2019, 13.5%	CR0569B19		27.44
La Dame d'Angludet, Margaux 2019, 13%	CR0308B19		28.64
Sarget de Gruaud Larose, Saint-Julien 2017, 13%	CR0375B17		29.45
Château Cantemerle, 5e cru classé Haut-Médoc 2020, 13.5%	CR0271B20		29.82
Duluc de Branaire-Ducru, Saint-Julien 2018, 14%	CR0388B18		30.26
Lacoste-Borie, Pauillac 2018, 14.5%	CR0380B18		30.84
Lacoste-Borie, Pauillac 2017, 13.5%	CR0380B17		31.39
Château Grand-Puy Ducasse, 5e cru classé Pauillac 2020, 14.5%	CR0276B20	-	32.10
Château Cantemerle, 5e cru classé Haut-Médoc 2019, 13%	CR0271B19	-	33.11
Château Olivier, grand cru classé Pessac-Léognan 2011, 13%	CR0586B11		33.25
Château Lafon-Rochet, 4e cru classé Saint-Estèphe 2020, 13.5%	CR0265B20	-	33.30
Château Olivier, grand cru classé Pessac-Léognan 2017, 13.5%	CR0586B17		34.28
Château Tronquoy-Lalande, Saint-Estèphe 2018, 15%	CR0352B18		34.81
Château Angludet, Margaux 2020, 13.5% †	CR0300B20	-	35.08
Château Durfort-Vivens, 2e cru classé Margaux 2021, 13.5% 🕻	CR0211B21		50.00
Château Haut-Bages Libéral, 5e cru classé Pauillac 2019, 14.5%	CR0273B19	-	53.34
Château Phélan Ségur, Saint-Estèphe 2018, 14%	CR0347B18		53.34
Château Angludet, Margaux 2012, 13%	CR0300B12		55.84
Château Langoa Barton, 3e cru classé Saint-Julien 2010, 12.5%	CR0241B10		60.84
Château Léoville Barton, 2e cru classé Saint-Julien 2021, 13%	CR0210B21	-	62.50
Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste, 5e cru classé Pauillac 2020, 13.5%	CR0270B20	-	62.50
Château Batailley, 5e cru classé Pauillac 2016, 13%	CR0280B16		63.34
Château Langoa Barton, 3e cru classé Saint-Julien 2019, 14%	CR0241B19		65.00
Château Branaire-Ducru, 4e cru classé Saint-Julien 2012, 12.5%	CR0261B12		66.25
Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste, 5e cru classé Pauillac 2017, 13.5%	CR0270B17		74.17
Château Durfort-Vivens, 2e cru classé Margaux 2015, 13.5%	CR0211B15		75.00
Château Branaire-Ducru, 4e cru classé Saint-Julien 2015, 13.5%	CR0261B15		79.17

# Saint-Emilion & Right Bank

France - Bordeaux

The dominant grape variety here is Merlot, and the wines generally have a softer and fleshier feel than on the Left Bank. The firm of J-P Moueix is perhaps the best known in the region and their generic Pomerol and Saint-Emilion blends continue to be benchmarks. We generally buy Saint-Emilion grand cru, from the Mestreguilhem family at Château Pipeau, an excellent, well-structured wine. Château Montaiguillon makes stylish and elegant wine in Montagne St-Emilion. In another of the so-called 'satellite' communities, Lalande de Pomerol's Les Hauts-Conseillants has excellent depth and concentration. Pavie-Macquin and Vieux-Château-Certan continue to be two of the top names in Saint-Emilion and Pomerol respectively.

Pomerol has become possibly the most sought-after area in Bordeaux in recent years especially from those properties on the clay plateau around the church and village of Pomerol. Here, wines of great concentration and power are produced, on the sandier soils closer to Libourne the wines are lighter whilst still having plenty of soft Merlot fruit. Château Bonalgue is a fine example. Saint-Emilion is a large appellation producing wines of differing styles, from the powerful 'extracted' style epitomised by Château Pavie, to the elegance of Cheval Blanc. Limestone abounds on the plateau and the Côtes around the town where most of the top properties are The Moueix family have spent a lot of time and money renovating Château Belair-Monange, including pouring enough concrete to fill Notre Dame, to stop it collapsing into the quarries and caves dug beneath the property but the results are impressive, both in terms of the structure and the wine. The large flat area running from the bottom of the town to the river produces many excellent wines with fruit and structure.

Character of Constant Lance & Further 2021 12.59/	CD0/40D31	1	12.45
Château du Courlat, Lussac-St-Emilion 2021, 13.5%	CR0649B21		13.45
Château La Pervenche, Lalande-de-Pomerol 2021, 13%	CR0653B21		14.20
Château Montaiguillon, Montagne Saint-Emilion 2019, 14.5% † ♦	CR0730B19		15.27
Saint-Emilion, Jean-Pierre Moueix 2018, 14% Vg	CR0003B18		15.67
Château Les Hauts Conseillants, Lalande-de-Pomerol 2021, 13.5%	CR0652B21		15.80
Château du Courlat, Cuvée Jean Baptiste, Lussac-St-Emilion 2014, 13.5%	CR0654B14		17.37
Château du Courlat, Cuvée Jean Baptiste, Lussac-St-Emilion 2021, 13.5%	CR0654B21		17.72
La Raison d'Hêtre, Castillon - Côtes de Bordeaux 2020, 14.5% 🚭	CR0037B20		18.97
Les Tours de Laroque, Saint-Emilion grand cru 2018, 14.5%	CR0724B18		18.97
Château Puy-Blanquet, Saint-Emilion grand cru 2016, 13.5%	CR0740B16		19.07
Château Les Hauts-Conseillants, Lalande-de-Pomerol 2014, 13.5%	CR0652B14		19.38

Château Puy-Blanquet, Saint-Emilion grand cru 2015, 13.5%	CR0740B15		19.38
Château Haut Lariveau, Fronsac 2019, 13.5% 💅	CR0080B19		19.62
Château Canon, Canon-Fronsac 2019, 14.5%	CR0022B19		20.09
Château Bonalgue, Pomerol 2021, 14.5%	CR0685B21		23.32
Pomerol, Jean-Pierre Moueix 2020, 15% Vg	CR0004B20		23.59
Château Haut Lariveau, Fronsac 2014, 13.5% 💅	CR0080B14		23.81
Château Pipeau, Saint-Emilion grand cru 2020, 14%	CR0744B20		23.99
Château Chantalouette, Pomerol 2017, 13.5% NEW	CR0662B17		26.23
Château Ferrand, Pomerol 2020, 14%	CR0663B20		26.52
L'Hêtre, Castillon - Côtes de Bordeaux 2020, 14.5% 🥩	CR0060B20		30.26
Château Laroque, grand cru classé Saint-Emilion 2020, 14.5%	CR0774B20		31.10
Château Bonalgue, Pomerol 2014, 13.5%	CR0685B14		36.69
Château Lafleur-Gazin, Pomerol 2014, 14%	CR0677B14		43.34
Château Laroque, grand cru classé Saint-Emilion 2018, 14.5%	CR0774B18		47.50
Château Laroque, grand cru classé Saint-Emilion 2019, 14.5%	CR0774B19		48.34
Clos du Clocher, Pomerol 2017, 14%	CR0687B17		54.17
Château Trottevieille, Ler grand cru classé 'B' Saint-Emilion 2021, 13.5%	CR0817B21	-	77.50
La Gravette de Certan, Pomerol 2020, 14.5%	CR0690B20	1	77.50
Château La Gaffelière	CR0781B15	1	91.67
ler grand cru classé 'B' Saint-Emilion 2015, 14.5%			
Château Canon, 1er grand cru classé 'B' Saint-Emilion 2020, 14.5%	CR0808B20		126.66
Château Bélair Monange,	CR0770B20		150.00
ler grand cru classé 'B' Saint-Emilion 2020, 14.5%			
Château Canon, I er grand cru classé 'B' Saint-Emilion 2016, 14%	CR0808B16	-	191.67

## ROSÉ

Château Tour de Mirambeau, Reserve Rosé, Bordeaux 2022, 12.5% Vg CP0007B22

## DRY WHITE

Graves is the area that extends south-east from Bordeaux down to Langon along the River Garonne. Pessac-Léognan has its own appellation, but there are still many excellent dry white wines made under the Graves name, Graves Supérieures is for sweeter whites. Château Lespault-Martillac, managed by Olivier Bernard of Domaine de Chevalier produces very small amounts of complex and elegant white wine as well as excellent red. Literally 'between two seas', in this case the tidal rivers Garonne and Dordogne, Entre-Deux-Mers is the most picturesque part of Bordeaux with rolling hills, hidden villages and with mixed agriculture rather than the monoculture of the Médoc for example. White, red and rosé is produced in this area but the appellation is for dry white wines, the reds and rosés going under Bordeaux or Bordeaux Supérieur labels.

Château Argadens Blanc, Bordeaux 2022, 12.5%	CW0033B22	11.43
Château Tour de Mirambeau, Reserve Blanc, Bordeaux 2022, I 2.5% Vg	CW0023B22	12.15
Château Lafont Menaut Blanc, Pessac-Léognan 2018, 13% Vg	CW0009B18	17.81
Château Lespault-Martillac Blanc, Pessac-Léognan 2020, 13.5%	CW0028B20	21.71
Château Doisy-Daëne, Bordeaux Grand Vin Sec, Dubourdieu 2019, 12.5%	CW0012B19	24.60
Château Olivier Blanc, grand cru classé Pessac-Léognan 2019, 13.5%	CW0025B19	37.50

# **SWEET**

#### Sauternes & Barsac

The mist that forms along the Ciron River creates perfect conditions for producing exceptionally fine, botrytis-affected sweet wines. Barsacs are generally lighter and fresher; Sauternes are fuller in flavour, although much depends on the vintage. Properties such as Coutet, Climens and Doisy-Daëne produce some of the most delicious, complex wines you can find in Barsac, while in Sauternes, Rieussec, Guiraud, Suduiraut and d'Yquem are the top names. Tanners Sauternes is always sourced from a top property and is wonderful value.

Tanners Sauternes - Half, I3% Vg	CS0001H	11.94
Château Liot, Sauternes 2021 - Half, 13.5% Vg	CS0004H21	10.43
Petit Guiraud, Sauternes 2020 - Half, 13% &	CS0420H20	14.43
Les Cyprès de Climens, Barsac 2016 - Half, 13.5%	CS0002H16	18.44
Château Guiraud, 1er cru classé Sauternes 2006 - Half, 13.5%	CS0024H06	25.34
Château Suduiraut, 1er cru classé Sauternes 2017 - Half, 14%	CS0008H17	34.96
Clos Haut-Peyraguey, 1er cru classé Sauternes 2016, 13.5%	CS0029B16	39.73
Château Coutet, I er cru classé Barsac 2016, 13.5%	CS0009B16	44.17
Château Doisy Daëne, 2e cru classé Sauternes 2017, 13.5%	CS0005B17	46.67

# Rhône Valley

Consistency and quality are the keywords here, with a run of good vintages giving a wide variety of top quality wines, both red and white. The Rhône Valley is very much two areas in one: if you drive down the motorway from Lyon, quite often it can be cool and cloudy until you reach Montélimar, when the skies clear and the temperature moves up a notch. The North also uses more Burgundian-style winemaking techniques in terms of its use of demimuids oak barrels rather than the large foudres of further south. There are unifying factors though and the main one is the use of Syrah grapes. Syrah contributes much character as the single variety in the North for Côte-Rôtie, Saint-Joseph, Crozes-Hermitage, Hermitage and Cornas, or as a blending partner in the South. Blending in order to achieve complexity reaches its apotheosis in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. If Châteauneuf looks a bit pricey these days, try Gigondas, Vacqueyras, Lirac, Cairanne or Rasteau. Ripe, silky Grenache plays

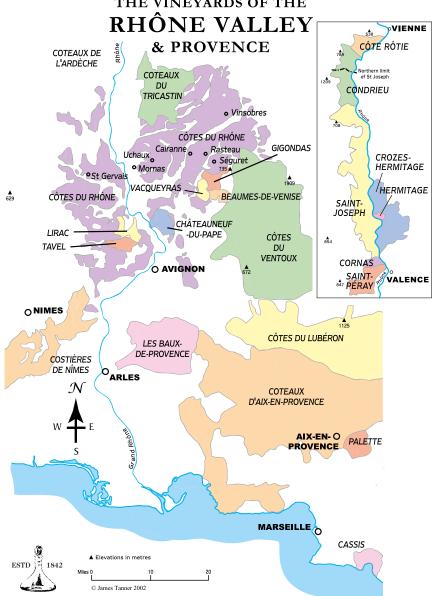


# Rhône Vintage Guide

The 2023 vintage is promising, with the southern Rhône having an easier time of things but the results from both are showing potential. The 2022 vintage is very good for the North and South of the region which both excelled in the hot from the 2020 vintage look to be a little fresher and more approachable in their youth than those of 2019 which is a high-quality vintage with yields on a par with 2018. Another good result along the valley in 2018, though the South had more disease problems to contend with, as mildew affected the thinner-skinned Grenache more than other varieties. Quality was high but the yields were down. An early harvest produced some intense wines in 2017 for both the North and the South of the region, though uneven flowering in both reduced yields considerably. 2016 in both Northern and Southern Rhône has produced excellent results, and the South has it by a whisker this year, the opposite of 2015. 2015 is terrific, particularly for the North's Syrah, no problems and decent yields too. An ideal growing season, that was even hotter than 2003 in the daytime but with cooler and reds are excellent. 2014 is not an easy vintage to generalise about but whites

#### TANNERS WINES

# THE VINEYARDS OF THE



an important role in these wines, as it does in most Côtes du Rhône. Gentle whites made from Marsanne and Roussanne, and orange blossom Viogniers, particularly Condrieu, are impressive. Then there's Tavel for rosé and Muscat de Beaumes de Venise for vin doux naturel.

#### RED

## Ventoux & IGP

The Southern Rhône has its Grenache-dominated blends, warmer climate and winemaking in larger vats or foudres, as in much of Languedoc-Roussillon. Pigeoulet is mainly sourced from the Ventoux, formerly just a source of cheaper, easy drinking wines but now home to many innovative producers.

Ventoux, Le Vin de Léonard, Famille Gonnet 2022, 14.5%	RR0107B22	10.39
Le Pigeoulet, Vaucluse, Frédéric & Daniel Brunier 2022, 14.5%	RR0002B22	15.06
Mégaphone, Ventoux, Frédéric & Daniel Brunier 2022, 14.5%	RR0018B22	16.88

# Côtes du Rhône & Villages

The appellation system in the South can be complicated, as the difference between a stand-alone village and a named Côtes du Rhône village can be a fine one. It's often more important to the grower than the market. However, the quality, be it Lirac or Côtes du Rhône Signargues, is what is important. A good example of Côtes du Rhône, Tanners Rhône Valley Red is made for us by the Gonnets at La Font du Vent in Châteauneufdu-Pape and is full of smooth, ripe fruit. From close to Orange, the Arbouse has been a tremendous success with its spicy style. As an alternative to Gigondas, try the powerful reds of Rasteau and the smooth wines of Séguret and Cairanne, then across to the west bank of the Rhône around Lirac too.

Tanners Rhône Valley Red, Côtes du Rhône 2021, 13.5% Vg	RR0001B21	10.80
Côtes du Rhône, Vieilles Vignes, Cave Coteaux du Rhône 2022, 14%	RR0134B22	8.63
Arbouse, Massif d'Uchaux, Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2020, 14%	RR0122B20	9.66
Domaine de l'Amandine Rouge, Côtes du Rhône 2022, 14%	RR0142B22	10.09
Château Courac, Laudun Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2021, 14.5%	RR0011B21	11.45
Séguret, Côtes du Rhône-Villages, Domaine de l'Amandine 2021, 14% † ♦	RR0135B21	11.45
Côtes du Rhône Les Bergeronnettes, Domaine La Collière 2021, 13.5%	RR0129B21	11.87
Rasteau, Touillères, Domaine La Collière 2020, 15%	RR0147B20	14.67
Rasteau, Domaine la Soumade, Frédéric Roméro 2021, 14.5%	RR0022B21	15.08
Lirac, Moon Apogé, Domaine des Carabiniers 2020, 13% €	RR0143B20	15.67
Rasteau, Esprit d'Argiles, Domaine La Collière 2021, 15%	RR0131B21	15.95
Rasteau, Esprit d'Argiles, Domaine La Collière 2020, 15%	RR0131B20	15.95
Lirac Vieilles Vignes, Les Sables d'Arène, Domaine Giraud 2021, 14.5%	RR0136B21	18.39

RR0095B20	21.39

RR0104B21 29.00

39.47

RR0142X

Gigondas & Vacqueyras

Châteauneuf-du-Pape may be the jewel of the South, but there are many other fantastic reds to try such as those from Châteauneuf's closest relative, Gigondas. The next village, Vacqueyras, is home to the Vache brothers at Clos des Cazaux who make stylish and characterful wine both in their home village and in Gigondas. Also in Gigondas, the Brunier's **Domaine Les Pallières** is now showing all its potential with full and intense wines. Unfortunately, demand is such that we usually sell out on our En Primeur offer. The Faraud sisters' Domaine du Cayron always has exuberant fruit and great concentration.

Vacqueyras, Cuvée des Templiers, Domaine Le Clos des Cazaux 2021, 14.5%	RR0034B21	17.72
Gigondas, Cuvée de la Tour Sarrasine, Domaine Le Clos des Cazaux 2021, 14.5%	RR0035B21	20.54
Gigondas, Le Vin du Léonard, Famille Gonnet 2021, 14.5%	RR0118B21	20.94
Gigondas, Domaine du Cayron 2020, 14.5%	RR0037B20	26.13
Gigondas, Les Racines, Domaine Les Pallières 2021, 15%	RR0036B21	30.21
Gigondas, Domaine du Clos des Tourelles, Famille Perrin 2020, 14.5%	RR0137B20	51.67

# Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Châteauneuf-du-Pape dominates in the South and here the Bruniers at Vieux Télégraphe are right at the top of their game, although many of the villages in the South produce wines in a similar style that can be better than much of the cheap Châteauneuf on the market. We have been impressed with the wines from Marie and François Giraud which have wonderful intensity and balance in a big and silky style. Two other superb estates we follow are the Perrin family's Château de Beaucastel and the Gonnet family's Domaine La Font du Vent.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Galets de la Berthaude, Roger Perrin 2021, 15% †	RR0132B21		22.74
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Cuvée Tradition, Domaine Font du Vent 2020, 14.5%	RR0041B20		27.83
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Télégramme, Famille Brunier 2020, 15%	RR0039B20		30.80
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine Giraud 2020 (organic), 15.5% &	RR0110B20		36.59
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe, Famille Brunier 2021, 14.5%	RR0043B21	-	56.67
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Château de Beaucastel, Famille Perrin 2020, 14.5% € †	RR0045B20	-	69.17
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Gallimardes, Domaine Giraud 2020, 15.5%	RR0111B20		72.50
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Grenaches de Pierre, Domaine Giraud 2019, 15.5%	RR0116B19	-	76.67

# Northern Rhône

The North produces only a very small proportion of the total amount made in the Rhône Valley, but what it lacks in quantity it certainly makes up for in quality and big names. Saint-Joseph is the biggest appellation, running all the way from Condrieu down to Valence and covering many different terroirs and styles on its way. The classic area is mostly around Tournon and Mauves and the issue of whether to introduce a grand cru system to distinguish the top vineyards is very topical. Crozes-Hermitage is another big appellation with a great variety of soils which can lead to a variety of styles. Galets (large pebbles), as in Châteauneuf, cover some of the southern parts giving full-bodied wines, but the sandy soil of the North is more suited to whites.

The dominant Syrah grape in the North is generally cut with a bit of Viognier in Côte-Rôtie, producing wines with wonderful perfume and elegance. Pierre Gaillard's Saint-Joseph demonstrates precision and purity. Jean-Pierre and Hélène Mucyn's Crozes-Hermitage and small parcel of Cornas are producing consistently fine wines. Cornas is where the Syrah grape reaches perhaps its greatest intensity and minerality on the steep, granite-based slopes but it is an area expanding beyond its classic core and some wines can lack this intensity. Near Tain l'Hermitage, Florent Viale and his son Axel of Domaine du Colombier make full, rich wines with wonderful black fruits. Jaboulet is one of the classic names of the Northern Rhone now run by Caroline Frey, whose family also owns runs Château La Lagune in Bordeaux, their vineyards are run organically and the wines have wonderful style and substance.

Crozes-Hermitage, Coeur de Clairmont 2022, 13% †	RR0050B22		14.87
Crozes-Hermitage, Les Entrecoeurs, Domaine Mucyn 2021, 13% Vg	RR0051B21		18.81
Crozes-Hermitage Rouge, Pierre Gaillard 2020, 13.5%	RR0157B20		20.18
Saint-Joseph Rouge, Les Salamandres, Domaine Mucyn 2021, 13%	RR0124B21		20.58
Saint-Joseph, Les Traverses, Catherine & Pascal Jamet 2019, 14.7%	RR0140B19		22.33
Crozes-Hermitage, Domaine de Thalabert, Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2020, 14% €	RR0055B20		26.32
Crozes-Hermitage, Cuvée Gaby, Domaine du Colombier 2021, 13%	RR0054B21		29.00
Saint-Joseph, Les Pierres, Pierre Gaillard 2020, 14.5%	RR0156B20		31.06
Cornas, Hypsos, Domaine Mucyn 2020, 13%	RR0128B20		33.86
Cornas, Pierre Gaillard 2021, 13.5%	RR0148B21	_	33.86
Côte-Rôtie, Pierre Gaillard 2021, 13%	RR0149B21		43.34
Cornas, Domaine de Saint Pierre, Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2020, 15% 🕏	RR0162B20		47.50
Hermitage, La Maison Bleue, Domaine Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2020, 15.5% &	RR0159B20		51.67
Hermitage, Domaine du Colombier 2021, 13%	RR0067B21	_	54.17
Côte-Rôtie, Les Pierrelles, Domaine Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2020, 14% 🚭	RR0163B20		55.84
Hermitage, La Chapelle, Domaine Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2020, 15.5% 🛡 🥩	RR0070B20		162.50
Hermitage, La Chapelle, Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2016, 14.5% 🚭	RR0070B16		165.84

# ROSÉ France - Rhône Valley

Tavel is perhaps the most famous rosé of the Rhône and makes full-flavoured wines across the river on the west bank, mainly from Grenache.

Tavel Rosé, Moon Apogé, Domaine des Carabiniers 2020, 13% C RP0002B20 14.36

## DRY WHITE

## Southern Rhône

Complex, nutty white Châteauneuf-du-Pape is great, but the Amandine white also achieves much of this character. Single varietal Roussanne, Marsanne and Viognier can also be full of interest.

Domaine de l'Amandine Blanc, Côtes du Rhône 2023, 13%	RW0072B23		10.91
Côtes du Rhône Blanc, Les Bergeronnettes, Domaine La Collière 2022, 14%	RW0066B22		13.14
Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc,	RW0008B21	1	49.17
Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Famille Brunier 2021 14% Vg			

# Northern Rhône

André Perret is the master of Viognier and played a huge role in restoring the reputation and vineyard area of Condrieu. His wines are aromatic and intense and can be found on our Oddments List. Mucyn's Crozes-Hermitage, made in tiny quantities, is full of peachy character.

Crozes-Hermitage Blanc, Les Charmeuses, Domaine Mucyn 2020, 13%	RW0013B20	19.02
Crozes-Hermitage Blanc Cuvée Gaby, Domaine Colombier 2020, 13%	RW0057B20	29.00
Hermitage Blanc, Domaine Colombier 2021, 13%	RW0016B21	55.00
Hermitage Blanc, La Chapelle, Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2020, 14% 🗳	RW0032B20	133.34

#### **SWEET**

Classic raisiny, grapey Beaumes-de-Venise is a vin doux naturel, lightly fortified to give a bit more density. The Castaud family of Domaine des Bernardins achieved the appellation for the village and the estate continues to produce pure, delicious wines.

Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise,	RS0001H22	11.79
Domaine des Bernardins 2022 - Half 15%		

# Beaujolais

Finding infamy perhaps, and certainly an abiding memory for many with Beaujolais Nouveau ('celebrated' on a chilly Thursday in November), if you prefer a lighter-bodied red of invariably excellent quality, this is the region to explore. Beaujolais across the board is a much better wine than those encountered in the 1980s, and the region is definitely on a roll.



The outstanding 2009 vintage set everything off and pretty much every vintage since has delivered magnificent wines. What is exciting is the subtle differences you will find between the wines, yet the quality of the soft, gorgeous flavours of well-made Gamay has never been better. From humble AOC Beaujolais through Beaujolais-Villages to the firmer, almost Burgundian feel of some of the Beaujolais 'cru' wines, there are many very classy, approachable, fruity, wines to be sampled. Some keep well too, with Chénas, Juliénas and Fleurie all drinking well into their third year while Moulin-à-Vent and Morgon often need time to even start to show their full potential. Saint-Amour, Brouilly, Côte de Brouilly and Regnié produce delicious, earlier drinking wines and high-up Chiroubles some of the finest.

#### RED

# Beaujolais & Villages

Humble perhaps, well priced certainly, these are the 'starting point' wines from the outlying vineyards stretching back up the hillsides. There are a couple of useful points to remember with these lovely wines. Gamay, the only black grape used in the region, is inherently soft, juicy and fruity. It should be top of the list if you dislike the firm or furry structure of more tannic grapes. Beaujolais Nouveau may take this to an extreme! Top négociant Jean Loron of Pontanevaux covers the Mâconnais and Beaujolais, bottling some wines under the Jacques Charlet label. Rémi Benon's Beaujolais-Villages is fuller, an excellent example of the style.

Beaujolais, Jacques Charlet 2020, 13% Vg †	JR0001B20	11.25
Beaujolais-Villages, Rémi Benon 2022, 13.5% Vg †	JR0038B22	12.15

# Fleurie & The Crus

The best ground and by extension the best villages in Beaujolais are named on the label and referred to as 'cru'. There are ten villages, each individual cru surrounds its identifying village, yet all are bound together by soft and supple, juicy-fruited, easy-drinking flavours. Most of the cru wines are made with juicy softness as their goal. Saint-Amour in the northern part is the simplest, while Michel Tête in Juliénas and Rémi Benon in Chénas make wines with more depth. Fleurie has perhaps the best 'name' and has a charming, pretty edge although Mathieu Mélinand at Domaine des Marrans makes a bigger style on a par with his friend Laurent Guillet who produces fabulous Morgons. For the most ageworthy, choose Moulin-à-Vent; Louis Boillot's wine is quite 'Burgundian' in style.

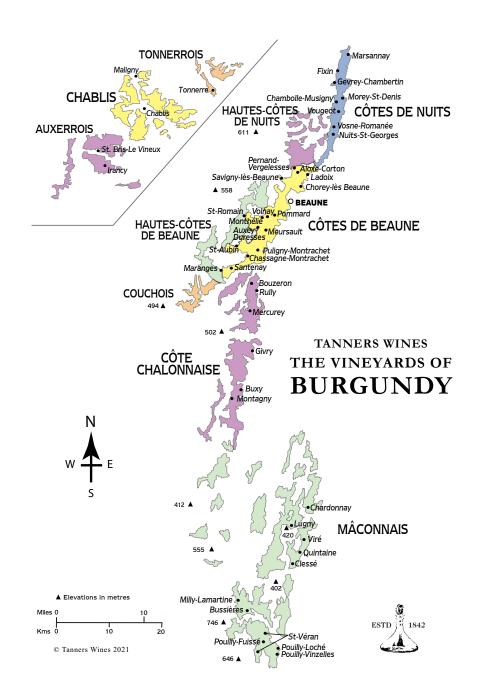
Chénas, Rémi Benon 2022, 13.5% Vg	JR0019B22	13.14
Côte de Brouilly, Les Volcaniques, Jacques Charlet 2021, 13%	JR0004B21	13.56
Fleurie, Domaine André Colonge et Fils 2022, 13.5% †	JR0015B22	14.53
Morgon, Côte du Py, Laurent Guillet, Domaine de la Chaponne 2021, 13.5%	JR0012B21	14.75
Juliénas, Michel & Sylvain Tête, Domaine du Clos du Fief 2022, 13%	JR0020B22	14.91
Fleurie 'La Roche 'Champagne', Domaine des Marrans 2022, 13%	JR0040B22	19.17
Moulin-à-Vent, vieilles vignes, Louis Boillot 2021, 13%	JR0028B21	19.73
Moulin-à-Vent, Les Rouchaux, Louis Boillot 2021, 13%	JR0043B21	21.75
Fleurie, Grille-Midi, Louis Boillot 2021, 13%	JR0046B21	27.38
Moulin-à-Vent, Aux Caves, Louis Boillot 2021, 13%	JR0045B21	28.20

# Burgundy

With production limited by geography – well exposed slopes with limestone-clay soils are key – and burgeoning worldwide demand, the price of burgundy continues ever upwards. Its mosaic of tiny vineyards and enormous roster of producers make it all the more fascinating. The region stretches 140 miles from Chablis in the North to Pouilly-Fuissé in the South. In between is the Côte d'Or, an escarpment which neatly divides into the Côte de Nuits and Côte de Beaune. The former includes villages such as Gevrey-Chambertin, Nuits-St- Georges, Vosne-Romanée and Chambolle-Musigny; the latter, Beaune, Volnay, Pommard, Meursault and Puligny-Montrachet. Travelling south, and before reaching the Mâconnais, lies the Côte Chalonnaise with less-discovered red and white burgundies made from Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Aligoté grapes.

#### WHITE BURGUNDY

The heart of white burgundy is the Côte de Beaune whose wines can sometimes drive their fans into a frenzy of buying, and sometimes its growers to nervous exhaustion! Put simply, the pinnacle of the world's Chardonnay production is here and whole books have been written on single villages and their vineyards. The pressure to excel is enormous whilst the threat of cataclysmic frost, hail and disease is omnipresent. This part of the Côte d'Or is broader and lumpier than its neighbour, the Côte de Nuits. At its northern end is the hill of Corton – the villages of Ladoix, Aloxe-Corton and Pernand-Vergelesses at its foot – and grand cru Corton-Charlemagne sunning itself on its southern slopes. Chorey-lès-Beaune and Savigny-lès-Beaune are just by the picturesque town of Beaune, where you enter more serious red wine territory, running into Pommard and Volnay. Then there is a 'useful' valley containing Monthélie, Auxey-Duresses and Saint-Romain – 'useful' in that prices ease off a little – before the world's most famous Chardonnay vineyards start. An illustrious line of top premier then grand crus follows from the village of Meursault through Puligny and Chassagne-Montrachet, Le Montrachet being the culmination. Saint-Aubin and Santenay aren't far on – what a difference a kilometre or two can make to price! Whilst the Côte de



Beaune is revered, much white burgundy action is outside it in Chablis, the Mâconnais and the Côte Chalonnaise.

# Bourgogne Chardonnay

There are 14 variants of straight 'Bourgogne', but Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune, Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits and Bourgogne Côte Chalonnaise are the ones most likely to be seen on labels. Bourgogne Côte d'Or is the most recent and exciting addition as many of our growers, such as **Etienne Sauzet** in Puligny-Montrachet, have respectable vineyards on the 'wrong side of the tracks', being just beyond the commune limits. Look out for them on our list and En Primeur offers, as they regularly deliver similar magic of their grander cousins.

Tanners White Burgundy, Bourgogne Chardonnay 2022, 12.5% Vg $\dagger$	BW0001B22	12.42
Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Blanc, Maison Roche de Bellene 2018, 13%	BW0283B18	19.78
Bourgogne Chardonnay, Clos de la Carbonade, Monopole, P & L Borgeot, 13%	BW0214B21	20.54
Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Blanc, Roche de Bellene 2021, 12%	BW0283B21	22.34
Bourgogne Côte d'Or, Bachelet-Monnot 2021, 13%	BW0193B21	26.31
Bourgogne Blanc, Méo-Camuzet Frère et Soeurs 2020, 13.5%	BW0277B20	26.96

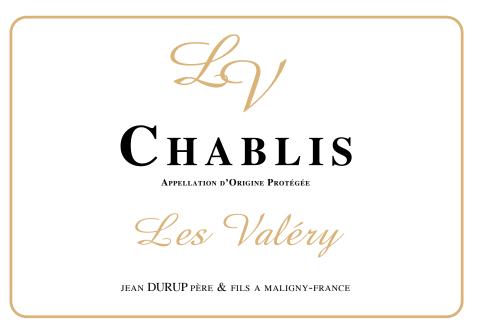
# Bourgogne Aligoté

Aligoté plays second fiddle to Chardonnay by a very long margin, not in terms of quality but in terms of quantity. It produces a white which is more appley than Chardonnay, but Aligoté can have superb creamy texture. At its most neutral it can be improved with a dose of cassis to make a traditional Kir. Our example, however, from top Côte Chalonnaise producer, **Domaine Jacqueson** is far too good for that, and to use their Bouzeron – an appellation exclusively for Aligoté – would be a crime! Keep an eye on our Oddments List for the latest vintage.

#### Chablis

The small town of Chablis sits in rolling, open countryside south of Paris, straddling the River Serein, its extensive slopes of grand cru vineyards protecting it from the north-east winds. It's worth the short detour off the A6 autoroute in summer, but those winds bite in winter. The key to Chablis' resounding success is soil – Kimmeridgian limestone in particular – which is instrumental in the production of crisp, minerally Chardonnays which are unmatched anywhere else in the world. It is fossil country too and the ammonite and oyster fossils that often decorate the tasting rooms auto-suggest a classic food match: Chablis with shellfish.

The most intense and surprisingly long-lived wines come from the grand cru slopes, Les Clos being the best, but Vaudésir, Valmur and Les Preuses are not far behind. The individual premier crus of Chablis are so numerous that they are often lumped together under the umbrella names of Fourchaume, Montée de Tonnerre and Mont de Milieu – all on the



arguably better northern slopes – and then Vau de Vey, Côte de Léchet, Vaillons (including Les Lys) and Montmains (including Les Forêts) on the southern spurs. These vineyards produce more interesting and flavoursome wines than straight Chablis which covers a larger and somewhat argued-over area, with much Portlandian limestone. Petit Chablis covers a patchwork of further flung slopes. In the right hands, however, both are delicious.

Such is our requirement for Chablis that we deal with two of the largest vineyard owners: **Domaine Jean Durup** in Maligny (Les Valery is our exclusive label) and the **Brocards** in Préhy with their Domaine des Manants. Both are excellent and both are in the 'no oak' camp. At **Moreau-Naudet**, Virginie Moreau continues the work of her husband Stéphane Moreau making precise, citrussy Chablis with a very controlled use of oak. **Domaine Christian Moreau** is a perfectly formed vestige of the large and famous Moreau domaine, with son Fabien crafting brilliant wines from top sites. Another famous surname in these parts is Fèvre. Nathalie et Gilles Fèvre, a wife and husband team, produce super-mineral wines from a 48 Ha estate and the cleanest ever small winery in Fontenay-près-Chablis. We have shipped the wines of **Domaine Vincent Dauvissat** (and his father René before him) for almost 40 years, and the following for his wines means they rarely reach our main list these days.

Petit Chablis, Les Manants, Famille Brocard 2022, 12.5% Vg	BW0016B22	15.71
Chablis, Jean de Chaudenay 2022, 12.5% 🐠	BW0924B22	16.51
Chablis, Nathalie et Gilles Fèvre 2022, 12.5% 🛡 🥩	BW0238B22	18.17
Chablis, Les Valéry, Jean Durup 2022, 12.5% Vg †	BW0017B22	18.97
Chablis, Vieilles Vignes, Daniel-Etienne Defaix 2020, 12.5% Vg	BW0022B20	23.81

#### Mâcon & Viré-Clessé

France - Burgundy

From the far south of Burgundy, the wines of the warm Mâconnais – the hinterland of the large town of Mâcon – tend to be softer, more ready to drink and less expensive than whites from elsewhere in Burgundy. This is a hilly landscape of vines, woods and mixed agriculture. Many villages can make Mâcon-Villages such as the great value Mâcon-Chardonnay from wife and husband Mallory and Benjamin Talmard. Dominique Lafon of Domaine des Comtes Lafon in Meursault has carefully selected plots around a base in Milly-Lamartine which are sold under the Héritiers du Comte Lafon label. Domaine des Chenevières is situated not far from Mâcon and Cluny and has been in the same family for six generations with cousins Sylvain, Benoît and Aurélien Lenoir currently carrying the torch.

Mâcon-Chardonnay, Mallory & Benjamin Talmard 2022, 12.5% Vg	BW0038B22	12.49
Mâcon-Villages, Vieilles Vignes,	BW0286B22	12.93
Domaine des Chenevières 2022, 13% Vg		
Mâcon-Vergisson, Domaine Guerrin & Fils 2022, 13.5%	BW0036B22	13.30
Mâcon La Roche Vineuse, Sur Le Fil, Deux Roches 2020, 13%	BW0940B20	14.10
Mâcon-Villages, La Crochette, Jean Loron 2022, 12.5% Vg †	BW0207B22	14.54
Mâcon-Lugny, Les Genièvres, Maison Louis Latour 2022, 13% †	BW0037B22	14.54

# Pouilly-Fuissé & Saint-Véran

The southernmost part of the Mâconnais is dominated by the spectacular limestone rocks of Solutré and Vergisson. The latter is where Bastien Guerrin makes an almost Chablis-like Mâcon-Vergisson. Nearby are Davayé and AOC Saint-Véran where brothers-in-law, Christian Collovray and Jean-Luc Terrier, produce very flavoursome wines by stirring up the lees into their wines. Then there is the huge bowl of Pouilly-Fuissé, fully planted with Chardonnay vines, and Château-Fuissé where Antoine Vincent continues the careful vineyard and oak regime of his father. A good Pouilly-Fuissé should be full and buttery, but mineral too.

Saint-Véran, Réserve,	BW0047B22	16.16
Christian Collovray et Jean-Luc Terrier 2022, 13% Vg		
Pouilly-Fuissé, Cuvée Vieilles Vignes, Domaine Guerrin & Fils 2022, 13.5%	BW0049B22	20.58
Pouilly-Fuissé, Vieilles Vignes, Deux Roches,	BW0051B21	24.21
Collovray et Terrier 2021. 13% Vg	D110031D21	21,21

# Côte de Nuits

Nuits-St-Georges, Vougeot, Morey-St-Denis, Fixin and Marsannay wines can be white, but the other villages can only be red. There is Côte de Nuits-Villages Blanc but no white Côte de Beaune-Villages Blanc. Logical, maybe not?! The Côte de Nuits also has tiny pockets of Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and 'Pinot Gouges' a singular white mutation of Pinot Noir.

Marsannay Blanc, Le Clos, Monopole, René Bouvier 2021, 13% € BW0212B21 ✓ 34.05

## Côte Chalonnaise

It's only really the Canal du Centre and some marshy meadows that divide the Côte Chalonnaise from its illustrious neighbour, the Côte de Beaune. For many years those in the know have savoured the Chardonnays of Rully and Montagny which can be treated as equals to the lesser villages of the Côte d'Or, and that's not to mention the Aligotés of Bouzeron. Marie and Pierre **Jacqueson**, sister and brother, are often rated as the best producers in Rully, fashioning wines which are admired by peers in all parts of Burgundy.

Montagny, Maison Roche de Bellene 2020, 13.5%	BW0278B20	18.57
Rully Blanc, La Chaponnière, P & L Borgeot 2021, 13%	BW0256B21	26.87
Rully Blanc 1er cru Grésigny, Vincent Girardin 2021, 13.5%	BW0307B21	40.24

## Southern Côte de Beaune

Good growers in the outlying, lesser-known villages of the Côte de Beaune can produce wines with many of the characteristics of Chassagne-Montrachet or Meursault, especially in warmer years. Many also have vineyard holdings in the greater villages, one such being Bachelet-Monnot in the red wine village of Dezize-lès-Maranges, where the Côte de Beaune escarpment peters out. Brothers Marc and Alex Bachelet are making wines of real precision. The village of Saint-Aubin is tucked behind the main côte but its vines occupy the rear slopes of the hill of Montrachet, as well as stretching down to Chassagne-Montrachet opposite Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet. We have followed the red Les Frionnes from Henri Prudhon et Fils since about 1990, but their whites have been getting better and better and Saint-Aubin is predominantly Chardonnay. The tranquil hilltop hamlet of Saint-Romain-Le-Haut is home to Alain Gras, whose Saint-Romain Blanc is listed by most of the Michelin 3-star restaurants in France.

Saint-Aubin Blanc 1er cru, Cuvée Frisson d'Avril,	BW0303B21	26.28
Henri Prudhon et Fils 2021, 13% Vg		
Auxey-Duresses Blanc, Michel Prunier et Fille 2021, 13%	BW0199B21	29.30

## Northern Côte de Beaune

Moving to the northern end of the Côte de Beaune, Corton-Charlemagne occupies a curving, stony hillside and produces wines of great concentration and longevity, with its own exotic richness which is somewhat different to the grand crus of the Montrachets. At **Domaine Rollin**, father and son, Rémi and Simon Rollin, make long-lived Corton-Charlemagne as well as superb Pernand-Vergelesses in immaculate cellars. The fortunes of

Savigny-lès-Beaune Blanc, Domaine de Bellene 2021, 13.5%

BW0215B21

30.09

#### Meursault

Meursault doesn't have the grands crus of Puligny and Chassagne but at premier cru level it competes ably, turning out opulent, almondy wines which go well with lobster. On the road to Puligny you pass by a line of premier crus: Les Gouttes d'Or, Les Bouchères, Le Porusot, Les Genevrières, Les Charmes (the largest) with Les Perrières above. Jean-François Germain at **Domaine Henri Germain** has particularly cool damp cellars where he quietly goes about fashioning some of the best wines in the village. His brother Eric is winemaker at Vincent Girardin where he makes superb wines in a larger, more modern facility. Back in the heart of the village at **Domaine Buisson-Charles**, winemaker and ex-teacher, Patrick Essa tends to harvest later than his peers to make very intense wines. Last but not least are two of the great domaines which supply us: **Domaine des Comtes Lafon** and **Domaine Coche-Dury**, run by cousins, Léa and Pierre Lafon, and Raphaël Coche respectively. Both estates are masters in the perfect match of Chardonnay to oak. Red Meursault exists but more often appears as Volnay, its neighbouring village.

Meursault, Maison Roche de Bellene 2021, 13%	BW0270B21	62.50
Meursault, Louis Latour 2021 - Half, 13.5%	BW0237H21	31.28
Meursault, Vieilles Vignes, Vincent Girardin 2021, 13% V	BW0218B21	71.67
Meursault Les Charmes 1er cru,	BW0304B21	108.34
Maison Roche de Bellene 2021, 13.5%		

# Puligny & Chassagne-Montrachet

The wines of Puligny-Montrachet have more of a mineral backbone than those of Meursault and Chassagne-Montrachet, and simplistically one might say the aromas are more honeysuckle than the lemony notes of Chassagne. The authorities were reasonably fair in dividing Le Montrachet almost equally between Puligny and Chassagne, and Bâtard-Montrachet isn't far off either if one includes the sub-sections of Bienvenues-Bâtard and Criots-Bâtard which belong to Puligny and Chassagne respectively. Then Puligny trumps it with 7.5 ha of the wonderful high vineyard of Chevalier-Montrachet as well as a fine roster of premier crus led by Pucelles, Cailleret, Folatières and Combettes. The premier crus of Chassagne are numerous, but Morgeot is one of the best known, being a larger agglomeration of others. In Puligny-Montrachet the terroirs of the wonderful holdings of Etienne Sauzet are each expressed brilliantly in bottle by Benoît Riffault, son-in-law of the great Gérard Boudot. At Domaine Leflaive, Brice de La Morandière and Pierre Vincent have taken on the mantle of the late Anne-Claude Leflaive, continuing the biodynamic methods in the production of very pure wines in a newly built cuverie. In Chassagne-Montrachet, the wines of Paul Pillot continue to impress us, now in the hands of the next generation, Thierry and Chrystelle Pillot who have worked extensively in the New World.

# White Burgundy Vintage Guide

The most recent vintage, 2023 shows excellent potential and a good quantity, stylistically similar to its predecessor. A warm season but with cooler nights, 2022 has brought both excellent quality and, importantly, a decent quantity. The 2021 vintage was heavily affected by frost meaning quantities are well down though the quality is very good. 2020 was historically early and regarded as a great vintage. 2019 is a worthy successor to the excellent '18s, where low yields have given very concentrated wines. A seriously good vintage here in 2018 as the region escaped the frosts which have plagued recent years. They have a good crop of rich, aromatic whites across the region as a result. Despite a familiar and now all-too-frequent late frost in 2017 the growers in the Côte d'Or were better prepared and the vintage has delivered excellent results, with many domaines back to 'normal' yields. In the Mâconnais and Chablis growers were not quite so lucky with yields down for the second year but wines of excellent quality. What there is in 2016 is very good but sadly frost and hail had a bigger than usual impact this year, particularly in Chablis and the Mâconnais, but almost no-one escaped unscathed. 2015 produced round, full whites with good, ripe fruit. 2014 started well enough with an early spring but a cooler than average summer, and hailstorms in the south, reduced yields. The resultant wines, however, have elegance and beautiful balance.

Puligny-Montrachet, Louis Latour 2021, 13%	BW0105B21	78.34
Chassagne-Montrachet, Vieilles Vignes, Vincent Girardin 2021, 13%	BW0254B21	80.00
Puligny-Montrachet, Vieilles Vignes, Vincent Girardin 2021, 13%	BW0175B21	80.00

# **RED BURGUNDY**

Stretching 14 miles southwards from the outskirts of Dijon to the marble quarries of Comblanchien, the Côte de Nuits is one long vineyard. Many of the villages are household names to conjure with. If it were a Game of Thrones, then Gevrey-Chambertin would be a sturdy king, Vosne-Romanée a clever queen, Vougeot an expansive great-aunt and Chambolle-Musigny a pretty princess. Nuits-St-Georges and Morey-Saint-Denis would be princes, the first steadier and the second colder and more scheming, with Fixin and Marsannay mere princelings. This is pre-eminent Pinot Noir territory with its grand cru wines often achieving stratospheric prices, but good value is often to be found in 'village' wines (e.g. Gevrey-Chambertin), Fixin, Marsannay and Côte de Nuits-Villages. The Côte de Beaune is also an important area for Pinot Noir, alongside its world class Chardonnays; Volnay, Pommard, Beaune and Corton particularly stand out. Further south in the Côte Chalonnaise, Givry and Mercurey produce good reds.

# Bourgogne Pinot Noir

For many years, the powers-that-be in Burgundy argued over whether to allow Bourgogne

Côte d'Or to run alongside appellations such as Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits and Bourgogne Côte Chalonnaise. Finally this has happened, giving more legitimacy to the 'little' burgundies of famous growers whose vines sit below the route nationale. Other growers, such as Michel Gros, have important holdings in the elevated, later ripening Hautes-Côtes. Aside from Passe-Tout-Grains which includes Gamay, for 'Bourgogne Rouge' you can read 'Pinot Noir'.

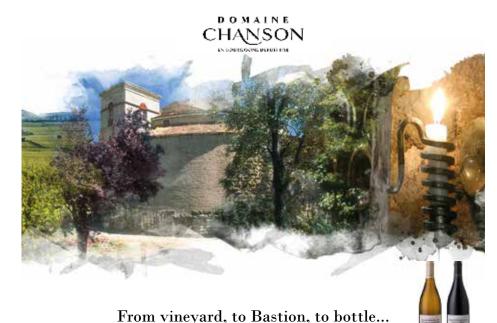
Tanners Red Burgundy, Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2020, 13%	BR0205B20	15.80
Bourgogne Rouge, Henri Prudhon et Fils 2021, 12% Vg	BR0326B21	13.58
Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Rouge, Maison Roche de Bellene, 13%	BR0319B17	22.60
Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits, Fontaine Saint Martin, Michel Gros 2021, 13%	BR0279B21	25.88
Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Bachelet-Monnot 2021, 13.5%	BR0224B21	26.33
Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Hautes-Coutures, Buisson-Charles 2021, 13.5%	BR0324B21	35.73

## Côte Chalonnaise

The Côte Chalonnaise is a somewhat bucolic area of vines and Charolais cattle, and its reds can be very good too: Mercurey sturdier, occasionally too robust, and Givry softer and prettier. Poncey, a hamlet, just south of Givry, is home to **Domaine Mouton** where Laurent

# Red Burgundy Vintage Guide

A hot growing season in 2023, meant sorting was required when the grapes came in to avoid any raisined fruit, but the results are looking promising and in good quantity. The region basked under the summer sun in 2022, and thanks to cool nights the wines have avoided excess alcohol while retaining elegance, it all looks more than promising! The 2021 vintage was severely affected by frost in the spring which means yields are historically low, the wines are fresh and juicy. 2020 was one of the earliest vintages on record following a warm summer but the wines have an appealing freshness too, like a combination of the previous two vintages. There was an absence of frost in 2019 but yields were still restricted, this time by drought, the resulting wines have great richness and concentration. A very good vintage in 2018 with no frosts in the early part of the season though rain in the first half of summer caused some disease pressure. Hail affected Nuits St-Georges and the Hautes-Côtes reducing yields. The resulting wines are rich and concentrated. Quantities in 2017 will be better than 2016 with equally good results. They are more red fruited than black, showing great elegance. 2016 proved a rollercoaster of a season with everything thrown at the growers in the early season but what fruit survived through to harvest is very good. Quantities, however, are small. 2015 is a memorable vintage for red Burgundy, certainly on the rich side.



Mouton is upping the game from the lighter style of reds he inherited from his father Gérard.

Givry 1er cru Clos Jus, Domaine Mouton 2021, 13.5%

BR0010B21

28.64

53

# Southern Côte de Beaune

Maranges, an agglomeration of three villages on the southern shoulder of the Côte de Beaune, and then the lower vineyards of Santenay and Chassagne-Montrachet, are important areas for Pinot Noir production. Once rustic, the wines are now smoother and softer due to better techniques in the winery such as de-stemming and softer pressing. At Remigny, just across the Canal du Centre from Santenay, **Domaine Borgeot** is run by whirlwind Laurent Borgeot and his quieter bother Pascal. In Auxey-Duresses, the valley uphill from Meursault and Monthélie, Domaine **Michel Prunier** is the best of a clutch of Pruniers and is run by Michel Prunier, the archetypal Burgundian vigneron, with his daughter Estelle. Lovely wines, both red and white! In Chassagne-Montrachet, Pinot Noir is diminishing in favour of Chardonnay, but Jean-François **Germain** of Meursault produces a good red, the vines coming from his mother's side (she is a Pillot from Chassagne). For notes on Saint-Aubin and Saint-Romain, see the White Burgundy section.

Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune, Michel Prunier et Fille 2021, 13% BR0013B21 20.59
Saint-Aubin 1er cru, Cuvée Les Rouges-Gorges, BR0829B21 22.50
Henri Prudhon et Fils 2021, 13% Vg

Saint-Aubin 1er cru Les Frionnes, Henri Prudhon et Fils 2021, 13% V	g BR0019B21	22.60
Santenay, Vieilles Vignes, P & L Borgeot 2021, 13% Vg	BR0250B21	26.87
Santenay 1er cru Les Beauregards, P & L Borgeot 2020, 13.5% Vg	BR0018B20	28.64
Maranges 1er cru Clos de la Boutière, Bachelet-Monnot 2021, 13%	BR0242B21	30.61
Saint-Romain Rouge, Alain Gras 2021, 12.5%	BR0020B21	32.25
Santenay 1er cru Les Gravières, P & L Borgeot 2021, 13.5% Vg	BR0260B21	33.25
Auxey-Duresses 1er cru, Michel Prunier et Fille 2021, 13.5%	BR0023B21	33.25
Auxey-Duresses 1er cru Clos du Val, Michel Prunier et Fille 2021, 13.5% ♦	BR0024B21	34.55
Santenay 1er cru Les Gravières, Vincent Girardin 2021, 13.5%	BR0017B21	45.84

# Beaune, Pommard & Volnay

Beaune's warm vineyards can produce rich and spicy wines whilst Pommard is famous for structure and Volnay for its Côte de Nuits-like finesse. One of Volnay's best premier crus, Les Santenots, actually lies within Meursault! In the town of Beaune, Nicolas Potel operates under the labels Domaine de Bellene and, for his merchant wines, Maison Roche de Bellene. Confusingly the wines marketed under his own name are not made by him... a long story! Nicolas is highly talented and has great connections when it comes to buying grapes and wine. Chanson Père et Fils is a grand old Beaune house now owned by Bollinger with an enviable holding of Beaune vineyards including Clos des Mouches and Clos des Fèves. Pommard's structure often needs taming by people with a deep understanding of its vineyards, such as Louis Boillot.

Beaune 1er cru Clos des Marconnets, Domaine Chanson 2020, 15%	BR0291B20	-	32.78
Beaune 1er cru Clos du Roi, Domaine Chanson 2020, 14.5%	BR0336B20		33.25
Volnay, Vieilles Vignes, Maison Roche de Bellene 2020, 13% Vg	BR0040B20		34.28
Beaune 1er cru Teurons, Domaine Chanson 2020, 14.5%	BR0034B20		34.28
Beaune 1er cru, Bastion, Domaine Chanson 2017, 13%	BR0027B17		35.09
Beaune 1er cru Clos des Marconnets, Domaine Chanson 2016, 13.5%	BR0291B16		37.50
Beaune 1er cru Grèves, Domaine Chanson 2020, 14.5%	BR0035B20		38.31
Beaune 1er cru, Hommage à Françoise Potel, Domaine de Bellene 2020, 13.5% Vg	BR0312B20		53.34
Volnay 1er cru Les Caillerets, Michel Prunier et Fille 2021, 13.5%	BR0264B21		54.17
Pommard, Vieilles Vignes, Vincent Girardin 2021, 13%	BR0334B21	1	55.84
Beaune 1er cru, Hommage à Françoise Potel, Domaine de Bellene 2021, 12.5% Vg	BR0312B21		56.67
Beaune Ier cru Clos des Fèves, Monopole, Domaine Chanson 2020, 14.5%	BR0037B20		60.84
Beaune 1er cru Bressandes, Henri Germain et Fils 2021, 13.5%	BR0038B21		60.84
Beaune 1er cru Les Teurons, Buisson-Charles 2021, 13.5%	BR0332B21		62.50
Volnay 1er cru Clos des Chênes, Maison Roche de Bellene 2020, 13% Vg	BR0283B20		64.17

Volnay 1er cru Clos des Chênes,	BR0283B21	65.00
Maison Roche de Bellene 2021, 13.5% Vg		
Beaune 1er cru Clos des Fèves, Monopole, Domaine Chanson 2021, 13%	BR0037B21	74.17
Volnay 1er cru Santenots, Buisson-Charles 2021, 14%	BR0325B21	125.00

## Northern Côte de Beaune

Côte de Beaune-Villages is usually a blend from multiple villages, but a proportion often comes from the flattish vineyards around Chorey-lès-Beaune. Here **Domaine Tollot-Beaut** also has vines in Savigny-lès-Beaune, Aloxe-Corton and Beaune. Cousins Nathalie, Jean-Paul and Olivier Tollot are setting a good pace at this old estate. At 160 Ha, Corton is a massive grand cru which curls around the hill from Corton-Charlemagne with Les Bressandes and Clos du Roi being favourite vineyards within it. Pernand-Vergelesses, on the reverse of the hill, is a good source of pretty Pinot Noirs.

Bourgogne Côte d'Or Rouge, Tollot-Beaut 2021, 13% Vg	BR0321B21	22.85
Côte de Beaune-Villages, Chanson Père et Fils 2017, 13%	BR0014B17	23.00
Pernand-Vergelesses Rouge, Rollin Père et Fils 2021, 13.5%	BR0259B21	23.66
Savigny-lès-Beaune, Maison Chanson 2017, 13.5%	BR0335B17	26.13
Chorey-lès-Beaune, Pièce du Chapitre, Monopole, Tollot-Beaut 2021, 13% Vg	BR0051B21	28.13
Savigny-lès-Beaune, Vieilles Vignes, Domaine de Bellene 2021, 12.5%	BR0267B21	29.56
Savigny-lès-Beaune, Louis Latour 2018, 13.5% Vg	BR0052B18	30.26
Pernand-Vergelesses Rouge 1er cru Fichots, Rollin Père et Fils 2021, 13.5%	BR0058B21	33.82
Savigny-Dominode 1er cru, Domaine Chanson 2021, 13%	BR0290B21	37.52

## Southern Côte de Nuits

The small town of Nuits-Saint-Georges has no grand crus but some superb premier crus which make age-worthy wines. Aux Boudots and Aux Murgers wines are more silky and Vosne-like in character. To the south of the village, Pruliers, Porets and Les Saint-Georges, with Vaucrains above, produce a full-bodied robust style of Nuits-St-Georges. The new generation at **Domaine Gouges**, namely Grégory and Antoine Gouges, have instituted changes for the better, making wines which are much more charming when young. The villages south of Nuits-St-Georges – Corgoloin and Comblanchien, along with Fixin in the North – go to make Côte de Nuits-Villages.

Côte de Nuits Villages, Vieilles Vignes, Domaine de Bellene 2021, 13%	BR0269B21	29.56
Nuits-Saint-Georges, Chanson Père et Fils 2017, 13%	BR0164B17	44.17
Nuits-Saint-Georges, Vieilles Vignes, Domaine de Bellene 2020, 13.5%	BR0071B20	44.17

## Central Côte de Nuits

Arguably the pinnacle of world Pinot Noir production, this small section of the Côte d'Or from Vosne-Romanée to Morey-Saint-Denis, via Flagey-Echézeaux, Vougeot and Chambolle-Musigny, is littered with grand crus. Vosne and Flagey between them have eight, half of which are monopoles including Romanée-Conti. The other grand crus are Echézeaux, Romanée-St-Vivant, Grands Echézeaux and Richebourg in descending order of size. Next is Clos de Vougeot which at 50 Ha occupies pretty much the whole slope, its landmark château towards the top. Many call for the re-classification of parts into premier cru. Chambolle-Musigny has Le Musigny and most of Bonnes-Mares, and Les Amoureuses as a grand cru 'near-miss'. Then Morey-Saint-Denis has Clos de Tart and Clos des Lambrays on one side, Clos St-Denis and Clos de la Roche on the other. Premier crus and lieux-dits are too numerous to mention and village wines, particularly vieilles vignes, are worthy of your attention.

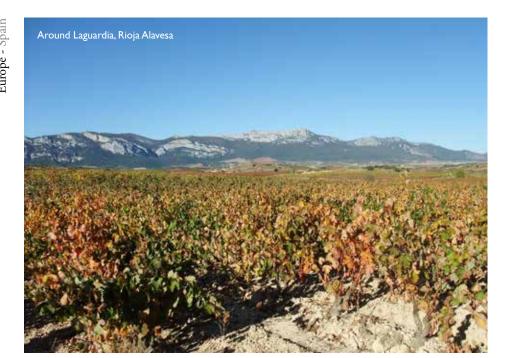
In Vosne-Romanée, Michel Gros has a monopole, Clos des Réas, which is a star turn in a range of silky, classic Pinot wines. His son Pierre has recently taken over the winemaking. Domaine Méo-Camuzet produces extremely sought-after, satin-textured wines in a range which is now supplemented with wines from bought-in grapes under the 'Frère et Soeurs' label. Chambolle-Musigny is famous for its elegant, raspberry-scented wines and none more so than those of Ghislaine Barthod who also shares a cellar with her husband Louis Boillot. He also owns vines in Volnay, Gevrey-Chambertin and Pommard. The wines of both domaines are now made by their son Clément. At the top of the village is long-time Tanners supplier, Domaine G Roumier, where Christophe Roumier is one of the most respected Burgundy winemakers of his generation. In Morey-Saint-Denis, Sébastien Odoul of Domaine Odoul Coquard is a master of preserving gorgeous, fresh Pinot fruit in his wines

Clos de Vougeot grand cru, Odoul-Coquard 2019, 15.5%	BR0297B19 -	- 108.34
Clos de Vougeot grand cru, Drouhin-Laroze 2019, 13%	BR0265B19 -	- 133.34
Bonnes Mares grand cru, Drouhin-Laroze 2018, 13.5%	BR0102B18 -	- 141.67
Bonnes Mares grand cru, Drouhin-Laroze 2020, 13.5%	BR0102B20 -	183.34
Clos de Vougeot grand cru, Drouhin-Laroze 2021, 13%	BR0265B21 -	183.34
Echézeaux grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2016, 13.5%	BR0173B16 -	200.00
Bonnes Mares grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2015, 13.5%	BR0228B15 🗸	225.00
Bonnes Mares grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2016, 13.5%	BR0228B16 🗸	266.67
Grands Echézeaux grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2019, 13.5%	BR0284B19 -	275.00
Grands Echézeaux grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2016, 13.5%	BR0284B16	275.00
Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru Les Amoureuses, Maison Roche de Bellene 2016, 13%	BR0289B16 🗸	275.00
Richebourg grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2014, 13%	BR0244B14 🗸	550.00
Richebourg grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2019, 13.5%	BR0244B19 -	708.34

## Northern Côte de Nuits

This section runs from the mighty Gevrey-Chambertin through Brochon and Fixin to Marsannay. Gevrey-Chambertin has a sizeable surface of vines and nine grand crus, led by Chambertin and Clos de Bèze equally. The price of Mazis (Mazy) and Charmes is often exceeded by Clos Saint-Jacques, a grand cru in all but name, to the north of the village. There are also multiple premier crus and a good supply of village wines too. Brochon's better vineyards fall under Gevrey-Chambertin, then you come to Fixin whose wines are bought by those in the know as 'mini Gevreys'. Marsannay, just short of Dijon and once famous only for its rosé wines, produces Chablis-like white and reds which, while not robust, are generous in nature. Domaine Drouhin-Laroze occupies a leafy enclave in Gevrey itself, where Philippe, Christine, Caroline and Nicolas Drouhin are custodians of a fine range of vineyards including a chunk of Clos de Bèze. Along the road is the grand old domaine of Armand Rousseau with its unrivalled constellation of grand crus. One of the first estates to bottle its own wines, it is now run by Eric Rousseau with his daughter Cyrielle. Their wines sometimes appear on our 'Oddments' List.

Marsannay, Le Finage, René Bouvier 2021, 13% €	BR0333B21	<b>✓</b> 34.88
Gevrey-Chambertin, Chanson Père et Fils 2017, 13%	BR0109B17	46.67
Gevrey-Chambertin, Louis Boillot et Fils 2021, 13%	BR0180B21	<b>4</b> 9.17
Gevrey-Chambertin, René Bouvier 2021, 13% €	BR0115B21	<b>✓</b> 57.92
Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru Aux Combottes, Odoul-Coquard 2021, 13.5%	BR0295B21	87.50
Chapelle-Chambertin grand cru, Drouhin-Laroze 2018, 13%	BR0187B18	<b>/</b> 116.67
Charmes-Chambertin grand cru, Odoul-Coquard 2019, 14.5%	BR0296B19	<b>—</b> 116.67
Gevrey-Chambertin, Vieilles Vignes, Dugat-Py 2020, 13.5%	BR0124B20	<b>125.00</b>
Gevrey-Chambertin, Coeur du Roy, Très VV, Dugat-Py 2017, 13%	BR0126B17	<b>125.00</b>
Charmes-Chambertin grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2020, 14.5%	BR0252B20	<b>—</b> 191.67
Chapelle-Chambertin grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2020, 14%	BR0262B20	<b>—</b> 191.67
Chapelle-Chambertin grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2021, 14.5%	BR0262B21	233.34
Chambertin-Clos de Bèze grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2015, 13.5% Vg	BR0227B15	<b>✓</b> 266.67
Chambertin grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2019, 13.5% Vg	BR0195B19	<b>316.67</b>
Chambertin grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2020, 13.5% Vg	BR0195B20	<b>375.00</b>
Chambertin-Clos de Bèze grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2019, 13.5% Vg	BR0227B19	<b>408.34</b>
Chambertin-Clos de Bèze grand cru, Maison Roche de Bellene 2020, 13.5% Vg	BR0227B20	466.67





# Spain Vintage Guide

The wines of 2023 show great promise but will be in short supply, while those of 2022 a hot, dry year are excellent and concentrated. The 2021 vintage is very good after a warm dry season with wines showing good concentration and aromatics. A wet first half of the 2020 vintage meant a lot of work in the vineyard was needed but a better, more consistent second half resulted in some juicy young wines with those ageing in barrel looking very promising. A very good year, 2019 had warm dry conditions but yields were limited by a tricky flowering period. A cooler and wetter year than other recent vintages has endowed the wines of 2018 with greater freshness and lower alcohols. Across the country the wines are showing good aromatics, plenty of weight, and a juicy fresh character. Growers had a complex year in 2017 having to contend with frost, hail and drought. Yields are down as a result, but the picture overall is of good quality particularly in Galicia and the South, Penedès also performed well. The 2016 vintage was pretty good on the whole with Ribera del Duero, Rioja and Rueda having excellent results. 2015 was heralded as the best vintage across Spain in recent years, and particularly so in the north. 2014 saw some good wines made with a little rain in the second half of harvest and low yields. This came after the potentially great 2013 vintage which has given fresh, vibrant, robust wines.

# Spain

Spain has a lot more to offer in wine than simply Rioja. For a generally hot country the wines you encounter can be very diverse, and we have recently sourced several from Galicia in North-West Spain. Invariably generous in nature and easy to drink, such diversity is all the more remarkable if you consider that so many rely on the famous Tempranillo grape at their core. You will also notice our range has been expanded recently with additions from Ribera del Duero and Navarra; the former producing full-bodied, deliciously dense wines (using the Tempranillo clone indigenous to the region) while for an alternative option try the Navarran wines that have a lighter feel, featuring a mix of French and Spanish grapes. From further south come a couple of outstanding reds from Andalucía featuring the Bordeaux export Petit Verdot which does surprisingly well down here. Historically the use of oak has been very important: barrel ageing for one, two and three years is often the key to making Crianzas, Reservas and Gran Reservas respectively across the whole of Spain. Blending with other grapes like Garnacha, Mazuelo and Cabernet also helps, bringing a complexity that has driven Rioja in particular, to the fore. In the main, the Spanish winemaker wants to produce a warm, mellow glass of red wine with a rich slug of oak and a spicy finish. And don't forget the whites! Some of the best are made from Verdejo in Rueda, Godello in Bierzo and glorious, peachy Albariño, the star of Rías Baixas in Galicia.

## Central & Southern

Excellent value 'Rioja look-alikes', typically mellow and easy drinking, are the prizes in Spain's South. The likes of Jumilla and Almansa can be bakingly hot in summer but produce generous reds, while we've turned to La Mancha to source Tanners Spanish Reserva, made very much in the soft, traditional style that cemented Spain's popularity many years ago. The high plains of La Mancha, the land of windmills and Don Quixote, have an enclave in its southern section called Valdepeñas which enjoys an enhanced reputation for almost 'old-fashioned', oaky Reservas and Gran Reservas made from Tempranillo which is called Cencibel in those parts. High in the hills to the east of Jerez, way down south in Andalucía sits the delightful boutique bodega of Cortijo Los Aguilares. We love their impressive red that uses the Petit Verdot grape blended with Syrah and Tempranillo to great effec.

Tanners Spanish Reserva, La Mancha 2018, 13.5% Vg	SR0100B18	8.78
Tallis Joven, Jumilla 2021, 13.5% Vg	SR0308B21	7.48
Cortijo Los Aguilares Tinto, Ronda 2022, 14% NEW	SR0319B22	13.05
Pago El Espino, Ronda, Cortijo Los Aguilares 2020, 14% NEW	SR0309B20	18.36
Tadeo Petit Verdot, Ronda, Cortijo Los Aguilares 2020, 14%	SR0310B20	31.66

# Rioja

Rioja is famous for its oak-matured Crianza, Reserva and Gran Reserva red wines. This renowned wine region however offers a whole host of wine styles with many more 'modern' black-fruited reds aged in French oak and sourced from individual vineyards coming to the fore. These are complementing the American-oaked, vanilla-flavoured wines favoured in the past. If you are looking for a lighter red to accompany mixed tapas, vino joven (literally 'young wine') is a fresh, juicy unoaked version of the Tempranillo grape. There's plenty going on in the region, as a recent visit underlined, although the 'modern Rioja' producers are kicking over the traces somewhat, and steering away from the historic Crianza, Reserva and Gran Reserva classifications – yet another move towards more fruit character and less dusty old oak. We think there's a place for both, hence the old favourites like venerable Reservas from Marques de Murrieta and La Rioja Alta sitting side by side with 'new wave' additions.

The Aldonia wines, in the new wave camp, concentrate on the Garnacha grape rather than sticking mainly to Tempranillo, with intensity of flavour and a touch more oak being applied as you move up the range. On the other hand, the Alto del Obre Reserva is a traditional, comfortable Rioja at a great price and stuffed with spicy, mature flavours. Then take a look at the three different sub-regions: Rioja Alta, Rioja Alavesa and Rioja Oriental. Bodegas Bagordi is based in the warm Rioja Oriental while at the other end of Rioja you'll find the Tobelos wines in Rioja Alta. Rioja Vega sits between them in style, using grapes from both areas; try them all against each other at Crianza level to see the diversity of character on offer right across the region. An exciting new venture by renowned winemaker, Jesús Madrazo, who made Imperial Riojas CVNE for many years, has allowed us to list





some more premium wines which are beautifully crafted and will age magnificently too.

Rioja Vega Tinto, Rioja 2022, 13.5% Vg	SR0066B22	8.32
Bagordi Tinto Cosecha, Rioja 2021 (organic), 14% 🗳 🕇	SR0292B21	8.87
Aldonia Vendimia, Rioja 2021, 14.5%	SR0097B21	8.90
Vaza Crianza, Rioja 2019, 14%	SR0295B19	9.82
Rioja Vega Crianza, Rioja 2020, 14% Vg ♦	SR0031B20	10.02
Aldonia, Rioja 2021, 14.5%	SR0099B21	12.36
Tobelos Crianza, Rioja 2019, 14%	SR0036B19	14.05
Alto del Obre Reserva, Rioja 2016, 13.5%	SR0294B16	14.17
Aldonia 100, Rioja 2021, 14.5%	SR0098B21	15.75
Viña Real Reserva, Rioja, CVNE 2016, 14%	SR0040B16	17.76
Marques de Murrieta Tinto Reserva, Rioja, Finca Ygay 2018, 14%	SR0905B18	20.68
Jesús Madrazo Num IV, Rioja 2019, 14.5%	SR0307B19	23.41
Imperial Gran Reserva, Rioja, CVNE 2015, 14%	SR0041B15	47.50

# Catalonia & NE Spain

This is Cava country but there are excellent table wines too. Somontano, in the foothills of the Pyrenees is a favourite area for us; the vineyards for Paso Primero are at 700+ metres which ensures real freshness and vivacity in their red berry flavours, whilst the fame of Penedès has been carried worldwide by one particular producer, Torres. Often the bridesmaid to Rioja's bride, Navarra is a great area for bright, fruity flavours in both red and white wines with just enough oak to reassure you that you're drinking super Spanish wines. Castillo de Monjardin is making very pure, modern wines from a mix of mainly French grapes to great effect. South of Barcelona, Priorat was rediscovered in the late 1980s, with the soil, known as 'llicorella' being a slatey, mica-schist blend that is very free-draining. Their concentrated reds are outstanding, showing a particularly fine, classy line.

Pleno Tempranillo, Navarra 2022, 14% Vg	SR0064B22	7.37
Príncipe de Viana Garnacha, Roble, Navarra 2020, 14% Vg	SR0079B20	8.12
Paso-Primero Tinto, Somontano 2022, 13.5% Vg	SR0289B22	9.18
Castillo Monjardin Crianza, Origen, Navarra 2020, 14% 🐠	SR0108B20	10.16
Castillo Monjardin Pinot Noir, El Cerezo, Navarra 2019, 14% 🛡	SR0109B19	10.56
Torres Gran Coronas, Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon, Penedès 2019, 14.5%	SR0074B19	12.45
Priorat, Celler Cal Pla 2021, 14.5% Vg	SR0152B21	15.33
Pasotismo, Somontano 2021, 13% Vg	SR0154B21	17.37
Torres Mas la Plana, Cabernet Sauvignon, Penedès 2019, 13%	SR0083B19	48.34

# Galicia & NW Spain

Ribera del Duero, north of Madrid, produces the finest Tempranillos when it's on song. Here a clone of Tempranillo - called Tinto Fino locally - has smaller, darker grapes and



makes a deeper coloured, more intensely fruity red which ages well in bottle after, typically, 18 months in oak. World-beating bodega Vega Sicilia sets a very high standard, but there is a chasing pack. Dominio de Basconcillos is a genuinely exciting find for us, a stand-out winery with superb wines, and Abadía de Acón is only just behind - both are producing big, rich reds with loads of class. To the north-west, El Bierzo is where the red grape Mencía comes into its own, making a characterful, herby wine with plenty of freshness.

Gancedo Men	cía,Vino de Altura, Bierzo 2022, 13.5% Vg 🥑 NEW	SR0317B22		10.87
Tardencuba Ro	oble,Toro 2020, I5% Vg <b>⊗</b> ′	SR0318B20		11.42
Acón Roble Te	mpranillo, Ribera del Duero 2020, 14.5%	SR0304B20		11.93
Acón Crianza	Tempranillo, Ribera del Duero 2019, 14.5%	SR0305B19		16.66
	mpranillo, Ribera del Duero, sconcillos 2021, 15.5% 🐠 🎻	SR0301B21	ı	16.86
	rianza, Ribera del Duero, sconcillos 2019, 15.5%	SR0302B19	ı	23.30
Acón Reserva	Tempranillo, Ribera del Duero 2018, 15%	SR0306B18		25.34
	eserva, Ribera del Duero, sconcillos 2018, 15.5%	SR0303B18	ı	43.34
Alion, Ribera o	del Duero 2019, 15%	SR0026B19		71.67

## ROSÉ

Spain, and particularly Navarra, has a long reputation for producing cracking 'rosados'.

This slightly cooler region (when compared to Rioja or La Mancha) has a great grape-growing climate and producers such as **Príncipe de Viana** who make the Pleno wines can get bags of flavour from Garnacha and Cabernet Sauvignon, yet preserve the fresh, pure feel in their wines.

Pleno Rosado, Navarra 2022, 12.5% Vg	SP0903B22	7.37
Bagordi Rosado, Rioja 2022, 13.5% 🗳	SP0005B22	8.49
Paso-Primero Rosé, Somontano 2023, 13% 🐠	SP0007B23	9.18

## DRY WHITE

Increasing today, across Spain, and particularly in Galicia, you'll find delicious, fresh, aromatic whites, miles apart from the tired old whites made in days of yore. In the far North-West in Rias Baixas, **Bodegas Aquitania** coaxes a spritzy, lemony freshness into their Albariño from vineyards practically at the seaside. Bodegas Gancedo in Bierzo, a little further inland, makes a superb Godello that is an excellent counterpoint to the more recognisable Albariño. Turn southwards towards Madrid and you'll find Rueda where Telmo Rodriguez, maker of **Basa**, cut his teeth in Rioja but has hit great form here with his whites from the Verdejo grape. Across in Navarra, Castillo de Monjardin's very pure and clean Chardonnay has a feel of the Mâconnais about it, while if you prefer some oak influence in your wine, CVNE's barrel-fermented Riojan white must be your choice. In the foothills of the Pyrenees, you'll find more fine, dry white blends from Paso-Primero in Somontano.

Pleno Blanco, Navarra 2022, 12% Vg	SW0906B22	7.37
Rioja Vega Blanco, Rioja 2022, 13% Vg	SW0910B22	8.31
Bagordi Blanco, Rioja 2022, 13% 🗳 🕇	SW0101B22	8.93
Viña Esmeralda, Cataluña, Torres 2022, 11.5% Vg	SW0088B22	9.08
Paso-Primero Blanco, Somontano 2021, 13% 🛡	SW0096B21	9.18
Castillo Monjardin Chardonnay, El Cerezo, Navarra 2022, 13% 🐠	SW0105B22	9.53
CVNE Blanco Barrel Fermented, Rioja 2021, 13% Vg	SW0011B21	10.35
Basa Blanco, Rueda, Telmo Rodríguez 2022, 13%	SW0108B22	11.68
Rioja Vega Tempranillo Blanco, Rioja 2022, 13.5% Vg	SW0109B22	12.22
Gancedo Godello, Vino de Altura, Bierzo 2022, 13.5% Vg 💅 NEW	SW0113B22	12.49
Bernon Albariño, Rias Baixas, Bodegas Aquitania 2022, 12.5% Vg	SW0097B22	12.93
Lagar de Cervera Albariño, Rias Baixas 2022, 13.5%	SW0008B22	14.30
Pasotismo Blanco, Somontano 2021, 11.5% 🛡	SW0110B21	16.51
Fransola, Sauvignon Blanc, Penedès, Familia Torres 2021, 13.5%	SW0089B21	20.37

#### **SWEET**

Spanish sweet whites, mostly made from Muscat or Moscatel, are usually fortified to 15% in the same style as you'll find in the South of France. Occasionally, and particularly in Navarra, you may find a sweet Chardonnay, not usually fortified but made in a late-harvest style.

Príncipe de Viana Vendimia Tardia, Late Harvest Chardonnay, Navarra 2019 - 50cl, 14% SS0005C19

# 12.5

# Portugal

Portugal is a bit of a 'vinous paradise' these days. If you're looking for a new angle to your enjoyment of wine, it must be one of the best countries to explore, mixing a long winemaking history with a willingness to embrace modern technology. It is such a fascinating country, stuffed with interesting, deep-coloured reds and exhilarating, well-crafted whites. We champion **Douro Valley** reds, certainly a 'must taste' for claret enthusiasts, as these wines are full of silky, dark fruit with great ageing potential. The southern **Alentejo** region has been performing superbly, garnering plenty of followers. They are such good value in the scheme of things! Crisp white **Vinho Verde** is making a well-deserved come back and you should also try the wines from Lisbon and its surrounding areas, now labelled as Vinhos de Lisboa. We've also found a great producer in the Algarve, proving it's not just a holiday destination!

#### RED

# Mid & South

From Dão to the Alentejo, this section of Portugal is home to many interesting, well-priced

# Douro Vintage Guide

The most recent vintage, 2023, saw more balance and freshness as the climate was not as hot as its predecessor when 2022 saw temperatures hitting 47°C giving great concentration and power. In contrast 2021 was a gentler season without excessive heat that has delivered aromatic wines with freshness and elegance as well as depth. Plenty of rainfall in the first part of 2020 set up the vineyards perfectly to weather the heatwave in the summer giving small yields of deeply concentrated wines. In 2019 Portugal escaped the heatwave of the rest of Europe meaning the wines are wonderfully aromatic and elegant. Tiny yields for the second year in a row in 2018, after the previous year's drought finally broke in spectacular fashion. Heavy rain caused soil erosion and hail was also a problem. A hot summer saved what was left in terms of quality but could not make up for the yields already lost. 2017 proved to be a hot, dry year with one of the earliest harvests on record and yields down about 35% but the quality is very good for table wine. 2016 was a complex but ultimately satisfying year with a wet winter followed by a summer that was drier and warmer than usual; the resulting wines show great balance and concentration in both red and white. 2015 was excellent and reds and whites have depth and concentration. Cooler conditions in 2014 produced some of the best whites yet. After a slow start, 2013 gave high quality wines in the end, drinking well now.



wines. Winemaking technology here has improved in leaps and bounds, and winemakers such as J P Ramos and the Symington family, with their new installation in sub-region Portalegre, have taken to blending high-quality indigenous varieties like Touriga Nacional, Alfrocheiro and Baga with Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah to excellent effect. The Algarve also has some good pockets of winemaking and we've unearthed a bit of a gem in Quinta do Francês near the Odelouca River whose wines you may encounter in the top restaurants of the region.

Terra de Lobos Castelão/Cabernet Sauvignon, Tejo, Casal Branco 2021, 13.5% ♥	PR0037B21	7.88
Gandarada Tinto, Dão 2019, 13% Vg	PR0071B19	8.97
Smart Dog Syrah/Trincadeira, Alentejo, J P Ramos 2022, 13.5% Vg	PR0072B22	9.15
Odelouca, Black Label, Quinta do Francês, Algarve 2021, 13.5%	PR0096B21	11.32
Quinta do Francês, Odelouca River Valley, Algarve 2019, 13.5% ♦	PR0097B19	16.81
Quinta do Francês Syrah, Terraços, Algarve 2021, 14%	PR0098B21	26.63

#### Douro

The Douro Valley has emerged as one of the most exciting quality wine regions of the world of recent times. The area is capable of producing great, age-worthy red wines on a par with Bordeaux, Barolo and Australian reds of high repute. In good hands, all the class of fine Port grapes is, with judicious handling, transferred into fabulous bottles of red wine. Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz (aka Tempranillo) are the leading grapes. Wines made for us, including Tanners Douro, at the Duorum Project in Douro Superior are dynamic and simply delicious. Not far, away we have recently picked up the excellent range from Carvalho Martins, full of freshness and life, while the Symington family of Dow's, Warre's, Graham's fame, have invested in very ecologically sustainable table wine production. Husband and wife, Jorge Borges and Sandra Tavares, at Wine + Soul make super reds while Dirk Niepoort nowadays concentrates more on his bewitching reds than his Ports.

Tanners Douro Red 2020, 13.5% † ♦	PR0005B20	8.67
Tons de Duorum, Douro Tinto 2021, 14%	PR0044B21	9.08
Altano Douro Red, Symington 2021, 13.5%	PR0900B21	9.71
Altano Naturalmente, Organic Douro Tinto, Symington 2021, 13.5% Vg <b>S</b> ′	PR0038B21	10.76
Pacto Palhete, Douro Tinto, Carvalho Martins 2022, 12.5% NEW	PR0099B22	11.01
Churchill's Estates Grafite Tinto, Douro 2020, 13.5%	PR0002B20	14.09
Manoella, Douro Tinto, Wine & Soul 2021, 13.5% †	PR0067B21	14.98
Golpe Reserva, Douro Tinto, Carvalho Martins 2019, 14%	PR0100B19	16.51
VZ, Douro Red, Van Zellers & Co 2019, 14%	PR0106B19	19.51
Redoma, Douro Tinto, Niepoort 2020, 12% Vg	PR0015B20	33.15

# ROSÉ

The Portuguese climate makes for very appealing dry rosés which are easy foils for the straightforward lunches enjoyed all over Portugal, often on the veranda in the heat of the afternoon.

# DRY WHITE

Fresh, spritzy, dry Vinho Verde is making a comeback. Although this is a style of wine, made red or white but referring to their tart, slightly 'green' crispness, it is white wines that you are more likely to encounter. Steely, 'sour-plum' flavoured white grapes like Loureiro are a joy to drink and partner perfectly with the rustic, often fish-based cuisine of this coastal region. The Douro whites from Churchill's, Carvalho Martins and Duorum are from the even less familiar varieties such as Gouveio, Roupeiro, Rabigato and Viosinho, but the results are fresh and full of character. The whites of Mid & South Portugal show a delicious, full-flavoured style with Encruzado and Arinto as the main components of some world-beating white wines.

Vidigal, Vinho Verde 2022, 9.5%	PW0029B22	7.29
Terra de Lobos Fernão Pires/Sauvignon Blanc, Tejo, Casal Branco 2022, 12%	PW0003B22	8.30
Vinho Verde, Loureiro, João Portugal Ramos 2022, 12.5%	PW0046B22	8.60
Tons de Duorum, Douro Branco 2023, 12.5% †	PW0028B23	9.08
Altano, Douro Branco 2022, 12.5% Vg	PW0035B22	9.96

# Italy Vintage Guide

Last year's vintage, 2023, proved complicated, good in the north but in central and southern regions, more tricky resulting in one of the smallest vintages of recent years. A dry winter followed by a hot summer has certainly affected yields in 2022, but the quality looks excellent across the country. Small but perfectly formed seems to sum up the 2021 vintage here. Across most of the country the 2020 vintage is looking very good indeed with ripe fruit and lovely aromatics. A classic if not straight forward vintage 2019 has delivered some excellent wines but in smaller quantity. Overall, the results are very good in 2018, though a warm wet early summer led to disease pressures in many parts of the country. The Northeast, home to Prosecco amongst others did particularly well; so too did Tuscany and Piedmont but yields were a little down in some estates. 2017 saw a small crop of excellent wines; spring frosts and a later heatwave nicknamed 'Lucifer' reduced yields, but you'll find good results on the whole with excellent results in Piedmont. Yields were down in 2016 but quality is high, Piedmont and Tuscany at least as good as 2015. 2015 is generally an excellent vintage across Italy, perhaps reds having the edge over whites.

Golpe, Douro Branco, Carvalho Martins 2022, 12.5% NEW	PW0062B22	11.73
Duorum Colheita, Douro Branco 2021, 12.5%	PW0038B21	13.14
Churchill's Estates Grafite Branco, Douro 2021, 12%	PW0032B21	13.74
Manoella, Douro Branco, Wine & Soul 2020, 12.5%	PW0050B20	14.91
Golpe Reserva, Douro Branco, Carvalho Martins 2022, 13%	PW0054B22	15.18
lanthis Chardonnay, Quinta do Francês, Algarve 2020, 13.5% NEW	PW0053B20	16.81
VZ, Douro White, Van Zellers & Co 2022, 12%	PW0061B22	19.51
Redoma, Douro Branco, Niepoort 2021, 11.5% Vg	PW0030B21	19.16
Familia Carvalho Martins Branco, Douro Meda 2019, 13%	PW0056B19	49.59

# Italy

Italy is a lanky country with its northernmost vineyards being on the same latitude as Cognac and southernmost level with Malaga in Spain. It's a complex country wine-wise so here is a whistle stop tour. As far as great reds go, the star players in Piedmont are Barolo and Barbaresco made from Nebbiolo grapes. Tuscany fields players such as Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano – all made from Sangiovese – to add to its line-up of Supertuscans from French varieties. Primitivo, Negroamaro, Nero d'Avola and Nerello Mascalese feature in the South. Exploring the whites, there is so much more to discover than budget Pinot Grigio! Gavi, Friuli and Soave should be remembered in the North, but the South is an equally good source of richer, silkier wines made from grapes such as Fiano and Greco. From the middle are the old favourites, but much-improved Vernaccia di San Gimignano and Verdicchio.

# DRY WHITE

# Northern Italy

Most of Italy's finest whites come from the North of the country, particularly the states of Veneto, Alto-Adige and Friuli-Venezia Giulia from where we have introduced the fragrant wines of Fernanda Cappello; her vines grow on the poor alluvial soils of Grave del Friuli against a spectacular backdrop of the Dolomites. They are better value than those of nearby Colli Orientali and Collio. The Soave and Lugana regions are situated near Verona, and just to the north of the city on Lake Garda, the Zeni family make super examples. Just by Venice is Luca Botter who makes the excellent value Amanti range for us. We are delighted to have wines of Tiefenbrunner in the South Tirol back in the list. Now run by 5th generation Christof and Sabine Tiefenbrunner, the estate remains dedicated to making wines of the highest quality from Alpine vineyards at altitudes from 250 metres up to 1000. The two Tibaldi sisters make beautiful, modern style whites from family vineyards in the Roero district of Piedmont. Cortese is one of the best white grapes of Piedmont and reaches its zenith in Gavi di Gavi. We've tasted many but few come close to the greengage fruit of the small La Chiara estate.

Amori Pinot Grigio, delle Venezie 2022, II% Vg

IW0063B22

7.33

Amanti del Vino Trebbiano, Rubicone IGT 2022, I 2% 🐠	IW0046B22	7.35
II Palù Pinot Grigio, Friuli Grave 2022, 12.5%	IW0065B22	8.70
Soave Classico, Zeni 2022, 12.5%	IW0009B22	9.59
Fernanda Cappello Friulano, Friuli Grave 2021, 12.5%	IW0060B2I	9.88
Fernanda Cappello Sauvignon, Friuli Grave 2021, 12.5%	IW0062B2I	10.35
Fernanda Cappello Traminer Aromatico, Friuli Grave 2022, 13.5%	IW0061B22	10.76
Tiefenbrunner Merus Pinot Grigio, Alto Adige 2022, 13.5%	IW0177B22	13.26
Tiefenbrunner Merus Müller-Thurgau, Alto Adige 2022, 13%	IW0178B22	13.70
Lugana, Vigne Alte, Zeni 2022, 13.5%	IW0015B22	13.74
Gavi del Comune di Gavi, La Chiara 2022, 13% Vg	IW0020B22	14.14
Tiefenbrunner Merus Gewürztraminer, Alto Adige 2022, 14%	IW0179B22	14.98
Roero Arneis, Tibaldi 2022, 13.5% Vg	IW0172B22	15.53
Il Fiore, Langhe Bianco DOC, Serra dei Fiori 2022, 13%	IW0021B22	15.98
Favorita Langhe, Tibaldi 2022, 13.5% Vg	IW0171B22	17.04

# Umbria & Mid Italy

Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi is the classic fish wine of the Marche on the Adriatic coast whereas Orvieto is a more nutty white from Umbria where Marchesi Antinori own the Castello della Sala estate; Santa Cristina is a sub-brand. Tenuta del Priore is situated in the hills inland from Pescara and is now run by Fabrizio Mazzocchetti, son of one of the founders. His emphasis is on indigenous grapes grown at higher altitudes with the Campotino label being used for earlier drinking, fruit-driven wines and Col del Mondo label employed for his more concentrated, structured wines.

Amanti del Vino Pinot Grigio 2023, 11% Vg	IW0010B23	7.42
Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico, Pontemagno 2022, 13%	IW0051B22	8.12
Campotino, Abruzzo Bianco, Tenuta del Priore 2023, 13.5%	IW0165B23	9.77
Campotino Pecorino, Colline Pescaresi, Tenuta del Priore 2022, 14%	IW0168B22	9.96
Col del Mondo 'Sunnae', Abruzzo Bianco 2022, 13.5%	IW0166B22	11.42
Orvieto Classico, Campogrande, Santa Cristina 2022, 12%	IW0025B22	12.35

# Southern Italy

Some of Italy's fullest and most interesting whites come from the steep, volcanic slopes of the Apennines: Fiano at Avellino and Greco at Tufo in Campania. The Mastroberardino family's Terredora vineyards excel at these, along with fine Lacryma Christi from Mt. Vesuvius. A long hunt for a Falanghina has turned up a great example from La Guardiense, a go-ahead co-operative north-east of Naples. Please see the red section for a note about the wines of Alovini across the border in Basilicata.

Falanghina del Sannio, Fremondo 2022, 12.5%	IW0169B22	8.54
Carlomagno Fiano, Puglia 2022, 12.5%	IW0163B22	9.00
Le Ralle Greco, Basilicata, Alovini 2022, 13%	IW0029B22	11.08



Greco di Tufo, Loggia della Serra, Terredora Di Paolo 2022, 12.5%	IW0031B22		15.62
Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio Bianco, Terredora Di Paolo 2022, 13%	IW0030B22	I	15.92
Fiano di Avellino, Terre Dora, Terredora Di Paolo 2021, 13%	IW0032B2I		18.57

## Sicily

Europe - Italy

The massive island of Sicily was the breadbasket of the ancient world and has plenty of space for wines. Stefano Girelli has useful contacts here for the production of the good value Preciso wines from the Vittoria area of southern Sicily. Bruno Fina's house and winery are spectacularly situated above Marsala with views over Mozia and the Egadi islands. Having worked on viticultural research for many years, he knows the right spots for international grapes and is aided by his children Marco, Sergio and Federica.

Preciso Grillo, Terre Siciliane 2022, 12.5% Vg	IW0057B22	7.94
Preciso Pinot Grigio, Terre Siciliane 2022, 12% Vg	IW0056B22	8.06
Fina 'Kebrilla' Grillo, Sicilia 2022 (organic), 13.5% 🥩	IW0034B22	10.80
Fina 'Vola Vola' Viognier, Sicilia 2022, 13%	IW0035B22	12.08

### Sardinia

Vermentino is the grape of the shores of the Tyrrhenian Sea including Sardinia where, in the south-west corner, family-owned **Melis** makes a great example.

Vermentino di Sardegna, Melis 2021, 13.5%	IW0059B21	11.15
verificitio di Sardegna, Melis 2021, 13.3%	1440037021	11.13

#### **SWEET**

#### Italian Vendemmia Tardiva Wine

As far as late-harvest and *muffia nobile* (botrytis) wines goes, Italy has some rare gems as well as wines from grapes dried on mats and 'cooked' in barrels in lofts such as Tuscan Vin Santo. Please see the 'Other Fortifieds' section for the Marsalas from the Lombardo family.

El Aziz, Vendemmia Tardiva, Sicilia, Fina - 50cl, 14%	IS0001C	14.64
Vin Santo del Chianti, Geografico 2014, 16%	0005B14	18.97

#### ROSÉ

Pinot Grigio is a pinkish-hued grape so if you leave the juice on the skins for a while you can achieve a pretty pink colour.

Amori Pinot Grigio Blush, Venezie 2022, 11% Vg	IP0005B22	7.33
Amanti del Vino Pinot Grigio Rosato, Terre Siciliane 2023. I 1% Vg	IP0004B23	7.42

#### **RED**

## Veneto & NE Italy

In Verona, Bologna, Venice and Trieste there are plenty of people in need of red wine, so vineyards abound, making some of the country's most elegant reds. Next door in Veneto

you will find extremely drinkable reds: Valpolicella and Bardolino from the Zeni family who also have a charming wine museum above the shores of Lake Garda. Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso is a typical grape of the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region. To the northeast of Milan close to the Swiss border, Valtellina is part of Lombardy and is another outlier for Nebbiolo, known here as Chiavennasca.

Amanti del Vino Sangiovese, Rubicone 2022, 12% 🐠	IR0095B22		7.42
Bardolino Classico, Zeni 2022, 12.5%	IR0005B22		9.59
Fernanda Cappello, Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso, Friuli Grave 2022, 13%	IR0161B22	i	9.96
Valpolicella, Zeni 2022, 12.5%	IR0008B22		10.94
Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore, Marogne, Zeni 2021, 14%	IR0006B21		16.51
Tiefenbrunner Turmhof Lagrein, Alto Adige 2021, 13.5%	IR0214B21		18.57
Tiefenbrunner Turmhof Blauburgunder, Alto Adige 2021, 14%	IR0215B21		18.57
Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, Vigne Alte, Zeni 2018, 16%	IR0011B18		33.25
Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, Nino Zeni, Zeni 2016, 16%	IR0196B16		102.92

## Piedmont & NW Italy

The great red wine-producing area of Piedmont (Piemonte) is centred on Alba, the truffle capital of Italy and also the home of some of Italy's best cooking, therefore providing many an interesting wine and food match. Creamy pastas are often the order of the day here, cut through by the tannins and acidity of wines such as Barbera, Dolcetto, Barolo and Barbaresco. The Barolo region is extremely hilly in the southern part near Monforte d'Alba and here you will find the Paolo Conterno estate. Run by energetic Giorgio Conterno, they cultivate just 7 Ha of vines including in nearby Ginestra, one of the most famous 'cru' vineyards of Barolo. Artisan and family-owned, Crissante Alessandria makes pretty, almost ethereal Barolos from top 'cru' vineyards in the shadow of La Morra. Fratelli Serio & Battista Borgogno is a family operation whose winery crowns the hill of Cannubi, one of the most famous 'crus' of Barolo. Eugenio Bocchino makes a super range of wines from seven vineyards in the district, some with dachshund-adorned labels! Aldo Manfredi runs a larger, family estate with stunning views of the Alps from their hilltop winery above in Dogliani. Our most recent addition is Fratelli Alessandria, an estate that has quietly transformed itself over the past twenty years to now rival some of the great names in Piedmont. The 12 Ha estate based in Verduno is run by Vittore Battista, alongside his uncle Alessandro and parents Flavia & Gian. Moving to Barbaresco, whose wines can be prettier and more immediate than Barolo, and none more so than those of Renato Fenocchio. Coming from 11 tiny, steep vineyards, they are very pure expressions of his vines. Roagna at Barbaresco is a traditional family estate with a modern touch making superlative Barbaresco and Barolo (find them on our Oddments List). Daniela and Monica Tibaldi make fruitfilled reds from family vineyards in the Roero district which is just across the Tanaro river from Barolo. Roero deserves to stand alongside Barolo and Barbaresco in stature.

Dolcetto d'Alba, Crissante 2022, 13% Vg	IR0174B22	14.0
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Dolcetto d'Alba, Fratelli Serio e Battista Borgogno 2022, 13% Vg	IR0177B22		14.15
Dolcetto d'Alba, Renato Fenocchio 2021, 13%	IR0019B21		14.54
Barbera d'Alba, Tibaldi 2021, 14.5% Vg	IR0171B21		16.45
Langhe Nebbiolo, Tibaldi 2020, 14% Vg	IR0172B20		16.51
Langhe Nebbiolo, Fratelli Serio e Battista Borgogno 2022, 14.5% Vg	IR0178B22		16.68
Barolo, Manfredi 2019, 14% Vg	IR0025B19		20.99
Barbera d'Alba, La Ginestra, Paolo Conterno 2018, 15%	IR0194B18		22.33
Nebbiolo Langhe DOC, Roccabella, Eugenio Bocchino 2019, 13.5%	IR0106B19		22.60
Il Bacialé, Monferrato DOC,	IR0018B18		22.87
Rosso "Braida" di Giacomo Bologna 2018, 15.5% Vg			
Langhe Nebbiolo, Crissante 2020, 14.5% Vg	IR0175B20		23.00
Langhe Nebbiolo, Crissante 2021, 14.5% Vg	IR0175B21		23.00
Roero Roccapalea, Tibaldi 2019, 14% Vg	IR0173B19		23.31
Barbera d'Alba Superiore, Priora, Fratelli Alessandria 2020, 15%	IR0222B20		23.68
Nebbiolo Langhe, Renato Fenocchio 2021, 14% Vg	IR0182B21		23.76
Sixtus, Valtellina Superiore, Franzina 2019, 13.5%	IR0207B19		26.23
Barolo, Fratelli Serio e Battista Borgogno 2020, 14% Vg	IR0189B20		29.45
Barolo del Comune di La Morra, Crissante 2019, 14.5% Vg	IR0176B19		32.27
Barbaresco, Rombone, Renato Fenocchio 2019, 14% Vg	IR0022B19		34.64
Barolo del Comune di Verduno, Fratelli Alessandria 2018, 14.5%	IR0191B18		43.34
Barolo, Cannubi, Fratelli Serio e Battista Borgogno 2019, 14% Vg	IR0179B19		43.34
Barbaresco, Starderi, Renato Fenocchio 2019, 14.5% Vg	IR0183B19		44.17
Barolo, Riva del Bric, Paolo Conterno 2018, 15%	IR0028B18		44.17
Barolo, Lu, Eugenio Bocchino 2017, 14.5%	IR0026B17		47.50
Barolo, Galina, Crissante 2018, 14.5% Vg	IR0211B18		52.50
Barolo, Capalot, Crissante 2018, 14.5% Vg	IR0210B18		52.50
Bricco della Bigotta, Barbera d'Asti, "Braida" 2019, 16%	IR0032B19	-	53.34
Barolo, Gramolere, Fratelli Alessandria 2018, 14.5%	IR0192B18		60.00
Barolo, Ginestra, Paolo Conterno 2016, 15.5% Vg	IR0029B16		70.00

## Chianti & Tuscany

Tuscany is principally known for its aristocratic red wines. They run from the humblest Chianti – brimming with bright cherry fruit – to the rich, dense wines of Brunello di Montalcino. At the heart of Tuscany is hilly Chianti Classico and at its centre is an area known as the Conca d'Oro, shell-shaped due to its spurs of land. Giampaolo Motta's La Massa estate occupies one of these with densely planted Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet vines. Higher up in the forested hills above Gaiole-in-Chianti, Riecine makes very fine, svelte wines which have a great sense of place. Delicious Chianti from the Geografico cooperative and wines from Florentine dynasty, Marchesi Antinori, further add to our range. Skipping south of Siena to Montalcino, you will find the brilliant wines of astrology expert

Giugi Sesti and his daughter Elisa at picturesque **Castello di Argiano** which have a great following among our customers. **Vino Nobile di Montepulciano** comes from about 20 miles east, and the **Barbanera** family are a good source of this and Chianti too under the **Duca di Saragnano** label.

Chianti Colli Senesi, Borgo Alla Terra, Geografico 2022, 13% †	IR0195B22	9.46
Chianti, Duca di Saragnano 2022, 13%	IR0104B22	9.63
Rosso di Montepulciano, Duca di Saragnano 2021, 13%	IR0109B21	9.96
Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, Duca di Saragnano 2019, 13.5%	IR0110B19	14.54
Sesti 'Grangiovese', Toscana, Castello di Argiano 2021, 14.5% Vg	IR0035B21	15.67
Villa Antinori Rosso, Toscana 2020, 13.5% †	IR0036B20	17.71
Chianti Classico, Pèppoli, Antinori 2021, 13.5%	IR0107B21	19.50
Chianti Classico, Riecine 2022, 14%	IR0037B22	21.35
Rosso di Montalcino, Sesti, Castello di Argiano 2021, 14.5% Vg	IR0039B21	22.20
Le Difese, Toscana, Tenuta San Guido 2021, 14%	IR0165B21	22.36
Maremma Toscana, Val di Toro 2016, 14% Vg 💅	IR0162B16	22.60
La Massa, Toscana 2020, 14% Vg	IR0038B20	23.37
Chianti Classico Riserva, Riecine 2020, 14%	IR0042B20	29.18
Guidalberto, Toscana, Tenuta San Guido 2021, 13.5%	IR0041B21	44.17
Le Serre Nuove dell' Ornellaia, Bolgheri Rosso 2020, 14.5%	IR0090B20	53.34
Brunello di Montalcino, Sesti, Castello di Argiano 2017, 14.5% Vg	IR0047B17	60.00
Testamatta, Toscana, Bibi Graetz 2019, 14%	IR0184B19	65.84
Guado Al Tasso, Bolgheri Superiore, Marchesi Antinori 2020, 14.5%	IR0053B20	108.34

#### Supertuscans

Big silky Supertuscans rely on varying proportions of Bordeaux grapes – Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot – for their star appeal. **Bolgheri** is a newish DOC near the Tuscan coast and is famous for Tenuta San Guido (Sassicaia), Ornellaia and Masseto but there are Supertuscans now from all over Tuscany which are labelled as IGT Toscana, usually because they don't conform to the correct levels of Sangiovese.

Giorgio Primo, Toscana, La Massa 2018, 15.5%	IR0049B18		76.67
Tenuta dell' Ornellaia, La Proporzione, Bolgheri Superiore 2020, 14.5%	IR0051B20	_	183.34

## Umbria & Mid Italy

Abruzzo and Umbria are important states for red wine production. Over an earthquake prone part of the Apennines from Umbria, **Abruzzo** is home to the Montepulciano grape. The 700 grower-strong **Roxan** co-operative stands guard over the Pescara river valley. Please see the white section for a note on the super **Col del Mondo** and **Campotino** wines.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Voluntè 2022, 13.5% Vg	IR0115B22	8.09
Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Noi Cento, Roxan 2022, 13.5%	IR0808B22	9.27

## Southern Italy

Gloriously generous reds are the hallmarks of the warm South or 'Mezzogiorno' with its winemaking history going back to the time of the Ancient Greeks. The vineyard area of Puglia, the heel of Italy, is large, making it a significant producer on a world scale of both international varieties and, more interestingly, Negroamaro and Primitivo aka Zinfandel. Four Cantele family cousins now run the eponymous winery whose roots go back to 1907. In Basilicata, the seven-peaked, extinct volcano of Monte Vulture is the focal point for the Aglianico grape from which frenetic winemaker, Oronzo Alò of Alovini, coaxes brilliantly silky wines. Taurasi is the most famous red of Campania.

Amanti del Vino Primitivo, Salento 2022, 13% 🛡	IR0103B22	8.21
Carlomagno Primitivo Appassimento, Puglia 2022, 14% Vg	IR0920B22	9.38
Terra degli Eventi, Basilicata, Alovini 2021, 12.5%	IR0059B21	9.71
Cantele Negroamaro, Salento 2021, 13%	IR0118B21	10.94
Cantele Primitivo, Salento 2022, 14%	IR0119B22	11.08
Aglianico del Vulture, Le Ralle, Alovini 2019, 13%	IR0063B19	11.32
Salice Salentino Riserva, Cantele 2019, 13.5%	IR0117B19	11.58
Cabánico, Basilicata, Alovini 2021, 14%	IR0065B21	14.54
Taurasi, Fatica Contadina, Terredora Di Paolo 2015, 13.5%	IR0067B15	29.45

## Sicily

The slopes of volcanically active Mount Etna lend themselves to the fashionable reds made at Romeo del Castello from Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio grapes grown in between the lava flows, the last of which engulfed half of Chiara Vigo's estate when she was a child! Nero d'Avola is the most famous red grape of the island, in the right hands producing generous, fruity reds.

Fina Nero d'Avola, Sicilia 2022, 13.5% 🥩	IR0070B22	10.84
Allegracore, Etna Rosso, Fattorie Romeo del Castello 2019, 13.5%	IR0127B19	23.41

#### Sardinia

The Mediterranean's second largest island is a significant producer of wine. Many of these are made from local clones of western Mediterranean grape varieties also found in Tuscany, Spain, South of France and Corsica. Flavio Melis and French winemaker, Lucien Andrei, work principally with these regional varieties which have interesting synonyms such as Bovale Sardo (the books say it is Graciano, they say it is Mourvèdre), Bovale Grande (Carignan) and Cannonau (Grenache). We are bringing over small quantities of richly fruited wines from Enrico Esu, also in the south-west of the island. Originally shepherds, the Esu family have 10 Ha of ungrafted Carignano vines planted by Enrico's father Silvio in 1958.

Melis Bovale, Isola dei Nuraghi 2021, 13.5% Seruci, Carignano del Sulcis Riserva, Enrico Esu 2018, 15%

IR0202B18

# Germany

The changes to the UK duty system coming into effect this August will benefit Germany, with their generally lower alcohol wines, more than any other major wine producing country and hopefully will encourage you to experience the great range of wines produced there.



The classic light, off dry, low alcohol, refreshing style epitomised by Mosel Riesling Kabinett is still very much there but there are

also large numbers of crisp, dry, mineral Rieslings and fuller bodied wines from further south, particularly in areas such as Baden where there is very little Riesling and an increasing number of top-quality reds such as Pinot Noir. Full sweet wines are still made, although in smaller quantities and Eiswein has become particularly rare due to winter temperatures not being cold enough.

The Mosel is the classic area for elegant, balanced, off-dry Rieslings from its steep, slatey slopes. Appellation-wise it now includes the tributaries of the Saar and Ruwer. Try a floral Wehlener Kabinett for a great introduction to this style and then contrast it with a Kabinett from the deeper soils of Piesport's Goldtröpfchen to appreciate the difference a few miles make. Brilliant wines – full of white pear fruit – are produced in the Saar Valley from lesserknown vineyards in Wiltingen and Oberemmel. Back on the Middle Mosel, Braunebergers are full and slatey then one goes down the river through Bernkastel to the very fine wines of Graach. Finally, the vertiginous slopes of Erden and Urzig - Prälat, Treppchen and Würzgarten – produce some tremendous wines, both dry and sweet.

Along the Rhine, the Rheingau is where the importance of late harvesting Riesling was first discovered. The story goes that the proclamation announcing the start of the harvest was delayed. For many years production was dominated by a small number of underperforming larger producers, but things are now looking up again. Round, full-flavoured wines are made on mostly gentle slopes going down to the Rhine. The River Nahe actually rises in the Hunsrück hills and flows northwards, away from France, through rocky escarpments before flowing into the Rhine at Bingen.

## MOSEL WHITE

## Mosel Dry/Trocken

To our mind the Mosel is more suited to off-dry wines which give better balance, but many producers make excellent dry wines, particularly from 'grand cru' sites which have the benefit of extra degrees of ripeness.

Goldschild Riesling Trocken, Moselland, Saar 2022, 12.5% Blauschiefer Riesling Trocken, Kerpen, Mosel 2022, 11.5%

GW0167B22 GW0168B22

10.66 11.20

Piesporter Riesling Trocken, Hain, Mosel 2022, 11.5%	GW0185B22	11.66
Devon-Schiefer Riesling Trocken, Meulenhof, Mosel 2021, 12%	GW0143B21	12.13

## Mosel Off-Dry/Halbtrocken

'Feinherb' is the new word for Halbtrocken, as being 'half something' was not thought to be positive! Generally it is a term for a drier Kabinett.

Mülheimer Sonnenlay Riesling Kabinett Feinherb, Richter, Mosel 2021, 9.5%	GW0068B21	15.86
Graacher Riesling Feinherb, Willi Schaefer, Mosel 2022, 11%	GW0182B22	18.77

## Mosel Fruity/Fruchtig

Classically fruity Kabinett styles are becoming less popular in Germany, but a peachy Piesporter such as that produced by Gernot Hain, a slatey Wehlener from Martin Kerpen, a limey Saar or an elegant Ruwer wine still take some beating. Christoph Schaefer has taken over from his father Willi and continues to make wonderful wines in the tiny cellars under their house which are on allocation the world over.

Piesporter Michelsberg, Moselland 2022, 8.5%	GW0057B22	7.30
Moselland Riesling Kabinett, Mosel 2022, 8%	GW0001B22	7.60

## Germany Vintage Guide

A tricky 2023 vintage where the dedication of the grower had a big impact, the resultant wines are very good for those that did the graft. The warmest year on record, 2022 has produced some super results. The wines of 2021 are lighter in style and more aromatic with evident acidity compared with the previous two vintages. 2020 saw a warm summer, giving ripeness, while a prolonged harvest has given freshness and perfect quality fruit. The 2019s show wonderful rapier-like style, good weight and depth, yields are lower than the generous 2018 vintage. "A glorious vintage" said one grower, amongst many superlatives bandied about for 2018. For the first time in 10 years growers were truly happy with the quantity and the quality. The resulting wines are pure, rich, aromatic, and show a fine acidity. An early harvest following frost earlier in the season meant 2017 produced excellent light, fruity wines with great finesse. Weather conditions were tricky in 2016 and growers had to earn their stripes; the early season was wet, which reduced yields, followed by a hot summer with cool nights bringing excellent aromatics but with wines a little lighter than 2015. The brilliant 2015 vintage took place in ideal conditions and produced wonderfully ripe wines in all styles. Kabinetts are a bit short in quantity, but the dry wines especially are very approachable. 2014 saw a good crop of light, well-balanced wines with well-integrated acidity.

Moselland Riesling Spätlese, Mosel 2022, 8.5%	GW0076B22	8.44
Dr Loosen Fruity Riesling, Mosel 2022, 8.5% †	GW0140B22	10.16
Goldschild Riesling Spätlese, Müdener Funkenberg, Moselland 2022, 7.5% Vg	GW0163B22	10.64
Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett, Meulenhof, Mosel 2021, 9.5%	GW0064B21	11.48
Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett, Kerpen, Mosel 2021, 8%	GW0066B21	11.68
Piesporter Goldtropfchen Kabinett, Hain, Mosel 2022, 8%	GW0067B22	11.78
Riesling Classic, Max Ferd. Richter, Mosel 2022, 11.5%	GW0188B22	13.84
Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese, Meulenhof, Mosel 2021, 8%	GW0078B21	14.30
Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese, Hain, Mosel 2022, 8%	GW0085B22	15.31
Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett, Max Ferd. Richter, Mosel 2022, 7.5% Vg	GW0069B22	15.52
Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese, M F Richter, Mosel 2022, 7.5% Vg	GW0082B22	18.88
Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett, Willi Schaefer, Mosel 2022, 7.5%	GW0071B22	23.66
Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese #05, Willi Schaefer, Mosel 2022, 7.5% Vg	GW0088B22	35.70

#### Mosel Sweet/Edel

You will also find a full range of sweeter styles from Spätlese through Auslese right up to Eiswein and Trockenbeerenauslese (TBA) produced in tiny quantities by dedicated growers although warmer winters are making the production of Eiswein more difficult, even for such practised producers such as Weingut Max Ferd. Richter. Stefan Justen of Weingut Meulenhof uses the great vineyards of Erden to maximum effect with sublime late-picked Rieslings.

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese*, Kerpen, Mosel 2021, 7.5%	GS0023B21		18.48
Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese, Max Ferd Richter, Mosel 2022, 7%	GS0027B22	/	26.06
Urziger Würzgarten Beerenauslese, Dr. Loosen, Mosel 2005 - Half, 6%	GS0055H05		100.00

# RHINELAND WHITE Rhineland Dry/Trocken

South of the Rheingau are the large areas of the Hessen and Pfalz where much of the bulk wine came from but is now increasingly given over to quality dry whites. The new kids on the block in the Pfalz are the Rings brothers, fast tracked to the prestigious VdP organisation, with their fine, dry Rieslings from vineyards around Freinsheim. Geographically the Nahe is in the middle between the Mosel and the Rheinhessen and its wines have elements of both. Dönnhoff is the leading grower with spicy and slatey wines from the complex terroirs around Schlossböckelheim, Kreuznach, Niederhausen and Oberhausen. The area of Baden is the southernmost in Germany with its best area being the Kaiserstuhl, an extinct volcano

rising from the valley floor opposite Colmar in Alsace. There are more Pinot varieties than Riesling here and Konrad **Salwey** makes full-flavoured, dry wines from these.

Niesteiner Riesling Trocken Dry, Rheinhessen 2022, 12%	GW0015B22	8.53
Villa Wolf Pinot Gris, Ernst Loosen, Pfalz 2022, 12.5%	GW0904B22	11.64
Salwey Pinot Blanc, Kaiserstuhl, Baden 2019, 12.5% Vg	GW0018B19	13.50
Hochheimer Guts Riesling Trocken, Domdechant Werner, Rheingau 2021, 12.5%	GW0152B21	14.87
Riesling Trocken, Rings, Pfalz 2022, 12% 🚭	GW0156B22	14.98
Dönnhoff Riesling Dry, Nahe 2022, 11.5%	GW0132B22	17.37
Jacobus Dry Riesling Trocken, Peter Jakob Kühn, Rheingau 2022, 12% Vg 🕏	GW0125B22	17.42
Dönnhoff Tonschiefer Riesling, Dry Slate, Nahe 2022, 12%	GW0126B22	19.34
Nierstein Riesling Dry Gunderloch, Rheinhessen 2022, 12.5%	GW0197B22	20.27
Kallstadt Riesling Trocken, Rings, Pfalz 2022, 12% 🗳	GW0186B22	22.20
Oestricher Klosterberg Erste Lage, Peter Jakob Kühn, Rheingau 2021, 12% Vg €	GW0148B21	25.78
Hallgartener Hendelberg Erste Lage, Peter Jakob Kühn, Rheingau 2021, 12% Vg 🕏	GW0187B21	26.58
Roxheimer Höllenpfad Riesling Trocken, Dönnhoff, Nahe 2022, 12%	GW0155B22	26.58
Ungsteiner Nussriegel Riesling Trocken, Rings, Pfalz 2022, 12.5%	GW0158B22	29.45
St Nikolaus Grosses Gewächs, Peter Jakob Kühn, Rheingau 2021, 12% Vg 🕏	GW0201B21	41.63
Doosberg Grosse Lage, Peter Jakob Kühn, Rheingau 2021, 12% Vg 🕻	GW0190B21	44.17
Rothenberg Riesling Grosses Gewächs, Gunderloch, Rheinhessen 2021, 12%	GW0198B21	51.67
Höllenpfad im Mühlberg, Grosses Gewächs, Dönnhoff, Nahe 2022, 13%	GW0196B22	51.67
Rothenberg Riesling Grosses Gewächs, Gunderloch, Rheinhessen 2022, 12%	GW0198B22	53.34

## Rhineland Off-Dry/Halbtrocken

Jean Baptiste Riesling Kabinett, Gunderloch, Rheinhessen 2021, 10% GW0037B21	16.03
Jean Baptiste Riesling Kabinett, Gunderloch, Rheinhessen 2022, 10.5% GW0037B22	16.07
Niederhäuser Klamm Riesling Kabinett, Dönnhoff, Nahe 2022, 8.5% GW0195B22	19.03

## Rhineland Fruity/Fruchtig

The warmer climate of the **Rheingau** gives fuller and richer wines but still with wonderful balance as Franz Michel of **Domdechant Werner** demonstrates at Hochheim. Further west, at Oestrich, the **Kühn** family make intense and full wines using biodynamic methods.

Hochheimer Riesling Kabinett, Domdechant Werner,
Rheingau 2021, 9.5%

	Lenchen Riesling Kabinett, Peter Jakob Kühn, Rheingau 2021, 10% Vg €	GW0036B21	19.24
	Lenchen Riesling Kabinett, Peter Jakob Kühn, Rheingau 2022, 8.5% ∨g €	GW0036B22	19.34
	Oberhäuser Leistenberg Riesling Kabinett, Dönnhoff, Nahe 2022, $8.5\%$	GW0038B22	20.10
	Hochheimer Hölle Riesling Spätlese, Domdechant Werner, Rheingau 2022, 8.5%	GW0181B22	22.16
•	Nackenheimer Rothenberg Riesling Spätlese, Gunderloch, Rheinhessen 2021, 7.5%	GW0118B21	25.71
	Lenchen Riesling Spätlese, Peter Jakob Kühn, Rheingau 2022, 8% Vg ${\bf \P}$	GW0042B22	27.00
	Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Spätlese, Dönnhoff, Nahe 2022, 7.5%	GW0200B22	35.44

#### Rhineland Sweet/Edel

These gloriously rich wines are made in tiny quantities on rare occasions these days.

Kurfürst Karl Kaspar Auslese, Nahe 2022, 8.5%	GS0001B22	8.13
Nackenheimer Rothenberg Riesling Auslese, Gunderloch, Rheinhessen 2021 - Half, 7.5%	GS0060H21	<b>24.07</b>
Oestricher Lenchen Riesling Auslese, P J Kühn, Rheingau 2021 - Half, 7.5% €	GS0011H21	<b>✓</b> 35.82
Laumersheimer Kapellenberg Riesling TBA, Knipser, Pfotz 2003 - Half 7%	GS0067H03	/ 125.00

#### RED

N**orthern Europe -** Germany & Austria

Growers such as Konrad Salwey in the Kaiserstuhl look to Burgundy for their inspiration for their Spätburgunders (Pinot Noirs) and the quality in recent years has improved dramatically. The deep-coloured Dornfelder grape can make easy, accessible wines such as that from the Rietburg co-operative.

Rietburg Dornfelder, Pfalz 2022, 11.5%	GR0010B22	8.29
Salwey Spätburgunder, Kaiserstuhl, Baden 2021, 13% Vg	GR0001B21	15.80

# Austria

We're constantly amazed by the consistently excellent quality of Austrian wines across all the many styles that they produce. It helps that the signature grape variety, Grüner Veltliner makes a distinctive clean and fresh style with a peppery touch. This single-minded pursuit is further aided by a dynamic marketing body, sustainable viticulture and the avoidance of fruity, medium Germanic styles of white. The west of Austria is good for skiing but too mountainous for proper wine production whereas the east of the country around Vienna has rolling land and a dry climate, making it ideal for vines. About two thirds of the plantings are white grapes and one third black grapes which make red wines with softness and body. And don't overlook the brilliant, sweet wines which are world class!

#### DRY WHITE

One grape, Grüner Veltliner, is almost synonymous with Austria and, whilst a bit of a mouthful to say, the wines can rival good Chardonnays and Sauvignon Blancs. It is perhaps the world's most underappreciated white grape variety! The large Weinviertel region (literally the 'wine quarter') satisfies Vienna's thirst for large amounts of spritzy, peppery Grüner Veltliner. Close to the Czech border, Wieland Baumgartner and his daughter Katharina run Austria's largest winery producing very consistent and great value wines. South towards the River Danube is the Kamptal region, based along the River Kampt and centred on the town of Langenlois. It has a great variety of soils – with loess and schist being particularly favoured – and slopes, many of which are steep and terraced. Nearby the Kremstal region straddles the Danube valley and is based on the imposing riverside town of Krems. Just south of the river, Marlies Hanke (née Müller) and her husband Florian, make delicious, characterful white wines from their 10 Ha estate Weingut Müller-Grossman. Travelling east up the Danube, the valley becomes more gorge-like and Riesling and Grüner Veltliner vines cling to sometimes precipitous slopes. This is the Wachau, the source of Austria's (and some of the world's) most expensive whites.

**Burgenland** is an important wine producing state south-east of Vienna where the climate is dry and more associated with the Pannonian plain in nearby Hungary. Within Burgenland, **Leithaberg** is a broad ridge and an important area for weighty Chardonnays, Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc), Grüner Veltliner and Neuburger. Down towards Slovenia, **Styria** (Steiermark in German) is arguably the world's most beautiful wine region and is home of the fresh, steely 'Styrian Classic' style, Sauvignon being its signature grape.

#### Niederösterreich

Estoras Chardonnay, Burgenland, Esterházy 2022, 12%

Feiler-Artinger Neuburger, Burgenland 2021, 13.5% C

Domäne Baumgartner Grüner Veltliner, Trocken, Weinviertel 2022, 13%	DW0056B22	9.55
Müller-Grossmann Grüner Veltliner, Satz Viertel, Kremstal 2022, 12%	DW0058B22	12.58
Schloss Gobelsburg Grüner Veltliner, Löss, Kamptal 2022, 12%	DW0064B22	14.00
Müller-Grossmann Riesling, Furth, Kremstal 2021, 12.5%	DW0066B21	14.57
Müller-Grossmann Grüner Veltliner, Silberbichl, Kremstal 2020, 13.5%	DW0059B20	21.50
Burgenland		

DW0044B22

DW0065B21

13.33

22.20

#### RED

Burgenland makes the best reds in Austria from its heavier, mineral-laden soils and warm climate, especially from the north-east end of the huge, shallow lake of Neusiedlersee near the villages of Gols and Mönchhof. Good reds also come from the Leithaberg area to the west of the lake, whilst the Weinviertel produces large amounts of fruity Zweigelt, a popular crossing of Blaufränkisch and St. Laurent. Blaufränkisch is a dark, fruity variety whereas St. Laurent is more in the mould of Pinot Noir, but a little more powerful. Pinot Noirs can



be highly successful and are now being made in a more elegant style as at the Esterházy Winery just outside Eisenstadt in Leithaberg. The palace of the Esterházy princes, where Joseph Haydn spent much time composing music, dominates the town and the former estates, vineyards included, are now held in a national trust.

Estoras Zweigelt, Burgenland, Esterházy 2019, 13%	DR0001B19	13.26
Estoras Pinot Noir, Burgenland, Esterházy 2021, 13%	DR0002B21	13.74
Feiler-Artinger Blaufränkisch, Umriss, Burgenland 2018, 13% €	DR0026B18	18.57

#### **SWEET**

The **sweet wines** produced in Burgenland around **Neusiedlersee** are some of the best in the world and are considerably cheaper than their German equivalents! This huge shallow lake – the town of Rust even has a large marina – gives ideal conditions for botrytis cinerea to work its magic. **Rust**, home to classic producer **Feiler-Artinger**, is on the west shore and has its own DAC (Districtus Austriae Controllatus!) whereas the east shore villages of Illmitz and Apetlon fall within Neusiedlersee DAC.

Esterházy Beerenauslese, Burgenland 2018 - Half, 10%	DS0024H18	10.87
W Baumgartner Eiswein Grüner Veltliner, Niederösterreich 2019 - Half, 9.5%	DS0025H19	20.70
Feiler-Artinger Ruster Ausbruch, Burgenland 2017 - Half, 12.5% €	DS0009H17	30.03

# Northern Europe

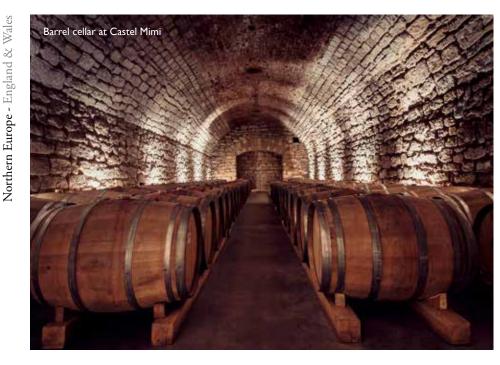
English and Welsh wines continue to go from strength to strength with not only the sparkling wines competing on equal terms with champagne but increasingly the still white wines making a case for international recognition and even a few top-quality reds appearing. The poor-quality wines of former communist Eastern Europe have now largely faded from the memory as wineries and vineyards have returned to private



hands, investment flowing into winemaking facilities has been crucial in improving quality. Romania is an example and is producing many excellent value varietal wines which can form a stepping stone to the top quality wines the country also makes. Hungary has a long wine tradition, not just from the famous Tokaj region, and to the north Slovakia produces a range of excellent wines with the Pinot Noir showing particular promise. Croatia makes a great range of wines, familiar to the many tourists in the region. The old Welschrizling of Yugoslav Riesling fame has been rebranded Graševina and makes a delightfully aromatic white.

## England

The success of English wines looks set to continue through finer autumns and interest in all





things local. **Sparkling** wines are at the forefront of this success and vineyards, especially on the chalky **South Downs**, are expanding and attracting considerable investment. **Nyetimber** is one of the oldest established and produces top quality wines from their original vineyards in Sussex and new plantings in Hampshire. Locally to Shrewsbury, the Stevens family are making impressive wines at their **Hencote** vineyards overlooking the town. Madeleine Angevine is by far our favourite grape variety for still wines, making, to our minds, the fullest and most balanced **whites**. Seyval Blanc is the most widely planted, followed by a host of other grapes led by Huxelrebe, which are all crossings specifically bred for cooler, wetter climates. Even **reds** in England are improving as varieties such as Triomphe and Rondo are giving some good results.

#### WHITE

While generally the best wines in England are sparkling (see the sparkling region for our range), there are some very good still **whites**, especially those that contain some Madeleine Angevine which gives almost Sauvignon-like aromas and flavours. **Sharpham**, on the Dart Valley estuary in Devon, make a particularly good example while the big Chapel Down vineyard in Kent produces the best oaked English wine we have tasted.

Three Choirs Estate Hand Harvested Willow Brook, English Regional Wine, 11% Vg	HW0075B22	9.87
Sharpham Dart Valley Reserve, English Quality Wine 2022, 11% Vg	HW0043B22	13.58
Rowton Solaris 2022, 13.5% Vg	HW0080B22	14.37
Hencote Vivienne White, English Regional Wine 2022, 12.5% NEW	HW0086B22	15.27
Chapel Down Kit's Coty Chardonnay, North Downs 2020, 12.5%	HW0070B20	30.26
ROSÉ		
Hencote Suzanne Rosé, English Regional Wine 2022, 11.5% NEW	HP0006B22	12.67

## Wales

Welsh vineyards are small in number and struggle with the slightly wet climate, but there are some great successes. Ancre Hill near Monmouth is in full biodynamic production and expanding rapidly while Glyndwr, near Cowbridge, makes aromatic wines alongside keeping llamas!

#### WHITE

Glyndwr Dry, Welsh Regional Wine 2022, 11.5% Vg	HW0033B22	15.22
Ancre Hill Estates Chardonnay, Welsh Regional Wine 2020, 10% 🛡 📞	HW0035B20	21.11

## Slovenia

Remarkably clean and green (both in colour and outlook), Slovenia is a mecca for food and wine lovers, walkers, fishermen and cyclists. The vineyards' latitude is similar to that of Northern Italy and further over, the Mâconnais and the Northern Rhône in France. Summers are hot and winters are wet, with hills and mountains creating many

microclimates. Vines are generally grown on slopes, some quite steep. According to the Oxford Companion to Wine there are over 20,000 ha of vines and 29,000 wine growers, with 70% of the production being white wine.

Going from west to east, there are three wine regions: Primorska, near the Adriatic, Posavje (around the Sava River), and Podravje (around the Drava River). The three regions are divided into wine districts, the best known of which, going from northwest to east are: Goriška Brda (Gorizia Hills), Vipavska Dolina (Vipava Valley), Slovenska Istra (Slovenian Istria), Dolenjska and Štajerska Slovenija (Slovenian Styria). Grape varieties are often seen in nearby Austria and Hungary, so Laski Riesling (Welschriesling), Sauvignon Blanc and Furmint (Šipon) are used for whites, with Modra Frankinja (Blaufränkisch) and Pinot Noir for reds.

Only 5 km from the Austrian border in Podravje wine region, is the family-owned **Doppler** Winery, now run by Mihaela Kopse whose grandfather, Ivan Doppler, bought it in 1938, though winemaking origins here go all the way back to 1816. They make hugely characterful reds and whites, and yes, one is called Efekt.

#### DRY WHITE

Slovenia & Slovakia

Northern Europe -

Doppler Zeleni Silvanec (Sylvaner),	HW0097B22	11.24
Stajerska Slovenija 2022, 10.5% <b>V</b> g <sup>NEW</sup>		
Doppler Sipon - Furmint, Stajerska Slovenija 2021, 12.5% Vg NEW	HW0096B21	15.27
RED		

HR0066B18

Doppler Efekt Rdece, Stajerska Slovenija 2018, 12% NEW

## Slovakia

The wines from here are little known in Britain, but the vineyards are generally in the south of the country parallel to the Hungarian border. Vineyards have returned to private ownership and a new generation of growers, such as **Martin Pomfy**, are energetic and experimental.

#### DRY WHITE

It's not often that you come across Cabernet Sauvignon made into a white, while Rizling Vlassky is what used to be called Welsch Riesling. Both make interesting and full wines. **Devin** is a variety which is similar to Gewürztraminer.

Martin Pomfy Chardonnay, Nová Vieska 2022, 12.5% 🐠	HW0088B22	13.29
Martin Pomfy Rizling Vlassky, Ruban 2020, 13% 🔮	HW0054B20	13.84
Martin Pomfy Devín, Nova Vieska Juznoslovenská 2020. 13.5% V	HW0055B20	15.35

#### **RED**

Reds from classic varieties tend to do well, especially **Pinot Noir** which can be very elegant and full of flavour. Pomfy's vineyards in the Little Carpathian hills bear a striking

resemblance to Burgundy.

Martin Pomfy Pinot, Juznoslovenská 2019, 13% 🛡	HR0034B19	13.77
Martin Pomfy Cabernet Sauvignon Selection, Juznoslovenská 2019, 13.5% ♥	HR0035B19	20.65
Martin Pomfy Special Selection Pinot Noir, Juznoslovenská 2018, 15% ♥	HR0021B18	23.59

## Hungary

Hungary has a wide range of vineyards from the famous Tokaj region in the North-East of the country to vineyards producing a lot of sparkling wine around Budapest, Hungary's most famous red is Egri Bikavér or Bull's Blood, based on Kékfrankos (Blaufränkisch) grape.

#### **SWEET**

The Tokaj area actually straddles the border with Slovakia, with a small number of wineries in the latter country, but the best known are from around the Hungarian town of Mád where the Tokaj Classic Winery makes a fine example. Here autumn mists allow botrytis-affected Tokaji Aszú to be produced with an extraordinary balance between tingling acidity and sweetness. The late harvesting of grapes, in this case Hárslevelű, Furmint and Muscat, was employed here before it was in Sauternes or Germany.

Tokaji Aszú 5 Puttonyos, Tokaj Classic Winery 2013 - 50cl, 11.5%	HS0022C13	38.15
Tokaji Aszú Essencia, Tokaj Classic Winery 2006 - 50cl, 8%	HS0023C06	133.34

## Croatia

Wine production here is generally split between the more touristy coastal region, including the islands, where a lot of more experimental 'natural' and 'orange' wines are produced, and the flatter lands inland around Zagreb. Here the large **Kutjevo** winery produces excellent Grasevina under the **Croatica** label.

#### DRY WHITE

Croatica Grasevina, Kvalitetno Vino 2022, 12% 🔮 HW0069B22	9.15
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## Romania

Sandwiched between Bulgaria and Ukraine, this large country is on the same latitude as Bordeaux and Burgundy. The resulting climate, combined with a culture that is Latin and therefore more conducive to wine than its Slavic neighbours, points immediately to fine wine production. Post-communism however, the transition from quantity to quality has been slow. One beacon of virtue is Cramele (Winery) Recaş which makes well-packaged, modern-style varietal wines at very reasonable prices under the Paparuda label. This winery was formerly owned by the state but was bought out by its management and is now as advanced as any in Western Europe. It is found near Timişoara which is in the furthest west

of the country near Serbia, a mere seven hours' drive from the capital, Bucharest!

#### DRY WHITE

Single varietal wines from international grape varieties sit alongside local varieties such as the aromatic Feteasca Regala. Orange wine is made by leaving the skins on during fermentation to give texture and body, this is a great entry to the style.

Paparuda Feteasca Regala, Estate Selection 2022, 12.5% Vg	HW0903B22	7.41
Paparuda Pinot Grigio, Estate Selection 2023, 11% Vg	HW0038B23	7.41
Paparuda Chardonnay, Estate Selection 2023, 12.5%	HW0074B23	7.41
Paparuda Sauvignon Blanc, Estate Selection 2022, 12% Vg	HW0040B22	7.41
Orange Natural Wine JP, Recas Estate 2022, 12.5% Vg	HW0905B22	10.06

#### ROSÉ

Pale, delicate rosés are found here in an easy drinking style with plenty of fruit.

Paparuda Rosé, Estate Selection 2023, 11% Vg HP0004B23 7.55

#### RED

Pinot Noir is perhaps the best-known variety in Romania and Recas makes a fine example, full of bouncy red fruit.

Paparuda Pinot Noir, Estate Selection 2022, 12.5% Vg	HR0009B22	7.62
Paparuda Merlot, Estate Selection 2022, 13% Vg	HR0903B22	7.62
Paparuda Cabernet Sauvignon, Estate Selection 2022, 13%	HR0013B22	7.62
Lautarul Pinot Noir, Cramele Recas 2022, 12.5%	HR0904B22	7.74
Selene Barrique Cabernet Sauvignon, Recas Estate 2019, 14% Vg	HR0037B19	15.35

## Moldova

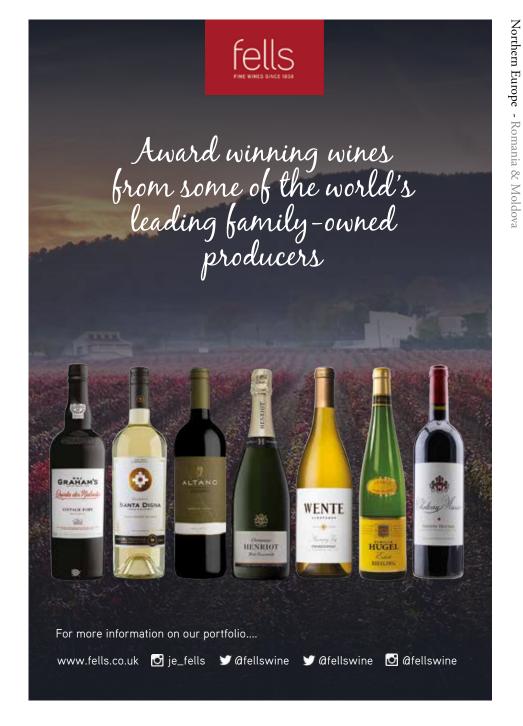
With gentle rolling hills and a continental climate, Moldova is well suited to vine growing. Castel Mimi was established in the late 19th century and during Soviet times was producing upwards of eight million bottles a year, for consumption mainly in Russia. Now in private hands, it has been completely renovated and makes quality driven wines for the western market with very distinctive labelling.

#### DRY WHITE

Castel Mimi Animaliens Viorica/Feteasca Alba 2022, 12.5% Vg NEW HW0094B22 10.07

#### **RED**

Castel Mimi Animaliens Pinot Noir/Saperavi/ HR0068B20 10.07 Rarã Neagrã 2020, 13.5% Vg NEW



29.29

ER0037B21

# SE Europe & Asia

Forget France, forget Italy and forget the Romans, the origins of wine production lie rather further east! Lebanon and Israel lay claim to be the cradles of viticulture, but a 'winery' dating back over 6,000 years has recently been found in Georgia. Then there's Armenia, Iran, Turkey and Greece in the frame so the counter-claims may go on until the aurochs come home! Even wine production in India dates back to several centuries BC. What doesn't change is the consumers' surprise that such countries even make wine.

## North Macedonia

This landlocked Balkan country, due north of Greece, makes some very impressive wines. It isn't to be confused with the nearby Greek province of Macedonia so is correctly called the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. It's a large and ancient wine producer, particularly of red, and the local grape variety, Vranec, is rich and full-flavoured. Most wine production is in the middle of the country in the Vardar River Valley, also home to the capital Skopje. Production in the hilly west and mountainous east of the country is on a smaller scale.

#### RED

SE Europe & Asia - Macedonia & Greece

Stobi Wines has seen massive investment since it was set up in 2009 and is centrally placed near the Vardar River.

Stobi Vranec, Tikves Region 2020, 14.5% Vg

Central Greece 2021, 13.5% NEW

ER0020B20

## Greece

A recent voyage through Attica, the Peloponnese and down to Crete has kindled our enthusiasm for Greece's wines, many of which come from cool, elevated sites, Ancient Greece is regarded as the origin of much of the diffusion of winemaking into the far-flung regions of both its own, and subsequently the Roman Empire. Vines travelled with trade and, where they blossomed, inevitably a wine region was created. The Greek wine scene is now a far cry from simply resin-infused Retsina, and we just need a greater following for the wines so we can import more!

#### RED

The noble red grape Saint-George (Aghiorghitiko) is fashioned into a world-class wine at the state-of-the-art Skouras winery in the Peloponnese's Nemea region. Naoussa is made from the Xinomavro grape with the Diamantakos producing a great example from just 4 Ha of vines at 300 m above sea level. Panos Samartzis produces high quality, single vineyard wines from both local and international grape varieties, at his family estate on the slopes of Mount Helicon.

Samartzis 'S', Single Origin Syrah, Central Greece 2021, 13.5% NEW ER0036B21 Samartzis 'M', Single Origin Merlot & Mouhtaro, ER0035B21

13.46

Skouras Saint George, Aghiorghitiko, Nemea 2021, 14% Naoussa, Diamantakos 2019, 13.5% ER0028B19

Samartzis Mouhtaro, Grand Reserve, Thiva 2021, 14.5% NEW

#### DRY WHITE

Intense and almost saline in character, whites from the volcanic island of Santorini, made from Assyrtiko grapes, are often praised by the press. Family-owned Estate Argyros has 42 Ha of vines and a state-of-the-art winery on the island.

Samartzis 'Dío Potámia' Kontoura, Barrique, Thiva 2020, 12.5% NEW EW0021B20 13.06 Argyros Santorini Assyrtiko 2022, 14% Vg EW0018B22 26.13

#### **SWEET**

The Samos sweet 'sticky' comes from a seaside co-operative on the large island of Samos in the eastern Aegean. The best grapes come from the mountains where they ripen more slowly retaining all that Muscat grapiness. Vinsanto is the sweet wine of Santorini. Made from sun-dried grapes and aged in barrel, it is spelt slightly differently and made in a different way to Vin Santo of Tuscany.

Samos Grand Cru, Co-operatives Vinicoles de Samos 2022 - 50cl, 15% ES0002C22 Vinsanto First Release, Santorini, Estate Argyros 2015 - 50cl, 13% Vg ES0003C15

## Lebanon

Politics aside – and it hasn't been the easiest couple of years in Beirut – Lebanon is the most beautiful country and, on a visit, we criss-crossed the main mountain range four times passing through ski resorts and hillsides of cedar trees, their tresses flattened by countless snowfalls. Panoramic views stretched down towards Israel with Syria only blocked out by another range of mountains, neatly capped by snow. Lying in between is the Bekaa Valley - a massive expanse of fertile land with vines growing on its western slopes. The Lebanese argue that this is the 'cradle of winemaking', where the Romans built the Temple of Bacchus at Baalbek, and whence Phoenician traders took vines to Spain.

#### RED

In the Bekaa Valley is a little corner of Tanners: a plaque on the wall of the Massaya winery, commemorating us as their first British importer! Brothers Sami and Ramzi Ghosn have now established a second Massaya outpost high in the mountains, both to grow high altitude grapes and to insure against trouble in the Bekaa. Château Musar is spectacularly situated above the Mediterranean in northern Beirut and its wines have a loyal following, its wines are becoming a little more fruit-driven than they have been in the past.

Massaya 'Le Colombier', Bekaa Valley 2020, 14.5% Vg ER0004B20 13.50 Massaya 'Terrasses de Baalbeck', Bekaa Valley 2020, 14.5% ER0005B20 22.13 Massaya 'Cap Est', Bekaa Valley 2018, 14.5% ER0023B18 🗸 32.27

ER0021B21 12.45

The old harbour of Byblos is picture-postcard pretty, more like the south of France than the Middle-East, begging for a large platter of gambas prawns and a bottle of Massava Rosé.

Massaya Rosé, Bekaa Valley 2021, 13.5%

EP0001B21

#### DRY WHITE

Massaya Classic White, Bekaa Valley 2021, 13%

EW0009B21

17.37

## Israel

SE Europe & Asia - Israel, Georgia & Armenia

Israel has a sophisticated domestic market for its wines, and a large diaspora to follow them overseas. Dating back several thousand years, wine production in Israel has waxed and waned under Jewish, Muslim and Christian domination. The modern industry started in earnest in the 1880s with a massive injection of capital from the Rothschild family. There are now over 300 wineries with grape varieties and winemaking largely based on the French model. The Golan Heights, Shomron, Samson and the Judean Hills all have their fair share of wineries.

#### RED

Clos de Gat is situated in the foothills of the Judean Mountains, with the winery located on the site of an ancient, pre-Roman 'Gat', Hebrew for wine-press.

Har'el Syrah, Judean Hills, Clos de Gat 2020, 14%

ER0011B20 🗸



#### DRY WHITE

Clos de Gat's owner, Eyal Rotem, has planted 35 Ha of noble varieties and uses quality French oak barrels to make excellent reds and whites.

Clos de Gat Chardonnay, Judean Hills 2020, 12%

EW0004B20



## Georgia

Part-Europe and part-Asia, Georgia occupies the Caucasus with Russia to the north, Turkey and Armenia to the south. It's a country with a wine-growing heritage that goes back at least six thousand years and is chock-full of interesting, indigenous grape varieties. Formerly much of the wine was sweet and went to the Russian market, but recently its wine producers have sought closer links with the West and many of the wines are now made more to our tastes. There are however still plenty of traditional Qvevri wines produced in amphorae for home consumption. Winemakers in other countries are now re-discovering this method of making wine in amphorae and marketing it as something new, despite its long history!

#### RED

Khareba Winery was founded in 2004 by three brothers who now have over 1000 Ha of vinevards.

#### DRY WHITE

A series of tunnels built into the Caucasus Mountains by the Russians for military purposes serve wine production well at Khareba Winery!

Winery Khareba Rkatsiteli, Dry White Wine 2021, 12.5%

Winery Khareba Saperavi Classic, Dry Red Wine 2019, 13.5%

Khareba Kindzmarauli, Medium-Sweet Red 2021, 12.5%

EW0016B21

10.52

## Armenia

Another country which, along with neighbouring Georgia, claims to be the oldest wine producer in the world with evidence of winemaking going back to 4200 BC. The Armenian Wine Company was founded in 2006 and uses more modern methods to make their Yerevan range from vineyards at over 1000 metres high, mainly from local grape varieties.

#### RED

This is a surprisingly light and fruity wine for a hot country, showing the benefit of growing at altitude.

Yerevan Areni/Karmrahyut, Winemaker's Blend Red,

FR0032B22

9 36

Armenia Wine Co. 2022, 13% Vg

#### DRY WHITE

Rkatsiteli is a widely used grape variety in the Caucasus region, giving freshness and flavour.

Yerevan Kangun/Rkatsiteli, Winemaker's Blend White,

EW0020B22

Armenia Wine Co. 2022, 13% Vg

# Australia

After being the new kid on the block in the 1990s, Australia's wine industry went too corporate and its wines too formulaic. It's time however to revisit Australian wines in all their varietal glory, so look out for minerally Chardonnays, Shirazes (Syrahs) with a white pepper sappiness and very fine Cabernets, and that's before getting into the Italian and Iberian varieties that are fleshing out the ranges. Putting grape varieties aside for a moment, let Tanners take you on a vinous tour of Australia.

South Eastern Australia is a catch-all appellation, this sobriquet allowing producers to blend wines sourced from Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. You might think this means trucking grapes huge distances, but it isn't always so as these three states meet between the Murray Darling and Riverland areas which together with Riverina form the powerhouse of the Australian wine industry. Irrigation from the mighty Murray River keeps these vineyards alive, and an awful lot of fruit groves too. The heart of the Murray Darling at Mildura in Victoria is the excellent source of our Tanners Shiraz. The Murphy





family's Trentham Estate, complete with riverside restaurant, is just north-east of Mildura in New South Wales.

The big-name line-up in South Australia makes this the undeniable home of the Australian wine industry. It includes almost all the country's most famous regions and the top winemaking school at Adelaide University. Just north of Adelaide you come to the Barossa Valley with plenty of old wine families of German origin... and very old vines too, including those of new producer The Barossa Valley Wine Company making rich, age worthy reds. Almost two hours north of Adelaide is Clare Valley famed for bone-dry Rieslings. The Jim Barry winery is just north of Clare itself, and they too have a new generation of the family in the shape of Tom and Sam to take the helm, with Shiraz and Riesling also featuring heavily.

Moving round to the south of Adelaide, temperatures in McLaren Vale are cooled by the nearby ocean, helping Peter and Duncan Lloyd, the third generation at Coriole Vineyards to make delicious wines which we have followed since the Australian bicentenary in 1988. Over the hills you come to Lake Alexandrina and Langhorne Creek where there are some super Shirazes and Cabernets to be found. New to the list is enthusiast Geoff 'Joffa' Thompson from Grounded Cru who sources his wines from all three areas, making him the master of "Vale, Hills and Creek"! It's then a long haul to Coonawarra towards the Victorian border, where fine Cabernets are made on a rather featureless strip of allimportant Terra Rossa soil.

Melbourne is five hours from here going directly across western Victoria, but it takes much longer on a wine tour taking in the Pyrenees, Bendigo, Heathcote and the Goulburn Valley.

Cooler pockets for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are found in Mornington Peninsula, Yarra Valley and Geelong, all easy drives out of the city. In the heart of the Yarra Valley, Mac Forbes (a person not a Scottish surname!) is regenerating old, neglected vineyard sites to produce wines with a real sense of terroir. Rutherglen is the production capital of Australia's 'stickies', where Natasha Killeen at Stanton & Killeen represents the seventh generation of a family making these superb, sweet wines. Michel Chapoutier, of Hermitage fame, chose trendy Heathcote in central Victoria, for his base to make his subtle Rhône-like Tournon wines from nearby vineyards and further afield in the Victorian Pyrenees. Not far away McPherson Wines' talented winemaker Jo Nash has been making superb reds in particular next to the Murray River for over twenty years. Her XV Pure Cabernet is a classic, red, full throttle Aussie red with bags of flavour.

New South Wales is the historic home of the Australian wine industry but has lost out rather as far as quality wine regions go. The Hunter Valley is still important though, not least with its winery-lined roads, pretty vineyards, winery restaurants and golf courses making it a wonderful destination to visit from Sydney. Margan is a family affair with Andrew Margan making the wines and wife Lisa running a superb winery restaurant. We are also big fans of his wines under the House of Certain Views label, a nod to Pomerol's Vieux Château Certan!

Western Australia is a massive state with only the south-western corner being climatically suitable for wine. Margaret River – 'Margs' to the locals – is three hours' drive from Perth, whilst Albany in the Great Southern area is five. Surrounded on three sides by ocean and therefore often cool and rainy, Margaret River is renowned for fine Cabernets, Merlots and elegant whites. McHenry Hohnen is one of the leading wineries and was founded by Perth wine retailer Murray McHenry along with his brother-in-law David Hohnen, the man who was behind Cloudy Bay. He has three well placed vineyards focussed on biodynamic viticulture. Plan B wines, based in Frankland River, were set up in 2003 by Terry Chellapah, a musician and self-appointed 'corporate-free wine man'. His Eureka Effect range, made since 2016 by Vanessa Carson, also known as 'the Wine Juggler', has great individuality and character – the vibe that emanates from this part of the Australian wine scene.

#### **RED**

## Various Grape Varieties

The same principle applies as it does in the warm climate of the Southern Rhône: blending is good to achieve completeness. The indigenous grapes of Italy and Spain are also good news.

Coriole 'Molly's Garden' Shiraz/Sangiovese, McLaren Vale 2022, 14.5%	AR0110B22	12.13
Trentham Estate Pinot Noir, Murray Darling 2022, 13.5% Vg	AR0023B22	12.13
Grounded Cru GSM, Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre,	AR0168B22	12.91
McLaren Vale 2022, 14.5% Vg		
Margan Ceres Hill Barbera, Hunter Valley 2019, 13.5% Vg	AR0151B19	16.16

#### Shiraz

Australia's most famous vinous product, Shiraz – the Syrah grape of the Rhône Valley – comes in a variety of styles from medium-bodied and peppery to deep and brooding.

Tanners Australian Shiraz, South Eastern Australia 2022, 14.5%	AR0127B22	9.23
Woolloomooloo Shiraz, South Eastern Australia 2023, 11%	AR0901B23	7.86
Lyrebird Shiraz, Victoria 2021, 14% Vg	AR0001B21	8.02
Barry & Sons Shiraz, Clare Valley, Jim Barry 2017, 14% 🛡	AR0153B17	12.03
Grounded Cru Shiraz, McLaren Vale 2021, 14.5% Vg	AR0167B21	12.91
House of Certain Views Shiraz, Hunter Valley, Margan Wines 2021, 13%	AR0030B21	13.13
Margan Shiraz, Hunter Valley 2021, 13% Vg	AR0033B21	13.52
Rocky Road Shiraz, Margaret River, McHenry Hohnen 2018, 14%	AR0932B18	13.76
Tournon 'Mathilda' Shiraz, Victoria, M Chapoutier 2020, 14.5% 🛡	AR0129B20	14.34
Barossa Valley Wine Co Stockyard Shiraz, Barossa Valley 2020, 14.5% Vg	AR0165B20	14.54
Barossa Valley Wine Co The Farms Shiraz, Barossa Valley 2019, 14%	AR0166B19	18.93
Tournon 'Shays Flat Vineyard' Shiraz, Pyrenees, M Chapoutier 2016, 14.5%	AR0130B16	18.97

## Merlot & Cabernet

Cabernet Sauvignon ripens consistently well in Australia, with Merlot hitherto being generally used in Bordeaux-type blends.

XV Pure Cabernet, Victoria 2021, 15% 🛡	AR0169B21	9.80
Barry & Sons Cabernet Sauvignon, Coonawarra,	AR0154B18	12.21
Jim Barry 2018, 14% 🛡		
Rocky Road Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River,	AR0119B21	13.50
McHenry Hohnen 2021, 13.5%		

#### DRY WHITE

## Various Grape Varieties

White varieties that retain acidity and aromatics in the face of 40-degree heat are most suited to Australia, so a shopping basket of grapes which originate around the Mediterranean often performs well.

Margan Verdelho, Hunter Valley 2022, 12% Vg Barry & Sons Riesling, Clare Valley, Jim Barry 2022, 12%	AW0009B22 AW0094B22	12.06
Grounded Cru Pinot Gris, Adelaide Hills 2021, 13% Vg NEW Tournon 'Mathilda Chapoutier' White, Victoria, M Chapoutier 2021, 13.5%	AW0132B21 AW0088B21	12.91 14.34
Eureka Effect Riesling, Western Australia 2022, 12.1% Vg	AW0133B22	14.91
Coriole Fiano, McLaren Vale 2021, 13%	AW0076B21	15.43
Jim Barry Assyrtiko, Clare Valley 2021, 12%	AW0091B21	18.57

## Semillon & Sauvignon

Sauvignon's crisp acidity works deliciously well combined with the fatness of Semillon, but both succeed on their own too.

Rocky Road Sauvignon/Semillon, Margaret River,	AW0021B21	13.76
McHenry Hohnen 2021, 12%		

## Chardonnay

Once a byword for blousy and overblown, Australian Chardonnays are almost becoming too refined as producers swing too far the other way. When done well, they take their oak nicely or impress as unoaked versions.

Woolloomooloo Chardonnay, South Eastern Australia 2023, 11%	AW0901B23		7.86
Lyrebird Chardonnay, Victoria 2022, 13% Vg	AW0001B22		8.02
Margan Chardonnay, Hunter Valley 2022, 12% Vg	AW0037B22		12.11
House of Certain Views Unwooded Chardonnay,	AW0035B22		12.13
Hunter Valley, Margan, 12% Vg			
Mac Forbes Chardonnay, Yarra Valley 2022, 11.5%	AW0130B22	I	23.00

McHenry Hohnen Hazel's Vineyard Chardonnay, Margaret River 2018, 13.3%	AW0134B18	28.50
McHenry Hohnen Calgardup Vineyard Chardonnay, Margaret River 2018, 13.3%	AW0135B18	28.50
McHenry Hohnen Burnside Vineyard Chardonnay, Margaret River 2021, 13.3%	AW0136B21	28.50

#### **SWEET**

New World - Australia

Late-harvested, super-ripe grapes deliver fabulous, sweet flavours balanced by clean acidity. Please see our 'Other Fortifieds' for a great Muscat from Rutherglen.

Mitchell Noble Semillon, Clare Valley 2018, 10.5% - Half AS0001H18 

8.08



# New Zealand

New Zealand's relatively pristine environment, large variation between night and day temperatures, and vineyards protected from rainfall by tall mountain ranges, give great conditions for making fruit-filled wines. In the southern hemisphere these cooler latitudes are only



shared by Tasmania and Patagonia. Following New Zealand's huge worldwide success with Sauvignon Blanc, now it is raising the stakes with Pinot Noir as well, particularly from Central Otago, Martinborough and Marlborough. We also rather like the Cabernet Sauvignons and Merlots from Hawke's Bay.

Starting with the South Island, Marlborough on the north-east coast has become, in not much more than 30 years, the world's pre-eminent region for Sauvignon Blanc. Blenheim is the main town and the Wairau is the braided river that drains into Cloudy Bay, having deposited large beds of gravelly soils along the way. These soils, along with low rainfall (this valley sits in a rain shadow) and cool nights, give the perfect growing conditions for Sauvignon. Most vineyards are on the valley floor but Sam and Mandy Weaver, with sons Jack and Ben, of Churton Wines (named after a village in Shropshire!) chose the southern slopes for their Sauvignon and Pinot Noir wines. Cloudy Bay is now a large operation owned by French conglomerate LVMH, but it still produces benchmark wines. We work with talented Ben Glover, based just outside Renwick in the heart of Marlborough, to produce Tanners New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir. Waverider is produced in Marlborough then shipped to the UK for bottling.

North-west of Marlborough, across the Mt Richmond Range, Nelson benefits from the maritime influence of Tasman Bay. Curiously, it is actually further north than the southernmost bit of the North Island. The perfectly formed organic estate, Greenhough, run by Drew and Jenny Greenhough, makes fruit-filled, elegant wines. Central Otago has several sub-districts occupying the valleys down from Queenstown and Wanaka, both in the South Island's Lake District. It competes with Patagonia to have the most southerly vineyards in the world, making it ideal Pinot Noir and light white wine territory. Domain Road Vineyard is near Bannockburn in the centre of the region; owners Graeme and Gillian Crosbie have 14 Ha of vines and old family links to the area going back to the gold mining days. Also making superb wines next door is Felton Road which is owned by Brits, Nigel Greening and his daughter Nicola, whose vineyards were amongst the earliest in the area; they are managed biodynamically.

Jumping up to the North Island, Wairarapa with its sub-district Martinborough, is not to be confused with Marlborough! From there it's a long drive through open sheep country up the east coast to Hawke's Bay and the towns of Napier and Hastings. Here the main secret of success is the wonderful free- draining alluvial soils including the Gimblett Gravels which are not dissimilar to those of the Haut-Médoc. They ripen both Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon beautifully. Pask Winery has new owners, the Benton Group, which is investing



heavily in both the vineyards and the winery, including an on-site brewery. Kate Radburnd is now producing a small range of top-quality wines under her own Radburnd Cellars label made in a bijou winery using carefully sourced fruit from the Hawke's Bay area. Te Mata Estate at Havelock North is the oldest winemaking property in New Zealand, with the Buck family making a sophisticated range of wines. To the north-west of Auckland, the climate should, on paper, be warmer than vineyards further south but is sandwiched both sides by cool oceans. At Kumeu River Michael Brajkovich MW and family produce some of the most respected Chardonnays in the world from 30 Ha of vines, carefully subdivided into single vineyard sites. To this they have recently invested in a top site, inland from Hawke's Bay, called Ray's Road.

#### DRY WHITE

## Various Grape Varieties

Generally cooler than its neighbour Australia, New Zealand lends itself well to the grape varieties of Alsace and southern Germany.

Kumeu Village Hand Harvested Pinot Gris, Auckland 2023, 12% Vg	NW0093B23	11.64
Greenhough 'Apple Valley' Riesling, Nelson 2022, 9.5% Vg 🚭	NW0097B22	13.53
Domain Road 'The Water Race' Dry Riesling, Central Otago 2019, 12.5%	NW0048B19	13.90
Domain Road 'Defiance' Pinot Gris, Central Otago 2021, 13.5%	NW0091B21	14.91
Natural State Field Blend, Marlborough, Churton 2021, 13.5% Vg 🥩	NW0095B21	17.37
Churton Viognier, Marlborough 2019, 15% Vg	NW0045B19	21.53

## Sauvignon Blanc

We are advocates of a little restraint here: all that gooseberry, tinned asparagus and tomato leaves can be too much of a good thing! Marlborough is not the only place though to find good New Zealand Sauvignon.

Tanners New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2022, 12.5% V	g NW0051B22	10.69
Pask 'Gimblett Gravels' Sauvignon Blanc, Hawke's Bay 2022, 13% †	NW0002B22	9.96
Perfect Cut Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2022, 12.5%	NW0058B22	10.24
Waverider Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2022, 12% Vg	NW0104B22	10.77
Pask Instinct 'Bud Burst' Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2022, 13%	NW0034B22	11.08
Greenhough 'River Garden' Sauvignon Blanc, Nelson 2022, I2.5% Vg	NW0098B22	12.81
Domain Road Sauvignon Blanc, Central Otago 2022, 14%	NW0037B22	13.50
Churton Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2022, 14%	NW0001B22	14.87
Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2023, 13.5%	NW0019B23	23.00

## Chardonnay

New Zealand is fielding some real competition for white burgundy with minerally Chardonnays carefully matured in French oak.

Pask 'Gimblett Gravels' Chardonnay, Hawke's Bay 2020, 14%	NW0021B20	9.90
Kumeu Village Chardonnay, Auckland 2023, 12.5% Vg	NW0040B23	12.13
Greenhough 'Road Block' Chardonnay, Nelson 2019, 13.5% Vg	NW0096B19	15.43
Te Mata Estate Chardonnay, Hawke's Bay 2023, 12.5%	NW0044B23	16.16
Pask 'Declaration' Chardonnay, Hawke's Bay 2019, 13.5%	NW0035B19	16.51
Kumeu River Ray's Road Chardonnay, Hawke's Bay 2021, 13.5% Vg	NW0094B21	20.65
Cloudy Bay Chardonnay, Marlborough 2021, 13.5%	NW0030B21	27.83
Felton Road Bannockburn Chardonnay, Central Otago 2022, 13.5%	NW0024B22	34.24

#### RED

## Various Grape Varieties

Cabernet, Merlot and Bordeaux blends do well in the warm, dry climate of Hawke's Bay, as does Syrah whose white pepper character is more akin to the Northern Rhône than, say, Barossa.

NR0014B19		12.49
NR0015B19		12.49
NR0032B21		16.51
NR0016B20		26.23
NR0050B18		35.09
NR0049B19		36.69
	NR0015B19 NR0032B21 NR0016B20 NR0050B18	

#### Pinot Noir

As the vines get older and production methods are refined, Kiwi Pinot Noirs just get better and better, and not only from Central Otago.

Tanners New Zealand Pinot Noir, Marlborough 2022, 13% NEW	NR0055B22		16.29
Pask Instinct Pinot Noir, Wairarapa 2021, 13.5% Vg	NR0025B21		11.01
Greenhough 'Stone's Throw' Pinot Noir, Nelson 2019, 13.5% Vg	NR0081B19		16.51
Natural State Pinot Noir, Marlborough, Churton 2022, 13% Vg	NR0048B22		17.37
Domain Road Pinot Noir, Central Otago 2019, 13.5% 🐠	NR0027B19		18.57
Churton Pinot Noir, Marlborough 2020, 13.5% &	NR0001B20		22.20
Churton 'The Abyss', Pinot Noir, Marlborough 2017, 13%	NR0031B17		39.12
Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir, Central Otago 2022, 14%	NR0009B22		45.00
Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir, Central Otago 2022, 14%	NR0008B22		55.84
Felton Road Calvert Pinot Noir, Central Otago 2022, 14%	NR0011B22	-	55.84
Felton Road MacMuir Pinot Noir, Central Otago 2022, 14.5%	NR0051B22		61.67

# South Africa

The Cape is blessed with some of the most spectacular scenery of any wine region, as well as extensive land to produce world class reds and whites.

Two oceans, two weather systems and two deep-sea currents meet at the Cape, leading to a diversity of weather between regions, even on a given day! This means that areas such as Stellenbosch, Paarl, Elgin and Constantia which are really not that far apart, all have a propensity to succeed with different grape varieties. The wine culture is almost the oldest in the New World, being brought by French Huguenots in the years after 1685 and with them cuttings of vines including Chenin and Sauvignon Blanc. Franschhoek even means 'French Corner'!

The Coastal Region is the most important region for quality wine, encompassing the districts of: Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, Paarl, Wellington, Swartland and Cape Town, Constantia being a 'ward' of the last. The ridges dividing these areas can be viewed from the top of Table Mountain. Chenin, Sauvignon, Pinotage, Syrah and Cabernet grapes all thrive. Stellenbosch starts around the bay from Cape Town with Journey's End. Here the Gabb family's sloping vineyards are cooled by strong sea breezes. Nearby the name of one of the oldest estates, Meerlust even refers to the sea; a producer of fine reds, it has been in the Myburgh family since 1756. Occupying the country between Stellenbosch town and Cape Town are the rolling Bottelary Hills where Danie and Yngvild Steytler of Kaapzicht make generous reds in a proper country winery. Clos Malverne is a 27 Ha property in the Devon Valley sub-section of Stellenbosch with a fantastic view of mountains which reminded a former owner of the Malvern Hills! Suzanne Coetzee has recently taken full ownership of wine production here, and has gained a reputation for 'handcrafted' wines, the reds being made using basket presses open top fermenters.





The Cape South Coast region stretches from the popular holiday resort of Hermanus on Walker Bay right round to Cape Agulhas, the most southerly point of Africa. It's the Cape's most maritime region so makes great Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and aromatic wines. In its inland section, Elgin is a centre for apple growing which wasn't enough for the Cluver family, so they started Paul Cluver Wines specialising in cooler climate varieties. Also in Elgin, Mark Dendy-Young, formerly of La Petite Ferme, is working with Pinot specialist Cathy Marshall to produce some special wines from high lying, cool vineyards for his Cape Elevation Vineyards label. If you follow the pretty Hemel-in-Aarde (Heaven on Earth) valley down towards the coast, you come to Bouchard Finlayson where Chris Albrecht does a very good job of making truly Burgundian style wines.

Due north and behind the Riviersonderend mountains is Robertson in the Breede River Valley region. Not only is Robertson a great source of flavoursome wines in serious quantities, it is well-known for breeding racehorses. The River Grandeur wines come from vineyards on the banks of the Breede River owned by Fred and Manie Viljoen of Viljoensdrift, not the easiest of our suppliers to pronounce! The Wide River wines from the excellent Robertson Winery represent super value for money. 'Western Cape' is a widely used designation which allows blending from all the well-known areas of the Cape.

#### DRY WHITE

New World -

#### Chenin Blanc & Blends

Chenin Blanc is the Cape's most important white grape producing some of the best value whites on the market today, and some deliciously concentrated versions from older vines.

Wide River Chenin Blanc, Robertson 2022, 12.5% 🐠	KW0002B22	7.35
Freedom Cross Chenin Blanc, Western Cape, Franschhoek Cellar 2023, 12.5%	KW0001B23	7.94
Running Duck Chenin/Sauvignon Blanc, Stellar Organics 2023, 12.5% Vg   ◆	KW0041B23	8.10
Doran Vineyards 'Arya', Voor Paardeberg 2022, 14% Vg	KW0049B22	10.26

## Various Grape Varieties

The inland areas of the Cape can be quite Rhône-like in climate so Viognier does well with lighter aromatic varieties excelling in the higher or more maritime sites.

Wide River Viognier, Robertson 2023, 12.5% ♥	KW0004B23	8.11
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La Petite Ferme Viognier, Franschhoek 2021, 14%	KW0022B21	12.13
Paul Cluver Village Riesling, Elgin 2022, 11.5%	KW0043B22	12.96

## Sauvignon Blanc

Brought over by the Huguenots in the 18th century, Sauvignon has a long history here. Stylistically they tend to sit somewhere between Sancerre and Marlborough Sauvignons.

Kingklip Bay Sauvignon Blanc, Cape Coast 2022, 13.5%    Freedom Cross Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, Franschhoek Cellar 2022, 12.5%  River Grandeur Sauvignon Blanc, Viljoensdrift, Robertson 2023, 12.5%    KW0011B22    8.21    8.21    River Grandeur Sauvignon Blanc, Viljoensdrift, Robertson 2023, 12.5%    KW0042B23    10.27    La Petite Ferme Sauvignon Blanc, Franschhoek 2023, 13.5%    KW0012B23    11.32    Clos Malverne Sauvignon Blanc, Lightly Filtered, KW0058B21    Stellenbosch 2021, 14% Vg  Catherine Marshall Sauvignon Blanc, Elgin 2023, 14% Vg    Cape Elevation Vineyards 'Contour Path' Sauvignon Blanc, KW0050B22    Elgin 2022, 13.5% Vg				
Franschhoek Cellar 2022, 12.5%  River Grandeur Sauvignon Blanc, Viljoensdrift, Robertson 2023, 12.5% KW0042B23  La Petite Ferme Sauvignon Blanc, Franschhoek 2023, 13.5% KW0012B23  Clos Malverne Sauvignon Blanc, Lightly Filtered, KW0058B21  Stellenbosch 2021, 14% Vg  Catherine Marshall Sauvignon Blanc, Elgin 2023, 14% Vg  Cape Elevation Vineyards 'Contour Path' Sauvignon Blanc, KW0050B22  10.27	Kingklip Bay Sauvignon Blanc, Cape Coast 2022, 13.5% 🛡	KW0059B22		7.88
La Petite Ferme Sauvignon Blanc, Franschhoek 2023, 13.5%    KW0012B23    Clos Malverne Sauvignon Blanc, Lightly Filtered,   Stellenbosch 2021, 14% Vg  Catherine Marshall Sauvignon Blanc, Elgin 2023, 14% Vg  Cape Elevation Vineyards 'Contour Path' Sauvignon Blanc, KW0050B22    11.32	, i	KW0011B22		8.21
Clos Malverne Sauvignon Blanc, Lightly Filtered, Stellenbosch 2021, 14% Vg  Catherine Marshall Sauvignon Blanc, Elgin 2023, 14% Vg  Cape Elevation Vineyards 'Contour Path' Sauvignon Blanc, KW0050B22  11.61  KW0050B23  12.05	River Grandeur Sauvignon Blanc, Viljoensdrift, Robertson 2023, $12.5\%$	KW0042B23		10.27
Stellenbosch 2021, I4% Vg  Catherine Marshall Sauvignon Blanc, Elgin 2023, I4% Vg  Cape Elevation Vineyards 'Contour Path' Sauvignon Blanc,  KW0050B22   12.49	La Petite Ferme Sauvignon Blanc, Franschhoek 2023, 13.5% 🐠	KW0012B23		11.32
Cape Elevation Vineyards 'Contour Path' Sauvignon Blanc, KW0050B22 12.49	3 ,	KW0058B21	i	11.61
	Catherine Marshall Sauvignon Blanc, Elgin 2023, 14% Vg	KW0026B23		12.05
	,	KW0050B22		12.49

## Chardonnay

There are some great Chardonnays from the Cape and those from the cooler sites have flavour profiles to match decent white burgundies. We avoid over-oaked examples!

Kingklip Bay Chardonnay, Robertson 2022, 13% 🐠 NEW	KW0061B22	7.89
Journey's End 'Haystack' Chardonnay, Stellenbosch 2022, 12.5% Vg	KW0032B22	11.17
Baboon Rock Unwooded Chardonnay, Franschhoek, La Petite Ferme 2022, 13.5%	KW0036B22	11.48
La Petite Ferme Barrel Fermented Chardonnay, Franschhoek 2020, 12.5%	KW0021B20	13.74
Bouchard Finlayson 'Sans Barrique' Chardonnay, Overberg 2021, 13% Vg	KW0017B21	13.85
Journey's End 'Destination' Chardonnay, Stellenbosch 2022, 14% Vg	KW0056B22	19.78
Bouchard Finlayson 'Missionvale' Chardonnay, Walker Bay 2022, 13% Vg	KW0039B22	22.04

#### **SWEET**

Some fascinating sweet wines come out of South Africa despite it being generally too dry for Noble Rot. There is also a long history of making 'Port' and 'Sherry' style wines.

Vin de Constance, Constantia, Klein Constantia 2019 - 50cl, 14% KS0001C19 / 53.34

#### RED

### Various Grape Varieties

Pinot Noir does surprisingly well in the cooler spots of South Africa; it can be blazing hot

Freedom Cross Cinsault/Cabernet, Western Cape 2021, 13.5% Vg	KR0001B21	7.94
Catherine Marshall Pinot Noir 'On Sandstone Soils', Elgin 2021, 13%	KR0032B21	14.65
Cape Elevation Vineyards 'Trig Beacon' Pinot Noir, Elgin 2021, 13% Vg	KR0058B21	16.88
Bouchard Finlayson 'Galpin Peak' Pinot Noir, Walker Bay 2021, 13%	KR0026B21	26.23

#### Shiraz

New World - South Africa

The Shiraz (Syrah) from South Africa is very exciting due to its fine peppery character and juiciness. It enjoys the warmer inland sites best.

Wide River Shiraz, Robertson 2022, 13.5% 🐠	KR0003B22	7.88
Running Duck Shiraz, Western Cape, Stellar Organics 2022, 13% Vg	KR0021B22	8.01
Doran Vineyards Iosa Shiraz/Grenache Noir,	KR0052B18	11.56
Voor Paardeberg 2018, 14% Vg		
River Grandeur Shiraz, Robertson, Viljoensdrift 2020, 14.5%	KR0050B20	11.62
Journey's End Shiraz, Stellenbosch 2020, 14% Vg	KR0038B20	13.98
Journey's End Shiraz, Stellenbosch 2018, 14% Vg	KR0038B18	13.98
La Petite Ferme Shiraz, Franschhoek 2019, 14%	KR0024B19	14.06
Kaapzicht 'Suidooster' Shiraz, Stellenbosch 2021, 14% Vg	KR0008B21	16.16

#### Pinotage

The Pinotage grape, a 1925 crossing between Cinsault and Pinot Noir, is unique to South Africa. In the right hands it makes lovely soft reds whilst avoiding the somewhat 'tarry' character it can have.

Freedom Cross Pinotage, Western Cape 2021, 13.5% V	KR0010B21	7.80
Doran Vineyards Pinotage, Voor Paardeberg 2019, 14% Vg	KR0053B19	11.55
River Grandeur Pinotage, Robertson, Viljoensdrift 2022, 14.5% Vg	KR0051B22	13.09
Kaapzicht 'Rooiland' Pinotage, Stellenbosch 2021, 14% Vg	KR0012B21	16.16

#### Merlot & Cabernet

Most South African estates aspire to making great Cabernet, Merlot or Bordeaux blends. A good number succeed in making truly world class wines. These grapes are reliable performers.

Journey's End 'Pastor's Blend' Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot, Stellenbosch, 14%	KR0036B20	i	10.89
Clos Malverne Merlot, Traditionally Basket Pressed, Vg Stellenbosch 2019, 13.5%	KR0067B19	i	12.13
La Petite Ferme Cabernet Sauvignon, Franschhoek 2019, 13.5%	KR0023B19		13.74
La Petite Ferme Merlot, Franschhoek 2020, 14%	KR0022B20		13.74
Journey's End Cabernet Franc, Stellenbosch 2020, 14% Vg	KR0065B20		13.90

Journey's End Cabernet Sauvignon, Stellenbosch 2017, 14.5% Vg	KR0037B17	1	13.90
Clos Malverne Reserve 'Auret', Basket Pressed,	KR0068B20		15.35
Stellenbosch 2020, I4.5% Vg			
Journey's End 'Cape Doctor - The Red', Stellenbosch 2018, I4.5% $\mbox{\em Vg}$	KR0042B18		19.34
Meerlust Merlot, Stellenbosch 2018, 14%	KR0019B18		19.38
La Petite Ferme, Verdict, Franschhoek 2017, 14.5%	KR0044B17		19.78
Meerlust 'Rubicon', Stellenbosch 2018, 14% 🐠	KR0030B18		28.64
Kaapzicht, Steytler 'Vision', Stellenbosch 2020, 14.5%	KR0031B20		43.34

## Chile

It is time to understand Chile a little better, for the quiet revolution that has been going on to establish much more the aspects of 'terroir' and vintage that have previously gone un-noticed. Determined young winemakers are pulling the wines away from the 'boring' tag, bringing more quality and variety to the table. It is a great wine producing nation with wonderfully bright sunshine tempered by cool sea-breezes or



sloping vineyards and higher altitudes. It is also a relatively pristine environment that seems to bring real purity to the wines. There is such an interesting variety of flavoursome, midrange wines to explore, as well as powerfully dense, top-end stars. It's Chile's lateral valleys that run down from the Andes, across the Central Valley and through the Coastal Range, that bring more breadth and style. Great, gluggable glasses of Merlot and Carmenère are here for the taking, but if you search further you will come across the more complex blends, with a curranty claret-like edge to the Cabernet- dominant wines. The Maipo Valley which fans out from capital city, Santiago, is Chile's most established vineyard area and the first region of the fertile Valle Central or Central Valley. It is home to the original 'grandee' companies of Chilean wine and is the heartland for lovely Bordeaux-inspired reds. Pressure from real estate development here has steadily pushed Maipo's vineyards eastwards onto the slopes of the Andes, which has actually improved the finesse and elegance of many reds. This Alto Maipo sub-area probably has the best terroir and is now producing world-class reds. One grandee is Cousiño Macul - a family-owned operation with some 267 Ha of vines - which has jumped ship from the encroaching suburbs to Buin. Santa Ema is owned by the Pavone family, who originated in Piedmont, and is situated at El Peral in the Isla de Maipo sub-area, surrounded by 50 Ha of the company's own vines.

The next region south is the Cachapoal Valley around the town of Rancagua which is now the main wine-producing area for Santiago. Then you come to Colchagua which is fast developing as a prime production area with many new wineries springing up. It's the stronghold for Luis Felipe Edwards (LFE), an important family company which produces our Pacamaya wines, amongst others. Sutil Family Vineyards are also in Colchagua, but they source grapes from other top regions too, making the superb Cucao range as well as top



red blend Acrux. It was founded by energetic entrepreneur, Juan Sutil, in 1995. The Lolol Valley, a sub-area in south-west Colchagua, is the Chilean home of François Lurton, of the famous Bordeaux wine family, who produces biodynamic wines at Hacienda Araucano. Colchagua and Cachapoal grapes can be used together in wines labelled 'Rapel'. Two hundred kilometres south of Santiago, the Curicó region, along with its neighbour, Maule, is relatively sheltered from the maritime weather by the coastal range, but the vineyards can be dry-farmed, without irrigation, to produce excellent reds and whites. Famous Catalonian wine producers, Miguel Torres, has been in Maule since 1979. These regions, from Maipo down to Maule, can all provide grapes for wines labelled 'Valle Central'. Vineyards are also being planted in the Coastal Range near the Pacific Ocean, benefiting from the cooler breezes that blow inland. Just north of Santiago, the Aconcagua Valley is warmer, making very good Merlot-based reds. West of Santiago is Casablanca, on the way to the Pacific port of Valparaiso, which produces world class whites with brilliantly fresh flavours. South-west is San Antonio with its better-known enclave, the short Leyda Valley which is reputed for top quality Pinot Noir. In the southern region, at latitudes similar to Tasmania and NZ's South Island, the vineyards of Bío-Bío, Itata, Malleco, Cautin and Osorno - these last two being in the Lake District – are most suited to aping Burgundy and Germany, such are the vagaries of the weather. Way north of Santiago, the vines of the Limarí, Chopapa and Elqui Valleys – in the Coquimbo region – need altitude and morning fog to mitigate the intense heat. Sadly, they have been suffering from lack of water in recent years. Huasco is on the edge of the Atacama Desert whereas Copiapó is within it.

#### DRY WHITE

## Various Grape Varieties

There are plenty of cooler spots in Chile's various valleys where aromatic grapes such as Gewurztraminer flourish, especially in the more southern regions, whilst **Viognier**, **Roussanne** and **Marsanne** thrive in certain spots too.

Los Coches Viognier, Valle Central 2023, 13% Vg	QW0092B23	7.72
Los Coches Pinot Grigio, Valle Central 2021, 12.5% Vg NEW	QW0101B21	7.75
Alto Los Romeros Gewurztraminer, Reserva, Valle Central 2022, 13.5% Vg	QW0093B22	8.42
Alto Los Romeros Roussanne/Marsanne, Gran Reserva, Colchagua 2021, 13.5% Vg	QW0094B21	10.78

## Sauvignon Blanc

Fresh and pin-bright, Chilean Sauvignons have lots of clean fruit that's not as full-on as those from New Zealand.

Pato Torrente Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central 2023, 12.5% Vg	QW0035B23	7.33
Ladera Verde Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central 2023, 12.5% Vg †	QW0008B23	7.38
Pacamaya Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central 2023, 12.5% Vg	QW0090B23	7.45
Cucao 'Reserva Especial' Sauvignon Blanc,	QW0095B21	8.93
Valle Central 2021, 12.5% 🐠		

Santa Digna Sauvignon Blanc Reserva, Valle Central, Miguel Torres 2022, 13.5%	QW0013B22	9.88
Santa Ema 'Select Terroir' Sauvignon Blanc, Maipo 2022, 12.5% †	QW0045B22	9.96
Cucao Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central 2021, 13% 🐠	QW0096B21	10.52
Cucao 'SB Reserva' Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central 2020, 13% 🛡	QW0096B20	10.52
Humo Blanco Sauvignon Blanc, Valle de Lolol, Hacienda Araucano 2022, 13.5% Vg	QW0040B22	11.80

## Chardonnay

New World - Chile

The most established vineyards are the Casablanca Valley, now justifiably famous for Chardonnay, as well as big new plantings in the coastal mountain range, near the sea in the Colchagua region. Our own-label is particularly juicy with a hint of oak – not as much as you find in Reserva and Gran Reserva styles which tend to be weightier and show a more oaky side to their flavour.

Tanners Chilean Chardonnay, Colchagua Valley 2023, 14% Vg	QW0098B23	8.47
Ladera Verde Chardonnay, Valle Central 2023, 13% Vg	QW0028B23	7.33
Pato Torrente Chardonnay, Valle Central 2022, 13% Vg	QW0017B22	7.45
Santa Ema 'Select Terroir Reserva' Chardonnay, Maipo 2023, 12.5%	QW0064B23	9.96
Cousiño-Macul Chardonnay, Maipo 2022, 13.5%	QW0019B22	10.03
Cucao Chardonnay, Winemaker's Collection, Valle de Itata 2021, 14% ♥	QW0097B21	12.13
Humo Blanco Chardonnay, Valle de Lolol, Hacienda Araucano 2022, 13.5% Vg €	QW0041B22	12.13

#### ROSÉ

Made a little darker and fuller compared to a classic French rosé, the quality of Cabernet comes through well, and works with lighter, pasta style dishes.

Pato Torrente Rosé, Valle Central 2022, 12% Vg	QP0001B22	7.45
Santa Digna Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé Reserva,	QP0002B23	9.55
Valle Central Torres 2023 14%		

#### **RED**

## Various Grape Varieties

Pinot Noir is making strides forward, but it's Chile's flagship grape, Carmenère, that really leads the line-up with highly drinkable, chocolatey wines. For the best expression of what Carmenère can do in a blend, try the top wines from Colchagua; they are beautifully tempered.

Los Coches Carmenère, Valle del Rapel 2022, 13% Vg	QR0079B22	7.83
Los Coches Pinot Noir, Valle Central 2021, 12.5% Vg	QR0081B21	7.90
Cucao 'CA Reserva Especial' Carmenère, Valle Central 2022, 13%	QR0009B22	8.93

Santa Ema Gran Reserva Carmenère, Cachapoal 2022, 14%	QR0073B22	13.17
Acrux, Colchagua, Sutil 2019, 14% ♦	QR0083B19	23.00

#### Merlot

The grape that put Chile on the map is still a dependable choice for easy, versatile red wines. There are important plantings all the way down from Maipo into the cooler parts of the Central Valley.

Ladera Verde Merlot, Valle Central 2022, 13% Vg †	QR0019B22	7.33
Pacamaya Merlot, Valle Central 2022, 13% Vg	QR0078B22	7.45
Pato Torrente Merlot, Valle Central 2022, 12.5% Vg	QR0047B22	7.53
Cucao Reserva Especial Merlot, Colchagua 2019, 13% 🐠	QR0082B19	8.90
Santa Ema 'Select Terroir' Merlot Reserva, Maipo 2022, 13% †	QR0071B22	9.96

### Cabernet Sauvignon

The quality of Cabernet Sauvignon in Chile is excellent, perfectly demonstrated by our 'own label' wine. If you want a softer, more generous style than claret whilst still keeping elegance and finesse, this is a good hunting ground. Blackcurrant and cigar box flavours are hallmarks.

Tanners Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon, Colchagua Valley 2022, 13.5% Vg	QR0088B22	8.75
Ladera Verde Cabernet Sauvignon, Valle Central 2022, 13% Vg	QR0061B22	7.33
Pato Torrente Cabernet Sauvignon, Valle Central 2023, 13% Vg	QR0025B23	7.45
Santa Ema 'Select Terroir' Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo 2021, 13.5%	QR0072B21	9.96
Cucao Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon, Colchagua Valley 2022, 14% Vg	QR0026B22	10.35
Cousiño-Macul 'Antiguas Reservas' Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo 2019, 14%	QR0029B19	12.49
Cousiño-Macul Lota, Valle de Maipo 2017, 14%	QR0036B17	65.00

# Argentina

Although struggling on an economic front, Argentinian winemakers continue to produce great wines, above and beyond the nation's favourite, Malbec. There has been a massive explosion in popularity for this grape in recent years, and without doubt this has carried the perception of Argentina as a recognisable wine-producing country to the wine consumer. Rich and spicy reds are the order of the day often produced on the lower hillsides of the snowy Andes. It's the slopes in the Mendoza province, with their deep alluvial soils brought down by rivers from the Andes, that produce stunning wines including Malbec which is now recognised as a world-class variety. These smoky, beefy Malbecs are backed up by dense, juicy Merlots and Bonardas, to say nothing of the spicy, sherbety delights of Viognier and Torrontés in the whites. With all that Latin blood from the early settlers, it's not very surprising that the Argentinians get a lot of flavour and passion into their wines, making this





range one of the most exciting we have!

Mendoza city, Argentina's wine capital, is a mere 70-odd miles from the Chilean border and over the years we have regularly shipped wines out via Chile and the Pacific rather than take the long overland trip to the Atlantic. Mendoza predominantly produces red wines and includes the crucible of Malbec, the Luján de Cuyo area, just south of Mendoza city. Here Don Cristóbal 1842, a family bodega run by Eduardo Lapania, has vineyards, and produces Tanners Argentinian Malbec for us alongside their fabulous 'top' blended red, Triana. South-east of the city is Maipú where son and father, Sebastián and José Zuccardi, of Familia Zuccardi have their Santa Julia winery. They have recently built a state-of-theart winery further south in the Uco Valley (Valle de Uco), which is an important area of Mendoza that is burgeoning with foreign investment. François Lurton, a senior member of the Bordeaux dynasty, identified the Uco Valley's gravelly soils for making top reds and Pinot Gris when he set up Bodega Piedra Negra near Tunuyán. In contrast and despite his surname, Patricio Gouguenheim is Argentinian. His family winery in the Tupungato district of the Uco Valley makes the most of the area's propensity for international grapes. With grapes growing at an altitude of 1,000 metres or more, you'll find freshness and pure harmony in all these wines.

The other Argentinian wine regions are somewhat confusing until one realises that they are labelled simply according to their province. San Juan, one province up from Mendoza, is building a reputation for Syrah, then historic La Rioja has big areas producing large quantities of soft, easy-drinking wines. Wine-wise, Salta is the most important province in the North with its wineries clustered around Cafayate and it lays claim to the world's highest vineyard at 10,206 feet above sea level. Down in windy Patagonia, the main bodegas are situated along the Río Negro. With our Welsh heritage, we so want to like the wines of Patagonia and are pleased to have found a worthy, quite simple Malbec from near the Rio Negro. The Welsh settled further south in Chubut province which itself has vines but only 100 Ha, however one day it will doubtless beat New Zealand in having the world's most southerly vineyard.

#### RED

## Various Grape Varieties

Settlers in Argentina were mainly of Latin origin, so it is no wonder that alongside Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah from France, you'll find Tempranillo from Spain and Bonarda from Italy. All benefit from the extra sunshine that they enjoy here, fleshing out the core of these wines and making them rich and ripe to drink.

Las Pampas Shiraz/Malbec, Mendoza 2023, 12.5%	TR0051B23	8.11
Cristóbal 1492 Bonarda, Mendoza 2021, 13.5% Vg	TR0019B21	9.78
Gouguenheim Pinot Noir, Valle de Uco, Mendoza 2021, 13.5%	TR0063B21	10.03
Gouguenheim Cabernet Sauvignon, Uco Valley, Tupungato 2020, 13.5%	TR0044B20	10.52

#### Malbec & Blends

Argentinian Malbec is now recognised around the world as a mostly rich, soft style of red

wine that is as easy to drink on its own as it is to pair with the beef for which Argentina is justly famous. Grown at altitude in the Andean foothills, Malbec has good purity of flavour, yet plenty of concentration and power, which combines to make it a major world player today. Don't forget that the French still make Malbec, its origins being south of Bordeaux and around Cahors, and it is doing well in the Languedoc.

Tanners Argentinian Malbec, Mendoza 2023, 14% Vg	TR0052B23	8.49
Las Pampas Malbec, Mendoza 2023, 13.5%	TR0049B23	8.74
Cristóbal 1492 Malbec, Mendoza 2022, 13.5% Vg	TR0018B22	9.96
Ojos del Sur Malbec, Patagonia 2021, 13.5% Vg	TR0065B21	10.84
Piedra Negra Malbec, Alta Coleccion, Mendoza, Lurton 2022, 14% 🕏	TR0011B22	11.64
Gouguenheim Malbec Reserve, Valle de Uco, Mendoza 2021, 13.5%	TR0064B21	12.13
Bodega Piedra Negra Reserve Malbec, Mendoza 2022, 14% 🕏	TR0013B22	14.54
Zuccardi 'Apelación' Malbec, Vista Flores, Mendoza 2021, 14% Vg	TR0053B21	14.87
Gouguenheim Blue Melosa (Malbec), Flores del Valle, Uco Valley, Mendoza, 14%	TR0047B19	15.77
Chacayes, Valle de Uco, Bodega François Lurton 2008, 15.5% Vg	TR0031B08	56.67

#### DRY WHITE

Torrontés, originating in north-west Spain, is Argentina's flagship white grape. It is deliciously floral and grapey in flavour. Pinot Grigio/Gris performs well too, keeping lovely aromas when grown at altitude but also developing a richness and personality sometimes lacking in Italian examples. Chardonnay arguably shows the most quality; again, the cool micro-climates found on the higher slopes of the Uco Valley can produce precise flavours which combine well with oak to give great potential to age.

Las Pampas Chenin/Torrontés, Mendoza 2022, 12%	TW0021B22	8.11
Las Pampas White Malbec, Mendoza 2022, 12% NEW	TW0025B22	8.58
Cristóbal 1492 Torrontés, Mendoza 2021, 13.5% 🐠	TW0015B21	9.74
Cristóbal 1492 Chardonnay, Mendoza 2021, 13.5% 🛡	TW0014B21	9.79
Gouguenheim Torrontés, Uco Valley, Tupungato, Mendoza 2021, 12.5%	TW0018B21	10.03
Ojos del Sur Sauvignon Blanc, Patagonia 2022, 13% Vg	TW0024B22	10.70
Piedra Negra Pinot Gris, Alta Colección, Valle de Uco,	TW0008B23	11.58
Lurton 2023. I3% Vg		

# United States

The fine wines from the US are becoming increasingly interesting and as a result demand is growing too. Site selection and modern techniques in the winery mean they are so much more elegant than in the past and much more in tune with worldwide tastes. We have periodic allocations of these super wines so keep an eye



on our Oddments List and our email offers.

California is by far the biggest wine-producing state in North America. Two of the bestknown regions, Napa and Sonoma, sit side-by-side to the north of San Francisco Bay. Carneros straddles the two and is the source of Doug Shafer's Chardonnays whilst the winery is in Stag's Leap, a district of Napa which is famed for its Cabernets and Merlots. Christian Moueix, the famous Right Bank Bordeaux producer, established Dominus Estate on the 43 Ha Napanook vineyard in 1983. Situated near Yountville in southern Napa, three wines are produced: Dominus, its flagship, Napanook and Othello. In Carneros, the Swiss-owned Cuvaison Winery has been perfecting superbly elegant Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays for nearly 50 years, while based in the north of Sonoma, Rodney Strong vineyards has holdings throughout the area and carefully matches grape varieties to the soil type and microclimates to produce excellent examples. East of Napa is the city of Sacramento and the Clarksburg and Lodi wine areas, both great sources of excellent value wines from some different grape varieties. The Bogle Vineyard holdings run to some 650 Ha but remain firmly in family hands. The grapes are grown in a sustainable manner taking full advantage of the warmer climate. Near Livermore to the east of San Francisco Bay, is Wente Vineyards with 5th generation Karl Wente at its head. Founded in 1883, it claims to be the longest continuously operated family winery in the USA. Proximity to the water provides cooling fogs which protect the vines from the intense summer heat giving more elegant wines. Just by San Jose in the Santa Cruz mountains is Ridge Vineyards which champions single-vineyard wine production from across California.

Heading south again, towards Los Angeles, takes you through Santa Cruz and Monterey but such is the scale of this country that LA is still over a five-hour drive away! This far south the climate is noticeably hotter. This region is home to the 'Rhône Rangers': rich blends of Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre/Mataro) which excel in the southern heat. The wines from the Pacific North-West comprise those of firstly Oregon and then Washington State as one travels north. Oregon is synonymous with world class Pinot Noirs made by small, familyrun wineries. Its vineyards are concentrated in the state's west and we have added three new wineries from the north of Oregon in the last year as the quality and style of the wines has never been better. Look out for Divio which makes super wines from Willamette Valley and the sister wineries of Stoller and Chehalem excelling in the Dundee Hills region. On paper Washington State should be cooler than Oregon but the Columbia and Yakima Valleys are in the rain shadow of the Cascade Mountains giving a warm, dry, more continental climate that is ideal for grape production. The West Coast's success means that the wines of the East Coast are largely overlooked by British wine lovers and critics. New York State's Finger Lakes and Long Island regions produce some super, edgy Rieslings, Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs. Virginia has a vibrant wine industry near the Blue Ridge Mountains and has a noticeably warmer and more humid climate where Chardonnay, Cabernet and Petit Verdot are doing very well.

# DRY WHITE

USA

New World -

## Various Grape Varieties

The USA makes full-flavoured, elegant white wines from a wide variety of different grapes planted in selected sights to suit their individual needs such as Viognier and Chenin Blanc, both of which give pleasure to sip on their own or equally to accompany food.

Bogle Vineyards Chenin Blanc, Clarksburg, California 2021, 12.5% UW0001B21 17.37

## Chardonnay

From the elegant Chardonnay of Carneros and Sonoma with their cooling influence of morning fogs to the bigger, richer examples from warmer areas further south and inland, one can find complex, world-class wines.

Wente 'Morning Fog' Chardonnay, San Francisco Bay 2022, 13.5% Vg	UW0012B22	14.13
Rodney Strong Chardonnay, California 2021, 13.5%	UW0021B21	19.85
Chehalem Winery Inox Unoaked Chardonnay, Columbia Valley 2022, 13% № NEW	UW0040B22	22.60
Stoller Family Estate Chardonnay, Dundee Hills 2021, 12.5% 🐠 NEW	UW0039B21	22.60
Cuvaison 'Estate Grown' Chardonnay, Carneros, Napa Valley 2021, 14.5%	UW0016B21	24.05
Domaine Divio Chardonnay, Willamette Valley 2020, 13% NEW	UW0041B20	29.17
The Hilt Estate Chardonnay, Sta Rita Hills, Santa Barbara 2019, 13%	UW0029B19	52.50

#### **SWEET**

In the warm San Joaquin Valley, south-east of San Francisco, Quady Winery specialises in Muscat and fortified wines.

Elysium California Black Muscat, Dessert Wine, Quady 2022 - Half, 15%	US0901H22	12.64
Essensia California Orange Muscat, Dessert Wine, Quady 2021 - Half, 15%	US0900H21	13.06

#### ROSÉ

The demand for easy-drinking rosé wines grows each year, a testament to their friendly flavours and appeal. Rosé made from thick skinned black Zinfandel grapes hardly needs any skin contact to make a pale, off dry and, if well balanced, very drinkable White Zin or Blush Zinfandel.

Eagle Creek Zinfandel Rosé 2022 10.5%	UP0010B22	7.30
Foxcover White Zinfandel, California, 10.5%	UP0005B	7.67

#### RED

## Various Grape Varieties

Rhône varieties, such as Syrah and Mourvèdre, often make for good value wines which

benefit from the warm climate of California. Similarly, these climes also suit more esoteric varieties such as the characterful Petite Sirah grape which is mostly the obscure French Durif grape. These wines, with their warmth and flavour, are great for big-flavoured foods.

Bogle Vineyards Petite Sirah, California 2020, 14.5% UR0003B20 17.37

#### Zinfandel

Zinfandel at its best is rich and tarry with bags of character. Fantastic with red meats, spicy or barbecued, America's 'own' variety makes serious wines. Careful handling in the vineyard and the winery ensures it has both class and structure.

770 Miles Zinfandel, California 2022, 13.5%	UR0064B22	7.85
Wente 'Beyer Ranch' Zinfandel, California 2020, 14%	UR0002B20	14.58
Bogle Vineyards Old Vine Zinfandel, California 2021, 14.5%	UR0017B21	18.13

#### Pinot Noir

Elegant and ethereal, Oregon's Pinot Noirs are very reminiscent of red burgundy while those of California tend to show darker fruit character but are appealing and complex with it

Stoller Family Estate Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills 2021, 13.5% <b>V</b> NEW	UR0103B21	1	24.57
Chehalem Winery Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains 2021, 13.5% № NEW	UR0105B21		24.57
Cuvaison 'Estate Grown' Pinot Noir, Napa Valley, Los Carneros 2021, 14.5%	UR0022B21		28.22
Domaine Divio Pinot Noir Les Climats, Willamette Valley 2020, 13.5% NEW	UR0106B20		28.64
Stoller Family Estate Reserve Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills 2018, 14% NEW	UR0104B18		41.63
The Hilt Estate Pinot Noir, Sta Rita Hills, Santa Barbara 2019, 13%	UR0072B19	1	52.50

#### Merlot & Cabernet

Merlot has, historically, always been strong from California with producers looking to copy topflight Bordeaux reds, often blending it with Cabernet Sauvignon. These top reds are elegant, structured wines that, though capable of ageing, give pleasure throughout their life.

Bogle Vineyards Merlot, California 2020, 14.5%	UR0027B20 17.37
Wente 'Charles Wetmore' Cabernet Sauvignon, Livermore Valley 2020, 14.5%	UR0029B20 19.54
Rodney Strong Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma County 2019, 14.5%	UR0054B19 🕴 21.14
Othello, Napa Valley, Christian Moueix 2019, 14.5% 🐠	UR0059B19 🖊 37.91
Napanook, Napa Valley, Christian Moueix 2018, 15% 🛡	UR0058B18 - 66.63
Napanook, Napa Valley, Christian Moueix 2019, 14.5% 🐠	UR0058B19 <b>—</b> 77.50
Dominus, Napa Valley, Christian Moueix 2017, 14.5% 🐠	UR0044B17 - 216.67

# Rest of Americas

The European explorers and subsequent settlers brought with them the culture of grape growing and wine-making the results are evident for all to see. Whilst the USA, Chile and Argentina are the most prolific producers in the Americas, Uruguay, Brazil and Peru all produce wines and we continue to be on the look-out for good bottles from these countries. Grape growing, and as a result wine production, has spread throughout the American continent but is generally concentrated on the more temperate regions. Brought by European pioneers, the grape varieties planted often reflect their geographic roots. There are some fantastic wines produced in Canada and Mexico, and we are eagerly watching developments as the other countries of South America start to make inroads into our market.

## Mexico

Those thirsty conquistadores weren't going to go without wine, so they kicked off wine production as early as 1521! This is the earliest of any country in the Americas. In truth however, Mexico's modern wine industry only dates from the last 30 years or so, much of it the result of considerable investment from Spain. Baja California, just south of the US border, has the greatest area under vine, with temperatures tempered a little by the proximity of the Pacific Ocean. The vine-covered Guadalupe Valley is only 11/2 hours' drive south from the border town of Tijuana; there are other vineyards down towards Mexico City, but they need to be at higher, cooler elevations.

#### RED

The LA Cetto winery in the Guadalupe Valley produces characterful reds from international grape varieties such as Italy's Nebbiolo, as well as the lesser-known Petite Sirah.

LA Cetto Petite Sirah, Baja California 2019, 14%	OR0016B19	8.90
LA Cetto Private Reserve Nebbiolo, Baja California 2017, 14%	OR0017B17	14.10

## Canada

The modern Canadian wine industry is relatively young but has a great approach to producing quality wines, which are increasingly travelling outside the country. The industry is 200 years old, but it wasn't until a free trade agreement with the USA in 1988 that it started to expand externally. At first thought, it seems too cold, but the south of the country has a milder climate offering great scope for wine production. This is mainly in British Columbia in the West and, in the East, Ontario with smaller amounts of wine produced in Quebec and Nova Scotia. The Niagara Peninsula area is renowned for icewine. The Okanagan Valley in British Columbia is arguably the finest source in the country. It is home to the Wyse family of Burrowing Owl Estate Winery who make excellent Chardonnay and Syrah from vineyards largely around Osoyoos Lake. Small owls burrow locally, and bears are 'discouraged from sharing the harvest but are never harmed'!

#### DRY WHITE

About 300 miles inland from Vancouver, British Columbia's Okanagan Valley has a mild climate, not unlike central France, making it suitable for the production of elegant white wines from French grape varieties, particularly Chardonnay.

Burrowing	g Owl	Chardonnay,	, Okanagan Valle	y 2019, 13.5%	OW
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#### /0024B19 24.21

#### **RED**

The Okanagan Valley's dry climate is also ideal for growing red grape varieties. Merlot and Syrah are doing extremely well, making wines with great character and personality.

Burrowing Owl Merlot, Okanagan Valley 2018, 14%	OR0060B18	27.83
Burrowing Owl Syrah, Okanagan Valley 2019, 14%	OR0063B19	29.45

# Half Bottles

A half bottle is the perfect way to enjoy a small glass or two of your favourite wines, whether it's an easy drinking everyday favourite or something special for a treat. We also carry a wide selection of pudding and fortified wines in half bottles, these can be found in their sections through this list.

#### CHAMPAGNE & SPARKLING

Tanners Extra Réserve, Brut Champagne - Half, 12.5% Vg	FC0001H	15.13
Ayala Brut Majeur, Champagne - Half, 12%	FC0043H	15.62
Nyetimber Classic Cuvée, English Sparkling Wine - Half, 12%	FI0016H	16.56
Joseph Perrier Cuvée Royale, Brut Champagne - Half, 12% Vg	FC0201H	18.16
Louis Roederer Collection 244, Champagne - Half, 12.5% Vg	FC0244H	21.34
Bollinger Special Cuvée, Brut Champagne - Half, 12%	FC0014H	22.93

#### WHITES

#### Burgundy

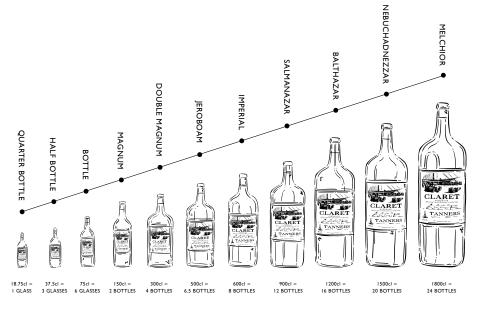
Tanners White Burgundy,	BW0001H20	7.48
Bourgogne Chardonnay 2020 - Half, 12.5% Vg		
Mâcon-Villages, La Crochette, Jean Loron 2022 - Half, 13%	BW0207H22	8.12
Mâcon-Lugny, Les Genièvres, Maison Louis Latour 2022 - Half, 13%	BW0037H22	8.68
Chablis, Les Valéry, Jean Durup 2022 - Half, 12.5% Vg	BW0017H22	10.29
Chablis, Vieilles Vignes, Daniel-Etienne Defaix 2021 - Half, 12.5%	BW0022H21	26.61
Meursault, Louis Latour 2021 - Half, 13.5%	BW0237H21	31.28

#### Loire

Lone			
Muscadet Sèvre-et-	-Maine Sur Lie,	LW0002H22	6.28
Domaine Le Fief	de la Brie 2022 - Half 12% Va		

Pouilly-Fumé, Domaine Thibault, Firmin Dezat 2022 - Half, 12.5%	LW0013H22		9.04
Pouilly-Fumé, Domaine des Fines Caillottes, Jean Pabiot 2020 - Half, 13.5%	LW0012H20		9.49
Sancerre, Firmin Dezat 2022 - Half, 12.5%	LW0010H22		9.57
Sancerre, Domaine Arnaud et Stéphanie Dezat 2022 - Half, 13%	LW0033H22		9.57
Rest of France		1	
Château Tour de Mirambeau, Reserve Blanc, Bordeaux 2022 - Half, I 2.5% Vg	CW0023H22		6.86
Dopff & Irion Gewurztraminer, Cuvée René Dopff, Alsace 2022 - Half, 13.5% Vg	JW0006H22		7.95
Château Doisy-Daëne, Bordeaux Grand Vin Sec, Dubourdieu 2020 - Half, 13%	CW0012H20		11.09
Rest of Europe			
Bagordi Blanco Cosecha, Rioja 2022 - Half, 13% 🕏	SW0101H22		5.09
Tons de Duorum, Douro Branco 2023 - Half, 12.5%	PW0028H23		5.24
Dr Loosen Estate Riesling, Mosel 2020 - Half, 9%	GW0140H20		5.91
New World			
- 12 11 11 222	QW0009H22		4.27
•	QW00071122 QW0045H20		5.63
·	NW0002H21		5.83
Hawke's Bay 2021 - Half, 13.5%	144400021121	Ġ	3.03
RED			
Claret			
Tanners Claret, Bordeaux - Half, 13% Vg	CR0001H		5.44
Château Malbat, Bordeaux 2020 - Half, 14%	CR0054H20		4.99
Château Tour de Luchey, Bordeaux 2020 - Half, 14%	CR0023H20		5.30
Château Moulin de Mallet, Bordeaux 2021 - Half, 13%	CR0030H21		5.83
Château Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur 2018 - Half, 14%	CR0064H18		6.83
Château Montaiguillon, Montagne Saint-Emilion 2020 - Half, 14.5%	CR0730H20		8.06
Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc 2020 - Half, 13%	CR0450H20		10.29
Château La Tour de By, Médoc 2019 - Half, 14%	CR0453H19		11.07
Château Mauvesin-Barton, Moulis-en-Médoc 2020 - Half, 13%	CR0490H20		13.08
Château Angludet, Margaux 2020 - Half, 13.5%	CR0300H20	-	17.55
Château Léoville Barton, 2e cru classé Saint-Julien 2017 - Half, 13%	CR0210H17		45.00
Rest of France			
Tanners Rhône Valley Red, Côtes du Rhône 2020- Half, 14.5% Vg 🚭	RR0920H20		6.23

Half Bottles





Séguret, Côtes du Rhône-Villages,  Domaine de l'Amandine 2021 - Half, 14%	RR0135H21	1	6.79
Beaujolais, Jacques Charlet 2021- Half, 13% Fleurie, Domaine André Colonge et Fils 2022- Half, 13.5% Beaujolais-Villages, Rémi Benon 2021- Half, 13% Vg	JR0001H21 JR0015H22 JR0038H21	1	7.12 7.90 8.20
Crozes-Hermitage, Coeur de Clairmont 2022- Half, 13% Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Galets de la Berthaude, Perrin 2022 - Half, 15%	RR0050H22 RR0132H22		8.24 13.35
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Château de Beaucastel, Famille Perrin 2021 - Half, 14.5%	RR0045H21	-	34.64
Rest of Europe  Tanners Douro Red 2020 - Half, 13.5%  Bagordi Tinto Cosecha, Rioja 2021 - Half, 14%  Chianti Colli Senesi, Borgo Alla Terra, Geografico 2022 - Half, 13%  Manoella, Douro Tinto, Wine & Soul 2021 - Half, 13.5%  Villa Antinori Rosso, Toscana 2020 - Half, 13.5%	PR0005H20 SR0296H21 IR0195H22 PR0067H21 IR0036H20		4.97 5.09 5.30 8.04 12.26
Rest of World Ladera Verde Merlot, Valle Central 2022 - Half, 12.5% Vg Santa Ema 'Select Terroir' Merlot Reserva, Maipo 2020 - Half, 13.5% Château Musar, Bekaa Valley, Gaston Hochar 2017 - Half, 14%	QR0019H22 QR0071H20 ER0009H17	1 /	4.27 5.70 20.00

# Magnums

When sating a crowd, a magnum can be the ideal option. It not only provides eight or so glasses, it makes an impressive centrepiece too! Parcels of magnums can often be found on our Oddments List.

## CHAMPAGNE & SPARKLING

Tanners Extra Réserve, Brut Champagne - Magnum, 12.5% Vg	FC0001M	56.67
Ayala Brut Majeur, Champagne - Magnum, 12%	FC0043M	60.00
Nyetimber Classic Cuvée, English Sparkling Wine - Magnum, 12%	FI00 I 6M	65.84
Louis Roederer Collection, Champagne - Magnum, 12.5%	FC0242M	100.00
Bollinger Special Cuvée, Brut Champagne - Magnum, 12%	FC0014M	100.00
Pol Roger Vintage, Brut Champagne 2016 - Magnum, 12.5%	FC0024M16	191.67
WHITE		
Mâcon-Chardonnay, Mallory & Benjamin Talmard 2022 - Magnum, 13%	BW0038M22	30.24

Claret  Tanners Claret, Bordeaux - Magnum, 13.5% Vg  Château Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur 2019 - Magnum, 14.5%  Château Montaiguillon, Montagne Saint-Emilion 2020 - Magnum, 14.5%  CR0730M20  30.52  Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc 2017 - Magnum, 13%  CR0450M17  39.56  Pauillac Réserve Spéciale,  CR0295M19  62.50
Château Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur 2019 - Magnum, 14.5% CR0064M19 24.65 Château Montaiguillon, Montagne Saint-Emilion 2020 - Magnum, 14.5% CR0730M20 30.52 Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc 2017 - Magnum, 13% CR0450M17 39.56
Château Montaiguillon, Montagne Saint-Emilion 2020 - Magnum, 14.5% CR0730M20 30.52 Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc 2017 - Magnum, 13% CR0450M17 39.56
Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc 2017 - Magnum, 13% CR0450M17 🗸 39.56
Pauille Pécanie Spéciale CP039EMI9 / 42 E0
rauliac Reserve Speciale, CR02751117 62.50
Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) 2019 - Magnum, 13.5%
Château du Domaine de l'Eglise, Pomerol 2020 - Magnum, I5% CR0629M20 - 100.00
Rest of France
Séguret, Côtes du Rhône-Villages, RR0135M21 25.98  Domaine de l'Amandine 2021 - Magnum, 14%
Château de Tiregand, Pécharmant 2020 - Magnum, I 5% Vg MR0048M20 🗸 29.81
Auxey-Duresses I er cru Clos du Val, BR0024M2 I 🗸 78.34
Michel Prunier et Fille 2021 - Magnum, 13.5%
Rest of Europe
Tanners Douro Red 2021 - Magnum, 14% PR0005M21 17.81
Rioja Vega Crianza, Rioja 2019 - Magnum, 14% Vg SR0031M19 23.45
Quinta do Francês, Odelouca River Valley, PR0097M19 35.02 Algarve 2019 - Magnum, 13.5%
New World
Cristóbal 1492 Malbec, Mendoza 2022 - Magnum, 13.5% Vg TR0018M22 19.82
Acrux, Colchagua, Sutil 2019 - Magnum, 14% QR0083M19 🗸 51.67
Bag-in-Box
Domaine de l'Amandine Rouge, Côtes du Rhône 3 Litre BIB, 13.5% RR0142X 39.47
Single Serve Wines
SPARKLING
Freixenet Cordon Negro, Cava Brut - 20cl, 11.5% FI0017Q 2.85
Freixenet Cordon Rosado, Cava Seco - 20cl, 11.5% FI0022Q 3.02
Le Contesse Pinot Rosé, Cuvée Brut, Spumante - 20cl, 11% FI0122Q 3.05
WHITE
Waters Edge Sauvignon Blanc, Chile - 18.7cl, 12.5% QW0914Q 1.42
Wallflower White, Spain - 18.7cl CAN, 12% SW0112Q 1.96

Half Bottles & Magnums

Waters Edge Chardonnay, Australia - 18.7cl, 12.5%	AW0060Q		2.11
ROSÉ			
Wallflower Rosé, Spain - 18.7cl CAN, 12%	SP0004Q		1.96
Waters Edge White Zinfandel, California - 18.7cl, 10.5%	UP0004Q		1.99
RED			
Founders Stone 'The Homestead' Shiraz, Australia - 18.7cl, 13.5%	AR0088Q		1.94
Wallflower Red - 18.7cl CAN, 12%	SR00162Q		1.96
Haçienda de Calidad Malbec - 18.75cl, 13%	TR0057Q		1.97
Waters Edge Merlot, Moldova - 18.7cl, 13.5%	HR0033Q		2.01
Waters Edge Shiraz, Australia - 18.7cl, 12.5%	AR0086Q	i	2.03
McGuigan's 'Black Label' Shiraz, Australia - 18.7cl, 12.5%	AR0073Q		2.30
CVNE Rioja, Spain - 18.7cl, 13,5%	SR0059Q		2.98

HW00510

2.06

Waters Edge Pinot Grigio, Moldova - 18.7cl, 10.5%

## Port

Steeped in history and dominating the fortified wine category, Port is a wonderful creation that has never been so approachable whether young or old. Following the rare back-to-back vintage declarations of 2016 and 2017 and a succession of great wines since, now is a great time to buy Some shippers declared 2018 or 2019, many 2020 too, while there have been Single Quinta releases which we still rate very highly as well. All Ports come from the Douro region in northern Portugal with its spectacular main valley which has huge hillsides of cascading terraces of vines. Grape growing is organised into quintas, or farms, some of which are famous in their own right such as Quinta de Vargellas belonging to Taylor's and Quinta dos Malvedos owned by Graham's. Much production still lies in the hands of independent grape growers.

The greatest development in quality in the last decade or so has been the change of attitude to viticulture, with the city-based Port shippers (based in Vila Nova de Gaia and Porto on the coast) taking a much greater interest in how the vines are managed, whether in their own vineyards or under contract. And quite a jigsaw it is with the **Touriga Nacional**, **Tinta Barroca**, **Touriga Franca**, **Tinta Roriz** (Tempranillo) and **Tinto Cão** grape varieties all having their own particularities – and those are just the main black ones. The second biggest change has been the replication of foot treading by similarly soft pressing techniques of colour, flavour and tannin extraction as opposed to the almost exclusive use of the autovinification tanks that largely replaced foot treading in the 1960s and 1970s. A further development has been the interest in using a better quality of spirit to fortify the young Port. These days it is quite normal to go to Bordeaux to select fine French spirit, whereas back in the eighties, by law, they had to use rough old stuff from down by Lisbon!

The different styles of Port can be confusing, but we attempt to explain them below with

classic Vintage Port being at the pinnacle which, with Single Quinta Vintages, Crusted, LBV and Ruby, make up Ports on the darker, fruitier side whereas Tawny and Colheita Ports belong to the paler, more figgy flavoured camp. Each house, or shipper, has preferences for different styles, sometimes according to their origins be it Portuguese, Dutch or British. The British presence in these parts dates from the 17th century and greatly benefited from trade wars with the French and the signing of the 1703 Methuen Treaty which gave preferential treatment to Portuguese wines. Many of the British named brands persist though few remain in the hands of the original founding families.

## FINE RUBY, LBV & CRUSTED

Ruby should be a good, honest and well-priced young Port and we are particularly pleased with Tanners Patrono Fine Ruby which we buy from the family owned Fladgate Partnership, producers of Taylor's, Fonseca and Croft. LBV (Late Bottled Vintage) Port is kept in barrel for up to six years, twice as long as a classic Vintage Port. This leads to a more complex style than Ruby Port and most, like Tanners LBV, are filtered making decanting unnecessary. Some, however, with the word 'Traditional' on the label are not filtered, which brings us on to a rarer British invention, Crusted Port. This type of Port is a blend of various vintages and, having spent less time in wood, will throw a sediment known formerly as a 'crust'. The year of bottling is normally shown on the label. Port decanting is easy, so we strongly recommend you try Tanners Crusted Port, which is created for us by Johnny Graham of Churchill's, the house he founded in 1981, his family having sold Graham's some years before.

Tanners Patrono Fine Ruby Port, 20% VP0109B		11.39
Tanners Late Bottled Vintage Port 2017, 19.5% Vg VP0002B17		16.52
Tanners Late Bottled Vintage Port 2017 - Half, 19.5% Vg VP0002H17		9.43
Tanners Crusted Port, bottled 2012, 19.5% Vg VP0006B12		
Taylor's Late Bottled Vintage Port 2018, 20% VP0014B18		14.49
Niepoort Unfiltered Late Bottled Vintage Port 2018, 19.5% VP0015B18	-	
Churchill's Port Experience Pack - 3x20cl, 19.5% Vg VP0101B		23.77

#### TAWNY PORT

Aged in large barrels rather than bottle, Tawny Ports lose more colour, hence the name 'tawny'. It is an oft overlooked but versatile style. Usually bottled at 10, 20, 30 or 40 years old, they have increasing levels of complexity the older they are, with spice, dried fruit and nutty flavours abounding at all levels. This also makes them superb accompaniments to foods such as goat's cheese, fig or apple tart, pâtés and roasted almonds. Colheitas are tawnies from a single year and are worth seeking out, with Dirk Niepoort making very good examples. Wine & Soul is another good producer of these styles since Jorge Borges, who co-owns it with his wife Sandra Tavares, has great sources of older, wood-aged Ports.

Ν	Noval 10 Year Old Tawny Port, 19.5% 🐠	VP0003B	22.96
Μ	Janoella 10 Year Old Tawny Port. Wine & Soul. 20% Vg	VP0501B	27.10

WHITE PORT

Fortified Wine - Port

Made from Gouveio (Godello), Malvasia Fina and Viosinho grapes this is a very popular apéritif in Portugal, to be savoured on its own or mixed in a deliciously refreshing Port & Tonic.

Churchill's White Port, Dry Aperitif, 19.5%

VP0012B 21.35

#### SINGLE QUINTA VINTAGE

In years when a shipper doesn't declare a 'classic vintage', they will often release a Single Quinta Port which is the product of one farm. These grapes normally go into the blend of a 'classic vintage' in declared years, along with grapes from other *quintas* that are rarely or never seen on labels.

They can be considered as coming from the 'home farms' but it can be trial to remember which belongs to which! Taylor's releases Quinta de Vargellas and sometimes Quinta de Terra Feita; Graham's has Quinta dos Malvedos; Fonseca has Quinta do Panascal; Churchill's has Quinta da Gricha; Dow's has Quinta do Bomfim and Quinta de Senhora da Ribeira; Croft has Quinta da Roêda; Warre's has Quinta da Cavadinha and Cockburn's has Quinta dos Canais. The quality of these wines has never been higher and they tend to drink a little earlier than their classic vintage counterparts.

Taylor's Quinta Terra Feita, Vintage Port 2005, 20.5%	VP0090B05		25.19
Taylor's Quinta de Vargellas, Vintage Port 2015, 20%	VP0020B15		26.46
Dow's Quinta do Bomfim, Vintage Port 2013, 20%	VP0046B13		29.52
Graham's Quinta dos Malvedos, Vintage Port 2012, 20%	VP0019B12		30.92
Churchill's Quinta da Gricha, Vintage Port 2021, 19.5%	VP0041B21	-	47.50
Churchill's Quinta da Gricha, Vintage Port 2020, 19.5%	VP0041B20	-	47.50
Quinta do Vesuvio Vintage Port 2019, 20%	VP0017B19	-	56.67
Dow's Quinta Senhora da Ribeira, Vintage Port 2019, 20%	VP0056B19		56.67
Quinta Vale D Maria Vintage Port 2017, 20%	VP0052B17		60.00

#### CLASSIC VINTAGE PORT

Classic vintages are declared several times a decade, traditionally on St George's Day, when the quality is considered to be high enough. There isn't always consensus and the decision to declare is up to each individual house but normally the two main players, the Fladgate Partnership (Taylor's, Fonseca and Croft) and Symington Family Estates (Warre's, Dow's, Graham's and Cockburn's) will usually declare all or nothing. The latter also owns Quinta do Vesuvio, which together with French-owned Quinta do Noval, is normally considered a producer of Classic Vintages rather than Single Quinta Ports. To complicate things further, the houses are now producing tiny amounts of single vineyard Ports along the lines of

## Port Vintage Guide

The weather pattern in 2023, fresher and less extreme than 2022 which was baking hot, suggests there could be an interesting comparison to come. In 2021 a small amount of top Single Quinta wines were produced but not a full declaration. There was plenty of beneficial rainfall early in 2020 but also plenty of heat which has given exceptionally low yields. What there is, is deeply concentrated and very like 2009 in style. 2019 was a very dry, but not hot, vintage which has given some characterful wines with great elegance, some excellent single quintas have been made. A rain affected start to the season, coupled with hail, reduced yields to very small levels in 2018. A hot summer reduced these further. What there is, looks very good, with some houses declaring a vintage year for the third successive year. The earliest harvest on record in 2017 followed a growing season of drought and high temperatures, the resultant wines being very concentrated with good structure resulting in the first back-to-back declaration with 2016 for many years. 2016 was a tricky vintage for the growers but ultimately, they have been rewarded with super wines with elegance and freshness, good enough for a general declaration. 2015 made some outstanding single quintas, the houses maybe overly swayed by those 2016s into not declaring but the wines are very good in their own right. 2014 and 2013 made good single quintas which are fresh with lively fruit character. 2012 is a great single quinta vintage which produced elegant wines with balance and poise. Looking back through declared vintages, 2011 produced fabulous wines with freshness and a fruity style which will make them great drinking throughout their evolution. 2009, by contrast, is about power, density and longevity. The 2007 vintage was more elegant with great concentration, length and purity. The hot summer of 2003 delivered super ripe, intense wines. The Millennium vintage of 2000 was wonderfully rich and ripe, approachable in style but worth keeping. 1997 was widely declared and rightly praised but still a little backward. Wines from the 1994 vintage remain backward due to their intensity. 1992 is also for the long-term, currently quite closed. The concentrated wines of 1991 are still for keeping, though Ports from the lighter houses are just beginning to emerge. The wines of the bountiful 1985 vintage have a great balance of power with sweetness and are drinking now. The appealing style of 1983 makes it perfect for current drinking. The wines of the 1980 vintage too are much under-rated and very pure. The 1977s, undoubtedly one of the great vintages, have matured well and are firmly in their drinking window, whilst the initially structured wines of 1970 have proved themselves worth the wait and are now at their peak. Lucky indeed are those still fortunate enough to have some 1966s, 1963s, 1960s and 1955s!

Quinta do Noval Nacional. Graham's Stone Terraces, Taylor's Vinha Velha and Capela da Quinta do Vesuvio will no doubt be joined by more over the coming years. Traditionally Vintage Port was kept for 20 years or more before drinking, but there is no doubt that younger Port, when it is sweet, fruity and luscious, can also be delicious.

Smith Woodhouse Vintage Port 2007 - Half, 20%	VP0043H07		23.02
Taylor's Vintage Port 2011 - Half, 20.5%	VP0025H11	-	28.13
Churchill's Vintage Port 2014 - Half, 20%	VP0040H14	-	30.14
Taylor's Vintage Port 2018 - Half, 20%	VP0025H18	-	38.52
Graham's Vintage Port 2017 - Half, 20%	VP0029H17	-	39.82
Warre's Vintage Port 2000 - Half, 20%	VP0028H00		39.82
Croft Vintage Port 2000, 20%	VP0033B00		55.00
Churchill's Vintage Port 2020, 20%	VP0040B20	-	57.50
Croft Vintage Port 2016, 20.5%	VP0033B16	-	60.00
Quinta do Noval Vintage Port 2019, 19.5%	VP0034B19	-	64.17
Dow's Vintage Port 2007, 20%	VP0030B07		70.84
Fonseca Vintage Port 2000, 20.5%	VP0024B00		71.67
Quinta do Noval Vintage Port 2017, 19.5%	VP0034B17	-	73.34
Quinta do Noval Vintage Port 2016, 19.5%	VP0034B16	-	73.34
Churchill's, vintage 2007, 20%	VP0040B07		76.25
Dow's Vintage Port 2017, 20%	VP0030B17	-	76.67
Dow's Vintage Port 2003, 20%	VP0030B03		81.67
Warre's Vintage Port 1980, 20%	VP0028B80		91.67
Smith Woodhouse Vintage Port 1980, 20%	VP0043B80		100.00
Dow's Vintage Port 1994, 20%	VP0030B94		108.34
Graham's Vintage Port 1994, 20%	VP0029B94	1	108.34
Fonseca Vintage Port 1983, 20.5%	VP0024B83		116.67
Fonseca Vintage Port 1977, 20%	VP0024B77		156.67
Taylor's Vintage Port 1977, 21%	VP0025B77	I	158.34
Niepoort Vintage Port 2019 - Magnum, 19.5%	VP0063M19	_	162.50

# Sherry

The word 'sherry' is derived from the name 'Jerez' or 'Xeres', the town at the heart of this iconic southern Spanish region. Very recognisable yet very poorly understood, Sherry only comes from Andalucia, in Southern Spain, and in particular from the vineyards around the three towns of Jerez de la Frontera, Sanlúcar de Barrameda and El Puerto de Santa Maria. It's baking hot here in summer, the buildings are





mostly painted white, and the traditional Andaluz culture persists which often involves



ferias (fairs), horses and, of course, plenty of sherry. The first thing to note about styles of sherry is that well over half of the annual production, and nearly all drunk in Spain, is dry. Think of the bars that line the streets of Seville and Jerez, and you'll find bone-dry Manzanillas and Finos partnering all sorts of delicious tapas. Nutty Amontillados and Olorosos with wonderful depth and presence are equally impressive. Then there is the depth and complexity of wines aged for many years, and a more-ish quality that makes you want another glass! Keep an eye out for our 'special releases' during the year, including En Rama styles and other small parcels of rare sherry.

#### MANZANILLA & FINO

From the coastal town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda, light, dry and even a little salty, **Manzanilla** can be treated just like a white wine and drunk with or without food but is at its most appetising with a plate of fresh shellfish. There's often an almondy note to *Fino*, particularly on the palate, but it still has that fresh style if a bit weightier than Manzanilla. Long on flavour, it is very good with salted almonds and olives.

Tanners Mariscal Manzanilla Sherry, 15% Vg	VS0002B	11.38
Tanners Fino Sherry, I5% Vg	VS0001B	11.47
La Gitana Manzanilla de Barrameda Sherry,	VS0009C	8.68
Bodegas Hidalgo - 50cl, 15% Vg		
Tio Pepe Fino Palomino Sherry, Gonzalez Byass, 15% Vg	VS0015B	11.22

#### **AMONTILLADO**

An **Amontillado** is a Fino sherry which starts to oxidise in the barrel as it loses the protective layer of *flor*, the protective covering of yeast that grows on most young sherries. The action of oxidation darkens the colour, and the character gets deeper and more hazelnut in flavour. Amontillados were traditionally sweetened a little into a medium style, such medium wines must now be labelled as 'blends' or 'selections' of Amontillado.

Tanners A Blend of Amontillado, Medium Dry Sherry, 17%	VS0003B	12.35
Harveys Medium Dry Blend of Amontillados Sherry, 17.5%	VS0028B	10.85
Viña AB Amontillado Seco de Jerez Sherry, Gonzalez Byass, 16.5%	VS0044B	14.90

#### PALO CORTADO & DRY OLOROSO

Palo Cortado is rare style that occurs when the wine stops making *flor* and natural oxidation happens slowly with the colour remaining quite light. Always dry, a good Palo Cortado has brilliant finesse and elegance, yet has tremendous length. A cut stick (*palo cortado* in Spanish) is the symbol used to mark the casks. An aged, dry Oloroso has a similar intensity to Palo Cortado but the colour is darker and the wine more robust. The difference in ageing is that Olorosos never had the *flor* in the first place. Their generous deep walnut flavours make them warming winter drinks...and great accompaniments to soup.

Alfonso Oloroso Seco de Jerez Sherry, Gonzalez Byass, 18%	VS0038B	15.19
Leonor Palo Cortado de Jerez 12 Años Sherry, Gonzalez Byass, 20%	VS0045B	17.12

#### SWEETER SHERRIES

Cream sherry is a lovely balanced drink, much maligned as the tipple of grandmothers and reverends! A good cream sherry should have depth and plenty of dried fruit character to go well with a slice of cake. It deserves once again a much wider audience. Pale Cream is made by combining a dry Fino with sweet, grapey Moscatel. Sweet but fresh, it reflects the sherry blender's art! Made from Muscat of Alexandria, younger versions of Moscatel are wonderfully grapey in aroma and sweet on the palate while older ones go very dark with age, almost treacly in character with an intense sweetness. Pedro Ximénez originates in Montilla and is invariably best when part-fermented to allow natural sweetness to be retained. The dried fruit, fig and walnut flavours get more intense as the PX is barrel-aged in a solera. It a perfect partner for vanilla ice cream.

Tanners Cream Sherry, 17%	VS0004B		12.24
Harveys Bristol Cream Solera Sherry, 17.5%	VS0019B		10.70
Croft Original Pale Cream Sherry, 17.5%	VS0018B		11.24
Heredad de Hidalgo Pale Cream Sherry, Jerez, 17.5% Vg	VS0058B	I	12.33
Triana Pedro Ximénez Sherry, Jerez, Bodegas Hidalgo - 50cl, 15%	VS0063C		13.96

# Other Fortified Wine

Stickies are generally from hotter regions where grapes ripen to give plenty of sugar, sunshine allows the drying of grapes, and warmer warehouses accelerate the maturing of wines in barrel. The British, surprise, surprise, were instrumental in setting up a string of fortified wine producing areas conveniently placed for re-supply, such as Madeira on the way over to the Americas or Marsala where Nelson's fleet was victualed in 1798. By and large these wines are sweet with the spirit stopping the fermentation before the natural sugar has been used up. This makes their consumption more of a challenge in these days of drier tastes. Whenever we show them at tastings however, customers rave about them and delight in suggesting food pairings or recipes that their addition would improve. We suggest just pouring glasses and handing them out, no questions asked!

## Madeira

Madeira means 'wood' in Portuguese after the predominant vegetation found by the early settlers in the 1420s. It is a 1 hr 45 mins flight from Lisbon and on the same latitude as Bermuda and Morocco. The island is extremely mountainous and the climate subtropical. Bananas and sugarcane grow alongside vines, though these are generally grown at slightly higher altitudes. Producers are encouraging growers to replant the good workhorse grape, Tinta Negra (Mole), with more noble grape varieties such as Sercial, Verdelho, Bual (Boal) and Malmsey (Malvasia). Moscatel is also grown as well as two rarities, Terrantez and Bastardo. The 'Canteiro' production method is best whereby casks of Madeira are left for very extended periods in warehouses on stillages (canteiros) in multi-floored warehouses, heat and air being friends of the Madeira winemaker. The 'Estufa' method using heated steel tanks is fine and achieves good results, being the artificial recreation of the old practice of sending Madeira across the equator to the West Indies and back again! Flavours of roasted almonds feature in the younger, fresher Madeiras, with various degrees of ginger, cinnamon and mace through to molasses in the older wines. They have in common balancing citrus notes of lemon, orange and kumquat.

D'Oliveira's is a very traditional (in the best sense of the word) company with, by repute, the best stocks of very old vintage Madeiras. Henriques & Henriques produces a fine range of age-statement-carrying Madeiras as well as very fine old vintage ones. Blandy's is part of the Madeira Wine Company which is now back in the management of the British Blandy family. Barbeito occupies a zen-like winery, extremely high up above the sea in conditions conducive to making a fresher style.

Barbeito Malvasia Reserva Madeira - 50cl, 19%	VM0803C	14.03
Blandy's Duke of Sussex Dry Madeira, 19%	VM0027B	15.29
D'Oliveiras Sweet Madeira, 19%	VM0001B	17.36
Henriques & Henriques 10 Year Old Verdelho Madeira - 50cl, 20% Vg	VM0041C	18.73
Henriques & Henriques 10 Year Old Malvasia Madeira - 50cl, 20% Vg	VM0003C	19.01
Barbeito Single Harvest Madeira 2010 - 50cl, 19%	VM0074C10	26.51
Barbeito Sercial 10 Years Reserva Velha Madeira, 19%	VM0042B	36.84



## Marsala

& Brandy

Other Fortified Wine

On the western tip of Sicily, the town of Marsala sits on a stunning coastline with thousands of acres of vines behind it. Its wines shouldn't be used just for cooking, lovely though it is in Tiramisu and Zabaglione! The Lombardo family make a fabulous range of Marsalas in a winery set back from the sea by a short avenue of palms.

Marsala Fine IP, Cucina, Lombardo, 17%	VM0004B	10.86
Marsala Superiore Old, Secco, Lombardo, 18%	VM0022B	13.08

## Setúbal

The Setúbal region lies just south of Lisbon, across the Tagus estuary. It is famous for fortified sweet wines made from Muscat of Alexandria grapes, the barrel-aged versions from Bacalhôa are superb. The corniche road from here to Sesimbra is breath-taking.

Moscatel de Setúbal, Bacalhôa 2019, 17%

VM0021B19 11.65

## Rutherglen

Home to Australia's fortified wine industry, Rutherglen in northern Victoria, sticks closely to its history of making fine fortified wines or 'stickies' in local parlance.

Stanton & Killeen Muscat, Rutherglen - Half, 17.5%

VM0007H 14.00

# Brandy

Brandy's sales continue to grow both in the UK and more widely, managing to hold its own in the face of strong competition from Gin and Whisky, this is leading to more investment in the region and the drinks. The big brands continue to dominate but overall things are looking rosier here... The very finest examples come from France in the form of Armagnac from the South-West and Cognac from Charentes. These spirits are usually blended to offer consistency of style and quality. The age of the spirit indicates the quality level at which it appears, from the everyday VS level through to XO and beyond. The best of them offer a fantastically complex drink to round off any meal. The brandies of Spain tend to be fuller, a little sweeter and darker in colour, while those of Asbach from Germany's Rhine valley are a little lighter

#### ARMAGNAC

The famous brandy of Gascony and predating Cognac, Armagnac has been around since the 14th century. It is a little more fiery and earthy than Cognac but fantastic for it. In Bas-Armagnac near Eauze, brothers Armin and Rémy Grassa at Domaine Tariquet are now making the brandies, as well as large amounts of crisp white wine. We have shipped fine Tariquet Armagnacs for many years.

Domaine Tariquet VS Classique, Bas Armagnac, Famille Grassa, 40% WB0002B 26.41 Domaine Tariquet VSOP, Bas Armagnac, Famille Grassa, 40% 28.54 WB0003B Domaine Tariquet XO, Bas Armagnac, Famille Grassa, 40% WB0004B 37.80 Domaine Tariquet Pure Folle Blanche, 12 Year Old Bas Armagnac, 48.2% WB0011B 41.70

#### VS & VSOP COGNAC

The perfect end to dinner or great in a complex cocktail -whichever way you choose to drink France's most famous spirit, it remains one of the world's finest. Dominated by big brands, it is worth seeking out smaller producers such as the Vallet family at Château de Montifaud who have been able to offer more of a sense of place and provenance for their produce. It is well worth trying these beautiful artisan Cognacs and they are great value. Young VS Cognacs are perfect to mix in cocktails while the older, more complex VSOPs are ideal for sipping.

Château de Montifaud VS Cognac, Fine Petite Champagne, 40%	WB0024B	27.64
Château de Montifaud VSOP Cognac, Petite Champagne, 40%	WB0012B	32.86
H by Hine VSOP Cognac, Fine Champagne, 40%	WB0031B	33.11
Hine Rare Cognac, Fine Champagne, 40%	WB0032B	44.38

#### XO, DELUXE & VINTAGE COGNAC

Rich, complex, sublime digestifs with enormous depth and length, these are truly fine spirits. A rule change in April 2018 means that legally they must be at least 10 years old to carry the 'XO' designation.

Château de Montifaud XO Cognac, Petite Champagne, 40%	WB0061B	59.99
Delamain XO Pale and Dry Cognac, Grande Champagne, 42% - 50cl	WB0073C	69.92
Hine Antique XO Cognac, Grande Champagne, 40%	WB0050B	123.18
Hennessy XO Extra Old Cognac, 40%	WB0036B	142.68

#### WORLD BRANDIES

There are options beyond Cognac and Armagnac from the simple French Brandy – ideal for cooking and champagne cocktails - through the light and nutty Asbach from Germany to one of Spain's very best, Lepanto.

Jules Clairon Oak Aged Napoleon Fine French Brandy, 36%	WB0067B	12.76
Asbach Uralt, German Brandy, 36%	WB0046B	18.29

# Whisky

There is seemingly no let-up in demand for whisky, forcing many brands to eschew age statements for brand names, certainly at the entry level. At the same time, releases of age statement whiskies are met with high demand and sell out quickly. Whisky is now produced all over the world with some of the best coming from Japan, Ireland, the USA and, more recently, England and Wales. Scotland's malt whiskies are fascinating and complex. From

the light, ethereal Lowland to the elegant Speyside, through the rich Highland style and the peaty, smoky whiskies of the Islands, there is a whisky to suit all occasions, particularly with the raft of new 'expressions' released by the distilleries every year. The Irish style is generally softer, more approachable; look out for Teeling, one of the newer distilleries. Bourbon continues to grow rapidly in interest, the best now rivalling Scotch in terms of complexity, while the fledgling whiskies of England and Wales are beginning to show their quality. Japanese whiskies are very like Scotch, because that is where the Japanese distillers first learnt their craft and there are many superb examples. The subject of Scotch whisky can easily become a fascination: the source of the barley, the way it is malted, the water supply and the shape of the stills all influence the flavour of the spirit, and that is before the type of oak and conditions in which it is matured are determined! There remains strong interest in limited edition bottlings which can come and go quickly so do enquire or keep an eye on our website and Oddments List.

#### BLENDED SCOTCH

Scotland is the home of whisky which spawned the nickname 'Scotch'. Blended whiskies continue to dominate the market in terms of volume. These are a mix of malt and grain whisky making them ideal for mixing. Try Tanners Peaty Creag for a little more depth and complexity.

Tanners Peaty Creag, 8 Year Old Blended Scotch Whisky, 40% WH0001B 16.67

#### ISLAY MALT

The distilleries of this small island continue to fascinate, and the super-rich peaty/iodine character found here still finds favour with connoisseurs the world over. It is worth seeking out the malts from Kilchoman for a sense of place and great character.

Bowmore 12 Year Old, Islay Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0050B	34.99
Ardbeg 'The Ultimate' 10 Year Old, Islay Single Malt Whisky, 46%	WH0061B	39.34
Bruichladdich 'The Classic Laddie', Scottish Barley, Islay Single Malt, 50%	WH0261B	39.80
Laphroaig 10 Year Old, Islay Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0052B	40.61
Kilchoman Machir Bay, Islay Single Malt Whisky, 46%	WH0262B	40.66
Port Charlotte 10 Year Old, Heavily Peated, Islay Single Malt Whisky, 50%	WH0420B	45.61
Bunnahabhain 12 Year Old, Islay Single Malt Whisky, 46.3%	WH0049B	45.76

#### SPEYSIDE MALT

A sub-region of the Highland designation, Speyside is home to some of the most recognisable names. The elegant Speyside character is charming and worth seeking out. Try the whiskies of the family-owned Glenfarclas and Benromach distilleries which offer great value and complexity.

Tanners 14 Year Old Glenfarclas Highland Single Malt, 46%	WH0460B	51.03
Glenfiddich 12 Year Old, Speyside Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0019B	32.48

Glenfarclas 10 Year Old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0024B	35.08
The Glenlivet Founder's Reserve, Speyside Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0299B	36.24
Cragganmore 12 Year Old, Speyside Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0028B	38.99
Balvenie DoubleWood 12 Year Old, Speyside Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0029B	44.17
Glenfarclas 105, Cask Strength, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 60%	WH0036B	59.21
Glenfarclas 15 Year Old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 46%	WH0182B	62.15

#### HIGHLAND MALT

Classic whiskies, full of the rich Highland style with nutty, cereal aromas and hints of fudge, Highland Malts come in a range of styles from the fresher Glengoyne to the richer, more fruity and spicy Dalmore.

Tomatin Legacy, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 43%	WH0392B	25.66
Glenmorangie Original 10 year old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0005B	29.45
Glengoyne 12 year old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 43%	WH0801B	33.08
Tomatin 12 Year Old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 43%	WH0161B	34.65
Edradour 10 Year Old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0038B	36.33
Royal Lochnagar 12 Year Old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0124B	40.16
Dalwhinnie 15 Year Old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 43%	WH0007B	43.02
Dalmore 12 Year Old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0037B	54.51
Tomatin 14 Year Old Port Casks, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 46%	WH0545B	62.20
Dalmore 15 Year Old, Highland Single Malt Whisky, 40%	WH0353B	89.74

#### MALT FROM THE ISLANDS

The islands are the home of some rich whiskies. Whilst not exclusively so, they tend towards a smoky style usually with a seaweed tang but with notable differences in style as one moves round the islands. The new distillery on the Isle of Raasay, just off Jura, is already proving an interesting dram and one to follow.

Highland Park 12 Year Old 'Viking Honour', Single Malt Whisky, Orkney	WH0074B	38.52
Talisker 10 Year Old, Single Malt Whisky, Skye, 45.8%	WH0075B	41.54
Isle of Raasay Hebridean Single Malt Whisky, 46.4% NEW	WH0543B	43.75

#### CAMPBELTOWN & LOWLAND MALT

Lowland Malts are increasingly sought-after and becoming more difficult to find. These are gentle whiskies, some triple-distilled to make them even smoother. Lochlea is from the childhood home of Robert Burns and makes great whisky from barley grown at the farms.

Lochlea Our Barley, Lowland Single Malt Whisky, 46%	WH0512B	35.49
Glenkinchie 12 Year Old, Lowland Single Malt Whisky, 43%	WH0158B	42.28

#### **IRISH WHISKEY**

The whiskeys of Ireland are softer and more honeyed in style than those of Scotland. Some, such as **Bushmills** from the North and **Jameson** from the South, are triple distilled to emphasise their smooth character. Others, such as **Teeling**, only distill twice like the Scots, giving a little more edge and complexity. Blessed with good reserves of older whiskeys, Teeling's malts and blends are superb, as are the **Waterford** whiskies, the latest project of Mark Reynier who, in a former life, resurrected the fortunes of Islay's Bruichladdich distillery.

Bushmills Original White Label, Irish Whiskey, Antrim, 40%	WH0094B	21.04
Jameson Irish Whiskey, Dublin, 40%	WH0095B	22.45
Bushmills Black Bush, Irish Whiskey, Antrim, 40%	WH0100B	25.18
Teeling Small Batch, Blended Irish Whiskey, 46%	WH0360B	32.48
Bushmills Single Malt, 10 Year Old Irish Whiskey, Antrim, 40%	WH0102B	34.11
Teeling Single Malt Irish Whiskey, 46%	WH0276B	44.72
Waterford Cuvée Argot, Irish Single Malt Whisky, 47% NEW	WH0546B	45.93
Waterford Lakefield, Edition 1.1, Irish Single Malt Whisky, 50% NEW	WH0547B	56.91

#### WELSH & ENGLISH WHISKY

The home-grown producers continue to impress each year as their spirits becomes older and more complex. **Penderyn** has been producing their whisky since 2004 and now has some excellent stocks with good age. The **English Distillery** followed close on their heels in 2006 while the **Cotswold Distillery** is proving to everyone that age isn't everything! More are coming to the market every year, as many familiar to you for producing gin have diversified into Whisky production.

Penderyn Legend, Floral & Fruity, Single Malt Welsh Whisky, 40%	WH0553B	21.62
Penderyn Celt, Peaty & Citrusy, Single Malt Welsh Whisky, 40%	WH0555B	23.61
Penderyn Madeira Finish, Single Malt Welsh Whisky, 46%	WH0092B	25.10
The English Smokey, Single Malt English Whisky, 43%	WH0352B	37.34
Cotswolds Signature, Single Malt English Whisky, 46%	WH0350B	39.00
Henstone Single Malt English Whisky, 43.8% NEW	WH0571B	44.72

#### US & CANADIAN WHISKIES

Canadian Club 1858 Original Canadian Whisky, 40%	WH0107B	21.23
Buffalo Trace, Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 40%	WH0823B	23.16
Maker's Mark, Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whisky, 45%	WH0110B	24.70
Four Roses Small Batch, Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 45%	WH0354B	28.42
Wild Turkey 101, Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 50.5%	WH0140B	29.58

#### **WORLD WHISKY**

With a well-known whisky writer awarding a Japanese whisky the highest score in the 2015

edition of his book, one can no longer ignore the burgeoning whisky industry outside Scotland.

Nikka 'From the Barrel', Japanese Blended Whisky, 51.4% vol - 50cl WH0359C 36.65

# Gin

The gin market has now passed its peak and is undergoing a period of justification which will see some disappear, but the best will endure. Gin is a very individual spirit. It is flavoured with juniper and a number of other 'botanicals', the proportions of which give each gin its individual characteristics and following. As with any flavourings, the job can be done well, and it can be done badly. We are very proud to have an extensive selection of quality gins available at Tanners to suit all tastes. The flavoured gins are finding great popularity, with rhubarb and lemon seemingly the favourites. Don't forget Sloe and Damson Gin which we classify under 'Liqueurs' because they are sweet.

#### ENGLISH DRY GIN

These range from our **Hereford Dry Gin** to artisanal examples from **Sipsmith** and **Forest** and an increasing number of others. The chaps at **Warner's** from Nottingham are now serious players. As increasingly are some of our more local distilleries.

Hereford Finest Dry Gin, Tanners, 40%	WG0001B	14.84
Gordon's Premium Pink Distilled Gin, 37.5%	WG0935B	15.41
Bombay Sapphire London Dry Gin, 40%	WG0007B	19.99
Tanqueray London Dry Gin, 41.3%	WG0030B	20.11
Plymouth Gin, Coates & Co, 41.2%	WG0006B	23.67
Camino Gin, 40% vol - 50cl	WG0280C	24.16
Penrhos Dry Gin, 40%	WG0254B	24.20
Henstone Gin, 44.9%	WG0209B	25.99
Penrhos Wonky Raspberry Gin, 40%	WG0299B	27.03
Penrhos Apple & Elderflower Gin, 40.5%	WG0257B	27.03
Penrhos Rhubarb Gin, 40%	WG0255B	27.03
Warner's Harrington Dry Gin, 44%	WG0119B	27.64
Cotswolds Dry Gin, 46%	WG0157B	27.43
Brockman's Premium Gin, 40%	WG0117B	27.80
Tiger No 1 Gin, 40%	WG0146B	28.46
Pinkster Raspberry Gin, 37.5%	WG0159B	30.28
Cucumber Premium Dry Gin, The English Drinks Co, 40%	WG0181B	30.41
Wardington's Original Ludlow Triple Citrus and Pomegranate No 2 Gin, 42%	WG0265B	30.80
Wardington's Original Ludlow Dry No 1 Gin, 42%	WG0264B	30.80

Chase GB Extra Dry Gin, Herefordshire, 40%	WG0113B	30.85
Sly Gin London Dry, Premium Small Batch, Herefordshire, 43%	WG0179B	30.89
Warner's Rhubarb Gin, 40%	WG0135B	30.89
Sly Gin London Dry Pink Grapefruit, 43%	WG0918B	31.95
Chase Pink Grapefruit & Pomelo Gin, 40%	WG0164B	32.48
The Shropshire Distillery Dry Gin, 40%	WG0250B	32.94
The Shropshire Distillery Aromatic Spiced Gin, 40%	WG0251B	32.94

#### SCOTTISH & WELSH GIN

Spirits - Gin & Vodka

Gordon Castle Gin from Speyside is stunning with some of the botanicals coming from their own walled garden. Those from the Dyfi Distillery are worthy of consideration; these are genuinely small batch distillations using foraged botanicals to bring unique character and flavour.

Brecon Botanicals Gin, 43% vol	WG0143B	17.28
Aber Falls Rhubarb & Ginger Gin, Rhaeadr Fawr, 41.3% vol	WG0933B	22.33
Aber Falls Orange Marmalade Gin, Rhaeadr Fawr, 41.3% vol	WG0934B	22.33
Aber Falls Dry Gin, Rhaeadr Fawr, 41.3% vol	WG0932B	22.33
Hendrick's Gin, 41.4% vol	WG0009B	27.83
Dyfi Original Gin, Dyfi Distillery, 45% vol - 50cl	WG0218C	28.46
Pollination Gin, Dyfi Distillery, 45% vol - 50cl	WG0178C	31.10
The Botanist, Islay Dry Gin, 46% vol	WG0108B	31.39
Dà Mhìle Organic Seaweed Gin, 42% vol 🚭	WG0161B	31.93
Tanqueray No Ten Dry Gin, 47.3% vol	WG0103B	32.29
Gordon Castle Distilled Gin, 43% vol	WG0141B	32.46
In the Welsh Wind Signature Style Gin, 43% NEW	WG0308B	34.12
Hibernation Gin, Dyfi Distillery, 45% vol - 50cl	WG0191C	35.77
In the Welsh Wind Palo Cortado Cask Aged Gin, 43% NEW	WG0309B	36.56

#### **WORLD GIN**

The best gins from further afield are sublimely complex, even worth trying neat to savour their depth; Monkey 47, a German gin with 47 different botanicals, is one such.

1 Tolikey 47, Schwarzwald Dry Gill, Germany, 47/6 - 30cl vvG0122C 37.0	Monkey 47, Schwarzwald Di	ry Gin, Germany, 47% - 50cl	WG0122C	39.00
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# Vodka

This neutral spirit can be made from virtually anything with sucrose in it: barley, rye, potatoes, apples, milk and more besides. Then there is the all-important distillation these techniques will have as much effect on the flavour as the base liquid itself. Many are distilled numerous times to make them as 'clean' and pure as possible. Many charcoal-filter their

vodka to increase its purity. Try Black Cow's fascinating, creamy vodka, made from whey, or Chase's amazingly clean and fresh potato vodka.

#### PURE VODKA

Traditionally a cocktail ingredient or mixed, pure vodka is being more and more appreciated on its own. Try it ice cold.

Stoli Vodka, Latvia, 40%	WV0009B	17.05
Brecon Five Vodka, Wales, 43%	WV0028B	18.34
Absolut Vodka, Sweden, 40%	WV0010B	19.62
Black Cow Pure Milk Vodka, The Gold Top, England, 40%	WV0903B	25.34
Chase Potato Vodka, England, 40%	WV0015B	29.23
Belvedere Vodka, Poland, 40%	WV0023B	30.49
Grey Goose Vodka, France, 40%	WV0022B	32.48
In The Welsh Wind Three Grain Vodka, Wales, 43% NEW	WV0135B	32.50

#### FLAVOURED VODKA

These flavoured vodkas make for particularly interesting drinking. Some, such as the Zubrówka Bison Grass vodka, just have a subtle roundness to their flavour, whilst for the likes of Chase with their marmalade and rhubarb vodkas, it is more about the flavourings.

Absolut Citron Vodka, Sweden, 40%	WV0011B	19.62
Absolut Vanilla Vodka, Sweden, 38%	WV0029B	19.62
Zubrówka Bison Grass Vodka, Poland, 40%	WV0126B	19.99
Chase Rhubarb Vodka, England, 40%	WV0065B	36.80

## Rum

Rum is benefitting from the increased interest in fine spirits after the recent gin boom. This is bringing new players into the market, but it is starting with a much smaller base of drinkers. Some are curating excellent ranges source from the Caribbean such as Lost Years, while others are buying molasses and fermenting/distilling them and some even buying unrefined sugar and starting a new category. When it comes to after dinner drinks, the finest golden rums are more than a match for fine cognacs and malt whiskies. There is a tendency for these to come from the French West Indies, but nowadays there are plenty of 'boutique' producers around the rest of the Caribbean too. Many of these 'new wave' rums have a much greater sense of place and are more individual in style than in days of yore, often coming from very small distilleries. Rum is closely associated with the Caribbean islands, but all rum needs is sugarcane which is grown in many tropical climates from Central America to Australia. The famous Demerara region is in Guyana in South America. Some production involves shipping molasses to be processed nearer their markets, and a recent trend has been the importation in bulk for local maturation in barrel. We have two large old wooden vats at Tanners which served just that purpose. Other styles are white

and dark rums, as well as the newly popular spiced rums.

### WHITE RUM

Spirits - Rum

White rums are either very young un-aged rums, or older rums that have had some or all the colour removed by filtration. Rum's such as **Doorly's** falls into the latter category having spent three years ageing, meaning it is a much more characterful spirit than its more commercial rivals.

Doorly's Fine Old White Barbados Rum, Aged 3 Years, 40% WR0828B 25.27

### **GOLDEN RUM**

There are two distinct styles of golden rum. The first, Rhum Agricole, is made from distilling fresh cane juice and is more typical of the French islands. Rhum Depaz from Martinique is an excellent example. The alternative style of rum is made from molasses such as those from Doorly's and Mount Gay in Barbados or Mezan in Jamaica, which are a little richer and fuller in body. Both styles offer complexity and richness whilst retaining their unique identities. The Lost Years rums are blends but offer great character and a chance to offer something back to nature on the back of purchasing them.

Mount Gay Eclipse, Barbados Rum, 40%	WR0012B	19.45
Flount Gay Echpse, Bar Bados Rum, 40%	**************************************	17.73
Mezan XO, Jamaica Rum, 40%	WR0106B	33.05
Lost Years Four Island Rum, 40%	WR0127B	33.29
Doorly's XO, Fine Old Barbados Rum, 43%	WR0007B	34.09
Lost Years Arribada Cask Aged Rum, 42%	WR0128B	37.39
Mount Gay XO, Triple Cask Blend, Barbados Rum, 43%	WR0807B	47.93

### DARK RUM

This style, made from molasses, is aged in heavily charred barrels or is often coloured with caramel to give a rich intense colour. Some such as **Wood's** Old Navy maintain their naval heritage and make great sipping drinks or cocktails.

Lamb's Navy Rum, 40%	WR0003B	15.61
Woods Old Navy Demerara Rum, Guyana, 57%	WR0006B	25.99

### SPICED RUM

This style is rapidly growing in popularity with cinnamon, ginger, cloves and cardamom regularly being used as well as a bit of honey or sugar. The better ones, such as **Wildjac**, are very drinkable.

Sailor Jerry Spiced Rum, Guyana, 40%	WR0818B	16.99
Barti Spiced, Pembrokeshire Seaweed Spirit with Rum, 35%	WR0118B	21.81
The Kraken Black Spiced Rum, 40%	WR0826B	22.93
Wildjac Honey Spiced Rum, 37.5%	WR0120B	25.55

# Eaux de Vie

Eau de Vie, like Aqua Vitae, means water of life, and should be a full strength, twice-distilled, dry spirit, which is normally colourless. All Eaux de Vie – Schnapps in German – start life as clear distillates but may take on colour if aged in wood. They can be made from any fruit ranging from apples, through pears (the Williams variety is favoured) to raspberries and other soft fruits. Eaux de Vie made from pomace (skins and pips) is called Marc in France and Grappa in Italy.

### FRUIT EAUX DE VIE

Distilling fruit Eaux de Vie is an art form and there are some particularly fine producers in the Alsace region of France with family-owned, 150-year-old **Massenez** being one of the most highly regarded. Theirs are wonderful after-dinner drinks especially when served chilled.

Kirsch, Liqueur de Cuisine, Luxardo, 25% - 50cl	WE0110C	15.95
Eau de Vie de Kirsch Vieux, Massenez, 40%	WE0136B	36.00
Eau de Vie de Framboise Tradition, G Miclo, 40%	WE0019B	49.00
Eau de Vie de Poire Williams Tradition, G Miclo, 40%	WE0021B	49.00

## CALVADOS & APPLE BRANDY

In France, Calvados is the most famous apple brandy and is treated with the same reverence as Cognac. It must come from the Calvados department of Normandy which is centred around Caen. Calvados from the Pays d'Auge commands a premium and has protected AOC status. England and Wales have a fine tradition of cider making with more people trying their hand at making Apple Brandy.

Calvados Fine, Berneroy, 40%	WE0073B	35.00
Dà Mhìle Organic Apple Brandy, 40%	WE0121B	45.00
Calvados Pays d'Auge VSOP. Domaine L Dupont. 42%	WE0022B	60.00

### **GRAPPA & MARC**

Wherever there is red wine, there is Grappa or Marc which is made from the pomace (skins and pips) left after pressing the fermented grapes, after all alcohol shouldn't go to waste! Italy and France have strong traditions of making Grappa and Marc, and have skilful distillers who achieve depth, elegance and fine aromas in their spirits.

Grappa Artigiana Ci Vidina, Bepi Tosolini, 40%	WE0013B	35.00
C. appa / c.6.aa C. /a, 2-p, 10/0		

# Non-Alcoholic Drinks

The popularity of gin in the UK has given rise to a number of non-alcoholic variants, which in turn has led to a broadening of the category. Some are distilled in the normal way, the alcohol is then removed, and flavouring added. Others have no alcohol at all in the process just a maceration of the flavourings in water. A variety of different base flavours are used, and they can, served with a good mixer, make an interesting alternative to soft drinks for those looking for something different.

## NON-ALCOHOLIC SPIRITS

Caleño Dark & Spicy Tropical Non-Alcoholic Rum Spirit, 0.0% - 50cl	WX0922C	17.95
Tanqueray Alcohol Free, 0.0%	WX0263B	18.95
Seedlip Garden 108 Herbal, Distilled Non-Alcoholic Spirit, 0.0%	WX0912B	26.95

### NON-ALCOHOLIC CORDIALS

Jukes is a collection of non-alcoholic cordials created by well-respected wine writer, Matthew Jukes. A blend of fruit, vegetables, herbs, spices and organic apple cider vinegar, designed to be mixed with still, sparkling, or tonic water. They are the perfect replacement for a great glass of wine, for those occasions when you choose not to drink alcohol.

Jukes 1 Cordiality, The White, 3cl	WX0084	£3.50	
Jukes 6 Cordiality, The Red, 3cl	WX0083	£3.50	
NON-ALCOHOLIC WINE			
Torres Natureo Alcohol Free Muscat, Penedès 2021, 0%	WX0014B21	6.81	
Torres Natureo Alcohol Free Rosé Syrah/Cabernet, Penedès 2020, 0%	WX0006B20	6.81	
Torres Natureo Alcohol Free Syrah, Penedès 2020, 0%	WX0102B20	6.81	
So lennie Alcohol Free Luxury Rosé Bubbles Paris France 0% NEW	WX0057B	16.75	

# Liqueurs

Just about any fruit or herb you can think of, somebody, somewhere in the world is almost certainly macerating in sugar and alcohol. 'Liqueurs' covers a myriad of different styles and drinks but what they all have in common is that they are flavoured and sweetened spirits. We keep an eclectic range in addition to the usual suspects. Smaller producers make more interesting, better value liqueurs such as those from Massenez, based in Alsace. We include fruit gins in this category rather than mix them with dry gins. Complex and fruity liqueurs such as Tanners Sloe Gin and the other flavours from Foxdenton fit the mould perfectly.

### HERB & SPICE-FLAVOURED

Almost medicinal and some still made by monks, these are often taken as a digestif after a meal. They are fascinating in their complexity so also make great cocktail ingredients.

Crème de Menthe Verte, Massenez, 20%	WL0137B	13.41
Jägermeister, 35%	WL0030B	17.62
Mentzendorff Kummel, 38% - 50cl	WL0839C	18.29
Galliano L'Autentico, 42.3% - 50cl	WL0089C	18.66
Glayva Liqueur, 35% - 50cl	WL0025C	19.12
The King's Ginger Liqueur with a hint of Lemon Zest, 29.9% - 50cl	WL0151C	20.35
Chartreuse Green, 55%	WL0030B	37.19

### CITRUS-FLAVOURED

The basis for many cocktails and desserts, these classic citrus fruit liqueurs are intense, sweet and very moreish. Quality Limoncello is a classic liqueur which was traditionally homemade by the inhabitants of the Amalfi Coast.

Liqueur de Curação Bleu, Massenez, 25%	WL0133B	15.41
Liqueur de Curação Triple Sec, Massenez, 35%	WL0163B	18.13
Limoncello Qualitá BT Superiore, 28%	WL0090B	22.09
Dà Mhìle Organic Orange 33, 25%	WL0120B	24.39

## FRUIT-FLAVOURED

British Cassis made in Herefordshire is the essence of fruit in a glass and could even count as one of your five a day! Serve as a winter warmer or add to sparkling wine.

Tanners Sloe Gin, 25%	WL0115B	20.87
Crème de Banane, Massenez, 20%	WL0164B	13.41
Crème de Cassis de Dijon, Massenez, 20%	WL0131B	13.41
Crème à la Fraise des Bois, Massenez, 20%	WL0134B	13.41
Crème de Pêche, Massenez, 20%	WL0150B	13.41
Crème de Framboise, Massenez, 20%	WL0135B	13.41
Crème de Mûre, Massenez, 20%	WL0138B	13.41
Liqueur d'Abricot, Massenez, 25%	WL0130B	15.41
Crème de Violettes, Massenez, 25%	WL0140B	15.41
Liqueur de Rhubarbe, Edmond Briottet, 18%	WL0941B	17.22
British Cassis, Blackcurrant Liqueur, White Heron, 15% - 50cl	WL0035C	17.55
Foxdenton Damson Gin Liqueur, 18.5%	WL0099B	20.92
Foxdenton Winslow Plum Gin Liqueur, 17.5%	WL0101B	20.92
Heering, Cherry Liqueur, 24%	WL0048B	21.28
Chilton Damson Gin, Shropshire, 27%	WL0055B	21.53
Gordon's Sloe Gin, 26%	WL0003B	22.58
Fragola, Bepi Tosolini, 24%	WL0945B	28.44

### **NUT-FLAVOURED**

Intensely flavoured, the earthy character of these liqueurs is perfect in cocktails or just sipped on their own. The Salizá Amaretto is pure almonds in a glass.

Frangelico Liqueur, 20%	WL0056B	16.00
Salizá Amaretto Veneziano, Bepi Tosolini, 28%	WL0942B	25.51

### COFFEE & CHOCOLATE-FLAVOURED

Rich and deep, these liqueurs can be added to cocktails, coffee, cakes or just poured over ice cream for a speedy dessert. They are versatile and intense.

Crème de Cacao, Massenez, 25%	WL0132B	15.41
Kahlúa Coffee Liqueur, 16%	WL0060B	16.23

### CREAM LIQUEURS

A dessert in a glass, these are rich flavourful drinks. The Merlyn liqueur from Wales' Penderyn distillery is a heady blend of Welsh cream and their pure spirit; it is not as sweet as you might think.

Merlyn Welsh Cream Liqueur, 17%	WL0064B	11.58
Cotswold Cream Liqueur, 17%	WL0129B	19.15

# Apéritifs & Cocktail Shelf

Every country has its signature drinks, and many commonplace examples have been re-worked and re-thought out with greater care and passion in recent decades. Fine examples of spirits such as Tequila, once the reserve of the Sunrise or Slammer, are now drinks to sip and savour. Sake is another example that is no longer the reserve of the kitchen cupboard but a fine,



complex drink worthy of attention. Whatever your 'tipple' you are sure to find something here.

# **APÉRITIFS**

A little something to whet the appetite, most are drunk long. Aperol from Italy makes a great apéritif served with tonic or soda if you like it drier...and lemonade or Prosecco if not. The Pineau des Charentes from Cognac producers Château de Montifaud makes a great start before any meal. Another favourite from France is Pastis if you like aniseed. It is worth seeking out a more traditionally produced one such as that from Henri Bardouin which shows great depth and complexity, or a fascinating alternative is the Arak from the Massaya winery in Lebanon.

Aperol Aperitivo, Barbieri, 11% vol	WO0823B	11.99
Ouzo I2	WO0020B	18.31

Vieux Pineau des Charentes, Château de Montifaud, 17% vol	WO0017B	18.55
Aalborg Taffel Akvavit, 45% vol	WO0037B	24.39
Henri Bardouin Pastis, 45% vol	WO0119B	28.51
El Massaya Authentic Arak, Lebanon, 53% vol - 50cl	WO0106C	28.99

Apéritifs & Cocktail Shelf

### **VERMOUTHS**

To give them their other title, 'aromatised wines' are those infused with a blend of herbs, fruits and spices and traditionally matured in the sun. There is something of a resurgence of interest in this style of drink with Spanish producers leading the way with Vermú and they are great for sipping over ice or as a longer drink. The French too are in on the act, though they have never really been away, with the Lillet and Chambéry Dolin examples being excellent.

Dubonnet, Apéritif à Base de Vin, 14.8% vol	WO0016B	8.95
Dolin Vermouth de Chambéry, Dry, 17.5% vol	WO0014B	13.39
Punt e Mes Vermouth, Carpano, 16% vol	WO0021B	13.44
Noilly Prat Original Dry Vermouth, 18% vol	WO0015B	13.58
Paso-Vermú Red Vermouth, 15% vol	WO0129B	13.82
Lillet Blanc, 17% vol	WO0065B	15.93

### PIMM'S & FRUIT CUPS

Pimm's is a classic British cocktail ingredient: just add lemonade or ginger ale, lots of fresh fruit and a sprig of mint. This sector is expanding with more variations being introduced by Pimm's, some of which are sweeter alternatives, but what is really exciting are the 'cups' being produced by the likes of Sipsmith: drier, more complex drinks equally at home with lemonade or as a base for fruit cocktails.

Sipsmith London Cup, 29.5% WO0118B 17.89

### **BITTERS**

Very popular in Southern Europe, bitters are often served both at the beginning and end of a meal. The amari of Italy are being joined by some home-grown examples from Britain which are perfect for adding to cocktails to show their herby, spicy depth.

Fernet-Branca, 39% WO0026B 26.31

## TEOUILA & MEZCAL

The differences between Tequila, Mezcal and Sotol are subtle. Mezcal can be made from any plant in the Agave family while Tequila must be made from Blue Agave (meaning all Tequila is Mezcal but not the other way round!) while Sotol is made from the Desert Spoon, a distant relative of asparagus. All are made in a similar fashion from the piñas or heart of the plant which is cooked and/or steamed, crushed, fermented, then distilled at least twice. Silver or white expressions are bottled young without age while the Gold, Reposado and

Añejo are all aged for increasing amounts of time before bottling. There is a lot of interest developing in these wonderfully characterful spirits.

José Cuervo Espécial, Tequila Reposado (Gold), 38% WO0007B 21.71 Hacienda de Chihuahua, Sotol Reposado, 38% WO0029B 40.22

### COCKTAIL SHELF

Stalwart ingredients for the cocktail cabinet, these are popular with mixers or in cocktails. Cachaça is the famous Brazilian spirit used to make the classic Caipirinha cocktail.

Cachaça 51, Brazil, 40% WO0090B 17.56

### SAKE & RICE WINE

Sake is a Japanese word for alcoholic drinks in general, so more correctly it should be called Nihonshu! It is also not really a wine but more like beer in its production. The best Sake is produced using only the starch in the centre of the rice grain; to this end the grains are polished to remove all but this kernel of starch. Naturally it is brewed to 19 - 20% alcohol but many are cut with water to bring this down to around 15%. The best – such as Akashi-Tai – are rich and earthy. Sake is the national drink of Japan, but they are made in many Asian countries, being known as rice wines.

Akashi-Tai, Shiraume Ginjo Umeshu, Plum Flavoured Sake, 14% - 50cl WO0865C 18.57 Akashi-Tai, Japanese Sake, Honjozo Genshu Tokubetsu, 19% - 72cl WO0872B 23.40

### FRUIT, GINGER & BRITISH WINE

Rubis Chocolate Wine, 15% WO0110C 10.58

# Extra Virgin Olive Oil

The Sesti family have a wonderful estate: Castello di Argiano near Montalcino in Tuscany. When we ship their lovely Rosso and Brunello wines, we can never resist adding some cases of their intensely flavoured extra virgin olive oil to the orders.

Sesti Olio di Oliva, Extra Vergine Cold Press - 50cl ZF0008C 15.68



# Buying from Tanners

### ORDERING BY PHONE

Shrewsbury: 01743 234400 Welshpool: 01938 552542 Llandudno: 01492 874099

Your call will be answered by our experienced Trade Support Team. Please have your customer number to hand. Office hours are 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, or you can leave an order on our voicemail, or email, after hours. The Welshpool office is also open on Saturdays between 9am and 1pm.

## ORDERING BY E-MAIL

Shrewsbury: trade@tanners-wines.co.uk Welshpool: welshpool@tanners-wines.co.uk Llandudno@tanners-wines.co.uk

We will confirm receipt.

### ORDERING BY POST

You can send your order or write to us at Tanners Wines Ltd., FREEPOST, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1XD or Tanners Wines Ltd, Severn Farm Enterprise Park, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7DF.

### ORDERING IN PERSON

You can place an order for delivery at any of our branches or visit our Trade Support Team in Shrewsbury, Welshpool or Llandudno.

### CLAIMS

Important: Goods must be examined and breakages, shortages or mispicks notified immediately, within two days of delivery at the latest.

### **OUERIES OR COMPLAINTS**

Should you have a query regarding delivery, please telephone Trade Support on 01743 234400 (Shrewsbury), 01938 552542 (Welshpool), or 01492 874099 (Llandudno). For queries regarding accounts, please ask for our Accounts Department on 01743 234500. Any complaints in respect of quality or service will be attended to personally by the directors.

### MINIMUM ORDERS

Minimum order value of £150 for free delivery.

# Tanners Services

### THE TEAM

Looking after customers is foremost among Tanners' priorities. Simon Barratt, Trade Sales Director; Charles Gannon, Associate Trade Sales Director, and their team of eleven Area Sales Managers are out visiting customers all the time.

Immense importance is placed on our strong inside team who, sharing the buying, are available to go out in support of the sales team. They also assist in the selection of wines and you will find an excellent Trade Support Team in Shrewsbury headed up by Duncan Smith and a similar service in Welshpool and Llandudno.

In Shrewsbury please ask for: Duncan Smith, Rachel Crumpton, Dawn Williams. Helen Meek or Lucy Martin. In Welshpool please ask for: Amanda Proctor, Jenny Bevan or Poppy Davies. In Llandudno, please ask for Richard Stevens or Damian Roberts.

### TANNERS TRADE OFFERS

We are continuously negotiating with wine producers, distillers and breweries for special deals for our trade customers. These are presented on a regular basis in the form of offer sheets. Please ask your Area Sales Manager for copies. The bi-monthly Beer Files offers an excellent and continually changing range of guest beers.

### **ADVICE**

Whether over the telephone, or when we visit in person, it is crucial for us to give you friendly, down-to-earth advice at whatever level you require. We recruit people who already have an interest in wine, food and travel and then put them through our own training course as well as their Wine & Spirit Education Trust examinations. At a company the size of Tanners, it is easy for staff to taste regularly, to have regular contact with the buying team and to travel to the vineyards on whatever trips are available. And if your questions cannot be answered immediately, our many long-serving staff provide a vast bank of wisdom to draw upon.

### YOUR RESTAURANT LIST

Our Area Sales Managers are well qualified to advise on and manage your list for you. We can prepare and print your wine list and provide covers, if you are buying your wines from us. Descriptions on every wine that we sell are available.

### ALLERGENS AND VEGETARIAN WINES

We are happy to provide allergen information on all our products to confirm whether they contain sulphites, wheat, barley, egg and milk products or other allergens. Please contact us listing the products you are interested in. Likewise, we can advise if they are suitable for vegetarians or vegans.





### **ODDMENTS LIST**

Our Oddments List, which contains small parcels of interesting wines, Ports and spirits can be sent on request or found online at www.tanners-wines.co.uk. This is an excellent source of fine wine for the top end of your list.

### CORPORATE CUSTOMER SERVICES

Whether you require wines for corporate events, incentives, gifts or other uses, we can cater for your individual needs. For details of our services to businesses and institutions, please telephone our sales team on (01743) 234455. Visits by our Area Sales Managers can be arranged if appropriate.

### **GLASSES**

Glasses are only available for events where the entire drink order comes from Tanners. Our charge is £2.50 ex VAT per tray.

# **Essential Information**

This list is subject to stock remaining on hand and prices are subject to continual change and revision to duty, exchange and market fluctuations. All previous lists are hereby cancelled. Goods supplied remain Tanners property until payment has been received. Please check prices with us at the time of your order.

## **PAYMENT**

Tanners' standard payment terms are by **Direct Debit**. For details of the scheme, please speak to your Area Sales Manager. No further deliveries can be made if an account becomes overdue and Tanners reserve the right to **charge interest on all overdue balances** at the rate of 2% per calendar month until such overdue balances are paid. In the event of any cheques or direct debits being dishonoured, a charge of £12.50 + VAT will be made to the customer's account to cover bank and administration costs. Tanners reserve the right to change the payment terms at any point should your account become overdue.

### SALE OR RETURN

Our goods are not supplied on a sale or return basis unless by prior arrangement. Should you find that you need to return stock other than for reasons of quality then there may be an administrative charge for doing so. All returns must be checked and agreed by your Area Sales Manager and the correct documentation made out **before our driver collects**. Additionally, only wines which are of the current vintage listed and in **re-saleable condition** can be credited in full. No returns can be accepted from 15<sup>th</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### **DELIVERY TIMINGS**

There is a twice-weekly delivery service in Shrewsbury, Welshpool and Llandudno and a weekly service elsewhere in our regional delivery area. Please ask the Trade Support Offices

for your regular delivery day. To ensure delivery, orders must be received by 1pm and no later on the previous day. Nationally, unless advised otherwise, you will receive your delivery Monday to Friday, 8am - 6pm, within three working days.

### HIGHLANDS, OFFSHORE ISLANDS, IRELAND

We try to pass on the best rates possible for non-mainland UK, please ask for current details. You should allow at least eight working days for delivery to these areas.

### TITLE TO GOODS

The title to the goods shall remain vested with Tanners Wines Limited ("Tanners" or "the Company") until payment in full of the selling price and shall not pass to the customer until such payment has been received by the Company in cleared funds. Until such payment has been made the customer shall store the goods in suitable premises and, until such payment has been made, the Company or its agent may (without prejudice to its other rights) recover the goods and may enter the said premises for this purpose. Please see below for details reservation of title.

### RESERVATION OF TITLE

- 1. Title to the goods shall not pass to the customer until Tanners has received payment in full (in cash or cleared funds) for:
- The goods; and
- (ii) All other sums (including interest) which are, or which become, due to Tanners for, or in connection with, sales of the goods to the customer.
- Until title to the goods has passed to the customer:
- The goods shall remain Tanners' property and the customer shall store the goods separately and/or keep them in such a way that they can be readily identified as being Tanners' property. The customer shall ensure the goods shall be kept free from charge and/or encumbrance.
- Notwithstanding any inconsistency (if any) with any other provision of these conditions the customer acknowledges and admits that until full payment for the goods has been made it holds all goods in a fiduciary relationship as Tanners' bailee.
- Subject to (e) and (f) below, the customer shall be at liberty to sell the goods in the ordinary course of business provided always that the customer shall have no authority to enter into any contract of sale on Tanners' behalf and any contract of sale should accordingly be concluded in the name of the customer.
- Where the goods have been sold by the customer, the customer shall at Tanners' request and expense assign to Tanners its rights against the sub customer.
- Without prejudice to any other remedy that Tanners may have, Tanners may at any time revoke the customer's power of sale by notice to the customer if the customer is in default in payment of any sum whatsoever due to Tanners (whether in respect of the goods or any other goods supplied at

any time by us to the customer or for any reason whatsoever) or if any bill of exchange, cheque or negotiable instrument drawn or accepted by the customer in Tanners' favour at Tanners' request is dishonoured on presentation for payment or if Tanners has a bona fide doubt as to the solvency of the customer.

- The customer's power of sale shall automatically cease if any administrative receiver is appointed over any of the assets or the undertaking of the customer or if the customer goes into voluntary liquidation (otherwise than for the purpose of re-contruction or amalgamation) or calls a meeting of or makes any arrangement of composition with creditors or commits any act of bankruptcy.
- Upon determination of the customer's power of sale under clause (e) and (f):
- All amounts payable in respect of the goods that have been re-sold shall immediately become due, notwithstanding that any period of credit permitted under the contract may not have expired.
- (ii) The customer shall immediately place the remaining goods at Tanners' disposal and Tanners shall be entitled to enter upon any premises of the customer for the purpose of removing the same from the premises. Such return or retaking of possession shall not cancel or otherwise affect this contract of sale relating to such goods or the obligation of the customer to complete the purchase and to pay the purchase price in respect thereof (where the same remains outstanding).
- h. Tanners may maintain an action for the price of the goods notwithstanding that the ownership of them has not passed. For the purpose of this condition "the goods" shall mean all goods which are the subject of any contract of sale of supply between Tanners and the customer.
- i. Tanners shall allocate any cash received against the outstanding debt in any manner they decide. Any sums associated may be re-allocated to different invoices at a later date. Payment for specific invoices does not prevent collection of the remaining goods pertaining to those paid invoices.
- Please note all accounts beyond our credit terms will be passed to our debt collection agency. All accounts, without exception, will be subject to a surcharge of 15% plus VAT to cover our costs in recovery. These accounts will also be subject to any legal costs incurred in obtaining settlement.

### TIED HOUSES

This brochure is not intended as an inducement to breach any contract between tenant and landlord. In such cases only products excluded from agreements should be considered. Placing an order is the buyer's confirmation that there is no such tie.

# Visiting Tanners

## THE CELLARS SHOP, SHREWSBURY

26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1XD

01743 234459 | cellars.shop@tanners-wines.co.uk | @ tanners.wines For opening hours please see www.tanners-wines.co.uk/shrewsbury.

Round the back of our Shrewsbury headquarters, and with masses of parking, the Cellars Shop is the flagship of Tanners' retail operations. You will find the full Tanners range of wines and spirits superbly displayed, together with all the fine and rare 'Oddment' wines. In all, that makes well over 2,000 wines. But if you find the choice daunting, Erica Baker Vilain, Robert Crosland and the team including Marie-Claire Gillett, Howard Hutchins, Amy McCudden, Shania Cole and Tom Manley will give you honest, practical guidance. If you are coming from further afield and would like a look behind the scenes, please ring ahead on 01743 234455 and we will endeavour to organise a tour.

Directions: From the south side of Shrewsbury, follow signs to the town centre. Cross the English Bridge and take the second right entrance just before you start to go up Wyle Cop.

## A TASTE OF TANNERS WINE & TAPAS, SHREWSBURY

27 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1XD

For opening hours please see www.tanners-wines.co.uk/a-taste-of-tanners.

Relax and unwind in our recently re-launched A Taste of Tanners Wine & Tapas bar, conveniently located on Wyle Cop, within a five minute walk of Shrewsbury's bustling high street. With the option of sitting in our cosy, newly-refurbished indoor snug or charming, secluded courtyard, wines are available by the glass or by the bottle and can be accompanied by a selection of small plates, brimming with charcuterie, cheese and nibbles. We have a selection of wines from lesser-known, up-and-coming regions, alongside the classics, predominantly from small growers and winemakers with a sustainably focused outlook. These are available to enjoy on the premises by the glass or bottle, or to take away. To pair with our Spanish-style cuisine, the drinks menu also includes a selection of sherries by the glass, along with local craft beers and soft drinks, with daily and monthly specials. Natasha Ward and the team will be on hand, whether it's a weekday glass of wine after work or a Saturday afternoon gathering with friends you are enjoying.

### THE WAREHOUSE SHOP, WELSHPOOL

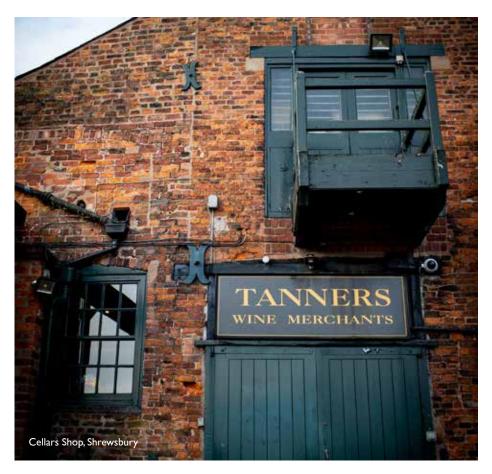
Severn Farm Enterprise Park, Welshpool SY21 7DF

For opening hours please see www.tanners-wines.co.uk/welshpool.

The Warehouse Shop is at the company's central distribution depot and is therefore backed up by massive stocks from both the packing and bonded warehouses. There are often some good bargain bin-ends to be had here too! Browse the shelves in relaxed surroundings or seek the help of shop manager Thomas Corbett and Tess Powell. Croeso i Tanners Trallwng!

Visiting Tanner

Directions: You will find the Warehouse Shop conveniently situated just off the A483 Welshpool bypass/Newtown Road. From the roundabout by the Old Station, loop up over the bypass. Take the first right into Severn Farm Enterprise Park and then the first left. Customer parking is in front of the shop.



## TANNERS LLANDUDNO JUNCTION

102/103 Tremarl Industrial Estate, Ffordd Maelgwyn, Llandudno Junction, Conwy LL31 9PN

01492 874099 | llandudno@tanners-wines.co.uk

For opening hours please see www.tanners-wines.co.uk/llandudno-junction.

Our warehouse shop can be found close to the seaside town of Llandudno. Although space limits us to offering a smaller range of 500 mid-range wines, with some notice Richard Stevens and Damian Roberts can transfer stock for your collection, and our position is great for stocking up on your way to the coast.

Directions: From Junction 19 on the A55 follow signs to Llandudno Junction. Take the first left onto Ffordd Maelgwyn, between the Toyota garage and Junction Auto Park. Follow this road for less than half a mile past the car showrooms and Tanners Wines is on the righthand side before the right-hand bend. Parking is available in front of the branch.

### TANNERS HEREFORD

4 St Peter's Square, Hereford HR1 2PG

01432 272044 | hereford@tanners-wines.co.uk | @ tannershereford For opening hours please see www.tanners-wines.co.uk/hereford.

Tanners Hereford has a rich heritage running to over 200 years of trading in the city. Our house gin, Hereford Finest Dry Gin, is a reminder of its many years as gin distillers, cider and wine merchants, William Pulling & Co, and is one of the branch's best-selling lines. All Tanners inexpensive and mid-range wines are stocked together with a very large range of fine and rare wines, plus your other drinks requirements. Manager Neil Clarke, James Howells, Lona Jones and Kim Hutchinson would be delighted to welcome you.

Directions: From the Blue School Street ring road, take the Union Street turn signed 'City Centre - East'. Go into Saint Peter's Square and you will see Tanners in front of you. You can pick up goods in the loading area outside or there is normally on-street parking along

Saint Owen's Street. Gaol Street public car park is nearby.

### TANNERS BRIDGNORTH

36 High Street, Bridgnorth WV16 4DB

01746 763148 | bridgnorth@tanners-wines.co.uk | @ tannersbridgnorth For opening hours please see www.tanners-wines.co.uk/bridgnorth.

In the heart of Bridgnorth's pretty High Town, the Bridgnorth branch is perhaps the most attractive of our shops, and importantly also has its own car park. Carrying almost the full range of our wines plus spirits and other drinks, Tanners Bridgnorth is well worth the trip from the Black Country, Worcestershire and further away. Extensive cellars and stores mean there is plenty of stock, with capacity for regular tastings to be held in the large upstairs tasting room. The branch dates from 1825 and has been part of Tanners since 1926. Manager Mark Carter, Helen Chaudron, Tim Darrall-Jones and Stephanie Wilson would love to see you there.

Directions: As you come uphill from Low Town on the old Much Wenlock road, turn right at the mini-roundabout into St Mary's Street. Our customer car park is on the right under an archway after a few hundred yards. A passageway leads you up to the High Street and the front of the shop.

TANNERS CHESTER

150 Christleton Road, Chester CH3 5TD

01244 343244 | chester@tanners-wines.co.uk | @ tanners\_wines\_chester For opening hours please see www.tanners-wines.co.uk/chester.

This magnificent branch sits splendidly in the old Art Deco cinema, on your left as you head along Christleton Road towards Chester city centre. Modern lighting of over 1,000 lines sets off the heritage of the building, while there is a dedicated tasting room where guests can enjoy our programme of wine tasting events. Manager Stephanie Pierce, Rachel Huber, Oriana Kelly and Laura Burke look forward to showing you round and discussing the wide range of wines on tasting.

Directions: When approaching from the north or east, exit the M53 at junction 40 onto the A41 (signed for Whitchurch). Turn right at the roundabout signed for Chester A5115. Tanners is half a mile on the left. When approaching from the south or west, exit the A55 at junction 39 (signed for Chester A5115). Turn left at the roundabout onto A5115. Tanners is half a mile on the left. When approaching from the city centre, head west on Tarvin Road, then bear right onto A5115 (signed for Whitchurch). Tanners is a quarter of a mile on the right, with parking available in front of the branch.

## TANNERS WEBSITE

All our list wines are available to buy online at www.tanners-wines.co.uk and are accompanied by tasting notes and up-to-date background information. Buying online from Tanners is quick, easy and secure. You will also find it simple to select wines according to your own criteria, for example: price, style, region or grape variety. For the quickest ordering, you can login and place your order based on previous orders. Tanners Oddments and current En Primeur offers can also be purchased from the site. As well as our usual payment methods, it is possible to pay for online orders via PayPal.





# Tanners Today

Tanners is family-owned, family-run, resolutely independent, celebrates its 182nd anniversary in 2024 and won the Judges' Choice Award at the Decanter Magazine Retailer Awards 2023. It is run by James Tanner, Chairman and Managing Director, the fourth generation of the family to work in the company, who took over from his father, Richard Tanner. The firm employs over 100 people with the majority split between its distinctive, black & white headquarters in Shrewsbury



and its distribution depot in Welshpool. Approximately half Tanners' sales are to quality-minded hotels and restaurants and half to private clients and corporate customers such as universities, colleges and companies - not only locally but countrywide too. Good traditional service is what Tanners is about, but 'traditional' in the best sense of the word. We find it easier to deliver this with a core of long-serving staff and we are lucky in this respect, Tanners currently has more than a dozen members of staff who have completed 30 years with the firm.

The careful selection of wines is of paramount importance at Tanners. James Tanner and Stephen Crosland have done the buying together now for many years and are helped in their endeavours to travel and taste as widely as possible by Simon Jones and Robert Boutflower. We devote a lot of time to seeing our suppliers either in Shrewsbury or abroad since the best producers have to be convinced that their wine will end up with customers who will appreciate it. Quantities available are often limited and in this respect, a firm the size of Tanners has a distinct advantage over bigger enterprises.

To ensure quality and continuity it is essential to talk to a grower in his or her own cellars or winery. No two years are the same and an indolent farmer can make a good wine in a year that has favourable weather. Useful producers make good wines in the difficult years. It is only by seeing a grower's cellars and assessing his or her attitude during conversation that one can get a proper idea of what sort of wine will be produced on a continuing basis. It is also only by careful questioning that one can establish just how 'organic' a producer really is, finding out whether they are just paying lip service while continuing on with as many treatments as ever! Fortunately many of our suppliers are at the forefront of the organic and biodynamic movement.

We are sometimes asked how we can compete on price. The answer is severalfold. Firstly we are rigorous in going direct to the producer and cutting out layers of middlemen. In this vein we have always maintained that wine is an agricultural product and has no need of big cities. Secondly Tanners is large enough to ship wine from just about anywhere in the world, in complete container quantities if necessary. We save further costs by shipping to our own bonded warehouse at Welshpool in Mid-Wales. Thirdly Tanners is a member of a buying consortium through our part ownership of the Merchant Vintners Company. This 25-strong association of independent wine merchants was founded in 1965 and now has a combined annual turnover of over £400 million.

# A Little History

William Tanner, born in Shropshire in 1839, went to sea and sailed the world, visiting places as far flung as Australia and Chile. Returning as a ship's captain in 1872, he took his brother Henry into partnership and founded the firm of W. & H. E. Tanner in Shrewsbury. Its cellars were those of the now demolished Victorian Market Hall, its offices were in Shoplatch.

The business later passed to Alfred Tanner of Shrawardine near Shrewsbury, a successful breeder and exporter of pedigree Shropshire Sheep and Hereford Cattle. He employed a manager until two of his sons were old enough: Frank, who died in 1960 and Clive who died in 1983. In 1912 they acquired the Old Brewery at Welshpool, founded 1860, which by then had ceased brewing beer and, in 1926, the wine merchants business of Thos. Whitefoot and Sons, Bridgnorth, dating from 1825. The ancient carved figures you can see on the Bridgnorth shop front are great curios of unknown origin. For many years prior to Thomas Whitefoot, when 36 High Street was a coaching inn, they decorated the balcony of the inn yard at the rear of the premises. Eldest brother, Craig Tanner, was a well-known Hereford Cattle breeder and point-to-point rider who farmed at Eyton-on-Severn, carrying on a family tradition of farming in the area going back over 400 years.

Before the wine boom of the 1960s, country wine merchants like Tanners also acted as beer wholesalers, bottled beer and manufactured mineral waters. W. & H. E. Tanner had, since the 1880s, acted as local agents for the excellent Burton-brewed beers of Worthington & Co.. Dumpy green beer bottles embossed 'W. & H. E. Tanner' and pale green mineral bottles with rounded bottoms and marbles in the neck are to be found in collections of old bottles.

Butts of sherry, pipes of Port, hogsheads of claret and burgundy were shipped via London, Bristol or Liverpool and on by rail for resting and bottling in Shrewsbury. The clarets, burgundies and vintage Ports, with full length corks and embossed wax seals, were binned in cellars to rest until mature. Rum arrived in puncheons via Liverpool from Jamaica and Guyana. More Irish whiskey was sold than Scotch, mainly in stone jars surrounded by basket work for protection. Many marked 'W. & H. E. Tanner, Shrewsbury' exist today. Those marked 'W. Tanner, Ludlow' were from Billy Tanner, one of the Clungunford/Ludlow branch of the family, who owned The Feathers Hotel in Ludlow, supplying it with fresh produce from his farm at Bromfield. The room on the right as you enter The Feathers is still called the Tanner Room or 'Tanners'.

Thomas Southam & Son, founded at Wyle Cop in 1842 and having an excellent reputation as wine merchants, was taken over by Tanners in 1936. For some years the two businesses were run separately but, when Tanners' cellars were requisitioned during the war as air raid shelters, both businesses were amalgamated at Wyle Cop. The firm traded as Tanner & Southam until 1960, when the name Southam was dropped to eliminate confusion with Southam's Brewery, then still trading.

In 1978 Tanners acquired the Hereford wine merchants, William Pulling & Co, together

with their bonded warehouse and the old Hereford Distillery. As wine merchants and distillers in Hereford, Pulling's dated from 1813 and has been in the present premises since 1917, but its origins date from 1760 when George Pulling, a Devon cider merchant, leased five 'cyderhouses' in Ledbury. At one point Pulling's had branches in Cardiff, Ross-on-Wye and Ludlow, the latter trading as Keysell & Co, founded in 1780.

In 2001 Tanners opened a new distribution depot at Welshpool, leaving the Old Brewery in Brook Street, Welshpool after almost 90 years. Transport and warehousing operations were moved out of Shrewsbury, thereby allowing us to refurbish our historic premises on Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, and to extend the Cellars Shop and offices. In 2005 Tanners purchased Terry Platt Wine Merchants in Llandudno, North Wales. Many times IWC Welsh Wine Merchant of the Year, Platts was founded in 1964. This brings the number of years trading for the six old companies that make up the present day Tanners 'group' to 1021 years in total! Of course, such experience is only of use if it translates into better services and better wines.

# The Bunch

The Bunch is made up of the proprietors or managing directors of seven of Britain's leading independent wine merchants comprising Tanners, Yapp Brothers, Adnams, Lea & Sandeman, Corney & Barrow, Private Cellar and Haynes, Hanson & Clark. Its Code of Practice governs the way in which we sell En Primeur wines and look after customer reserves. The full code of practice can be viewed on our website: <a href="https://www.tanners-wines.co.uk/pages/the-bunch-code-of-practice">www.tanners-wines.co.uk/pages/the-bunch-code-of-practice</a>



# Some Recent Awards

2023	Judge's Choice of the Year - Decanter Retailer Awards
	National Wine Retailer of the Year Runner Up
	– Decanter Retailer Awards
	Best Independent Wine Retailer Finalist - People's Choice Awards
2022	Best Regional Multi-Store (Central England) Runner Up – Decanter Retailer Awards
2021	Best National Wine Retailer Runner Up – Decanter Retailer Awards
2020	Best National Wine Shops Runner Up – Decanter Retailer Awards
2019	Best National Wine Shops Runner Up – Decanter Retailer Awards
2018	Best National Wine Shops – Decanter Retailer Awards
	Subscription Wine Club Runner Up – Decanter Retailer Awards
2017	Large Independent of the Year – International Wine Challenge
2016	Outstanding Retailer of the Year – Decanter Retailer Awards
	Large Independent Wine Retailer of the Year – Decanter Retailer Awards
2015	Large Independent of the Year – International Wine Challenge
2013	Regional Wine Merchant of the Year Runner Up – Decanter Retailer Awards
2012	Top Merchant of the Year (over 3 stores)
	– Harpers Top Merchant Awards Telegraph
	Magazine Best Small Shops in Britain. Runner Up – 'Best for Wine'
	Portuguese Independent Wine Merchant – Wines of Portugal
2011	Regional Wine Merchant of the Year – Decanter World Wine Awards
2010	Wine List of the Year – International Wine Challenge
	Central Regional Merchant of the Year – International Wine Challenge
2009	Independent Merchant of the Year – Decanter World Wine Awards
	Central Regional Merchant of the Year – International Wine Challenge
	Austrian & German Specialists – International Wine Challenge
2008	Large Independent Merchant of the Year – International Wine Challenge Direct Merchant of the Year – International Wine Challenge

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"It's unwise to pay too much, but it's worse to pay too little. When you pay too much, you lose a little money that is all. When you pay too little, you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the thing it was bought to do. The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot - it can't be done. If you deal with the lowest bidder, it is well to add something for the risk you run, and if you do that you will have enough to pay for something better."

John Ruskin, Writer & son of a Wine Merchant.



"Tanners is a great family business, a traditional merchant but with a modern twist – well worth discovering."

Judging Panel, Decanter Retailer Awards 2023

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