



Ex Cellar Top 50 (wines at glance.) pages 1-4

SPARKLING WINES

Prosecco Castello 4357 spumante Fabiano NV 11.0% Italy	£12.49
Fully fizzy prosecco made in a dry style. Pleasant lingering mousse.	
Castello Rosato 4357 Fabiano NV 11.5% Italy	£12.49
Made from Raboso grapes, fully fizzy with flavours of raspberry and cherry.	
Bon Courage Cap Classique 2008 11.0% South Africa	£16.99
A strong yeasty nose with citrus scents and a creamy complexity to the palate.	
Bon Courage Cuvée Rosé 2008 11.0% South Africa	£16.99
Delightfully pale, delicate yet complex sparkling wine.	
René Jolly Blanc de Noirs NV 12.0% France	£29.99
A long smooth palate, plenty of fruit and good structure.	
René Jolly Blanc de Blancs NV 12.0% France	£33.99
Balanced aromas of white flowers and toast and a long and delicate finish.	
René Jolly Rosé NV 12.0% France	£33.99
A fairly intense colour but with a nice red fruit freshness and a long finish.	

WHITE WINES

Light, crisp, dry

Kintu Sauvignon Blanc 2014 12.0% Chile	£7.99
Light, crisp, fruity Sauvignon, all purpose wine.	
Pinot Grigio Fabiano 2013 12.0% Italy	£8.99
Light, crisp, racy wine which would suit light dishes.	
Picpoul de Pinet 'Terres Rouges' 2013 12.5% France	£11.99
Crisp, racy white made from the Picpoul grape in southern France, great with fish.	

Lean, fruity and complex

Bon Courage Sauvignon Blanc 2014 11.5% South Africa	£10.99
Lean, fruity and very appealing, this Sauvignon suits everyone!	
Franklin Tate Semillon/Sauvignon 2012 12.5% Western Australia	£12.99
The palate has fresh and crisp immediacy of flavour and a clean finish.	

Villa Wolf, Riesling Dry 2013 12.5% Germany £11.99

Not bone dry, all the better for that, with delicate flavours of lime, slate and honey.

Touraine Sauvignon, Echardieres 2013 12.5% France £12.99

Typical modern classy Touraine Sauvignon, of gooseberries and cut grass with a smooth texture.

Casas del Bosque Sauvignon Blanc 2014 13.5% Chile £11.99

Pale, clean, lean, yet fruity in a classy way. Made from grapes grown in a cool climate.

Tindall Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2014 13.5% NZ £14.99

A subtle Marlborough style, more like Sancerre in approach with a pleasant, harmonious finish.

Medium, round & elegant

Terra Firma Catarotto 2013 12.5% Italy £9.99

Crisp, light white from Sicily, yet with a full texture and rounded finish.

Macon Villages, Moulin du Pont 2013 13.0% France £13.99

Typical classy Macon with ripe green apple flavours and hints of minerality. Cod in sauce.

St Véran, Maison Auvigue 2013 13.0% France £16.99

Richer than Macon, with some oak ageing but not heavy, this is THE wine for fish pie.

Rich, full & fruity

Villa Wolf Gewurztraminer 2013 12.0% Germany £11.99

Very delicate for this variety, great with slightly spicy oriental cuisine.

Jordan Unoaked Chardonnay 2013 13.0% South Africa £13.99

Vibrantly fruity, but well-balanced, more tropical fruit salad than green apple and lemon.

Jordan Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2013 13.0% South Africa £15.99

Round, ripe and very well-made white made in the style of Meursault.

Wins lots of prizes, justifiably.

ROSE

Pinot Grigio blush rosé 2013 12.0% Italy £8.99

Delicate in colour & flavour, this is very refreshing and would suit lighter dishes brilliantly.

Villa Wolf Pinot Noir rosé 2013 11.5% Germany £11.99

This is a delicious though delicate rose that would work well with spicy foods.

Pinot Noir de l'Auvergne rosé, Verny 2013 13.5% France £11.99

Full-flavoured rosé made from Pinot Noir which would suit chicken and lighter dishes.

Reds

Young, Light, fruity

Kintu Merlot 2013 12.0% Chile £7.99

Light, straightforward red with ripe flavours. That's what made Chilean wine famous!

Vina Palaciega Rioja Joven 2013 13.5% Spain £9.99

Unoaked, fruity, modern style Rioja, predominantly Tempranillo, showing what an appealing grape it is!

Villa Wolf Pinot Noir 2013 12.5% Germany £11.99

Warm and medium-bodied, with forward, dark cherry fruit, a firm structure and a spicy mid-palate.

Pinot Noir de l'Auvergne, Verny 2013 13.5% France £11.99

Very appealing Pinot from the Auvergne, much better than much thin, acidic, basic Burgundy.

Red fruits and hints of mushrooms.

Régnié 'les Bulliats' 2013 13.0% France £12.99

Typical Gamay flavours (strawberry) but with greater structure and weight than most.

Neither thin, not too sweet.

Medium, balanced, savoury

- Terra Firma Nero d'Avola 2013 14.0% Italy £9.99**
Ripe plus & damsons on the palate, typical of Nero d'Avola, this is a hearty red to suit richer pasta dishes e.g. lasagne, pies, cheeses.
- Sol de Mayo Malbec 2014 13.0% Argentina £9.99**
Fruity notes of morello cherries and raspberries, combined with hints of vanilla.
- Croix de Marsan Bordeaux 2012 12.5% France £10.99**
Typical claret style with round Merlot fruit on the palate.
- Rosso Piceno Saladini Pilastrini 2013 13.0% Italy £11.99**
Round, smooth appealing red made from Montepulciano & Sangiovese grapes.
- Casas del Bosque Pinot Noir 2013 14.0% Chile £13.99**
Smooth, soft Pinot from cool climate Casablanca Valley. Suits spicy poultry dishes and pork.
- Comté de Grignan Grenache, Gigondan 2013 13.5% France £11.99**
Made in the better Cotes du Rhone style, this is a versatile red for meats and cheeses.
- Cotes du Rhone Paret 'Valvigneyre' 2012 13.0% France £12.99**
Made from Syrah in the northern Rhone Valley, this is an attractive, savoury red with bramble-fruit flavours.
- Philip Shaw 'Wirewalker' Pinot Noir 2013 13.5% Australia £15.99**
Made from grapes grown at high altitude (900m) this is a subtle and complex Pinot.

Medium, mature, complex

- Vina Palaciega Rioja crianza 2011 13.0% Spain £10.99**
Subtle, appealing Rioja crianza with hints of vanillin on the finish. Ideal with lamb.
- Bradgate Syrah 2012 13.5% South Africa £10.99**
Powerful yet balanced, more ripe St Joseph than Shiraz. Great with venison or mushroom risotto.
- Casas del Bosque Carménère 2013 14.5% Chile £11.99**
Ripe, complex Carmenere is fast becoming Chile's 'special wine...gamy red and black fruit and ideal for casseroles.



- The Ruins Pinotage 2013 14.5% South Africa £10.99**
For those who like jammy damson flavours that you find in pinotage, this is a classy example.
- Vinlara Ribera del Duero 2013 13.5% Spain £12.99**
Aged in oak barrels for six months, this is an appealing style of red with a complex finish.
- Simon Hackett Old Vine Grenache 2012 14.0% Australia £14.99**
Rich, round and warming, like dry fruit-cake!
- Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Nicodemi 2012 14.0% Italy £14.99**
Montepulciano is a very 'friendly' variety, but better examples can approach serious wine. This version would suit most savoury dishes and cheese.

Valpolicella Ripasso, Fabiano 2013 14.5% Italy £18.99

A richer version of Valpolicella, half-way to Amarone, this wine has a very soft texture with layers of red fruits & raisiny overtones.

Chateau Fontestea Cru Bourgeois, Haut Médoc 2009 13.0% France £23.99

Smooth, classy Bordeaux made in the Margaux style.

Rich, deep and weighty

Edgebaston Pepper Pot 2013 14.0%South Africa £14.99

Rich, dark & savoury, bramble fruit (predominantly Syrah) with some pepper.

Casas del Bosque Gran Reserva Syrah2012 14.0% Chile £14.99

Rich, savoury and very appealing. Ripe Syrah from a relatively cool climate, very attractive!

Inicio Malbec 2013 14.0% Argentina £13.99

Big, robust Malbec from the Agostino family's estate in Mendoza. Think roast beef dinners in winter and barbecues in summer.

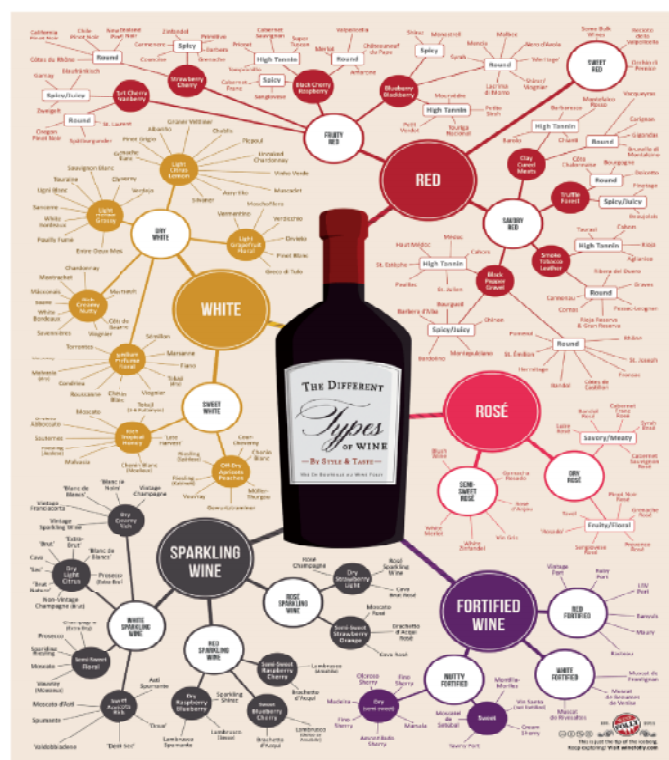
Jordan The Prospector Syrah 201214.0%South Africa £17.99

Big, serious Syrah from Jordan Estate in the style of Hermitage. Open and decant well in advance for beef and serious meals.

Jacaman Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 14.5% USA £21.99

Fantastic value offered by this rich, almost chocolaty Cabernet from the Napa Valley.

As rich and slightly decadent as Amarone.





The ExCellar Wine List

The Full Monty

"To happy convents, bosomed deep in vines,
Where slumber abbots, purple as their wines".
Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

SPARKLING WINES

Prosecco Castello spumante Fabiano Non Vintage 11.0% Italy

£12.49

Fully fizzy prosecco made in a dry style by the Fabiano family. 'Castello' refers to a district of Venice near to St Mark's Sq where the family had a shop a few generations back. 4357, that was the street number, long before pin numbers.....Oh, the wine, it's not historic at all, it's clean, fresh, modern & very appealing with a pleasant lingering mousse.

Castello Rosato Fabiano Non Vintage 11.0% Italy

£12.49

Made from Raboso grapes, fully fizzy with flavours of raspberry and cherry. Raboso as a red wine can be a bit tough and charmless, but made into rosato/rosé, it's gorgeous! The fizziness of prosecco but the colour and flavour of rosé champagne. Well, almost.

Bon Courage Cap Classique 2008 11.0% South Africa

£16.99

This is a serious sparkler at a semi-serious price. Made from Chardonnay grapes harvested in the 2008 vintage, the wine is then aged on its lees in bottle for three years so has a strong yeasty nose with citrus scents and a creamy complexity to the palate. Dream of summer days wine.....

Vouvray la Rocherie Non Vintage 12.5% France

£16.99

Lovely, dry, artisan Sparkling Vouvray, with good depth of fresh apple and pear fruit. Think of contrasting elements to this typical sparkler made from Chenin Blanc – lean yet rounded, mineral yet fruity, dry yet with a slightly waxy texture and a honeyed finish.

Vouvray le Naturel Non Vintage 13.0% France

£20.99

'Le Naturel' refers to the fact that the fermentation took place naturally, with no artificial yeasts to get the fizz going. So, it's naturally less fizzy, with a delicate mousse of small bubbles and a complex spiced baked apple character on the palate. Rediscover Vouvray in a natural way!

CHAMPAGNE

René Jolly BI de Noirs Non Vintage 12.0% France

£29.99

Right down in the south of the Champagne region lie the Aube vineyards close to the towns of Bar-sur-Aube & Bar-sur-Seine. For historical and climatic reasons, Pinot Noir dominates in the vineyard and this champagne is made from 100% Pinot grapes. Golden-yellow in colour, with a long smooth palate, plenty of fruit and good structure, you'd think it was Grande Marque vintage.

René Jolly BI de Noirs 1/2 Bottle NV 12.0% France

£14.99

René Jolly Magnum NV 12.0% France

£59.99

Champagne René Jolly Landreville, Côte des Bars, France

Champagne René Jolly is a family owned business with a history dating back to 1737 and only produces champagne from its own vineyards. Pierre-Eric Jolly, who took over from his father in 2000, follows the principles of *lutte raisonnée*, – he never applies chemical fertilisers or insecticides, preferring only to use natural, organic and biodynamic alternatives and he has brought many new innovations to the winery and indeed the Champagne region (If you ever meet Pierre-Eric, ask him about his invention: the Y Muselet Tree legs cage)! Every wine in the range is a blend of at least 3 different years and once bottled spends a minimum of 3 years in the cellars, before being disgorged by hand without freezing. Champagne René Jolly is one of the only producers in the region to use this method of disgorgement.

René Jolly Blanc de Blancs Non Vintage 12.0% France

£31.99

Pale yellow with nicely balanced aromas of white flowers and toast and a long and delicate finish, this champagne is lighter in texture but elegant as it's made from Chardonnay grapes.

René Jolly Cuvée Speciale Non Vintage 12.0% France

£42.99

This is René's special cuvee and is made from selected grapes, usually from two good vintages blended together. Ageing in bottle adds fine and delicate aromas of white flowers, gives richness on the palate and great length.

René Jolly Cuvée Speciale Rosé Non Vintage 12.0% France

£48.99

Similar in philosophy to the 'normal', delicious Pinot fruit is more evident on the palate. Intense colour but retaining fresh notes and ripe red fruits, with a long and satisfying finish.

René Jolly Editio Non Vintage NV 12.0% France

£79.99

In the glass you get wafts of, brioche and citrus aromas filling the senses with elegance and finesse. This is René's top cuvee (think Dom Perignon and Grande Dame etc) and so it is packaged in a fitting classy presentation box.

René Jolly rosé Non Vintage 12.0% France

£31.99

A fairly intense salmon colour is supported by a fresh bouquet with hints of red fruits brioche. On the palate it has a nice red fruit freshness and a long finish.

Wine Facts

1 acre of vineyards produces 5 tons of grapes=3,985 bottles of wine=797 gallons of wine=15,940 glasses of wine=13.5 barrels of wine
One barrel of wine=1,180 glasses of wine=24.6 cases of wine
One Case of Wine=30 pounds of grapes=48 glasses of wine=12 bottles of wine
One bottle of wine=2.4 pounds of grapes=4 glasses of wine=4 happy people

Ruinart Réserve Brut Non Vintage 12.0% France**£54.99**

Ruinart is the oldest champagne house dating back to 1729 and although now part of Moët-Hennessy, it has retained its small, independent house-style where quality is the aim, not volume. Their standard reserve NV champagne is really like many houses' special cuvée in its elegance & balance with floral notes to the fore and hints of white peach and acacia on the palate.

Ruinart Blanc de Blancs Non Vintage NV 12.0% France**£69.99**

Famed for its lightness and elegance, the Blanc de Blancs is a tribute to Chardonnay grown on the best sites in the Côtes des Blancs near Reims. It has an elegant nose of white flowers, soft fruits and tropical notes. Very fresh, with a subtle yet lengthy finish.

Ruinart rosé Non Vintage 12.0% France**£69.99**

An attractive balance of berry fruit, hints of liquorice and citrus notes, this is a very delicate rosé champagne, pale salmon with hints of orange in colour. To be savoured by itself or paired with seafood starters e.g. dressed crab or prawns.

Veuve Clicquot Non Vintage 12.0% France**£42.99**

Elegant and deceptively complex with a lovely yeasty character with complimenting tastes of apple, citrus and toast.

Which countries produce the most wine? Here's a list of the top 10:

1. Italy
2. France
3. Spain
4. United States
5. Argentina
6. Australia
7. South Africa
8. Germany
9. Chile
10. Portugal

Krug Grande Cuvée Non Vintage 12.0% France**£134.99**

Fermented in oak barriques and aged for longer than many houses' vintage wines, the style is rich, with noticeable aromas of nuts, dried fruits and toast, yet with great finesse and complexity. Almost certainly the finest non-vintage sparkling wine.

Dom Perignon 2003 2003 12.0% France**£139.99**

The wine itself is a muscular, vinous mouthful, marked not by the usual high acidity, but by "a wall of minerality" which holds it together and gives it structure. It certainly has a very physical presence and makes a great Champagne to drink over an entire meal



WHITE WINES

Light, crisp, dry

Kintu Sauvignon Blanc Maule Valley 2014 12.0% Chile

£7.99

Like many of Chile's wine regions, Maule has a cooling ocean breeze and misty mornings that allow the grapes to maintain their natural acidity whilst attaining full ripeness. Light, crisp, fruity Sauvignon, all purpose wine, ranging from aperitif to fish dishes. Suitable for a good house wine as it is so versatile.

Maipo Valley:

The Maipo Valley has a Mediterranean climate, with little rain (mainly concentrated in winter) followed by a hot summer which is very suitable for the proper ripening of the grapes. The temperature variation also presents some differences according to the location; for example, the upper Maipo areas are hotter and winds coming from the Andes Mountains play a role in the slow ripening of the grapes, so wines normally develop more structure, concentration and firmer tannins. On the other hand, in the lower Maipo areas, the temperature is mild, so in the case of red wines, they are more fruity and smooth with softer tannins. The soils are usually of alluvial origin, and have good porosity and drainage.



Pinot Grigio Fabiano 2013 12.0% Italy

£8.99

Light, crisp, racy wine which would suit light dishes.

Petit Mouton Muscadet de Sevre et Maine sur Lie 2013 12% France**£11.99**

Made from thirty year old vines, Grand Mouton's second wine is very fresh. It has the musky character typical of old vines and pairs beautifully with starters, fish pâté, and goat's cheese. The fruit - tangy greengage – is clean and concentrated. Not that fruit is the main story here. Rather it's the green almond and lovely oyster shell minerality -well-focused and long.

Louis Métaireau, Grand Mouton, Saint-Fiacre-sur-Maine

The great name of Muscadet is now back and at the very heart of the region is the Grand Mouton vineyard. In a region dominated by merchants, the Metaireau family, under Louis' guiding hand, consolidated its holdings over forty years and now controls the whole 23 hectare estate. Documents exist to prove that Grand Mouton existed as far back as the 14th century but any reference to sheep is misleading, especially considering the use of a rams head as the estate's logo. In fact, as in Bordeaux (think Mouton Rothschild) the word mouton is derived from motte, meaning a small mound or hill. Today the estate is in the hands of Louis Métaireau's charming daughter, Marie-Luce and her winemaker-husband, Jean-François Guilbaud (who also happens to originate from a local family of vigneron). The couple effectively took charge of the estate when they married in 1988. In order to preserve the old vines for generations to come, all the grapes are harvested by hand and the vineyards are farmed according to the principle of *lutte raisonnée*. After spending the winter on its lees, the bottling process takes place in the spring according to the age-old sur lie method with as little handling as possible, and no filtration, to ensure that all the purity of the fruit is suitably captured and enhanced.



Prince Philip taking his morning constitutional **glass of Retsina**.

Picpoul de Pinet 'Terres Rouges' 2013 13.0% France**£10.99**

Light, crisp, delicately fruity wine, made from the Picpoul grape, which flourishes in the Languedoc near the Mediterranean as nowhere else. As often, guess what it suits? The local fish & seafood, specifically the oysters from the nearby l'Étang de Thau. Picpoul, also known as Folle Blanche or Gros Plant means 'lip stinger' which refers to the high acidity of its must. Fermented in stainless steel... Picpoul de Pinet is considered the Muscadet of the South.

Falerio Saladini Pilastrini 2013 Italy**£10.99**

This wine is produced from an ancient mixture of grapes from Trebbiano, Passerina and Pecorino. It's typical straw-yellow hue and delicate bouquet are due to the excellent position of the vineyards. This wine is delightfully lemon- oil and fennel-scented, and is crisp, dry, intriguing and compelling. A wine of real character and flavour! Makes an excellent accompaniment to green olives, fish, soups, delicate sauces and white meats. All of the farming is done without the use of chemical fertilizers and the winery is recognized by the EU as organic. Robert Parker raves about the wines, perpetually scoring them 90 and above.

Vina Palaciega Blanco 2013 Rioja Spain**£9.99**

Literally translated as "wines of the palace," Viña Palaciega wines are handcrafted in the traditional Rioja style. Pale straw in colour with fresh and fruity aromas on the nose, which carry through to the palate. A deliciously dry yet fruity white Rioja with a fresh appealing taste

Dr Loosen Estate Riesling 2013 Mosel, Germany 8.5%**£10.99**

The Mosel's steep, southfacing slopes create the perfect climate for Riesling, giving the vines ideal exposure to the sun. Generally cool conditions allow the grapes to ripen slowly while retaining bright acidity. This is a classic Riesling from the Mosel, characterised by a fragrant nose with a hint of honey and green apricot fruit. A blast of fruit on the initial palate gives way to intense minerality and crisp acidity. The cool climate of the Mosel is also the ideal setting for creating low alcohol wines and this Riesling is a great example; with just 8.5% alcohol.

The Dr Loosen estate has been in the same family for over 200 years. When Ernst Loosen assumed ownership in 1988 he realised that with ungrafted vines averaging 60 years old in some of Germany's best rated vineyards, he had the raw materials to create stunningly intense, world-class wines. To achieve that, Ernst dramatically restricts crop size, uses only organic fertilization, insists on very strict fruit selection, and employs gentle cellar practices to allow the wine to develop its full potential with a minimum of handling.

Wine Fact

Histamines, found in the skins of grapes, seem to give some people headaches if they are sensitive to histamines. Red wine will affect a histamine sensitive wine drinker more than white wine because red wine has spent more time in contact with grape skins.

Little J Gruner Veltiner 2013 12.5% Austria**£12.99**

A terrific dry white from Austria, this is full of zippy grapefruit character but with body and richness to back it up, with hints of characteristic spice and pepper on the finish. Gruner Veltliner is Austria's signature white variety and comes in a range of styles. It deserves to be better known!

Lean, fruity and complex

Klippenkop Chenin Blanc 2013 13% South Africa**£8.99**

The Klippenkop wines are produced by the Robertson winery. Due to such high demand for their wines the winery now operates 24/7. Demand that has frequently been justified by the praise of John Platter in his famous guide to South African wines. Very pale lemon coloured, the nose is of honeydew melon and lemon sherbet. The palate is clean and fresh with pink grapefruit and melon flavours with a well rounded, refreshingly crisp finish. Serve chilled. This wine can be enjoyed with seafood and salads and grilled chicken or veal.

Bon Courage Sauvignon Blanc 2014 12.5% South Africa**£10.99**

Lean, fruity and very appealing, this Sauvignon suits everyone! Light in body and alcohol but not in flavour, it has a gorgeous balance of restrained fruitiness and acidity.

BON COURAGE, Robertson, South Africa

They say if you happen to be walking down Constitution Street, in the sleepy little dorp that is Robertson and someone greets you with a "Good Morning", if you reply "Good Morning Mr Bruwer" there is a 50% chance you will be right!

Jacques Bruwer, born in 1966, literally grew up in the vineyards and it was therefore no surprise that he decided to follow in his father's footsteps studying winemaking at the prestigious Elsenburg Agricultural College in Stellenbosch and then in 1990 joined his father on the family farm. Over the years this cooperation has developed into a genuine and fruitful team effort with André focusing on the viticultural side and Jacques on the cellar.

Located in the heart of the beautiful Robertson valley – a valley of wines and roses – lies Bon Courage Estate, home to some of South Africa's finest wines and recognized both locally and internationally for their exceptional quality.

The Robertson wine region is today renowned for wines of great depth and concentration, a result of the ideal soil and climatic conditions that prevail in this region. Three rivers run through the estate and have, over the years, deposited a variety of different soil types on the farm. Due to this diversification of soil and microclimates, a wide range of grape varieties can thrive in the same area.

Bradgate Chenin Blanc 2013 13.0% South Africa**£10.99**

Fruity and complex, this wine from the Jordan Estate shows why Chenin Blanc is definitely one of South Africa's strong suits. Much fuller and rounded than its cousins in the Loire, it has a charm far outweighing its modest price-tag.

Cape Chamonix Blanc 2011 12.0% South Africa**£10.99**

A Chardonnay dominated white, this is steely dry in flavour, the grapefruit and spice sensations are buoyed by zesty acidity that refreshes the palate through a smooth finish.

Franklin Tate Semillon/Sauvignon 2012 12.5% Western Australia**£11.99**

A successful blend of the two famous Bordeaux Blanc varieties, this wine is pale straw in colour, with lifted aromas of clean grass and lemon notes with some asparagus fruit. The palate has fresh and crisp immediacy of flavour and a clean crisp finish. Great value for a wine from Margaret River, the premium wine area in WA and one of the best in the whole of Australia.

Villa Wolf, Riesling Dry 2013 12.5% Germany**£11.99**

Not bone dry, despite being labelled as 'trocken/dry', but all the better for that, as this allows the delicate flavours of lime, slate and honey to shine. Leading the Riesling revival!

Dr Loosen, Mosel/ Villa Wolf, Pfalz Germany

Ernst Loosen – referred to more informally as 'Ernie' – is one of the most dynamic winegrowers you'll encounter. He's been running the family wine estate since 1987 (and since 1997, Villa Wolf in the Pfalz), but took over during a time of crisis. After completing a winemaking degree at Geisenheim in the early 1980s, Ernst had been studying archaeology at Mainz, but his father fell ill in 1986. The family wine domain had been little more than a hobby for his father, but Ernst had to make the difficult decision whether to abandon his studies and run it, or sell it. He took the former choice.

There was a problem, though. The Loosen vines were spread throughout a number of vineyards in very small parcels. Ernst didn't know exactly where. In one vineyard, for example, they had 36 plots. But Ernst had a brilliant idea. If he waited until everyone else picked their vines, the rest would be his. On 1 November the weather changed completely: the sun came out and there were blue skies, and the grapes ripened perfectly. He was lucky.

The Dr Loosen wines are expressive of their vineyards and have the remarkable tension and harmony that all great Riesling producers strive to achieve. One of the great attractions of these wines is the modest alcohol and as Ernie once famously said "you can drink yourself sober with my wines!"

The Dr. Loosen estate has been in the same family for over 200 years. When Ernst Loosen assumed ownership, he realised that with ungrafted vines averaging 50 years old in top-rated Middle Mosel vineyards, he had the raw materials to create stunningly intense world-class wines.

To do this, Ernst dramatically reduced his crop size and stopped all chemical fertilisation, preferring only moderate use of organic fertilisers. He insisted on fully mature fruit that had been very strictly selected. He turned to gentler cellar practices that would allow the wine to develop its full potential with a minimum of handling and technological meddling.

Ernst's goal at Villa Wolf is to make powerful, traditionally crafted Pfalz wines to complement his lighter Dr. Loosen wines from the Mosel. Made in the classic style of the Pfalz, J.L. Wolf Rieslings are drier and more full-bodied than Mosel Rieslings, with higher alcohol and ripe flavours of fruit and stone. In addition to Riesling, the Pfalz region has a long tradition with other grape varieties which allowed Ernst to expand his winemaking palette to include Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Gewurztraminer and Silvaner.

The Pfalz lies between the Haardt Mountains and the Rhine River, directly north of France's Alsace region. As in Alsace the mountains protect the area from cold, wet, Atlantic weather, making it one of the warmer and drier areas of Germany. This climate makes it possible to achieve full ripeness in every vintage – the key to making wines with rich concentration, fine balance and deep character.



Lean, fruity and complexcontinued

Touraine Sauvignon, Echardières 2013 12.5% France

£12.99

Typical, modern classy Touraine Sauvignon. The vigneron Luc Poullain adheres to the principles of Terra Vitis whose aim is to use agriculture in a sustainable way to produce typical wines. This has flavours of gooseberries and cut grass, an appealing tanginess but with a smooth texture.

Domaine des Echardières, Touraine, Loire

Luc Poullain bought Domaine des Echardières and its 16 hectares of vines as a going concern in 2000. The vineyards were known for the delicate aromatic nature of the wines due to the orientation of the slopes, and the diverse combination of soils and sub-soils, predominantly chalky clay.

He was 30 years old at the time. An interesting career path, he'd studied as an agricultural engineer in Bedfordshire in the early 1990s (which rather explains his excellent grasp of the English language), before returning to France to sell, ironically, chemicals to the wine industry.

Conscious of environmental protection, Luc Poullain subscribes to the voluntary new Terra Vitis code of practice, which is an undertaking to produce high standard quality grapes and to follow an environmental friendly approach.

Casas del Bosque Sauvignon Blanc 2014 13.5% Chile

£11.99

Pale, clean, lean, yet fruity in a classy way. Made from grapes grown in the cool climate Casablanca Valley, where winemakers are discovering the advantages of planting on hillsides, as in the better areas of the old world. On the nose intense notes of lime, green melon and fresh ginger dominate with just a hint of salinity. In the mouth, bright flavours of ginger and citrus zest give way to a tight mineral backbone and rapier-like acidity. Delicious served chilled as an aperitif, or paired with light pasta dishes, salads or poultry.

Karl H Johner Kaiserstuhl Rivaner 2012 13.0% Germany

£11.99

Rivaner is the local name for the much maligned Muller Thurgau, itself a Riesling/Sylvaner cross. This version is of a different nature to the humdrum, since it has a crisp palate with delicious aromas of flowers, citrus, ripe apples and pears. Well balanced acidity is followed by a luscious finish.

Breakfast Diary at Régis Minet

9:00 am: Domaine Régis Minet is a small two-man operation that produces about 60,000 bottles annually. Régis' son is preparing to take over the estate in a couple of years, but for the moment he's selling Champagne in Africa.

9:30 am: Back at the domaine, M. Minet shows us the old, small cellar out of which his father used to sell wine and his mother goat's cheese, to passers-by in the '60s.

9:45 am: Naturally, there's a big chunk of firm, farmhouse goat's cheese on the table and a fresh, crusty baguette. Along with a cool glass of Pouilly-Fumé, that's breakfast, Loire-style.

Régis Minet, Le Desert Pouilly Fume 2012 13.0% France

£18.99

Fruity and very aromatic Pouilly-Fumé made from Sauvignon Blanc.....soft, beautiful persistence in the mouth and an exceptional elegance, it's not squeaky clean New World fruit-juice, but a wine to suit goat's cheese tart or fish from the nearby Loire. Quenelle de brochet anyone? There is nothing extraordinary about the way Minet works, either in the vineyard or cellar, but his regime eschews weed killers in favour of tilling the soil, and hand-harvesting when conditions dictate. The terroir confers the minerality and crisp, fresh character typical of Pouilly-Fumé, but also all its fruity and floral aromas.

Villa Wolf Wachenheimer Dry Riesling 2013 13.5% Pfalz Germany

£13.99

The village of Wachenheim lies at the centre of the Pfalz. The well-drained weathered sandstone soils produce pure, fruit driven wines with a distinctive stony character. As with "village" bottlings from Burgundy this wine is labelled only with the village name. Excellent richness and solid structure make this full and surprisingly powerful. It has good length, with a crisp, dry finish.



Tindall Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2014 11.5% New Zealand

£14.99

It is difficult to believe that it was not until 1973 that the first commercial vineyards were established in Marlborough. Tindall Vineyard is a 22 hectare single estate in the Blenheim area, at the northern tip of the Marlborough region. A subtle, more restrained style of Marlborough Sauvignon, less 'spot the gooseberry in the glass' and more similar to Sancerre in approach with a clean palate, delicate fruity flavours followed by a pleasant, harmonious finish.

Tindall Estate – Marlborough NZ

The estate is situated in Blenheim, so in the centre of the Marlborough district where proud owners Terry & Lynley Sowman oversee the operation which is now in the hands of their sons Clyde & Nigel Sowman. Winemaking itself is in the hands of expert Dr John Forrest and the estate specialises in Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

The philosophy of the Sowmans is that by replicating the dense planting of better French vineyards and with low yields, then quality wines will result. We're not talking trophy wines here e.g. Cloudy Bay which sell for large sums, but equally we're not talking about the Oyster Bays or Neds of this world, oceans of taste-alike Marlborough Sauvignon all very much like any other. We're talking about elegant wines from classic varieties which would find a place at a dinner-party or in a restaurant. The very opposite of pretentious though (this is South Island NZ after all), the aim of the family is to produce wines which are there to be enjoyed in good company.

Mussel Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2013 12.5% New Zealand

£13.99

Sourced from small parcels of low yielding vines in the famous Marlborough region at the tip of the South Island of New Zealand. An intensely pungent gooseberry and asparagus nose, with hints of freshly torn basil leaves. Clean crisp palate with ripe tropical fruits and a well balanced acidity.

Lean, fruity and complex (cont.)

Adoro Sauvignon Blanc 2009 13.5% South Africa

£13.99

Classic minerality with typical new world hints of cut grass and green apple with balanced tropical flavours such as peach, to enhance the structure and complete the wine. Lingering flavours and complexity in the structure make this wine a perfect partner for a variety of meals and occasions.

Q & A with Ian Naude, Master Blender and Winemaker from Adoro Wines

Ian-Naude What made you decide to become a winemaker?

Never decided to become one, honestly winemaking chose me!

What is your winemaking philosophy?

As a winemaker you can use only what nature gives (blesses) you with, do as little as possible to capture terroir and bless people with a gift from nature. It's not about you it is about terroir!

It is said that up to 80% of a finished wine begins in the vineyard, how does this influence your approach to sourcing grapes from so many vineyards as you state in your video?

This is the question that excites me ... we all use the word terroir so easily. Terroir is when everything in nature and grapes come together, this is hundreds of years of trial and error!! Blending is my passion and the Western Cape is one of the most blessed areas in the world, we have so many terroirs to choose from because a Chenin Blanc from Durbanville and a Chenin from Elgin, Stellenbosch or Darling taste completely different. As a winemaker, I can go to these different vineyards and taste the grapes and see where they fit in my blend – this is the ONLY place where a winemaker should put his style (thumbprint) to create a style he is known for. Even if it is the same cultivar, it's still a blend of different terroirs – an example is

my Adoro Sauvignon Blanc – a blend of 3 different regions – each region brings something beautiful to the wine. I think we are the only country in the world that can give you the best of the classic mineral taste of the “Old World” and fresh flavours of the ‘New World’ – My wines should complement food, and because I do as little as possible and not manipulate the process, the wines age beautifully !!

Doesn't blending from so many vineyards lose the sense of terroir?

We are here to showcase the vintage and not make “recipe” wines

You are very passionate about dogs, especially border collies, when and how did this begin?

As winemakers, we live close to nature and I [have] always believed if you can't make a difference to the space you share, you are wasting space!

There is a special bond between winemaker and his dog (maybe it is because they love unconditionally and don't judge your wines!). I wish I could help all needy animals but if I make world class wines I can give it to lots of charities and they can hopefully get good prices for my hard work – sounds like a win-win situation to me!

Border Collies are incredibly clever dogs, that's why I made them “The Adoro Board of Directors”

Tokara Sauvignon Blanc 2014 13.5% South Africa

£14.99

Lingering and perfectly balanced, the initial entry is packed with notes of lemon zest and white pepper. The mid palate is full and rich and the finish lingers with a refreshing crispness.

Dr Loosen Bernkasteler Lay Kabinett 2012 8.0% Germany

£15.99

The taut grapefruit and mineral nose together with the lovely melony richness & grapefruit precision plus delicious, fresh minerality on the palate make it a perfect match to smoked haddock or trout. Very bright and crisp with real intensity. Lovely stuff with beautiful precision. This is one of the most typical of Mosel Riesling, being grown on the slate vineyards around Bernkastel, a wine for fans of this style & light in alcohol.

Quincy Tradition Rouzé 2013 12.5% France

£16.99

Pale-gold in colour, this Sauvignon blanc is full of delicate notes of citrus fruits and sweet geranium. On the palate, fresh and crisp yet round and well balanced. The finish is fruity and aromatic, all in all, a dead-ringer for Sancerre (just to the east), except it lacks a hint of the latter's minerality.

Chablis, Domaine des Malandes 2013 12.5% France

£16.99

Crisp, lean, yet with enough fruit & minerality to make it very attractive. This is modern winemaking at its best, respectful of the grape (chardonnay) and soil (Kimmeridgian clay) plus climate. Bottled under screw-cap for extra freshness.

Sancerre, Berthier 2013 13.0% France

£18.99

Typical modern Sancerre with elegant Sauvignon fruit and hints of hawthorn blossom on the palate. It's not showy and all-dancing Sauvignon, more a subtle take on a classic wine, so would suit ideally first courses and fish dishes.

Pouilly-Fumé, J. Pabiot 2012 13% France

£19.99

Made in the Les Loges commune- one of the best areas for producing richer Pouilly-Fumé with more weight than most French Sauvignons, along with hints of flinty earthiness. This wine would appeal to those who want more from Sauvignon than just gooseberry and obvious fruit.

Tokara Walker Bay Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2013 13% South Africa

£19.99

96% Sauvignon Blanc, 4% Semillon

There are intense aromas of quince and cape gooseberries with a hint of guava. The flavours on the palate are intense, lingering and perfectly balanced. The initial entry is packed with fruit such as those found on the nose with hints of lemon zest and white pepper. The mid-palate is full and rich and the finish lingers with a refreshing crispness. This is a perfect aperitif or matched ideally with fresh seafood, especially oysters.

Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2014 13.5% New Zealand

£25.99

The founders of the Marlborough Sauvignon style, this vintage of Cloudy Bay is more typical than some recent ones, as it is richly, yet elegantly fruity.



Sancerre Les Monts Damnés P. Martin 2012 13% Loire

£24.99

Few would contest the notion that the lieux-dit of La Côte des Monts Damnés demands inclusion as one of Sancerre's unofficial Grand Cru's. Domaine Martin is owned and run by Pierre Martin, son of well-known winemaker Yves Martin. The domaine consists of a scant 3 hectares of Chavignol Sauvignon Blanc, farmed using only sustainable agriculture, and no herbicides. Flavours and aromas of gunflint ripen in the mouth to a broad range of elderflower and gooseberry flavours, with a wonderful length.

Wine Fact

Corks are made from the bark of an oak tree, *Quercus suber*. Corks that aren't sterilized properly can cause a wine to have off-notes. The same is true for members of the Vienna Boys Choir. So now you know what 'corked' really means when talking about a wine and why more & more top winemakers (plus those of us in the trade) are preferring screw-cap bottles.

Medium, round & elegant

Brookford Chardonnay/Semillon 2013 12.5% Australia

£7.99

Brilliant pale straw in colour with lifted fresh citrus melon fruits on the nose. Nice balance of soft peachy melon fruit, with clean mildly piquant astringency on the palate.

Aldridge Semillon Chardonnay 2013 11.5% Australia

£8.99

Lifted citrus lime fruits on the nose. Nicely balance fruit sweetness on the palate consisting of soft peachy melon fruit flavours.

Sol De Mayo Chardonnay 2011 12.5% Mendoza, Argentina

£8.99

Pale gold in colour, offering intense varietal aromas of tropical fruits. A crisp and well balanced youthful wine, light boded with a fresh spicy mouth feel and a long lingering finish. Serve as an aperitif, lightly chilled or with grilled fish dishes, creamy pastas, salads or white meats.

Terra Firma Catarrotto 2013 13% Italy

£9.99

Crisp, light, appealing white made from Sicily's most planted white variety. Low yields from better vineyards in the west of the island near Trapani help in making this better than average. Excellent fish wine.

The Francophile Chenin Blanc 2013 13.5% South Africa**£10.99**

Dry, with just the faintest influence of its ageing in the the four-year old wooden tanks, this wine from Stellenbosch is the winemaker's homage to Vouvray, Savennières and other stars of the Chenin firmament. In fact, though often overlooked, Chenin is one of SA's best varieties.

Villa Wolf, Pinot Gris 2013 13.0% Germany**£11.99**

Rich in weight & flavour, but not heavy, Pinot Gris is the white wine for poultry and hams. This wine is yet another classy offering from the Villa Wolf Estate in Pfalz near Wachenheim, which has been restored to former greatness under Ernst Loosen's ownership.

Maison Auvigue Burgundy France

Auvigue is a French producer located in the south of the Burgundy region, run by two brothers Jean-Pierre and Michel Auvigue. Wines come from a family estate of around 6 hectares, there are an additional 20 hectares of contract grapes, which are vinified in their cellars. Most of the family estate is located in the hillside village of Solutré-Pouilly within sight of the extraordinary "Rock of Solutré", a celebrated landmark which is visible for miles.

Only white wines from the Chardonnay grape are produced at the estate, mostly Pouilly Fuissé, but also Saint-Veran and some Macon-Solutré.

The winery prides itself in employing traditional methods in the vineyards, respecting nature. They use no chemical fertilisers, only organic. They plough to make the roots plunge into the rocky soils, allowing the vine to load itself with mineral elements. With careful observation of the vine's health, they are able to reduce human intervention to a minimum level, and let nature do the rest, allowing the soil to express itself differently in each "climat".

Jean-Pierre Auvigue was born in Solutré, like his brother, and he has always spent his time in and around the vineyards. They work in an old mill, called "Le Moulin du Pont", each vintage is vinified separately and the wines are only assembled as a last resort.

Jean Pierre believes that "Manual harvesting, perfect ripeness, well-chosen plots; that's the secret to making good wines."

Zevenwacht Tin Mine White 2013, Stellenbosch 13.5% South Africa**£12.99**

A superb versatile blend of Chenin, Chardonnay and Viognier which, in a varietal dominated world, wonderfully demonstrates the old maxim that the total is greater than the sum of all the parts.

Ripe and exotic, a distinctive, spicy wine that is rich and subtly oaked, with a slight aroma of roasted almonds. The Chardonnay gives superb lime citrus flavours and the Viognier lends a delicate perfume of dried peaches and apricots while the Sauvignon Blanc punctuates the palate with concentrated pungency.

Mâcon Villages, Moulin du Pont 2013 13.0% France**£13.99**

Typical classy Macon with ripe, green apple flavours and hints of minerality. Only 10% of the wine has been oak-aged, so the influence on the palate is more one of rounding than imparting vanillin flavour. Suits fish of course, e.g. cod in white sauce, but also poultry.

Lugana 'Argillaia' Fabiano 2012 13.0% Italy**£14.99**

Named after the clay-rich soils of the area between Peschiera and Desenzano on the southern side of Lake Garda, this is rare for a northern Italian white: it has aroma, it has a weighty mouth-feel and a much more gutsy range of fruit flavours on the palate than much of what is exported from northern Italy to our shores.

Tamar Ridge Devil's Corner Sauvignon Blanc 2014 13.0% Australia**£14.99**

Lean, fruity, classy Sauvignon made on the northern side of Tasmania close to Launceston in the style of better Marlborough wines, this wine owes its name to those windy shores and its class to the Kayena Estate where it is produced.

Medium, round & elegant

Tindall Estate Chardonnay 2013 14.5% New Zealand

£15.99

Another of the classy wines from the Tindall Estate. Their Chardonnay is not showy, rather it's made in the style of white Burgundy, restrained fruit and a glint of citrus followed by just a hint of oak which is evident on the palate at the end. A good match for most fish obviously but also white meats.

Wine Fact

The calories in a 4 ounce glass of wine ranges from about 80 to 100 calories. Lighter wines tend to have fewer calories than heavier wines. Some wines are higher in carbohydrates than others due to their residual sugars. For example, a dry Sauvignon Blanc may have 2 grams of carbohydrate whereas a very sweet dessert wine could have up to 12 grams. So, yes, wine is calorific (so are most beverages except plain water) but is at least fat-free and contains no cholesterol.

Tokara Chardonnay 2012 13.5% South Africa

£13.99

Upfront aromas of ripe sweet melon, pineapple and yellow peaches with undertones of marzipan and toasted almonds that hint at the subtle oaking. The palate is fresh with a hint of toastiness.

St Véran, Maison Auvigue 2013 13.0% France

£16.99

Richer than Macon Villages, with more evident oak-ageing on the palate, but not clumsy, this wine used to be damned with the soubriquet 'poor man's Pouilly-Fuissé. In fact, it's serious wine in its own right and is THE wine for fish pie.

Saskia Chenin Blanc, Viognier 2009 South Africa

£19.99

The wine has a stunning pale straw colour with golden flecks. Initially the nose displays aromas of honeysuckle, marzipan and fresh brioche. These are then overpowered by the intense notes of stone fruit, white peaches, honeydew melon and lightly roasted almonds.

Entry onto the palate is marked by notes of dried apricots, white peaches and fresh limes. The mid palate is rich, full and creamy with flavours of toasted almonds and freshly baked bread. The finish lingers with a freshness and hint of white pepper spice.

A perfect accompaniment to Lobster Bisque, Seafood Paella, Sushi or a mildly spicy dish.

Chablis 1er cru 'Vau de Vey' Malandes 2013 13.0% France

£20.99

Vau de Vey as a vineyard produces fruitier (hints of sweet lemons) rather than lean, mineral wines. The 2012 vintage was successful in that it allowed a typical style to be produced, with a good balance of fruit & acidity. Great with fish, the locals in the area probably fish out something from the reedy, smooth-flowing Serein, we'll have to make do with something good from the cold slab.

Rich, full & fruity

Bon Courage Gewurztraminer 2013 14.5% South Africa

£10.99

Dry but not cloying, this wine has hints of those typical lychee flavours, but with a cool finish, so avoiding a cloying sensation. Good with Asian cuisine.

Villa Wolf Gewurztraminer 2013 11.5% Germany

£11.99

Another classy example from the Villa Wolf estate in the Pfalz, this is very delicate Gewurztraminer, light in body and alcohol. The lovely floral aroma is true to the variety, with classic rose petal and lychees, without being heavy or over the top-clean, crisp and elegantly poised with a delightfully delicate crackle on the palate. The mouth-filling mid palate fades gently to a zippy fresh finish. Good with slightly spicy oriental cuisine.

Bon Courage Prestige Cuvée Chardonnay 2013 14.0% South Africa **£11.99**

Rich, yet harmonious Chardonnay with ripe apple and melon flavours, coupled with a vanillin finish. If you don't know the wines of Bon Courage yet, this Chardonnay illustrates once again what an unfussy, quality producer they are.

Casas del Bosque Chardonnay 2013 14.5% Casablanca Valley Chile **£11.99**

Beautiful pale straw in colour. On the nose aromas of walnut, ripe pear and pomegranate. In the mouth a citrus backbone is fleshed-out by ample mineral notes finishing with a very subtle smokey/woody note. A bright, zesty acidity imparts excellent structure and length. Amazing with creamy cheeses, turkey and roasted chicken breast, pasta dishes with cream sauces, tuna fish Ceviche, salmon tartare and sushi.

Casas del Bosque is located 70 km from Santiago, the capital of Chile, and 30 km from one of the principal ports of Chile, Valparaíso. It was established in 1993 to be a family boutique winery exclusively oriented to the production of high quality wines. Casas del Bosque has its own vineyards in the Casablanca Valley, the preferred place for premium wine production. This guarantees that they carefully handle and control their entire grade production and all its treatment, leading to the highest quality product.

Jordan Unoaked Chardonnay 2013 13.0% South Africa **£12.99**

Vibrantly fruity, but well-balanced, more tropical fruit salad than green apple and lemon.

Wine Fact

The vintage year on a wine label is the harvest year of the grapes from which the wine was made. The characteristics of a particular vintage year are determined by the weather conditions and resulting grape crop for that year. A California wine with a vintage date must be made from at least 95% of grapes harvested in the designated year!!!

Viognier 'Pastourou', A. Paret 2013 13.5% France **£13.99**

A full and fleshy viognier from the south of France. It has an attractive golden hue with plenty of peachy stone fruit on the nose with hints of the jasmine/honeysuckle you would expect. Dry yet fruity, rounded yet not heavy, this has a good balance but is still a 'meal wine' (not a meal of a wine).

Jordan Outlier Sauvignon Blanc 2013 13.0% South Africa **£14.99**

Ripe fig, gooseberry and tropical fruit flavours are complemented by some smoky vanilla nuances. This wine has been aged 8 months in oak barrels in the cellar (hence 'Outlier'), so it's richer & more complex than most New World Sauvignon. Think Cloudy Bay 'Te Koko' at under half the price!

The Hedonist Viognier/Chardonnay 2010 13.5% Australia **£13.99**

Rich, round, yet subtle white from South Australia, made by Walter Clappis in the McLaren Vale. As its name implies, it's not lean & mineral, rather it would suit bolder dishes e.g. Fish curry.

Jordan Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2013 13.5% South Africa **£15.99**

This is a firm favourite in the shops and wins awards at competitions. It is a round, ripe and very well-made Chardonnay fashioned in the style of Meursault, lots of fruit on the palate with well-integrated oak flavours from the barrel fermentation on the finish.

Philip Shaw The Architect Chardonnay 2013 13.5% Australia **£15.99**

A well-structured white full of rich aromas of citrus and honey, this is not your typical 'Aussie Chard' by any means. The vineyard is 900m above sea level and this confers a totally different character to the wine. Subtle on the palate with restrained fruit, it's an elegant, structured white wine that really shows its true character with food, particularly chicken or fish.

Philip Shaw The Dreamer Viognier 2014 10.5% Australia**£15.99**

Light in texture, with some spritz, we're almost in vinho verde territory here! Then the varietal flavours start to develop on the palate, peach and nectarine, with a pleasant balancing acidity. No one will get it, but it's a great aperitif as a 'guess the wine' contestant!

Vouvray Arpent sec 2013 12.0% France**£16.99**

Cuvée Arpent is the perfect expression of the silex (flint) terroir from the fruit of 30 year old Chenin vines. A sweet, honeyed nose shows slightly bruléed apple and hints of saffron – wonderful perfume, which follows through on a palate of great precision, focus, length and tang, with apple and pear fruit and a tight citric backbone. Thrilling and a terrific advert for the appellation.

Wine Fact

Sulfite is a term used to describe sulfur dioxide and other sulfur derivatives. Sulfites are found in all wines as they are a natural product of fermentation. Sulfur dioxide is used in wine making to prevent oxidation, kill bacteria and wild yeasts, and encourage quick and clean fermentation. The U.K. government requires wine labels to include "Contains Sulfites" to alert those who may be allergic to sulfites. Approximately 1% of the population is allergic to sulfites.

Tokara Walker Bay Reserve Chardonnay 2012 14% South Africa**£19.99**

This wine displays a stunning brilliant golden hue with green flecks.

The nose shows vibrant white floral aromas with lime zest, white peach and a hint of gunflint. This is all underscored with fresh brioche and toasted pine nuts. The palate is vibrant and fresh with zesty lime and lemon citrus notes; full and rich on the mid-palate with a stunning mineral texture of flint and chalk; and a lingering finish of buttered toast and roasted pine nuts. As a wine, it's beautifully balanced and seamlessly integrated. Best served with food such as grilled fish with a Sauce Verte, grilled chicken or fresh lobster.

Tokara Director's Reserve White 2012 14.0% S.Africa**£24.99**

Full and rich with intense yellow and green fruit flavours beautifully balanced with the seamless oaking that is evident from slight toasty notes on the finish. The wine finishes with a stunning freshness which lingers almost indefinitely.

Rich, full & fruity**Jordan 'Nine Yards' Chardonnay 2013 13.5% South Africa****£24.99**

Made from selected Chardonnay grapes from the best vineyards, this is the Grand Cru of Jordan's estate. It's their version of top white Burgundy, justifiably a prize-winner at competitions.

Jordan Estate – Stellenbosch, Cape Province, South Africa

Gary & Kathy Jordan and their children own and run this medium-sized estate in Stellenbosch, which has been in the ownership of the family since the late 1970's. Gary is a geologist by training, Kathy an economist but they both studied winemaking as well at Davis University California.

Benefitting from a variety of soils and aspects, plus different altitudes, they are able to plant a wide variety of grape varieties, ranging from Sauvignon and Chenin Blanc, to Riesling and Chardonnay, then in the reds, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Shiraz. The wines produced range from entry level whites through rosé to top-level red. Indeed their top wine Cobblers Hill, a Bordeaux blend of Cabernets Sauvignon, Franc & Merlot, regularly wins prizes, as does the top white Nine Yards Chardonnay. They even produce a dessert wine, Mellifera Botrytis Riesling, made from grapes grown at the highest point of the estate. There is something for everyone in their range!

Pouilly-Fuissé, Maison Auvigue 2012 13.5% France**£25.99**

A classic representative of the appellation, made from the fruit of their old vineyard Moulin du Pont. Fresh-textured, complex and expressive, this wine offers layers of weighty orchard fruit flavour, hints of spice and balanced acidity. Rich white Burgundy made from warm south-facing vineyards.

Cloudy Bay Chardonnay 2012 13.5% New Zealand**£26.99**

Less well-known than the Sauvignon, the Chardonnay is ripe and very classy. Chicken- in- sauce.

Vouvray 'Pentes de la Folie' 2011 13.0% France**£26.99**

Wow. This barrel-fermented and aged wine hails from 80 year old vines and exhibits awesome intensity on the attack, with tight-knit quince and chiselled minerals. In the mouth it then reveals a cool tang of clay, toast and a nutty edge to its honeyed apple fruit. The finish is long and resonating. Needs time to unfurl; a compelling wine, enough to bring on the 'folie' of ordering more of the same!

Sebastien Brunet, Chancay, Vouvray, Loire

Sébastien Brunet is a man of few words. He assumed control of Domaine Roche Fleurie in 2006, after the untimely passing of his father, Michel. The pair had worked together for six harvests following Sébastien's graduation from the Lycée Viticole in Amboise. In the past few years Sébastien has been converting to organic viticulture, although we are informed by his former tutor that his attention to the certification paperwork appears to be less convincing than his actual work in the vines!

Everything is harvested by hand, and the winemaking process sees as little intervention as possible. As with all classic Vouvray and in order to express the characteristics of Vouvray's distinct terroirs, Brunet vinifies his silex-rich parcels separately from those planted in the limestone and clay soils and malolactic fermentation is never sought and very rarely occurs.

Savennières 'Les Genêts' Laureau 2011 14% Loire**£32.95**

Working out of a small shed with a very small team, Damien Laureau is not exactly what one would call a "typical" Savennières winemaker. This is pure chenin blanc from some of the highest vines in the appellation. Aged for 18 months in a combination of tank (80%) and barrel (20%). Lively, mineral-filled, and delicious, Savennières that shows off its schisty and volcanic rock terroir.

Pouilly-Fuissé 'Vieilles Vignes' Auvigie 2011 13% Burgundy**£29.99**

The vineyards for this award-winning wine come from the best plots in the family estate. All the vines are at least 50 years old. It is elegant but also powerful and full-bodied. The palate is finely structured and well balanced with vanilla and brioche flavours followed by a lingering truffle touch. This wine will continue to mature for up to six years. Very nice as an aperitif, or drink with smoked or grilled fish, poultry and other white meats.

Savennières 'Le Bel Ouvrage' Laureau 2011 13.5% Loire**£39.95**

100% Chenin blanc, harvested (like the "genets" bottling) completely by hand in several passes through the vineyard. Aged for 18 months in barrel (80%) and tank (20%) and exhibits a deeper, more concentrated style of Savennières that is ideal for long-term ageing. Fruit extracts and other non-synthetic treatments are used on the vines in place of harsh chemicals, and quite frankly, you can tell it just by looking at the vineyards. They are alive, with wildlife and indigenous plants sharing the space with Damien's healthy vines of Chenin Blanc.

Savennières is a tiny but justifiably celebrated appellation just south west of Angers where white wines of immense nerve, concentration and longevity are made from the Chenin Blanc grape that can age beautifully for decades - If the Loire is a treasure chest full of vinous gems, then Savennières is its crown jewel.

Wine has been made in the fields that Domaine Laureau currently occupy, on the edge of the city of Angers, since the middle ages. Despite being self taught, the very friendly and likeable Damien Laureau has clearly worked his apprenticeship here, and after years of being active in Savennières, is now carving out some of the appellation's best wines. Damien avoids chemical vine treatments, favouring a healthy organic vine-growing environment. The character of the Chenin and the terroir are maintained through non-interventionist methods and are gently matured on the lees for 18 months and a small selection barrel-aged. All of this allows the wine to acquire fullness, complexity and immense charm from an early age.

Savennières 'Roche aux Moines' Laureau 2011 13.5% Loire**£49.95**

Damien, along with a few other young growers, is starting to experiment with harvesting just when the grapes turn yellow (instead of the traditional Savennières "green grapes") to take advantage of the richness that the sun brings. At the same time, he is careful not to pick too late as he wants to avoid a high level of botrytis in the harvest. As a result, the wines are a beautiful balance of richness, concentration, lively acidity, and length. Roche aux Moines means 'rocks of the monks' and is a tiny hillside vineyard with its own AC. Oak aged, yet with all the nerve and sinew that characterises a good Savennières. Who wouldn't retreat to a monastery for wine of this quality?

ROSÉ**Pinot Grigio blush rosé, Fabiano 2013 12.0% Italy****£8.99**

Delicate in colour & flavour, this is not PG which dare not show its face (nor its colour) but a very refreshing, summery wine which would also suit lighter dishes brilliantly.

Klippenkop Pinotage Rosé 2010 13.5% South Africa**£8.99**

Fresh, breezy, easy drinking style from early ripening Pinotage and young hillside Shiraz vines. This is rosé for grilled meats on the braai, when it gets warm.

Villa Wolf Pinot Noir rosé 2013 11.0% Germany**£11.99**

Red cherry, peach and strawberry flavours mingle with a slightly sweet impression on the finish. This is a delicious though delicate rosé that would work well with spicy foods. It's yet another quality offering from the Villa Wolf estate, who'd have thought we'd all be guzzling GERMAN rosé?

Pinot Noir rosé, Puy de Dôme Cave de Verny 2013 13.5% France**£11.99**

Appealing in colour (pale pink), attractive on the nose (cherries & other red fruits) and just delicious on the palate, this wine leads you to formulate the question 'Why don't they make rosé in Burgundy from Pinot Noir?' only to answer yourself, 'Because they don't!!' Sancerre rosé then? This wine is in the same vein and much better value.

Reds

Young, Light, fruity

Kintu Merlot 2013 12.5% Chile

£7.99

Light, straightforward red, round and velvety on the palate with ripe plum and red berry flavours. Serve with all kinds of pasta and pizza dishes. Also great with sausages! This is the sort of wine which made Chile famous!

Vina Palaciega Rioja Joven 2013 12.5% Spain

£9.99

Unoaked, fruity, modern style Rioja, predominantly the gorgeous Tempranillo, supported by its less illustrious, but respectable brother Garnacha, showing what an appealing combination they can be!

Villa Wolf Pinot Noir 2013 12.5% Germany

£12.99

Villa Wolf Pinot Noir is warm and medium-bodied, with forward, dark cherry fruit, a firm structure and a spicy mid-palate. Six months of barrique aging gives it a smoky depth and a nice backbone of earthy tannins. Knocks much village Burgundy back into the Rhine without a splash!

Chinon 'Logis de la Bouchardière' 2012 13.0% France

£11.99

A fruity and very aromatic Cabernet Franc.....soft, beautiful persistence in the mouth with an exceptional elegance. This is the wine to convince you that you DO like Cabernet Franc. (Of course you do, it's up to 50% of St Emilion wines!!)

Little J Blauer Zweigelt 2012 12.5% Austria

£12.99

Crisp and fresh, built more like a white than a red (think spicy pinot noir). Particularly good if served cellar-cool. Light enough to drink without food but also a brisk thirst-quencher for antipasti or even Sunday brunch, it's more like a lighter Bordeaux or red from northern Italy.

Abruzzo

A rambling viticultural backwater, the Abruzzo is sparsely populated, extremely beautiful, with terrain varying from the coast (Pescara) to the highest point of the Appennines (Gran Sasso d'Italia) near the capital l'Aquila. It is home to just two main varieties: Trebbiano and Montepulciano. The former rarely distinguishes itself but Montepulciano, on the other hand, is capable of true greatness. The problem here, and throughout the South, is that the culture of co-operative winemaking and staggering yields rob the wines of any concentration. Things are changing, however, and Elena Nicodemi is firmly committed to improving the standard.

Montepulciano Nicodemi d'Abruzzo 2012 13.5% Italy

£14.99

This is a majestically smooth, medium-bodied Italian red. It has flavours of dark cherry, blueberries and ripe plum. It is fruit driven but with almost invisible tannins making it ideal as a wine to sip by itself or as a partner to Italian foods. All grapes are grown organically and harvested by hand and it's marvellous with kid, lamb, rabbit and game birds.



Pinot Noir de l'Auvergne, Verny 2013 13.0% France £11.99

The modern co-op Cave de Verny is very proud to publicise the origins of this wine in the Auvergne. Yes, it IS a surprise to those who know the region for its water (Volvic), cheese (Cantal, St Nectaire, St Agur etc) its volcanic scenery, everything but wine! In fact, this is an extremely appealing Pinot Noir, so much better than many of thin, acidic, Bourgnons. Red fruits and hints of mushrooms.

Régnié 'les Bulliats' 2013 13.0% France £12.99

Typical Gamay flavours (strawberry) but with greater structure and weight than most, as the wine comes from old vines. Owners Fred & Helen Lockwood are content to let nature take its course and present them and us with some delicious, typical wines which reflect the soil and the vintage.

Medium, balanced, savoury

Brookford Shiraz/Cabernet 2014 13.5% Australia £7.99

Lots of berry and plum fruit, with spicy notes on the nose. A flavoursome palate with savoury stewed and currant fruit flavours, which merge well into lingering oak flavours and soft tannins

Terra Firma Nero d'Avola 2013 14.0% Italy £9.99

For many years Sicily's wine production was dominated by white, much of it neutral, uninteresting Catarratto. That is, until they re-discovered what we all suspected, namely that there were some great red varieties lurking down there. Nero d'Avola is one of the best-known of these now, justifiably, as it produces plummy, rounded, easy to like reds which are a great match for all dishes.

Klippenkop Syrah 2013 14.0% South Africa £9.99

This full-bodied wine shows freshly crushed black pepper aromas with hints of cinnamon and cloves on the nose with lots of brambly red berry fruit, rich mulberry and well integrated vanilla tones.

Sol de Mayo Malbec 2014 13.0% Argentina £9.99

Fruity notes of morello cherries and raspberries, combined with hints of vanilla. A balanced, persistent, fruit driven, complex harmonious finish. Now we know why Malbec is all the rage.

Cape Chamonix rouge 2011 13.5% South Africa £10.99

The Rouge shows a deep ruby colour with garnet highlights on the rim. The generous bouquet suggests blackcurrant, cedar with scents reminiscent of red berries, spices and vanilla.....full, round and smooth on the palate with rich fruit and length of flavour.

Croix de Marsan Bordeaux 2012 12.5% France £10.99

Typical claret style with round Merlot fruit on the palate.

Chateau de Marsan 2012 13% France £12.99

This is the main estate wine and is made from a blend of 60% Merlot & 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. More depth and structure than many wines in this level, it has a soft appealing finish.

The Francophile Syrah 2012 14.0% South Africa £9.99

Full of vibrant red-black fruit and with an aromatic nose reminiscent of Saint-Joseph lilies, the result is a thrilling young red that is free of the constraints and manipulated flavour profile that come with barrel-ageing. This is a very pure and unadulterated example of the Syrah grape, it wears its heart on its label.

Rosso Piceno Saladini Pilastrini 2013 13.0% Italy £11.99

Round, smooth appealing red made from Montepulciano & Sangiovese grapes, the area may be unfamiliar to most, being produced in the southern part of Le Marche near Ascoli Piceno, but the flavour is familiar to fans of Italian wine: medium in weight with a great balance of fruit & acidity.

Comté de Grignan Grenache, Gigondan 2013 13.5% France £10.99

Made in the better Cotes du Rhone style, this is a versatile red for meats and cheeses made in the Drôme dept just north & east of the famous Rhône wines.

Comté de Grignan Syrah, Gigondan 2013 13.0% France £10.99

Savoury Syrah, ripe blackberry and damson fruit on the palate, much more appealing than many examples from the northern Rhone, this is another wine from the little-known Comté de Grignan: please appreciate the wines but keep it quiet otherwise we'll see a situation like Gigondas, some of which sell for more than Châteauneuf now!

Cotes du Rhone, 'Valvigneyre' Paret 2012 13.5% France £12.99

The Valvigneyre is unusual for a Côtes du Rhône in that it is 100% Syrah and grown in the Northern Rhone. It is a beautifully constructed wine with a lovely crimson colour, mature nose with hints of cassis and ripe fruit. On the palate a touch of spicy Syrah, but well complemented by soft tannins.

Chateau Grimard, Bordeaux 2012 13.0% France £12.99

Round, soft, fruity Bordeaux made in the modern style from 90% Merlot.

Casas del Bosque Pinot Noir reserva 2013 14.0% Chile £13.99

Made from cool-climate fruit, yet with rich red berry flavours on the palate. Hints, only hints, of jamminess make it very appealing!



Tamar Ridge Devil's Corner Pinot Noir 2013 13.5% Australia £16.99

Ripe, savoury Pinot from Tasmania with a drier finish than many would expect.

Casas del Bosque Grand Reserva Pinot Noir 2012 14.5% Casablanca Valley, Chile £15.99

Bright ruby red in colour, on the nose intense aromas of red cherry, citrus peel and fresh ginger dominate. In the mouth lashings of strawberry, cinnamon and nutmeg give way to an underlying note of damp earth. Fresh acidity along with firm tannins combine to give a taut structure and good length.

A perfect partner to duck and other game bird dishes, also delightful served with slow roasted meats or even grilled tuna.

Chateau de Lisennes AOC Bordeaux 2010 13.0% France £15.99

Smooth, round Merlot dominated Bordeaux from a great vintage.

Tokara Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 14.5% South Africa £14.99

85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

There is a great purity of intense dark fruit notes with a hint of mocha, cocoa and spice. The wine finishes with firm dry tannins, a dollop of refreshing fruit and a lingering clean menthol finish.

Valpolicella 'Adalia' 2013 12.0% Italy

£14.99

Light, yet fruity (bitter, black cherry), lean yet complex, this organic wine from predominantly Corvina grapes shows why life is so great in this area of Northern Italy. Good food & delicious wine - Valpolicella deserves to be a star of the wine-list again!

Karl H Johner Kaiserstuhl P.Noir 2011 13.5% Germany

£17.99

Delicate dark berries and wild cherry, underlined with great spiciness. Well bodied with balanced acidity, softening but present tannins, round and luscious combined with great minerality. The wine has a long and lingering finish.

Karl-Heinz Johner, Voigtsburg-Bischoffingen, Kaiserstuhl, Baden, Germany

Karl-Heinz was the winemaker at Lamberhurst vineyard for a decade before returning to his native Baden to start his own vineyard. It's now his son Patrick who trained at Dijon in Burgundy who makes the wines and indeed Burgundian they are in inspiration. Benefitting from the famous volcanic soil of the Kaiserstuhl, in the far SW corner of Germany and sheltered from the rain and wind by the Vosges mountains, they are able to produce top quality Chardonnay and Pinot Noir which are complex and classy, in the vein of serious village Burgundy. Other wines produced are Rivaner (the local name for Muller-Thurgau) and Pinot Gris, made in the style of neighbouring Alsace. These are classic wines with a modern concern for quality & consistency, so are bottled mostly under screw-cap. Just open, decant and let the wines start to breathe!

Tindall Estate Pinot Noir 2009 12.5% New Zealand

£19.99

Elegantly ripe and classy Pinot from Marlborough where the slight oak-ageing adds depth and complexity. The estate is not aiming for blockbuster, showy wines, all fruit and no complexity, it's aiming for a food-friendly Pinot which reflects the soil and vintage.

Philip Shaw Wirewalker Pinot Noir 2013 13.5% Australia

£15.99

An abundance of red fruit with a smokey texture that floats over the subtle but considerable, soft tannins. This is a brilliantly made wine and a triumph of cool-climate (for Australia) winemaking high up (900m) in Orange, NSW, made by Philip Shaw.

Mercurey 1er cru 'Clos du Paradis', Capuano-Ferreri 2010 13.0% France

£29.99

Smooth, elegant Burgundy made in the style of its neighbours in the Cotes du Beaune e.g. Volnay.

Cloudy Bay Pinot Noir 2012 14.0% New Zealand

£29.99

Big, ripe and showy, for once there is a lot to shout about in the Pinot from Cloudy Bay!



Medium, mature, complex

Vina Palaciega Rioja crianza 2011 13.0% Spain

£10.99

A subtle, appealing Rioja crianza with hints of vanillin on the finish. Ideal with lamb.

Bradgate Syrah 2012 13.5% SA

£10.99

Powerful, yet balanced, more ripe St Joseph than Shiraz. A great introduction to the Jordan range and a great match with venison or mushroom risotto.

Aldridge Estate Abbott Peak Shiraz/Merlot 2013 13.5% Australia**£9.99**

Smooth, fruity bland of the famous grapes, very versatile.

Casas del Bosque Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 14.0% Chile**£11.99**

Rich, yet easy to drink, typical blackcurrant flavours on the palate with hints of cedar wood. Great steak wine, yet it's more than that – obvious in the way quality wines are, it's just another example of what better sites in Chile, in this case the Rapel Valley, can produce.

Wine Fact

White wines are generally made with grapes with yellow or green skins. White wines can also be made from black-skinned grapes if the juice is separated from the grape skins early enough-i.e., before fermentation. Red wines get their colour from being fermented in contact with the skins of dark grapes. Rose' gets its pink colour by either a short contact time with the skins of dark-coloured grapes before fermentation or by mixing finished red wine with finished white wine.

Casas del Bosque Carménère 2013 14.0% Chile**£11.99**

Ripe, complex Carménère is fast becoming Chile's 'signature variety': wine which is gamey red in nature, all black fruit on the palate but so much more besides. Ideal with casseroles.

The Ruins Pinotage 2013 13.5% South Africa**£11.99**

For those who like jammy damson flavours that you find in pinotage, this is a classy example from the organic vineyards of 'The Ruins' in the Robertson district.

Zevenwacht Tin Mine Red Stellenbosch 2012 14.0% South Africa**£12.99**

A blend of Syrah, Grenache & Mourvedre, so a riper version of Cotes du Rhone, but much more than that! Named Tin Mine in honour of the tin mining industry, which was once prevalent in the area. In a varietal dominated world, this wine demonstrates clearly the saying that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The colour of the wine is a deep cherry red, and has an intense aroma of ripe berries with hints of chocolate and vanilla. In the mouth, the wine is soft, intense, fruit full and supple with and incredibly long finish.

Vinlara Ribera del Duero 2013 13.0% Spain**£12.99**

Aged in oak barrels for six months, this is an immediately appealing style of Ribera with a complex finish. Much more intense than Rioja, even though it says 100% Tempranillo on the label.

Vina Palaciega Reserva 2008 13.0% Spain**£13.99**

Rich, round and ripe Rioja, not too heavy, nor too oaky, just appealing. Another plus point of the Riojanos? They age for us in their vast bodegas so this wine is ready for drinking now.

Pretty Malbec 2014 14.5% Mendoza, Argentina**£13.99**

As dark as night. Exuberant, intense, cassis infused nose with some beautifully integrated wood. This is a plush, velvety, wine with fine tannins and low acidity.

Côtes du Rhône Réserve, St Just Gigondan 2011 13.5% France**£14.99**

Hand harvested Grenache & Syrah grapes go to make this rich, classy example of Côtes du Rhône, it's more like a CdR Villages e.g. Cairanne or Sablet. Great with richer dishes, but also quite versatile.

Simon Hackett Old Vine Grenache 2012 14.0% Australia**£14.99**

Superb example of Old Vine Grenache from the Barossa valley. Somewhat overlooked for many years, as Grenache wasn't a 'trendy variety' it's in fact rich, round and warming, like dry fruit-cake!

Philip Shaw The Conductor Merlot 2012 13.0% Australia £15.99

Rich clear berry fruits, complex and layered aromas with strong varietal fruit overriding the supportive vanilla from barrel ageing. Another successful newcomer from Philip Shaw.

Philip Shaw – The Characters (Orange, NSW, Australia)

Philip Shaw is a famous character in the world of wine, but almost unknown out of it. As head winemaker at Rosemount for many years he was responsible for making big, bold wines of a consistent standard, many of which became standards of the British shelves. Since buying his own plot of land in Orange, New South Wales, he has planted the Koomooloo vineyards to a range of varietals, trying to match the variety to the soil at this high altitude of 900m, so cool climate, especially at night. We're not talking Scottish glens here, but night-time minima are certainly lower than many would expect. This leads to longer ripening time for the grapes, so more complexity in the resulting wines. Renowned in viticultural circles as an expert in keeping the flavours in Chardonnay without letting the wines become too fat and heavy, Philip Shaw's Architect Chardonnay & Wirewalker Pinot Noir are good examples of Burgundy-style wines made in cool-climate Australia, so providing an introduction to his range.

PS The Idiot Shiraz 2012 12.5% Australia 15.99

A bright, medium bodied wine with lively, full fruit flavours and some spice integrated with the red fruits and lovely soft tannins. It isn't 'sweaty-saddle Shiraz' by any means, rather it's bramble-fruited and subtle. Another tour de force from Philip Shaw.

Chianti Classico 'Autentico' Villa Trasqua 2010 13.5% Italy £15.99

Classic Chianti from the heartland of the region close to Castellina, the grapes ripen in a natural amphitheatre which enables the noble Sangiovese (95% of blend) to reveal its noble qualities: savoury, structured with ripe tannins, it has a soft finish influenced by oak ageing. Forget pasta and pizza and all that image of Italian food, think more of steak on the griddle with porcini mushrooms...

Tenuta Villa Trasqua, Tuscany, Italy

Villa Trasqua is situated in the very heart of Chianti country and extends over 120 hectares of land, of which only 50 are for the production of wines, with ten hectares (over 3,000 trees) set aside for the production of extra virgin olive oil; the rest is woods and arable land. Within the estate there is a very specific microclimate as the vineyards are on the slopes of a very large amphitheatre called Trasqua. This remarkable, south-facing landscape not only captures all aspects of the sun during the day, but allows for cooling breezes to come down from the surrounding hills at night and enables them to harvest fully-ripe and aromatic grapes that are slowly and carefully made into complex and authentic terroir-driven wines of the utmost quality.

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Nicodemi 2012 14.0% Italy £14.99

Montepulciano is a very 'friendly' variety, so became a favourite of your local trattoria a generation ago, but better examples can approach the level of serious wine. Think more serious, yet softer Chianti for this wine.

Fattoria Nicodemi Abruzzo

The Nicodemi estate was founded in the early 20th century by Elena Nicodemi's grandfather, Carlo. Bruno, his son, assumed the reins in the early 1960s and, helped by a second income from his medical practice, set about producing the best wines of the Abruzzo. A major replanting programme followed by a new cellar established Nicodemi as one of the region's few producers who placed quality above quantity. Bruno passed away unexpectedly in 1998 and the estate faltered whilst Elena and her brother, Alessandro, decided just what they wanted to do.

Fortunately, Elena decided to turn her back on a promising career as an architect and returned to the homestead with a clarity of purpose we've seldom seen. Ably assisted by the talents of Federico Curtaz and Paolo Caciorgna these are shining examples of just what can be done with Italy's native varieties. The Trebbiano is hugely expressive with ripe stone fruit, floral notes, and masses of mouth-watering acidity. The Montepulciano sports sufficient acidity and tannins to tame the bramble and black cherry fruit and it's marvellous with kid, lamb, rabbit and game birds.

Adoro Red Blend 2006 14.5% South Africa £17.99

A blend in the new world style using classic grapes of Cabernet, Merlot and Shiraz, balancing a complex fruit profile with elements of terroir lent by each vineyard.

Valpolicella Ripasso Fabiano 2013 14.5% Italy £18.99

Made by re-fermenting Valpolicella on the lees of Amarone, this wine gains extra glycerine, so texture in the mouth, plus complexity. More like baby Amarone - very smooth & raisiny, perfect with harder cheeses at the end of the meal e.g. pecorino, parmesan, manchego, aged cheddar!

Chateau Cailleteau-Bergeron, Blaye 2010 13.0% France £17.99

Smooth Merlot dominated right-bank Bordeaux with savoury edges. Suits red meats, especially lamb.

Villa Trasqua Chianti Reserva 'Fanatico' 2009 13.5% Italy £18.99

Deep ruby red with garnet shades, delicate and ethereal fruity aromas combines with woody and light spicy notes. Soft, very well structured, full, fleshy, with a good volume, long and lingering finish.

Chateau Tour du Pas St Georges, St Emilion 2010 13.5% France £18.99

Round, plummy wine from a St Emilion off-shoot, 65% Merlot, 35% Cabernet franc, this is the classic assemblage/combination of grapes as the uber-trendy and expensive Ch Cheval Blanc. Grown on a mixture of sandy & clay soils on south-facing slopes, this is much more friendly on the wallet.

Chateau de Lucas Lussac St Emilion 2005 13.0% France £19.99

Round, plummy St Emilion from a warm year. Great with anything in the savoury line.

Chateau Fontestea Cru Bourgeois, Haut Médoc 2008 13.0% France £23.99

Smooth, classy Bordeaux made in the Margaux style, 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, the rest Cab Franc & Petit Verdot.

Château Fontestea Bordeaux France

Tucked away down a long, winding drive is Château Fontestea. Built in 1277 the château is situated in the very heart of the Haut-Médoc. A place of historic interest, it is known that King François 1st of France stayed there and a crowned salamander, the king's symbol, decorates the front door.

Today the house is surrounded by 34 hectares of vineyards and owner Joachim Immelnkemper, has invested heavily in both the restoration of the château and the development of the winemaking facilities. In 1997 a temperature controlled cellar was built to house the increasing numbers of new oak barrels whilst Dominique Fouin makes the most of the modern winemaking equipment including micro-oxygenation. The dominant grape in the blend is Cabernet Sauvignon with Cabernet Franc and Merlot. In 2007, Château Fontestea 2004 Vintage was awarded 5***** in Decanter Magazine.

Dominique Fouin has been responsible for winemaking at Chateau Fontestea since 1984, his first vintage.

His history is intertwined with that of the Chateau and during his tenure he has overseen a great increase in quality of the wines.

Dominique likes to see things done the traditional way, but is not afraid to use modern technology where necessary, if it allows him to produce better wines.

Max 2011 South Africa £19.99

56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Petit Verdot, 22% Merlot

The nose has aromas of smoked meats, dark cherries and Christmas cake. There is a hint of roasted fennel bulb and five spices. The palate is full, rich, lingering and dry. It is mouth-filling and packed with flavors of dark cherries, plums, cassis and mulberries. This blend offers ripe fruit flavors with a savory mid-palate of smoked meats, fennel bulb and roasted spices. The tannins are firm and dry which offers an exceptionally long finish. Serve with smoked meats, venison pie, and beef fillet with a red wine sauce or an oxtail stew made in an Osso Bucco style. The wine also pairs well with hard cheeses.

Chateau Latour Martillac, Pessac-Leognan 2011 13.0% France**£22.99**

Fresh aromas of cherries, tobacco leaf, some vanilla & a hint of oak. Lush & sweet on the palate, with black currants, dark chocolate & tar. Good length, very fine tannins, and a smooth, slightly bitter finish. Really good wine with solid Graves character.

Wine Fact

The botanical cycle of a wine grape is fairly simple. The vines are dormant all winter, and spend most of their time in Florida. Once the grapes have then reached the winemaker's desired level of maturity and ripeness, they are harvested. Great attention is paid to the level of sugar the grapes have accumulated, which is measured in degrees Brix. Brix measures the sugar content of a solution. The origins of degrees Brix is shrouded in some mystery, but most experts believe it was conceived by the great French chemist, Dr. Francois Shitta.

Medium, mature, complex(cont)**St Julien Montagnac 2007 13.0% France****£24.99**

Chocolate-covered cherry flavours gives this wine a slightly new-world feel and the big ripe smooth tannins enhance the complexity and structure of the long finish. Excellent with rare roast beef.

Margaux Monbrison 2010 12.5% France**£24.99**

Fragrant, elegant crushed blackcurrant fruit, good concentration of old-vine depth and showing very well now. A great accompaniment to strong cheeses.

Ch Mille Roses 2004 2004 12.5% France**£25.99**

Dark ruby/purple-tinged and medium-bodied. Excellent aromas of dried herbs, sweet cherries, currants, and cranberries, and loamy soil marry nicely with the wine's excellent texture. It goes particularly well with red-meat dishes and is very pleasant with cheese.

Chateau Pavillon Rocher 2008 13.0% France**£29.99**

From small yields, hand harvested and from the same winemaker as Château Cheval Blanc this is an approachable and nice '04 from one of the smaller St Emilion houses. Drinking well with a good smooth easy taste.

Pomerol de Beauregard 2010 13.0% France**£30.99**

The wine is characterized by an intensely fruity bouquet, with blackcurrant and raspberry notes standing out particularly. Spicy notes mingle with very elegant touches of hedgerow flavours in the mouth with a long balanced finish of silky tannins and complex lingering fruits.

Chateau Pavie Decesse 95 1995 12.5% France**£49.99**

The style of wine produced at Pavie Decesse combines opulent, rich, sensuous textures with minerality, freshness and concentration. This special Bordeaux wine is a hedonistic treat. Due to its lush style, it drinks well young, yet it develops additional complexity when aged.

Rich, deep and weighty**Edgebaston Pepper Pot 2013 13.5% South Africa****£14.99**

Rich, dark & savoury, bramble fruit (predominantly Syrah) with some pepper.

Casas del Bosque Gran Reserva Syrah 2012 14.0% Chile**£15.99**

Rich, savoury and very appealing. Ripe Syrah from hillside vineyards in a relatively cool climate (Casablanca Valley), this is very unlike astringent, unripe Syrah, it's just so ripe & attractive!

Simon Hackett Shiraz 2011 14.0% Australia**£15.99**

Powerful, rich and with hints of white pepper, but more the dark fruit style of Shiraz.

Simon Hackett, McLaren Vale, Australia

Simon Hackett was born and raised in the Barossa Valley where his family have been connected with the wine trade for many generations spending his boyhood in the Barossa Valley alongside his father, who was General Manager and a Director of the giant Barossa Valley Distillery, Tarac International. Given this environment, it was not surprising that Simon, at the age of eighteen, elected to follow a career in winemaking and joined the team at the neighbouring Saltram Winery under the watchful eye of master winemaker and world-famous, Peter Lehmann.

In 1984, Simon decided to leave Southern Vales Winery and concentrate fully on establishing his own winery situated in McLaren Vale. A boutique wine maker in every sense of the word, his dream was not to create an 'empire' but to remain small, producing limited stocks of wine each year for semi-private use. Luckily he decided to launch the company as a full time project after only a few years.

Simon's winery is situated at the entrance to the McLaren Vale and it is here that he hand-crafts his wines in small open top fermenters, gently nurturing them in a combination of French and American oak barriques. Yields are often very small and his entire annual production rarely exceeds ten thousand cases.

Finca Agostino' Inicio' Malbec 2010 14.0% Argentina £13.99

Big, robust Malbec from old vines grown at high altitude, made in limited quantities. Now we know why despite the politics there's a vinous love-affair between Argentina & the Brits: think beef wellington in winter and endless barbecues in summer (well, we had one last year). Rich, dark and serious, yet smooth and savoury. The wine displays a shade of intense reds and wraps the mouth into an aromatic rainbow of red fruit, plums and prunes with flowery notes. Mature and elegant with great balance and roundness. Perfect as a stand-alone glass, but try with some blue cheese and honey.

Minervois La Tour de Boussecous 2012 14.0% France £18.99

Organic Syrah & Grenache grapes go to make this serious Minervois. The very opposite of volume Minervois on the shelves of the grandes surfaces/hypermarkets, this is artisanal Minervois which is faithful to its origins and so suits hearty 'peasant food' especially casseroles.

Los Cantos Ribera del Duero 2010 13.5% Spain £17.99

Powerful, complex wines are produced in Ribera del Duero, high up in the north of Castilla (Spain). Great with steak and richer lamb dishes: roast leg with chorizo & red pepper, serious dishes from traditional, austere Spain, a million miles from the fleshpots of Benidorm or Marbella.....

Finca Torremilanos Ribera del Duero Spain

This sparse and austere region 2 hours directly north of Madrid is in no fewer than 4 provinces: Segovia, Soria, Burgos, and Valladolid. It is high, at between 700 and 1000 metres above sea-level, with scorching summers, glacial winters, unexpected frosts and hailstorms always at the worst times (especially in May, when plant life is budding), and what survives in the lee of the river Duero makes at its best dark, austere, brisk reds with good tannins and assertive primary fruit flavours that are sometimes red and sometimes black depending on the area thanks to the resilience of the local Tinto Fino/Tinta Fina – which is essentially Tempranillo that has adapted to this harsh environment.

The large and remarkably quirky Torremilanos family winery dates back to 1903 and is – after Vega Sicilia – the oldest winery in Ribera del Duero, accounting for 75% of the region's sales during its initial 'wow' period from 1982 through 1987. Surprising therefore, that they have not had a presence in the UK for many years – if ever – but perhaps not, as new blood, in the form of Ricardo Peñalba – has only been present since 2006 and the sudden death of his father Pablo.

Mother María Pilar, now a sprightly 70, continues nonetheless as doyenne, running guided tours not only for the many wine fans who materialize but as part of the hospitality extended to hotel guests; for their 400 hectare property, which lies at a height of some 800 metres, not only includes a forest and 140 quite distinct plots of vineyards – though the main 'Torremilanos' block consists of 55 – but since 2008 a very plush hotel, which, only a stone's throw from Aranda, is a favourite venue for big-time local weddings and whose restaurant serves food to die for.

25% of the vineyards are older than 60 and some as old as 150! The region was called Castilla La Vieja for centuries.....

Tinto Fino is of course the main grape variety, but there is Garnacha too, Merlot, Viura, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and also Albillo, which may or may not be white Tempranillo. In addition, they make their own barrels, and these are made from a combination of French, US and Romanian oak.

Familia Malbec/Petit Verdot/Syrah/Cab Sauvignon 2009 14.5% Argentina £17.99

Deep red colour with subtle bordeaux hues. Black fruit aromas stand out, complemented by smoky notes and hints of toasted almonds, spices and vanilla. Great character and structure with a lingering finish, this is the family reserve wine from the Agostino family.

Jordan 'The Prospector' Syrah 2012 13.5% South Africa

£17.99

Big, serious Syrah from Jordan Estate, made in the style of Hermitage, if anything in the Old World, with lots of dark, bramble fruit on the palate, plus peppery hints. Needs to be opened and decanted well in advance for beef and serious meals.

St Joseph 'Les Larmes du Père' Paret 2010 12.5% France

£19.99

A wine which justifies its appellation in quality (unlike so many), Les Larmes du Père has subtle aromas of blackcurrants and raspberries, which develop into leather and liquorice as the wine ages. The palate is full bodied and spicy, with supple and round tannins, typical of ripe Syrah.

Nomade Malbec Reserva 2006 14.5% Argentina

£19.99

Malbec from a single vineyard at high-altitude, again this suits beef, steak and yet more beef. Very deep purple with brilliant violet notes. The nose expresses multiple aromatic layers of ripe red fruit, plum and prunes with nutty and woody notes. The mouth is intense and grows around sweet and round tannins. Remarkable acidity, great complexity and elegant with a very long aging capacity. This is serious wine & shows what Malbec can produce in the best sites.

Argentina

"The Andes are a gigantic, unexplored area. You can find virgin valleys with an unlimited potential for vineyards, vineyards that were planted in the early 1900s, vineyards located in the highest altitudes, growers who still use ancient techniques and varieties that develop in a superb way." - Tomás Achával

It was 1994 when Tomas Achaval started dreaming about Nomade and 7 Lunas wines. The Andes and the surrounding constellation of vineyards captivated his soul at the time he was the president of Chandon Winery in Argentina. From that moment on he knew that the wine world, its people and culture would turn out to be at the axis of his life. As world traveller he learned from experienced people, who shared with him their knowledge which Tomas wittily put into practice at Bodegas Chandon taking the company to a top international level. In 2002, with all this precious experience and his never-ending passion, Tomas started looking for the best terroirs in the Andean Region where the selected grape varieties can reach their full expression to make wines that will capture the unique flavour of the Andes to captivate and entertain the consumers' senses.



Jacaman Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 14.5% USA

£21.99

Fantastic value offered by this rich, almost chocolatey Cabernet from the Napa Valley. As rich and slightly decadent as Amarone.

Simon Hackett Anthony's Reserve 2008 14.0% Australia

£23.99

Limited Release. Ripe plum and blackcurrant, dusty cherry edges with toasty oak and spicy, peppery notes form the lifted flavours of this impressively structured wine. Silky rather than robust, this wine will age beautifully and elegantly and is perfect with rich red meats, game, casseroles and stews or just some farmhouse cheddar.

Simon Hackett Foggo Rd Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 2008 13.5% Australia

£24.99

From Simon's Foggo Road vineyards this is a complex, brooding, tightly structured Cabernet, showing concentrated essence of black fruits and cassis cordoned by tight grained oak and long lingering sweet tannins which will particularly complement rich red meats, game, casseroles and stews, all kinds of cheeses and even very dark chocolate.

Tokara Stellenbosch South Africa

Tokara is a picture perfect destination which offers visitors a unique combination of award-winning wines, brandy and olive oils, a gallery of fine art, a restaurant featuring one of South Africa's leading chefs as well as a delicatessen.

The winery, on the R310 outside Stellenbosch, is nestled among vineyards and olive groves on the crest of the Helshoogte Pass with sweeping views across False Bay and all the way to Table Mountain.

Tokara prides itself on making wines that are site specific. Even though vineyards were initially planted on the southern slopes of the Simonsberg Mountain, two other farms, Highlands in the Elgin district and Siberia in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley near Hermanus, were additionally acquired. In doing so the winery is able to produce wines which express the distinct characteristics of these three prime wine producing regions.

Elected to South Africa's prestigious Cape Winemaker's Guild in 2012, Miles Mossop, lead winemaker at Tokara also makes small batch wines at his own boutique, eponymous winery. Miles' first releases of his white blend Saskia and red blend Max occurred in 2004. The wines are of very high quality but produced in very limited quantities—a total of just one thousand cases per year.

'My winemaking philosophy is simple. Source grapes from exceptional vineyards, pick them at the correct time and help guide them through the natural process of winemaking.'

'I aim to achieve wines with finesse and elegance but still showing aspects of power and fruit concentration, having great texture while maintaining balance.'



Jordan Cobblers Hill 2009 14.5% South Africa

£24.99

The top red from Jordan Estate in Stellenbosch, this is a Cabernet dominated Bordeaux blend which will age further.

Tokara Directors Reserve Red 2010 15% South Africa

£25.99

Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc

This wine has a deep dark inky garnet colour with a touch of red brick evident on the rim. This is an intensely complex wine with intense dark berry fruit and creme de cassis notes on the nose. There is an inky heady dark character on the nose reminiscent of dark chocolate, cardamom spice and roasted fennel bulb. Always evident on this wine and the hallmark of every vintage is the hint of eucalyptus or mint.

The palate is full and rich mirroring most of what is evident on the nose. Displaying cocoa, mocha notes, ripe berry fruits and a spicy grip. The tannins are broad and textured and leave the wine with a dry finish as well as there being a certain amount of freshness which results in the wine lingering on the palate. A good accompaniment to veal Osso Bucco or Grilled Fillet steak served with red wine sauce, bone marrow shallots and French fries.

Amarone della Valpolicella Fabiano 2010 15.0% Italy

£33.99

This is a full bodied wine with a luxurious mouth-feel. On the palate there are notes of sour cherries with hints of ripe plum, cinnamon and spices. This is beautifully structured wine with very soft, tannins and gentle acidity, a wine to savour and cellar.

Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Mont Thabor 2013 15.5% France

£32.99

A big, serious gutsy Chateauneuf from predominantly Grenache grapes.

Barolo Borgogno 2005 14.0% Italy

£34.99

Big, serious, mature Barolo. Difficult to describe its complex range and contrasts of flavours and not easy to afford!

Vajo rosso Veronese 2009 15% Italy

£39.99

You've heard of 'Super-Tuscans', well this is the Veneto's version, 60% of the traditional Corvina along with 25% Merlot & 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. The grapes are partially dried, then undergo a long fermentation process before ageing in both large Italian barrels 'botti' and smaller barriques .

The resulting wine is a big, yet loveable monster but please let it out of its lair i.e. decant for a few hours before serving!

Wine Fact

"Thanks be to God, since my leaving drinking of wine, I do find myself much better, and do mind my business better, and do spend less money, and less time lost in idle company".

Samuel Pepys 1633 – 1703 Diary, January 26, 1662



Dessert Wine

Dr Loosen Beerenauslese 1/4bt Riesling 7% Germany

£12.99

Beerenauslese (Berry Select) is a rich, honeyed dessert wine made from grapes that have been shrivelled by botrytis, the "Noble Rot". These extremely concentrated, mouldy grapes are painstakingly separated from the unaffected fruit and vinified to make one of Germany's most prized vinous treasures. The best vineyards of Germany's Mosel Valley are incredibly steep, south facing slopes with mineral rich slate soils which results in racy, mineral-inflected Rieslings that are fruity, crisp and very refreshing to drink

"Liquidised dried apricots with a seam of lemon freshness. In fact, incredibly fresh given the sweetness level. Purity and power combined! Stunning." Julia Harding MW

Campbell's Rutherglen Muscat 17.5% Australia

£13.99

The Muscat grapes are from the Rutherglen vineyards. Each season grapes are picked after prolonged ripening to ensure maximum sugar levels. The resultant wine is blended into a solera system to maintain a consistent house style when combined with wines from previous vintages. Bright amber gold colour with copper tints. Fresh raisin fruit backed by a hint of fortifying spirit and aged oak characters. Luscious mouth-filling raisin fruit followed by cleansing spirit on the back palate.

Jordan Mellifera Riesling 2012 10% South Africa**£16.99**

A small south-facing 19 year old block of Riesling with spectacular panoramic views of Table Mountain, False Bay and Stellenbosch is home to this limited-release wine. Misty weather during veraison encouraged botrytis (pourriture noble) which concentrated the flavours and sugars.

Vinification

Gary and Kathy Jordan have been making world-class wines since 1993 on a farm with a history going back over 300 years. He's a geologist, she's an economist – together this husband and wife team is a phenomenon. Continuing success has enlarged the team, with the focus on producing fiercely individual wines that combine the fruity accessibility of the New World with the Classic Elegance of the Old.

Delicate, floral and fresh ripe apricot bouquet with a limey citrus twist. Sun-dried peach and apricot flavours with a well-balanced acidity add elegance to the long rich finish.

Kika Late harvest Chenin 2013 12% South Africa**£16.99**

The grapes for this wine were sourced from a 33 year old un-irrigated bush- vine vineyard planted on gravelly soils. The grapes which are perfectly infected with Noble Rot are hand sorted and foot trodden to maximise extraction. Only 1100 bottles were produced.

Miles Mossop-Wine maker

'My winemaking philosophy is simple. Source grapes from exceptional vineyards, pick them at the correct time and help guide them through the natural process of winemaking.'

'I aim to achieve wines with finesse and elegance but still showing aspects of power and fruit concentration, having great texture while maintaining balance.'

This is an intense wine with complex aromas of dried apricot, peach and hints of ginger spice and cinnamon. There are hints of roasted almonds and marzipan. The palate is rich and ripe with intense flavours. The wine demonstrates a perfect balance between the natural sweetness and the acidity of the wine.

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