

# TAURUS

W I N E S



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## The Wine List

*Winter 2020 . Spring 2021*

# Welcome

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Welcome to the first issue of The Wine List.

We're often asked for a full listing of our wines and it's long been my hope to put one together in the way we used to when I first started Taurus. The success of the recent winter catalogues and the change in trading style brought on by recent events has prompted us to finally publish this comprehensive list. Much like on our shelves, the wines here are categorised by country, with the focus on our favourites from each region. There simply wouldn't be room to wax lyrical about everything we stock, but each and every one is described in detail on our brand new website, a browse of which is highly recommended!

This list and our new website have been created entirely 'in house' by Callum Edge and Ed Owen, respectively, and I'm incredibly grateful that I have such talent to call on here in the team. The charming cover illustration is by Phil Dean, aka the Shoreditch Sketcher.

The difficulty of this year and the impact it has had on the wine industry have made 2020 one of the biggest challenges faced since I launched the business in 2001. Sadly, we have had to temporarily stop using our Enomatic tasting machines, as well as cancel our popular winter walkabout tastings. However, the fact that we have come through these troubled months still trading and working at full capacity is testament to you, our loyal customers, and the strong and eminently capable team I'm lucky enough to have working with me.

Autumn and winter are always a busy time for us and we are very much open for business. Whitley Manor Farm continues to grow and we look forward to welcoming new shops to the yard. In addition to the animal feed store, you can now pick up a beautiful bouquet from The Botanical Company and discuss all your party catering needs with Tandem.

If you would prefer to do your wine shopping from home, then we are only a click, call or email away and ready to deliver to your doorstep, often on the same or next day. We will also be open from 11am to 5pm on Sundays in November and December to give you more time to shop as things gear up for Christmas. It always comes round sooner than you think.

Very best,

*Rupert*

Rupert Pritchett

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S - Screwcap • O - Organic • B - Biodynamic • V - Vegetarian • VV - Vegan

*Vintages and prices subject to change. All products subject to availability.*

# Bordeaux

As a much younger and fitter man I ran the Marathon du Médoc. It's regarded as the world's longest marathon, not because the course is particularly arduous, but because the race is interspersed with oyster slurping, wine tasting and even a steak supper! I learnt a surprising amount about Bordeaux - its gravel soils, its hot autumn afternoons, its strong Atlantic winds - as my thighs burned climbing the banks of vines. These factors not only make for a spectacular run, but also make Bordeaux one of the finest places to grow grapes.

Broadly speaking, its wines fall into two categories: Left Bank wines - from Cabernet Sauvignon grown on the western side of the Gironde estuary - are rich and have considerable ageing potential. Right Bank wines - sourced from Merlot on the opposite side - are softer in mouthfeel, making them enjoyable without the need for lengthy maturation.

There's much talk of 'good' and 'bad' vintages, but the reality is that climate change has altered the météo so drastically and winemaking improved so much that merchants prefer to think of them as 'ripe' and 'traditional' years. '09, '10, '15 and '16 were all superb weather-wise, leading to richer wines that collectors seek out for their cellars. Other years produced fresher wines that we in the trade cheekily call 'lunchtime bottles,' as they would appeal to fans of old-fashioned Claret. You might even run a marathon after a glass or two...

Rupert Pritchett, Bordeaux buyer



## L'Orangerie de Carignan Cadillac 2017

£14.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

Like its vehicular namesake, this Cadillac is a timeless classic that purrs with fleshy blackcurrant and black cherry fruit. Generous and satisfying, the hint of creamy vanilla oak keeps you coming back for more... and more. 'Saint-Émilion in everything but price,' says the winemaker. He's not wrong. L'Orangerie, a customer favourite, has graced our shelves for years - and I'm sure it will do for many more to come. Drink to 2022.



## Château Montlau Bordeaux Supérieur 2015/16

£14.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • O

This fairytale property, dating back to 1473, has withstood the French Revolution, two World Wars and countless peasant revolts, and still stands proudly on the banks of the Dordogne opposite some of the Right Bank's more illustrious châteaux. Round and finessed, as you would expect from a Merlot-dominant blend, this combines youthful tannins with ripe summer berries. Best paired with roast beef. Drink to 2025.

## Château Grandis Haut-Médoc 2010

£19.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV

The *Cru Bourgeois* classification lists those noteworthy châteaux that were not included in the 1855 Classification - properties, such as Grandis, are a resource of quality wines at a fraction of the cost of the Classed Growths. One of life's greatest pleasures is well-aged Bordeaux - that unmistakable medley of dried fruit, cedar, bell pepper and leather - and with a decade in bottle you can be sure this is just that. Drink to 2022.



## Château Carignan Cadillac 2015

£21.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

Carignan, like its little brother L'Orangerie, is reminiscent of good Right Bank Claret and owner Andy Lench's goal is to show that his wines can compete with those up the pecking order. First, there is its big and bold fruit - plum, fig and blackberry - dusted liberally with mocha. Then, its judicious use of oak, which lends a toasty caramel note through to the finish. And, finally, its focus and lip-smacking freshness. Drink to 2025.



## Château Haut-Beychevelle Gloria Saint-Julien 2015

£29.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

Saint-Julien's wines famously combine power with a rich mid-palate, and this certainly charms with a currant and damson character, as well as its deliciously soft texture and fine-grained tannins. Haut-Beychevelle is owned by the Martin family of Château Gloria and the late Henri Martin - something of a legend in the trade - was one-time manager of First Growth Château Latour, so they really know their stuff. Drink to 2028.



## Château Labégorce Zédé de Labégorce 2014

£34.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV

Margaux are prized for their heady perfume, of which Labégorcé delivers in spades: dark cassis and cherry, black olive tapenade, roasted coffee, sweet tobacco. Silky and evolved on the palate, this is now comfortably into its stride and would show itself best alongside roast cannon of lamb. One of the of the oldest houses in Margaux, the estate practically backs onto those of the lofty Brane-Cantenac and Kirwan. Drink to 2025.





### Château Haut-Beauséjour Saint-Estèphe 2016

£34.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

In 1992, the owner of the Roederer Champagne house purchased and combined two Saint-Estèphe properties with great potential and set about renovating both the cellars and the *cuvée*. The full-throttle blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Malbec results in a muscular and earthy wine that is fruit-forward at its core. Made by the same winemaking team as sister property Château de Pez. Drink to 2028.



### Château d'Aiguilhe Côtes de Castillon 2016

£39.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV

Super seductive, Right Bank-style Claret with espresso, smoked wood and sweet spice notes beneath lush, plummy fruit. Dark and savoury in profile with firm tannins, this offers some serious ageing potential, so it's best decanted if drinking now. If the vineyards were a few hundred metres to the west in Saint-Emilion, its pricetag would be eye-popping. Decanter's 'Expert's Choice' Côtes de Castillon 2016. Drink to 2030.



### Château Cantemerle Haut-Médoc 2016

£49.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • V

Cantemerle holds the honour of being the only new entry (after much controversy about its absence) to the 1855 Classification since its inception. This Fifth Growth property exudes romantic charm and produces an appealingly old fashioned, Cabernet-heavy wine with pencil shaving, clove, raspberry and mulberry aromatics. Both velvety and chewy tannins offer decidedly pensive sipping. Drink to 2030+.



### Château La Confession Saint-Émilion Grand Cru 2016

£49.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

Jean-Philippe Janoueix is something of a wunderkind winemaker and owner of a smattering of Right Bank châteaux very much on the rise. He is famed for his cigar-shaped barrels, which offer a wider surface area for the wine to soften and integrate. Here, the yin of Cabernet Franc lends bright, crunchy fruit to the yang of Merlot's richness, which is all tied together with charred cedar, baking spice and liquorice. Drink to 2030+.

## Bordeaux

**White** ————— **Bottle**  
Château Montlau, Entre-Deux-Mers Blanc 2019 £11.99

**Red** ————— **Bottle**  
58 Guineas Claret 2018 £9.99  
Château Mayne-Vieil, Fronsac 2016 £13.99  
L'Orangerie de Carignan, Cadillac 2017/18 £14.99  
Château Montlau, Bordeaux Supérieur 2015 £14.99  
Les Calèches de Lanessan, Haut-Médoc 2011 £19.99  
Château Grandis, Haut-Médoc 2010 £19.99  
Château Carignan, Cadillac 2015 £21.99  
Château Lamothe Cissac, Haut-Médoc 2016 £21.99  
Château Siaurac "Plaisir de Siaurac", Lalande-de-Pomerol 2015 £24.99  
Château Cap St George, Saint-Émilion 2016 £29.99  
Château Haut-Beychevelle Gloria, Saint-Julien 2015 £29.99  
Château Hermitage Mazeyres, Pomerol 2015 £29.99  
Château Labégorce Zédé de Labégorce 2014 £34.99  
Château Haut-Beauséjour, Saint-Estèphe 2016 £34.99  
Château Poujeaux, Moulis-en-Médoc 2015 £39.99  
Château de Pez, Saint-Estèphe 2014/16 £39.99  
Château d'Aiguilhe, Côtes de Castillon 2016 £39.99  
Château Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc 2016 £49.99  
Château La Confession, Saint-Émilion 2016 £49.99  
Réserve de La Comtesse Pichon-Longueville, Pauillac 2015 £64.99  
Château Branaire-Ducru, Saint-Julien 2015 £69.99  
Château Pontet Canet, Pauillac 2016 £199.99  
Château Léoville-Poyferré, Saint-Julien 2009 £274.99

**Red** ————— **Half Bottle**  
L'Orangerie de Carignan, Cadillac 2017/18 £7.99  
Château Carignan, Cadillac 2015 £11.99  
Château d'Aiguilhe, Castillon 2016 £19.99

**Red** ————— **Magnum**  
L'Orangerie de Carignan, Cadillac 2017/18 £29.99  
Château Carignan, Cadillac 2015 £49.99  
Château Cap St George, Saint-Émilion 2016 £59.99  
Château d'Aiguilhe, Côtes de Castillon 2016 £79.99  
Château Sacre Coeur, Pomerol 2016 £99.99  
Château La Confession, Saint-Émilion 2016 £99.99

**Red** ————— **Dbl Magnum (3l)**  
Château d'Aiguilhe, Côtes de Castillon 2016 £159.99  
Château La Confession, Saint-Émilion 2016 £249.99

*Please note that some lines are subject to very limited availability.  
Tasting notes and current stock levels are available from [tauruswines.co.uk](http://tauruswines.co.uk)*

# Burgundy

The dreaded words 'I'm looking for good value Burgundy' are enough to make any merchant break out in a cold sweat. This isn't to say that value doesn't exist, but it does prompt the question 'compared to what?' Many regions around the world offer pleasingly fruity Chardonnay and Pinot Noir at low prices, but Burgundy they are not.

The best Burgundy is made in small batches from 'grape-to-glass' by individual families. Margins are tight. The main crop, Pinot Noir, is notoriously unreliable and quality falls drastically at high yields. But nowhere else does it express itself quite like the Côte D'Or. Recent difficult vintages and an increasing appetite for Burgundian wine means there's less to go round. You don't need to be an economist to 'do the math' - prices are on the rise. *Négociants* - those who buy in grapes and blend their own wine - and co-operatives provide the best value under £20. Above this, it makes sense to find a domaine you like and stick with it, because there are hugely variable styles made even within the same village.

Lastly, I caution against those expecting powerful, full-bodied reds: Burgundy is often surprisingly light and much of its pleasure comes from the bouquet, best appreciated at cellar temperature from a big glass. As you go up the price ladder, you are rewarded with greater complexity, intensity and richness. Much the same is true with the whites. So, you're looking for the best *value* wine on the planet? You'll be wanting Burgundy.

Rupert Pritchett, Burgundy buyer



## Domaine Talmard Mâcon-Uchizy 2019

£12.99 per bottle • 13% ABV

The cheerful wines of the Mâconnais befit the sunny disposition of its gentle slopes, its warm terracotta rooftiles and the rhythmic chirping of cicadas on summer evenings. This is an excellent entry-point to white Burgundy: soft and rounded Chardonnay showing green apple, lemon oil and almond notes. Unoaked to let the purity of the fruit shine through. This has a strong affinity with roast chicken and turkey. Drink to 2022.



## Domaine Louis Latour Mâcon-Lugny "Les Genièvres" 2018

£12.99 per bottle • 13% ABV

The Louis Latour name has become a standard-bearer for quality *négociant* wine and the 'Genièvres' label marks this out as from one of the prime vineyards in Lugny. This Taurus bestseller teeters between crisp and creamy on the palate and its broad, citrusy character is tinged with honey and acacia. Already ample in texture, stainless steel is used instead of wood barrels for both fermentation and ageing. Drink to 2022.

## Domaine Billaud-Simon Chablis "Tête d'Or" 2015/2016

£29.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

Tête d'Or, the flagship wine of the Billaud-Simon domaine, is produced from the most prestigious vines bordering the Premier and Grand Cru parcels in the village. This is for those that like their Chablis to be on the richer side, but still have mineral bite: baked apple, warm baking spice and spring blossom weave their way through pockets of citrus and slate. Pair with grilled dover sole or scallops with beurre blanc. Drink to 2026.



## Domaine Belleville Rully 1er Cru "Chapitre" 2018

£29.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • VV

Rather than blending from across his 20 Premier Cru plots, Christian Belleville - something of a rising star in Rully - makes 20 different wines to allow each site to express its unique identity. The Chapitre hints at the fullness of Meursault, and yet at the same time it has the mineral restraint of Puligny-Montrachet: ripe, tropical and lemony fruit and rich bread notes are given lift by the bracing saline finish. Drink to 2023.



## Domaine Bellang Meursault 2018

£39.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • O • VV

Despite its esteemed reputation, Meursault has no official Grand Cru vineyards, but the Bellang family tend land that is widely deemed by critics to be worthy of that title. As opposed to the rich and oaky style that modern Meursault can offer, Bellang specialises in a pure and focussed wine that ripples with energy and tautness. Toasted hazelnuts and dairy offer a complex counterpoint to the bright citrus. Drink to 2028.



## Domaines de Ladoucette Grand Régnard Chablis 2018

£36.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV

Grand Régnard - now under the auspices of the Ladoucette winemaking dynasty - is one of the last remaining producers to have their cellars in the heart of historic Chablis. This prestige blend comes from a selection of old, low-yielding vines and offers one of purest expressions of Chardonnay in the village. Aromas of pithy grapefruit, white flowers and buttery toast emanate from the uniquely bulbous bottle. Drink to 2025.





### Louis Jadot Bourgogne Pinot Noir "Couvent des Jacobins" 2018

£14.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

Louis Jadot sources rigorously selected grapes from trusted growers along the entire length of the Côte D'Or for balance in the final blend. Classic Burgundy and typically Jadot in style - it's soft in texture, and yet full of plump berry fruit, nicely hugged by oak. Additional layers of spice and earth will develop even with a little time in bottle. The traditional match for a slow-braised bœuf bourguignon. Drink to 2022.



### Bouchard Père & Fils Côte de Beaune-Villages 2016

£19.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV

Founded in 1731, Bouchard's is one of the oldest and largest estates in Burgundy. As well as having 30 acres of Grand Cru vineyards to their name, they buy in fruit from smallholders across Chorey, Monthélie and Pernand-Vergelesses in order to make good value *négociant* wine. All cherry pips and fragrant wild herbs, this is fresh and light on its feet, and its delicacy would befit a spread of cold cuts and pâtés. Drink to 2022.



### Dominique Gruhier Bourgogne Epineuil 2016

£24.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • O

Dominique Gruhier's story is one of such bad luck it hardly seems possible - he's had everything from arson to collapsing cellars thrown at him. And yet he remains one of the most charming and positive vigneron in Burgundy! Epineuil, just north of Chablis, yields Pinot Noir with a uniquely lifted, red fruit fragrance. Lithe and juicy on the palate, it's just the thing for charcuterie. 94 points, Tim Atkin MW. Drink to 2021+.



### Domaine Dubuet-Boillot Volnay "Sur-Roches" 2016

£49.99 per bottle • 13% ABV

Winemaker Maxime is grandson of the great Lucien Boillot and currently moonlights as assistant cellar master at Remoriquet. Word on the grapevine is that he will soon have a domaine of his own, which makes this something of a limited edition. Sweet red fruit - strawberry, raspberry and red cherry - mingle with baking spice and wood influence. Fine and silky, this is Volnay at its most sybaritic. Drink to 2026+.

## Burgundy

White	Bottle
Louis Boutinot Mâcon-Villages Reserve Personelle 2018/19	£12.99
Louis Latour Mâcon-Lugny "Les Genièvres" 2018	£12.99
Domaine Talmard Mâcon-Uchizy 2019	£12.99
Louis Jadot Château des Jacques Clos de Loyse 2018	£15.99
Boutinot Chablis La Motte 2018/19	£16.99
Domaine Fèvre Petit Chablis 2018	£18.99
Louis Latour Montagny 2019	£19.99
Domaine Goisot Bourgogne Aligoté 2018	£19.99
Joseph Drouhin Saint-Véran 2018	£19.99
Domaine Greffet Pouilly-Fuissé 2018	£22.99
Defaix Chablis 1er Cru Côte de Léchet 2017	£28.99
Jean-Marc Boillot Montagny 1er Cru 2018	£29.99
Domaine Billaud-Simon Chablis "Tête d'Or" 2015/16	£29.99
Domaine Alexandre Chablis 1er Cru 2018	£29.99
Domaine Ferret Pouilly-Fuissé 2017	£29.99
Domaine Belleville Rully 1er Cru "Rabourcé" 2017	£29.99
Domaine Belleville Rully 1er Cru "Chapitre" 2018	£29.99
Domaines de Ladoucette Chablis Grand Régnard 2018	£36.99
Domaine Christian Bellang Meursault 2018	£39.99
Domaine Christian Bergeret Chassagne-Montrachet 2018	£44.99
Drouhin-Vaudon Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir 2015/16	£49.99
Domaine Hubert Lamy Saint-Aubin 1er Cru "Les Frionnes" 2015	£49.99
Domaine Belleville Puligny-Montrachet "Les Boudrières" 2018	£49.99
Joseph Drouhin 1er Cru Clos des Mouches Blanc 2016	£119.99
Domaine Vincent Dauvissat Chablis Grand Cru "Les Preuses" 2016	£299.99
Red	Bottle
Louis Jadot Bourgogne Pinot Noir "Couvent des Jacobins" 2018	£14.99
Bouchard Père et Fils Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2018	£16.99
Bouchard Père et Fils Côtes de Beaune-Villages 2016	£19.99
Louis Jadot Bourgogne Côte d'Or "A Tale of Terroir" 2018	£19.99
Domaine Gruhier Bourgogne Epineuil 2016	£24.99
Louis Jadot Santenay "Clos des Gatsulards" 2013	£24.99
Clos Salomon Givry 1er Cru 2016	£34.99
Domaine Reyane & Pascal Bouley Volnay 2017	£39.99
Frédéric Magnien Gevrey-Chambertin 2016	£44.99
Domaine Dubuet-Boillot Volnay "Sur-Roches" 2016	£49.99
Domaine René Cacheaux & Fils Vosne-Romanée 2018	£54.99
Domaine Remoriquet Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru "Les Bouscelots" 2017	£59.99
Domaine Remoriquet Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru "Les Malconsorts" 2017	£89.99
Domaine Coche-Dury Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2017	£159.99
Domaine Coche-Dury Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2014	£189.99

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# Alsace

The first thing I learnt at the *École des Grandes Maisons d'Alsace* in the fairytale medieval town of Riquewihr is that Alsatian wines are some of the easiest to decipher in the world. Don't let the tall, pointed bottles fool you: they are nearly always dry and labelled by grape variety, rather than region. They're also designed principally with food in mind: from local specialities - like onion tart and smoked river fish - to dishes thrumming with spice and chilli, it's no wonder that Parisien restaurants open more wine from here than any other French region. It might also explain why Alsace has the highest density of Michelin-stars anywhere in Europe: excellent food and wine is its lifeblood.

Rupert Pritchett, Alsace buyer



## Hugel Gentil 2018

£13.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • O • B

Hugel's Gentil revives an ancient tradition of blending all of the white grape varieties that you would typically find in the Alsatian vineyard. This marries the suave, spicy flavour of Gewurztraminer, the body of Pinot Gris, the finesse of Riesling, the grapiness of Muscat and the refreshing character of Pinot Blanc and Sylvaner to create a youthful and aromatic wine with fullness and character. Pair with shellfish. Drink to 2021.



## Cave de Turckheim Gewurztraminer 2018

£14.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • VV

The Cave de Turckheim co-operative represents a remarkable 240 growers that span the full breadth of the country. Gewurztraminer (seen without its umlaut in French) typifies the quintessential taste of Alsace and whilst this bursts with all of the variety's heady hallmark aromas - rose-petal, lychee and ginger - it has crispness and restraint on the palate. Try it with Thai food or strong cheeses, such as Munster. Drink to 2022.



## Bott-Geyl Riesling "Les Elements" 2018

£17.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • O • B • VV

Poor, unfortunate Riesling. It must be the most misunderstood grape variety in the world. Yet the joy of Riesling made in Alsace is its consistency: it's practically always bone dry and rather racy and mineral in style. Bott-Geyl's textbook example has a crystalline background of tart citrus fruit and verdant floral notes and is a salutary reminder why this is often the wine merchant's favourite variety. Drink to 2028+.

# Beaujolais

Beaujolais Nouveau is dead. Gone are the days where we rush down to France on the third Thursday of November in our two-seater convertible to buy cases of exuberantly fruity red that - by the time we got back - we didn't really want. Although modern Beaujolais, like Nouveau, is also made from Gamay, it's very much akin to Burgundian Pinot Noir: perfumed and fresh when young, it can slip down all too easily on release. However, the best producers have started treating the grapes like their colleagues do in Beaune. These deep, serious wines have a surprising capacity for ageing and can gain just as much complexity as the likes of Morey, Gevrey, Chambolle & Co. Long live Beaujolais!

Rupert Pritchett, Beaujolais buyer

## Boutinot Fleurie "La Madone" 2018

£11.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • VV

Fleurie's Madone vineyard wraps itself around a hillock of crumbly pink sandstone with the historic chapel of the Madonna perched on top. Evidently blessed by the divine, this is one of last few places in Europe free from the phylloxera pest. Irises and peonies drift above crushed berry fruit and there's a pronounced note of good quality bitter-dark chocolate on the finish. Lightly chill and serve with cold cuts. Drink to 2024.



## Château Grange Cochard Morgon "Côte du Py" 2018

£19.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • O

In 2009, James and Sarah Wilding upped sticks from St Albans to the Côte du Py, an area famed for its old vine Gamay grown on volcanic soils. What they have produced from their château (one of only two in Morgon) is really quite remarkable for Beaujolais: dark and powerful with plush, velvety tannins. You would be forgiven for thinking this was from Burgundy 'proper'. Fantastically easy drinking. Drink to 2025+.



## Château Thivin Côte de Brouilly "Les Sept Vignes" 2018

£22.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • O • VV

Thivin - the benchmark producer in the Côte de Brouilly, if not the entirety of Beaujolais - blends seven of the best parcels (hence, "Les Sept Vignes") from different expositions around the region. The result is a lip-smacking red that dances around the palate with peppery spice and wild strawberry. Vivacious and earthy in youth, it gains generosity and structure with a bit of age - well, don't we all? Drink to 2028+.



# Loire Valley

The Loire River stretches some 1,000km from France's western seaboard through to the very centre of the country. If the wines of Burgundy can be described as 'ethereal', those of Bordeaux 'muscular', then the Loire Valley's bounty should be best characterised as 'lively'. This area is also home to some of the best produce in France - asparagus, button mushrooms, goats cheese, rabbit - none of which is ever seen too far away from a glass of something local. Drink them young and fresh - even the reds should have a light chill.

Barnstorming the valley, we start with the ever-affordable Muscadet, a seafood-lovers white. Loire connoisseurs particularly appreciate its rich, yet crackling texture, particularly the 'Sur Lie' wines, which are aged on their lees for added suppleness. A whole gamut of Chenin Blanc styles are made: from still to sparkling, dry to sweet, and everything in between. The juicy acidity of Chenin, combined with its broad, fruity appeal makes it an ideal, if sometimes overlooked bottle for the dinner table. And, finally, the Central Loire: the spiritual home of Sauvignon Blanc. A continental climate ensures warm days and cool nights and a style that is less fruit-forward than Kiwi Sauvignon - indeed, Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé are prized for their mineral richness. But don't overlook the reds: Cabernet Franc, smelling of pencil shavings and red berries, light and fruity Gamay, and tart, earthy Pinot Noir remain some of France's hidden gems.

Rupert Pritchett, Loire Valley buyer



## Chatelain Desjacques Sauvignon Blanc 2018/19

£9.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • S

The sustainable Caves de la Loire co-operative represents over 120 high-quality growers across the region, the fruits of whose labours only go into the Chatelain Desjacques range. This highly aromatic Sauvignon bursts with zingy lemon and gooseberry through to the chalky, mineral finish. Crisp and mouthwateringly fresh, it would make for a good aperitif, but will sing when paired with baked fish or soft cheeses. Drink to 2021.



## Domaine de la Combe Vieilles Vignes Muscadet Sèvre et Maine 2018

£13.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • VV

Domaine de La Combe's oldest vines were planted in the 1950s (a rarity in an area where most are replanted after 40 years) but yield fruit with unrivalled intensity and depth. Flinty notes combine with orchard fruit and a certain savouriness from the extended time this spends on its fine lees - harmless yeast cells left over from fermentation. This delivers much more than you might expect from a typical Muscadet. Drink to 2022.

## Domaine Daulny Sancerre 2019

£9.99 per half • £17.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • VV

Etienne Daulny's *cuvée normale* is by no means 'normal': grapes from some of the appellation's most revered old-vine plantings make their way into this characterful blend. The best wines from Sancerre exhibit an unmistakable aroma of warm, wet slate, which Daulny's shining example perfectly represents alongside a peachy and herbaceous character. Its bright, powerful palate makes for a verstaile food partner. Drink to 2024.



## Domaine Régis Minet Pouilly-Fumé 2018/19

£18.99 per bottle • 13% ABV

The quiet and pensive Régis Minet has been tending his father's vines in the Pouilly-sur-Loire since 1977 and has single-handedly turned this tiny, three-hectare farm into a full-time domaine. The flint soils in these parts seem to imbue a smoky element that differentiates these wines from Sancerre and give the appellation its name ('Fumé'). Deliciously ripe and mineral, it demands an accompanying plate of chèvre. Drink to 2024.



## Domaine Henri Pellé Menetou-Salon "Morogues" 2018

£18.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • O • VV

Each night, without fail, winemaker Paul-Henry slips down to the cellar to check on his wines, making small adjustments here and there. It is remarkable then that he produces roughly one-quarter of all the wines in the Menetou-Salon with such dedication. This show a fleshy, fruit-forward character reminiscent of lime juice and blackcurrant leaf. Drink alongside cod served in a creamy herb-flecked sauce. Drink to 2023.



## Château de Coulaïne Chinon 2018

£14.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • O • VV

Coulaïne is a family-owned estate which has been operating continuously on the south side of the Loire since 1300. Cabernet Franc is an ideal grape to use for what the French call *vin de soif* - a thirst-quenching, moreish, wine ideal for the dinner table. But it doesn't mean that it shouldn't be taken seriously - these sorts of bottles require careful intervention from the winemaker in order to shimmer just as this does. Drink to 2022.



# Rhône Valley

'Rosbif, you work hard, but not well!' began the winemaker's loud and public assessment of my skills over lunch. In my defence, it was my first harvest and I was putting things I had only ever read in textbooks into practice. Despite this tirade and having been worked like a dog since 5am, I didn't mind: I was sat atop a fermentation tank in the warm sun, sipping a glass of wine made by my own fair hands, without a care in the world.

The Rhône Valley can be divided into two parts: the dizzyingly steep slopes of the Northern Rhône are the posh, wallet-busting bit where Syrah is grown on ancient sites, such as Hermitage, Saint-Joseph and Côte-Rôtie, and its big and bold wines generally need time in the cellar before drinking. Viognier, Marsanne and Roussanne are used to produce the whites, with the village of Condrieu being the jewel in the vinous crown.

The flatter Southern Rhône is more down-to-earth. Here, *mistral* winds rain act as nature's hairdryer by keeping the diseases and bugs at bay - but its wines are not always rustic: the likes of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas and Vacqueyras can produce powerful, long-lived wines, which are hard to beat in terms of value. The Rhône enjoyed a string of successful years in '15, '16 and the smaller '17, but rarely has a disastrous vintage - even if a hard-working *rosbif* like me does come along to lend a hand.

Rupert Pritchett, Rhône Valley buyer



## Château Beauchêne Côtes du Rhône Viognier 2019

£14.99 per bottle • 15% ABV • O • VV

Rather remarkably, the Bernard family's first vineyard - purchased in 1794 - is still in use today at this picturesque château, just north of Avignon. We have been enchanted with the property and its wines since we first visited in 2008. Generous and creamy with an attractive peach and floral character, which would make a versatile partner to the sorts of dishes that thrum with the warmth of ginger and chilli. Drink to 2022.



## Yves Cuilleron Viognier "Les Vignes d'à Côté" 2018/19

£24.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • O • VV

When he's not tending his vines, Yves Cuilleron spends much of his time at Le Bistrot de Serine run by his family in Ampuis. Fine wine, he insists, must always be enjoyed with good food - and winemaking is thirsty work. Lingering and textured, this juicy, Condrieu-like white is all ripe quince and apricot. Serve - as Yves does - with grilled shrimp cooked over charcoal, alongside a punchy salsa verde. Drink to 2022+.

## M. Chapoutier Côtes du Rhône "Belleruche" 2018

£11.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • VV

Whilst Chapoutier owns a large number of prestige sites, it is best known as a *négociant*, buying and blending fruit from all over the Rhône. A soft and seductive red, this shows a dollop of plum and cherry jam, a sprinkle of wild herbs and a good kick of peppery spice. The producer has admirably included Braille on all its labels since 1996 to make it easier for the blind to navigate the shelves of a wine shop. Drink to 2023.



## Château Beauchêne Côtes du Rhône "Le Terroir" 2017/18

£13.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • O • VV

The story goes that Michel Bernard's vineyards should very much be included in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape classification, but for one reason or another they were left out. What you have here then is a serious wine masquerading as 'basic' Côtes du Rhône. But basic this is not, with its rich and smoky character. Ripe purple fruit gives way to black olive and dark chocolate notes, making this a real winter warmer. Drink to 2025.



## Famille Perrin Rasteau "L'Andéol" 2017

£16.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • O

Rasteau is one of the few villages in the Côtes du Rhône that is marked out for its exceptional quality and, thus, is permitted to appear on the front label. There is plenty of concentration in this emphatically fruity and silky red - blackcurrant, figs and wild herbs luxuriate over creamy oak and a gossamer-like texture. Perrin's wines always seem to call out for hearty stews, hard cheeses or herby sausages. Drink to 2025+.



## Coudoulet de Beaucastel Côtes du Rhône 2017

£24.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • O

The 2017 vintage was blisteringly hot and dry, decimating up to 80% of the vineyards in some locations. The fruit that did manage to endure the weather, however, yielded some sensational juice. Coudoulet, Perrin's so-called "baby Beaucastel," offers all the drinking pleasure of the flagship wine - an ever-evolving cluster of red cherry, crushed stone, baked earth and pepper spice - at a fraction of the cost. Decant. Drink to 2027+.





### Domaine La Haute Marone Gigondas 2018

£19.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV

Gigondas was once used to augment Burgundy that lacked stuffing, but that all changed with the introduction of the *Appellation Contrôlée* system in 1936, which prohibited cross-departmental blending. Here, the classic blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre is aged in barrel for 14 months to add a touch of vanilla to this silky, cherry-tinged red. Gigondas that lives up to its Latin name *jocunditas* - 'exuberant pleasure'. Drink to 2028.



### Paul Jaboulet Aîné Crozes-Hermitage "Domaine de Thalabert" 2014

£34.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • O

Jaboulet's La Chapelle Hermitage is one of the world's most sought-after and expensive wines in all the Rhône, however the house's lesser-known bottlings always manage to provide an affordable glimpse of that same greatness. The Thalabert vineyards were the first purchased by the founding family and are among the oldest in the appellation. Full-flavoured, gamey Syrah like this loves smoked bacon. Drink to 2028.



### M. Chapoutier Cornas "Temenos" 2016

£44.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • O • VV

Cornas was once regarded as the most stubborn wine in the cellar: traditionally, it could take a decade or more for the tannins to soften and for the wine to show its true character. But modern styles are made with such an inherent ability to please that they can be enjoyed after only a few years in bottle. With its figgy fruit and broad, peppery undertones Chapoutier's Cornas is ideally suited to warming stews. Drink to 2025+.



### Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pâpe 2014

£69.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • O

Beaucastel is the most important and impressive estate in Châteauneuf-du-Pâpe. Not only was it the first house to practise organic viticulture, it also grows every one of the appellation's 13 permitted grape varieties. But it's the temperamental Mourvèdre that lends this showstopping red its signature Provence herb tones underneath generous layers of black cherry, orange zest and black tea notes. Sublime. Drink to 2030+.

## Rhône Valley

### White

	<b>Bottle</b>
E. Guigal Côtes du Rhône Blanc 2018/19	£12.99
Château Beaucastel Côtes du Rhône Viognier 2020	£14.99
Yves Cuilleron Viognier "Les Vignes d'à Côte" 2018/19	£24.99
E. Guigal Condrieu 2018	£44.99
Château de Beaucastel Roussanne Vieilles Vignes 2016	£149.99

### Red

	<b>Bottle</b>
Boutinot Côtes du Rhône Villages "Les Coteaux" 2017/18	£9.99
Michel Chapoutier Côtes du Rhône "Belleruche" 2018	£11.99
Un Bon Canon Pinot Noir 2019	£12.99
Château Beaucastel Côtes du Rhône "Le Terroir" 2017/18	£13.99
Famille Perrin Rasteau 2017	£16.99
Caves de Tain Crozes-Hermitage 2017/2018	£18.99
Domaine la Haute Marone Gigondas 2018	£19.99
Coudoulet de Beaucastel Côtes du Rhône 2017	£24.99
Domaine Chante Cigale Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016	£27.99
Château Beaucastel Hommage Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015	£32.99
Paul Jaboulet Aîné Crozes-Hermitage "Domaine de Thalabert" 2014	£34.99
Famille Perrin L'Argnée Gigondas 2016	£39.99
Famille Perrin L'Argnée Gigondas 2017	UNDER BOND - POA
Michel Chapoutier Cornas 2016	£44.99
E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie 2016	£49.99
Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2014	£69.99
Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015	£69.99
Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016	£69.99
Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2017	UNDER BOND - POA

### Red

	<b>Magnum</b>
Boutinot Côtes du Rhône Villages "Les Coteaux" 2016	£24.99

### Red

	<b>Jeroboam (3l)</b>
Boutinot Côtes du Rhône Villages Seguret "Les Coteaux Schisteux" 2016	£124.99

Please note that some lines are subject to very limited availability.  
Tasting notes and current stock levels are available from [tauruswines.co.uk](http://tauruswines.co.uk)

S - Screwcap • O - Organic • B - Biodynamic • V - Vegetarian • VV - Vegan

# Southern France

How France's largest wine region - and the most productive in the world at that - ended up forgotten is a bit of a mystery. To put its size into perspective, the Languedoc-Roussillon is responsible for three times more wine annually than Bordeaux or the entirety of Australia's output. During both World Wars, its vineyards were used to provide daily wine rations for French soldiers, and later provided the basic *vin de table* for all over France. But in the 1970s, its wines were no longer able to be bolstered by deep, alcoholic reds from former French colonies, like Algeria, and they fell from favour with a more discerning public.

Whilst much of Southern France is going through an economic crisis, a small number of producers are finding success through outside investment and an increased focus on quality winemaking. Slightly confusingly, some of the best properties operate outside of the *Appellation Contrôlée* system - much like the New World, they are given creative freedom to grow whatever they feel works best, rather than be constrained by bureaucracy.

In this section, we've cheekily included the *Sud-Ouest* (as the French call it) as well - that region beloved by British retirees tucked away between the Pyrenees and Spain to the south, Bordeaux to the north and the Atlantic to the west. For good reason was this where the Romans first brought their vines, and regions like Bergerac, Monbazillac and Cahors offer a dazzling array of *grands vins* at remarkably restrained prices.

Rupert Pritchett, Southern France buyer



## Le Véritable Cave de Gan Jurançon Sec 2018/19

£9.99 per bottle • 13% ABV

Having been eclipsed by the recent popularity of crisp and mineral wines such as Picpoul de Pinet and Muscadet, Jurançon now represents some of the best-value dry white in the whole of France. Aromatic as a spring meadow, it zips along with its fresh, grassy notes, as well as a slightly nutty and honeyed character on the finish. More than a suitable bedfellow to goats cheese and crisp green salads. Drink to 2021.



## Mare Nostrum Picpoul de Pinet 2019

£10.99 per bottle • 13% ABV

Local legend says that Picpoul vines need to have their 'head in the wind and their feet in the water', which is why you'll find the majority of plantings along the Bassin de Thau - an exposed saltwater lagoon near Montpellier in the Languedoc. Bursting with sharp citrus and crunchy minerality, Picpoul is superb with seafood and white fish, especially when fried in batter or breadcrumbs. Drink to 2021.

## "Toques et Clochers" Limoux Chardonnay 2016

£15.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • VV

A Limoux speciality: Chardonnay aged in new oak that bears many of the hallmarks of Meursault - broad and buttery, scented with stone fruit and spice. This is named after the *Toques et Clochers* (or 'Hats and Steeples') festival, an annual charitable event that involves a wine auction and dinner presided over by Michelin-starred chefs in order to raise money for the restoration of churches throughout the region. Drink to 2026.



## Un Bon Canon Pinot Noir 2019

£12.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV

Winemaking duo Bruno Lafon and François Chamboissier bring together their respective expertise from Burgundy and the Languedoc to make this warm-hearted and unoaked Pinot Noir in the Pays d'Oc - France's most productive wine region. Bright and juicy with notes of tart redcurrant, cranberry jam and a sprinkle of white pepper, it would be a perfect foil to a meaty barbecue. Serve with a light chill. Drink to 2022.



## Château Pinerai Cahors 2018

£12.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

Malbec is usually celebrated as a modern Argentinian varietal, but Côt - as it's known in France - has been grown in and around Cahors for centuries. Historically, the region suffered from its proximity to Bordeaux: if its wines weren't anonymously blended with Claret, they were heavily taxed when they left the port. This is smooth and sumptuous with its meaty, herb-tinged aroma and hints of spicy oak. Drink to 2023.



## Château Montus Tour Bouscassé Madiran 2011

£19.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV

Evocative of concentrated, plummy fruit and baking spices, the finest Gascon reds are comparable to the Classed Growths of Bordeaux. Large pebble stones, similar to those found in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, radiate the daytime sun and allow the famously stubborn Tannat to sufficiently ripen. Madiran wines reward the patient, so at nearly a decade old this is finally ready to drink - ideally with rich venison dishes. Drink to 2023+.



# Italy

In 1991, as a wine buyer for a small chain of shops, I was dispatched to Italy to see if I could sharpen the price of our Lambrusco. It was my first visit to The Boot and I wasn't expecting much: Italy's reputation for so-so wines and worse punctuality was deeply ingrained. To be fair to bigots everywhere, some of this was true. The wines I tasted on that visit were, at best, mediocre and no one seemed much interested in selling; there were women to chat up, cigarettes to be smoked and coffees to be drunk. But in the interests of my employer, I persevered and stumbled across Stefano Inama, a winery with whom I still work nearly 30 years later. Stef poured me a glass of the most delicious white and, when I claimed that there was no way that this could be Soave, he smiled and said 'This is Italy: we have Fiats *and* Ferraris.'

The words stuck with me almost as much as the sentiment: surely a country that gave rise to Ferrari and Gucci, Verdi and Dante (not to mention pizza, pasta and salami) must be capable of some viticultural greatness. Italy continues to entrance me: the wealth of native grape varieties, the endless flavours, and creativity all sit alongside a deep love of family and appreciation of community in a flawed and yet almost perfect ensemble. Yes, they are still often late, but over a bowl of pasta and glass of red it never really seems to matter.

Michael Palij (Master of Wine), Winetraders



## Sibiliano Grillo 2019

£8.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • O

Wine is deeply rooted in Sicilian culture. The arid climate, coastal breezes and lack of rainfall enable its indigenous grape varieties to succeed over more recognised 'international varieties'. Grillo - more commonly seen in the production of Marsala - makes for a flavourful wine full of juicy peach combined with pithy grapefruit and perhaps a hint of crystallised ginger. A tried-and-tested partner to roasted vegetables. Drink to 2021.



## Saladini Pilastrini Falerio 2018/19

£9.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • O • VV

An antidote to uninspiring Pinot Grigio, Saladini Pilastrini's blend of Trebbiano, Pecorino and Passerina hails from the rolling hills of the Marche, located at the calf of Italy's boot. Crisp and lively and full of the joys of spring, it charms with its notes of chamomile, green apple, lemon oil and almond. Food-friendly as they come, its easy-going qualities match well with antipasti or even creamy pasta dishes. Drink to 2021.

## Nuovo Quadro Gavi di Gavi 2019

£12.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • VV

The wines of Gavi are permitted to use the 'di Gavi' sub-zone on the label if their grapes are sourced from vineyards at the heart of the historic township, which can be found at the foot of the Battistina hill. With its baked orchard fruit and tangy citrus streak, the perennial customer favourite Nuovo Quadro has an appealing Chablis-like quality. Soft balsamic scents add complexity to the rounded finish. Drink to 2023.



## Marco Porello Roero Arneis Camestri 2019

£13.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • O

The gentle, sandy hills of the Roero are on the wrong side of the tracks as far as growing Nebbiolo is concerned in this part of the Piedmont. However, Arneis - sometimes known as 'Barolo bianco' - is a trendy white grape variety that has been found to thrive in these difficult soils. Ample in texture, its enticing flavours of Seville orange, pink grapefruit and jasmine blossom are offset by a seam of fine acidity. Drink to 2023.



## Nunzio Ghiraldi Lugana "Il Gruccione" 2018

£13.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S

Crisp and lively in youth, the joy of Lugana when it's only a few years old is its understated elegance and electric minerality, hinting at pear and kiwi, then stone and smoke. What makes Ghiraldi's wine particularly unique, however, is its capacity to age in the long term, when it turns into something more akin to unoaked white Burgundy, gaining weight and a honeyed richness. Pair with trout or salmon. Drink to 2025+.



## Inama Soave Classico 2018

£15.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • O • VV

There's ten-a-penny Soave and then there's Inama's Soave, which, thanks to more than a decade of study and research, is made according to ancient tradition and tastes just as it should. Wildflower notes - chamomile, iris and elderflower - give brightness to the succulent apricot and honey-coated palate. An 'everyday luxury,' as winemaker Stefano calls this, it is at home with anything dusted with *Grana Padano*. Drink to 2023.





**Terredora di Paolo Greco di Tufo 2018**

£16.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

For just about one of the greatest (if not simplest) wine pairings you can try: take some grilled bread, rub with a little garlic and top with the best tomatoes you can buy - preferably from Campania - and a drizzle of olive oil. Then give Terredora's Greco a swirl. The balance of its ripeness and energy alongside the sweet tomato and the grassy oil effortlessly proves the old adage 'what grows together, goes together'. Drink to 2022.



**Gaja Ca'Marcanda "Vistamare" 2018**

£41.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV

*Vistamare* means sea view and is most often used by Mediterranean hoteliers to entice would-be guests, even though their rooms may only offer a limited view of the sea. Gaja's use of the term is all the more playful, then, given that its vineyards enjoy panoramic views of the Tuscan coast - you can really get a sense that the grapes that go into this have been kissed by the salt air. Concentrated, spicy and tropical. Drink to 2025.



**Sibiliano Nero d'Avola 2019**

£8.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • O

Nero d'Avola is Italy's - or more specifically Sicily's - answer to rich and inky-black reds from the New World, such as Merlot or Malbec. Sibiliano is an all-round crowd-pleaser: supple tannins, warm and jammy fruit, a herbaceous touch, juicy acidity... and it's organic to boot. All for under a tenner! What's not to like? It would be quite the challenge *not* to knock this back with gusto with barbecued steaks. Drink to 2022.



**Saladini Pilastrini Rosso Piceno 2018**

£10.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • O • VV

The workhorse central Italian grape varieties Sangiovese and Montepulciano are frequently blended together to produce bright and structured cherry-scented wines. When mellowed in French oak, as here, the plush fruit-driven palate is bolstered by vanilla bean and leather notes, as well as a bit of tannic bite on the finish. Just the sort of quaffer for slow-braised, wintry dishes or a fully loaded pizza. Drink to 2022.

**Gran Sasso Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2018**

£11.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • VV

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo grapes bring to mind blackcurrants harvested at the height of the season - fat little berries literally bursting with sweet, finger-staining juice. With its easy-drinking, rustic charm, this is a wine that comes straight out of the trattoria. Alberto Antonini - former head winemaker of Antinori's Tignanello and the man who arguably put Argentinian Malbec on the map - consults. Drink to 2022.



**I Pastini Arpago Primitivo 2016**

£13.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • O

Ideally suited to the production of concentrated red wines, Puglia in southern Italy is one of the country's warmest regions, but I Pastini's cavernous winery, hewn out of cool, white-washed stone is a refuge from the baking heat. Its specialism - the sultry, come-hither grape variety Primitivo - tantalises with its inky-black colour and spicy, brambly fruit, which can cope with the heft of Moroccan spices. Drink to 2024.



**Ormanni Chianti Classico 2017**

£17.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • O • VV

The 'Classico' designation indicates that Ormanni's vineyards lie in the oldest and most authentic part of Tuscany, so this is Chianti as it should be: intensely fragrant aromas of cherry, raspberry, leather and tarragon are backed up by underlying fresh acidity and dry, muscular tannins that make their presence felt. Allow these to soften with time in the cellar or lend grip in their youth to tomato-based dishes. Drink to 2023.



**Avignonesi Vino Nobile di Montepulciano 2015**

£26.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • O • VV

Richer than Chianti, yet providing better value than Brunello di Montalcino, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano is one of Italy's hidden treasures. This reveals a certain southern, sunny ripeness in its fresh berries and cream character - not dissimilar to Raspberry Ripple - that cannot fail to be attractive. Nevertheless, Sangiovese's classic supporting combination of fresh acidity and tannin can also be felt. Drink to 2025.





### Cabutto Tenuta La Volta Barolo 2015

£29.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV

Tenuta La Volta, which celebrates its centenary in 2020, has resolutely focused on the production of just one wine over its long history. This charmingly old-school Barolo is light-to-medium in body, but is also decidedly robust and chewy, and envelops with its kaleidoscopic scent of rose, violet, morello cherry, earth and leather. Difficult to resist already, this would be best enjoyed with game dishes. Drink to 2030+.



### Giuseppe Cortese Barbaresco 2017

£34.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • O • VV

The Cortese vineyards are located at the heart of the Langhe in Rabajà, a natural amphitheatre that enjoys all-day sun. Combining long-held traditions with modern techniques, the family's aim is to protect and enhance the international reputation of Barbaresco. Hitting well above its price point, it has a gorgeous perfume of dried petals, raspberry coulis, and lavender. Elegance to a T. 93 points, James Suckling. Drink to 2032+.



### Gaja Ca'Marcanda "Promis" 2017

£39.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

This 'Super Tuscan' - so-called because it blends indigenous Tuscan grapes with locally grown international varieties - combines the soft richness of Merlot and Syrah with the vibrancy of Sangiovese. But unlike the Piedmontese reds in the Gaja range, which benefit from extended cellaring, Promis is more than approachable in youth: juicy and sappy, with creamy, firm tannins and fresh berries to the finish. Drink to 2027+.



### Renieri Brunello di Montalcino 2013

£74.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV

Many winemakers in Italy aim to produce at least two-to-three bottles from each vine, but Renieri feels that in order to make the finest wine it should average only one bottle. This explains the richness at the core of this Brunello, where dark cherry and orange zest blur into tobacco and cedary spice. Robust and generous, it demands pairing with *bistecca alla fiorentina* - grilled Tuscan-style steak on the bone. Drink to 2035+.

## Italy

### White

	Bottle
Ca'Di Ponti Catarratto 2019	£6.99
Principato Pinot Grigio Cavit 2019	£7.49
Bella Modella Pinot Grigio 2019	£8.49
Ponte Pietra Trebbiano Garganega 2019	£8.49
Sibiliano Grillo 2019	£8.99
La Luciana Gavi 2018/19	£9.99
Saladini Pilastris Falerio 2018/19	£9.99
Caparrone Pecorino 2019	£10.99
La Battistina Gavi 2019	£11.49
Gran Sasso Trebbiano 2019	£11.99
Pellegrino Diantha 2019	£12.99
Nuovo Quadro Gavi di Gavi 2019	£12.99
Marco Porello Roero Arneis 2019	£13.99
Nunzio Ghiraldi Lugana 2018	£13.99
La Monacesca Verdicchio di Matelica 2018	£14.99
Inama Soave Classico 2018	£15.99
Terredora di Paolo Lacryma Christi 2018	£16.99
Pieropan Soave Classico 2019	£16.99
Poderi Colla Langhe Riesling 2018	£16.99
Livio Felluga Pinot Grigio 2018/19	£27.99
Gaja Ca'Marcanda "Vistamare" 2019	£41.99

### Red

	Bottle
Ca'Di Pinot Nero d'Avola 2018	£6.99
Ponte Pietra Merlot/Corvina 2019	£8.49
Sibiliano Nero d'Avola 2019	£8.99
Calappiano Chianti 2018	£9.99
Visconti Primitivo 2018	£9.99
Saladini Pilastris Rosso Piceno 2018	£10.99
Cantina di Negrar Valpolicella Classico 2019	£10.99
Gran Sasso Montepulciano 2018	£11.99
Cantina di Negrar Valpolicella Ripasso 2019	£13.99
I Pastini Primitivo Arpago 2016	£13.99
Rive Barbera d'Asti 2016	£15.99
Ormanni Chianti Classico 2017	£17.99
Araldica Barolo Flori 2015	£18.99
Avignonesi Vino Nobile de Montepulciano 2015	£26.99
Cabutto Barolo 2015	£29.99
Giuseppe Cortese Barbaresco 2017	£34.99
Gaja Ca'Marcanda "Promis" 2017	£39.99
Masi Amarone Classico "Costasera" 2015	£39.99
Gaja Brunello di Montalcino Pieve Santa Restituta 2013	£74.99
Renieri Brunello di Montalcino 2013	£74.99
Gaja Barbaresco 2016	£199.99

Please note that some lines are subject to very limited availability.  
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# Spain & Portugal

From the lush, green vineyards of Galicia in the north to the Mediterranean-influenced Andalucía in the south, there is more land devoted to the grapevine in Spain than anywhere else. And yet, as wine drinkers, it still feels like we've barely scratched the surface of what this country can produce. For me, Spain is very much the Old World's brave new world.

It can be easy to forget that there's more to the Spanish cellar than the soft and oaky wines of Rioja and Ribera del Duero - though they're quite rightly regarded the flagship regions. From a new wave of young and enthusiastic producers are emerging spicy Garnachas, elegant Mencías and brooding Montsants, not to mention the recently fashionable and tangy wines of Albariño. What endears me most to Spanish wineries, however, is that they release their wares when they are ready to drink - if only the Bordelais were so obliging!

Whilst much of the established wine world is desperately seeking authenticity, Portugal's quiet success (whether deliberate or not) has been its reliance on indigenous vine varieties and a resolute determination to make wines for the local palate, rather than succumbing to an international style. Although this means you might struggle to spot familiar names like Chardonnay and Cabernet on these shelves, it's not difficult to find a bargain among its rich and fruity reds and crisp, aromatic whites. Pronunciation is the biggest challenge.

Callum Edge, Spain buyer



**Arousana Luzada Albariño 2018**  
£12.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S

Light, crisp and dry, it is easy to see why Albariño has become the go-to variety for those looking for an affordable, but interesting white. Spain's westerly Rías Baixas region is tempered by the Atlantic, which brings cooling breezes. This climatic influence seems to give a pleasingly salty, mineral edge to Albariño's ripe fruit and botanical notes. Excellent with any seafood, but particularly ceviche, shrimp and crab. Drink to 2021.



**Palacio de Fefiñanes Albariño 2018**  
£19.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S • VV

The Palacio de Fefiñanes estate - the benchmark Galician producer - was the first to bottle Albariño in 1928 and its winery was custom-built to be squeezed inside a 17th-century palace. This shares the same lively, mineral-laden quality of good, bone-dry Riesling and can equally be enjoyed young and fresh. Two or three years in the cellar, however, will bring out its wonderful viscosity and fleshiness. Drink to 2025+.

**Viña Real Crianza 2016**  
£10.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • V

In the 1920s, CVNE became known for its range of pioneering Viña Real wines that struck a careful balance between tradition and modernity, combining New World fruit intensity with Old World style. For this reason, its Crianza remains one of Rioja's bestsellers. Lashings of ripe autumnal fruit sit underneath the toast and spice of American oak. An easy-drinking, mid-week red for tomato meatballs. Drink to 2022.



**Olvidada La Garnacha 2017**  
£12.99 per bottle • 15% ABV

Not long ago, Garnacha was Spain's most-planted red variety, but the hearts and minds of growers were stolen by the successes of Tempranillo in Rioja and Ribera del Duero. Raúl Acha of Olvidada has made it his ambition to get us to fall back in love with the old favourite - and we're totally smitten. Here, fresh damson meets raspberry compote, the wisp of smoke on the finish making it great for a barbecue. Drink to 2022.



**Mineral del Montsant 2017**  
£14.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • VV

You would be forgiven for not knowing a whole lot about Montsant: just west of Barcelona, it's the latest addition to the Catalunan viticultural landscape and the vineyards run a neat semi-circle around the better-known region of Priorat. The heft of Cariñena (Carignan) is softened by the juicy sweetness of Garnacha (Grenache) in this Châteauneuf-lookalike. Slow-braised oxtail would go down a treat. Drink to 2022.



**La Rioja Alta Lat 42 Rioja Reserva 2015**  
£19.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV

La Rioja Alta was founded by a consortium of five families in 1890 in order to make Bordeaux-style wines after France's vineyards had been ravaged by disease. Having spent three years after vintage in American barrels and ever since in the bottle, this has aged gracefully into a classically styled Reserva, aromatically complex with notes of tobacco, leather, vanilla and strawberry. Highly polished. Drink to 2027+.





### Aster Fina El Cano Ribera del Duero Reserva 2015

£17.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV

If you follow the Duoro river inland from Porto, past the Spanish border where it changes one letter to Duero and continue on, you'll get to a flat, rocky plateau that's home to some of Spain's finest reds. Think of the wines of Ribera as 'Rioja on steroids': richly oaked, with succulent black fruit, mocha and mulled spice, it's the vinous gift that keeps on giving. Made by the same winemaking team as at La Rioja Alta. Drink to 2028+.



### Bodegas Mauro 2017

£39.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • O • VV

A mayoral administrative bungle left Bodegas Mauro outside of the official Ribera del Duero appellation, but when your winemaker is Mariano García (he of Spain's 'First Growth' Vega Sicilia), you can rest assured that success will find you. Classically rich and silky Tempranillo, perfumed with violets and black cherry, it's just the wine you'd expect from the self-styled roast lamb capital of the world. Drink to 2030+.



### Altano Douro White 2018/2019

£10.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • VV

The Symington family are behind some of the world's best-known Port houses, including Graham's, Dow's and Warre's, but since 2001 they have shown that this region is also perfectly suited to making table wines. Zesty citrus and tropical flavours (evoking the hot terraces of the Douro) are tamed by crisp acidity and a herbal-streaked finish. A glass paired with salt cod fritters will transport you straight to Porto. Drink to 2022.



### Quinta da Pedra Alta Tinto 2018

£15.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

In 1761, Portugal's de facto ruler, the Marquis of Pombal, ordered stone markers be placed around the Douro to delineate its best vineyards - Quinta da Pedra Alta was the only producer to have three markers on its property. A fruit-driven, supple expression of Portugal's myriad indigenous grape varieties, this has drinkability written all over it: soft and brambly, yet with pleasing tannic bite. Best decanted. Drink to 2024.

## Spain & Portugal

Spain - White	Bottle
Arousana Luzada Albariño 2018/19	£12.99
Pazo das Bruxas Albariño 2018/19	£12.99
Palacio de Fefinañes Albariño 2019	£19.99
Navajas Crianza Rioja Blanco 2015	£12.99
CVNE Monopole Classico 2014/15	£24.99
Viña Tondonia López de Heredia Blanco 2007	£32.99

Spain - Red	Bottle
Borsao Tinto Garnacha 2018	£6.99
Olvidada La Garnacha 2017	£12.99
Mineral de Montsant 2017	£14.99
Pagos de Galia Mencía 2017	£14.99
Áster Fina El Cano Ribera del Duero Reserva 2015	£17.99
Torres Salmos Priorat 2016	£22.99
Bodegas Mauro 2017	£39.99
Navajas Tinto Joven Rioja 2017	£8.99
Vega Piedra Joven Rioja 2018	£8.99
Vega del Rayo Joven Rioja 2017	£9.99
Viña Real Crianza Rioja 2016	£10.99
Viña Pomal Crianza Rioja 2016	£10.99
Navajas Crianza Rioja 2015	£11.99
La Rioja Alta Lat 42 Rioja Reserva 2015	£19.99
Contino Rioja Reserva 2015	£21.99
Viña Real Rioja Gran Reserva 2013	£24.99
Viña Tondonia López de Heredia 2007	£29.99
La Rioja Alta 904 Gran Reserva 2011	£54.99
Castillo Ygay Gran Reserva Especial 2009	£109.99

Portugal - White	Bottle
Altano Douro White 2018/19	£10.99
Quinta de Pinto Branco 2017	£14.99
Quinta da Pedra Alta Branco 2018	£15.99

Portugal - Red	Bottle
Quinta do Ataíde Tinto 2016	£14.99
Quinta da Pedra Alta Tinto 2018	£15.99
Prats & Symington Post Scriptum de Chryseia 2018	£21.99

Please note that some lines are subject to very limited availability.  
Tasting notes and current stock levels are available from [tauruswines.co.uk](http://tauruswines.co.uk)

# Australia

It's said that jetlag can be avoided by not sleeping on the plane and getting in some post-flight exercise, but I found the most effective treatment twenty-four hours after leaving Heathrow and touching down in Sydney was a chilled glass of Chardonnay and a half-dozen rock oysters - it's a self-care policy I've stuck with ever since!

A Wines of Australia scholarship in 2012 took me to some of the most diverse wine regions on the planet, sampling aromatic Semillon of Hunter Valley in the east, elegant Chardonnay and Cabernet from Margaret River in the west, the multi-faceted styles of Shiraz from Barossa and McLaren Vale in the south, and a host of other exciting varieties from all the hidden pockets in between. Tasting Wynns Cabernet Sauvignon Black Label 1982 (my own birthday vintage) with winemaker Sue Hodder is an experience I'll never forget.

Compared with their European counterparts, Aussie winemakers are given more freedom to experiment in the vineyard and the winery, and whilst the vinous possibilities may be endless, it means only the best wines survive. Our Australian shelves have become a useful resource of good value, everyday bottles, but the premium wines can offer rich layers of flavour and complexity often for only a fraction of the price of their Old World equivalents. I can't wait to return Down Under - let's just hope that jetlag treatment still works.

Andy Mead, Australia buyer



**Helmsman Chardonnay 2018**  
£8.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S

The Aussies may have been accused of being a little heavy-handed with their oak use in the past, but winemakers like Larry Cherubino have led the way and toned things down in order to allow the fruit to take centre stage. Ripe, round and peachy Chardonnay, showing streaks of citrus balanced by toastiness. Effortlessly proving that it is a rare thing for Australia to be beaten for value. Helmsmen, indeed. Drink to 2022.



**Yalumba "Samuel's Collection" Eden Valley Viognier 2017**  
£15.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • VV

In the 1980s, there were just 70 acres of Viognier planted in the entire world - mostly in Condrieu in the Northern Rhône. Thankfully, its revival has been spearheaded by Yalumba in the vineyards of the cool Eden Valley. Viognier can never be accused of being shy - its characteristically heady aroma and luscious texture suit the more hedonistic palate, the apricot and ginger notes here working well with a tagine. Drink to 2023.

**Flametree Chardonnay 2018**  
£16.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S

The Margaret River region - a few hours' drive south of Perth - grows less than 5% of Australia's grapes, but produces an overwhelming proportion of its best wine. Back in the day, this wine was marketed as 'White Burgundy', such is its similarity to Chardonnay from Beaune. Broad and textural, flavours of grapefruit and pear are supported by some subtle, classy French oak. 93 Points, James Halliday. Drink to 2024.



**Skillogalee Riesling 2017**  
£18.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • VV

Skillogalee was the name for the thin gruel on which explorer John Horrocks survived after provisions ran out during his expedition to the Clare Valley in the early 1840s. A century-and-a-half later, Dave and Diana Palmer thought it would make a memorable winery name. This bursts with zesty lime and a tingling, rapier-like acidity. Throwing a shrimp on the barbie? Then sling a bottle of this on ice. Drink to 2027+.



**Hay Shed Hill "Block 6" Chardonnay 2018**  
£32.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • VV

The picturesque Hay Shed property, originally a dairy farm, was established as a group settlement for returned soldiers from the First World War, but is now home to the region's oldest vineyards (five-star rated in Halliday's Australian Wine Companion), as well as the top restaurant on TripAdvisor. A gently oaked, Chablis-esque Chardonnay, its fresh white pear is muddled with savoury, flinty notes. Drink to 2028.



**Tyrrells "Vat 1" Semillon 2013**  
£39.99 per bottle • 10.5% ABV • S

Vat 1 is an Australian icon. Deliciously crisp and biting in its youth, you may see little point of ageing it much further - that is until you've been lucky enough to try an older vintage. Semillon tends to go through a difficult period of dormancy in its adolescence, but if you give it a decade or so, an unmistakable honey-on-toast richness miraculously unfurls, Lazarus-like, from the glass. A sushi lover's wine. Drink to 2030+.





**Magpie Estate "The Scoundrel" Shiraz Grenache 2018**

£12.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • S

The Magpie Estate is a joint venture between Barossa Valley winemaker Rolf Binder and Cambridge wine merchant Noel Young. A voluptuous and glass-coating Shiraz, the sort of red wine that's just as drinkable on a hot, summer's day as it would be beside a roaring winter's fire. Sweet, jammy fruit and soothing vanilla oak is accented by notes of ground black pepper. Great with barbecue marinades. Drink to 2025.



**Robert Oatley Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon 2018**

£13.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • S

The late Bob Oatley is credited with putting Australian wine on the map in the 1960s with the creation of his Rosemount Estate brand. He returned to wine in 2006 with an impressive range of single-varietal bottles made by the then rising star Larry Cherubino. Full-flavoured, finely structured Cabernet, jam-packed with blackberry and damson. Small wonder that it has three gold medals and 95 Halliday points to its name. Drink to 2028.



**Willunga "The Hundred" Grenache 2015/2016**

£19.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • S • VV

Grenache is often thought of as a powerful, bruiser of a grape variety - it's best known as a component in the rich blends of the Southern Rhône. But the reality is that it's something of a gentle giant: Willunga ferment at low temperatures and bottle without any oak to retain the grape's inherent freshness and perfumed lift. A light chill will emphasise the cool and crunchy raspberry fruit, making for a good aperitif. Drink to 2025.



**Yarra Yering Dry Red No. 1 2015**

£54.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

Dr Bailey Carrodus lived by the philosophy, 'If it doesn't work, tip it out and start again' - he did just that with his entire production one vintage. If it wasn't the best, he wouldn't sell it. The Dry Red No. 1 is a Claret-style blend on which the estate's reputation is built and has become one of the most collectible Australian wines. Its dense blackcurrant develops extraordinarily exotic, gamey nuances over time. Drink to 2030+.

# Australia

## White

	<b>Bottle</b>
The Accomplice Chardonnay 2019	£7.99
Soldiers Block Chardonnay 2019	£8.49
Robert Oatley Helmsman Chardonnay 2018	£8.99
De Bortoli Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2018	£12.99
Robert Oatley Signature Chardonnay 2018	£13.99
Wakefield Estate Riesling 2018	£14.99
Yalumba "Samuel's Collection" Eden Valley Viognier 2017	£15.99
Innocent Bystander Pinot Gris 2017	£16.99
Flametree Chardonnay 2019	£16.99
Shaw & Smith Sauvignon Blanc 2019	£17.99
Skillogalee Riesling 2017	£18.99
Giant Steps Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2018	£22.99
Robert Oatley Finisterre Chardonnay 2017	£24.99
Hay Shed Hill "Block 6" Chardonnay 2017	£32.99
Leeuwin Estate "Prelude" Chardonnay 2016	£32.99
Tyrrells "Vat 1" Semillon 2015	£39.99

## Red

	<b>Bottle</b>
Soldiers Block Shiraz 2019	£8.49
Robert Oatley Helmsman Shiraz 2017	£8.99
The Opportunist Shiraz 2018	£11.99
Magpie "The Scoundrel" Shiraz Grenache 2019	£12.99
Robert Oatley G-18 Grenache 2018	£13.99
Robert Oatley Signature Cabernet Sauvignon 2018	£13.99
Willunga 100 Cabernet/Shiraz 2016	£13.99
Dandelion "Lionheart of the Barossa" Shiraz 2017	£14.99
Mitolo "Jester" Shiraz 2017	£15.99
Keith Tulloch Shiraz Viognier 2017	£15.99
Innocent Bystander Pinot Noir 2018	£17.99
Wakefield Jaraman Cabernet Sauvignon 2016	£19.99
Willunga "The Hundred" Blewitt Springs Grenache 2015	£19.99
Leeuwin Estate Siblings Shiraz 2017	£22.99
Clonakilla Hilltops Shiraz 2018	£24.99
Yalumba "The Cigar" Cabernet Sauvignon 2016	£24.99
Wakefield St Andrews Shiraz 2016	£34.99
Glaetzer Wines Anaperenna 2017	£44.99
Yarra Yering Dry Red No 1 2015	£54.99

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# New Zealand

*Kia ora!* Welcome to *Aotearoa* - better known as New Zealand - a country of Maori tribes living alongside rugby-mad, pavlova-eating dairy farmers... and the odd hobbit. This relative newcomer has quickly garnered a reputation for the quality of its wine, the purity and consistency of which sets it apart from the rest of the world.

The popularity of the unmistakably pungent Kiwi Sauvignon Blanc has propelled it to fame and this 'Sav-alanche' shows no sign of slowing down: names like Cloudy Bay and Villa Maria are just as significant as they were two decades ago. This is a blessing and a curse, as we forget how good its other varieties are: buttery Chardonnay, aromatic Albariño, elegant Pinot Noir and fruity Bordeaux blends thrive across climes covering 36° to 45° latitude, 1000 miles end-to-end - the equivalent distance between Paris and North Africa.

Through our membership of the Vindependents - an agency dedicated to and owned by the UK's top wine merchants - we've been able to ship from Gladstone Estate and Hans Herzog. We have also forged direct relationships with boutique, family-owned wineries, such as Huia and Kumeu River. And although New Zealand can sometimes feel impossibly far away, we are fortunate to have the insight of Rob MacCulloch (a Hawkes Bay-based Master of Wine and former Taurus Wines employee) at the end of the phone.

Rupert Pritchett, New Zealand buyer



**Taringi Sauvignon Blanc 2019**  
£9.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S

Our best-selling white is a fizzing firework display of a wine: the intense aromatic backdrop of gooseberry and cut grass is punctuated by colourful whizz-bangs of passion fruit and guava. What separates it from run-of-the-mill Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is its tongue-tingling acidity, which makes it ever so successful as an aperitif or when paired with spicy Thai fish cakes or griddled English asparagus. Drink to 2021.



**Flying Winemaker Sauvignon Blanc 2018**  
£13.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S

The North Island's Wairarapa region is famed for a style of Sauvignon Blanc that is softer and peachier than those from Marlborough, but still having a grassy tang. Eddie McDougall - TV personality and owner of Hong Kong's only urban winery - is the eponymous Flying Winemaker who has worked with many influential wineries, including Giant Steps in Australia and Mas de Daumas Gassac in the Languedoc. Drink to 2021.

**Gladstone Sauvignon Blanc 2018**  
£14.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S

Gladstone, also recently purchased by Eddie McDougall, is a boutique winery situated up in the hills to the east of Wellington. The focus is on minimal intervention winemaking, allowing the fruit to do all the talking: gentle notes of lemon blossom, struck flint and toasted cashew suggest a Sauvignon Blanc of surprising restraint and elegance. Partially fermented in oak to lend weight and depth to the palate. Drink to 2023.



**Leftfield Albariño 2019**  
£12.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S

Although the fortunes of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc are far from waning, there is a growing interest in planting aromatic varieties, such as Riesling, Pinot Gris and Gewurztraminer, particularly around Gisborne on the east coast of the North Island. A touch fruitier than Albariño made in Spain and Portugal, this dances with bright citrus, gala melon and peach flavours. Crisp and dry to the finish. Drink to 2022.



**Wildsong Pinot Gris 2018**  
£14.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • O • V

Veteran winemaker Rod McDonald spent nine years at the helm of the leading Hawkes Bay Vidal Estate, where he was awarded Winemaker of the Year, before finding the perfect site for his organic Wildsong project. Made in an Alsatian style, this Pinot Gris brims with an attractive ripe fruit bowl of pear, lychee and quince, all muddled with toasted almond. Hits the spot with a spicy coconut milk-based curry. Drink to 2023.



**Greywacke Sauvignon Blanc 2019**  
£18.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • VV

After 25 vintages, Kevin 'Cloudy Bay' Judd decided that he wanted to spend less of his day running reports and more time with wellies on! At Greywacke, he's the winemaker, forklift driver, marketing director and admin assistant all rolled into one. Whoever thinks Sauvignon can't be interesting clearly hasn't tried this, which shows the sort of mineral complexity you only find in the best Loire Valley whites. Drink to 2023.





### Kumeu River Estate Chardonnay 2019

£22.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • VV

Michael Brajkovic - the first New Zealander to become a Master of Wine - believes this is the finest Estate Chardonnay to ever leave the Kumeu River cellars. Full and toasty on the palate, showing a hint of smoke and intense citrusy fruit, it certainly lives up to its critical billing as 'White Burgundy in Kiwi clothing'. In comparative French terms, what you have here is Grand Cru quality at a village wine price. Drink to 2025.



### Folding Hill Orchard Block Pinot Noir 2015

£29.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • S • O

This four-hectare property was bought by two medical students who bonded over homebrew at university. What a long way they've come! Just 75 cases of their top cuvée - coming from vines that lie next to a row of apple trees - are made. Dark and savoury-sweet, the rich, black-fruited profile is kept in check by pleasingly firm tannins. Its dark cherry, kirsch and wild herb notes would suit seared duck breast. Drink to 2025.



### Huia Pinot Noir 2015

£24.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S • O • VV

Former Cloudy Bay and Veuve Clicquot alumni Claire and Mike Allan have made it their mission to create the best wines they can with minimal environmental impact: grazing animals keep the vineyard weed-free, pollinating bees are kept busy with wildflowers and fermentation is started with natural yeasts. Bold, bright and silky Pinot laced with cherry compote and cloves. Drink with mushroom risotto. Drink to 2025.



### Hans Herzog "Secret of Marlborough" Montepulciano 2016

£39.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • S • O

Feeling frustrated that he could only work with a limited number of grape varieties in Switzerland's cool climate, Hans Herzog left his 500-year-old family winery for New Zealand, where he planted everything from Arneis to Zweigelt. Vibrant and juicy, this Italian varietal shows sappy raspberry fruit alongside some grippy tannin. Deliciously drinkable already, it also has the potential for serious cellaring. Drink to 2026+.

## New Zealand

### Sauvignon Blanc

	<b>Bottle</b>
Taringi Sauvignon Blanc 2019	£9.99
Flying Winemaker Sauvignon Blanc 2018	£13.99
Gladstone Sauvignon Blanc 2018	£14.99
Dog Point Sauvignon Blanc 2019	£16.99
Greywacke Sauvignon Blanc 2019	£18.99
Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2019	£23.99
Greywacke Wild Sauvignon Blanc 2018	£29.99

### Other Whites

	<b>Bottle</b>
Sileni Chardonnay 2019	£10.99
Esk Valley Verdelho 2018/19	£12.99
Leftfield Albarino 2019	£12.99
Seifried Estate Grüner Veltliner 2017	£13.99
Wildsong Pinot Gris 2018	£14.99
Huia Riesling 2016	£17.99
Huia Pinot Gris 2019	£18.99
Kumeu River Estate Chardonnay 2019	£22.99

### Pinot Noir

	<b>Bottle</b>
Sileni Pinot Noir 2019	£12.99
Paper Road Pinot Noir 2018	£14.99
Huia Pinot Noir 2015	£24.99
Ma Maison Pinot Noir 2016	£26.99
Folding Hill Orchard Block Pinot Noir 2015	£29.99
Greywacke Pinot Noir 2017	£32.99
Wooing Tree Pinot Noir 2014	£34.99

### Other Reds

	<b>Bottle</b>
Tinpot Hut Hawkes Bay Syrah 2016	£16.99
Hans Herzog "Secret of Marlborough" Montepulciano 2016	£39.99

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S - Screwcap • O - Organic • B - Biodynamic • V - Vegetarian • VV - Vegan

# South Africa

Grapes were first turned into wine on the southern tip of Africa back in 1659. A Dutch surgeon - Jan van Riebeeck - was charged with treating scurvy amongst sailors. His solution? Viticulture. By the 19th century, Cape wine was the preferred beverage of royal courts and literary salons and had prices to match its status - Napoleon, Louis XVI, George IV, Austen, Dickens and Baudelaire were among those who shunned the long-established wines of Europe for those of Constantia and Stellenbosch. And then Cape wine disappeared.

In 2004, my dad - an Anglo-Frenchman who had spent the previous 20 years making wine in France - found a plot of land in South Africa on which he determined to focus all his efforts and resources. His family (myself included) and most of his colleagues in the wine trade thought he'd, in fact lost, the plot. They viewed the country merely as a source of cheap supermarket plonk, incapable of returning to its former glories. So what changed?

Well, that's a long and debated story, but after years of political and economic struggle, it is gratifying to see that the sleeping giant has finally awoken, standing tall again amongst the world's finest regions. South Africa has become a vinous playground of seemingly limitless potential where winemakers from all over come to experiment and learn. Perceptions of truth might change, but truth itself is absolute: South African wine is back!

Louis Boutinot, Waterkloof Wines



## Waterkloof Circumstance Sauvignon Blanc 2019

£12.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • O • B • VV

Waterkloof is named after the deep ravine (*kloof*) that carves its way through these coastal vineyards, acting as a wind tunnel that directs cooling sea breezes through the grapes. Known as the 'Pouilly-Fumé of Stellenbosch' for its steely minerality and surprising capacity for ageing. Its textural palate of ripe stone fruit shows more than a nuance of seaside salt and aromatic bay leaf. 92 Points, Tim Atkin MW. Drink to 2025+.



## Secateurs Chenin Blanc 2019

£12.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • VV

Wine runs in Adi Badenhorst's veins: his grandfather was a grower in Constantia and his father worked at the Buitenverwachting estate, where Adi made his first wine at the age of 13. Now based in Swartland, he is part of South Africa's New Wave of 'trad-experimentalist' winemaking. Secateurs is a tangy Chenin Blanc that is crammed full of orange, lime and peach notes that cry out for seared scallops. Drink to 2024.

## Babylonstoren Chardonnay 2019

£21.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • VV

Babylonstoren, a stunning wine farm and garden outside Franschhoek, is one of South Africa's best-known attractions and an ideal base for a Cape Winelands tour. Grapes for its flagship white are sourced from the slopes of the Simonsberg Mountain to produce this Old World-style Chardonnay with its sleek, satin texture and nutty complexity. Pair with creamy pasta dishes or even a cheeseboard. Drink to 2025.



## Rustenberg John X Merriman 2017

£14.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • S

Those that prefer their Bordeaux blends from riper vintages (such as 2005 and 2009) will find much to enjoy in this superblend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Plush blackcurrant sits underneath typical 'Left Bank' aromas of cigar box and green pepper. But unlike its French counterparts, it is soft and powerful without the need for a decade of cellaring. Drink to 2030.



## Waterkloof "Circle of Life" Red 2016

£14.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S • O • B • VV

This blend of Syrah (for spiciness), Merlot (for richness) and Petit Verdot (for freshness) encapsulates why South Africa is one of the most exciting regions for minimal intervention wines. Rather than looking to Bordeaux or the Rhône for inspiration, winemaker Nadia Barnard-Langenegger wants her wines to express their true origin. Fresh and fruity with elegant tannins, this is a red of versatility and charm. Drink to 2022.



## Kanonkop Pinotage 2016

£29.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • VV

Pinotage is the quintessential South African red: crafted from some of the country's oldest vines, Kanonkop's pioneering wine shows bold notes of black plum and dark berry alongside sweet spice and smoke. Full-bodied and chocolatey with warmth and ripeness, it has plenty of stuffing to cope with a *braai* (meat cooked over charcoal) in its youth, but will gain more complex nuances with time in bottle. Drink to 2030+.



# Chile

'Viva Chile!' we would call out over the rooftops as we sipped on early evening pisco sours. This was back in 2010 after I was lucky enough to visit Santiago, having won Chilean Wine Merchant of the Year for our imports. A decade later – and with a few more awards under our belt – Chile has cemented its reputation for quality and our range has grown substantially. No wonder, as there are so many brilliant bottles to choose from.

This vast 2,600-mile country stretches from the Atacama Desert in the north to the snow-capped Torres del Paine mountains in the south, yet it is only 112 miles wide. Long, warm days and cool nights make this an ideal place for growing fruit: many farms produce kiwis, cherimoyas, avocados, oranges and olive oil alongside their vines. Only the purest glacial water from the Andes is used for irrigation and the vineyards are, remarkably, still free of phylloxera (the louse responsible for devastating Europe's vineyards in the 1880s.) This is quite literally where the Man from Del Monte calls home!

Llamas roam free and, due to their good nature and functionality, have become one of Chile's national symbols, along with condors and pumas. However, you can't get wool from a condor, nor milk from a puma (unless you are determined and wear thick gloves), hence why the llama takes top billing. It is a country quite unlike any other. *Viva Chile!*

Rupert Pritchett, Chile buyer



## Tabalí Pedregoso Viognier Gran Reserva 2017

£10.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • VV

Established in 2002, the Tabalí winery is located on the edge of the Atacama in one of the northernmost vineyard regions of Chile. Heady citrus blossom and dried apricot notes combine with chalky minerality typical of Limarí's rocky soils. Soft and rounded texture, Viognier's graceful character neatly riffs off the flavours of Cantonese cuisine - try it with steamed whole seabass in ginger and spring onion. Drink to 2022.



## Torres Cordillera Limarí Valley Chardonnay 2019

£13.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • VV

This strapping, broad-shouldered Chardonnay shows all the toast-and-spice qualities of well-judged barrel fermentation and maturation, as you might expect from a big-hitting producer like Miguel Torres. Approaching Burgundian in poise, the creamy, hazelnut-rich palate is carefully balanced by the lift of lemony freshness and the crunch of salinity. Exemplary with roast chicken or turkey. Drink to 2024.

## Albaclara Sauvignon Blanc Gran Reserva 2018/19

£14.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • O • VV

The spectacular horseshoe-shaped Haras de Pirque winery is surrounded by the estate's vineyards, its thoroughbred racetrack and state-of-the-art breeding farm - clearly matters wine and equine are given equal footing. The cellar is managed by the Antinori family of Tuscany. Though Chilean Sauvignon Blanc shows more restraint than its Kiwi opposite number, it still crackles with grapefruit and apple freshness. Drink to 2022.



## Torres Santa Digna Merlot 2018

£9.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV

When he set about obtaining Fairtrade status for his Santa Digna range, Miguel Torres Jr offered the local grape growers three times their usual going rate - initially they refused, thinking there would be a catch! Chilean Merlot deserves more than its reputation as just an affordable red. Deep in colour, smooth and round with a plummy palate and liquorice-tinged finish, it works with everything from pizza to pasta. Drink to 2022.



## Errazuriz Carmenère Reserva 2018

£9.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • S • VV

Carmenère, a grape variety long-lost to the ravages of phylloxera in Bordeaux, has become one of the emblematic red wines of Chile, where it has been saved from extinction. A brilliant carmine hue, Errazuriz's textbook bottling evokes the herbaceous, cedary notes of South American Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot's voluptuousness. A handy companion to difficult-to-match roasted vegetables. Drink to 2024.



## Caliterra Tributo Malbec 2018

£11.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • VV

Caliterra was established as a joint venture between Californian mover and shaker Robert Mondavi and Errazuriz. The entirety of the 1000-hectare estate was planted on prime hillside sites in the heart of the Colchagua Valley, resulting in high quality fruit and rich, structured wines. This single-vineyard Malbec is at the fresher end of the spectrum, with medium fruit concentration and soft tannins. Drink to 2023.





### Tabalí Pedregoso Syrah Gran Reserva 2016

£12.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • VV

There's more than a suggestion of a Bond villain's headquarters about Tabalí's winery and it is, in fact, near where the desert scenes for Quantum of Solace were filmed. The region's exceptionally clean air and long sunshine hours result in wines of brightness and clarity that have become the benchmark for Chile. A warm, Northern Rhône-style Syrah with sweet, spicy oak, showing cloves and star anise. Drink to 2023.



### Errazuriz Wild Ferment Pinot Noir 2019

£14.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • O • VV

Pinot Noir is the ultimate challenge for any winemaker: its thin skin and fickle character can make it a headache to grow, but Pacific breezes and cooling morning fogs allow for opportune ripening in the Casablanca Valley. Poised, with piercing scents of cherry, rose and smoke, this special Wild Ferment bottling is a marvel with the earthy flavours of autumn and winter, such as mushroom, truffle and game. Drink to 2025.



### Cousiño-Macul Antiguas Reservas Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

£15.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

After gaining independence in 1810, Chileans who had made fortunes in mining and other industries travelled to Europe and returned with a taste for the wines of Bordeaux. As luck would have it, the Maipo Valley shares much in common climatically with the Médoc: warm days and cool nights produce deeply coloured Cabernets with creamy blackberry fruit given lift by fresh herbal notes and lively acidity. Drink to 2027+.



### Montes Purple Angel 2017

£59.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • VV

Purple Angel is one of South America's most in-demand wines and, without a doubt, the finest example of Carmenère. Purple by name, purple by nature: this is probably the ripest, most concentrated red you'll come across. Plum and blueberry sit alongside hints of dark chocolate and vanilla from the 18 months this spends in French oak. These big flavours will stand up to anything spiced or smoked. Drink to 2030+.

## Chile

### White --- Bottle

#### Chardonnay

Montevista Chardonnay 2019 (Maule Valley)	£8.49
Torres Cordillera Chardonnay 2018 (Limari Valley)	£13.99

#### Sauvignon Blanc & Aromatic

Torres Santa Digna Sauvignon Blanc 2019 (Central Valley)	£9.99
La Leyenda de Las Cruces Sauvignon Blanc 2019 (Leyda Valley)	£10.99
Albaclara Sauvignon Blanc Gran Reserva 2018/19 (Maipo Valley)	£14.99
Tabalí Pedregoso Gran Reserva Viognier 2017 (Limari Valley)	£10.99

### Red --- Bottle

#### Pinot Noir

Sierra Grande Pinot Noir 2019 (Central Valley)	£8.49
Tabalí Vetas Blancas Reserva Especial Pinot Noir 2016 (Limari Valley)	£13.99
Errazuriz Wild Ferment Pinot Noir 2019 (Aconcagua Valley)	£14.99

#### Merlot

Errazuriz Estate Merlot 2019 (Aconcagua Valley)	£9.99
Torres Santa Digna Merlot 2018 (Central Valley)	£9.99

#### Carmenère

Errazuriz Estate Carmenère 2018 (Aconcagua Valley)	£9.99
Montes Alpha Purple Angel 2017 (Colchagua Valley)	£59.99
Casa Lapostolle Clos Apalta 2015 (Colchagua Valley)	£149.99

#### Cabernet Sauvignon

Montes Alpha Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 (Colchagua Valley)	£14.99
Cousiño-Macul Antiguas Reservas Cabernet 2017 (Maipo Valley)	£15.99
Miguel Torres Manso de Velasco 2013 (Curicó Valley)	£34.99

#### Syrah

Tabalí Pedregoso Gran Reserva Syrah 2016 (Limari Valley)	£12.99
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#### Malbec

Caliterra Tributo Malbec 2018 (Colchagua Valley)	£11.99
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# Argentina

'Please ignore the bullet holes. The *banditos* won't be back for a while - we were only raided last week, so they know there's nothing left here to steal,' began the experience of visiting my first winery in Argentina. Having won Chilean Wine Merchant of the Year in 2012, we then picked up the equivalent Argentinian award in 2013, so I was able to visit South America on someone else's dime twice in two years! I felt like a bit of a bandit myself.

Aside from the inconvenience of being periodically raided, I quickly learnt that there's nothing that annoys an Argentine winemaker more than their wines being referred to as 'New World'. Whilst the country has obviously been benefitting from a Malbec boom over the last couple of decades, their viticulture in fact pre-dates much of Europe's 'Old World'.

The core of Argentina - Mendoza - is, of course, dedicated to Malbec. From rich and inky-black styles to fresher, more structured wines sourced at altitude, you could happily spend the rest of your life working your way through the assortment the country has to offer. But the winemakers are at pains to say that their most interesting wines are made from blends and other varieties. Although it's harder to find in the UK, if you do go out there you'll taste just as much excellent Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo and Chardonnay as you will Malbec. Just don't say you're a vegetarian. To them, that's worse than being raided.

Rupert Pritchett, Argentina buyer



## Amalaya Blanco de Corte Torrontés 2018/19

£11.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S • VV

Amalaya translates as 'hope for a miracle,' which is an apt name for a winery perched in the highest region in the world. Combining the headiness of Muscat and the spice of Gewürztraminer, Torrontés is to white wines in Argentina what Malbec is to reds. Fruit-driven and floral - all grapefruit and rose - and silky in texture, yet crisp and dry, it is a wine of delicious contrasts. 94 Points, Decanter Magazine. Drink to 2022.



## Catena Appellation Tupungato Chardonnay 2019

£16.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV

Laura Catena is adamant the success of her whites is down to grapes grown at high-altitude, which develop a rich varietal character, whilst retaining their acidity. Although there's some density here, it's more Pouilly-Fuissé than Napa Valley-leaning: buttered popcorn, tinned pineapple and jasmine ebb and flow to the finish. Chardonnay for the table - especially suited to chicken and mushroom pie. Drink to 2024.

## Zuccardi Los Olivos Malbec 2018

£10.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • VV

In 2020, Zuccardi was voted best winery and vineyard in the world for the second consecutive year, which explains their multiple inclusions on our shelves. One of many Malbecs in their stable, Los Olivos was made in order to showcase the more mineral style that the cool Uco Valley produces: ample plum and blackberry notes are given complexity by a savoury, peppery finish. Enjoy with stuffed red peppers. Drink to 2023.



## Séptima Malbec 2018

£10.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

In the 1980s, Mendoza was awash with Malbec - Argentine producers were rather ashamed of the fact, assiduously pulling it out in favour of the more fashionable Cabernet Sauvignon. But fashions change and Mendoza is now once again the Malbec capital of the world. Séptima's award-winning and full-bodied incarnation is redolent of sweet mocha and ripe fig. A brilliant bottle for barbecued beef. Drink to 2023.



## Altos Las Hormigas Tinto 2017

£12.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • VV

Mark my words: Bonarda is the next 'big thing' in wine. This relatively unknown red grape is actually the second most widely planted variety in Argentina. Tasting like a sort of Merlot-Malbec hybrid, it's easy drinking and moderate in alcohol with plenty of fruity charm and a tell-tale smoky finish. It also works wonders with the flavours of the South Pacific - tropical fruit marinades, teriyaki glazes and surf-and-turf. Drink to 2022.



## Masi "Passo Doble" Malbec Corvina 2017

£15.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • S • O • VV

The philosopher Pliny noted that the grape variety Corvina was so in love with Italy that it would never yield good enough fruit elsewhere. In the foothills of the Andes, the Italian producer Masi has proved him wrong, making a Venetian-style wine with an Argentinian soul. Amarone-meets-Malbec in this exuberantly fruity red: plum and black cherry mingle with balsamic spice and the softest of tannins. Drink to 2024.





**Manos Negras Malbec 2018**  
 £15.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • VV

Alejandro Sejanovich was formerly the vineyard director at Catena Zapata - Mendoza's pioneering estate - for over a decade. Eager for a new challenge, he wanted to get his hands dirty once again (hence, 'Manos Negras' - his hands black with grape juice) and make wine under his own label. No nonsense Malbec at its supplest and smoothest, oozing ripe, dark fruits and a touch of cinnamon. Warming and round. Drink to 2024.



**Schroeder Saurus Select Pinot Noir 2018**  
 £19.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

Winemaking might not be the first thing one considers when surveying Patagonia's breathtaking array of mountains, lakes, glaciers and deserts, however, since the mid-1990s, this part of the world has proven itself a successful grower of Pinot Noir. Schroeder's is ultra-fragrant with haunting sweet red fruit and floral aromas that come close to those of the Côte de Nuits. Drink with roast duck in a cherry sauce. Drink to 2025.



**Finca Decero "The Owl & The Dust Devil" 2016**  
 £19.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • VV

Do judge a book by its cover when it's this good: the augmented reality label (which you can read with your smartphone) brilliantly tells the story of the Lechuza owls that live among the vines and give the wine its name. This single-vineyard blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Tannat has an exceptionally rich core of damson, mocha and wild herbs and promises superb ageing potential. Drink to 2025+.



**Zuccardi Apelación Malbec 2017**  
 £18.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • VV

Zuccardi's Apelación bottling is sourced from meticulously worked, high altitude vineyards in Vista Flores that are naturally irrigated by Andean glacial meltwaters. A full-bodied, textural red with plenty of grip to stand up to a Sunday roast with all the trimmings, it intoxicates with sweet spices from the souk, freshly squeezed berry fruit and tobacco from the finest Cuban cigar. 96 Points, Decanter Magazine. Drink to 2025.

# Argentina

## White

**Aromatic** 

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 **Bottle**  
 Amalaya Blanco de Corte Torrontés 2018/19 £11.99

**Chardonnay** 

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 **Bottle**  
 Catena Appellation Tupungato Chardonnay 2019 £16.99

## Red

**Pinot Noir** 

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 **Bottle**  
 Luigi Bosca Pinot Noir 2018 £16.99  
 Schroeder Saurus Select Pinot Noir 2018 £19.99

**Malbec** 

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 **Bottle**  
 Concha y Toro Tribu Malbec 2019 £7.99  
 Zuccardi Los Olivos Malbec 2018 £10.99  
 Séptima Malbec 2018 £10.99  
 Zuccardi Valle de Uco Malbec 2018 £12.99  
 Manos Negras Malbec 2018 £15.99  
 Finca Decero Remolinos Vineyard Malbec 2016/17 £16.99  
 Zuccardi Apelación Malbec 2017 £18.99  
 Cadus Appellation Malbec 2017 £19.99  
 Zuccardi Finca Piedra Infinita 2016 £149.99

**Red Blends** 

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 **Bottle**  
 Altos Las Hormigas Tinto 2017 £12.99  
 Masi "Passo Doble" Malbec Corvina 2017 £15.99  
 Finca Decero "The Owl & The Dust Devil" 2016 £19.99  
 Bodega Norton Privada Family Blend 2016 £21.99

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S - Screwcap • O - Organic • B - Biodynamic • V - Vegetarian • VV - Vegan

# North America

'Have you morons not heard of Google?' Never have Oz Clarke's booming RADA tones ever been such music to my ears. I was en route to Napa Valley and had been detained at the airport - amusing for the first 10 minutes, less so after three hours and having had my shoes and belt removed. Oz had come in on the flight behind me and was now facing the same welcome. After trying to explain for the umpteenth time that we had, in fact, been invited on a trip by the Californian government, we were finally free to go. How was I to know there was a Rupert Pritchett on California's most wanted list!

It's something of a cliché that Americans go for big, jammy styles, whilst European palates prefer less alcohol, fruit and oak. More and more people I speak to actually quite like a wooded American Chardonnay or a powerful Cabernet every now and then. At the same time, many US winemakers are reining things in: some of the best wines are so elegant and restrained that you'd be hard pushed to tell which side of the pond they were made.

The main issue on *this* side is getting hold of wine at prices that are competitive: US merchants have an average bottle price of £22, compared with £12 here, and domestic demand is so high that there is no need for export. With the threat of legalised cannabis taking sales away from the wine trade and the prospect of another four years of Tr\*mp, there's still everything to play for in the home of the brave and land of the free.

Rupert Pritchett, North America buyer



## Wente Morning Fog Chardonnay 2018

£14.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

Wente is America's oldest continuously operated, family-owned winery and it is likely that all of the Chardonnay in California derives from the original Wente clone. Its Livermore vineyards benefit from billowing fogs that roll in off the coast and help produce fruit with plenty of acidity to counter the variety's inherent butteriness. Try it with richer seafood dishes, such as lobster Thermidor or turbot *en croûte*. Drink to 2023.



## Kung-Fu Girl Riesling 2018

£16.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • VV

Rock band manager turned self-taught winemaker Charles Smith shocked the wine world - first with his eye-catching label designs and then with the Winemaker of the Year awards that began to roll in. There aren't many wines that go with a Chinese takeaway, but this deliciously zingy, full-throttle Riesling - with its lively white peach, mandarin and apricot notes - carries chilli and spice particularly well. Drink to 2024.

## Au Bon Climat Pinot Gris Pinot Blanc 2018

£22.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • O • V

Jim Clendenen's Au Bon Climat is a little piece of Burgundy that just happens to be in Santa Barbara. His policy is that if they don't do it in Beaune, he won't do it at 'ABC'. Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc might seem an unusual blend, but are, in fact, two of the original Burgundian grape varieties. Refreshingly citrus-tinged, this shows some flinty minerality and a crisp finish, making it a fine match for shellfish. Drink to 2025.



## Wente Beyer Ranch Zinfandel 2018

£14.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • VV

'Cali Zin', as it's affectionately known on the West Coast, is traditionally big and black-fruited with plenty of powerful oak. Wente's cooler-than-usual vineyard sites dotted around the Bay Area produce a more medium-bodied, but nonetheless soft and smooth style of Zinfandel, steeped in strawberry and black tea notes. Its juiciness would be more than welcome alongside a rack of ribs or no-frills burger. Drink to 2024.



## Domaine Carneros Avant Garde Pinot Noir 2018

£24.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • S • O • VV

The family behind Taittinger Champagne began their search for a Californian site in the 1970s and it took them over a decade to settle upon this 130-acre estate in Carneros, in the heart of Napa Valley. Whilst the majority of the output is dedicated to sparkling, it produces a tiny amount of intensely fruity red that is silkier and riper than Burgundian Pinot Noir, but every bit as delicious. Serve cellar-cool. Drink to 2024.



## Hoopes Oakville Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

£69.99 per bottle • 15% ABV • VV

Hoopes ten-acre Oakville vineyard was previously used as a fruit source for a number of cult California estates until the owners started making wine themselves. Plush and expansive, caramel and coconut notes provide a rich backdrop for the ripe cassis and dried herb core. Let this breathe in a decanter for at least an hour before drinking with grass-fed, British beef steaks. 93 Points, James Suckling. Drink to 2025+.



# England

England's green and pleasant land has earned a reputation for its fizz that puts us on equal footing with Champagne. To put it less politely: give me a glass of English Sparkling Wine over that French stuff anyday. Whilst I'll admit that our still wines have historically been a bit humdrum, the glorious summer of 2018 resulted in an outstanding batch of whites and reds that really do stand up to their equivalents over the Channel. This success seems to have given English winemakers a new lease of life, as well as a supply of excellent reserve wines to draw from after the inclement weather in 2019. Blighty's never had it so good.

Callum Edge, England buyer



## **Bolney Estate Lychgate Bacchus 2019**

£15.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • S

The family-owned Bolney Estate can be found on the edge of the Sussex Downs and a mere hop, skip and jump down the road from Taurus Wines. Crisp, with its characteristic hedgerow and nettle flavour, Bacchus has been adopted as England's signature grape variety and makes for a splendid alternative to Sauvignon Blanc. This zippy white would be an admirable partner to cold cuts, white fish or asparagus. Drink to 2022.



## **Albourne Estate Sandstone Ridge 2018**

£15.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • S

Alison Nightingale began her working life in multi-national marketing in Australia and the Far East before studying viticulture and winemaking at Plumpton College. In 2009, she established Albourne, an eco-friendly, solar-powered estate near Hurstpierpoint. This Chardonnay-led offering is attractively creamy with its broad and juicy apricot flavours and subtle oak influence. One for fans of Mâconnais wines. Drink to 2022.



## **Simpsons Gravel Castle Chardonnay 2019**

£17.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • V

A recent study by East Anglia University to identify England's prime spot for viticulture was stopped short for fear of its impact on land prices, but it did hint that the best place was near Canterbury... This Kentish Chardonnay (grown from Burgundian clones,) has the laser-focus of Chablis, so if you happen to have a hankering for half a dozen native Whitstable oysters, this should be your go-to pour. Drink to 2024.

## **Henners Native Grace Barrel Chardonnay 2018**

£18.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • VV

Henners Dubois was forced to flee to England during the French Revolution, but once he arrived he never looked back - Larry Warr, ex-Formula One engineer, decided to name the estate in his ancestor's memory. Only the best grapes from the stellar 2018 vintage made it into this micro-batch wine - this is English Chardonnay at its richest, its toast and butter inflections streaked with the zest of citrus. Drink to 2024.



## **Bolney Estate Lychgate Red 2018**

£15.99 per bottle • 11.5% ABV • S

Rondo and Dornfelder might sound like two of Father Christmas's reindeer, but these winter-hardy German grape varieties make a pleasingly fruit-forward red wine not dissimilar to Cabernet Franc from the Loire Valley. Soft and smoky in style, with creamy and plummy notes, its slightly spiced character will go very nicely alongside a slow-braised beef casserole or even beetroot falafel. Drink to 2022.



## **Albourne Estate Pinot Noir 2018**

£18.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • S • VV

The Albourne vineyard site was selected not only for its stunning views, but for its aspect, altitude and geology - these south-facing sandstone slopes provide some ideal conditions for the slow-ripening Pinot Noir to grow. Bright and crunchy, with white pepper and floral notes, this is a style of Pinot somewhere between that of Alsace and Burgundy. Decant for an hour and ideally serve with a light chill. Drink to 2024.



## **Sharpham Estate Pinot Noir 2018**

£19.99 per bottle • 11.5% ABV • S • VV

Red grapes can sometimes struggle to reach the ripeness needed to make dependable still wine in England. Not so, however, on the banks of the River Dart, where Sharpham's west-facing vines bathe in plenty of afternoon sun. Savoury and elegant with a strawberry and cranberry character, we would drink this with anything mushroom-based. Gold Medal, Sommelier Wine Awards 2019. Drink to 2024.



# Rest of the World

When I first joined the wine trade, merchants had an easy life. Claret was cheap as chips - and if it wasn't cheap enough there was always Bulgarian Cabernet. Chianti came in wicker baskets and Australia's top wine - Penfold's Grange - could be found for double digits. Cloudy Bay was on allocation. Organics? Never heard of 'em. Now, we're expected to stock bottles from all the classic regions, as well as those found off the beaten track. And quite right: quality has risen so much around the globe that we'd be foolish not to stock these exciting discoveries from Hungary, Greece, Austria, Israel, Lebanon and China.



## Château Dereszla Dry Tokaji 2018 (Hungary)

£10.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • V

Lusciously sweet, Hungarian Tokaji was once one of the most fashionable wines in the world. However, changing tastes have prompted ancient producers like Dereszla to harvest earlier in order to produce whites that evoke all the gloriously ripe character of the wines of old - apricot, marmalade and spice - but on a dry palate. Rounded and fleshy, this has ample weight enough for potsticker dumplings. Drink to 2022.



## Lyrarakis Vóila Assyrtiko 2019 (Crete)

£12.99 per bottle • 13.5% ABV • VV

Greece is in throes of a vinous renaissance. Gone are the days of dodgy, pine-scented retsina served in even dodgier *tavernas* - Greek wine is every bit as fine as the great bottles of the rest of Europe. Bracingly fresh and mineral, Assyrtiko has much in common with Albariño, its slight saltiness will set off grilled sea bass stuffed with lemon and herbs. Winner, Best Assyrtiko in Wine & Spirits Magazine 2020. Drink to 2023.



## Winzerhof Schlosser Keltenwein Grüner Veltliner 2019 (Austria)

£15.99 per bottle • 13% ABV • S • VV

The 'antifreeze' scandal that rocked the wine industry in the 1980s notably devastated the Austrian market. However, it ushered in a range of quality control measures that have remained unparalleled there ever since. Such is its food friendliness, no self-respecting sommelier would leave Grüner off their list. Its pleasing pepperiness is softened by elegant notes of pear and apple. Best paired with pork schnitzel. Drink to 2025.

## Segal Levant Argaman 2017 (Israel)

£12.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • S • VV

'Too many people are making Justin Bieber wines to suit the market's tastes,' laments Segal's consultant Alberto Antonini, 'but I like to make wine that is true to its place'. Antonini knows a thing or two about that - he effectively put Argentinian Malbec on the map. Israel's Argaman is the most charming variety you've not (yet) heard of: its juicy summer berry profile feels ever so familiar and yet totally unique. Drink to 2022.



## Massaya Le Colombier 2018 (Lebanon)

£15.99 per bottle • 14.5% ABV • S

Massaya is an exciting enterprise backed by French big-hitting producers Cheval Blanc and Vieux Télégraphe. This has none of the ferrous, sanguine qualities of the more famous Lebanese winery Musar, but is packed with freshness and lift. The blend of Cinsault, Grenache and Tempranillo offers a good squeeze of black fruit, and its soft and mellow spice will sing with the varied flavours of *mezze*. Drink to 2023.



## Domaine de Tourelles Vieilles Vignes Cinsault 2018 (Lebanon)

£17.99 per bottle • 14% ABV • VV

This Bekaa Valley estate is run by Faouzi Issa - student of Montpellier University, disciple of Rhône legend René Rostaing and alumnus of Chateau Margaux - and his three children. Cinsault has long been grown in Lebanon and these 70-year-old vines yield an exotic mix of ripe fig and star anise. Made with minimal intervention and aged in concrete, there is a degree of deliciously untamed 'naturalness' here. Drink to 2028.



## Château Rongzi Blue Label 2013 (China)

£39.99 per bottle • 14% ABV

What does a winemaker do after overseeing 47 vintages at Bordeaux's finest estate Château Pétrus? Jean-Claude Berrouet decided to take up the offer to make wine for the state-of-the-art Rongzi in Shanxi, northern China. This is a doppelgänger for first-rate Claret (as you might expect), it's well-structured and savoury, showing wild strawberry and cherry, cigar box and vanilla. An estate to watch with interest. Drink to 2025.



# Champagne & Sparkling

'In victory we deserve it, in defeat we need it'. Whether it was Napoleon or Churchill who said it first, both chaps were bang on the money: there's very little that's more indulgent or rousing than a glass of well-timed fizz. Asked what our final bottle would be, I know that most of us would say Champagne - preferably served out of a jeroboam - and, no, I won't be sharing. But, so often, we serve it all wrong: warm and flat and necked from a flute, it's relegated to parties as a canapé-and-conversation lubricant. Served well chilled, swirled and sipped from a tulip-shaped glass, ideally alongside a plate of something delicious, it takes on a new lease of life. Not because we deserve or need it, but because we're worth it.



## Le Dolci Colline Prosecco NV (Italy)

£10.99 per bottle • 11.5% ABV • VV

Only the best Prosecco (like this) is hand harvested and gently pressed, before undergoing a slow, cool fermentation to bring out its desirably light and zesty character and green apple crispness. Le Dolci Colline has a further trick up its sleeve: production is overseen by Italy's most successful co-operative Araldica, alongside Master of Wine Tony Brown. Top with peach juice for the perfect Bellini. Drink to 2022.



## Taltarni Brut Taché Rosé 2013 (Australia)

£14.99 per bottle • 12% ABV

The small Australian island of Tasmania, just south of Victoria, has been earmarked as one of the most promising regions for sparkling wine. So fond are the islanders of their fizz that only 20% is exported! 'Taché' refers to the delicate salmon-pink colour of this Champagne-style rosé, achieved by adding a dash of high-quality Pinot Noir to the final blend. A ripe cluster of cherry, currant and wild strawberry. Drink to 2023.



## Francesc Ricart Cava NV (Spain)

£12.99 per bottle • 11.5% ABV

One of the best value sparkling wine regions, Cava manages to hit the spot when you fancy richer, drier bubbles than Prosecco. Conscientiously made from a blend of indigenous Spanish varieties - Xarello, Macabeo and Parellada - and made using the 'traditional' (Champagne) method, this is fresh and quaffable. Poised and peachy, it would be a good catch-all for assorted *tapas* or even a seafood paella. Drink to 2024.

## Torres Cordillera Blanc de Noirs Brut 2016 (Chile)

£16.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • O • VV

The majority of Chilean bubbly is made from the rather dreary País grape variety. No surprises then that trailblazing Torres prefer to use Pinot Noir for this, the *ne plus ultra* of crowd-pleasing bubbly. Creamy wild berry and rhubarb notes on the palate, the refreshing tang of citrus on the finish, it has all the pizzazz you want from fizz. Winner of Best Chilean Sparkling 2020. Fair Trade and carbon neutral. Drink to 2022.



## Wiston Estate Rosé NV (West Sussex, England)

£26.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • VV

Maintained by the Goring family (owners of the synonymous London hotel) since 1743, Wiston Estate was converted into a 16-acre vineyard on the south-facing chalk slopes of the Sussex South Downs in 2006. Those in the know won't be surprised that Dermot Sugrue, cult English winemaker extraordinaire, is behind this top-quality pink sparkler. Soft and creamy, fragrant with red summer berries. Drink to 2025.



## Hambleton Classic Cuvée NV (Hampshire, England)

£29.99 per bottle • 12% ABV

Hambleton - in Hampshire, as opposed to the Surrey village around the corner - is most famous for being the birthplace of cricket. But it's also the location of the first commercial vineyard planted in England. This particular *cuvée* caused quite a stir when it scored more points in a blind tasting than some of the most famous Champagne houses. Vibrant and lively with notes of baked apple and toasty oak. Drink to 2025.



## Breaky Bottom Cuvée Reynolds Stone 2010 (East Sussex, England)

£39.99 per bottle • 12% ABV

'Breaky Bottom' - mentioned in the Domesday Book - refers to the dry chalk valley that this vineyard lies in. Peter Hall discovered the suit as a run-down farm in the 1970s and quickly saw its potential to produce high-quality sparkling wines similar to those of Champagne. Opulent with orchard fruit, candied nuts and sweet pastry, this is a rich and buttery English Sparkling Wine with a long life ahead of it. Drink to 2025+.





### Champagne Mandois Brut Origine NV

£29.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • O

Ninth-generation winemaker Claude Mandois firmly believes in the use of oak barrels for fermentation for all of his wines, which contributes a framing, rather than flavouring effect. There aren't many other family-run houses that go to such dedicated lengths, which is we have proudly imported Mandois for well over a decade. Soft and ripe, its generous apricot flavours are perfectly suited to summer sipping. Drink to 2025.



### Champagne Taittinger Brut Réserve NV

£34.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • VV

Having fallen in love with Château de la Marquetterie when he was stationed there during the First World War, Pierre Taittinger vowed to purchase the property and establish a house there once fighting had ceased. Unequaled in its freshness, the style is all citrus and honey, with a hint of brioche. Watch this space for Taittinger's long-awaited English wines made from vines planted at Chilham in Kent. Drink to 2025.



### Champagne Louis Roederer Brut Réserve NV

£39.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • O

Roederer rose to fame for its super-premium Cristal Champagne - beloved by the Russian Imperial Court and rappers, alike - but its 'entry-level' fizz is made with the same dedication. Heavy on the Pinot Noir in the blend, this is opulent and structured, and sits in a style somewhere between creaminess and toastiness, whilst never losing its sense of mineral tension. The perfect foil to a seafood medley. Drink to 2025.



### Champagne Pol Roger Brut Réserve NV

£44.99 per bottle • 12.5% ABV • VV

Long having been associated with British culture, Pol Roger holds the current Royal Warrant as purveyor of Champagne to Queen Elizabeth II and has been a recent staple at royal weddings. It was also the favourite drop of Winston Churchill. Floral and elegant with a deliciously biscuity flavour, the fine stream of bubbles - or 'bead,' as it's known - is due to its being aged in the coolest, deepest cellars in the region. Drink to 2025.

# Champagne

## Grower Champagne ————— Bottle

Gremillet Sélection Brut NV	£26.99
Henri Mandois Brut NV	£29.99
Henriot Brut Souverain NV	£29.99

## Grande Marque Champagne ————— Bottle

Taittinger Brut Réserve NV	£34.99
Louis Roederer Brut Premier NV	£39.99
Bollinger Special Cuvée Brut NV	£44.99
Pol Roger Brut Réserve NV	£44.99
Veuve Clicquot Brut NV	£44.99
Billecart-Salmon Brut Réserve NV	£49.99

## Rosé Champagne ————— Bottle

Henri Mandois Brut Rosé NV	£31.99
Delavenne Père & Fils Grand Cru Rosé NV	£44.99
Mandois Cuvée Victor Brut Rosé 2007	£59.99
Laurent Perrier Cuvée Rosé NV	£64.99
Billecart-Salmon Brut Rosé NV	£69.99
Pol Roger Vintage Rosé 2012	£84.99

## Special Cuvées ————— Bottle

Henri Mandois Blanc de Blancs 2015	£34.99
Pol Roger Pure Brut NV	£59.99
Taittinger Prelude Grand Cru NV	£59.99
Ruinart Blanc de Blancs Brut NV	£69.99
Bollinger PNVZ15	£79.95
Louis Roederer Blanc de Blancs 2011	£84.99

## Vintage and Prestige Cuvées ————— Bottle

Pol Roger Vintage 2012	£84.99
Dom Perignon Brut Vintage 2009	£149.99
Taittinger Comtes de Champagne 2007	£149.99
Krug Grand Cuvée NV	£169.99
Pol Roger Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill 2006	£189.99

Please visit our website for the latest selection of half bottles, magnums and jeroboams.  
Tasting notes and current stock levels are available from [tauruswines.co.uk](http://tauruswines.co.uk)

## Fortified & Sweet

It's long overdue that we blew the cobwebs off fortified wine. Its association with ageing relatives, stuffy gentlemen's clubs and dreary university colleges be gone! Port is no longer the low-quality, sugary and alcoholic drink it once was. Sherry is made in a wide enough range of styles for everyone to find a bottle to suit their tastes. And, as for Madeira, when was the last time you had a glass of something 50 years old that was tasting fresh as a daisy? These true fine-wine bargains really deserve their place in the vinous hall of fame alongside Bordeaux's First Growths, Italy's Super-Tuscans and Champagne's *prestige cuvées*.



### Château Lamourette Sauternes 2015

£18.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • 37.5cl

During its 160-year existence, it has been the women of the Leglise family who have done the bulk of the winemaking at Lamourettes - just a five-minute stroll from Château d'Yquem. The present matriach, Anne-Marie, prefers wines of freshness, rather than just sheer power. Lemon cheesecake is always an indulgent match for this Sauternes - that said, it's hard to go wrong with the classic pairing of Roquefort. Drink to 2030+.



### Quinta da Pedra Alta 10 Year Old Tawny

£24.99 per bottle • 19.5% ABV • 50cl

Quinta da Pedra Alta is the only estate in the Douro to have three *Feitorias* - historic stone markers placed in 1761 to indicate the best growing areas within the Port region. A rich and complex Tawny, aged first in traditional granite *lagars* and then old oak casks, it offers toasted nuts and dried fruit notes beneath its smart packaging - the modern face of Port. Serve slightly chilled with chocolate desserts or a cheeseboard.



### Fernando de Castilla Antique Palo Cortado

£34.99 per bottle • 20% ABV • 50cl • VV

Palo Cortado is an anomaly in Sherry terms: originally destined as a Fino, unique ambient conditions mean that certain barrels are set apart for oxidative ageing. The end result combines the richness of Oloroso with the crisp qualities of Amontillado. Tangy and smoky, nutty and delicate, honeyed but never sweet - this is one of the classiest fortified wines available to buy. 20/20 Points, Jancis Robinson. Drink to 2025+.

## Fortified

### Sherry

	Bottle
Tio Pepe Fino (37.5cl)	£7.99
Tio Pepe Fino	£14.99
Pasada la Pastora Manzanilla en Rama (37.5cl)	£10.99
Gonzalez Byass Elegante Fino	£11.99
Gonzalez Byass La Concha Medium	£11.99
Barbadillo Principe Amontillado	£27.99
Barbadillo Oloroso Cuco Seco	£24.99
Fernando de Castilla Palo Cortado (50cl)	£34.99
Harvey's Bristol Cream	£13.99
Fernando de Castilla Antique Pedro Ximénez (50cl)	£34.99

### Madeira

	Bottle
Blandy's Duke of Sussex Dry Madeira	£14.99
Blandy's Duke of Clarence Rich Madeira	£14.99
Blandy's 10-year-old Malmsey (rich) (50cl)	£19.99
Blandy's 10-year-old Sercial (dry) (50cl)	£19.99

### Marsala

	Bottle
Alfieri Marsala Fine	£12.99

### Port

	Port
Graham's Blend No. 5 White Port	£24.99
Graham's Six Grapes Reserve	£14.99
Graham's Late Bottled Vintage 2014	£14.99
Quinta da Pedra Alta 10 Year Old Tawny (50cl)	£24.99
Graham's 10 Year Old Tawny	£19.99
Graham's 20 Year Old Tawny	£39.99
Graham's 30 Year Old Tawny	£69.99
Graham's 40 Year Old Tawny	£99.99
Dow's Quinta do Bomfim 2006/8	£29.99
Graham's Quinta dos Malvedos 2006/8	£29.99
Graham's 1983 Vintage Port	£119.99

Visit our website for the latest stocks of vintage port, half bottles and Tappit Hens, as well as our extensive list of sweet wines.

S - Screwcap • O - Organic • B - Biodynamic • V - Vegetarian • VV - Vegan

# Gin

The Taurus gin range used to amount to a few bottles of Gordon's and the odd bottle of something one of us had tried on holiday and that never quite tasted the same on home soil. Then *whoosh* out of nowhere it was our fastest growing category and we were beating back gin reps by the dozen wanting to get in on the action. It's been a lesson in collective marketing that the nation's favourite tippie has become a genuinely interesting, collectible drink. We're lucky enough to have numerous talented distillers on our doorstep in the Surrey Hills, which is why you'll only find local bottles on our shelves. To the naysayers claiming that we've already reached 'peak gin': nonsense, it's just getting started.



## Silent Pool Taurus Wines Special Edition Gin

£29.99 per bottle • 40% ABV • Albury, Surrey

After a long day spent wine tasting (it's a hard job, but someone's got to do it), there's very little that hits the spot like an ice cold G&T. Crafted to our very particular specifications, this special edition Taurus Wines gin from the local Silent Pool distillery is made with refreshment in mind. Punchy with juniper and peppercorns, yet tempered by local honey and lavender, this grabs the bull by the horns and then some. Make it a double.



## Wessex Alfred the Great Gin

£32.99 per bottle • 41% ABV • Witley, Surrey

Jonathan Clark established and ran the City of London Distillery off Fleet Street before launching Wessex, a family-run operation, in Witley. Considerable research has gone into what plants would have been available to the Anglo-Saxons of the local area, which has given inspiration to his recipes. Chervil comes together with juniper in this superbly textural gin. Ideal for a martini - but, please: stirred, not shaken.



## Beckett's Type 1097 Gin

£35.99 per bottle • 12% ABV • Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey

Neil Beckett is working with the National Trust, Natural England and the Forestry Commission to create a sustainable source of juniper on Box Hill's Juniper Top in the beautiful North Downs. It is the only gin in the world infused with juniper berries and mint from England. Warm and aromatic with a slightly cooling menthol aftertaste, this is an exceptionally smooth and creamy spirit. Garnish with a sprig of fresh mint.

## Silent Pool Rare Citrus Gin

£39.99 per bottle • 43% ABV • Albury, Surrey

Folklore has it that on the banks of Silent Pool on the Duke of Northumberland's Albury Estate, King John forced a local woodcutter's daughter into the deep water and she drowned. According to the legend, the maiden can be seen at midnight - especially after you've had a gin or two. This is based on the distillery's juniper-led classic, but with a bright and fragrant citrusy top note. Garnish with a twist of grapefruit peel.



## Copperfield Gin Vol. 2

£34.99 per bottle • 45% ABV • Dunsfold, Surrey

Dr Christopher and Professor Katherine Smart have been inspired by Ambrose Cooper's gin recipe from the Complete Distiller (1757) and the classic Dickens' novel, David Copperfield. Handcrafted in small batches and distilled using just ten choice botanicals, its charming floral notes are balanced by pepper spice. Rich and exceptionally smooth in texture, this is just as delicious sipped over ice as it is with elderflower tonic.



## Sherlock & Sons Aromatic Gin

£38.99 per bottle • 42% ABV • Ripley, Surrey

Simon Sherlock's Distillers of Surrey range only uses the finest British-sourced ingredients, including olive, rosemary and bay and even Cornish tea leaf from the country's first plantation. Herbaceous and moreish, it strikes a fine balance between oily juniper and refreshing menthol. Serve over plenty of ice and top with Mediterranean tonic and a sprig of rosemary to garnish. Gold Medal, World Gin Awards 2019.



## Dancing Dragontail Summer Gin

£44.99 per bottle • 48% ABV • Dorking, Surrey

In 2017, Kate Gregory and Helen Muncie launched the Gin Kitchen in a beautifully converted barn. Spice-heavy with juicy pink grapefruit notes marrying with a rooty sweetness, one sniff of this will conjure up butterflies flitting through the lush, tropical vegetation of Cambodia's Cardamom Mountains. Pair with aromatic tonic, a good squeeze of lemon and lime and - for that extra special twist - a sprinkle of fresh lemongrass.



# Whisky & Other Spirits

As the mercury drops, the need to nurse a tumbler on a winter's evening is difficult to shake. A good book, a roaring fire and a glass of something dark and inviting is one of life's great pleasures. Although we are first and foremost a wine store, we do pride ourselves on our humble selection of carefully chosen whisk(e)ys, rums and cognacs - what you'll find is a selection of timeless classics, rather than trend-chasing bottles. Distillers are constantly trying to persuade us that their wares can be enjoyed alongside everything from smoked fish and mature cheeses to curry and sushi - although not together, I might add. Whilst it may seem counterintuitive to pair food with brown spirits, we urge you to give it a go.



## Henry de Querville Calvados (France)

£34.99 per bottle • 40% ABV

The Deschamps master distillers carefully select spirits drawn from their various vintage pot and column stills for maturation for at least two years before blending. This fruit-driven Calvados shows baked orchard fruits alongside toffee and custard-like flavours on its crisp, but warming palate. Best enjoyed from large balloon-shaped glasses at room temperature alongside *tarte Tatin* or Normandy cheeses, such as Camembert.



## Doorly's XO Rum (Barbados)

£39.99 per bottle • 40% ABV

Unsweetened Bajan rum from the Foursquare Distillery - one of the oldest houses on Barbados and a previous winner of Rum Producer of the Year. Aged for at least six years, it is finished in old Oloroso sherry casks before bottling to give it an extra helping of dark chocolate and sweet spice. Smooth as silk, it would make a nice change from whisky in an Old Fashioned: 2 parts rum, 1/2 tsp sugar and 3 dashes bitters.



## Mossburn Speyside Malt Whisky (Scotland)

£42.99 per bottle • 46% ABV

First aged in American bourbon barrels prior to blending, Mossburn's Speyside whisky is then matured for a second period in specially coopered casks made from Oloroso sherry butts and heavily charred wood designed to accentuate the natural flavours. Rich and spicy in profile with vanilla and buttery malt notes, this is an easy-going sipping dram that knocks the majority of blended malts right out of the park.

## Mossburn Island Malt Whisky (Scotland)

£42.99 per bottle • 46% ABV

There's further cask experimentation at play here with Mossburn's blend of single malts from the Islands. After a short period in American barrels for a gentle oak influence, this spends its second maturation in toasted virgin European oak to add a further layer of smoke to finish. Showing all the typical love-it-or-loathe-it coastal peatiness, its floral tones provide freshness, whilst drying spices - nutmeg and cinammon - lend depth.



## Baron de Sigognac 10 Year Old Armagnac (France)

£44.99 per bottle • 40% ABV

The Guasch family can trace their Gascon roots back to the 12th century and the domaine is almost unique in the region, as all of its production is distilled into Armagnac and not wine. Distilled in one short, century-old column still and then blended with other aged spirits, this is an olfactory delight: fragrant with Arabica coffee beans, candied orange, prunes and toasty oak. Cigar lovers will find this perfectly suited to a Havana cigar.



## Frapin VSOP Cognac (France)

£54.99 per bottle • 41% ABV

One of the few remaining independent houses, Frapin source all of its fruit from 240 hectares of Premier Cru vineyards in the Grande Champagne subregion of Cognac. A smooth and complex brandy, rich in raisined fruit and marmalade notes. On the finish, a hit of warming Christmas spice and the faint suggestion of salted caramel. A dependable after-dinner pour. Best VSOP, World Cognac Awards.



## Rowan's Creek Straight Kentucky Bourbon (USA)

£59.99 per bottle • 50% ABV

Micro-batch, desert island American whiskey from the celebrated Kentucky Bourbon Distillers Company. Aged for 12 years in toasted oak barrels, it's showing spicy-sweet nuances of popcorn, orange zest, crème caramel, vanilla fudge and nutmeg. Although this does come in it at an eye-popping 100.1 proof (50% ABV), it is nonetheless soft as velvet. Take a sip every 10 minutes or so and see how the flavours unfurl.



# Wine School 2021

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Want to learn more about wine? Struggling to navigate a restaurant wine list? Or just need to get out of your vinous rut? Join a small group of like-minded wine lovers as we taste through the world's many regions and grape varieties at these informal, but informative wine classes. There's no prior knowledge or experience necessary, so they are perfect for budding enthusiasts and seasoned oenophiles alike. Gift boxed vouchers are available.

<b>Introduction to Wine</b>	Friday 29 January
<b>Bordeaux</b>	Friday 26 February
<b>Chardonnay</b>	Friday 26 March
<b>England</b>	Friday 30 April
<b>Spain &amp; Portugal</b>	Friday 28 May
<b>Riesling</b>	Friday 25 June
<b>Sparkling</b>	Friday 30 July
<b>Italy</b>	Friday 27 August
<b>Rhône Rangers</b>	Friday 24 September
<b>Africa &amp; Middle East</b>	Friday 29 October
<b>Burgundy</b>	Friday 26 November

*All classes run from 7pm - 9pm at Taurus Wines*

**£40 per class**

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