

South Africa

Elgin

Grapes:
Cabernet Franc

Nomad Wines "Franc" Cabernet Franc 2019

£19.50

In February 2014, our very own Pieter Kruger and Kosie van der Merwe met in a cellar in Elgin, South Africa. There was an instant connection between these two wine fanatics, sharing similar philosophies about wine and tastes in the wine they like to drink, needless to say, a close friendship followed. After ongoing discussions, deliberations and heated debates, these two friends decided, on a wine trip abroad, that discussions and deliberating about wine was not enough and they produced and bottled a wine together. A wine that should be absolutely smashable and perfect for a 'braai' (South Africa name for BBQ). A couple of bottles of this 'braai wine' made its way back to London in Pieter's suitcase, where he tasted it with some colleagues and after great feedback, the friends realised the 'braai wine' should be shared with as many people as possible and that is where the Nomad Wine project was born. The Nomad Wines project is a soil and site driven project, focussing on different sustainably farmed sites around the Overberg, in the Western Cape. When asked about how they chose these sites and farmers, the friends responded, 'we like to work with people we know, people that share the same philosophies of sustainability and most importantly they have to be lekker people (Afrikaans term for nice and friendly people)'.

Franc is made from 100% Cabernet Franc, naturally fermented and 40% whole bunch. The wine was made in a fresh and agile style, a red wine that should be enjoyed a little chilled, as we think a lot of red wines are drunk far too warm, and by chilling the wine you bring out the most delicate almost chalk-like tannin structure. The Elgin Valley with its unique cooler growing conditions allowed for a dark, intense almost crunchy fruit profile, while the slate-like ferricrete soils on the Belfield farm, assisted with lower vine vigour while producing a wine of great concentration and the most amazing intense colour. Maiden vintage - only 850 bottles produced!



Portugal

Alentejo

Grapes:
Touriga Nacional

Fitapreta Vinhos 'A Touriga Vai Nua' 2019

£15.95

'Touriga goes naked' - without any oak. Queen of all Portuguese grapes, Touriga Nacional is known for its floral aromas. This little wine comes from schist and granite soils of the Alentejo region, south of Portugal. Fitapreta focus on sustainable farming and low yields to increase quality.

After meticulous sorting, grapes are gently crushed and moved by gravity into temperature regulated vats where they are fermented with wild yeasts.

This has not seen any oak barrel and has an intense violet-ruby colour and excites with plenty of pure, dark berry fruit such as plums, blackberries, black cherries interwoven with a fine floral element that almost reminds of Earl Grey Tea! On the palate it has beautiful precision and finely rounded tannins.



France

Cahors

Grapes:
Malbec

Cahors Le Croizillon Château Les Croisille 2018 £14.95

Château Les Croisille is an organic winery in the southern French region of Cahors. Cahors is, without a doubt, one of the most dynamic appellations in Southwest France. Recently, the area has gained momentum within the wine industry, due to the dedication and innovation of a group of winemakers in their thirties, re-energizing the Lot region's most renowned varietal - Malbec. Château Les Croisille is one of the vineyards taking part in this revolution, by utilizing sustainable farming practices and modern winemaking techniques to create Cahors wines with finesse, freshness and balance. This family-run vineyard has been passed on to the next generation and, with this change in leadership, some changes occurred in the vineyard including conversion to organic viticulture.

The main grape variety here is Malbec (known locally as Côt), and this unoaked style bursts with bright red fruit flavours, some blueberries and also offers the typical fine structure and a long fine finish you'd expect from Cahors.



New Zealand

Hawke's Bay

Grapes:
Syrah

Trinity Hill Syrah 2017 £17.95

Since its inception in 1993, partners John Hancock, who has been making wine in New Zealand for over 35 years, and Robert and Robyn Wilson, owners of The Bleeding Heart and The Don in London, have made Trinity Hill a byword for quality and consistency. Winemaker Warren Gibson has been with Trinity Hill since 1997. He is also in charge of the 80 hectares of vineyard owned by Trinity Hill, 47 of which are located in the Gimblett Gravels area of Hawkes Bay. The wines reflect this, as they characterise the best of what Hawkes Bay can produce. They have an elegance, balance, drinkability and precision of flavour that makes them a joy to sell.

This Syrah has aromas of blackberry, spice and liquorice which combine to produce a complex, fruit-dominant wine. A small inclusion of the white grape variety Viognier gives the wine beautiful perfume and allows for more accessibility while young. The wine is deliberately released at a very youthful age to maximise the beautiful perfume and fruit freshness.

We would say this could be your perfect wine to go with that late summer BBQ!



Bulgaria

Thrace Valley

Grapes:
Pinot Noir

Roagna Dolcetto d'Alba 2017

£13.95

In the early 2000s Edoardo Miroglio, a well-known Italian textile and wine producer, found the perfect soil and climatic conditions to produce quality wines in the Thracian region. With the idea of combining Italian know-how in the development of vineyards and oenology with this terroir, he made his first vintage in 2005. Great value Pinot Noir is more mythical than a friendly game of twister at Chequers, so this terrific wine from Thrace in Bulgaria is a real find and reveals the potential for high quality grape growing in eastern Europe and the Balkans. Despite not generally being part of the brief at this money this has remarkable complexity with brushed woods, cherry fruit and essence of citrus fruits giving an intriguing but delicious interpretation of Pinot.



France

Languedoc

Grapes:
Carignan,
Grenache,
Mourvedre,
Syrah

Gérard Bertrand Domaine de Villemajou Corbieres 2018

£17.95

Produced by multi-award-winning winemaker (and ex-International Rugby player!), Gérard Bertrand, the essence of the wines of Villemajou lies in the concentration of the grapes, which bestows upon them a unique density and velvety texture. Their inner balance rests on the contrast they draw from the warm soil of galets roulés and cooler bedrock of clay and sandstone. The Mediterranean blends of Villemajou reveal their generosity and elegance, in both the reds and whites. In the red Grand Vin, old vine Carignan, the flagship of Villemajou, is blended with the colourful and spicy Syrah, the generous and coating Grenache, and the dark and fresh Mourvèdre. Their combined personalities add up to a unique complexity that is the foundation of the Grand Vin.

Aromatically rich and complex, with ripe blackcurrant fruit and hints of roasted coffee bean, leather and soft spice notes. Round and soft on the palate, with supple, well-weighted tannins. A perfect option as an alternative to Châteauneuf-du-Pape! We recommend decanting one to two hours before enjoying.



