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F.X. Pichler Ried Burgstall Riesling Federspiel 2016

F.X. Pichler is located in Wachau, where the Pichler family have been farmers in the region for five generations. Franz Xaver (F.X.) built a winery in 1971 and his son, Lucas, makes the wines today. Burgstall is a single vineyard which stretches across a high plateau featuring pure gneiss and granite soils with blown-in sands on top. This sun drenched, breezy vineyard is most suitable for lacy, fruit-driven and purist Rieslings in the Federspiel range. It was the first vineyard picked in 2017 in order for Lucas Pichler to provide a Federspiel wine from the vintage. Fermented in stainless steel tanks, the wine was then stored in large old Austrian oak barrels and aged on fine lees for six months before bottling.

Region: Wachau, Austria

Notes: 'On the surface there is brisk, spicy grapefruit zest, while underneath the nose hints at generously ripe apricot and Mirabelle plum. The palate plays off juicy stone fruit and zesty citrus. The freshness is brisk and taut, while the fruit is charming and soft. With a slender, sleek and dry mouthfeel, this is just what you want from Riesling.'

Anne Krebiehl MW, Wine Enthusiast.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2025

Food match: Gravlox of beetroot cured salmon

Alc/Vol: 12.5%



Soumah Equilibrio Single Vineyard Chardonnay 2017

Soumah Wines set out to select an exact location that delivered every advantage of a cool climate, undulating topography and ancient soils. They found just the right vineyard, located down a country lane in the dress circle Warramate foothills of the Yarra Valley. Situated an average of 120 metres above sea level, their vineyard is elevated up off the valley floor which gives some protection against winter frosts while gentle slopes help drain the soil. The ancient mountain-derived grey sandy clay loams with broken sandstone offer water holding capacity to protect the vines from summer drought stress. Low fertility and lower summer rainfall naturally limit the crop, while cool nights and a slow temperature rise during the day help retain unique aroma and flavour profiles.

Region: Yarra Valley, Vic

Notes: 'It's straw-coloured, blessed with nectarine and white peach flavour, shows hand-in-glove spicy oak and carries the odd crackle of both flint and mineral. It feels juicy and well-ripened throughout, without being pushed. It has tension without being overtly tense. In short it's in a very good place.'

Huon Hooke – The Real Review.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2027

Food match: Ravioli with ricotta and black truffle

Alc/Vol: 13.5%



Gundog Estate Poacher's Blend Semillon 2014

A boutique producer of premium wines, Gundog Estate engages passionate growers who deliver the highest quality fruit every year. In the winery, the winemaking team is lead by award-winning winemaker Matt Burton, who employs a thoughtful combination of new and old world practices to deliver high quality wines which balance fruit flavour and complexity whilst telling a story of the region. The Poacher's Semillon is all about quality. This is a flagship wine that is designed to showcase the quality of the variety, and source vineyards. The foundation of the 2014 blend are wines produced from blocks of old vine Semillon grown on lighter soils in the Somerset vineyard. These sites delivered beautifully balanced grapes, with fantastic purity of flavour. In the winery, double juice settling and racking was followed by cool fermentation. After four months on light lees, the wines were blended and gently fined prior to bottling.

Region: Hunter Valley, NSW

Notes: 'Still so youthful on the nose with typical notes of citrus, lemongrass alongside spice and stone fruit. The palate has a delicious and refreshing saline twist to it, with great concentration and purity. The fruit here verges on the more tropical with rambutan flavours alongside hints of toast, smoke and the waxy characters so typical of an aged Semillon.'

Sarah Linhart, Wine Buyer.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2030

Food match: Freshly shucked oysters

Alc/Vol: 11.0%



Hello Decanter wine club member,

Happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but I've stopped making new year's resolutions. I couldn't see the point given that by halfway through January, I'd always forgotten what they were! So, if you have made some resolutions of your own, I do hope they're not wine oriented as your February Decanter pack contains a fabulous array to help you celebrate the arrival of 2020.

The first wine I'd like to highlight is the **Gundog Estate Poacher's Blend Semillon 2014**. Not only is it a stunning wine from the legendary 2014 vintage, just getting hold of some was a bit of a coup. Gundog Estate, being a fairly young winery, has only started releasing museum wines and those that are being released are of such small quantity that they're being reserved for cellar door sales only. I tasted this Semillon during a recent visit to the winery and I was so impressed, I'm not too proud to admit I begged Matt Burton, the winemaker, for an allocation for Decanter subscribers. It is drinking beautifully now but will continue to age gracefully for another ten years.

The other wine I'd like to draw your attention to is the **M de Marquis de Terme Margaux 2014**. This is the second wine of Fourth Growth Château Marquis de Terme, which sits in the appellation of Margaux, located in the southern area of the Medoc. The wines of Margaux are famed for their silky texture, supple tannins and overall elegance. The 40 hectare vineyard is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot on gravel, sand, limestone and clay soils. The M de Marquis de Terme has the grace and elegance you would expect from a Margaux, but with more approachability than the Grand Vin. It's an attractive, well balanced wine with lovely fruit weight, a hint of perfume and a delicate structure.

I hope you enjoy your February wine plan pack. If you have any feedback, please don't hesitate to send me an email: wineplans@thewinecollective.com.au

Wishing you all the best for 2020!

Best regards

Sarah Linhart

Wine Buyer

Key : Number of bottles in pack Cork Six Pack Organic

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Brothers At War Single Vineyard Eden Syrah 2015

Brothers at War Wines began in 2013 with a tonne of grapes and two brothers' vision to create world class wines with a unique expression, using small parcels of exceptional fruit from some of the Barossa's greatest characters. While only in their 20s, Angus and Sam Wardlaw could be considered veterans of the winemaking game, having had access to the vast knowledge (and cellar) of their 'old man', David Wardlaw, a pioneer of Barossa winemaking. Then there's older brother Andrew, who started his winemaking career in the 90s and before long, was producing some of the first natural wines in the region. Picking up childhood friend Matt Carter (who has long performed the role of referee between the brothers) and Eden Valley vigneron Chris Alderton along the way, Brothers at War has grown into an award-winning wine label.

Region: Eden Valley, SA

Notes: 'Lovely wine. Energetic, textural, aromatic and satisfying. Not a bad combination. Blue, red and black berries. Graphite. Cloves. Violets. And mint. Classic Eden Valley shiraz/syrah. Tannin clips it all attractively into line. Ultra-fine is the word.'

Campbell Mattinson - The Wine Front.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2025

Food match: Beef carpaccio

Alc/Vol: 14.0%



M de Marquis de Terme Margaux 2014

Originally established in 1762, the Margaux vineyard was purchased by Pierre Seneclauze in 1935, who has since passed it on to his sons, Pierre-Louis, Philippe and Jean, the current owners. Since 2009, the managing director, Ludovic David has undertaken a new direction for the winery, expanding the operation and bringing it into the 21st century. Château Marquis de Terme was classified a 4th Growth in the Official Classification of 1855. Located in the centre of the Margaux appellation, the property shares a similar climate to that enjoyed by the Médoc: maritime, with the Gironde estuary and the Bay of Biscay combining to act as a climate regulator and the coastal pine forests sheltering the vines from the westerly and north-westerly winds. The vineyards, planted with Cabernet Sauvignon 55%; Merlot 35%; Cabernet Franc 3% and Petit Verdot 7%, lie on gravelly-clay soils and vinification includes approximately 18 months wood ageing, including 40% new oak.

Region: Margaux, France

Notes: A superb Bordeaux showing exceptional concentration and complexity. Raspberry and dense black cherry fruits are supported by an ample palate with great balance and complexity giving good ageing potential.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2024

Food match: Grilled lamb cutlets with thyme

Alc/Vol: 12.5%



Massena Stonegarden Grenache Mataro Shiraz 2017

Massena was established in 2000 by Jaysen Collins and Dan Standish. Growing up amongst the old vines of the Barossa inspired a collaboration in making wines of character, balance and a reflection of the sense of enjoyment in the whole winemaking process. The search for amazing vineyards continued year after year which culminated in welcoming Stonegarden custodian Glen Monaghan into the Massena collective. The historic Stonegarden planting of Grenache can contain a proportion of other varieties inter-planted amongst the bush vines. This wine was made using grapes sourced from a section of the Stonegarden property that contain a denser proportion of Mataro and Shiraz amongst the Grenache. Wild fermented with 100% whole bunch inclusion, then aged on lees in seasoned French oak puncheons for 12 months and bottled without fining or filtration.

Region: Eden Valley, SA

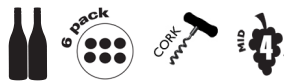
Notes: 'Picture perfect. Cherry-berry flavours, woody spices, strings of tannin, a general fleshiness. Woodsmoke overtones. Feels unfettered and free-flowing and yet it retains its shape throughout. Flings of wild, fragrant herbs for good measure. Just a lovely wine.'

Campbell Mattinson - The Wine Front.

Cellar: Cellar up to 2038

Food match: Five spice beef short ribs

Alc/Vol: 14.0%



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