



Great Grog

CHRISTMAS WINE LIST 2024

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We're here to help!

Advice -
wine vs food pairing,
wine styles,
quantities for parties or
weddings,
you name it,
we can advise it.

Gift Vouchers (page 42)

**Ready-Made Recommended Wine
Cases (page 24)**

Wine Club (page 3)

Party/Event/Wedding Supply

Sale or Return

Glass hire

Ice (& free tub hire for ice)

KEY

- ⊗ = screwcap
- V = vegetarian
- V+ = vegan
- O = organic
- B = biodynamic

BEER! Our shops
sell 700+ beers from
around the world.
Pop in and explore.

vintages / prices / alcohol levels
correct at time of print
These may change over
the next 3 months.

**Mixed cases: we will substitute any
wine out of stock with a lovely wine of
same style & at
least equal value.



A toasty warm, cuddly welcome to our 26th Christmas wine list, which I believe makes us the longest continuously trading wine merchant in Edinburgh....!

Our range is stronger than ever, with more wines, more regions, more choice in every way, than ever before. I hope you enjoy it (thanks/blame goes to Heather for the editing!).

2024 has been a busy old year. The Pleasance grogshop which we took over from Laurence Smith (est 1883) had a cracking festival with lots of tastings going on in the “tasting room” (even more next year). The Dalkeith grogshop has continued to be busier than ever despite the proximity of the Pleasance (crazy but true).

I hope you find the chat in the list helpful and informative.

Cheers - Richard

We run a small wine club with big benefits and no joining fee.

To become a member, just set up a regular, monthly standing order. All the money in your ‘Groggy’ account can be spent on any Grog products you love.

All memberships include;

10% discounts for £100+ a month

5% discount for £75 - £99 a month

Monthly Newsletter

Exclusive offer wines

First refusal on limited bin ends

First refusal for Dinner / Tasting Tickets

Exclusive Tastings

Monthly Statement

Free entry to the Afternoon session of our Spring & Christmas Wine Fairs



Highlights for this year’s members have been our Mystery cases with an average saving of £70. 12 bottles of wine priced from £8 - £50, from a great mix of countries and styles with some absolute gems. We also had various limited parcels including beautifully aged Spanish reds and Portuguese whites.

To join or for more details, please mail clare@greatgrog.co.uk

LAST ORDER DATES

UK wide via courier → **Monday 16th December**

Glasgow → **Wednesday 18th December**

Edinburgh → **Monday 23rd December**



Suggested last order dates to ensure we can safely get your wine to you in time.



FABULOUS FESTIVE OFFERS



Our choice of the festive bargains to offer inspiration. There are loads more special Christmas offers dotted throughout the list, marked in red. Please also keep an eye on our website for any late arrivals. If you would like to be kept up to date with our many bins ends as they come in, please join our mailing list by messaging richard@greatgrog.co.uk.

URBAN PARK APPASSIMENTO, ITALY

Mini-Amarone, dried grapes, 6 months oak, smooth cherry chocolate richness. A solid Grog Christmas favourite!

SAVE **£11.75**
£1.75



CIRCLE OF LIFE WHITE, S AFRICA

Fresh lime and pear flavours with a creamy texture and great length. A cracking blend of Sauvignon, Chenin and Semillon.

SAVE **£11.65**
£2.00



PATRIA NUEVA CHARDONNAY, CHILE

This is gorgeous. Bags of peaches, melon, toast, butter, cream and coconut caramel. We love this at Grog HQ.

SAVE **£10.69**
£1.00



COTES DU RHONE SEGURET, FRANCE

Deep, dark fruit, cracked black pepper, exotic spice and vanilla. As sexy as red wine gets, never fails to impress.

SAVE **£15.60**
£1.05



FERGHETTINA FRANCIACORTA, ITALY

There is more to Italian sparkling wine than Prosecco as this fantastic, elegant sparkly proves. Lively ripe citrus and apple fruit.

SAVE **£22.69**
£2.70



TOKAJI JULIET VICTOR, HUNGARY

*Deep gold with ripe mango, grapey floral hints, spice and honey. Lusciously sweet, rich and silky. *VERY LIMITED* 50cl*

SAVE **£20.00**
£15.00



LOS HAROLDOS HERMANDAD MALBEC, ARGENTINA

Really incredible. Full bodied, rich, ripe black fruits, violets & vanilla.

SAVE **£22.69**
£5.00



DASCHBOSCH STEEN, S AFRICA

Steen = Chenin Blanc. Intense and concentrated, wet stone, ripe citrus, creamy mango and warming butterscotch spice.

SAVE **£15.75**
£2.20



DOM. DE TOURELLES VV CINSULT, LEBANON

Exotic and ripe with red cherry and plum, figs and spice with nice acidity to finish.

SAVE **£17.09**
£2.60



TORO DE PIEDRA CAB / CARMENERE, CHILE

Blinder. Complex and serious, dark fruits, mix of spices, leather, bitter chocolate and coffee.

SAVE **£14.75**
£1.40



DOMAINE VEDILHAN SERICA VIOGNIER, FRANCE

Barrel Fermented, rich, sleek and silky with spicy stone fruit and bittersweet orange.

SAVE **£10.69**
£0.70



VALLONE PRIMITIVO, ITALY

Ripe succulent plum and dark cherry, with juicy blackberry, warming spice notes and supple tannins.

SAVE **£10.50**
£1.35





SIMON SAYS CARPE DIEM



I've always been fascinated by how our Mid-Winter feast is celebrated in other cultures outside our turkey-infested shores. Back in the mid-nineties, me and the good lady / missus / her indoors (I'm banned from using any of these epithets so I'm leaving them all here!), spent a bone-cold winter in Prague forcing English into mildly apathetic Czechs. They in turn forced very cheap and extremely good beer plus an ungodly amount of fried cheese (and a tiny bit of Czech) into us.

It was amazing to see the carp sellers on December street corners, guarding their tank of very alive, big fat bottom-feeders. They'd fish one or two out and off the punter would go, plastic bag rustling & writhing, to put the luckless creature into the family bath until the big feast & pressie day, which was actually Xmas Eve. Mind. Blown.

Apparently it's traditional to keep a couple of its scales in your wallet/purse for good luck in the New Year. Imagine keeping a rancid turkey foot in your phone case... Could the history of Eastern Europe have been different if they had discovered roast potatoes & Yorkshire pudding? Discuss....

Fatty, bony carp, even breaded and fried doesn't really do it for me banquet-wise, although I do like their traditional tatty salad. I mean- what would you drink with it? The Czech wine back then was a mainly brutal thin acidic Muller Thurgau, although now there's some great stuff around. There's even hipster natural wine bars and everything.

No matter if you're having a Swedish Smorgasbord, Ethiopian Doro Wat, Japanese KFC (it's a thing there says the interweb!), Norwegian roast pork, Italian Feast of the 7 fishes or Mexican Tamales and Bacalao, just enjoy with your favourite people and a glass or 2 of whatever you desire!

Veselé Vánoce!

Simon

I'll be mostly drinking;



Terre di Valter Sciapo Fiano di Avellino, £17.10

Pronounced "Chapeau" I take my literal hat off to this rare, barrel-aged beauty. Intense and Marvelous.



Minervois La Liviniere Domaine Tholomies, £23.55

My first wine crush was on a Minervois La Liviniere and this brings it all back. As deep as Jesus and as dark as a moonless midnight. Just fab.





AN ITALIAN IN CHAMPAGNE



Asking to myself, a born and bred Italian, to write and praise something that the French do incredibly well should be considered mobbing, or at least some kind of bullying from senior management. I was going to rudely refuse my contribute to the Xmas list with this content, but then I've remembered that I really like paying my bills, eat, etc... So here I am, doing the unthinkable and make my country disappointed in me.

Jokes apart, it is absolutely impossible to not appreciate Champagne. When it comes to taste, prestige, elegance, celebrations and history, there is simply nothing like it. So when Richard offered me to visit Reims, Hautvillers and Epernay I couldn't refuse.

We woke up incredibly early (or went to bed very late, depends how you want to see it), a quick and sleepy flight to Paris Orly and in about two hours we were in beautiful Reims where Richard had organised a tutored tasting with Taittinger, in the Demeure des Comtes de Champagne, a 12th century building right in Reims old town. (see picture).



In this beautiful setting we had the privilege of sitting down and sipping Taittinger NV, Taittinger Brut millesime' 2016, Taittinger Comtes del Champagne Blanc de Blancs 2013 and Taittinger Rose'. All of the wines were characterised by their light, delicate and fruity flavours, as results of the blending and tasting work that the Taittinger family has been doing since 1734.



Taittinger Brut NV, £46.49



Dom Perignon

Immediately after we drove towards the small village of Hautvillers, what some calls "Champagne Mecca" due to the fact that nevertheless that Dom Perignon lived in there and is now buried in a little church in the town centre. Hosted by Thierry Gobillard we were stunned to find out that our home for the next two days was right in front of the Church I have mentioned before.

The day after has been a very important day. Richard and Thierry were finally united, after years, to celebrate the occasion, the hospitality of the Gobillard family was nothing less than outstanding. After a nice breakfast (with some of the biggest pastry I've seen in my life) we went to visit the winery. Guided by Thierry we were stunned to see the quantity of vessels full of wines used to create the ideal blends of Champagne. We then visited the Caves where the wine is bottled and then aged. Back to the tasting room we had the pleasure of trying the full Gobillard range with a couple of very nice surprises! A 2016 vintage Blanc de Blancs from 100% Chardonnay grapes aged for several months into ex Puligny Montrachet barriques. An incredible wine with notes of peach, mango, candied pineapple, toasted bread and freshly baked croissants. Accompanied by a very robust and creamy structure. The other surprise was their new release "Pur Meunier" made from 100% Meunier grapes. It is a very unusual style as traditionally Meunier it is used in small percentages, blended with another 6 grapes.



PUR MEUNIER NV, £33.99

Very off piste champagne style. Full bodied and creamy with white peach and stewed plums.



CHARDONNAY 2016, £42.00

Full, rich and fine with exotic fruit and brioche. Only made in top vintages with a minimum of 8 year aging on lees.



The day went by and immediately after lunch we have visited the vineyard of Hautvillers in the legendary Route de Cumieres. A stunning spot where silence, peace and a sense of myth are dominant in the air. In this vineyard we had the chance to touch and see the vines and we have discovered that the Dom Perignon parcel is right next the Gobillard one. Remarkable if you put the prices of both wines in comparison.



Thierry Gobillard

The afternoon went by with actual rivers of Champagne getting poured into our glasses, at some point I've lost the count of it. Unfortunately, we came back to reality when we've heard that our flight to go back home the day after got cancelled. I shouldn't write this, but at that point a sense of happiness invaded me. It might have been the rivers of Champagne, the fabulous hospitality we have received by the Gobillard family, the sheer beauty of Hautvillers. Not sure but for a second I thought to myself: "I could live here...". Luckily Richard managed to take me back to reality, sorting out an alternative flight to get us back home.

The afternoon was then filled with more surprise and awe, mostly when Geoffrey (Thierry's nephew and the new, young face of the company) brought us to his own house to check what he called "his new hobby". We got into this beautiful courtyard and then into a tiny bar/gifts shop. Right behind a door there was what he called "his new baby". Not really sure on what is the technical term for it so I am gonna call it "the vinegar machine". Yes, exactly, on his spare time, as a hobby, the young Geoffrey had the smart idea of producing vinegar using the "leftover" of the grapes used to make wines. An incredibly smart idea to diversify the offerings and break the monotony of having to produce and drink Champagne for a living. The result of such idea was literally outstanding! So good that we have decided to order some for you to try, becoming Scotland's first Independent Champagne vinegar importer!



Geoffrey's 'Baby'

LES ENFANTS DE BACHUS CHAMPAGNE VINEGARS

✦ **VINAIGRERIE NO.1 CHARDONNAY, £7.99**
Aged in oak barrels. Precise, mineral and clean. Excellent for making mayonnaise or pepping up a sauce.

✦ **VINAIGRERIE NO.2 CONDIMENT BALSAMIQUE, £8.99**
A clever blend of chardonnay and grape must for that sought after sweetness. Delicious in just about anything from starters to dessert!

✦ **VINAIGRERIE NO.3 THYM, £8.49**
100% Oak aged Chardonnay with the addition of fresh Thyme. Brilliant with grilled meats or any Southern Mediterranean cuisine.

✦ **VINAIGRERIE NO.4 ROSEMARY, £8.49**
100% Oak aged Chardonnay with the addition of fresh Rosemary. Stupendous with seafood or combine with no.2 in a salad.

✦ **VINAIGRERIE NO.5 PINOT NOIR, £7.99**
Ripe, round and fruity with a touch of spice. Use to enhance a red meat sauce or vinaigrette. Aged in oak barrels.





Tobia

The day after we left Hautvillers, it was time to go home! Recovering from one of the best and booziest dinners ever attended by mankind we took off towards Paris to fly back home. But first, a very quick stop to Epernay to visit the oldest Champagne winery: Gosset. This incredible Maison is going since 1584!! It has survived wars, financial crisis, climate changes and all



Gosset cellars

that. Their key word is: "Elegance". Differently than many other Champagnes, they don't let their wines go through a step called malolactic fermentation, retaining the racy and raw acidity of the grapes. This stylistic choice allowed them to be added to the wine lists of some of the best restaurants of the planet, due to the adaptability to food pairings that their wines are able to offer. The caves of this wineries are incredible, with miles long underground tunnels where millions of bottles are left to age, surrounded by history and immerse in a religious silence.



It was the perfect goodbye to a place that I will never forget and that I can't wait to visit again, and this is a huge compliment, coming from an Italian....



GOSSET EXTRA BRUT NV, £42.50

Yummy, zesty, elegant style beloved by Sommeliers. Full of flavour, green apple freshness and creamy lemons.



CHAMPAGNE / white

GOBILLARD NV HALF BOTTLE	15.50	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Miniaturised Tradition...half the size yet all the pleasure of a big bottle.</i>			
ST THOMAS BRUT NV	26.50	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLIERS. Gobillard's entry level fizz. More Pinot Meunier = more fruit, berry flavours and a creamy fizz.</i>			
GOBILLARD NV BOTTLE	27.50	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Even Champagne can surprise you with how good it is. Delicate with yeasty, bready fruit.</i>			
GOBILLARD GRAND RESERVE	29.99	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Absolutely first rate 1er cru fizz. Great balance between citrus pizzazz, soft apple & toast.</i>			
GOBILLARD BLANC DE BLANCS NV	29.99	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. 100% Chardonnay. Light and crunchy green apple fruit makes for a great aperitif.</i>			
GOBILLARD PUR PINOT NOIR NV	29.99	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. 100% Pinot Noir - white champagne! Fruity & soft redcurrant notes with hints of raspberry leaf.</i>			
GOBILLARD PUR MEUNIER BRUT NV	33.99	12.0	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Very off piste Champagne style. Full bodied & interesting with creamy white peach and plum.</i>			
GOBILLARD VINTAGE 2018	33.99	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Taut, lithe and adroit - a gymnast of lemon peel, granny smith and tense minerality.</i>			
GOBILLARD PRIVILEGE DE MOINES NV	36.00	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Oak barrel matured Champagne. Very rich but dry and textural.</i>			
GOBILLARD CHARDONNAY 2016 BRUT	42.00	12.5	
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Full, fine, rich and tasty. Only made in top vintages with a minimum of 8 years on the lees.</i>			
GOSSET EXTRA-BRUT NV	42.50	12.0	V
<i>AY. 3 years on lees, 5 grams of sugar per litre only. Yummy, zesty, elegant style.</i>			
TAITTINGER NV	46.49	12.5	V+
<i>REIMS. Incredibly still family-owned. Light & elegant house style [plenty Chardonnay in the blend].</i>			
POL ROGER BRUT RESERVE NV	52.85	12.0	V+
<i>EPERNAY. A blend of 30 reserve wines this is a richer style of Champagne for special occasions.</i>			

GOSSET GRAND RESERVE NV	60.35	12.0
<i>AY. Probably needs food it is so rich. Big, toasty, minerally.</i>		
GOBILLARD CUVÉE 6	69.00	12.5
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Unique! 6 grapes; Arbane, Petit Meslier, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, Pinot Blanc.</i>		
GOSSET MILLESIME 2015	85.99	12.0
<i>AY. One of the best wines on the planet. Concentrated, long & delicious if you are lucky enough ever to try it.</i>		
GOBILLARD GRAND RESERVE *MAGNUM*	62.99	12.5
<i>HAUTVILLERS 2 Bottle size...the ideal format...it actually tastes better from magnum, no word of a lie!</i>		
GOBILLARD VINTAGE 2015 *MAGNUM*	75.30	12.5
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Gorgeous Champagne & even more so for being larger.</i>		
GOBILLARD GRAND RESERVE *JEROBOAM 3L*	160.00	12.5
<i>HAUTVILLERS 4 bottle size...a termite mound of bubbling joy.</i>		



CHAMPAGNE / pink

GOBILLARD ROSE PRESTIGE *HALF BOTTLE*	17.99	12.5
<i>HAUTVILLERS. A delicate river trout colour, fruity, expressive and full of flavour.</i>		
GOBILLARD ROSE NV	29.99	12.5
<i>HAUTVILLERS. Great raspberry and red berry Vented fizz, a firm Grog favourite.</i>		
GOBILLARD VINTAGE ROSE 2019	33.85	12.5
<i>HAUTVILLERS. A delicate river trout colour, fruity, expressive and full of flavour.</i>		
GOSSET GRAND ROSE NV	60.69	12.0
<i>AY. Simon says this delightful little pink drop is the elixir of beauty.</i>		
GOSSET CELEBRIS ROSE 2007	148.99	12.0
<i>AY. Strawberry, raspberry and redcurrant, giving a soft, full mouthful, with notes of grapefruit and lemon.</i>		
GOBILLARD VINTAGE ROSE 2015 *MAGNUM*	76.20	12.5
<i>HAUTVILLERS To be honest, this is the proper format for vintage rose Champagne</i>		



GETTING MARRIED?



Great Grog would love to help! We have loads of experience helping couples choose the best wine to fit with their day. We can offer unmatched advice and service to ensure confidence and peace of mind. Our free wedding tasting* helps you choose your delicious wines alongside expert guidance on quantity, food / wine matching and styles. We can provide free delivery to your venue and sale or return up to 30% of your order. Glass hire is also available along with ice, soft drinks and 400+ beers. ✨

Please have a look on our website for more details of how we can help, our service and to see our specially priced wedding winelist. ✨

Get in touch! We are always happy to chat and answer any questions you may have; ✨

richard@greatgrog.co.uk
0131 555 0222

* up to 5% of any order placed.





SPARKLING / white

JULES LAROSE BLANC DE BLANCS BRUT NV	8.79	11.0	
<i>FRANCE. Excellent value summer quaffer with lovely floral and citrus. The perfect party fizz!</i>			
PROSECCO CORTE ALTA DOC SPUMANTE NV	9.29	11.0	V+
<i>ITALY. Pleasingly effervescent Italian sparkler with fresh peach, pear, apricot and apple.</i>			
PROSECCO AMORI SPUMANTE EXTRA DRY	9.69	11.0	V+
<i>ITALY. Easy going sparkler with bright apple, peach and acacia.</i>			
PET-NAT FRERES CAROD NV	9.99	8.5	V+
<i>FRANCE. 'Method Ancestral' fizz. Light and grapey with floral citrus notes and a soft mousse.</i>			
PROSECCO LE DOLCI SPUMANTE	10.69	11.5	V+
<i>ITALY. Ripe, grapey and zesty with green apple, citrus with a soft delicate mouthfeel.</i>			
CAVA CAN XA BRUT NV	11.95	11.5	V+
<i>SPAIN. High quality Cava, pithy lemons, butter and toasted brioche with an elegant silky finish.</i>			
CREMANT DE LIMOUX SALASAR D'AZUR NV	12.25	12.0	
<i>FRANCE. Intense brioche nose, with honey and hazelnut. Lively and fresh with fleshy white stone fruits.</i>			
CREMANT DE LOIRE BRUT SAUVION NV	12.99	12.0	
<i>FRANCE. Lighter than Champagne but still with yeasty, brioche and fresh, crisp apple flavours.</i>			
DARLING CELLARS BLANC DE BLANCS 2021	13.99	11.5	V+
<i>S AFRICA. Champagne method sparkling Chardonnay with lees-y brioche some citrus and bruised apple.</i>			
PROSECCO VALDOBBIADENE CA'VITTORIA	14.89	11.5	V+
<i>ITALY. Focused, fruity, superior Prosecco. Generous white peach, grape & pear with a lovely, long finish.</i>			
CREMANT D'ALSACE DOPFF & IRION NV	16.99	12.0	V+ O B
<i>FRANCE. Lovely light and floral Cremant from a tiny 5 hectare estate.</i>			
CREMANT BOURGOGNE BRUT NV SIMONNET-FEBVRE *was 21.95	20.15	12.0	
<i>FRANCE. Utterly delightful fruity cremant with fresh pear and brioche and a dreamy mousse.</i>			
FERGHETTINA FRANCIACORTA BRUT NV *was 25.35	22.69	12.5	V+
<i>ITALY. Classy, Champagne method fizz with lemon brioche and toasty. elegant bubbles.</i>			

FERGHETTINA FRANCIACORTA BRUT NV, ~~25.35~~, £22.69

There is more to Italian sparkling wine than Prosecco as this fantastic, elegant sparkly proves. Produced in the Lombardy region to the far north of Italy by the Gatti family. This is a blend of 85% chardonnay and 15% pinot noir, fermented in steel and aged on lees for 30 months. Bright, lively and approachable with ripe citrus and apple fruit - well worth a try.



SPARKLING / pink

PROSECCO LE DOLCI SPUMANTE ROSE 2022	10.99	11.0	V+
<i>ITALY. Lovely light fizz, dry but bloomin' fruity.</i>			
CREMANT DE LIMOUX SALASAR ROSE NV	12.25	11.5	
<i>FRANCE. A delicious rose fizz with fresh strawberry and raspberry fruit and a delicate sea spray of saltiness</i>			



SPARKLING / red

MOLLY DOOKER SPARKLING SHIRAZ 2021	25.35	14.5	V+
<i>AUSTRALIA. Maraschino cherry and plum jam that progress into layers of milk chocolate and mocha.</i>			

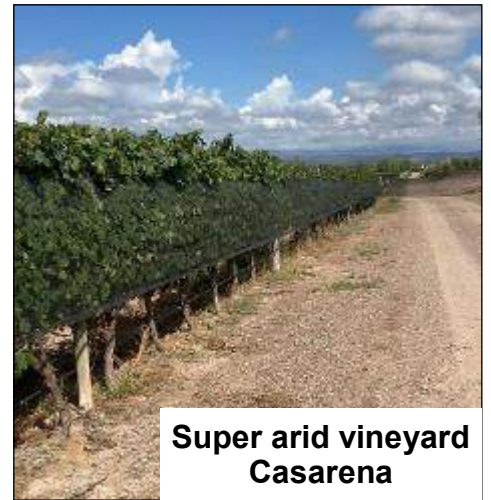
✦ The pirate's favourite country...ARRRR-GEN-TINA! ✦

Simon's odyssey in Mendoza, February 2024

Argentina is, to paraphrase Father Ted, both very big and very far away. 13 hours from London to Buenos Aires and 11.2 times bigger than the UK, with barely anybody in it, it's actually a mind-boggling space.



Most of the wine is another 2 hours west in a plane overland to Mendoza City, which breaks like a concrete wave against the sudden seawall of the Andes. Feels like, flat, flat, flat, flat, flat, flat, flat, flat, MOUNTAINS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It's a dry, rocky, dusty & high desert with vineyards scratched out of the poor soil. The locals have never even seen an umbrella and if it rains, actually hide under the kitchen table and whimper (I'm only half-joking). The only water and the only reason anything grows at all comes from Andean snow melt which the local tribe the *Huarpes* tempted & teased into channels to reach out into the parched landscape. Their tech was copied by the Spanish when they arrived in the C16th with their grapes and their religion.



Super arid vineyard
Casarena

The other saving grace for growing grapes is altitude, with elevation starting at 700m and going north of 3000m, bringing cool freshness-fixing nights to balance the heat & intense sunlight.

Spare a thought for the wine-makers in a region where there exists a monstrous mountain wind called the Zonda which without warning can flow down from the peaks, pushing the air from a gentle breeze to 150 miles an hour in literally seconds, blowing roofs of wineries, decimating trees and ruining your newly-set perm. Yikes.



Malbec Grape
Casarena

It's a perplexing country, one with massive natural wealth, but where generations of economic mismanagement has led to poverty for over half the population & eye-bleedingly high inflation. Most of the wine is driven through the Andes and shipped from Chile as the extra ship-time is still quicker than trying to negotiate the inefficiency of the east coast ports. The tight financial margins can perhaps be summed up by the existence of tyre-hire places for those wishing to pass the local MOT. You pop a fresh set on for the day then pop the bald-canvas-showing ones back on once you have your shiny certificate. Most of the farm trucks appear to date from an era before the internal combustion engine, and 11 seem to be largely made from wood.



Piedra Negra



Ancient wooden
truck - Los Haroldos



Casarena

There's not enough space to go into massive detail but to sum up the trip, reminiscent of one of those slightly cruel Japanese TV game shows, one where weary contestants roll into a mini-bus, trundle over to the morning winery, wander around a desiccated field for a bit, then swill & spit gallons of tannic red, then have kilos of flame-grilled meat (and perhaps one cherry tomato for balance) pitch-forked into their wine-stained faces, then do it again at the afternoon winery, but then repeat for 9 days straight.



Asado at Cavas Wine Lodge

I have sympathy for the foie gras goose....(I can see you all doing the windscreen wiper on the brows "dry your eyes" thingy)

Just remember...and this is important.... what we call the Argentine Tango here is just called the Tango over there.

Salud - Simon

TOP WINES....

✦ **Casarena Lauren Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc 2018, £29.05**

The future is Cabernet Franc all the floral notes you would expect from Cabernet Franc on the nose, complemented by a rich palate of tobacco and spice.



✦ **Alma Gemela Field White Blend 2020, ~~£19.09~~, £18.05**

Tiny production field blend kind of like a white Cote du Rhone. Textural and rich, with vanilla from French oak.



✦ **Altocedro Ano Cero Tempranillo 2021, £17.09**

Really juicy, ripe, black cherry fruit with spice and well integrated tannins. Big, bold, almost over-ripe in a winter-warmer, delicious way.



✦ **Alandes Paradoux Blanc NV, £27.35**

A hefty but clean multi vintage Bordeaux blend with complex layers of mineral notes, spice and herbs.





ARGENTINA / white

- ⊗ **CHACABUCO VIOGNIER 2023** **10.65** 13.0 V
 MENDOZA. A peach of a wine. Bursting with fruit & juiciness with a zing of refreshing high-altitude acidity.
- ALMA GEMELA WHITE FIELD BLEND 2020 *was 19.69** **18.05** 13.5
 UCO VALLEY. Tiny production. Textural and rich, with bright virus, white peach and vanilla from French oak.
- ALANDES PARADOUX BLANC NV** **27.35** 13.0 V+
 UCO VALLEY. A hefty but clean multi vintage Bordeaux blend with complex layers of mineral, spice & herbs



ARGENTINA / red

- ⊗ **LAS PAMPAS MALBEC 2023** **9.49** 13.5
 MENDOZA. Soft and supple with damson fruit, vanilla and toast.
- ⊗ **TESORO ANDES MALBEC/BONARDA 2023** **10.35** 13.0 V+
 MENDOZA. Brooding dark damson and bramble fruit with a twist of gentle spice. Great value.
- ⊗ **CHACABUCO MALBEC 2023** **10.65** 13.5 V+
 MENDOZA. Plum, damson and black cherries, smooth and soft with ripe dark berry fruit and warm spice.
- GOUGEUNHEIM MALBEC 2022** **11.35** 13.5 V
 MENDOZA. White pepper and spice, sweet blackberries, coffee and cherry chocolate. Full bodied & smooth.
- ⊗ **QUARA ESTATE MALBEC 2022** **11.85** 14.0 V
 CAFAYETE. Lightly oaked, very fruity with notes of plum, pepper and spices.
- ⊗ **NIETO MALBEC 2023 *was 12.19** **11.29** 14.5 V+
 MENDOZA. Tremendous flavours of plums, figs, and dried fruit with a smoky vanilla character.
- LOS HAROLDOS ESTATE BONARDA 2020 *was 12.65** **11.00** 14.0 V
 MENDOZA. Complex. Cinnamon, cherry tobacco and plum, blueberry pancakes, sweet smoke and dark fruit.
- LOS HAROLDOS ESTATE MALBEC 2022 *was 12.65** **11.00** 14.5 V
 MENDOZA. A perfect fusion of high-altitude fruit with mellow spice from oak maturation.
- PIEDRA NEGRA ARROYA GRANDE MALBEC 2022** **16.25** 14.0 V+ / O
 UCO VALLEY, MENDOZA: Blackberries and blueberries all meshed together in this velvety soft wine
- ALTOCEDRO ANO CERO TEMPRANILLO 2021** **17.09** 14.0 V+
 UCO VALLEY, MEDOZA. Really juicy, ripe, black cherry fruit with spice and well integrated tannins.
- LOS HAROLDOS GRAN CORTE 2020** **21.19** 14.5 V+
 MENDOZA. Big blend from Los Haroldos. Black pepper and sweet spice with a luscious figginess.
- ALANDES PARADOUX RED BLEND N.V.** **25.79** 14.5 V+
 MENDOZA. Stunning blend. Lovely, rich blackcurrant, cardamon, dark chocolate & pepper with supple tannins.
- LOS HAROLDOS HERMANDAD MALBEC 2020/21 *was 26.49** **21.19** 14.5 V
 MENDOZA. Expertly-made top-notch red. Really incredible. Full bodied, rich, ripe black fruits, violets & vanilla.
- CASARENA AGRELO LAUREN CABERNET FRANC 2018** **29.05** 14.5 V+
 MENDOZA. Bright fruit & floral notes, complemented by a rich palate of tobacco and spice.
- MEG ESCORIHUELA GASCON MALBEC/CABERNET 2018/** **38.55** 15.0
 UCO VALLEY. Wafts of violets & orange rind then a juicy unctuous mouthful finishing with subtle creamed oak.



AUSTRIA / white

- ⊗ **GRUNER VELTLINER DOMAINE BAUMGARTNER 2023** **10.99** 13.0 V+
 WEINVIERTAL. A "drink me now" sort of bottle. Zippy and refreshing and fabulous value methinks.
- ⊗ **GRUNER VELTLINER-SEPP MOSER 2022** **14.65** 12.0 V+ O
 KREMSTAL. Dry and aromatic, touch of white pepper atop of a pile of white peach and just ripe pear flavour.



AUSTRALIA / white

- ⊗ **MURPHY'S CHARDONNAY 2023** **8.65** 13.5 V+
MURRAY RIVER. Soft and fruit driven daily drinker brimming with nectarine, melon and peach.
- ⊗ **SOLDIERS BLOCK CHARDONNAY 2023** **9.45** 12.5 V+
VICTORIA. Vibrant, fleshy & full of nectarine, melon and citrus fruit. A small portion is oaked to add weight.
- ⊗ **RIVER RETREAT SAUVIGNON BLANC 2022** **11.35** 12.5 V+
MILDURA. Zesty, tropical, easy drinking and light with passionfruit and juicy citrus.
- ⊗ **CAPEL VALE DEBUT SEMILLON/SAUVIGNON 2020** **13.65** 13.0
MARGARET RIVER. Racy, ripe & beautifully balanced with lime sorbet, white flowers and a long crisp finish.
- ⊗ **CORIOLE FIANO 2023** **17.29** 12.5 V+
MCLAREN VALE. Soft, floral & fruity with fresh acidity, stone fruits, citrus, lemongrass and subtle fennel notes.



AUSTRALIA / red

- ⊗ **ROWLANDS BROOK SHIRAZ 2023** **8.50** 13.5 V+
SE AUSTRALIA. Big, bold Ozzie Shiraz with velvety tannins, forest fruits and a spicy finish.
- ⊗ **MURPHY'S SHIRAZ 2021** **8.65** 14.0 V
MURRAY RIVER. Our standard bearer and champion wine. Cherry, cassis, mocha, sweet plum and spice.
- ⊗ **PECULIAR MR PAT MERLOT 2022** **8.99** 13.5 V+
S E AUSTRALIA. Bright, plush, soft and mellow easy going red with ripe vanilla plums. Highly drinkable!
- ⊗ **SOLDIERS BLOCK SHIRAZ 2022** **9.39** 14.0 V+
LANGHORNE CREEK. Great value. Mulberry plums, some herby notes and a lick of vanilla.
- ⊗ **MCPHERSON JOCK'S CABERNET 2021** **10.39** 14.5 V
VICTORIA. Concentrated, juicy, bright, fruity and perfumed. A racing wine; goes bloody quickly when opened.
- ⊗ **BELLA LUNA NERO D'AVOLA 2022** **12.35** 13.0 V
VICTORIA. Light, juicy & aromatic, floral spice with red fruits & herbs pulled together with a wee touch of oak.
- ⊗ **TRENTHAM MERLOT 2021** **13.05** 13.5 V+
BIG RIVERS. Soft, velvety & layered with sweet plum, cherry, spice, a touch of mocha and subtle oak.
- ⊗ **TRENTHAM NEBBIOLO 2021** **13.29** 13.5 V+
BIG RIVERS. Effectively a Barolo made in Australia. Blackberry, plum, complex spice, earth and ripe tannins.
- ⊗ **CORIOLE MOLLY GARDEN SHIRAZ SANGIOVESE 2022** **13.59** 14.5 V+
MCLAREN VALE. Spicy Shiraz & juicy Sangiovese is a great combo. Black tea, bay and spicy berries.
- ⊗ **DON'T TELL GARY SHIRAZ 2021** **14.50** 14.8 V
GRAMPIANS. Super peppery and aromatic with the pepper totally woven through the soft dark fruits.
- ⊗ **CORIOLE NERO 2023** **15.99** 14.5 V+
MCLAREN VALE: Macerated raspberry, cherry cola and strawberry ice cream. A summer fruit bomb!
- ⊗ **BREMERTON SELKIRK SHIRAZ 2021** **16.75** 14.5 V+
LANGHORNE CREEK. Deep vibrant colour, pepper, rich sweet ripe berry fruit and a hint of coconut oak.
- ⊗ **JJ HAHN STELZER ROAD MERLOT 2022** **16.95** 14.0
BAROSSA VALLEY. Juicy drop of stewed plums, blackcurrant, cloves and vanilla. Long and plush.
- ⊗ **JJ HAHN HERMANN'S SHIRAZ 2021** **16.95** 14.0 V+
BAROSSA VALLEY. Fine grain tannins, judicious oak, fine fruit, superb length and balance of flavours. Classy.
- ⊗ **TRENTHAM HEATHCOTE SHIRAZ 2020** **17.95** 14.5 V+
HEATHCOTE. Rich, balanced, long, ripe and smooth. Pepper, plum, dark cherry, chocolate & toasty oak.
- ⊗ **MOLLY DOOKER BOXER SHIRAZ 2021** **26.25** 16.0 V+
MACLAREN VALE. Spicy red fruit & dark chocolate on the nose; plum, cassis, vanilla and oak on the palate.
- ⊗ **BREMERTON OLD ADAM SHIRAZ 2021** **32.90** 14.5 V+
LANGHORN CREEK. Juicy fruit perfectly merged with fine oak. Damson berries, cherry, cinnamon & pepper.



CHILE / white

⊗ LOS COCHES VIOGNIER 2024	8.49	13.0	V+
<i>RAPEL / CENTRAL. Ripe and full bodied with plentiful stone fruit, citrus and a touch of honey on the finish.</i>			
⊗ LADERA VERDE SAUVIGNON 2023	8.49	12.5	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY, Crisp and fresh with gooseberry fruit and a zippy limey citrus finish.</i>			
⊗ LADERA VERDE CHARDONNAY 2023	8.49	13.0	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Brilliant value tropical fruit bomb with nice weight and creaminess. Very sexy.</i>			
⊗ PATO TORRENTE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023	8.49	12.5	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Great value, pleasing white. Resistance is futile.</i>			
⊗ SANTA ALBA SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023	8.80	13.0	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Gooseberry, wild herbs and ripe citrus fruits. Light, dry and full of fruit.</i>			
⊗ SANTIAGO SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023	8.80	13.0	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Bright as a button, clean as a whistle; fresh with bags of lemon and lime.</i>			
⊗ VENTEPURO SAUVIGNON BLANC 2022	10.59	14.0	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Pure, intense flavours of citrus, tropical fruits and grassy notes.</i>			
PATRIA NUEVA RESERVE CHARDONNAY 2021 *was 11.69	10.69	13.5	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Wow this is gorgeous. Bags of peach, melon, toast, butter, cream and coconut caramel.</i>			
⊗ TABALI GRAN RESERVA VIOGNIER 2022	12.79	13.5	V+
<i>LIMARI VALLEY. Fresh and aromatic with citrus, orange and stone fruit. Subtle but delicious.</i>			



CHILE / red

⊗ PATO TORRENTE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2023	7.99	12.5	V
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Great value, pleasing cassis cutie. Resistance is futile.</i>			
⊗ LOS COCHES CARMENERE 2023	8.49	13.0	V+
<i>RAPEL / CENTRAL. Full of bright, fresh red berry fruit, cinnamon spice and a touch of vanilla.</i>			
⊗ LOS COCHES PINOT NOIR 2023	8.49	12.5	V+
<i>RAPEL / CENTRAL. Ripe and smooth with plums, cherry chocolate and spice.</i>			
⊗ LADERA VERDE CABERNET SAUV 2023	8.49	13.0	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Easy drinking and approachable fruity red. Ripe and rounded.</i>			
⊗ PATO TORRENTE MERLOT 2023	8.49	13.0	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Generously fruity with soft tannins, ideal to drink on its own, or your own. Why share?</i>			
⊗ LADERA VERDE MERLOT 2023	8.49	13.0	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Mellow, plush and plummy. Almost too easy to drink style.</i>			
⊗ VICUNA MALBEC 2023	8.65	13.0	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Medium-bodied and juicy, damson, dark cherry, plum and chocolate. 3 months in oak.</i>			
⊗ SANTA ALBA MERLOT 2022	8.80	13.0	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Racy little red from a family-owned winery. Soft & juicy with black fruits and subtle smoke.</i>			
⊗ SANTIAGO PINOT NOIR 2022	8.99	13.0	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Delicious wee glugger. Pale and fresh, cherry, strawberry and hints of sweet spice.</i>			
⊗ SIERRA GRANDE CABERNET 2023	9.39	14.0	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Really soft, pure Cabernet bursting with blackcurrant, herbs and hints of green pepper.</i>			
⊗ DEBAJO DRY FARMED CARIGNAN 2021	9.45	13.5	V+
<i>CENTRAL VALLEY. Juicy bottle of joy with fresh red berry compote and a touch of liquorice</i>			
SANTA ALBA RESERVE CABERNET 2021 *was 10.29	9.40	13.5	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Mellow for a Cabernet. Nice, juicy, plum fruit, good balance of tannins & fruit. Great value.</i>			
SANTA ALBA RESERVE CARMENERE 2022	10.29	13.5	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Like Merlot with knobs on - it's rich, velvety, plummy, dark and chocolatey. Yum.</i>			

SANTA ALBA RESERVE PINOT NOIR 2022	10.39	13.0	V+
<i>MAULE VALLEY. Wild berries and a note of cinnamon smoke, luscious dark cherries covered in chocolate.</i>			
⊗ ADOBE RESERVE PINOT NOIR 2022	10.45	13.5	O / V+
<i>BIO-BIO. Fairly light, delicate and elegant Pinot with fresh, sour cherry notes, strawberry and subtle spice.</i>			
PATRIA NUEVA CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019 *was 11.69	10.69	14.0	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Juicy & intense, full of dark cherry, strawberry, cedar, licorice, roasted nuts and toast.</i>			
⊗ ARAUCANO RESERVA CARMENERE 2020	13.49	13.5	V+
<i>COLCHAGUA VALLEY. The purest, freshly crushed blackcurrant fruit, very smooth and complete.</i>			
⊗ HUMO BLANCO RESERVA SYRAH 2020	15.69	14.0	V+
<i>LOLOL. Complex, supple wine with concentrated flavours of black cherries, liquorice and white pepper.</i>			
TORO DE PIEDRA GRAN RES CARM/CAB 2021 *was 16.15	14.75	14.0	V+
<i>CURICO VALLEY. Blinder. Complex & serious, dark fruits, a mix of spices, leather, bitter chocolate & coffee.</i>			
VIU MANENT LA CAPILLA CAB SAUV SINGLE V/Y 2021	27.49	14.0	V+
<i>COLCHAGUA VALLEY. Complex, rich yet refreshing mouthful of red fruit, cedar, herbs and black cherry.</i>			
VIU MANENT SAN CARLOS MALBEC 2021	27.49	14.0	V+
<i>COLCHAGUA VALLEY. Delicious elegant, fresh malbec with sweet ripe blackberry/currant fruit & floral notes.</i>			



EVENTS



Back, literally by popular demand,
RICHARD'S XMAS DAY TASTING
 25TH DECEMBER / 1PM / INSTAGRAM / FACEBOOK

1 X Gobillard Brut Tradition
 1 X Pouilly Fume Les Fine Caillottes
 1 X Chaume Arnaud Red

Just buy a pack and tune in **£60**



FESTIVE FIZZ TASTINGS

THURSDAY & FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH & 6TH
 7pm Royal Scots Club, Abercromby Pl, Edinburgh
 Kick off the jolly season with a guided journey through
 exploding bottles, popping corks, yeasty residues,
 wobbly monks, vigorous mousses (meese?), bone-dry
 bruts & perky pet-nats.

10 wines - 2 hours **£30**

WINE FAIR - FRIDAY 22 NOV

Check website for availability, tickets selling fast at time of printing (mid-Oct). £30

INSTAGRAM FRIDAYS

Check website— LIVE tastings from the Pleasance shop 5pm weekly. Just buy the bottle and tune in.



FRANCE / white

Alsace

GEWURZTRAMINER DOPFF & IRION 2022	14.29	14.0	V+
<i>ALSACE. Classic aromatic & off dry with lychee, rose and pineapple. Try with some really funky cheese.</i>			
⊗ TURCKHEIM GEWURZTRAMINER 2022	14.45	13.0	V+
<i>ALSACE. Medium-dry with lychee, rose petal and Turkish delight, freshened by zesty grapefruit in the mouth.</i>			
RIESLING GRAND CRU DOPFF & IRION 2020/21	20.99	13.0	V+ O B
<i>ALSACE. Fantastically intense Riesling. Rich honeyed citrus but with a seriously mineral finish. Brilliant.</i>			
GEWURZTRAMINER GRAND CRU DOPFF & IRION SPOREN 2019	24.99	13.5	
<i>ALSACE. Very impressive. Flavours of melon, white plum, peach, marzipan, peony, ginger and white pepper.</i>			



Riesling Grand Cru Dopff & Irion, £20.99

Fantastically intense Riesling from one of Alsace's flagship Crus. Rich honeyed citrus but with a seriously mineral finish.



Burgundy

ALIGOTE BOURGOGNE DOMAINE ROMANIN 2023	14.85	12.5	O
<i>MACON. Village produced Aligote. Zingy, zesty and zuper tasting.</i>			
MACON-SOLUTRE-POUILLY ROMANIN 2023	15.65	13.0	
<i>BURGUNDY. Chablis-esque in style with a brilliant clean, citrusy quality and creamy texture.</i>			
AUXERROIS SIMONNET FEBVRE 2019	16.69	14.5	
<i>AUXOIS: Fruity yet steely, clean and crisp. A fine wine from a very fine producer. Like Chablis, but not quite.</i>			
ST VERAN RESERVE COLLOVRA ET TERRIER 2022	18.55	13.0	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. Fantastic value Burgundy. Fresh cold butter and apple pie notes. Yum yum</i>			
⊗ CHABLIS MANANTS 2022	18.99	12.5	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. Clean and crisp unoaked Chablis with fantastic elegance and length. The ideal companion for fresh goats cheese or a shellfish platter.</i>			
POUILLY FUISSE TERROIR FUISSE ROMANIN 2022	21.05	13.0	V
<i>BURGUNDY. Exotic with hints of grapefruit enriched with nutty, vanilla oak from barrel fermentation. Big!</i>			
CHABLIS MALANDES 2022	22.45	12.0	O V+
<i>BURGUNDY. A particularly fine Chablis, family (nice people) run from great Terroir. Organic. Fine, delicious.</i>			
POUILLY FUISSE DEUX ROCHES COLLOVRA ET TERRIER 2022	26.90	13.0	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. Classy with a pristine streak of minerality that cuts through the stone fruit and Brioche notes</i>			
CHABLIS 1ER CRU MONTMAINS MANANTS 2022	27.79	13.0	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. Excellent quality Chablis with pristine citrus freshness, steely saline minerality and leesy texture.</i>			
MEURSAULT VALLET FRERE 2022	52.45	13.0	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. Top-end, traditionally made white, oak, minerals, hazelnut, ripe fruit - oh my!</i>			

Rhone

CHAUME ARNAUD WHITE 2023	14.99	13.5	V+ O B
<i>RHONE. Marsanne, Roussanne & Viognier. A classic aromatic, fruity yet complex Rhone .</i>			
CHAUME ARNAUD 'CADENE' WHITE 2023	19.29	13.5/14	V O B
<i>RHONE. Impressive mouthfeel, textural yet unoaked. Viognier, Marsanne, Roussanne aromatics are so good.</i>			
CONDRIEU VIDAL-FLEURY 2020	52.62	13.5	
<i>RHONE: Absolutely world class version of this rare wine. Rich, exotic and intoxicating.</i>			

Loire

MUSCADET SEVRE ET MAINE SUR LIE 'TRADITION' 2023	10.99	12.0	
<i>LOIRE. Up to 8 months on lees adds a nice weight to this citrusy saline wine with a mineral core.</i>			
TOURAIN SAUVIGNON DE LA BERGERIE 2022/23	11.49	13.0	V+
<i>LOIRE. Ripe and luscious Sauvignon with apples, kiwi and passionfruit. Tasty!</i>			
VOUVRAY LA FORCINE 2023	12.79	12.5	V+
<i>LOIRE. Delicious, beautifully balanced "not-bone-dry" Chenin with zippy citrus and ripe orchard fruit.</i>			
TOURAIN LA CHIPIE JACKY MARTEAU 2020	14.90	13.5	V+
<i>LOIRE. Would it be too much to say it would be brilliant with fish? Le Chippie? Honestly, it really is brill!</i>			
POUILLY FUME DOMAINE FINES CAILLOTES 2022	18.79	13.5	
<i>LOIRE: Lean, pure with chalky undertones and pristine acidity. Terra Vitis sustainable viticulture.</i>			
SANCERRE DOMAINE DAULNY 2023 75CL	20.15	13.0	V+ O B
<i>LOIRE. Lean and concentrated Sancerre with racy citrus and gooseberry. A small family farm.</i>			
SANCERRE DOMAINE DE LA TONNELLERIE 2022	20.15	13.0	V+
<i>LOIRE. Pristine Sancerre with lip smacking gooseberry and blackcurrant.</i>			
SANCERRE PRE SEMELE 2022	23.75	13.0	
<i>LOIRE. Great producer. Crisp, crunchy grapefruit and intense lime, mouthwatering and delicious.</i>			
POUILLY FUME LA MOYNERIE 2021 *was 28.75	26.25	13.0	V+
<i>LOIRE. Fresh green apple, lime and wet stone along with a hint of gooseberry and a smoky flintiness. Intense.</i>			

South

⊗ CUVEE DU ROY GASCOGNE SEC 2023	7.89	11.0	V+
<i>COTES DE GASCOGNE. Crisp and fresh packed with green apple, lemony citrus fruit and riper passion fruit.</i>			
⊗ LES VIGNERONS BLANC DE BLANC 2023	8.55	11.0	
<i>VIN DE FRANCE. Crisp, refreshing with grapefruit, tropical fruits and lemon with a really clean, zippy finish.</i>			
⊗ PARLEZ VOUS SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023	8.89	11.5	
<i>VIN DE FRANCE. Fresh, lively and zesty. Very New World in style but with a bit of French elegance.</i>			
⊗ ST MARTIN CHARDONNAY 2022	9.65	13.0	V+
<i>LANGUEDOC. Classy, slightly oaked white from the sunny Languedoc. White stone fruits, apple and peach.</i>			
⊗ DOMAINE GRAUZAN SAUVIGNON 2022	9.69	12.5	V+ O B
<i>LANGUEDOC. Great value French Sauvignon with tropical fruits and refreshing citrus.</i>			
⊗ DOMAINE TARIQUET CLASSIC BLANC 2022/23	10.25	11.0	V+
<i>COTES DE GASCOGNE. Lip-stinging blend of literally all the white grapes- grapefruit, nettle, citrus zest.</i>			
⊗ DOMAINE VEDILHAN VIOGNIER 2023	10.39	13.0	V+
<i>LANGUEDOC. Honeysuckle & ripe apricots with a nice bitter finish and silky texture. Perfect for Thai food.</i>			
⊗ DOMAINE GRAUZAN VIOGNIER 2022	10.45	13.5	V+ O B
<i>LANGUEDOC. Medium weight intense, juicy stone fruits, sweet citrus & white flowers.</i>			
⊗ LA LISSE SOIE D'IVOIRE CHENIN BLANC 2023	10.59	12.0	V+
<i>VALLEE DE L'AUDE. Loved this when we first tried it- luscious peach/apricot fruit and a dab of creamy oak.</i>			
⊗ PICPOUL DE PINET L'ORMARINE 2023	10.95	12.5	V
<i>LANGUEDOC. Ripe melon and bright zesty citrus plump up this juicy glugger with a light touch of pepper.</i>			
DOMAINE VEDILHAN SERICA VIOGNIER 2022 *was 11.39	10.80	13.5	V+
<i>LANGUEDOC. Barrel Fermented, rich, sleek and silky with spicy stone fruit and bittersweet orange.</i>			
⊗ PICPOUL DE PINET, TERRE D'EOLE 2023	11.10	12.5	V+
<i>LANGUEDOC. Nice weight from lees aging w citrus lemongrass + a subtle, salty tang.</i>			
ICARE CHARDONNAY 2022	11.95	14.0	V+
<i>LANGUEDOC. An instant Grog favourite. Spicy ginger cream, hazelnuts and baked citrus. Oof.</i>			
CHAUME ARNAUD PONTIAS WHITE 2023	13.99	13.0	
<i>VIN DE FRANCE. Crisp, full flavoured, balanced, tropical & fresh. Unusual grapes, delicious result.</i>			



A SANCERRE SOIREE



In July, Fraser & Richard (is he ever in Scotland?) touched down at Charles de Gaulle to visit some ubiquitous, yet somewhat esoteric French wine regions. We've recently taken on some fantastic new family producers in Chablis, Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé making a visit all the more tantalizing.

Firstly a stop at Domaine Malandes, official Chablis suppliers to the Paris Olympics. Amandine recently took over from her parents and they made the difficult cool-climate move to Organic viticulture in 2019. Delicious chalky mineral wines with the purest fruit.

✦ **Domaine Malandes Chablis, £22.45**

Crunchy green apple, lemony citrus and an amazing mineral quality.



Our second hardship was a stay in Pouilly Fumé to visit Domaine Caillottes whose wines are criminally cheap. Alain Pabiot took us through his rugged vineyards in his Jeep to demonstrate the different Kimmeridgian and Caillottes soils on either side of the road. They're composed of limestone, clay and fossilized oyster shells giving the wine its unique slightly smoky character in which one can almost taste the prehistoric sea. He came across as dynamic and extremely knowledgeable about his work - would love to get him and Cathy Marshall in a room together. He has been experimenting with some small plot expressions which were herbaceous and developing a waxy honeyed character - hopefully we'll sell them in the future.



✦ **Pouilly Fume Domaine Caillottes, £18.79**

Lean, zesty and expressive with riper peach notes and just a hint of fragrant smoke.



Finished up at Domain Daulny in Sancerre to sample their steely unoaked white and (watch this space) Rosé and red. Intensely pure, concentrated fruit. Etienne is another old school 4th generation producer. His wines don't undergo malolactic fermentation to retain freshness whilst a small portion is aged in oak for added complexity but no obvious oak flavour.

✦ **Domaine Daulny Sancerre, £20.15**

Classic Loire sauvignon. Lean and concentrated with racy citrus and gooseberry.



Chablis will always be Chablis, and the Malandes is a great one to elevate any occasion, but I was really surprised by the diversity & breadth of wine in the Loire. Seeing producers innovate to stand out from the crowd while utilising new winemaking techniques is fascinating. I think Jancis Robinson once said that Sauvignon can't age - I'd love to accompany her on a voyage of enlightenment.



FRANCE / red

Beaujolais

FLEURIE PRESIDENTE MARGUERITE 2021	13.35	13.0	V+
<i>BEAUJOLAIS. Fleurie is the flowery one and this is a floristically appealing version of this ever-popular village.</i>			
MORGON DOMAINE PUIITS 2023	13.60	13.5	V+
<i>BEAUJOLAIS. Morgon Village is King, Richer & more succulent than Fleurie with ripe berry fruit & subtle spice.</i>			
FLEURIE LA MADONE 2023	15.25	13.5	V+
<i>BEAUJOLAIS. Silky and elegant, crushed berry fruit, morello cherries and dark chocolate.</i>			

Bordeaux

CHATEAU MALBAT 2021	9.79	13.0	V+
<i>BORDEAUX. Lovely example of an everyday claret has great depth of colour good juicy cassis fruits.</i>			
CHATEAU LE PEUY SAINCRIT BORDEAUX 2019	11.65	15.0	
<i>BORDEAUX. A supple, plummy Claret with chocolate and delicate spice that punches above its weight.</i>			
CHATEAU MAYNE VIEIL 2018	14.75	14.5	
<i>FRONSAC. Merlot, lots of creamy dark fruit with earthy, rustic flavours, ripe and very drinkable.</i>			
CHATEAU PUY-BLANQUET ST EMILION GRAND CRU 2018	22.85	13.5	V
<i>ST EMILION. Delightfully intense, pure Claret that is impressively light and persistent.</i>			
POMEROL BALLADE DE LA POINTE 2018	28.55	14.5	
<i>BORDEAUX. Intense fresh black fruit with wood spices & hints of chocolate. Tannins are smooth & velvety.</i>			
ST JULIEN CHATEAU LALANDE 2018	31.79	15.0	
<i>BORDEAUX. Dense, concentrated and cassis-laden with lashings of new French oak.</i>			
PAUILLAC TOURELLES DE LONGUEVILLE 2017	46.49	13.5	V+
<i>BORDEAUX. Lucious Left Bank Claret with velvety tannins and rich, dark berry fruit.</i>			

Burgundy

BOURGOGNE PINOT NOIR 2023 VALLET FRERES	22.59	13.0	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. Traditional red Burgundy with a touch of earth underneath a ripe, sweet fruit core. Very lovely.</i>			
RULLY LA CHAUME CLAUDIE JOBARD 2022	23.69	13.5	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. A very reasonably priced village, you may gasp, but true, trust me! Slightly savoury too.</i>			
FIXIN DOMAINE ALBERT BICHOT 2018	30.50	13.0	V
<i>BURGUNDY. A single village Pinot Noir that isn't quite as famous as the neighbours hence better value.</i>			
NUIT-ST-GEORGES DOMAINE CHAVENET 2021	39.89	13.5	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. An absolute gem of a Pinot, great village, great producer, great wine, nuff said</i>			
GEVREY CHAMBERTIN VALLET FRERES 2017	43.69	13.0	V+
<i>BURGUNDY. Delicate sweet strawberry fruit, fresh acidity and a clean, vibrant palate. Restrained and elegant.</i>			
POMMARD LA CROIX BLANCHE PARENT 2020	61.80	13.0	V+ O
<i>BURGUNDY. Complete, complex Pommard with sour cherry, bouquet garni, bergamot and spice. Stunning.</i>			
BEAUNE 1ER CRU DOMAINE PARENT 2019	62.00	13.5	O V+
<i>BURGUNDY. Medium bodied silky Pinot with vibrant, juicy cherry notes and toasty oak.</i>			

Cotes du Rhone

LA GRIVELIERE 2022	10.69	13.5	
<i>RHONE. Really cracking Grenache-led red. Very deep, full-bodied and slightly spicy.</i>			
LES COTEAUX VILLAGES 2022 *was 11.99	10.50	14.0	V+
<i>RHONE. Brambles, sweet spice, subtle oak. This is a classy and impressive drop.</i>			
CHAUME ARNAUD RED 2021	14.09	13.5	V O B
<i>RHONE. Superlatively juicy spicy Rhone bombastic 201. Syrah/Grenache at its very best.</i>			
VACQUEYRAS DOMAINE GRANDY 2023	14.59	15.0	V+
<i>RHONE. Big and spicy full bodied red with bramble fruits, violets and vanilla.</i>			

CHAUME ARNAUD ST MAURICE 2022	15.99	0.0	VOB
<i>A new listing resulting from Richard's recent visit. Classy with red berries and herbs.</i>			
SEGURET RHONE BOUTINOT 2021 *was 16.65	15.60	14.5	V+
<i>RHONE. Deep, dark fruit, cracked black pepper, exotic spice and vanilla. As sexy as red wine gets.</i>			
CHAUME ARNAUD VINSOBRES RED 2019/20	17.05	14.5	VOB
<i>VINSOBRES, RHONE. Single village wine of immense quality. The wine that created Great Grog in 1999.</i>			
CHATEAU SEGUALA ICONE 2020	26.20	15.5	
<i>ROUSSILLON. Phenomenal red from Syrah, Grenache & Carignan. Iconic indeed, will keep for years.</i>			
CHATEAUNEUF HAUTS DE BARVILLE 2020	29.75	14.5	V+
<i>RHONE. A wild, perfumed bouquet of ripe red berries, passion fruit and incense, with a smoky mineral flourish.</i>			
CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE TELEGRAMME 2021	34.59	15.0	V+
<i>RHONE. Full bodied, soft and luscious with bramble fruit, spice and leather.</i>			

CHAUME ARNAUD

Chaume-Arnaud are such nice folk. Marion and I intended a brief visit in September this year. We escaped after winery tour, tasting, lunch and vineyard visit. They gave us 4 hours of their time, mid harvest! Hospitality off the scale.

The estate lies at the upper end of the Southern bit of the Rhone valley, about 40 minutes drive North East of Avignon in the South of France. The family owned and run estate has been going for slightly longer than Great Grog. Valerie initially rented a few hectares of vines off her parents in 1987. In 1989 her husband Phillipe joined the enterprise, but only in 1999 did they fully take over from Valerie's parents upon their retirement.



I first met Phillipe in the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh at a Rhone roadshow tasting. His wines were stand out quality. I believed their wines were better than anything that Oddbins were offering at the time (my then employer). After trying to tell the Oddbins buyers they were missing a trick and getting told "are you trying to teach us our job" I handed my notice in and Great Grog was born (Fraser was a year later). As an old customer once said, "you like a challenge!"

Don't just take my word for it. John Livingston-Learnmouth is the foremost writer and authority on Rhone wines in the world. I remember reading his books on the Rhone when studying for my wine diploma back in the early 90s. This year he rated Chaume-Arnaud' wines amongst the top wines in the Village (Vinsobres) and indeed the whole region.
www.drinkrhone.com

Purity of flavour, elegance, finesse and blatant balance. You know you have got a good bottle of wine on your table when the last glass tastes better than the first.

Chaume Arnaud Vinsobres Red, £17.05

The wine that started it all - so good it inspired Richard to start Great Grog in 1999! Rich and plush with squashed red berry fruit and gentle, aromatic spice.



South

- | | | | |
|--|-------|------|------|
| ⊗ CUVÉE DU ROY ROUGE 2022 | 8.49 | 13.5 | V+ |
| <i>COTES DE GASCOGNE. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Tannat. Fantastic value, fruit driven, everyday drinker.</i> | | | |
| ⊗ LES VIGNERONS GRENACHE PINOT NOIR 2022 | 8.55 | 13.5 | |
| <i>VIN DE FRANCE Juicy, easy drinking, fun red wine.</i> | | | |
| ⊗ CHANTS DU CLOSEAU MALBEC 2022/23 | 8.95 | 13.0 | V+ |
| <i>LANGUEDOC. We were surprised by how good this Malbec was, and even more so when we saw the price!</i> | | | |
| ⊗ LES OLIVIERS GRENACHE 2022 | 9.10 | 13.0 | V+ |
| <i>PAYS D'OC. Eyebrow lifting quality - soft, medium bodied, red fruit, juicy. No obvious tannin.</i> | | | |
| ⊗ ST MARTIN PINOT NOIR 2021 | 9.65 | 13.0 | V+ |
| <i>LANGUEDOC. Juicy and soft Pinot. Not the most complex beast in the world but blindingly gluggable.</i> | | | |
| CORBIERES CHATEAU CARBONAC 2022 | 9.89 | 13.5 | O |
| <i>CORBIERES. Syrah, Grenache and Carignan, dark, spicy ripe berries and seriously good for the pennies.</i> | | | |
| ⊗ LES VOLETS MALBEC 2023 | 10.35 | 13.0 | V+ |
| <i>VALLEE DE L'AUDE. Crushed blueberries, crème de cassis with parma violets, cranberries & cocoa nib.</i> | | | |
| CAHORS CHATEAU LABARRADE 2020 | 10.69 | 13.5 | |
| <i>CAHORS. Malbec. Concentrated blackcurrant, redcurrant, blackberry fruit, soft woody notes, licorice and mint.</i> | | | |
| ⊗ DOMAINE MAS BARRAU CABERNET FRANC 2023 | 10.75 | 14.0 | V+ O |
| <i>LANGUEDOC. Ticks all my boxes. Red fruit and spice and softness all mashed together.</i> | | | |
| JAIS NOIR ALO CARIGNAN 2023 *was 11.49 | 11.19 | 14.5 | V+ |
| <i>COTE CATALANES. Low intervention wine that gives a lot of bang for its buck. Deep rich, intensely flavoured.</i> | | | |
| CUVÉE MYTHIQUE RED 2020 | 12.19 | 13.5 | V+ |
| <i>PAYS D'OC. Tastes like high-end Rhone. Slightly savoury with ripe fruit, dark chocolate and spice.</i> | | | |
| CHAUME ARNAUD PONTIAS RED 2022 | 12.49 | 13.5 | |
| <i>VIN DE FRANCE. Juicy red fruity flavours of cassis and redcurrants. Nicely balanced, a fresh, fruity number.</i> | | | |
| CHATEAU DES JAUME MAURY 2020 | 15.89 | 15.5 | |
| <i>MAURY. 70% Grenache, 30% Carignan. Sweet red berry fruit and vanilla, super soft and silky. This is great!</i> | | | |
| MINERVOIS LA LIVINIÈRE THOLOMIÈS 2017 | 23.55 | 14.5 | |
| <i>MINERVOIS. Pretty ultimate red. deep-dark with peppered vanilla, morello cherry and prune and black olives.</i> | | | |
| DOMAINE MAS BELLES EAUX CARMIN 2021 | 24.99 | 15.5 | |
| <i>LANGUEDOC-PEZENAS. Intense black fruit and spice with rich fruit, vanilla and silky tannins.</i> | | | |



GERMANY / white

- | | | | |
|---|-------|------|----|
| ⊗ MOSELLAND RIESLING KABINETT 2022 | 7.99 | 7.5 | |
| <i>MOSEL. Light, fruity. off-dry Kabinett from Berkastel. Naturally lower in alcohol and delightfully refreshing.</i> | | | |
| ⊗ FRITZ WALTER RIESLING TROCKEN 2023 | 11.35 | 12.5 | V+ |
| <i>PFALZ. Just delicious, textural, soft and super limey Riesling with a gentle touch of spice.</i> | | | |
| MOSELLAND GOLDSCHILD RIESLING TROCKEN 2022 | 12.45 | 12.5 | |
| <i>SAAR, MOSEL, Late-picked, DRY, racy, elegant style balanced by juicy freshness.</i> | | | |
| ⊗ MESSMER WEISSBURGUNDER 2022 | 14.89 | 12.0 | |
| <i>PFALZ. Awesome dry, fresh white made from what the French call "Pinot Blanc".</i> | | | |
| ⊗ MESSMER RIESLING 2018 *was 17.25 | 16.85 | 13.0 | |
| <i>PFALZ. Classy lime and granny smith apple filled dry riesling with pithy acidity.</i> | | | |



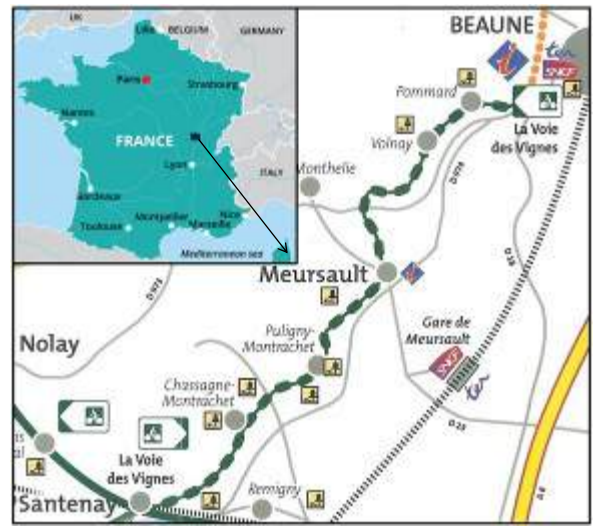
GERMANY / red

- | | | | | |
|---|----|------------|-------|------|
| ⊗ MESSMER SPATBURGUNDER 2022 | 22 | *was 17.09 | 16.70 | 12.0 |
| <i>PFALZ. The best red wine I have ever tried from Germany. Delicate Pinot Noir at its very best.</i> | | | | |



BIKING BOURGOGNE

Burgundy's Wine Cycle Route, **The Voie des Vignes**, meanders through 72km of vineyards and ancient villages from Dijon to Santenay. World famous appellations scatter the journey – Pommard, Volnay, Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet, Chassagne-Montrachet, Marchannay, Aloxe-Corton, Vosnee-Romanée – with many wineries open to drop in for a glass and a tasting. Even for a trade as genial as this one, cycling the Voie des Vignes is a particularly bucolic way to explore the region.



Our first leg took us through the Côte de Beaune, beginning in the spiritual wine capital of the Côte d'Or, Beaune. Known for the benevolent wine auctions of the Hospice de Beaune, Beaune is a pretty, medieval fortified town that sits upon a 50km labyrinth of wine cellars hidden under the cobble streets. The silky, cherry juice rich **Domaine Parent 1er Cru Beaune (£62)** is a great example to try.



Cycling from the centre of Beaune out towards the West Bank, you are immediately thrust into scatterings of Climats, featuring AOC Villages & AOC Villages Premiers Cru plots. The Gamay grape is being reintroduced due to climate change, while increasing appreciation for the superb Aligoté (only grown in Burgundy) has led to an increase in planting. Both grow well in the new climate conditions and are harder than Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Try making the classic French aperitif, Kir by mixing **Domaine Romanin Aligote (£14.85)** with **Crème de Cassis Massenez (£16.99)**.



Shortly (and after a brief incline), we coast into the tiny commune of Pommard. Vineyards encroach upon the tight cluster of whitewashed buildings, while historic boutique wineries quietly ring the main square, welcoming in visitors on a strict appointment only basis. **Pommard La Croix Blanch Parent (£61.80)** is typical of the appellation, complex and complete, or try **Bourgogne Vallet Freres Pinot Noir (22.59)** which is a lighter, more traditional Bourgogne red.



Finally, after a sweeping descent we arrive in the comparatively large village of Meursault (Pop ~1,500). A small array of independent bars and restaurants line the square, tables tumbling into pathways as day trippers cram in. From the outskirts, you can see the famous tree that marks the separation of Meursault and Puligny-Montrachet. A view that is best enjoyed with a Meursault, local Chablis or Maconnais – either the slightly saline **Chablis 1er Cru Montmains Manants (£27.79)** or clean **Macon Solutre Pouilly Domaine Romanin (£15.65)** would pair perfectly.





READY MIXED DELIGHTS



Sexy Reds - 6 Bottles

Chaume Arnaud Vinsobres, France
 Esporao Reserve, Portugal
 Rioja Vega Coleccion, Spain
 Cline Cellars Zinfandel, USA
 Trentham Heathcote, Australia
 Kaapzicht Bottlery Hills, South Africa



S Hemisphere Stars - 6 Bottles

Darling Cellars MCC, South Africa
 Alma Gemela White, Argentina
 BF Crocodiles Lair Chard, S Africa
 Forrest Estate Pinot Noir, NZ
 Trentham Nebbiolo, Australia
 Los Haroldos Gran Corte, Argentina



French Fancies - 6 Bottles

Gobillard GR 1er Cru Champagne
 Riesling Grand Cru Dopff & Irion
 St Veran Terrier et Collovray
 Rully La Chaume Claudie Jobard
 Seguret Rhone Villages
 Beaumes de Venise Elegans



Fabulous Fizz - 6 Bottles

Gobillard NV Champagne, France
 Gobillard Vintage Rose, France
 Cremant de Loire Sauvion, France
 Cava Can Xa Brut NV, Spain
 Prosecco Amori NV, Italy
 Darling Blanc de Blancs, S. Africa



Grog X-Mas Crackers - 6 Bottles

Gobillard Bl de Blancs, France
 Greystone BF Sauvignon, NZ
 Demorgenzon Maestro White, SA
 Paul Cluver Pinot Noir, S Africa
 Casarena Cabernet Franc, Argentina
 Clunia Malbec, Spain



Off Beat Beauties - 6 Bottles

Leith Manzaniilla, Spain
 Tesela Albillo, Spain
 Terre di Valter Sciapo Fiano, Italy
 Dom Tourelles Cinsault, Lebanon
 Altocedro Ano Cero, Argentina
 CM Peter's Vision, S Africa





READY MIXED DELIGHTS



Big Softy Reds - 12 Bottles

Nero d'Avola Rupe Secca, Italy
 Alo Jais Noir Carignan, France
 Vergel Monastrell / Merlot, Spain
 Santa Alba Carmenere, Chile
 Primitivo Carlomagno, Italy
 Soldiers Block Shiraz, Australia



Sauvignon & Friends - 12 Bottles

Aquiline Sauvignon, S Africa
 Verdejo El Tesoro, Spain
 Ladera Verde Sauvignon, Chile
 Topuku Sauvignon, NZ
 Dom Grauzan Sauvignon, France
 Verdicchio Pontemagno, Italy



Great Glugger - 12 Bottles

Ladera Verde Sauvignon, Chile
 Ladera Verde Merlot, Chile
 Cristatus White, Spain
 Cristatus Red, Spain
 Forge Mill Chenin, S Africa
 Forge Mill Shiraz/Cinsault, S Africa



Budget Beauties - 12 Bottles

Cremant de Limoux, France
 Little Cricket Gruner, Hungary
 Icare Chardonnay, France
 Gandarado Dao Tinto, Portugal
 Nero D'Avola Rupe Secca, Italy
 Silvermyn Argentum, S Africa



Staff Daily Drinking - 12 Bottles

Chacabuco Viognier, Chile
 Chacabuco Malbec, Chile
 Fiano Carlomagno, Italy
 Primitivo Carlomagno, Italy
 Pe Branco, Portugal
 Pe Tinto, Portugal



Party Pack

3 x Jules Larose Brut, France
 1 x 3l Cristatus White, Spain
 1 x 3l Cristatus Red, Spain
 24 x Williams Craft Lager, Scotland





GROGGY FAVOURITES FOR 2024



**Espora
Reserve
White**
£16.99

Creamy, elegant barrel fermented Burgundy style white with intense flavours of peach, grapefruit and nutmeg.



**Kaapzicht
Bottelary
Hills**
£16.75

Packed full of kirsch, fresh dark berries and spice with beautifully integrated tannins.



**Gandarada
Dao Tinto**
£10.25

Like an old school Hermitage but much, much cheaper. Floral and aromatic with lifted pepper and bags of personality.



**Patria
Nueva
Cabernet**
£11.69

Juicy and intense super tasty cabernet full of dark cherry, strawberry, cedar, licorice, roasted nuts and toast.



**Chaume
Arnaud
White**
£14.99

Hand-Harvested, rich & fresh with an impressive textural mouthfeel, with zesty fruit and a touch of honey.



**Rioja
Bagordi
Blanco**
£9.69

Clean, juicy organic rioja with ripe lemon, papaya and grapefruit. Perfect for mid week glugging.



**Chateau
Malbat**
£9.79

Lovely example of an everyday claret has great depth of colour and good juicy cassis fruit.



**Saperavi
Tamada**
£11.29

Rich and robust but soft red with dark berry fruits and juicy cherries.



**Albarino
Vina Salort**
£12.70

Stone fruits and citrus; rich, textural and rounded on the palate with a little grip on the finish.



**Cline
Zinfandel**
£15.59

Brilliant classic and classy Zin. Luscious, ripe, toasty, big, bold, beautiful with sweet fruit and silky tannins.



**Fiano
Carlomagno**
£9.79

Full, fruity and fresh with some nice weight of tropical fruit and a touch of bitter almond.



**Tesela
Albillo
by Clunia**
£13.79

Fresh and zesty with floral peaches, minerality, white grapefruit and gooseberry. Juicy & concentrated with 5 months in oak.

**WHY NOT TRY A MIXED CASE OF OUR FAVOURITE THINGS?
A BRILLIANT WAY TO TOP UP YOUR WINE RACK WITH
DELICIOUSNESS. YOURS FOR £152.00.**



GEORGIA / red

SAPERAVI TAMADA 2021

11.29 13.0 V+

KAKHETI. Rich and robust but soft red with dark berry fruits and cherries that will be a hit with Malbec fans.



HUNGARY / white

⊗ LITTLE CRICKET GRUNER VELTLINER 2023

8.75 12.5

PANNON. A great balance of ripe peach, lemon and elderflower with gooseberry & weightier orange

KARDOS DRY FURMINT 2022

14.00 12.5 V+

TOKAJ. Dry, brilliantly crisp and elegant with lovely minerality. Grapefruit, lime and pear fruit.



HUNGARY / red

⊗ DUNAVAR PINOT NOIR 2021

8.75 12.5

PANNON. A juicy, easy drinking Pinot with fresh red berries and crunchy red currants.

⊗ SCHIEBER KEKFRANKOS TRILOGIA 2022

13.15 13.0

SZEKSZÁRD. Well structured, juicy wine with morello cherry, black pepper and spice.



TOKAJ THE NOO!

(to be said in a broad Scottish accent)



JULIET VICTOR SZAMORODNI SWEET TOKAJ 2017

SPECIAL PARCEL - 100 BOTTLES ONLY

One of the first documented styles from Hungary, dating back to at least 1570, szamorodni means “as it comes” and can be both dry or sweet in style. This is a SWEET one (with 188 grammes of sugar per litre)! Basically, it’s made from both botrytised and normal grapes that are harvested and fermented together, rather than the Puttonyos system where baskets of super-sweet botrytis grapes are added to the barrel. The higher the number of puttonyos (up to max of 6), the richer, sweeter, rarer and more expensive the wine is.

This one’s from a small boutique producer with 25 hectare od vines around the town of Mad (a town Richard is perhaps from or one he at least has spent some considerable time in. Possibly twinned with the isles of Scilly). It’s worth looking at the winery website which describes the wine as having “strong thick legs and a tender motion in the glass”!

Luscious and complex, with aromas and flavours of mint, chamomile, spiced honey, apricot and creamy oak. Will age for 10 years more at least. Grapes: Furmint mostly with Muscat and Harslevelu providing support.



Normal UK price £34.49
YOURS FOR ONLY £20.00



ITALY / white

- ⊗ **TREBBIANO IL TRALICCO 2023** **7.70** 11.0 V+
RUBICONE. Elegant & light on its feet (not unlike me) but with enough lemony character for interest.
- ⊗ **PINOT GRIGIO AMANTI 2023** **8.19** 11.0 V+
ABRUZZO. Crisp and refreshing Pinot Grigio with peachy acacia flowers. Very, very easy drinking.
- ⊗ **PINOT GRIGIO ANCORA 2023** **8.25** 11.0 V+
PAVIA. Crisp, delicate, soft peach, zingy lemon zest and superbly clean. Amazing stuff!
- ⊗ **GPG GARGANEGA/PINOT GRIGIO 2023** **8.50** 11.0 V+
VENETO. Very good, clean, peachy white, lightly aromatic with citrus and baked apple. Fresh and crisp.
- ⊗ **VERDICCHIO CLASSICO PONTEMAGNO 2021/23** **8.79** 13.0 V+
MARCHE. Classic flavours of lemon peel and a bitter almond finish in this brilliant value Italian quaffer.
- GRILLO RUPE SECCA 2023** **9.25** 12.5 V+
SICILY. Crisp & fruity with vividly ripe lemons and limes with some guava thrown in for good measure.
- ⊗ **VERMENTINO ZAGARE 2023** **9.35** 12.5 V+
SICILY. Light & lemony to start, then ripe pear & peach come through. Very pretty.
- ⊗ **FIANO CARLOMAGNO 2022** **9.79** 12.5 V+
PUGLIA. Full, fruity and fresh with some nice weight of tropical fruit and a touch of bitter almond.
- ⊗ **VERDICCHIO MONTE SCHIAVO AMPHORA 2022/23** **10.65** 12.5 V+ / O
MARCHE. Fresh, zesty, citrus aromas with a touch of nuts, stone fruit flavours, tropical citrus and peach.
- PECORINO NOI CENTO 2023** **11.25** 13.0
ABRUZZO. Adriatic, azure coastline beckons. Kick back and drift away with a glass of this delightful white.
- TERRE DI VALTER FALANGHINA 2023** **11.25** 13.0
CAMPANIA. Awesomely well made fruity, juicy wine from a tiny family run estate inland from Naples.
- PECORINO ARCHIVIO 2023** **11.30** 13.5 V+
ABRUZZO. Grapefruit zest, creamy lemon texture and ripe stone fruit in this stunning Italian wine.
- PECORINO CAPARRONE 2023** **11.75** 12.5 V+
ABRUZZO. 100% Pecorino. Grapefruit, lemon & apple fruit, light but deceptively intense, really clean & fresh.
- TERRE DI VALTER FIANO DI AVELLINO 2023** **12.89** 13.5
CAMPANIA. Unoaked but very, very tasty white. Tropical fruit but a hint of skin contact to balance it out.
- ⊗ **GAVI LA BATTISTINA 2022/23** **12.89** 12.5 V+
PIEMONTE. Aromatic, zesty, sherbety nose with apple, lemon, pear fruit, and a hint of minerality.
- TERRE DI VALTER SCIAPO WHITE FIANO 2020** **17.10** 14.0
CAMPANIA. Utterly gorgeous white fermented in (one) large barrel. Intense, grippy, textural and fabulous.



ITALY / red

- ⊗ **SANGIOVESE AMANTI 2022/23** **8.49** 12.0 V+
EMILIA-ROMAGNA. Soft & juicy with fresh plums, black cherries, some toasty oak and nice tangy acidity.
- ⊗ **SANGIOVESE DI PUGLIA ANCORA 2023** **8.79** 12.5 V+
PUGLIA. A fresh and lively everyday drinking red with juicy berry fruit and a hint of spice.
- ⊗ **PRIMITIVO DI SALENTO AMANTI 2022** **8.79** 13.0 V+
SALENTO. Rich and velvety sun soaked wine with baked damson fruit and baking spices.
- ⊗ **MONTEPULCIANO CONVIVIALE 2022/23** **9.10** 14.0 V+
ABRUZZO. Intense vibrant morello cherry fruit, layered up with bramble and a soft, sweet lick of oak.
- ALASIA BRACHETTO D'ACQUI 2023** **9.15** 5.5 V+
PIEMONTE. Juicy, lightly sparkling sweet red with fresh crushed raspberries, violets and dried rose petals.
- ⊗ **CA' DI PONTI NERO D'AVOLA 2022** **9.19** 14.0 V+
SICILY. Lovely little drop. Delicious smoky, spicy red with ripe, plum, black cherry and bitter dark chocolate.
- NERO D'AVOLA RUPE SECCA 2022** **9.45** 13.0 V+
SICILIA. Big, soft & spicy, like a warm hug on a bed of baked plum crumble.

⊗ PRIMITIVO APPASSIMENTO CARLOMAGNO 2022	10.35	14.0	V+
<i>PUGLIA. Big, juicy & packed with flavour. Rich and ripe with bags of sweet fruit and vanilla from oak ageing.</i>			
TERRAZZE TEROLDEGO ROTALIANO 2022	10.45	12.5	
<i>TRENTINO. Sweet cherry fruit, summer fruits and sappy acidity with hints of bitter dark chocolate.</i>			
CHIANTI DUCA DI SARAGNANO 2022	10.79	13.0	
<i>TUVANY. Modern, fruit driven Chianti with intense fruit, violet and a nice, dry finish.</i>			
PRIMITIVO VALLONE VERSANTE 2023 *was 11.85	10.50	13.5	V
<i>SALENTO. Ripe succulent plum and dark cherry with warming spice notes.</i>			
BARBERA D'ASTI CROCERA 2020	12.85	15.0	V+
<i>PIEMONTE. Rich & full of intense plum, sour cherries & toasty oak with dark chocolate & tangy, juicy acidity.</i>			
URBAN PARK MONTRESOR ROSSO 2019 *13.30	11.75	14.0	V+
<i>VENETO. Mini-Amarone, dried grapes, 6 months oak, smooth cherry chocolate richness, very pleasing.</i>			
OTTAVIANELLO TENUTA SERRANOVA 2021	13.75	13.0	V+
<i>PUGLIA. Ottavienello is Cinsault, and this one is a dark, sumptuous, velvety, Black Forest Gateau of a wine.</i>			
TERRE DI VALTER VENTIDUE MARZO AGLIANICO 2021	15.09	14.5	
<i>CAMPANIA. Fantastically good value from a tiny, family producer near Naples. Similar in style to Primitivo.</i>			
CHIANTI RISERVA UGGIANO FAGIANO 2021 *was 15.25	12.89	13.5	V+
<i>CHIANTI. Super-fresh & juicy, with typical cherry, redcurrant, chestnut & spice. Aged in massive oak barrels.</i>			
VALPOLICELLA CAPITEL DELLA CROSARA 2020 *was 17.45	15.25	14.0	V+
<i>VENETO. Crunchy yet velvety Morello Cherry fruit bomb with musky ripe plums. 12 months in oak</i>			
TERRE DI VALTER TAURASI DOCG 2019	18.45	14.5	
<i>CAMPANIA. A big red with firm structure, plum, bitter cherry and summer fruits, with fantastic length.</i>			
BAROLO FLORI 2020	21.00	14.0	V+
<i>PIEMONTE. Black cherry, truffles and rose petals belie the hefty, grippy tannin filled beast that lurks below.</i>			
CHIANTI BANFI CLASSICO RISERVA 2019	27.89	13.5	
<i>CHIANTI. Gorgeously complex, plum jam and blackberries mingle with licorice vanilla and leather.</i>			
TERRE DI VALTER SCIAPO RED 2019	30.65	15.5	
<i>CAMPANIA, Wonderous, intense red. Tiny production from very old withered Aglianico vines.</i>			
AMARONE VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO LONARDI 2016	34.49	15.5	V / O
<i>VENETO. Oof! This is a biggy! Deeply concentrated aromas of bramble fruit, dark chocolate and rich spice.</i>			
AMARONE MONTRESOR 'FONDATARE' 2018/19	42.49	15.5	V+
<i>VENETO. Heady, dried fruit explosion of a wine, thick and glossy. Full of rich, dense dark berry fruit & raisins.</i>			



LEBANON / white

DOMAINE TOURELLES WHITE 2023	14.55	12.5	V+ O
<i>BEKAA VALLEY. Fresh, elegant and perfumed with spiced white peach fruit. Viognier, Chardonnay, Obeidi.</i>			



LEBANON / red

DOMAINE TOURELLES RED 2021	14.55	14.0	V+ O
<i>BEKAA VALLEY. Morello cherries mix with cedar, earthy cloves and sweet spice with fine tannins.</i>			
DOMAINE TOURELLES VIELLES VIGNES CARIGNAN 2019 *was 19.69	17.09	14.0	V+ O
<i>BEKAA VALLEY. Ripe fig, bright cranberry and raspberry fruit with notes of liquorice - generous and pure.</i>			
DOMAINE TOURELLES VIELLES VIGNES CINSAULT 2021 *was 19.69	17.09	13.5	V+ O
<i>BEKAA VALLEY. So concentrated and tasty it beggars belief. Intense, hefty and yet, so dangerously drinkable.</i>			
CHATEAU MUSAR GASTON HOCHAR ROUGE 2017	43.55	14.0	V+
<i>BEKAA VALLEY. Legendary wine. Figgy pudding and plums with notes of woody herbs and spice.</i>			



ROLL OUT THE BARRELS



Transforming grapes into wine is a mixture of science and art which involves hundreds of decisions at each stage that will have an impact on the final product. One of the key choices is what they choose to ferment and potentially age their wine in. Wine makers today have a huge variety of vessels to hand (budget dependent) which they can use as tools to create the style of wine they believe gets the most out of their fruit.



Marble Open Top Fermenters. The temperature of a ferment can rise pretty rapidly with red wines as the skins create a 'cap'. Open top fermenters not only make these easier to break up but also allow more of the skins to be in contact with the juice which imparts more colour and flavour into the wine. They are very labour intensive though and so only viable for small volumes of quality wines.

Esporao Reserve Tinto, £19.99



Clay Pots / Amphora. These are the original fermenting vessel, dating back around 7,000 years. Made with a pointed base so they could easily be stuck in the ground. Cathy gets hers hand made by a friend. She uses these to amplify the mineral quality of her Chenin Blanc fruit.

Catherine Marshall Clay Chenin Blanc £24.59



Stainless Steel

Most wineries won't be without at least one stainless steel fermenter. They are incredibly practical as they are easy to clean and give you complete temperature control of the ferment which can easily get out of control. Ideal for making crisp, clean, fruit driven wines.

Goldschild Mosseland Riesling £12.45



Ceramic Eggs

The heat of the ferment within this egg shaped vessel creates a vortex of convection currents meaning the liquid is constantly moving itself without the need for battonage (stirring). The lack of corners in the vessel also mean there are no 'dead corners' for the wine to get stuck in creating a more balanced wine. As yet, we have no wines made in this way, however producers such as Domaine de la Tonnellerie in Sancerre are experimenting, so watch this space!



Concrete Tanks

Semi porous allowing for some oxygenation but without imparting any oak flavours. Brilliant for fresher, more fruit and mineral driven styles of wine. They are great insulators and have excellent longevity. These ones at Domaine des Tourelles are over 150 years old!

Domaine des Tourelles Vieilles Vignes Cinsault ~~£19.99~~ £17.09



Porcelain Eggs Clayvers

Fired at almost twice the temperature of terracotta they are almost completely inert so have no influence on the wine. Excellent for long ageing, these are now being used by some of the world's top wineries. Best for fresh, mineral whites and lighter skinned red varieties.

Piedra Negra Arroya Malbec £15.99





Oak

Barrels have been used in wine making since around 2500BC in Egypt where they were used for transporting liquids. The more discerning merchants realised the positive impact it had on the flavour of the wine and began to use them in the wine making process. Oak is used for fermenting richer white wines and aging both red and whites in order to finesse the flavour, texture and balance of your wine. They come in a huge variety of sizes from the classic 225l small barrel to large foudres (up to 20,000l). New oak barrels leech lactones and tannins into the juice (the smaller the barrel, the higher the impact, as the oak to liquid ration is higher). After each use the impact halves and after just four vintages no more 'oak' character is noticeable. European oak is slow growing and has tighter grains which tends to impart clove, toast and baking spice notes. The priciest and most popular with wine makers is French Oak (*Quercus Robur*). American oak (*Quercus Alba*) is faster growing with looser grains and generally imparts sweeter notes of vanilla and coconut. The level of toasting also has an impact and a wine maker will use a variety of different toasting in their cellar. The average oak tree makes just two barrels after several decades of growth. They are also incredibly expensive (the average 225l French oak barrel is around €800, the large Foudres (middle pic) cost €120,000!) and so new barrels will only be used by those that can afford them and for their top wines.

**Rioja Vega Con
Gracia**
£19.99



**Kaapzicht
Kliprug Chenin**
£20.95



BIG BOTTLES*limited*



Everyone gets excited when the host brings out a magnum, cue oohs and aahs as they appreciate your special effort.

★ **RIOJA VEGA CRIANZA, £25.49**

Super smooth and complex with red fruits, liquorice and subtle hints of toast, spices and cinnamon

★ **RIPPA DORII CRIANZA, £28.80**

Brambles, vanilla, nutmeg and sweet spice. Rich and complex with ripe tannins and peppery spice.

★ **CHIANTI UGGIANO RISERVA, ~~32.39~~ £28.80**

Warm black cherry, dried fruit and spicy meaty notes with fresh acidity and a slight herbal character.

★ **RIOJA VEGA RESERVA, £33.59**

Unctuous, spicy, ripe and soft with bags of fruit, toast, toffee and vanilla.

★ **GOBILLARD GRANDE RESERVE, £62.99**

Definitely tastes better from a magnum! Citrus pizzazz, ripe red apples and toast.

★ **GOBILLARD VINTAGE 2015, £75.30**

Taut, lithe and adroit - a gymnast of lemon peel, granny smith and tense minerality - sensational.





NEW ZEALAND / white

⊗ PERFECT CUT SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023	10.85	12.5	V+
<i>MARLBOROUGH. Lively and zingy with bags of lemon/lime citrus, tropical fruit and herby notes.</i>			
⊗ TOPUKU SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023	11.60	12.5	V+
<i>MARLBOROUGH. A grassy mouthful at a fair price from the heartland of Sauvignon Blanc.</i>			
⊗ PASK GIMBLETT GRAVEL CHARDONNAY 2021	11.65	14.0	V+
<i>HAWKES BAY. Rich, full flavoured with tinned pineapple, peach and spicy oak finish.</i>			
⊗ ALLAN SCOTT SAUVIGNON 2023	14.69	12.0	V+
<i>MARLBOROUGH. Herbaceous and citrusy with passion fruit and hints of pomegranate.</i>			
⊗ ALLAN SCOTT RIESLING 2022	15.05	12.0	
<i>MARLBOROUGH. A limey, zesty style off dry style, full of citrus fruit, tropical pineapple and juicy nectarine.</i>			
⊗ ALLAN SCOTT CHARDONNAY 2020	15.05	14.0	
<i>MARLBOROUGH. Rich Chardonnay with hints of ripe melon, pear & subtle, well integrated toasty French oak</i>			
⊗ ALLAN SCOTT PINOT GRIS 2023	15.05	12.5	V+
<i>MARLBOROUGH. Honey-suckle, melons and light vanilla marshmallow, like a summer stone fruit cocktail.</i>			
⊗ DOMAINE ROAD PINOT GRIS 2021	17.35	12.5	V+
<i>CENTRAL OTAGO. Partially barrel fermented & off dry. Lemon curd, lush pineapple, pear, ginger and sherbet.</i>			
⊗ FORREST ESTATE SAUVIGNON 2022	17.49	12.5	
<i>MARLBOROUGH Incredible vibrancy. Intense flavours packed into a beautiful bottle.</i>			
⊗ DOMAINE ROAD DRY RIESLING 2022	17.59	12.5	V+
<i>CENTRAL OTAGO. Crisp lime, orange blossom, pear, lemon sorbet and honeysuckle with flinty minerality.</i>			
⊗ PYRAMID VALLEY SAUVIGNON 2021 *25.09	23.05	13.5	
<i>CANTERBURY. Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand in the richer, fuller, more intense vein.</i>			
⊗ GREYSTONE BARREL SAUVIGNON BLANC 2022	25.79	13.5	V+ O
<i>NORTH CANTERBURY. Barrel fermentation gives a rich & creamy, ripe tropical and stone fruit bomb.</i>			



NEW ZEALAND / red

⊗ SILENI PINOT NOIR 2022	14.65	13.5	
<i>HAWKES BAY. Intense berries, soft and creamy with light tannins. Would also work chilled.</i>			
⊗ WAIPARA SPRINGS PINOT NOIR 2021	16.09	13.0	
<i>WAIPARA: Gorgeously silky Pinot with bright red fruits and a slight savoury character</i>			
FORREST ESTATE PINOT NOIR 2019	18.75	12.5	
<i>MARLBOROUGH. Earthy, savoury and fruity</i>			
⊗ ESCARPMENT NOIR 2020	19.89	13.5	V+
<i>MARTINBOROUGH. Succulent red fruit of cranberry, raspberry and wild strawberry with a lovely complexity.</i>			
⊗ SCOTT BASE PINOT NOIR 2020	21.79	13.5	V+
<i>CENTRAL OTAGO. Complex, soft, juicy, spicy, long-flavoured and unbelievably good value (for an Otago!)</i>			
⊗ ESCARPMENT PINOT NOIR 2020	26.29	13.5	V+
<i>MARTINBOROUGH. Exceptional Pinot Noir with great mellow fruit and sweet, spicy oak.</i>			

★ **ALLAN SCOTT 'SCOTT BASE' PINOT NOIR, £21.89**

Central Otago is one of the best bits on the planet for growing pinot noir. It shows in this complex, soft & juicy effort from Allan Scott. Spicy and long-flavoured with ripe black cherry, raspberries and a touch of herbs.





PORTUGAL / white

⊗ PE BRANCO 2023	8.79	12.5	V+
<i>ALENTEJO. A blend of local grapes, unoaked floral fruit, crisp, clean and fresh.</i>			
⊗ VINHO VERDE VILA NOVA 2023	9.69	11.0	V+
<i>VINHO VERDE. Floral, citrus and gently tropical with sherbet lemon, mango and a bright mineral finish.</i>			
VINHO VERDE AMARELO 2022	9.79	11.5	V+ O*
<i>VINHO VERDE. Light & Lemon zesty, citrusy freshness in a glass.</i>			
⊗ MONTE VELHO WHITE 2023	10.25	13.5	V
<i>ALENTEJO. Dry with soft and fruity with flavours of apricot. Stainless steel fermented (no oak). Jolly juicy.</i>			
⊗ ALVARINHO LUZ 2022	11.79	12.5	V+
<i>VINHO VERDE. Intensely fruity with grapefruit, ripe citrus and pineapple and crisp, minerality on the finish</i>			
ASSOBIO WHITE 2022	12.10	12.5	V+
<i>DUORO. Intense and fresh, dominated by stone fruit, citrus fruits and discreet tropical notes.</i>			
QUINTA DO AMEAL LOURIERO 2023	12.99	12.0	V+ O*
<i>LIMA. Fresh, lively, vibrant, green fruits and riper citrus.</i>			
ESPORAO RESERVE BRANCO 2022	16.99	13.5	V+ O*
<i>ALENTEJO. Creamy, elegant barrel fermented white with intense flavours of peach, grapefruit and nutmeg.</i>			
ESPORAO PRIVATE SELECTION WHITE 2022	43.10	14.0	V+ O*
<i>ALENTEJO. Rich and intense with white plum and ripe lemon, fresh almond, spices and white chocolate.</i>			



Quinta do Ameal Louriero, £12.99

**NEW* Deliciously light and fresh style with vibrant green fruits and riper citrus.*



Esporao Private Selection White, £43.10

**NEW* Absolutely blinding! Richard loved this on his recent visit to Esporao. 100% Semillon, Skin contact, round concrete and square concrete tanks, etc*



PORTUGAL / red

⊗ PE TINTO 2023	8.79	13.0	V+
<i>ALENTEJO. Bright ruby red blend (Moreto, Castelao & Trincadeira), ripe red fruits, pretty full-bodied- no oak.</i>			
SMART DOG SYRAH/TRINCADEIRA 2022	9.95	13.5	V+
<i>ALENTEJO. Juicy, floral, generous juice that is packed full of berry flavours and spice.</i>			
ALIANCA BAIRRADA 2021	9.95	13.0	V+
<i>BAIRRADA. Intense berry, plum and cherries with licorice and spice. A wee bit rustic in style.</i>			
⊗ MONTE VELHO RED 2022	10.25	13.0	V+
<i>ALENTEJO. Soft and juicy all the way, Portugal's biggest selling wine domestically!</i>			
⊗ GANDARADO DAO TINTO BOAS QUINTAS 2022	10.25	13.0	V+
<i>DAO. Mellow and smooth red that hits the spot. A smoky bacon edge to ripe berry aromas, yet Vegan too!</i>			
COLINAS DO DOURO SUPERIOR 2021	10.95	13.5	V+
<i>DUORO. A big, bouncy, enthusiastic red from Port's heartland. Full of flavour, tastes way better than it should.</i>			
ASSOBIO RED 2022	12.10	13.0	V+
<i>DUORO. Fresh and intense with concentrated red berry fruit.</i>			
ESPORAO RESERVE RED 2021	19.99	14.0	V+ O*
<i>ALENTEJO. Silky, full flavoured and rich, red berry fruit, light spice, cocoa & lovely smooth toasty oak.</i>			



TOP NEW FINDS OF 2024



A hand picked selection of our favourite new wine listings from 2024, dive in and prepare to be wowed.

LES COCHES VIOGNIER, CHILE, £8.49

Ripe and full bodied with plentiful stone fruit, citrus and a touch of honey on the finish. Banging value.



GANDARADO DAO BOAS QUINTAS, PORTUGAL, £10.25

Like an old school Hermitage but much, much cheaper. Floral and aromatic with lifted pepper and bags of personality.



GRUNER VELTLINER BAUMGARTNER, AUSTRIA, £10.99

Lovely zippy white with ripe apples and spicy peppermint notes. Medium bodied with a good weight and a clean finish.



SAPERAVI TAMADA, GEORGIA, £11.29

Rich and robust but soft red with dark berry fruits and cherries that will be a massive hit with Malbec fans.



VINA SALORT ALBARINO, URUGUAY, £12.70

Stone fruits and citrus; rich, textural and rounded on the palate with a little grip on the finish.



MORGON DOMAINE PUIITS, FRANCE, £13.60

Richer and more succulent than Fleurie with ripe blackberry fruit and subtle spice. 100% Gamay.



TOURAINNE 'LA CHIPPIE', FRANCE, £14.90

Fabulous rich sauvignon aged for 9 months on lees and 2 years in bottle. Intense and complex, citrus and ripe stone fruits.



DOMAINE ROAD PINOT GRIS. NEW ZEALAND, £17.35

Partially barrel fermented & off dry. Lemon curd, lush pineapple, pear, ginger and sherbet.



ALMA GEMELA FIELD BLEND, SOUTH AFRICA, ~~£19.69~~, £18.05

Co fermented blend of Marsanne, Rousanne and Chardonnay. Textural and complex with rich stone fruit, citrus and subtle vanilla.



LOS HAROLDOS GRAN CORTE, ARGENTINA, £21.19

Sweet spices, black pepper, dried figs and dried fruits, woven with notes of vanilla and cedar and a balancing freshness.



CLAY SHANNON CABERNET SAUVIGNON, USA, 24.50

Complex and elegant, cassis, toasted oak and vanilla with blackberry pie. Aged for 12 months in 25% French oak.



GOBILLARD CHARDONNAY 2016, FRANCE, £42.00

Full, rich and fine with exotic fruit and brioche. Only made in top vintages with a minimum of 8 year aging on lees.





ROMANIA / white

- ⊗ **PAPARUDA PINOT GRIGIO 2023** **8.60** 11.0 V+
 RECAS/BANAT. More dry Pinot Gris than Grigio style, luVious, weighty, peachy, pleasing.



ROMANIA / red

- ⊗ **LAUTERUL PINOT NOIR 2022** **8.60** 12.5 V+
 RECAS/BANAT. Easy drinking and beautifully elegant Pinot Noir, soft and smooth tannins.



SOUTH AFRICA / white

- ⊗ **AQUILINE SAUVIGNON 2023/24** **7.89** 11.0 V+
 WESTERN CAPE. Breeze driven, citrussy Sauvignon from the hills of Western Cape.
- ⊗ **WIDE RIVER CHENIN 2024** **8.29** 13.0
 ROBERTSON. Reasonably priced, just on the dry side of Medium-Dry, day-to-day quaffer.
- ⊗ **KINGKLIP CHARDONNAY 2023** **8.79** 13.5
 ROBERTSON. Fresh citrus and melon with a nutty creaminess from oak fermentation and 3 months on lees.
- ⊗ **FREEDOM CROSS CHENIN 2023** **8.50** 12.5 V+
 FRANSCHOEK. Fruity, youthful and not shy on flavour, packed full of juicy tropical fruits and honey.
- ⊗ **FALSE BAY SLOW CHENIN 2023** **8.95** 13.5 V+
 COASTAL REGION. Rich with lime fruit, gooseberry nectarine and peach with a savoury, herbal character.
- ⊗ **CAPE HEIGHTS VIOGNIER 2022** **9.05** 12.5 V+
 WESTERN CAPE. Rich, vibrant and textured with fresh apricot fruit and citrus.
- ⊗ **CAPE HEIGHTS CHENIN BLANC 2023** **9.05** 12.5 V+
 WESTERN CAPE. Soft baked apple fruit, zippy citrus lemon and limes with compexity from lees aging.
- ⊗ **MOLOKO BAY SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023** **9.45** 12.5 V+
 COASTAL REGION. Looks New Zealand, sounds New Zealand, tastes New Zealand. Isn't New Zealand.
- ⊗ **INDABA SAUVIGNON BLANC 2020** **10.99** 12.5 V+
 WESTERN CAPE. Citrus and tropical fruit, pineapple, lemon-lime, mango and green fig.
- ⊗ **INDABA CHENIN BLANC 2023** **11.09** 13.0 V+
 WESTERN CAPE. Fresh with luscious tropical fruit, melon and honeyed pear, backed by bright citrus flavours.
- ⊗ **HANDMADE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023** **11.69** 13.0
 STELLENBOSCH. Green apple, freshly cut grass and lime with punchy tropical fruit and fresh figs.
- ⊗ **HANDMADE CHENIN BLANC 2023** **11.69** 13.0
 STELLENBOSCH. Ripe quince, pineapple, stone fruit, with a hint of sweetness & balancing crunchy acidity.
- ⊗ **CIRCLE OF LIFE WHITE 2022 *was 13.65** **11.65** 14.0 V+ / B / O*
 STELLENBOSCH. Fresh lime and pear flavours with a creamy texture and great length.
- ⊗ **CIRCUMSTANCE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023** **14.55** 14.0 V+
 STELLENBOSCH: Big and textured with stone fruit and fennel hints, it is rich and minerally. Intense & tasty.
- ⊗ **KAAPZICHT CHENIN BLANC 2023** **14.65** 13.5 V+
 STELLENBOSCH. Cut hay, orange blossom, tropical melon and peach tones with a fresh, tangy finish.
- ⊗ **BOUCHARD FINLAYSON BLANC DE MER 2023** **15.05** 13.0 V+
 HERMANUS. Super-fruity, not-too-dry white. Fragrant and citrus fresh with peaches, roses and melon.
- ⊗ **CATHY MARSHALL RIESLING 2023** **15.09** 12.0 V+
 ELGIN. Ripe, juicy limes, green apples and bright acidity with just a touch of spice.
- ⊗ **CATHY MARSHALL AMATRA CHENIN 2022/23** **15.09** 12.0 V+
 WESTERN CAPE. Fleshy stone fruits backed up by green apple acidity and granite undertones.

⊗ CATHY MARSHALL SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023	15.09	14.0	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Limes, passion fruit, ripe mangoes and a lengthy grapefruit finish.</i>			
DARLING LIME KILNS CHEN/VIOG/CHARD 2019	15.10	14.0	V+
<i>DARLING; Seriously rich and complex wine full of ripe peach and honeycomb.</i>			
⊗ RUSTENBERG CHARDONNAY 2022	15.99	13.0	
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Rich, ripe and fleshy (oo-er) with apricot and mango fruit cut with apple and citrus.</i>			
⊗ ERNIE ELS BIG EASY WHITE 2022	16.00	13.5	
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Super lush and fruity, plenty to tickle the senses. Apples, grapefruit, spice and lime.</i>			
LEMBERG LADY 2021	16.25	14.0	V+
<i>TULBUGH. Full-bodied, great citric apple & peach fruit, nice freshness, straw, almonds, cream.</i>			
⊗ PAUL CLUVER VILLAGE RIESLING 2022 - OOS	16.65	11.5	V+
<i>ELGIN. Meticulously made, perfectly balanced, off dry Riesling. Spankingly clean and taut as fiddle string.</i>			
DASCHBOSCH SKIN CONTACT 2022/23	17.55	12.5	V+
<i>BREEDEKLOOF: Intense and complex with savoury, nutty flavours, citrus peel, almond and dried apricot.</i>			
⊗ BOUCHARD FINLAYSON SAUVIGNON 2023	17.79	13.0	V+
<i>HERMANUS. Lively and aromatic with rich guava, lime and grapefruit.</i>			
DASCHBOSCH MOSSIESDRIFT STEEN 2020 *was 17.95	15.75	13.5	V+
<i>BREEDEKLOOF. Wet stone, ripe citrus and spice. Excellent concentration of fruit balancing the taut acidity.</i>			
BOUCHARD FINLAYSON SANS BARRIQUE CHARDONNAY 2021	19.79	13.0	V+
<i>HERMANUS. Lively and refreshing, with floral, crisp citrus fruit notes and a hint of nutty spice.</i>			
BOUCHARD FINLAYSON CROCODILE CHARD 2022	20.55	13.5	V+
<i>HERMANUS. Spicy citrus aromas lead onto a stone fruit and pear palate and finishing with refreshing salinity.</i>			
KAAPZICHT KLIPRUG CHENIN BLANC 2022	20.95	13.5	V+
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Rich, complex, plush with creamy white peach, honeyed pineapples and leesy yellow fruits.</i>			
DEMORGENZON MAESTRO WHITE 2019	21.99	14.0	
<i>STELLENBOSCH. A full bodied wine, with intense stone fruit flavours, hints of spice and blossom.</i>			
⊗ PAUL CLUVER ESTATE CHARDONNAY 2020	22.19	13.0	V+
<i>ELGIN. Tangerine, brioche, vanilla, toast, winter citrus, the list could go on. 9 months in new French oak.</i>			
⊗ CATHY MARSHALL CLAY FERMENTED CHENIN 2022	24.59	13.0	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE: A world class Chenin, intense and complex; 'peaches on a wet stone', says Cathy</i>			
KAAPZICHT THE 1947 CHENIN BLANC 2021/22	52.00	13.5	V+
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Superlative. Pear, citrus, white peach, pineapple, flowers, dried herbs, spice & vanilla.</i>			



SOUTH AFRICA / red

⊗ KINGKLIP PINOTAGE 2021/2	8.65	13.5	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Bright violets, bramble fruit and sweet cherries.</i>			
⊗ CAPE HEIGHTS MERLOT 2022	8.69	14.0	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Lush and juicy with plenty of ripe plums and hints of chocolate.</i>			
⊗ PERCHERON SHIRAZ/MOURVEDRE 2022	8.75	13.5	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Rich and dark with warm dark berry fruit, chocolate and savoury spice.</i>			
⊗ PERCHERON OLD VINE CINSAULT 2022	9.05	13.0	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Red fruits, cherry and spice with a gently creamy, refreshing finish.</i>			
⊗ FALSE BAY 'OLD SCHOOL' SYRAH 2022	9.19	13.5	V+
<i>COASTAL REGION. Full yet elegant slightly savoury red with brambles and refreshing acidity.</i>			
⊗ FALSE BAY PINOTAGE 2022	9.19	14.0	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Not your average Pinotage! Medium-ish in body, hints of mulberry, spice and juicy plum.</i>			
⊗ WIDE RIVER SHIRAZ 2022	9.29	13.0	
<i>ROBERTSON. Red and black fruits allied to a subtle peppery, smokey note. Very juicy.</i>			

⊗ WILD HOUSE SHIRAZ 2022 *was 9.35	8.45	14.0	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Packed with ripe dark fruit flavours, with wisps of smoke and hints of dark chocolate.</i>			
⊗ SILVERMYN ARGENTUM 2021/22 *was 9.69	8.59	14.5	V
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Quite chunky, full-bodied red, dark, crunchy and blackcurranty.</i>			
⊗ DARLING SHIRAZ /MALBEC /GRENACHE 2022	10.35	14.0	V+
<i>DARLING. Lovely fresh, plump and juicy wine full of cherries, plums, candy floss and black pepper.</i>			
⊗ INDABA MERLOT 2022	11.39	14.0	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Rounded and soft with plummy mocha & a twist of smoky spice.</i>			
⊗ HANDMADE RED BLEND 2020	11.69	14.0	
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Easy drinking red with a core of sweet berry fruit wrapped in gentle spice.</i>			
⊗ DARLING CELLARS CHOCOHOLIC PINOTAGE 2021	12.35	14.0	V+
<i>DARLING. It's all in the name! Surprisingly elegant, ripe, soft with toasty oak, plum and of course, chocolate!</i>			
⊗ ROAN RANGER CINSAULT/GRENACHE/MOURVEDRE 2018	12.49	13.5	V+
<i>DARLING. Juicy red berry and spice, raspberry, pepper and plum.</i>			
⊗ CIRCLE OF LIFE RED 2020 *was 13.65	11.65	14.0	V+ / B / O*
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Big, full, rich and round, dense black fruit, lighter red berries & some herby notes.</i>			
⊗ CATHY MARSHALL AMATRA RED 2019	15.09	13.0	V+
<i>WESTERN CAPE. Full of plummy flavours with a hint of pencil shavings from the Cab Franc.</i>			
⊗ DEMORGENZON SYRAH 2020	15.55	14.5	V+
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Full and youthful with layers of berry fruit, violet, pepper, vanilla and clove.</i>			
⊗ GLENELLY GLASS CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019 *was 15.69	14.29	13.5	V+
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Cassis, blackcurrant, cherry, a touch of spices and chocolate; good tannin structure.</i>			
KAAPZICHT BOTTELARY HILLS ESTATE BLEND 2020	16.75	14.5	V+
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Packed full of kirsch, dark berries and spice with beautifully integrated tannins.</i>			
⊗ RUSTENBERG JOHN X MERRIMAN 2021	17.99	14.0	V
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Old World in stylistic aspiration. Cassis, black cherry, coffee beans and liquorice.</i>			
CATHY MARSHALL PINOT NOIR SANDSTONE 2022	18.90	13.0	V+
<i>SOUTH COAST. Seductive compote of concentrated dark cherries, mulberries, cranberries & chocolate.</i>			
CATHY MARSHALL PINOT NOIR CLAY 2023	19.59	13.0	V+
<i>ELGIN. Intense and pure with layers of truffle, cherry compote and earthy undertones.</i>			
ERNIE ELS BIG EASY RED 2021	20.09	14.0	V
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Silky, ripe & rich brimming with sweet red cherry fruit, cassis, mulberry and redcurrant.</i>			
KAAPZICHT ROOILAND PINOTAGE 2021	20.95	14.0	V+
<i>STELLENBOSCH. One of the most complex and tasty wines ever made from this fickle grape.</i>			
⊗ PAUL CLUVER ESTATE PINOT NOIR 2021/22	22.19	13.0	V+
<i>ELGIN. Super sophisticated luminous pinot noir with toasty bramble and savoury notes.</i>			
CATHY MARSHALL PETER'S VISION	22.19	14.0	V+
<i>Elegant Bordeaux blend with dark orchard fruits, garrigue and pencil shavings. Opulent and velvety.</i>			
BOUCHARD FINLAYSON HANNIBAL 2020	30.09	14.0	V+
<i>HERMANUS. Extraordinary wine. Flavours are rich black plum with strawberry undertones</i>			
BOUCHARD FINLAYSON GALPIN PEAK PINOT NOIR 2021	34.75	13.0	V
<i>HERMANUS. Red fruits and cherry, with cranberry and plum with smoky strawberry high tones. Awesome.</i>			
RUST EN VREDE ESTATE RED 2019/20	36.89	14.0	V+
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Sweet plum and dark berry fruit, liquorice, coffee beans and spice.</i>			
KAAPZICHT STEYTLER PINOTAGE 2020	52.00	14.5	V+
<i>STELLENBOSCH. Amazing world class wine. Mega-Awarded winery, one of only a handful of ***** star rated.</i>			
BOUCHARD FINLAYSON TETE DE CUVEE PINOT NOIR 2020	117.85	14.0	V
<i>HERMANUS. The pinnacle of SA pinot, Sweet black cherry fruit, raspberry and mulberry. Top dog.</i>			



CLARE'S SOUTH AFRICAN ODYSSEY



MONDAY



The Tuscan Villa style grounds and a rather lovely concrete egg at **Waterford** where I was staying for the week



Last of the Cabernet grapes about to go through the optical sorted and Paul Krige showing us the range at **Kanonkop**



Catherine Marshall's brilliant wines, beautiful artwork and hand made clay pots at her new winery space

Wine of the day
Cathy Marshall
Peter's Vision, £21.19



Elegant Bordeaux blend with dark orchard fruits, garrigue and pencil shavings. Opulent and velvety on the mid palate with a refreshing mineral finish.

TUESDAY



Paul Cluver now has 50% of its land as fynbos and has seen not only a large increase in other wildlife including leopards and fish eagles but also an increase in vine health. Andries Burger, the winemaker made a really interesting point at lunch that young vines show varietal character whereas older vines express terroir more. It is not a coincidence that it is mainly the older vines that go into their 7 Flag wines.



Bouchard Finlayson. An absolutely idyllic spot with fantastic cooling breezes. Trying a tank sample of the Missionvale.

Wine of the day
Paul Cluver Pinot
Noir 2023, £22.19



Ethereal and sophisticated Pinot that gives many top end Burgundies a run for their money. Spice roasted cherries with earthy, toasty undertones and a silky mouth feel.

WEDNESDAY



Demorgnezon is a 'garden vineyard' in an amphitheatre. They grow Daikon radishes as cover crops to help reduce weeds and disease!



New winemaker, Dirk going through the range at **Glenelly** with us and a view from their vertical winery.



Newly acquired, very steep vineyards at **Kaapzicht** and his delicious Cab Franc we had at dinner (his Braai was the best meal)

Wine of the day
Kaapzicht 1947
Chenin 2022, £52



Extraordinarily complex and beautifully balanced Chenin from Danie's oldest vines. Incredible tension is backed up by spiced pear, peach, lime leaf and wet stone. Wow.



THURSDAY

A SNAPSHOT SUMMARY



Darling Cellars was a complete contrast to the other wineries we visited for many reasons. The climate is much hotter and drier - a whopping 42oC when we were there. They are also a Co-op and so have a very different business model. This tank holds 50,000 litres!



Ernie Els has an impressive winery and fantastic views of Table Mountain. They also have a putting green where if you get a hole in one you win a special bottle of wine! The sunset here at dinner was spectacular.

Leaf roll is a huge problem in South Africa, particularly in Stellenbosch and we saw many vines that were badly affected. Carried by the mealy bug it does not kill vines but massively hampers photosynthesis, producing grapes with less colour and tannins giving wines that are out of balance and resulting in green, bitter flavours.

Wine of the day

Ernie Els Big Easy Red 2021, £20.09



Brilliant red blend. Fresh cinnamon, all-spice and tobacco leaf curl across a mix of black and red cherries with spicy perfume and pine needle freshness.

FRIDAY



Rustenberg farm covers a huge 880h of which only 120 are under vine. Situated against the immense Simonsberg mountain its vineyards reach altitudes of 600masl. Because of its unique location they still had a fair amount of grapes to pick even though most wineries had finished at least a week ago. The picture on the left is of the 5 Soldiers, after which their flagship Chardonnay is named.



Rust en Vrede's warm location lends itself to the production of powerful reds so they specialize in top quality Cabernet and Syrah. Warren, kindly talked us through their fantastic range.

Wine of the day

Rustenberg Chardonnay 2022 £15.99



Now very much a staple in my fridge. Intense and complex yet surprisingly light in the mouth. Packed full of creamy yellow fruits and a fresh finish. Delightful

SATURDAY



Owned by the Beck family, **Steenberg** is the closest winery to Cape town itself and is pretty windswept so ideal for cool climate grapes like Sauvignon and Chardonnay. They also have some Nebbiolo vines (left) and the wine was delicious. They still riddle their fizz by hand. A rarity these days!

SUNDAY

Arrived at Heathrow at a (red) eye wateringly early 4.45am after an truly incredible trip. We managed to fit in 17 wineries in 6 days and I tried over 170 wines. In fact the trip was so jam packed we didn't even get a chance to visit Stellenbosch town never mind Cape Town. This, of course, means I just³ have to go back another time. It is a breath takingly beautiful country and I was amazed at the diversity in the wines and the welcoming nature of everyone we met. What an adventure!



SPAIN / white

⊗ CRISTATUS WHITE 2023	8.39	12.0	
<i>ALICANTE. Light, dry, entry level Spanish easy-quaffer.</i>			
⊗ PLENO WHITE 2022/23	8.39	13.0	V
<i>NAVARRA. Clean, fresh, fruity, juicy un-oaked. What's not to like?</i>			
⊗ VERDEJO EL TESORO 2023	8.65	11.0	V+
<i>CASTILLA Y LEON. Lighter in alcohol but full of tangy, tingly treats. Made by Diez Siglos.</i>			
⊗ VERMADOR AIREN/MACABEO 2023	8.99	11.0	V+ O
<i>ALICANTE. Big Co-op, little price for organic wine. Nice and crisp; free run juice; belies its warm origin.</i>			
⊗ RIOJA BIANAI WHITE 2022	8.99	12.5	V+
<i>RIOJA. Delightful dry, unoaked fruity white from Rioja Vega. Bright apple, lemon and pear.</i>			
⊗ VERGEL AIREN/SAUVIGNON 2022/23	9.69	13.0	V+ O
<i>ALICANTE. Old vine Airen and zippy Sauvignon marry well; lots of lees ageing; ripe peachy style; no oak.</i>			
RIOJA BAGORDI BLANCO 2023	9.69	13.0	V+ O
<i>RIOJA. 50/50 Garncha Blanca/Sauvignon - super juicy, zingy, easy drinking organic wine.</i>			
DIAPIRO WHITE 2021	10.25	13.0	O
<i>ALICANTE. Fascinating white, 100% Merseguera. Grapefruit, fennel, mint and peach and very subtle wood.</i>			
⊗ DIEZ SIGLOS VERDEJO 2023	10.49	13.0	V+
<i>RUEDA. Tasty and minerally, stone fruit, tangerine and citrus, with notes of grass, fennel and aniseed.</i>			
PRINCIPE VIANA WHITE LTD ED 2023	11.00	13.0	V+
<i>NAVARRA. Box fresh white packed full of grapefruit, lime pineapple and apricot.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA TEMPRANILLO BLANCO 2023	13.69	13.5%, 13%	V+
<i>RIOJA. A gorgeous peaches-and-cream ripe, rich white made from albino Tempranillo grapes.</i>			
TESELA BY CLUNIA ALBILLO 2021/22	13.79	13.5	V+
<i>CASTILLA Y LEON. Fresh and zesty with floral peaches, minerality, white grapefruit and gooseberry.</i>			
ALBARINO ALBA VEGA 2023	14.25	12.5	V+
<i>RIAS BAIXAS. Superb, dry, zingy, fresh and fruity. A delight of salty lime goodness.</i>			
CLUNIA ALBILLO 2022/23	17.79	13.5	V+
<i>CASTILLA Y LEON. Fresh and floral with grapefruit and apricot. Intense and rounded from 5 months of oak.</i>			



SPAIN / red

⊗ BORGIA GARNACHA 2022	8.35	14.0	V+
<i>CAMPO DE BORJA. Jolly juicy fruit, plum, blackberry and bramble. Good swigging Spanish red.</i>			
⊗ CRISTATUS MONASTRELL 2023	8.39	14.0	
<i>ALICANTE. Great Daily drinker from toasty Alicante. Ripe plums, blackberry, chaerry and spice.</i>			
⊗ PLENO RED 2022	8.39	14.0	V+
<i>NAVARRA. A really good robust, fruity red. Excellent value.</i>			
⊗ RIOJA BIANAI RED 2022	8.75	13.5	V+
<i>RIOJA. Intense and fresh with youthful berry notes and plum. Punches above it's weight.</i>			
⊗ PRINCIPE VIANA GARNACHA 2021/22	8.95	14.0	V+
<i>NAVARRA. This is a great example of how juicy, smooth, tasty and red -fruited Grenache can be.</i>			
⊗ VERMADOR MONASTRELL/PETIT VERDOT 2022	8.99	14.0	V+ O*
<i>ALICANTE. Big flavour, little price! No oak, big, purple-y and juicy.</i>			
PINOSO MONASTRELL CEPA 50 2022	9.55	14.5	V+ O*
<i>ALICANTE. Unoaked style with cooler ferment to preserve the expressive fruit from 50 year old vines- blinding.</i>			
VERGEL MONASTRELL/MERLOT 2022	9.69	14.5	V+ O*
<i>ALICANTE. Vivid, soft youthful red of no inconsiderable charm. Red fruit forward with delicious milk chocolate.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA DEL RAYO SELECCIONADA 2021	10.15	13.5	V+
<i>RIOJA. Soft, squooshy, mellow relaxer. Warmly spicy, plums, cherries and a smokey hint. 6 Months in oak.</i>			

DIAPIRO ROBLE MONASTRELL /TEMPRANILLO /MERLOT 2022	10.25	14.5	O*
<i>ALICANTE. Oak-aged for 4 months in new french oak- coffee, cacao, raisin, toast, herb, vanilla.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA CRIANZA 2020	10.75	14.0	V+
<i>RIOJA. Exceptionally smooth and complex, 18 months in oak. Black fruit, toast, spice and cinnamon.</i>			
PRINCIPE VIANA AZAHAR (ORANGE) 2022	10.79	13.5	V+
<i>NAVARRA. Brilliantly priced tasty orange wine with clemetine skin, chamomile and almonds.</i>			
PRINCIPE VIANA CRIANZA RED LIMITED EDITION 2020	11.35	14.0	V+
<i>NAVARRA. Fantastic fruit and vanilla bomb that slips down a treat. Merlot/ Tempranillo/ Cabernet Sauvignon.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA DEL RAYO RESERVA 2016	12.39	13.5	V+
<i>RIOJA. Richly flavoured & spicy, combining ripe plum & dried fruit characters with cinnamon & vanilla.</i>			
RIPPA DORRIL ROBLE 2022 *was 12.79	11.65	14.5	V
<i>RIBERA DEL DUERO. Big, ripe and toasty Tempranillo full of forest fruit, liquorice and violets.</i>			
PRIOS MAXIMUS ROBLE 2021	13.49	14.5	V+
<i>RIBERA DEL DUERO. Soft, smooth ripe red fruit, cherries and blackberries with toasty nuts and chocolate</i>			
RIOJA VEGA TEMPRANILLO COLECCION RED 2022	13.69	14.0	V+
<i>RIOJA. Awesome, top-quality, limited edition, Just lovely, blackcurrant filled and super soft.</i>			
TESELA BY CLUNIA SYRAH/TEMPRANILLO 2019	13.79	14.5	
<i>CASTILLO Y LEON. Aromatic, soft, complete, easy-going, autumnal, medium-bodied and fresh.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA LIMITED EDITION CRIANZA 2020	13.79	14.0	V+
<i>RIOJA. The best barrels of the vintage, kept for a further two months in cask. Rich, robust and delicious.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA RESERVA 2018	15.79	14.0	V+
<i>RIOJA. Unctuous, spicy, ripe and soft with bags of fruit, toast, toffee and vanilla. More medals than Mr T!</i>			
RIOJA VEGA GRAN RESERVA 2017	19.75	14.0	
<i>RIOJA. Super-smooth mature and mellow. Powerful. well balanced and expressive, black fruit and spice.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA CON GRACIA GRACIANO 2018	19.99	14.0	V+
<i>RIOJA. Really intense and dark but so smooth. Only made in suitable vintages, a very serious wine.</i>			
ALBRET LA VINA DE MI MADRE RESERVA 2018	21.39	13.5	V+
<i>NAVARRA. Super-quality. Subtle, complex, black fruit jam, cassis, blackberry, vanilla, chocolate and tobacco.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA CRIANZA MAGNUM 2018	24.59	14.0	V+
<i>RIOJA. A magnum aged wine is frequently a more refined wine and this will be nothing short of awesome</i>			
CLUNIA MALBEC 2020	26.79	14.5	
<i>CASTILLA Y LEON. Humungous and yet very, very fine Malbec from a small, high altitude, arid vineyard.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA 140 ANNIVERSARY RESERVA 2016	29.05	14.0	
<i>RIOJA. Very ripe fruit, chocolate liqueur, jam, apple sauce, coconut, toast aromas, cedar wood.</i>			
RIOJA VEGA RESERVA MAGNUM 2018	33.59	14.0	V+
<i>RIOJA. Impressive dark fruit, leather, game, spice and smoke - who says size doesn't matter?</i>			



SPAIN / bag in box 3L

Just the thing to tide you through the week when you fancy a cheeky glass of wine. Fits beautifully in your fridge door or kitchen shelf (as in our house). 4 bottles in a neat little box of juicy goodness.

CRISTATUS BIB AIREN WHITE 3L 2023	27.85	12.0	
<i>ALICANTE. Big, bargain & beautiful.</i>			
CRISTATUS BIB MONASTRELL RED 3L 2023	27.85	14.0	
<i>ALICANTE. Enormously drinkable.</i>			



URUGUAY / white

- ⊗ **ALBARINO VINA SALORT 2023** **33.59** 13.0 V
 CANELONES. Stone fruits and citrus; rich, textural and rounded on the palate with a little grip on the finish.



USA / red

- ⊗ **SHOWDOWN 'MAN WITH AXE' CAB SAUV 2022** **11.39** 13.5 V+
 CALIFORNIA. Ripe blackcurrant and wild berries, sweet vanilla oak, cassis and black cherry. Soft & juicy.
- ⊗ **SCOTTO FAMILY OLD VINE ZINFANDEL 2017** **13.05** 13.5 V+
 LODI. Succulent blueberries, cola, cherry and black liquorice with summer berries, pomegranate & cranberry.
- CLINE CELLARS LODI ZINFANDEL 2022 *was 16.29** **15.59** 14.5 V+
 SONOMA. Brilliant classy Zin. Luscious, ripe, toasty, big, bold, beautiful with sweet fruit and silky tannins.
- CLAY SHANNON CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016** **24.50** 14.5 V+ O
 LAKE COUNTY. Complex and elegant, cassis, toasted oak and vanilla with blackberry pie.



COFFEE

Begin the day in style with our delicious single estate Arabica Brazilian coffee. Whittled down from loads of samples, this is rich, strong and aromatic with flavours of dark chocolate and nuts. Pre ground is best for coffee machines, or grind your own?

250g ready ground coffee - £4.55
1k of coffee beans - £13.15



Order along with your wine or come and collect from any of our shops.



SNACKS

We have loads of tasty snacks to order, from plump Gordal olives, continental crisps and olive oil biscuits to locally made Edinburgh charcuterie from East Coast Cured. Have a look on our website for more details and order or collect along with your wine.

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ROSE

⊗ ANGELS FLIGHT WHITE ZINFANDEL 2022	7.89	10.5	V+
<i>USA. Packed full of fresh strawberry and watermelon flavours. Very easy to drink.</i>			
⊗ PATO TORRENTE ROSE 2023	8.09	12.0	V+
<i>CHILE. Off dry, super fruity rose that's great with spicy food.</i>			
⊗ BIG TOP WHITE ZINFANDEL ROSE NV	8.35	10.0	
<i>USA. Medium-dry with crucial balancing freshness. Reminiscent of raspberry ripple ice cream.</i>			
⊗ BORGIA ROSE 2023	8.35	13.0	
<i>SPAIN. Soft, balanced and juicy with strawberry jam. Dry with a little mid-palate sweetness.</i>			
⊗ CRISTATUS ROSE 2023	8.39	13.5	
<i>SPAIN. Dry rose with 10 hours skin contact = delicate pinkness. Floral with strawberry and raspberry fruit.</i>			
⊗ PINOT GRIGIO ROSE AMANTI 2023	8.50	11.0	V+
<i>SICILY. Soft and light with juicy strawberry fruit and ripe peach.</i>			
⊗ LES VIGNERONS GRENACHE/MERLOT 2023	8.55	12.5	
<i>FRANCE. Like a punnet of summer fruit with a lingering creamy finish.</i>			
⊗ PINOT GRIGIO ROSATO ANCORA 2023	8.79	12.0	V+
<i>ITALY. Light, fruity and dry with fresh acidity, ripe red berries, cherries and citrus.</i>			
⊗ ANCORA CHIARETTO ROSE 2023	8.79	12.0	V+
<i>ITALY. Barbera rose! Fresh, succulent strawberries, as crisp and clean as they come.</i>			
⊗ FALSE BAY ROSE 2023	9.10	12.5	V+
<i>SOUTH AFRICA. Pale and juicy, a delicate Provence style rose from the Cape.</i>			
⊗ RIOJA VEGA ROSE 2022/23	9.20	12.0	V+
<i>SPAIN. Totally yummy in my tummy. Strawberry & raspberry jam & yet it is dry! How do they do that?</i>			
⊗ RIOJA BAGORDI ROSADA 2023	9.69	13.5	V+ / O
<i>SPAIN. A pale, sprightly, young and fruity wine that stands out for its juicy character.</i>			
⊗ ROSE D'ANJOU LES ROSERAIS 2023	10.19	10.5	V+
<i>FRANCE. Rich, spicy rose with fresh strawberry and raspberries fruit alongside a touch of toffee and liquorice.</i>			
⊗ DOMAINE L'OLIBET ROSE 2023 *was 10.25	9.45	12.0	V+
<i>FRANCE. Like taking a stroll in a spring meadow, abundant ripe fruit, lifted by a natural zing.</i>			
⊗ CHACABUCO MALBEC ROSE 2023	10.65	12.5	V
<i>MENDOZA, ARGENTINA. Hugely fruity and incredibly drinkable.</i>			
⊗ CLAVEL 'REGULUS' ROSE 2022	10.69	13.0	O
<i>FRANCE. Beautifully pale, round and fresh with white peach, candy and lemony citrus.</i>			
⊗ SOLEIL DES ALPES PROVENCE ROSE 2023	11.35	13.0	V+
<i>FRANCE. Classic dry, fruity Provence rose. The colour of rose petals & flavour of a summer fruit pudding.</i>			
⊗ CERISIERS ROSE 2023	11.39	13.0	V+
<i>FRANCE. Elegant, textured pink from the Southern Rhone. Delicate and berry filled with raspberry freshness.</i>			
CAP AU LARGE PROVENCE ROSE 2023	13.05	13.0	
<i>FRANCE. Attractive pale pink, dry rose with a bright character (& label!) which absolutely nails the style.</i>			
⊗ CIRCUMSTANCE CAPE CORAL ROSE 2022/23	14.55	13.5	V+
<i>SOUTH AFRICA. Classy, Bandol style rose with pomegranate fruit, spice and a good streak of minerality.</i>			
⊗ ERNIE ELS BIG EASY ROSE 2022	15.65	13.0	
<i>SOUTH AFRICA. Elegant aromatic Rose with aromas of fynbos, orange skin, hibiscus and red fruits.</i>			
⊗ WATERFORD ROSE-MARY 2022	17.49	11.5	
<i>SOUTH AFRICA. Perfectly balanced Provence style Rose with bags of fruit, white pepper and herbs.</i>			
BANDOL ROSE LAFRAN-VEYROLLES 2023	21.19	13.5	V+ / O
<i>FRANCE. Beautiful rose. Sun warmed herb and raspberries with a whispering of strawberry.</i>			



DESSERT / FORTIFIED WINE

SANTA JULIA TARDIO TORRONTES 2023 *375ml*	7.99	7.0	V+
<i>MENDOZA. Ripe and refreshing with sweet notes of pear, peach, apricot, honey and orange peel.</i>			
⊗ TRENTHAM NOBLE TAMINGA 2015 *375ml*	9.55	10.5	V+
<i>AUSTRALIA. A crossing of Sultana and Gewurztraminer; super-tangy orange, apricot and toffee. Delicious.</i>			
MOSCATO PASSITO PALAZZINA 2017 *375ml*	10.29	14.0	V+
<i>ITALY. The classic passito wine, simple and immense, nectarine, apricots and a touch of honey.</i>			
TORO DE PIEDRA LATE HARV SAUV/SEM 2021 *375ml* *was 11.75	10.39	14.0	V
<i>CHILE. Stone fruits, orangey citrus, honey and nectarine with good freshness to keep it clean.</i>			
BEAUMES DE VENISE ELEGANS COYEAUX 2016 50CL	11.99	15.5	V+
<i>FRANCE. Beautifully balanced sweet wine with honeyed apricots and a refreshing finish.</i>			
MONBAZILLAC GRANGE NEUVE 2020 *500ml*	12.70	12.5	V
<i>FRANCE. Along the river from Sauternes comes this great wine, tangerines, marmalade & candied peach.</i>			
DASCHBOSCH OLD VINE HANEPOOT 2017 *375ml* *was 14.45	12.69	17.5	V+
<i>S AFRICA. Complex, honey, orange blossom and fruitcake, ripe candied citrus peel and sweet mandarin.</i>			
PRINCIPE VIANA LATE PICK CHARDY 2019 *500ml	15.15	15.5	V+
<i>SPAIN. Luscious late harvest white with candied peaches, marmalade and cream. Nice bottle too.</i>			
CLINE LATE HARVEST MOURVEDRE 2017 *375ml*	19.25	15.0	V+
<i>USA. Richly sweet with excellent balancing acidity. Prunes, chocolate, berry fruit and coffee.</i>			
TOKAJI ASZU 5 PUTTONYOS TOKAIBOR 2016 50CL	22.29	11.5	V
<i>HUNGARY. Old and beautiful, intense golden nectar of the gods. Full on dessert option (for cheese too).</i>			
RATAFIA GOBILLARD *700ml*	23.00	17.0	
<i>CHAMPAGNE. Champagne grape juice fortified with Champagne brandy. Sweet and delightful.</i>			



PORT

MERCHANT VINTNERS RUBY PORT BY FONSECA	14.35	20.0	
<i>DUORO VALLEY. A soft and mellow "own label" made by Fonseca for us. Good Value.</i>			
KROHN RUBY PORT	15.15	20.0	
<i>DUORO VALLEY. Rich, full and soft with fresh plum and cherry fruit.</i>			
KROHN LAGRIMA WHITE PORT	19.39	20.0	
<i>DUORO VALLEY. Complex and nutty, rich and honeyed with a long tangy finish.</i>			
KROHN LBV PORT 2017	21.25	20.0	V+
<i>DUORO VALLEY. Spicy black fruit, vibrant plum and blackberry with fresh acidity and firm tannins.</i>			
LEITH WHITE PORT	22.05	19.0	
<i>DUORO VALLEY. Vibrant orange citrus and honeyed aromas, with some lemon, apple and a hint of vanilla.</i>			
LEITH TAWNY PORT	22.10	19.0	
<i>DOURO VALLEY. Fairly youthful, simple, easy-drinking tawny with bags of molasses and nutty flavours.</i>			
QUINTA DOS MURCAS 10YR TAWNY	29.50	19.5	
<i>DOURO VALLEY. Complex and nutty with notes of dry fruit, figs, nuts and spices. Age is an average in oak</i>			
MURCAS SINGLE VINEYARD 2015 *WAS 49.95*	40.99	19.5	
<i>DOURO VALLEY. Highly concentrated with ripe tannins, soft black fruits and balancing acidity.</i>			

★ **QUINTA DE MURCAS 10YR TAWNY PORT, £29.50**

Complex and nutty with notes of dry fruit, figs, nuts and spices. Age is an average time spent in oak





SHERRY

FERNANDO CLASSIC MANZANILLA	17.29	15.0	V+
<i>SANLUCAR DE BARRAMEDA, Fino made in the port of Sanlucar- saltier, tangier and a bit more nutty.</i>			
FERNANDO CLASSIC FINO	17.69	15.0	V+
<i>JEREZ Just a great drink- dry as a bone, nutty and fresh.</i>			
FERNANDO CLASSIC AMONTILLADO	18.39	17.0	V+
<i>JEREZ. A wee bit sweet to start followed by raisined, nutty, tangy notes before a dry finish.</i>			
FERNANDO CLASSIC CREAM	19.55	17.0	V+
<i>JEREZ. Full bodied and velvety, Rich, concentrated and tangy with dried fruit and nuts. Sweeter style.</i>			
FERNANDO CLASSIC OLOROSO	19.89	18.0	V+
<i>JEREZ. Earthy, dry and aromatic with loads of walnut, spice and orange peel notes.</i>			
LEITH PEDRO XIMENEZ 37.5CL	20.15	15.0	
<i>JEREZ. A decadent viscous syrupy treat, tastes like pure raisin juice.</i>			
LEITH MANZANILLA SHERRY	20.59	15.0	
<i>SANLUCAR DE BARRAMEDA. Bone dry with nutty and doughy flavours.</i>			
LEITH OLOROSO DRY SHERRY 75CL	22.05	19.0	
<i>JEREZ. A refreshing style of Oloroso, with zingy citrus notes, dried fruit, and a beautiful array of nutty flavours.</i>			
FERNANDO CLASSIC PEDRO XIMINEZ 75CL	25.55	15.0	V+
<i>JEREZ. All the dried raisins and fig flavours you'd ever want. Rich and concentrated.</i>			
FERNANDO ANTIQUE PEDRO XIMINEZ 50CL	40.09	15.0	V+
<i>JEREZ. 30 years in solera system, incredibly sweet, incredibly tasty- coffee, fig, raisin, molasses, yum.</i>			

PORT OF LEITH PX SHERRY 375ML, £20.15

From our Leith neighbours comes this deliciously decadent syrupy treat to wash down your mince pies.



WHITEBOX COCKTAILS

In the mood for bar quality cocktails without having to leave your house? Then these fantastic pre mixed cocktails are for you! Produced in Edinburgh and brought to you by an extremely experienced team with years of hands on bar experience, these dinky little cans need nothing more than a bit of fridge time and are ready to go. Also a great addition to stockings / handbags and pockets! 100ml single serves.





LOW AND NO



Christmas and all the surrounding frivolity tend to bring a bit of a glut of decadent days and nights. For the designated drivers, those preferring a night off or a clear head and all the in betweens, we have you covered.

DARLING CELLARS - SOUTH AFRICA

A range of de-alcoholised wines produced in a fruit driven style with a taste true to their grape varietal.

Sauvignon Blanc 0%, £5.65

Ripe tropical fruit, yellow peaches and gooseberries with fresh acidity and lingering finish.



Shiraz 0%, £5.65

Ripe red fruit, crushed black pepper, dried rose petals and candied cherries with well integrated French oak tannins.



Sparkling Rose 0.5%, £6.79

Aromas of ripe strawberries and sweet plum following through to a balanced palate with a lingering finish that leaves you wanting more.



PENTIRE - CORNWELL

A fantastic range of alcohol free spirits inspired by the botanicals growing around the Cornish coast. Distilled in a similar way to premium gins to extract maximum flavour, these make a brilliant choice for the non drinker. Try mixing Coastal Spritz with Darling Sparkling rose for an alcohol free aperitif. All are **£23.65** a bottle.

ADRIFT

Coastal, herbaceous and fresh. Notes of citrus, coupled with Sage, Rock Samphire and Sea Salt for a rounded herbal finish.



SEAWARD

Bright and zesty grapefruit citrus with refreshing green tones from the Pentire Plant Blend. Layered with natural berries from harvested sea buckthorn and wild seaweed.



COASTAL SPRITZ

Coastal botanicals blended with Blood Orange, Sea Rosemary and Oakwood to create the perfect balance of natural bitter flavours and refreshing coastal tones.



JUMPSHIP - EDINBURGH

After an unsuccessful attempt to find a suitably tasty non alcoholic Scottish beer, Sonja Mitchell took matters into her own hands and started up Jumpship in 2019. They have since beaten global competitors to be awarded best low or no lager at the World Beer Awards and are going from strength to strength.

Yardarm Lager, £2.00

The original brew. Zesty, biscuity and discretely bitter, it's exceedingly drinkable.



Stoker's Stout, £2.00

Smooth and full bodied with espresso notes, cocoa and hints of vanilla before a dry finish.





DRAM GOOD

What better way to mark my move up to Scotland than trying lots of fantastic whiskies. There have been some real beltors released this year but here are a few of my favourites.



James

Ardnamurchan The Midgie, Adelphi Distillery, Highlands

I'm a huge fan of Ardnamurchan, they were one of my first forays into the world of whisky. I bought one of their inaugural releases during the first lockdown and it certainly helped! There's a big buzz about them in the whisky world and for good reason. Their signature spirit is lightly peated and delivers a nice little kiss of smoke on every sip. The Midgie is a collaboration with Scotland's own midgie repellent business, Smidge. The whisky is limited to just 6400 bottles and uses a darn lovely combo of sauternes, madeira and sherry casks to create a very smashable whisky. On the nose, you get sweet brandy snaps, ginger, smoked honey and a little orange citrus, preparing you for the whack of mouth-cooling fresh mint, moving into bread & butter pudding, even a snap of Edinburgh rock! An absolute corker and probably one of the best value whiskies we have at the moment.



£58.19

Leith Legacy 10 Year Old Blended Scotch Whisky

Absolutely cracking value scotch blended in Leith, not far from our warehouse! Being a blended scotch means there's some malted barley and grain in the mix, helping to make it such great value. £31 for a 10 year old whisky is pretty fantastic value, free from artificial colour and chill filtration so more delicious flavours and oils are kept in the bottle to give a lovely rich texture. There's sweet custard tart on the nose, orchard notes and just a hint of smoke. On the sip you find some toffee, vanilla and a little spice. Nothing too extravagant here but it's not trying to be. They wanted to produce an affordable, tasty whisky to honour Leith and its legacy for whisky. Long may it continue, we need more producers like this. Blindingly good value and a must have for any whisky lover's spirit shelf.



£30.99

Octomore 15.1, Bruichladdich Distillery, Islay

I was lucky enough to be invited to the Octomore launch event this year. This is always a whisky to look forward to, one of the peatiest (smoky) whiskies in the world. However, it won't smack you across the face with smoke due to the quality of Bruichladdich's spirit and strict cask selection. The 15.1 is the benchmark Octomore but there is nothing ordinary about it. I got flavours of slightly scorched popcorn, chocolate M&Ms, finishing with the flavour of sherberty Refreshers sweets! It has a good, long finish, plenty to chew on with a whisp of smoke on the tongue. It was in fact my colleague Tommy's first tasting of Octomore and what a great way to experience it, lucky guy got to try all three Octomores in one night (as did I but for some inexplicable reason the night is a bit of a blur....)



£163.15

Why not come and visit us? We are eager to share all thoughts wine related, sometimes with unnecessary depth. Avid professionals, we love to sample our wares and keep ourselves up to date on any new wines, vintages etc. We can then pass all this carefully acquired knowledge on to our lovely customers with bespoke recommendations. Come and test us!

Our shops now sell 700+ beers from across the globe, come for a wander, find something new, leave happy.

GROG WAREHOUSE

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Open Monday - Saturday 9 - 5.30

Sunday 12 - 4 (December only)

Closed 25/26 Dec and 1st / 2nd Jan

We will close at 3pm Christmas Eve & Hogmanay



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For Dalkeith opening hours, please see the website.



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For Pleasance opening hours, please see the website.

