


KAMPTAL KINGS: THE AUSTRIAN WHITES OF THE SAX TWINS

Michael and Rudolf Sax, identical twin brothers, began to assume control of their family estate and winery - which had roots going back to 1660 - in 2008 at the age of 18. Hugely energetic and charming, they are making their mark within Austria and we are delighted to introduce their wines to the UK market.

The family own about 30 hectares of vineyards around the town of Langenlois in the heart of the Kamptal wine region to the north-west of Vienna. The climate here is perfect for growing aromatic grapes, with hot sunny days leavened by nights cooled by breezes from the Waldviertel to the northwest. The twins make a wide range, from which we have selected just four whites from different vineyards (= Ried). All are made in stainless steel and bottled under screwcap to exhibit freshness; and we know from tasting older vintages how well they age.

SAX, GRÜNER VELTLINER, LUFTIKUS, NEIDERÖSTERREICH, 2019 | 11.5%
BOTTLE £10.95  CODE SAX119

6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £62.41
CASE WITH 10% OFF £118.26

From fruit grown in Ried Wechselberg on loess over granite. This is an excellent introduction to their range: there's a correct mildly herbaceous scent of Grüner; a touch of spritz; and a nice vein of acidity under the lentil character. This makes a dry and refreshing all-rounder.

Now-2021

SAX, GRÜNER VELTLINER, ZWILLINGSLAUSER, KAMPTAL, 2019 | 12.5%
BOTTLE £13.50  CODE SAX219

6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £76.95
CASE WITH 10% OFF £145.80

Not from a named vineyard - Zwillingsslauser translates as "naughty twins" - but based on fruit from Ried Kittmannsberg, a warm south-facing site with granitic soils incorporating feldspar, quartz and mica. These retain heat well, which suits Grüner. Lovely scent of ripe pears - which fits with a fully ripe palate of pears, sherbet lemons and hints of spice. Thrillingly fine acidity. A winner.

Now-2023

SAX, GRÜNER VELTLINER, RIED PANZAUN, KAMPTAL RESERVE,


BOTTLE £15.95

6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £90.91

CASE WITH 10% OFF £172.26

Kamptal Reserve simply means the wine has to go before a tasting panel. From an eponymous vineyard with loess soils incorporating lots of slate, this has only recently been bottled, so it's a little tight and benefits from decanting, but it shows a lot of fruit - ripe grapefruit and pears - with a fullness in the mouth that is partly satiny and partly akin to creamed cereals. Fully dry, with a mineral edge, but a broad, fruity finish.

Now-2023

2019 | 13.5%
 CODE SAX319

SAX, RIESLING, RIED LOISERBERG, KAMPTAL RESERVE,

BOTTLE £15.95

6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £90.91

CASE WITH 10% OFF £172.26

From a high, terraced vineyard, up to 400m., south-east facing and from 52 year old vines growing on meagre topsoil over slate. Pale gold. Very open perfume of grapefruit zest and white peach. Intense ripe citrus. This is vibrant, racy, dry (just 3 grams of residual sugar) Riesling with mineral zip.

Now-2024

2018 | 13.5%
 CODE SAX419



SAX WHITES CASE

£150.00 CODE SAX20

A mixed dozen including three bottles of each of the four whites above, with a **discount of just over 11%** on the bottle prices

NEW ARRIVALS FROM SPAIN

A Catalan white and Tempranillo from three regions - with a mixed dozen below

LAS COLINAS DEL EBRO, GARNACHA BLANCA, TERRA ALTA,

2019 | 13.5%

BOTTLE £9.95

CODE CDE719

6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £56.71

CASE WITH 10% OFF £107.46

100% white Grenache from clay/limestone vineyards about 500 metres up (Terra Alta = highlands) in Catalonia. Here the altitude brings cool nights; and a dry wind known as el Cierzo keeps the vines healthy, enabling this to be made from organically grown grapes. This latest vintage is the first made using wild ferments too, just giving it a fraction more interest.

This has become one of our best regarded sub £10 whites. It's such a useful all-rounder, light enough to enjoy on its own but also not so fruity that one can't enjoy it with a wide range of fish and white meat dishes. Grapefruit scented with herbs - rosemary and bay leaf - with attractive texture and a distinct, lightly almondy finish.

Now-2021



SEGARES, RIOJA TEMPRANILLO,

2018 | 13.5%

BOTTLE £9.95

CODE NES118

6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £56.71

CASE WITH 10% OFF £107.46

Situated in Rioja Media, the vineyards lie on a plateau at 520-650 metres between the Ocón and Jubera valleys. All the wines are 100% Tempranillo and exhibit a purity of red fruit, with a lush texture aided by being bottled with minimal filtration. The latest vintage of this unoaked example of the joven style from 30+ year old vines: these deliver excellent concentration.

Very ripe, pulpy and strawberryish, soft and juicy; a simple pleasure, and hugely popular.

Now-2021

MONTETORO, TORO, 5,

2018 | 14.5%

BOTTLE £10.95

CODE MOT118

6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £62.41

CASE WITH 10% OFF £118.26

A new wine for us, from Bodega Ramon Ramos near Zamora, north-west of Madrid. In Toro the local red version of the Tempranillo grape is known as Tinta de Toro, here given a few months in French oak barrels.

Toro can be pretty brawny; but this is actually quite supple and easy-drinking. Overt strawberry perfume; and offer a gush of strawberries tinged with vanilla. Merest smudge of tannin, so it's supple enough to drink on its own - and could/should be lightly chilled at this time of year.

Now-2022

EL LAGAR DE ISILLA, RIBERA DEL DUERO, GESTACIÓN, VINAS VIEJAS,

2017 | 14.5%

BOTTLE £16.25

CODE LAH717

6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £92.63

CASE WITH 10% OFF £175.50

We have never shipped this wine before from Lagar de Isilla but were really impressed this vintage. The Tinta del Pais (Tempranillo) vines are around sixty years old and the resultant wine is very much at Crianza level in terms of quality, though only given nine months in smart French barrels, as opposed to the minimum of a year in the regulations for a Crianza.

Intense black fruit - slightly heated - aromas. Youthful attack - this would benefit from double decanting to serve now - displaying a flamboyant blackcurrant and dark chocolate heart. Very smooth and not in the least over oaky; glossy wine, perfect for rich beef, venison and lamb dishes.

Now-2024



HISPANIC MEDLEY

£125.00

CODE HM20

A case including three bottles of each of the four wines above - one white and three reds - with a discount of over 11.5% on the bottle prices.

PIEDMONT - A NO-NEBBIOLO QUARTET

No, it's not Inter Milan's new midfield formation: it's just that Piedmont is so well-known for its famed wines from Nebbiolo - Barolo and Barbaresco at the summit - that the region's other grapes sometimes don't get a look in. When one is travelling there one drinks fine white Arneis, Vermentino (known locally as Favorita) and excellent Chardonnay; and reds from Dolcetto and Barbera. The advantage of wines from the latter red grapes is that they don't need years in bottle to show at their best. Barbera is a northern Italian grape: it may not age for decades like Nebbiolo, but it has other virtues - openness, ripe cherry fruit and gentle structure.

TALIANO, ROERO ARNEIS, SERNÌ, 2019 | 13.5%
BOTTLE £12.95 CODE TAN619
6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £73.81
CASE WITH 10% OFF £139.86

Arneis is an ancient white grape in Piedmont, but a speciality of the Roero, which is just to the north of the river Tanaro. Sernì simply means chosen - as if the grape has picked its favourite spot in the sandy and chalky soils.

Herbal scent - a hint of pine needles. And again herbal notes of sage and bay, around a lively, tangerine-accented palate. Plenty of both weight and freshness. An enjoyable aperitif but also has enough substance for chicken or veal.
Now-2022



BOASSO, DOLCETTO, 2019 | 13.5%
BOTTLE £12.25 CODE BOA119
6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £69.82
CASE WITH 10% OFF £132.30

Dolcetto, of Piedmont origin, means "little sweet" but the grape is usually vinified dry. It can be crafted to make diverse styles, from a light, fruity wine for serving chilled to a concentrated, oaked wine for ageing. Here it's unoaked but has plenty of concentration. It's from a small plot of 32 year old vines just north-west of Serralunga.

Ripe black fruit scent. Lots of lively fruit flavour - blackberry and blueberry - backed by a bite of tannin. Bold, crunchy, slightly wild, this needs food; think ham or salume, pork belly or duck. Does Italy make the best rustic wines? Discuss while drinking this with bucolic grub such as tagliatelle and wild boar ragu.
Now-2023

TALIANO, BARBERA D'ALBA, A BON RENDRE, 2019 | 13.5%
BOTTLE £12.95 CODE TAN119
6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £73.81
CASE WITH 10% OFF £139.86

A bon rendere - it delivers you goodness. We keep selling out of this friendly wine so have shipped more this year.

Pretty cherry aromas. Ripe, juicy and appealing mouthful of red and black cherries, enlivened by a little peppery spice. All in balance and hearty enough for most meat dishes.
Now-2024

BOASSO, BARBERA D'ALBA SUPERIORE, 2018 | 14.5%
BOTTLE £14.50 CODE BOA119
6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £82.65
CASE WITH 10% OFF £156.60

"Superiore" may be added if the wine is aged for a year prior to release, of which at least four months must in barrel. At Boasso this wine gets ten months in the traditional very large Slavonian oak vats.

Already this has the air of a fine wine - though it will also keep very well. Complex aromas of brambly fruit with a liquorice hint. Lots of flesh, with refined red berry and plum fruit. Highly aromatic: floral touches of pot-pourri and violets. Shows a typical Barbera structure based on acid rather than tannin. Long finish. It's a bargain at this price, for drinking now or laying down.
Now-2024



PIEDMONT PICK

£134.25 CODE PPI20

We want to encourage you to try all of these wines, so here's a case including three bottles of each of the four wines on this page - one white and three reds - **with a discount of 15%**

THE SPARKLING WINES OF DOMAINE LAURENS, DIGNE D'AVAIL, LIMOUX

In Limoux they will tell you they were making sparkling wine in the “méthode traditionnelle”, (i.e with a secondary fermentation in the bottle to produce the fizz) long before the upstarts in Champagne. It's documented in the Benedictine abbey of Saint-Hilaire, just north-east of Limoux, in 1531, but may have commenced well before then. So Blanquette de Limoux (named because the leaves of the dominant local Mauzac grape have a downy underside) has a very ancient pedigree, and was recognised by appellation rules as early as 1938. More recently Chardonnay and Pinot Noir have been planted in Limoux and Crémant de Limoux was approved in 1990 for wines with a higher proportion of these (arguably) more prestigious grapes. Grapes for the sparkling wines are grown across the calcareous hills of Limoux; cooled not just by altitude - a few hundred metres - but also by proximity to the Pyrenees and Atlantic weather systems.

Jacques Calvel, born in Limoux, became an entrepreneur in emerging computer technologies and bought Laurens in 2002 as a retirement project for his return. With his investment this has become a very smart cellar making exemplary wines. We spent years seeking a producer in the region (and rejecting numerous alternatives) before discovering the wines in 2014 and we have never looked back. But with a distinct lack of parties, weddings and other festivities we also find ourselves overstocked, so let's push these stimulating sparkling wines out at a good discount.

DOMAINE J. LAURENS, BLANQUETTE DE LIMOUX, LE MOULIN, BRUT, FRANCE,

NV | 12%

BOTTLE £14.50

CODE LAU1NV

6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £78.30

CASE WITH 15% OFF £147.90

Elegantly made, using from 90% Mauzac, the traditional variety of Gaillac and Limoux, with 10% Chardonnay.

Pale lemon with a fine mousse. Aromas of ripe pear and white flowers with the notes of warm nuts and cinnamon characteristic of Mauzac. Elegant citrus and orchard fruit flavours meld seamlessly. A perfectly refreshing aperitif in summer, crisper than the Crémant below.

Now-2022

DOMAINE J. LAURENS, CREMANT DE LIMOUX, LES GRAIMENOUS, BRUT,

2018 | 12%

BOTTLE £15.75

CODE LAU318

6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £85.05

CASE WITH 15% OFF £160.65

We have always said this was a dead ringer for Champagne (and frankly much more fun to drink than some of the battery acid cuvées churned out by the giant cooperatives). It's a blend of 60% Chardonnay with 30% Chenin, 5% Pinot Noir and 5% Mauzac.

Such a refined nose with citrus and green apple scents, breadth and complexity. This is delightfully racy and vital, with ripe orchard fruits and a refined hint of breadiness. Such a versatile wine, an ideal accompaniment to seafood, even sushi and tempura.

Now-2023



LAURENS FIZZ DOZEN £154.25 CODE LFD20

A case including six bottles of each of the two sparkling wines on this page with a **discount of 15%**

For orders and all enquiries, please contact:

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Opening times: Weekdays: 9.00am-6.00pm Saturdays: temporarily closed