

Wines for Christmas



STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS



Wines for Christmas and the Holidays

Welcome to our 2019 Christmas list – encompassing eighty eight wines. We have grouped the wines by colour, plus style, grape varieties and geography, but we accept that for many people, at a busy time of year, the list may appear confusing or even intimidating. However, if you need help, that’s where we come in. There are five of us here in the office, ready on the phone to chat about your needs and help you assemble the cases of wine you need for the holidays.

Secondly, we want to reward you for buying more from us – so we are offering 5% off six bottles of the same wine and 10% off unsplit dozens. And our mixed dozens (see pp.7-9) have 5% off too.

Over the next few pages there’s also a range of pre-selected gifts. Do use us to send presents to family, friends and clients – we specialise in this, being small enough to give really personal attention to the task. The mixed cases are understandably popular.

A Happy Christmas from all of us here at SVS,

Simon Taylor - November 2019

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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Monday 23rd December
9.00am-6.00pm

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve
9.00am-3.00pm

**Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th
and Friday 27th December**
Closed

Saturday 28th December
9.30am-4.00pm

Sunday 29th December
Closed

Monday 30th December
9.00am-6.00pm

Tuesday 31st December
9.00am-4.00pm

Wednesday day 1st January
Closed

Thursday 2nd January on
Normal hours

LAST ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS: NOON MONDAY 23rd DECEMBER

(We undertake to send the order out for delivery on or before Christmas Eve – but we can’t absolutely guarantee delivery as the couriers very occasionally lose or drop cases. . . .)



Gifts for Christmas

Do contact us to discuss your specific needs and preferences. To order either call us on 01962 712351 or email sales@stonevine.co.uk. Please ensure you give us the recipient's details, including a contact telephone number, and any message you wish to send with the wine.

We are happy to pack up any choice of wines from this list in units of 1, 2, 3, 6 or 12 as gifts. If you have favourites you want to share, you want to work to a particular budget, or you know the recipient likes wines from a particular place, or in a particular style, just tell us and we can suggest wines to suit.

In addition to the price of the bottles our charges for smart red gift boxes for one to three bottles are as follows:

£1.25 for a single bottle gift box (or £4.75 for a wooden box);

£2.75 for a two bottle pack (£6.50 in wood).

£3.75 for a three bottle pack

Our quoted delivery charges (below) would apply in addition.

We can also offer vouchers to any value in multiples of £10.00 which can be redeemed against the purchase of wine with Stone, Vine & Sun, either by phone or on our website. Just give us the recipient's name and address, how much you want to spend, and we will send out some lists with our voucher and your message.

Please contact us for a quote if you plan a large or complicated order. We can recommend wines to suit your budget; and obviously delivery costs will be lower if multiple orders are dispatched to the same address. For deliveries to multiple addresses it is best to email us details of the recipients, messages to accompany the gifts, and delivery instructions.

All prices quoted for orders of less than a dozen on pp.4-6 include UK delivery (excepting Highlands and Islands – please ask for a quote)

Big Festive Tasting

Friday 29th November, 6.00pm-8.30pm

**Venue: Milner Hall,
9 St Peter St, Winchester SO23 8BW**

We return for our Christmas tasting to this beautifully renovated and lit former Catholic church. Based on the wines in this list, our Big Festive tasting will, as ever, deliver all the wines you need for December and the New Year: sparkling wine & Champagne: a wide range of whites, from crisp and fresh to perfumed and aromatic, taking in South Africa and classic France; reds from simple quaffers to picks from Spain, Italy, and spreads of Bordeaux and Rhône varieties; plus those delectable sweet and fortified wines which are such a part of the festivities.

We will also have the owners of two top estates from the Languedoc presenting their wines: Xavier Peynaud, winemaker at Mas des Brousses; plus Paul Jarman and Paul Jenkins, the recent buyers of Domaine du Météore in Faugères.

Come and taste over 50 wines - and get 10% off all bottle prices of wines in the tasting.

We will be charging £10.00 a head for the tasting, but we do offer 10% off any bottle price for any wine in the tasting, for all orders placed on the evening.

Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling 01962 712351 or emailing sales@stonevine.co.uk – or order tickets from our website.

Delivery charges* to one address are as follows:

1-5 bottles: £10.00, 6-11 bottles: £8.50,

1 case of 12 bottles: £5.95, 12-24 bottles: £8.50

Please note:

- Free delivery for orders of £150 or more (to one address), or over £75 in the Winchester area.
- The prices for the bottles, pairs, magnums and sixes on pages 3-5 include delivery.
- *Delivery prices vary for delivery to the highlands, islands and Northern Ireland - please ask us for a quote.



Magnums

We love magnums and always stock a large selection. They look spectacular, make popular presents, can ornament a room, and exude generosity when plonked on to a table. Add £7.50 to the prices quoted if you would like the magnums to be sent in a wooden box.

All prices quoted include delivery (which would not be charged on collections at the shop or accompanying orders over our free delivery thresholds).

M119 £31.50

Château Barrejat, Madiran,
Tradition, France, 2016
*Highly popular unoaked
Madiran*

M219 £37.50

El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera del
Duero, Roble, Spain, 2015
*Lightly oaked Tempranillo,
bold and robust - see p.22*

M319 £46.50

Amadieu, Cairanne,
Vieilles Vignes, France, 2015
*Classic southern Rhône from
bio-dynamically farmed grapes*

M419 £48.00

Vieille Dynastie, Lalande de
Pomerol, France, 2016
*Seductive Merlot-based right
bank Bordeaux - see p.25*

M51 £52.50

Michele Taliano, Roche dra
Bossora, Roero Riserva, Italy,
2012
*Superb Nebbiolo from
Piedmont*

M619 £67.50

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne,
Tradition, Brut, France, NV
*Our house Champagne - see
p.18*





Even bigger bottles....

J19 £97.50

Château Barrejat, Madiran, Tradition, France, 2017
A spectacular five litre jeroboam (equivalent to 6 2/3 bottles) of popular unoaked Madiran



DM19 £106.00

Domaine Le Couroulu, Vacqueyras, Cuvée Vieilles Vignes, France, 2015
A double magnum, three litres, so four bottles of this wonderfully hearty southern Rhône from a great vintage





Sixes

All prices include delivery (which would not be charged on collections at the shop or on orders over our free delivery thresholds)

Sampler Six \$19 £62.10

Six different bottles, all offering easy-drinking, uncomplicated pleasure

Domaine du Tariquet, Classic, Côtes de Gascogne, France, 2018 (p.10)

Consentido, Macabeo, Yecla, Spain, 2018 (p.12)

Cape Atlantic, Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa, 2018 (p.14)

Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2018 (p.20)

Finca Vista, Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina, 2018 (p.20)

Finca La Solana, Monastrell, (Organic & Vegan), Jumilla, Spain, 2018 (p.22)



Old World Six \$29 £84.85

Six varied bottles: fine Prosecco, two whites and three reds

Drusian, Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Extra Dry, Veneto, Italy, NV (p.18)

Corte Mainente, Cengelle, Soave, Italy, 2018 (p.12)

Aba de Trasmia, Albariño, Rías Baixas, Spain, 2018 (p.13)

Château de Marsan, Cadillac, Côtes de Bordeaux, Cuvée Moulin Pasquier, France, 2016 (p.24)

El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera Del Duero, Roble, Spain, 2018 (p.22)

Domaine des Espiers, Côtes du Rhône, France, 2016 (p.26)





Christmas Dozens

All dozens include a discount of 5%. The first three cases contain two bottles of each of the six wines listed; the latter three twelve different bottles.

Normal delivery charges – see p.3 - apply to all cases of twelve.

Christmas Decorations

CC19 £92.43

Two bottles of each of three whites and three reds, offering bright and fruity drinking

Los Seduras, Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, Chile, 2018 (p.10)

Domaine du Tariquet, Classic, Côtes de Gascogne, France, 2018 (p.10)

Consentido, Macabeo, Yecla, Spain, 2018 (p.12)

Bajel Pirata, Monastrell, Alicante, Spain, 2018 (p.20)

Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2018 (p.20)

Finca Vista, Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina, 2018 (p.20)

Winter Reds

CC29 £122.74

Two bottles of six reds, full-flavoured, generous, warming and food-friendly

La Combe Saint-Paul, La Clape, Grés Rouges, France, 2017 (p.21)

Finca La Solana, Monastrell, (Organic & Vegan), Jumilla, Spain, 2018 (p.22)

Rocca, Negroamaro, Salento, Italy, 2017 (p.23)

Apaltagua, Envero, Gran Reserva Carmenère, Colchagua, Chile, 2017 (p.24)

Goedverwacht, Great Expectations Shiraz, Robertson, South Africa, 2017 (p.26)

Vignerons d'Estézargues, Côtes du Rhône, Cuvée des Galets, France, 2018 (p.26)

Festive Favourites

CC39 £150.29

Two bottles of each of a Loire sparkler, two whites and three reds – popular styles for holiday entertaining

Diamant de Loire, Crémant de Loire, Brut, France, NV (p.18)

Cederberg, Chenin Blanc, Cederberg, South Africa, 2018 (p.14)

Domaine d'Elise, Petit Chablis, France, 2018 (p.16)

Château de Marsan, Cadillac, Côtes de Bordeaux, Cuvée Moulin Pasquier, France, 2016 (p.24)

El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera Del Duero, Roble, Spain, 2018 (p.22)

Il Palagione, Caelum, Chianti Colli Senesi, Italy, 2017 (p.23)





Cases including twelve different bottles

Each of these three cases includes twelve different bottles, and a very diverse selection of styles and grape varieties from all over the world.

Christmas Stocking C19DOZ £99.61

Six whites and six reds

Los Seduras, Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, Chile, 2018 (p.10)

Bellamico, IGT Falanghina Beneventano, Italy, 2018 (p.10)

Domaine du Tariquet, Classic, Côtes de Gascogne, France, 2018 (p.10)

La Combe Saint-Paul, Viognier, IGP Pays d’Oc, France, 2018 (p.11)

Consentido, Macabeo, Yecla, Spain, 2018 (p.12)

Las Colinas del Ebro, Garnacha Blanca, Terra Alta, Spain, 2018 (p.12)

Bajel Pirata, Monastrell, Alicante, Spain, 2018 (p.20)

Les Pradelles, IGP d’Hérault, France, 2018 (p.20)

Finca Vista, Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina, 2018 (p.20)

Valle Frio, Carmenère, Maule, Chile, 2018 (p.20)

Rocca, Negroamaro, Salento, Italy, 2017 (p.23)

Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d’Oc, France, 2018 (p.25)





Xmas Pleasures

C29DOZ £132.85

One sparkler, five whites, five reds and a bottle of port

Domaine J. Laurens, Blanquette de Limoux, Le Moulin, Brut, France, NV (p.18)

Domaine de la Chauvinière, Muscadet Sèvre et Maine sur lie, France, 2018 (p.11)

Domaine des Creysseles, Languedoc, Picpoul de Pinet, France, 2018 (p.11)

Corte Mainente, Cengelle, Soave, Italy, 2018 (p.12)

Aba de Trasmia, Albariño, Rías Baixas, Spain, 2018 (p.13)

Cape Atlantic, Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa, 2018 (p.14)

Château La Grave, Minervois Rouge, Tristan et Julien, France, 2017 (p.21)

Finca La Solana, Monastrell, (Organic & Vegan), Jumilla, Spain, 2018 (p.22)

Château de Marsan, Cadillac, Côtes de Bordeaux, France, 2016 (p.24)

Apaltagua, Envero, Gran Reserva Carmenère, Colchagua, Chile, 2017 (p.24)

Lagneau, Beaujolais-Villages, Cuvée Jeannine, France, 2017 (p.28)

Krohn, Port, Rio Torta Reserva, Portugal (p.31)

Christmas Crackers

C39DOZ £173.32

A bottle of Champagne, five whites, five reds, and a 50cl. bottle of Sauternes

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Brut, NV (p.19)

Aba de Trasmia, Albariño, Rías Baixas, Spain, 2018 (p.13)

Cederberg, Chenin Blanc, Cederberg, South Africa, 2018 (p.14)

Il Palagione, Hydra, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, Italy, 2018 (p.15)

Domaine d'Elise, Petit Chablis, France, 2018 (p.16)

Francis Blanchet, Pouilly-Fumé, Les Pernet, France, 2017 (p.16)

Tierra Fuerte, Graciano, Métrida, Spain, 2015 (p.22)

Il Palagione, Caelum, Chianti Colli Senesi, Italy, 2017 (p.23)

Château Beauregard Ducasse, Graves, France, 2016 (p.25)

Domaine des Espiers, Côtes du Rhône, France, 2016 (p.26)

Silent Noise, Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2016 (p.27)

Mascaron, Sauternes, France, 2015 (50cl.) (p.30)



Whites for Daily Drinking

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc and superior Pinot Gris (Grigio); stone-fruited Falanghina from the Campania near Naples; and that staple of France's south-west, the featherlight and exotic Classic Côtes de Gascogne from Tariquet.

Los Seduras, Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, Chile, 2018, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.50 6 bts with 5% off £42.75 Case with 10% off £81.00 Code SED118

To be applauded for its typicity to the grape variety. During December we will move to the 2019 vintage – we like to drink fresh Sauvignon!

Bright, crisp and fruity with a lightly tropical perfume and then a cheerful mouthful of grassy and pineapple flavours, with a refreshing finish. Now-2020

Bellamico, IGT Falanghina Beneventano, Italy, 2018, 12%

Bottle £8.75 6 bts with 5% off £49.87 Case with 10% off £94.50 Code BEM118

Named after the town, Benevento, in eastern Campania. Wine from the Falanghina grape is mid-weight, with hints of stone fruit.

This is a useful all-rounder – those flavours of apricot and peach make it attractive as an aperitif but it also shows pleasant volume. Now-2020

Domaine du Tariquet, Classic, Côtes de Gascogne, France, 2018, 10.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.95 6 bts with 5% off £51.01 Case with 10% off £96.66 Code TRR118

The much-loved light and crisp white from the Grassa family's extensive vineyards in Gascony - from Ugni Blanc and Colombard tweaked with ripe Sauvignon Blanc and waxy Gros Manseng.

So brightly delicious: a zesty palate, citrus flavoured with notes of passion-fruit and pineapple. Now-2020

Apaltagua, Pinot Gris Reserva, San Antonio, Chile, 2018, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.25 6 bts with 5% off £52.72 Case with 10% off £99.90 Code APA918

Pinot Gris (Grigio) is being planted all over the new world, often in unsuitably hot sites. This at least comes from new vineyards in the coastal mountains just 12kms. from the cool Pacific.

Bright and open, with a lightly floral character and exotic fruit hints of guava. Pretty and pleasing, with a lot more fruit and personality than highly cropped Italian or eastern European versions. Now-2020





Bright and Crisp Whites

Four unoaked wines: a floral Viognier; a superior Trebbiano from Emilia-Romagna; fresh Muscadet from the Atlantic mouth of the Loire; and a top Picpoul from near the Med.

La Combe Saint-Paul, Viognier, IGP Pays d'Oc, France, 2018, 13%

Bottle £9.50 6 bts with 5% off £54.15 Case with 10% off £102.60 Code CSP318

Paul and Line Maury might be our youngest producers but winemaking runs in the genes. Paul's grandparents and great grandparents were winemakers specialising in single varietal wines.

Such a pretty aroma of blossom – this is on the light, fresh, floral side of Viognier - white peach and orange blossom. True Viognier body, and a good dry finish. Now-2020

Tenuta Casali, Bassamarea Bianco, Bianco Rubicone, Italy, 2018, 12%

Bottle £9.95 6 bts with 5% off £56.71 Case with 10% off £107.46 Code TEN118

Based in Mercato Saraceno, south of Cesena in Emilia-Romagna, the Casali family have 20 hectares of grapes, mostly on hillsides on the edge of the Apennines. Their land is now worked to organic practice and the wines will be certified soon.

This pure Trebbiano shows the simple virtues of the grape – citrus and peach flavours, nicely rounded, with a hint of white pepper. Honest, refreshing and tasty. Now-2020

Domaine de la Chauvinière, Muscadet Sèvre et Maine sur lie, France, 2018, 12%

Bottle £10.25 6 bts with 5% off £58.42 Case with 10% off £110.70 Code HUC118

Muscadet has suffered terribly over the last decade: from falling demand and a series of harvests dramatically hit by frost or other extreme weather. Against this trend Jérémie Huchet at Chauvinière has expanded his vineyard holdings: he's a regional superstar.

From low yielding vines on the estate's classic granite soils.

Open, generous mouthful with stone fruit, textbook zest and balance, and a dry, gently saline finish. Now-2020

Domaine des Creysseles, Languedoc, Picpoul de Pinet, France, 2018, 13.5%

Bottle £11.25 6 bts with 5% off £64.12

Case with 10% off £121.50 Code CRE118

The local Piquepoul grape has the advantage of being slow-ripening: picked after the heat of summer has passed it retains freshness and flavour. The appellation of Picpoul de Pinet, south-west of Montpellier, has now become deservedly fashionable; irritatingly so, as we now struggle to get enough stock of this excellent example made by Mme. Benau at Creysseles. Her vineyards are on clay and gravel soils, which lend greater weight than the sandier fields nearer the sea, set amidst woods of pines and cypresses. She crops at low yields, around 40hl/ha., picks late and leaves the wine on its lees. This is the 15th vintage in a row we have shipped!

Very open, citrus and pine scents. A touch more texture than usual, fresh and limey, with the merest saline note on the long finish. Picpoul is the traditional accompaniment to the oysters from the local beds near Sète, but it's as appealing as an aperitif as with all types of seafood. Now-2020





Rounded and Fruity Whites

Here we feature unoaked western European whites with increased weight and fruit. The Macabeo is one of our best finds of this year whilst the other wines are fast becoming benchmarks here.

Consentido, Macabeo, Yecla, Spain, 2018, 12%

Bottle £9.25 6 bts with 5% off £52.72 Case with 10% off £99.90 Code CON118

Macabeo (Macabeu in the Languedoc-Roussillon) is the same grape as Viura, the principal ingredient in most white Rioja. Here it's picked early in September for freshness.

We were knocked out by this example, from its open, stone-fruited scent to its excitingly ripe and weighty mid-palate of white peach and fresh grapes, all the way to a dry, savoury and stoney finish. Terrific at the price, and a cool label too. Now-2020

*"I love this fragrant, Spanish white – it's the perfect aperitif", Fiona Beckett, **The Guardian**, Saturday 5th October 2019*

Las Colinas del Ebro, Garnacha Blanca, Terra Alta, Spain, 2018, 14%

Bottle £9.50 6 bts with 5% off £54.15 Case with 10% off £102.60 Code CDE718

This is the fifth vintage we have shipped of this 100% white Grenache from clay/limestone vineyards about 500 metres up (Terra Alta = highlands) in Catalonia. (The last was much praised by Jancis Robinson in the FT).

This is a really good all-rounder, showing grapefruit scented with herbs - rosemary and bay leaf - with attractive texture and a distinct, lightly almondy finish. Good value - this would cost quite a bit more if from the Rhône. Now-2020

Château Barréjat, Pacherenc du Vic-Bilh Sec, France, 2018, 13.5%

Bottle £10.95 6 bts with 5% off £62.41

Case with 10% off £118.26 Code BAJ618

We sell a lot of Denis Capmartin's terrific red Madirans from Barréjat, but his Pacherenc, the Gros Manseng based white from exactly the same area of south-west France north of Pau, is undeservedly less appreciated.

Pale gold. This delivers both weight and bracing freshness. Bright and tangy palate of ripe apricot and crisp pineapple. Open and exuberant, delightfully fruity yet correctly crisp on the finish, this makes a lovely aperitif or an accompaniment to chicken. Now-2020

Corte Mainente, Cengelle, Soave, Italy, 2018, 12.5%

Bottle £10.95 6 bts with 5% off £62.41

Case with 10% off £118.26 Code MAI118

The reputation of Soave, a DOC just east of Verona, was ruined by the supermarkets demanding ever higher yields of tasteless juice. The real thing, as here crafted by young Davide Mainente, is so fruitily enjoyable.

From 90% Garganega (with 10% Trebbiano di Soave) on calcareous soils, this displays an enticing perfume of white flowers and greengages. Overtly fruity - green plums with stone fruit hints - and well-rounded, this offers a ripe and friendly glass, lovely to drink on its own or with a wide range of light dishes.

*"Packed full of flavour... The first thing that hits you is pungent greengage and peach, white flowers in the background", Will Lyons, **The Sunday Times magazine**, 18th August 2019. Now-2020*





Aromatic Whites

A really diverse selection here, from dry German Riesling and flowery Alsace Gewurztraminer to stone-fruited Galician Albariño and an intense New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc.

Villa Wolf, Dry Riesling, Pfalz, Germany, 2018, 12% [Screwcap]

Bottle £10.75 6 bts with 5% off £61.27 Case with 10% off £116.10 Code WOL118

A dry Riesling from the dry and sunny Pfalz, overseen by German winemaking genius Ernst Loosen.

A very well-made bottle of crisp, grapefruity Riesling: perfect for shellfish. Not bone dry so has a friendly side too. Now-2022

Waipara Springs, Sauvignon Blanc, Waipara, New Zealand, 2018, 12% [Screwcap]

Bottle £12.95 6 bts with 5% off £73.81 Case with 10% off £139.86 Code WAI117

Waipara, about 35 miles north of Christchurch, lies far to the south of Marlborough, but the wines here are proof that this region, with perfect clay / limestone soils, could rival Marlborough as a source of top quality Sauvignon Blanc. Waipara Springs was the pioneer here, with its first plantings in 1982.

This is (as ever) so incisive and lively, exhibiting intense pink grapefruit flavour. Now-2020

Aba de Trasmia, Albariño, Rías Baixas, Spain, 2018, 13%

Bottle £13.50 6 bts with 5% off £76.95 Case with 10% off £145.80 Code TRA118

Albariño is the best known grape and wine of Galicia in Spain's Atlantic north-west. This comes from Viña Moraima, a tiny co-operative (just 13 growers producing around 4,000 cases a year) established in 2006 near Pontevedra. Most of the growers are small farmers with vineyards on the slopes of the Salnés Valley: and some of the vines, largely high trained on trellises in the traditional manner, are very old indeed.

Lovely in the latest vintage, delivering a deliciously open palate of apricot and ripe citrus tinged with floral (lavender?) notes and a saline hint. Albariño makes a superb match to seafood, especially prawns and crab, but an enticing aperitif too. Now-2020

Jean-Luc Meyer, Gewurztraminer, Alsace, France, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £13.95 6 bts with 5% off £79.51 Case with 10% off £150.66 Code MEY316

We have been buying from the Meyer family in Eguisheim since their 2001 vintage. Their wines both offer authenticity and very good value in a wealthy region; and their adoption of organic viticulture does seem to have made the wines that much more bright and precise.

The weight and spice of Gewurztraminer seems perfect in winter. Here there's a perfect balance between rose-petal aromatics, exotic fruit and spice. Full bodied and flavoursome (13 grams of residual sugar), this is great either as an aperitif or to accompany spicy food, for example Thai curries. Now-2021





South African Whites

South African whites remain some of the best value wines in the world. Here we offer two young and lively unoaked wines and two rich and weighty barrel-fermented examples.

Cape Atlantic, Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa, 2018, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.95 6 bts with 5% off £56.71

Case with 10% off £107.46 Code CED618

Although there is no mention on the label, this wine is from the very high young Sauvignon parcels at Cederberg, plus some fruit from owner David Niewoudt's Ghost Corner vineyards at cool and windy Elim, near the southernmost point of Africa (hence the gannet on the label). It's a real Kiwi challenger in its intensity.

Crisp and precise, showing gooseberry Sauvignon fruit and grassiness with a mineral bite. Now-2020

Cederberg, Chenin Blanc, Cederberg, South Africa, 2018, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £12.95 6 bts with 5% off £73.81

Case with 10% off £139.86 Code CED118

From vines planted into shale - with minimal soil - in the isolated and baboon-ridden vineyards amidst the Cederberg mountains. At over 3,000 feet these are the highest in the Cape - and the winemaking team seeks to preserve that mountain freshness.

Zippy entry of crisp pineapple, lime and white peach - and finishes dry and mineral. Now-2020



Blankbottle, Moment of Silence, Wellington, South Africa, 2017, 14%

Bottle £16.95 6 bts with 5% off £96.61 Case with 10% off £183.06 Code BB0117

Moment of Silence (or MoS for short) is always the best value wine in Pieter Walser's eclectic zoo of mad and bad blends. Chenin Blanc from four different sites, plus Grenache Blanc and Viognier, barrel-fermented and aged on the lees for a year.

Bold, full-flavoured and concentrated, intensely stone-fruited with cream and nuts. We never can work out how Pieter gets so much texture into his whites! Now-2020

Des Dieux, Chardonnay, Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, South Africa, 2015, 14%

Bottle £17.95 6 bts with 5% off £102.31 Case with 10% off £193.86 Code DDD115

Last month this wine triumphed in competition. The Veritas Awards in the Cape is one of the top two local wine competitions. This year 1491 wines were entered, amongst them 100 Chardonnays. To quote their press release: "The Veritas Vertex Award for the overall champion wine. ...was won by Domaine Des Dieux Chardonnay 2015... The Veritas Vertex Award derives its name from the Latin word vertex, which means "highest point" and perfectly represents the Veritas Awards objective of crowning the best wine at the peak of all the medals awarded". A panel of professional, mainly South African, judges considered this was the best Chardonnay and the best wine amongst 76 double gold winners.

A full-flavoured, perfectly-ready-to-drink, barrel-fermented and aged (about 30% new oak) Chardonnay of concentration and length, from well-sited, family-owned vineyards at the top of the valley, renowned as a sweet spot for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. It shows plenty of delicious dairy (think cream and butter) elements, refreshing lime and greengage fruit and a long finish. Now-2021



Off the Beaten Track

Four whites from four countries, all from lesser known regions. Here the wines begin to get really interesting...

Il Palagione, Hydra, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, Italy, 2018, 13%

Bottle £13.50 6 bts with 5% off £76.95 Case with 10% off £145.80 Code PAL618

Giorgio Comotti's organically farmed Vernaccia comes from the rolling hills just south of San Gimignano and east of Volterra. Here the Vernaccia grape has a particular affinity for the sandstone-derived soils.

This stimulating Vernaccia is superb in this vintage: an enticingly herbal scent with hints of sage and mint; and then terrific to drink, both rounded and zippy. Lots of intensity and energy - green fruit and melon with a long stony finish. Keeps well too. Now-2021

Zanut, Zakaj, Goriska Brda, Slovenia, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £16.50 6 bts with 5% off £94.05 Case with 10% off £178.20 Code ZAN216

Zakaj (pronounced Zakay), translated from Slovenian, means "why". The grape is what used to be called Tocai Friulano (a name not permitted since Hungary joined the EU), now known as Friulano or Sauvignonasse, originally a Bordeaux variety.

Really pretty nose, redolent of lime blossom. Mid weight, this delivers both diverse fruit flavours, peach and tangerine, alongside subtle hints of rose water and white flowers. A brilliant, complex white. Now-2021

Domaine Fontanel, Côtes du Roussillon Blanc, France, 2017, 13.5%

Bottle £16.50 6 bts with 5% off £94.05 Case with 10% off £178.20 Code FON717

Half comes from an ancient (1908) complanted vineyard near Tautavel, largely holding Grenache Blanc and Gris plus Carignan Blanc, Muscat and Malvoisie; and half from younger Roussanne. With subtly integrated oak, this is a powerful white, with a wonderful gamut of flavours.

So aromatic pine and herbs; and then a generous mouthful of honeyed stone fruit - peach plus kernel - with hints of almond, pine again and fennel. Creamy, fat and altogether satisfying. Now-2021

Wickham Road, Chardonnay, Gippsland, Australia, 2017, 12.8% [Screwcap]

Bottle £18.95 6 bts with 5% off £108.01

Case with 10% discount £204.66

Code WIC117

Gippsland is an up-and-coming coastal region east and south of Melbourne. Here the d'Anna family manage an eight hectare vineyard in a cool, free draining site, with vines now 18 years old, planted solely to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

Oak, cream and ripe apple aromas. Richly textured - a bit of muscle - with plenty of flavour, a generous heart and a lifted finish. Expansive barrel-fermented Chardonnay, but much more sophisticated than the Aussie Chard of the 90s. Now-2021





Classic France

Four whites from Burgundy - north and south - and the Loire.

Domaine Fichet, Bourgogne Blanc Aligoté, France, 2018, 12.5%

Bottle £13.95 6 bts with 5% off £79.51 Case with 10% off £150.66 Code FIC818

Some may be sceptical of our choice of an Aligoté for a winter selection. But this stunning example by Olivier Fichet, our long-term partner in the Mâconnais, comes from the hot Burgundy summer of 2018, so is wholly harmonious and silky – and not at all acidic!

Floral scent; bright attack - with a crisp pink grapefruit accent; a gently creamy mid-palate; and a refreshing, lightly saline finish. Now-2020

Domaine d'Elise, Petit Chablis, France, 2018, 12%

Bottle £15.25 6 bts with 5% off £86.92 Case with 10% off £164.70 Code ELS118

Frederic Prain owns one block of vineyards, so chalky and stony as to appear like a white beach, on the boundary of the Chablis appellations: his Petit Chablis abuts the 1er Cru Côte de Lechet. A single oak among the vines appears on his labels. Up on a hill, overlooking Milly and Chablis itself, this is quite a cool site, which has therefore benefited from recent warm summers.

A benchmark, far better than most co-op Chablis: cool and oyster-shell fresh in the mouth, excellent concentration and correctly lactic. Perfect for simply cooked plaice or cod. Now-2020

Francis Blanchet, Pouilly-Fumé, Les Pernet, France, 2017, 12.5%

Bottle £15.50 6 bts with 5% off £88.35

Case with 10% off £167.40 Code BLA117

The Blanchet's wine is so authentic, with real bite and stony character, and always at a very fair price. It keeps well too, though as it's a brilliant accompaniment to smoked salmon I suspect it will be drunk over the holidays!

Always very true to the appellation: bright lemon over a mineral acid thread. Fresh and bone dry on the finish. Pair with anything from simply prepared white fish to smoked eel. Now-2021

Sainte Barbe, Mâcon-Villages, Les Tilles, France, 2017, 13%

Bottle £17.50 6 bts with 5% off £99.75

Case with 10% off £189.00

Code SAB117

From a small parcel on clay and limestone planted in the late 60s, tended bio-dynamically (certified organic) by young Jean-Marie Chaland. Just 5% goes into old barrels, but it spends months on the fine lees to develop flavour and weight.

This shows so much refinement for a Mâcon; a mouthful of grapefruit and apple; silky texture; and a hard-to-define poise. So drinkable, either as an aperitif or with chicken dishes. Now-2021



Grand Whites

Barrel-fermented Chardonnay - of course! - from the Côte de Beaune and the coast of Chile, but also a great Cape Chenin and Condrieu.

Cederberg, V Generations Chenin Blanc, South Africa, 2016, 14%

Bottle £23.95 6 bts with 5% off £136.51 Case with 10% off £258.66 Code CED516

This is rightly regarded as one of the best pure Chenins in the Cape, attested by this vintage being both a **Platter** five star winner and a Standard Bank Top 10 Chenin. It's a very limited production wine - just seven barrels this vintage, so just over 300 dozen.

Concentrated, quite oaky (1/3 new barrels, 1/3 first fill, 1/3 second), but delivering intense and broad flavours of stone fruit (in part from a dollop of Viognier), nuts; and plenty of weight. So impressive. Now-2022

Agnès Paquet, Auxey-Duresses Blanc, France, 2016, 13%

Bottle £26.95 6 bts with 5% off £153.61 Case with 10% off £291.06 Code PAQ216

When we carry as much stock of white Burgundy as we do, it's really hard to pick one for the Christmas list, but Agnes Paquet's white Auxey is showing so well right now that we could only highlight this.

From the oldest plot of vines on the estate, averaging 85 years of age. Matured in oak for 10 months, 15% new. Lovely fragrant nose. As ever, brilliant concentration of fruit with real tension. Superb for a village wine. Now-2023

Domaine Pichat, Condrieu, La Caille, France, 2017, 13.5%

**Bottle £41.50 6 bts with 5% off £236.55
Case with 10% off £448.20
Code PID617**

The tiny appellation of Condrieu is the source of one of the great wines of the world. Here Viognier is at its northernmost edge for ripening, and the granitic and mica rich soils seem to impart a unique flavour.

1/3 in new barrels, with the ripe apricot and peach fruit and wonderfully rich texture balanced by tense minerality. Very long. Magnificent. If you have a lobster at hand (and I accept that we don't all) then drink this with it, but it's also wonderful with crab and prawns or simply on its inimitable own. Now-2021



Errázuriz, Las Pizarras Chardonnay, Aconcagua Costa, Chile, 2016, 13%

Bottle £55.00 6 bts with 5% off £313.50 Case with 10% off £594.00 Code ERR616

The top Errázuriz Chardonnay, named after the slate (Pizarras) with metamorphic rock in the vineyards near the cool Pacific. Stunning, this represents a new level of elegance for Chilean Chardonnay. It was scored by American wine critic James Suckling in May 2017 at 98/100. Yes, the price is irritating, but it's deliberately aligned with smart white Burgundy.

Beautifully balanced, satiny Chardonnay. Less than 20% of the wine went into new barrels; and just 55% of the wine underwent malolactic fermentation; so one sees more fruit and more freshness. Such finesse and length: remarkable. Now-2022



Sparkling Wine and Champagne

Two Champagnes, to be sure, but also cool-climate sparklers from the Loire, Limoux, the Veneto, the Adelaide Hills - and just

Michele Taliano, Birbet, Italy, NV, 5.5%

Bottle £9.25 6 bts with 5% off £52.72 Case with 10% off £99.90 Code TAN916

Birbet is a frothy sweet red, a speciality of Piedmont and made like a sparkling Moscato, but from the red Brachetto grape.

With about 110 grams of residual sugar, this is very sweet, but with refreshing red-fruited bite too. A glass is fun with cake or light fruit puddings. Now-2020

Diamant de Loire, Crémant de Loire, Brut, France, NV, 12.5%

Bottle £12.95 6 bts with 5% off £73.81 Case with 10% off £139.86 Code DIA1NV

This gentle fizz has gone down very well with our customers. Sparkling wine from Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay has been produced in Saumur in the same way as Champagne (i.e with a secondary fermentation in the bottle to create the fizz) since the early nineteenth century.

Fine mousse. Ripe, appley fruit, lightly creamy, with a little structure too. Easy to like, and classier than a lot of Prosecco. Now-2020

Drusian, Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Extra Dry, Veneto, Italy, NV, 11%

**Bottle £14.50 6 bts with 5% off £82.65
Case with 10% off £156.60 Code DRU1NV**

Our wonderful, much praised Prosecco from a family owned producer with vineyards in the heart of the Valdobbiadene.

Deliciously sherberty, light, and with the merest hint of fruity sweetness, this makes a perfect aperitif. Now-2020



Domaine J. Laurens, Blanquette de Limoux, Le Moulin, Brut, France, NV, 12%

Bottle £14.50 6 bts with 5% off £82.65 Case with 10% off £156.60 Code LAU1NV

Elegantly made, using Champagne techniques, from 90% Mauzac, the traditional variety of Limoux, with 10% Chardonnay, grown in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

Pale lemon with a fine mousse. Aromas of ripe pear and white flowers with the notes of warm nuts and cinnamon characteristic of Mauzac. Crisp and elegant citrus and stone fruit flavours meld seamlessly and lead to a finely focused finish. A perfectly refreshing aperitif. Now-2020

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Tradition, Brut, France, NV, 12%

Bottle £26.50 6 bts with 5% off £151.05 Case with 10% off £286.20 Code HAT1NV

Half bottle £13.95 6 halves with 5% off £79.51 Case (12 x 37.5 cl.) with 10% off £150.66 Code HAT2NV

Magnum £57.50 3 magnums with 5% off £163.87 Case (6 x 150cl.) £310.50 Code HAT9NV



down the road above the Itchen in Hampshire. The odd one out is the frothy sweet red Birbet, a frivolous diversion. Note that our “house” Champagne from Thomas-Hatté is available in useful halves and magnums.

Our “house” Champagne, crafted by fifth generation champagne grower Franck Thomas from his family’s historic holdings of just 3 hectares of vines around Fleury la Rivière, about 10 kilometres north-west of Epemay. 70% Pinot Meunier, 20% Chardonnay and 10% Pinot Noir, and that unusually high proportion of Pinot Meunier lends an early maturing charm, and some of the character of a well-aged vintage Champagne.

Splendidly rounded, creamy and mature, with some brioche and nutty nuances. Now-2021

The Grange, Pink, Dry English Sparkling Wine, Hampshire, England, NV, 11.5%

Bottle £30.95 6 bts with 5% off £176.41

Case with 10% discount £334.26

Code GRA5NV

The Grange rosé fizz comes from one well-sited, south facing slope above the river Itchen near Alresford – about 7 miles as the crow flies from our warehouse. This, from about 58% Pinot Meunier, 40% Pinot Noir and 2% Chardonnay, is largely based on the 2015 vintage, the Baring family’s first proper harvest. We loved this, as did local wine critics Peter Richards and Susie Barrie, married Masters of Wine, who called it “both serious and delicious”.

Very pale salmon. Stunning fruit, hinting at white peach and redcurrants. Of course this is pretty fresh - as all English fizz is - but it’s elegant, perfectly clean and attractively long. Take a glass every morning of the holidays as a pick-me-up! Now-2022



Ashton Hills, Blanc de Noirs, Piccadilly Valley, Australia, 2011, 13%

Bottle £31.50 6 bts with 5% off £179.55 Case with 10% discount £340.20 Code ASH811

In 1982 Stephen George began planting Pinot Noir on a south-facing site at 570m. in the Adelaide Hills – which he perceived to be one of the coolest and wettest in the state. It was then, and remains today, just a 3 hectare plot. James Halliday described the Ashton Hills vineyard and Stephen’s efforts thus: “the most distinguished site in South Australia for Pinot Noir; Stephen’s unrelenting attention to detail has made Ashton Hills the one Grand Cru of the state.”

100% Pinot Noir from the estate’s own grapes, from a very cool vintage perfect for sparkling wine production. Enticingly yeasty nose, showing development. Beautifully ready: soft red fruit, but with some structure, bready and savoury. Could be drunk with rich food as much as an aperitif. Now-2020.

Taittinger, Prélude, Champagne Grands Crus, Brut, France, NV, 12.5%

Bottle £45.00 6 bts with 5% off £256.50 Case with 10% off £486.00 Code TAI3NV

From halves of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir: all from the best vineyards classified as Grand Crus (mainly in Avize, Mesnil, Mailly and Verzenay); and given a minimum of five years ageing on the lees before release. It’s currently based on the 2012 vintage.

That extra ageing really shows in the rounded volume and the honeyed hints on the nose and palate. So polished and elegant, just slips down so easily. Would be excellent with light fish dishes too. Now-2022



Reds for Daily Drinking & Parties

Four different staples: a glugging Spanish Monastrell; a balanced blend of Rhône grapes from the Languedoc; lightly oaked Mendoza Malbec; and a refined Chilean Carmenère.

Bajel Pirata, Monastrell, Alicante, Spain, 2018, 12% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.25 6 bottles with 5% off £41.32 Case with 10% off £78.30 Code PIR118

What Spain delivers in spades is ripe, authentic red wine at a very fair price. The Monastrell (= Mourvèdre) grape is the country's lesser-known winner, making deeply coloured, ripe and full-flavoured wines (far more tasty, incidentally, than weedy, over-cropped Tempranillo).

A simple, smooth, easy-drinking quaffer, strawberry-fruited, with a little substance and a hint of meatiness. Some might consider it a little sweet, but that makes it easy to quaff on its own. Now-2020

Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2018, 12% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.75 6 bottles with 5% off £44.17 Case with 10% off £83.70 Code PRD118

Consistently hits the spot, this is an easy-drinking red blend based on Carignan and Grenache with fruit from the plains of the Languedoc carefully vinified at the super-modern co-operative at Cébazan.

Red fruited with a surprisingly good texture, no rough edges, soft, light and juicily berried. Perfect for parties! Now-2020

Finca Vista, Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina, 2018, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 6 bottles with 5% off £45.31 Case with 10% off £85.86 Code FIN118

A very welcome discovery this year, a true, fairly priced, lightly oaked, Malbec from Mendoza; the significance of the latter being that this is sourced in relatively high altitude vineyards whereas the country's lower priced Malbecs tend to come from lower, hotter regions like San Juan.

Uncomplicated, bramble-fruited charmer with sweet oak notes. If a fine steak calls for something more distinguished then drink this with hamburgers! Now-2020



Valle Frio, Carmenère, Maule, Chile, 2018, 13.5%

Bottle £9.25 6 bottles with 5% off £52.72 Case with 10% off £99.90 Code FRI218

While we ship and sell Valle Frio's excellent Pinot Noir by the bucketload, the same winery's excellent Carmenère has for too long been an ugly duckling flying under the radar (to mix two metaphors). This bird deserves to be in the spotlight!

Brilliant this vintage, so classy, velvety and smart – this tastes like a much more expensive Bordeaux. Black-fruited and aromatic, with characteristic green pepper and tobacco leaf notes – and excellent length. Now-2020



Languedoc Reds

We have just won Decanter magazine's award for Specialist Wine Merchant for Languedoc-Roussillon for 2019. Ever since our foundation in 2002 we have been strident advocates for the quality and value to be found there. Here are four of our current favourites, from a scarily quaffable Minervois to reds from the top terroirs of La Clape, Faugères and Montpeyroux.

Château La Grave, Minervois Rouge, Tristan et Julien, France, 2017, 13%

Bottle £10.50 6 bts with 5% off £59.85 Case with 10% off £113.40 Code GRV117

From the Orosquette family, named after two once tiny and now strapping cousins in their 20s, this is a bright, hugely pleasing and uncomplicated red.

From halves of Grenache and Syrah, showing the strawberry sweetness of the former combined with the black fruit of the latter. So ripe and easy drinking, perfect to accompany anything from casseroles to box set TV watching on the sofa. Now-2021

La Combe Saint-Paul, La Clape, Grés Rouges, France, 2017, 14%

Bottle £12.50 6 bts with 5% off £71.25 Case with 10% £135.00 Code CSP617

In 2008 Paul Maury came across the opportunity to buy vines on the rock of La Clape beside the Mediterranean and create his own domaine. His vineyard near the sea is characterised by *grés rouge* (red sandstone), hence the name given to this enticing red.

60% Syrah with 20% each of Mourvèdre and Grenache, basically unoaked (10% in old barrels). Youthful, deliciously ripe – black fruit and herbs, so Mediterranean, with a nice savoury note and gentle tannins. A well-priced, smartly presented bottle from this prestigious appellation. Now- 2022

Domaine du Météore, Faugères, Les Léonides, France, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £13.25 6 bts with 5% off £75.52

Case with 10% £143.10 Code MET116

This estate is punctuated by the huge crater of a meteor; and all of the wines are named after meteor showers. Two local factors mark all the wines: first all 23 hectares of vines are on schistous soils - and that gives the wines a particular high-toned scent and exciting minerality; and second, the vineyards go up to 350 metres in altitude, and that, combined with cool downdrafts from the plateau to the north, brings freshness to their wines. Syrah in particular benefits from this terroir.

Grenache, Syrah and Carignan, unoaked. This always exhibits a lovely lifted perfume and character derived from the schist soils. Lively and refreshing, with blackberry and blackcurrant flavours and a long finish. Now-2021

Mas d'Amile, Languedoc-Montpeyroux, France, 2016, 13%

Bottle £17.95 6 bts with 5% off £102.31 Case with 10% off £193.86 Code MDA316

The vineyards at Montpeyroux face south and are protected by the Causses du Larzac and Mont Baudile (850m) to the north and the hills of St Guilhem-le-Désert to the east. The cooling wind coming from the Causses allows full ripeness while retaining freshness and acidity. Montpeyroux is widely expected to become an AOP in the next few years, so highly regarded is the area.

Old vines here, between 40 and 60 years old. 60% Grenache with Carignan, Syrah and Mourvèdre, raised in a mix of old Burgundy barrels and in 600l. demi-muids, traditionally used in the Rhône valley. Wonderfully ripe fruit caressed by the oak. Cherry and brambly notes, super ripe fruit with a hint of liquorice. Such a silky texture with a refreshing acidity. Supple and very long; fine wine. Now-2022





Spanish Reds

Two Tempranillos from the classic northern regions of Rioja and Ribera del Duero; a brilliant value organic Monastrell from Jumilla and a superb pure Graciano from little-known Méntrida.

Finca La Solana, Monastrell, (Organic & Vegan), Jumilla, Spain, 2018, 14%

Bottle £9.75 6 bottles with 5% off £55.57 Case with 10% off £105.30 Code LUZ118

A deeply hued and fruity red from Bodegas Luzon in Jumilla. It's satisfying to find an authentic red from organically farmed (and certified) grapes for under a tenner.

This unoaked, organic red is so bright, juicy and winning, strawberry flavoured but not in the least sweet, vivid and lightly savoury, with lots of energy. Terrific. Now-2021

El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera Del Duero, Roble, Spain, 2018, 14%

Bottle £12.95 6 bottles with 5% off £73.81

Case with 10% off £139.86 Code LAH118

Magnum [2015 vintage] £27.50 3 magnums with 5% off £78.37 Case (6 x 150cl.) with 10% off £148.50 Code LAH915

A best-seller here, 95% Tempranillo with 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, given precisely 122 days (it says so on the label!) in French and American oak barrels. This exemplifies that often successful Spanish marriage of juicy, concentrated Tempranillo with vanilla-scented oak.

Amazingly vibrant purple. A bold and robust glass full of cranberry, redcurrant and briary fruit, leavened by fresh acidity; and a dry, satisfying finish with a balsamic note. Perfect for red meat casseroles or roasts. Now-2021



Tierra Fuerte, Graciano, Méntrida, Spain, 2015, 14%

Bottle £13.95 6 bottles with 5% off £79.51 Case with 10% off £150.66 Code TIE115

Graciano is a high quality grape – described in Jancis Robinson's monumental *Wine Grapes* as "fragrant, fresh, potentially powerful and occasionally spicy". It makes elegant wine even in Mediterranean heat, and is usually found blended with Tempranillo (and other varieties) in Rioja. This example is grown on granitic soils in Méntrida in the province of Toledo, crafted by Beatriz Paniagua, and given about a year in 90% French (and 10% American) barrels.

Immediate impressions are great, as it offers a vibrant purple colour and a generous perfume of berries and cigar box. With cooked strawberry and blueberry flavours, plus lots of heart and tannin to keep it going, this is a surprisingly classic Spanish red. Now-2023

Segares, Rioja Reserva, Spain, 2008, 14%

Bottle £19.50 6 bottles with 5% off £111.15 Case with 10% off £210.60 Code NES408

From vines planted in the mid 1980s on a plateau at 520-650m. in Rioja Media, between the Ocón and Jubera valleys. This is 100% Tempranillo, aged in 60% older American oak barrels and 40% in new French barrels, displaying a lush texture aided by being bottled with minimal filtration. We may move to the 2010 vintage in December.

It's wonderful to be able to offer some mature Rioja – very intense, all ripe and perfumed red and black fruit with complex notes of toast, nutmeg, clove and sealing wax. Now-2021



Italian Reds

Four wines, all perfect for winter drinking: a hearty Negroamaro from the south, Sangioveses from Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna, and an elegant blend from the Veneto.

Rocca, Negroamaro, Salento, Italy, 2017, 13.5%

Bottle £9.95 6 bottles with 5% off £56.71 Case with 10% off £107.46 Code ROD217

Negroamaro (the name implies black / bitter) is a southern Italian grape widely grown in the Salento, the heel of Italy. Here the Rocca clan craft it in an accessible, house-trained idiom.

Well-made example of this masculine southern grape, hearty with some structure but also ready to drink. Lightly hazy. Lively cooked strawberry and black cherry core. Deeply coloured, old fashioned and characterful, to be drunk with meaty pasta and peasant dishes. Now-2020

Il Palagione, Caelum, Chianti Colli Senesi, Italy, 2017, 14%

Bottle £13.50 6 bottles with 5% off £76.95 Case with 10% off £145.80 Code PAL117

Friendly Giorgio Comotti realised his dream when he traded in his driving schools in Piedmont for vineyards in Tuscany. His Chianti is 100% Sangiovese aged in older barrels, a powerful, concentrated example showing some toasty oak.

Vital purple. Perfume of sweet oak and cherries – and then a warming, complete and spicy gush of black cherries and plums. Very ripe, with moderate tannin and lively fruit on the finish, this is so likeable, perfect for all red meat dishes, with or without pasta! Now-2020

Tenuta Casali, Baruccia, Sangiovese San Vicinio, Italy, 2016, 14%

Bottle £14.50 6 bottles with 5% off £82.65

Case with 10% off £156.60 TEN816

The Casali family's organically farmed vines lie on the north side of the Appennines south-east of Bologna. This wine, named after its vineyard, is from Sangiovese grown on white clay affected soils and, given six months in large, old Slavonian oak vats. It's authentically Italian in its wild rusticity.

An exuberant wine: sharply black-fruited, with notes of cherry liqueur and black olive, it's broad, fleshy, and long. With a little grip, it's very food friendly – think spicy or creamy red meat dishes. Now-2023

Begali, Tigiolo, IGT Veronese, Italy, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £22.50 6 bts with 5% off £128.25 Case with 10% off £243.00 Code BEF314

From a top Valpolicella estate, a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and Corvina with 5% of Merlot and Rondinella, made using some dried grapes in the local fashion, hence the highish alcohol. The taste can best be described as Napa Cabernet meets Amarone; and as such this can stand up to any strongly flavoured meat dishes from slow-cooked pork to venison.

Intensely black-fruited, with the bittersweet, tangy bite of sharp blackcurrants. Great depth of flavour - and intriguingly different. Now-2025





Bordeaux Varieties

More red grapes are grown in Bordeaux than the best known trio of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc - also Carmenère (which is so much more successful in the greater heat of Chile than in marine Bordeaux), Malbec and Petit Verdot,

Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d'Oc, France, 2018, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.25 6 bts with 5% off £52.72 Case with 10% off £99.90 Code VIC318

A remarkably consistent wine from the Vic family near Beziers, enjoying the recent upgrade of a taller bottle and a smarter label.

This shows attractive typicity: aromas of sweet plum with a leafy touch, followed by a supple and lightly creamy, berried palate with barely discernible tannins. Now-2020

Château Piconat, Bordeaux, France, 2015, 13%

Bottle £9.95 6 bts with 5% off £56.71 Case with 10% off £107.46 Code PIC115

2015, so hot, dry and sunny, was such a wonderful vintage for generic Bordeaux Rouge – even in less auspicious sites and at generous yields the grapes ripened perfectly. So this bottle from vines near Soussac in Entre-dux-Mers, doesn't just offer a pretty (pinkish) traditional label but a very decent drop of claret in this lovely, ripe Bordeaux vintage.

Appealing red fruit, fresh and balanced, savoury touches, some body and finishes with a flourish. Very successful and complete blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. Now-2021

Château de Marsan, Cadillac, Côtes de Bordeaux, Cuvée Moulin Pasquier, France, 2016, 13%

Bottle £11.50 6 bts with 5% off £65.55 Case with 10% off £124.20 Code MAR115

Increasingly ambitious wines are being made in this appellation with vineyards on the south and west facing slopes above the Garonne river: this certainly punches above its price.

From about 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is open and youthful, delivering a fragrance of vanilla, cinnamon and heated strawberries; totally consistent with a generous, bright and lightly spicy mouthful of red fruit. This tastes as if it comes from a grander appellation! Now-2022

Apaltagua, Envero, Gran Reserva Carmenère, Apalta Vineyard Selection, Colchagua, Chile, 2017, 14%

Bottle £12.50 6 bts with 5% off £71.25 Case with 10% off £135.00 Code APA417

We maintain this delivers more £ for £ than almost any other wine in our stock. Key is the fruit from 60 year old vineyards - so rare in Chile - the oldest in the famed Apalta valley which also harbours Montes and Casa Lapostolle. This lightly oaked (60% in French and US barrels) Carmenère - with 10% Cabernet Sauvignon - delivers spectacular value for its concentration, quality and smart presentation.

Bittersweet red and blackcurrant fruit with liquorice and tobacco hints over subtle tannins. Exemplifies the pure fruit so often found in Chilean wines but with a measure of old world structure and restraint too. Now-2022





amongst others. In the light of Bordeaux's fame these grapes have been transplanted all over the world – from the Languedoc to Slovenia, the Cape, Chile and beyond.

The red Bordeaux featured here are all from the superb 2015 and 2016 vintages: young, to be sure, but with such appealing fruit and ripe and silky tannins that all can be enjoyed now.

Château Beauregard Ducasse, Graves, France, 2016, 13%

Bottle £13.95 6 bts with 5% off £79.51 Case with 10% off £150.66 Code BDU816

Gruff Jacques Perromat's sixth generation family estate lies at Mazères near Langoon at the very southern end of the Graves, with about 50 hectares of gravelly vineyards on limestone sub-soils hacked out of the surrounding forest from 1850. This is his principal red, 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon with Cabernet Franc; and just 20% in barrels.

A splendidly suave and traditional Bordeaux, Open and generous red fruit, excellent aromatics, a well-covered structure and restrained Graves character too. Poised and ready. Now-2023



Chamonix, Cabernet Franc, Franschhoek, South Africa, 2015, 14%

Bottle £17.95 6 bts with 5% off £102.31 Case with 10% off £193.86 Code CHX515

2015 was the last vintage made at Chamonix by hugely admired winemaker Gottfried Mocke: it was certainly the best vintage we have shipped of this pure Cabernet Franc - different to Loire examples in its exuberance.

Open, really expressive Cabernet Franc, perfumed - a hint of violets - and displaying jellied red fruit, but with suave power too. Would be lovely with roast ham. Now-2023

Vieille Dynastie, Lalande de Pomerol, France, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £18.50 6 bts with 5% off £105.45 Case with 10% off £199.80 Code VID116

Magnum £37.50 3 mags with 5% off £106.87

Case (6 x 150cl.) with 10% off £202.50 Code VID916

We can't put together a Christmas list without including one of Frederic Borderie's superb wines. This silky 2016, 60% Merlot with 20% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, is from his 5 hectare vineyard in Lalande de Pomerol, on gravelly soils over a ferrous sub-strata.

Wonderfully ripe – rich and svelte. Brambly fruit tinged with liqueur cherries; luxuriant flavours over underlying structure. Appealingly fat. Only the remarkable purity indicates that this lovely red is unoaked. Now-2026

Pasji Rep, Jebatschin Red, Vipavska Dolina, Slovenia, 2016, 14%

Bottle £19.95 6 bts with 5% off £113.71 Case with 10% off £215.46 Code PAS616

When one travels in Slovenia one is often impressed by the quality of the wines from Bordeaux grapes grown there. From organically grown fruit at the eastern end of the Vipava Valley, this is Merlot dominated, with about 15% Cabernet Franc and a little Barbera, well-oaked in a mix of new and old barrels.

A beautifully ripe and flamboyant wine, delivering polished berried fruit with vanilla. Perfectly fresh, suave and clean, it's very akin to a smart and more expensive right bank Bordeaux. This impresses hugely at tastings – so don't ignore it simply because it's Slovenian! Now-2022



Rhône Varieties

Of the red grape varieties grown in the Rhône Valley - Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Carignan and Cinsault (among others)

Great Expectations Shiraz, Robertson, South Africa, 2017, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.95 6 bts with 5% off £56.71 Case with 10% off £107.46 Code GDV617

This Shiraz from the Du Toit family at Robertson continues to gain friends. Lightly oaked, it's not complicated and is a good all-rounder, supple enough to be enjoyed on its own but also gutsy enough for red meat.

Hugely winning: pretty raspberry and vanilla scent. Bright berried fruit with an authentic hint of earthiness. This offers excellent Syrah / Shiraz typicity, and as such would be good with any number of beef dishes. Deservedly popular. Now-2021

Les Vignerons d'Estézargues, Côtes du Rhône, Cuvée des Galets, France, 2018, 14%

Bottle £9.95 6 bts with 5% off £56.71

Case with 10% off £107.46 Code ESZ118

This is the 16th vintage we have shipped of this deliciously fruity Côtes du Rhône, from this unfailingly reliable co-operative of just ten growers between Avignon and Nîmes. All wines here are from sustainably or organically farmed grapes, made naturally (i.e. without any additives bar the merest bit of sulphur to ensure stability) and bottled unfiltered. This is a long-term favourite at SVS.

Juicy, unfiltered blend of Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah: raspberryish mouthful, mildly spicy and very moreish. Now-2021

Domaine des Espiers, Côtes du Rhône, France, 2016, 14.5%

Bottle £12.95 6 bts with 5% off £73.81

Case with 10% off £139.86 Code ESP116

Philippe Cartoux's wines have distinguished distribution within France, being seen in numerous Michelin starred restaurants from Alain Ducasse's restaurant at the top of the Eiffel tower and Taillevent in Paris to the Robuchon group. Over the last decade he has converted to organic viticulture and also to making wine with minimal sulphites – and his wines transparently show the benefits.

70% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre and 10% Syrah: black cherry flavoured, very smooth and refined. Altogether a very superior CdR from densely planted, low yielding vines around Vacqueyras and Gigondas. Highly recommended. Now-2022



Silent Noise, Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2016, 14% [Screwcap]

Bottle £14.95 6 bts with 5% off £85.21 Case with 10% off £161.46 Code SIL816

Silent Noise is the new project of young Charlie O'Brien, son of famed McLaren Vale winemaker Kevin O'Brien of Kangarilla Road. Kevin is around to help source the fruit and consult on winemaking; but the distinctive name and branding is very much Charlie's idea, contrasting the noise of winemaking - belts, crusher and presses - with the silence of the bottles waiting to be opened.

A kick-ass Aussie Shiraz at the right price. Aged half in French and half in American oak barrels, 25% new, this shows a lovely, deep, youthful colour – and delivers stacks of fresh black and blueberry fruit. Fine and silky. Definitive wine for carnivores; and should keep well too. Now-2023



- only the first two are widely planted outside France, especially Syrah / Shiraz, famed in Australia. Syrah / Shiraz is usually bottled on its own but the others tend to be made into blends based on Grenache, especially in the southern Rhône. With bold flavours and generous body, these wines are perfect for winter drinking.

Joncier, Lirac, Le Classique, France, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £16.50 6 bts with 5% off £94.05 Case with 10% off £178.20 Code JON114

Marine Roussel is highly regarded in the southern Rhône as a champion of biodynamic and organic viticulture: all her wines are certified by both organisations. It is also worth pointing out that the land in Lirac is by no means homogenous. Marine's vineyards are on the best terroir, marked by the same "galets roulés" as those of Châteauneuf-du-Pape just across the Rhône. This is her principal wine, from about 55% Syrah with Grenache, Cinsault and Carignan and, all from older vines and best parcels on the *galets* terraces.

Juicy black fruit, developing hints of spice, leather and chocolate – this is nicely ready now, a classic southern Rhône. As usual this has the estate's trademark flesh and power. Now-2022



Finca Tobella, Negre, Priorat, Spain, 2018, 14.5%

Bottle £16.95 6 bts with 5% off £96.61 Case with 10% off £183.06 Code TOB118

Priorat in Catalonia, with vineyards lying on slate and mica soils (known locally as *licorella*) on steep hillsides, is one of the great Spanish terroirs. It sprang to prominence in the 1990s when a number of growers began blending the traditional grape varieties of the region, Grenache and Carignan (known as Samsó locally), with recently introduced Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon; and also using more and newer French oak barrels for ageing. Finca Tobella was founded in 2003 with the purchase of four hectares near Gratallops by Californian John Lipscomb and Núria Tobella, and has since grown to over 20 hectares. Negre is based on the estate's younger vines of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache and Carignan, with 40% aged in new French barrels.

Very deeply coloured, inky; overtly flavoured by the barrels, with expensive, clean, cedary accents, over plush black-fruit; very concentrated, but with excellent freshness and liquorice hints. Very polished and smart wine; but also currently very youthful, so benefiting from decanting. Now-2023

Cedberg, Shiraz, Cedberg, South Africa, 2016, 14.5%

Bottle £19.95 6 bts with 5% off £113.71 Case with 10% off £215.46 Code CED815

We don't think we have ever shipped a bottle with so many shiny stickers on it – including the double gold circles from the Veritas awards, SA Wine Index platinum and gold in the Six Nations wine challenge. But those accolades rightly reflect the quality David Niewoudt achieves for his Shiraz grown amidst the knobbly rock formations high in the Cedberg mountains.

Well-oaked (about 60% new barrels), gorgeously fruited wine, all seductive perfume and refinement. Now-2024

Yann Chave, Crozes-Hermitage, France, 2015, 13%

Bottle £19.95 6 bts with 5% off £113.71 Case with 10% off £215.46 Code CHA115

Yann Chave's unoaked Syrah, from organically farmed vines, largely on pebble-strewn vineyards east of the Rhône, always shows splendid colour, ripeness and concentration.

Youthful nose of blackberry and blueberry. The same fruit character on the palate with a touch of chocolate as well, very supple and fragrant and a fresh finish. Now-2022



Gamay and Pinot Noir

Gamay and Pinot Noir are historic Burgundian grape neighbours, but the relative fortunes of both are so different: the former in Beaujolais is out of fashion, whilst the fortunes of the latter go from strength to strength as Pinot is planted all over the world. We tend to recommend a not horribly expensive new world Pinot Noir to go with the Christmas turkey – so the Hoddles Creek is this year's pick.

Lagneau, Beaujolais-Villages, Cuvée Jeanine, France, 2017, 12.6%

Bottle £12.25 6 bts with 5% off £69.82
Case with 10% off £132.30 Code LAG117

Jeanine Lagneau is the winemaking mother at this small estate. This is from ancient (60-100 year old) vines on steep schist and granite slopes in Quincié-en-Beaujolais, one of the best terroirs for Beaujolais-Villages. It's a textbook example of Gamay at its purest and best.

All black cherry and blueberry, juicy, but with substance too from the old vines. So crisp, alive and energetic. Perfect lunch wine for cold turkey and ham. Now-2021



Françoise & Denis Clair, Hautes Côtes de Beaune Rouge, France, 2016, 13%

Bottle £17.50 6 bts with 5% off £99.75 Case with 10% off £189.00 Code CLB616

Denis Clair - so warm and friendly, a chain-smoking, shoulder shrugging countryman - has sadly died, but his son Jean-Baptiste has certainly taken the estate's wines forward, in particular the reds, which used to be a little rustic.

From 35 year old vines on clay soils above Maranges, unoaked, a pure wine for lovers of old-fashioned fresh Burgundy. Charming ripe fruit, silky tannins and already attractive. Now-2022

Hoddles Creek, Pinot Noir, Yarra Valley, Australia, 2017, 13.2% [Screwcap]

Bottle £19.95 6 bts with 5% off £113.71 Case with 10% off £215.46 Code HOD617

Crafted by Franco d'Anna from his family vineyards in the highest, coolest and wettest district of the Yarra Valley east of Melbourne. He is a rising star: three of his wines, including this one - see below - were included in top critic James Halliday's Top 100 Australian wines of 2018, more than any other Australian estate listed.

Supple red and black fruit with smoothly integrated oak, incipient hints of sage and savouriness, backed by a correct tannin and acid structure. This shows Burgundian elegance. "Multiple approaches to vinification have been repaid with exceptional drive, length and focus to its medium-bodied display of zesty, spicy small red fruits, its purity the mark of a glorious vintage, and a great site handled by an exceptional winemaker, Franco d'Anna. 96/100", James Halliday, Top 100 Wines of 2018. Now-2022

Jean Guiton, Savigny Les Beaune, 1er Cru, Les Hauts Jarrons, France, 2015, 14%

Bottle £32.50 6 bts with 5% off £185.25 Case with 10% off £351.00 Code GUI615

This autumn we tested a number of red Burgundies with the Coravin to pick a top one for the Christmas list – and this won. From Guillaume Guiton's old vines first planted 60 years ago on an east-facing slope close to Beaune, it goes into about 25% new oak.

Open, fleshy, energetic, with appealing fat – and surprising length. Already showing so well, with youthful red fruit and intriguing savoury hints - but will clearly last for years. Perfect with roast partridge. Now-2025

Grand Reds

A return to European classics: two French and two Italian wines, all from historic terroirs. Here we celebrate Grenache, Merlot, Sangiovese and Nebbiolo.

Jérôme Gradassi, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £26.95 6 bts with 5% off £153.61 Case with 10% off £291.06 Code GRD115

Jérôme Gradassi's vineyards are all on the north side of Châteauneuf where the soils tend to be based on clay and sand and show few of the famous pudding stones. These cooler soils are less prone to drought and tend to produce an elegant style of Châteauneuf. The vineyards, mostly dating to the 1970s, are planted to about 75% Grenache and the rest Mourvèdre, with a little Syrah.

Wonderfully smooth and polished. Intense berry fruit coulis, but with plenty of substance.

"Only medium depth of a colour more ruby than crimson. Meaty nose with really jewel-like richness. Very savoury and well balanced. Good lift and rosy sweetness. Long and very satisfying already. GV. 16.5/20" *Jancis Robinson MW, www.jancisrobinson.com, December 2016*

Château Des Pelerins, Pomerol, France, 2014, 12.5%

Bottle £27.95 6 bts with 5% off £159.31 Case with 10% off £301.86 Code PEL114

Named as on an old pilgrim route, Pelerins, owned by Josette et Nobert Egreteau, is a tiny 3.5 hectare property planted to 80% Merlot and 10% of each of the Cabernets. It's well-sited, just across the main road from Clinet and Clos l'Eglise.

Well textured, fine-grained wine, showing cool black fruit: to be commended for true Pomerol power without high alcohol. Lots of flavour and properly persistent. Now-2023



Col di Lamo, Brunello di Montalcino, Italy, 2013, 14%

Bottle £35.50 6 bts with 5% off £202.35 Case with 10% off £383.40 Code CDL313

Brunello di Montalcino stands at the summit of Sangiovese-based Tuscan wines. Gianna Neri's vineyards lie at Torrenieri, just north-east of Montalcino, on sandstone and clay soils, with some of the *alberese*, the limestone-rich land which Sangiovese loves. Gianna's Brunello is always very ripe and well-textured, but also approachable.

Power, and underlying structure, but very elegant this vintage. Svelte red fruit, subtly spiced with cinnamon. Builds beautifully on the palate: the real deal. Now-2024

Boasso, Barolo Gabutti, Italy, 2013, 14%

Bottle £36.50 6 bts with 5% off £208.05 Case with 10% off £394.20 Code BOA413

We love the Barolo Gabutti 2013 - exciting, authentic, long-lived Nebbiolo - and so did the writers of the leading Italian wine guide, the 2018 **Gambero Rosso**. They gave this, along with a handful of other Barolos, the top *Tre Bicchieri*, three glasses, rating and described it thus (our translation!): "Top spot goes to the Gabutti, which won the three glasses prize thanks to its purest expression of the most classic Barolo qualities, from quinine to raspberry, from blackberry to liquorice; the palate shows power and harmony: unmissable". The wine comes from the Gabutti vineyard, a one hectare, steep, south-east facing site on calcareous marl.

Gorgeous strawberry and cherry core, fleshy, rich and substantial. Plenty of structure but that luscious fruit shines through. Savoury and liquorice notes dance around. Exotic wine. Enjoy now or right through to 2028.



Sweet Wines

Four excellent examples: late harvest Chenin Blanc from the Loire; classic Sauternes; a stunning Kiwi Riesling; and Recioto di Valpolicella from Begali, one of the thirteen “Famiglie Storiche”, the historic families of Amarone.

Domaine des Forges, Coteaux du Layon St Aubin, France, 2017, 12%

Bottle £14.50 6 bts with 5% off £82.65
Case with 10% off £156.60 Code FOR617

Saint-Aubin-de-Luigné lies between the Loire and Layon rivers. This late picked Chenin Blanc offers absurdly good value for a wine of such richness and weight; and from vines with an average age of forty years too.

Pale gold. Wonderfully honeyed nose. Very sweet attack, showing honey over stone fruit, but with marmalade botrytis character too. Now-2023

Mascaron, Sauternes, France, 2015, 13%

50cl. bottle £15.95 6 50cl. bts with 5% off £90.91
Case (12 x 50cl cl.) with 10% off £172.26 Code MPG215

Mascaron is always skilfully sourced by Bordeaux négociants Ginestet from a Cru Classé property – they are coy about where! This, from 90% Sémillon, 6% Sauvignon Blanc and 4% Muscadelle offers excellent value for its sweetness and depth.

Fully sweet and rich pudding wine with a good level of botrytis: ripe stone fruit with gingerbread and honey. Now-2022

Escarpment, Hinemoa Riesling, Martinborough, New Zealand, 2015, 10%

Half Bottle £12.95 6 half bts with 5% off £73.81 Case (12 x 37.5cl.) with 10% off £139.86 Code ESC915

We were knocked out by this luscious, super-concentrated, late harvest Riesling made by Larry McKenna at Escarpment from the Te Muna road vineyard. The back label points out that under the German classification this could be called Beerenauslese – in that context it looks like a total steal.

All caramelised oranges and barley sugar, very pure – apart from a whiff of diesel – and with the 200 grams of residual sugar cut by classic Riesling acidity. Sure to impress. Now-2024

Begali, Recioto della Valpolicella Classico, Italy, 2012, 13%

50 cl. bottle £27.95 50cl. bts with 5% off £159.31 Case (12 x 50cl cl.) with 10% off £301.86 Code BEF612

Recioto della Valpolicella is made after careful late picking of ripe bunches (of Corvina and Rondinella grapes), which are then left to desiccate in the autumn, thereby concentrating body and sweetness - 122 grams of residual sugar per litre here. (Note – the 2015 vintage may follow if we sell this through).

Morello cherries, intensely bittersweet and voluptuous. Wonderful wine, equally at home with strong hard cheese as with not-too-sweet chocolate puddings. Now-2022



Fortified Wines

Two ports, a complex medium dry Sherry, and a fabulous Vin Doux Naturel from Roussillon, – all traditional Christmas styles. Bring on cake, cheese, nuts and raisins!

Krohn, Port, Rio Torto Reserva Ruby, Portugal, NV, 20%

Bottle £12.95 6 bts with 5% off £73.81
Case with 10% off £139.86 Code KRO2NV

We always like to offer a wide range of Krohn ports (including Tawny and the excellent 2012 LBV) as they offer good value. See below for more information.

With two years in large old barrels and bottled unfiltered (so there may be a small deposit), it's correctly rich and plummy. Pure, vigorous red fruit with an attractive smoky nuance. Medium-bodied and lightly spicy. Now-2021

Lustau, Dry Oloroso, Don Nuño, Spain, 20%

Bottle £14.95 6 bts with 5% off £85.21
Case with 10% off £161.46 Code LUS2NV

Lustau sherries offer wonderful quality at the price; this is 100% Palomino, deeply coloured and from a fairly old solera. Dry palate of baked prune, damson and nuts. Weighty but fresh. Fascinating and understandably popular. Now-2020

Domaine Fontanel, Rivesaltes Ambré, France, 2008, 16%

Bottle £21.50 6 bts with 5% off £122.55 Case with 10% off £232.20 Code FON908

This Vin Doux Naturel from Roussillon is one of the most distinctive and exciting wines in our entire stock. It's made by stopping the fermentation of late picked, very ripe grapes, part way through its course, by the addition of alcohol (a process known as *mutage*); thereby preventing the yeasts from working, and leaving a fortified wine with plentiful natural, unfermented grape sugar and between 15 and 17 degrees of alcohol.

From late-picked, 60 year-old vines of Grenache Blanc and Gris, the Ambré - literally amber - tone develops after at least five years of mildly oxidative ageing in barrel (and here it's kept a lot longer before bottling). Deep gold, clear and bright. This offers intriguing fumes: molasses, dates, cooked autumnal fruit, and sherry-like oxidation. Dried fruit flavours dominate, with accompanying subtleties, including coffee and caramelised oranges. A wonderful partner to hard cheese, dried fruit and nuts. Now-2023

Krohn, Vintage Port, Portugal, 2009, 20%

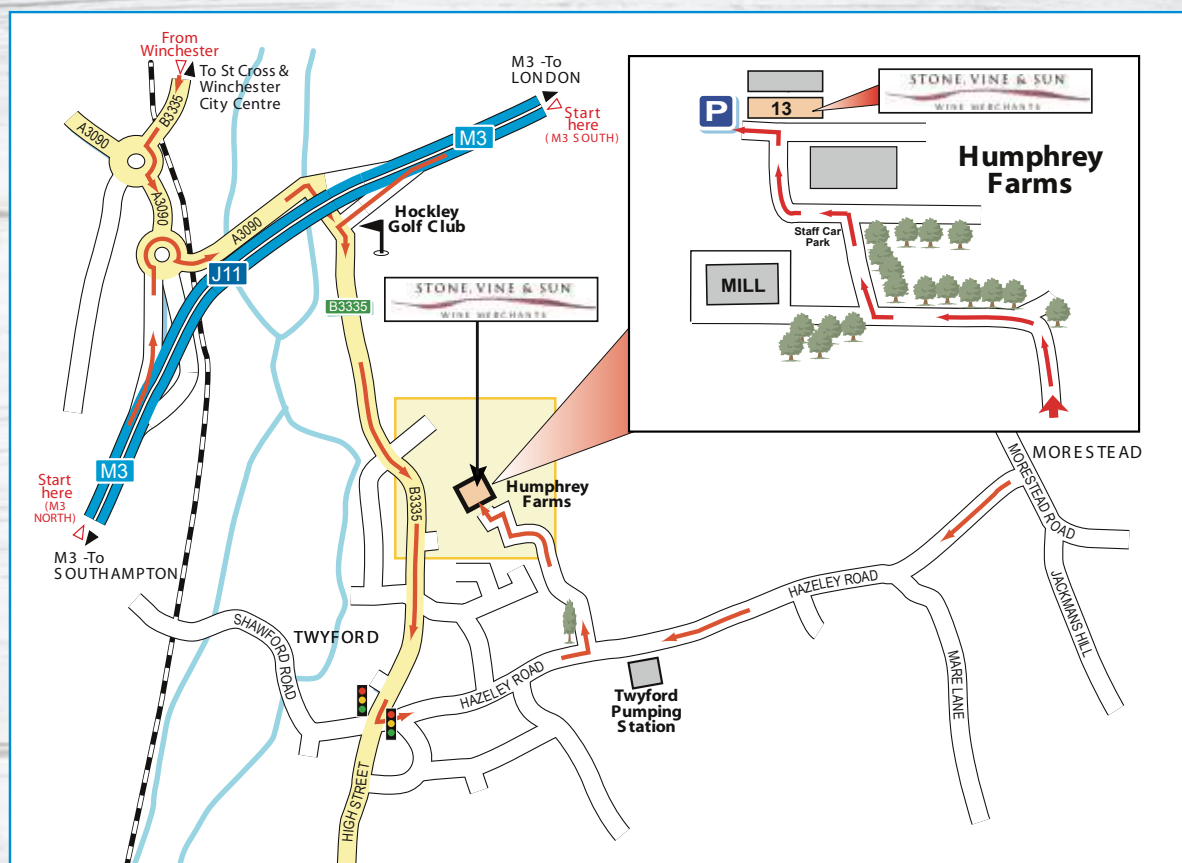
Bottle £29.50 6 bts with 5% off £168.15 Case with 10% off £318.60 Code KRO409

Krohn was founded by two Norwegians but is now part of the leading Fladgate Partnership along with Taylor's, Fonseca and Croft. 2009 started wet and cool but a hot August and September rescued the summer and made a vintage declaration possible.

Drinking very well; dense; then displaying a broad palate of prunes and cooked cherries. Spice on the finish. Now-2026



HOW TO FIND US



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