

STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

Valeurs Sûres:

our best value wines from the south of France

Our more longstanding customers will know we have been championing the south of France ever since our foundation sixteen years ago. There is no reason for us to stop: the wines, especially the whites and rosés, get better and better whilst (with very few exceptions) prices have risen minimally. (This is in stark contrast to wines from Burgundy, the Loire and even the Rhône, all of which have suffered from inflation).

There are good reasons for the wines remaining great value. Abundant sunshine and lots of wind deliver decent yields of beautifully ripe and healthy grapes almost every year, with the only challenge occasional heatwaves or periods of drought. Secondly, the cost of land, both in the Languedoc and South-West France, remains reasonable, so vignerons can expand without crippling finance costs. Here we offer 20 wines under £10 a bottle, testament to that value.

This selection of wines from right across the south offers wines for every occasion: from Provence rosés via the hearty reds and stone-fruited whites of Languedoc and Roussillon, to the fresh whites and juicy reds of the Atlantic south-west. Note in particular that alcohol levels from this region need not be high: some 30 wines in this offer are labelled 13% or less.

Finally, to make it easier to choose wines which accord with your taste, note that we have categorised both the whites and reds by style and weight.

Simon Taylor April 2018

Mixed Cases

All of the cases below include two bottles of each of the six wines listed, with a discount of at least 10% against the bottle prices in the list

Fresh and Fruity: Spring Dozen £92.60 Code VS18

(Three whites and three reds)

Les Chapelières, IGP Comté Tolosan, 2016
La Combe Saint-Paul, Vermentino, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2017
La Grave, Le Blanc, IGP Hauts de Badens, 2017
Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2016
Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2016
Montcharme Pinot Noir, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2016

Southern Whites £110.60 Code VS28

(Six whites)

La Grave, Le Blanc, IGP Hauts de Badens, 2017
Tariquet, Classic, Côtes de Gascogne, 2016
La Combe Saint-Paul, Viognier, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2017
Laballe, Sables Fauves, IGP Les Landes, 2017
Creysseles, Languedoc, Picpoul de Pinet, 2017
Météore, Les Léonides, Faugères, 2016

"Valeurs Sûres": Great Value Reds £118.95 Code VS38

(Six reds)

La Salette, Côtes de Gascogne Rouge, 2016
Begude, Pinot Noir, IGP Haute Vallée de l'Aude, 2017
Les Hauts de Median, Petit Verdot, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2016
Château Barrejat, Madiran, Tradition, 2015
Fontanel, IGP Côtes Catalanes, 2016
Domaine du Grand Arc, Cuvée des Quarante, Corbières, 2015

Band of Gold £150.03 Code VS48

(Three whites and three reds)

Domaine du Météore, Viognier, IGP Pays de l'Hérault, 2017
La Combe Saint-Paul, Calcaires d'Ensérune, Languedoc, 2017
Begude, Chardonnay, L'Etoile, Limoux, 2016
Domaine du Météore, Les Léonides Rouge, Faugères, 2015
Château Barréjat, Madiran, Vieux Céps, 2015
Domaine du Grand Arc, En Sol Majeure, Corbières, 2014

White: Light & Bright

Les Chapelières, IGP Comté Tolosan, 2016, 11.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.50 Case with 10% discount £81.00 Code AGW316

Perfect for spring and summer parties, an easy drinking blend of Ugni Blanc and Colombard with lowish alcohol and refreshing bite. Clean and lemony, with a pleasing pear accent. Drink this year

La Combe Saint-Paul, Chardonnay, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2016, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.95 Case with 10% discount £96.66 Code CSP116

Everything one could want from simple, unoaked Chardonnay: juicy and refreshing, with notes of ripe pear and tangerine. Drink this year

Domaine La Grave, Le Blanc, IGP Hauts de Badens, 2017, 12.5%

Bottle £9.50 Case with 10% discount £102.60 Code GRV817

From one of the smallest appellations in France - La Grave is its only producer! - this blend of Sauvignon and Chardonnay now comes with a smarter label and the simple name, Le Blanc. Round and aromatic in this particularly successful vintage: the Chardonnay brings volume which is perfectly balanced by fresh citrus notes from the Sauvignon. Now-2019

Domaine du Tariquet, Chenin-Chardonnay, Côtes de Gascogne 2016, 11.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.50 Case with 10% discount £102.60 Code TRR316

From the Grassa clan at Tariquet, a blend of 75% Chenin and 25% Chardonnay. Fresh, very melony, with accents of white flowers and pear, this makes excellent summer drinking. Drink this year

Château Barréjat, Pacherenc du Vic-Bilh Sec, 2016, 13%

Bottle £10.25 Case with 10% discount £110.70 Code BAJ616

A little known but delicious aperitif white - from the same geographical area as Madiran, north of Pau - from Gros Manseng, showing exotic flavours of pineapple, apricot and yellow plums. Drink this year



White: Floral & Aromatic

Domaine du Tariquet, Classic, Côtes de Gascogne, 2016, 10.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.50 Case with 10% discount £91.80 Code TRR116

An old favourite, which deserves to be better known - and applauded for its lowish alcohol level. Ugni Blanc and Colombard tweaked with ripe Sauvignon Blanc and waxy Gros Manseng to give a zesty palate, citrus flavoured with notes of passion-fruit and pineapple. Drink this year

La Combe Saint-Paul, Vermentino, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2017, 13%

Bottle £8.95 Case with 10% discount £96.66 Code CSP217

Vermentino (Rolle in Provence) seems perfectly suited to Mediterranean conditions, from the shores of Tuscany to the Languedoc. A really open, stone fruited attack gives way to a more gentle, pine-scented, well-textured mid-palate. Fruity but finishes dry - a fine aperitif wine. Now-2019

La Combe Saint-Paul, Viognier, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2017, 13%

Bottle £9.25 Case with 10% discount £99.90 Code CSP317

Such a pretty aroma of blossom - this is more on the light, fresh, floral side of Viognier than more obviously stone-fruited examples. Gently rounded and fruity; and a good dry finish. A perfect accompaniment to a prawn or crab salad. Now-2019

Domaine Laballe, Sables Fauves, IGP Les Landes, 2017, 11.5%

Bottle £9.95 Case with 10% discount £107.46 Code LAB117

The Sables Fauves is a terroir on the edge of the forest of Les Landes. From about 50% Gros Manseng and 30% Ugni Blanc with 10% each of Sauvignon Blanc and Colombard, this is a stunning wine, delivering both great freshness and intense fruit. Zingy attack dominated by passionfruit and guava, the juicy palate offers bright fruit, good texture and a distinctive salinity. A perfect summer aperitif; and an excellent accompaniment to sushi or simply cooked white fish. Now-2019

Les Quatre Tours, Coteaux d'Aix en Provence Blanc, Classique, 2016, 13%

Bottle £10.50 Case with 10% discount £113.40 Code QUA616

We sell pallets of the Quatre Tours rosé (see across) but this tasty unoaked blend of Rolle and Grenache Blanc with some Ugni Blanc and Sauvignon is also worthy: it would be lovely with any meaty fish. Pretty scent of lavender and thyme - and a lovely perfume balances the juicy, tangerine fruit. Drink this year

Creysseles, Languedoc, Picpoul de Pinet, 2017, 13.5%

Bottle £10.75 Case with 10% discount £116.10 Code CRE117

Picpoul de Pinet, an appellation south-west of Montpellier for the Picquepoul grape, has now become so popular that, annoyingly, prices have risen. Our example comes from vineyards just inland, where some clay and limestone (as opposed to the light sandy soils near the Med.) give body and flavour. Julie Benau makes a top Picpoul. Citrus and herbal aromas, rounded texture and the expected stony finish. It's always a fresh but generously weighted wine. Now-2019



Domaine du Météore, Viognier, Les Bootides, IGP Pays de l'Hérault, 2017, 13.5%

Bottle £13.95 Case with 10% discount £150.66 Code MET617

The Bootids are a lesser known meteor shower, visible in late June. We always advise that if one can't afford Condrieu (also often grown on schist soils) then try this, from the estate's highest and coolest vineyards up against the plateau of the Cevennes. Peach and pineapple with notes of apricot, a rich and exuberant style of Viognier, delivering concentration and exotic aromatics at a fair price. Now-2019

White: Rich & Textured

La Combe Saint-Paul, Calcaires d'Ensérune, Languedoc, 2017, 12.5%

Bottle £10.95 Case with 10% discount £124.83 Code CSP417

From halves of Roussanne and Vermentino (Rolle), grown on limestone soils. It has an attractive white peach character - both in aroma and on the palate - with the slightest accent of marzipan. Though bright and fresh, there's a dry, chalky character too, making this excellent accompaniment to even strongly flavoured dishes. This offers very good value indeed for such weight and character. Now-2019

Domaine Begude, Exotique, IGP Haute Vallée de l'Aude, 2016, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £11.95 Case with 10% discount £129.06 Code BEG316

The penultimate vintage (the vines have since been grubbed up) of this exotic interloper (and strictly illegal in the region), artfully indicated by discreet GV lettering, for the Austrian Grüner Veltliner. This has all the pear and lentil flavours and dense texture of the grape. Dry and lightly savoury. Now-2019

Domaine du Météore, Les Léonides, Faugères, 2016, 14%

Bottle £13.50 Case with 10% discount £145.80 Code MET716

Absolutely superb this vintage: over the years the blend has changed, to the benefit of the wine. Now it's from 50% Roussanne with 40% Rolle (Vermentino) and 10% Clairette added to give a little fresh lift. A scent of exotic fruit (glacé pineapple?) anticipates a wonderful cocktail of tropical flavours - pineapple, kumquat and peach. Concentrated, fresh and complete, a stunner. Now-2019

Begude, Chardonnay, L'Etoile, Limoux, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £15.95 Case with 10% discount £172.26 Code BEG216

This is a star barrel-fermented Chardonnay, from very low yields (less than half those in Burgundy). Lovely honey and lavender nose. Buttery attack with flavours of oatmeal and stone fruit. Low toast. With lots of volume and grip and super length, this is equivalent in quality to a £25 wine from the Côte de Beaune. Now-2021

"Yield reduced to 18hl/ha. Immediate pressing. 85% barrel fermentation with strict barrel selection process. 20% new French oak; all 600l demi-muids. 15% stainless steel cool fermentation. Pretty rich nose and then very fresh, clean, floral nose. Nice chalky finish. Lightly bitter finish again. Very accomplished texture. Slightly sweeter than a fine white burgundy - which should please some palates. Impressively long. 16.5/20", Jancis Robinson, jancisrobinson.com, 22nd March 2018

Domaine Depeyre, Symphonie, IGP Côtes Catalanes, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £17.50 Case with 10% discount £189.00 Code DEP615

Whites from top sites in the Roussillon are arguably the finest whites in all of the south: concentrated, usually subtly fruited, complex and stony / mineral. Symphonie, a blend of 2/3 Grenache Gris and 1/3 Grenache Blanc grown in a classic *argilo-calcaire* terroir near Vingrau and just rounded by some aging in *demi-muids*, 600 litre barrels, is very much in that vein. Understated stone fruit and hints of herbs. Satiny finesse. Lightly honeyed but finishes bone dry. Now-2019

Rosés

We regularly try rosés from Italy, Spain and the New World, but they rarely measure up to French examples. In the south you can find everything from great value summer quaffers to the top rosés in the world in Provence.

As rosé sheds its image of mere cheap and cheerful off-dry glugging in the sun, it's coming to be taken more seriously now. Drinkers understand that if one pays a bit more for a bottle one will find both subtler and more varied flavours.

We regret the tyranny of the current preference for paler and paler rosés, but almost all French winemakers are now seeking to emulate that transparent, onion skin look which is associated with Provence.

Le Petit Pont, Rosé, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2017, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 Case with 10% discount £85.86 Code PEP517

The latest vintage of this best-selling rosé, from Grenache and Cinsaut, grown near Beziers in the Languedoc, but crafted in the Provençal style, pale coloured and refreshing. Light scent of berries. A juicy mouthful of strawberry and cranberry fruit, with a crisp finish. Nothing complicated, just a well-made, dry rosé perfect for regular consumption. Now-2019

Preignes Le Vieux, Reserve Rosé, IGP Coteaux de Béziers, 2017, 12.5%

Bottle £8.95 Case with 10% discount £96.66 Code PRF517

A blend of Cinsault, Grenache and Syrah. Very pale salmon pink. Red fruited aromas and a hint of peach. Raspberry and strawberry, well rounded and charming, this is a step up from the wine above. Now-2019

La Salette, Côtes de Gascogne, Rosé, 2017, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.95 Case with 10% discount £96.66 Code SAL517

The previous vintage of this lively rosé from the south-west was an unexpected hit last summer. It's made from a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc; the latter brings a little perfume. Pale, attractive salmon pink. Light and fresh, very much toward the white wine end of the spectrum. Subtle sense of raspberries. Pretty, understated and refreshing. Now-2019

Château La Grave, Minervois, Rosé Expression, 2017, 13%

Bottle £9.95 Case with 10% discount £107.46 Code GRV417

From halves of Syrah and Grenache grown near the Aude river, this unfailingly delivers splendid ripeness and intensity - we have shipped every vintage since 2004. Pale pink. Berried aromas leaps out of the glass. Strawberry and raspberry dominates the palate and a pleasing peach accent too. Good purity of fruit and lively acidity make for a moreish finish. Now-2019

Domaine Begude, Pinot Rosé, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2017, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £11.50 Case with 10% discount £124.20 Code BEG517

An organically farmed rosé - which is new to our list. Clear pale salmon pink hue. Bright perfume cranberries and a hint of blood orange. Light on its feet, refreshing, with a delicate sense of peach skin and apricot. Now-2019

Domaine du Météore, Faugères Rosé, Les Cassiopéides, 2017, 14%

Bottle £11.50 Case with 10% discount £124.20 Code MET517

The organically certified Météore rosé (named, as all the wines from this estate, after meteor showers) is in the popular pale idiom, but its interest lies in the way it expresses the pure schist soils of Faugères. It's from Syrah, Cinsault and Grenache, made by the preferred Provençale method of direct pressing. More colour and concentration than in previous vintages - a mouthful of strawberry and peach with enough substance to drink with strongly flavoured food; perfect for a barbecue. Now-2019

Les Quatre Tours, Coteaux d'Aix en Provence Rosé, Signature, 2017, 13%

Bottle £11.95 Case with 10% discount £129.06 Code QUA517
Magnum £24.95 Case (6 x 150cl.) with 10% discount £134.73
Code QUA916

The characteristic Provençale blend of Grenache, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon from a small co-operative just north of Aix. Pale colour, generous fruit and restrained elegance: flavours of white peach, melon and berries, with satisfying weight and a fine finish. Now-2019



Domaine de la Ribotte Bandol Rosé, Cuvée Anaïs, 2016, 13%

Bottle £16.95 Case with 10% discount £183.06 Code RIB516

Bandol produces the finest rosés in the world. This is the fourth vintage we have shipped of this example made by Laurence Desblache and her son Nicolas. Pale salmon robe. Amazing aromas of peach juice and pink grapefruit leap out of the glass; followed by delectable intensity of white peach and red berries. Really well-textured, with a characteristic long and mineral finish. We have lost count of the number of customers who have told us that this wine is the best rosé they have ever tasted. Now-2019

The Jancis Robinson team tasted 125 rosés last summer, and Richard Hemming MW made this the first of his top three picks "chosen for variety of style and price, not just score". He described it as "the classic Provence model, executed brilliantly, and fairly priced at under £20". It was, incidentally, the second highest scoring rosé of the 125, topped only by one priced at £70 a bottle!

"Fairly pale salmon colour. Lovely light floral fragrance and just-ripe wild raspberry aromas. Creamy on the palate with a rich texture that has weight and intensity through to the long finish. Very impressive and highbrow. Not hugely complex, but the weight and breadth and clarity gives it huge interest. 17+/20", Richard Hemming MW, jancisrobinson.com, 27th June 2017

Red: Light & Fruity

Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2016, 12% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.50 Case with 10% discount £81.00 Code PRD116

Here's a soft and easy-drinking blend of Carignan and Grenache from the plains of the Languedoc. Red fruited with a surprisingly good texture, no rough edges, light and juicily berried. Very winning. Now-2019

Petit Pont, Rouge, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2016, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 Case with 10% discount £85.86 Code PEP616
5 litre bag in box £42.95 (equivalent to £6.44 a bottle)
Code BIB216

Largely from Grenache, Cinsault and a little Cabernet Sauvignon. Bramble fruited but with a lighter, raspberry accent and minimal tannin: a fruity, forward style. Now-2019

Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2016, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.75 Case with 10% discount £94.50 Code VIC316

Now in a taller bottle and a smarter label, this always shows attractive typicity to the grape: aromas of sweet plum with a leafy touch, followed by a supple and lightly creamy, berried palate. Now-2019

Montcharme Pinot Noir, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2016, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.25 Case with 10% discount £99.90 Code AGW716

Largely sourced from cool Limoux, crisp and classy, blended with some grapes from the plains with riper, sunnier fruit. Juicy palate, true to the grape, showing fresh cherries with a touch of vanilla. Now-2019



La Salette, Côtes de Gascogne Rouge, 2016, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.25 Case with 10% discount £99.90 Code SAL616

This is a light red which one could easily serve slightly chilled in summer as a refreshing drink with lunch (at just 12.5%) or with spicy food: the French would call it “*frais*”, fresh. It wouldn’t be bad with plain roast chicken either. There’s a sense of fresh strawberries, a gentle fragrance and minimal tannins. Very easy-drinking, from 40% of each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot and 10% of each of Cabernet Franc and Tannat, it delivers simple, juicy pleasure. Now-2019

Domaine Cazalet, Raisin Volé, Tursan, 2015, 12.5%

Bottle £10.95 Case with 10% discount £118.26 Code CAZ116

A light and fragrant wine from the Tursan appellation, south of Bordeaux. Fairly pale purple and with only the lightest nibble of tannin, it recalls juicy black fruits - blackcurrant with even a hint of menthol. This is from Cabernet Franc blended with the butch Tannat grape: we suspect the grapes are given very gentle treatment - “low extraction” in winemaking terms - just to release that fresh fruit and avoid any harsh tannins or phenolics. Light and aromatic, this reminds one of country wines consumed a generation ago - before climate change. Now-2019

Domaine Begude, Pinot Noir, IGP Haute Vallée de l’Aude, 2017, 13.5%

Bottle £12.95 Case with 10% discount £139.86 Code BEG617

A long term favourite here (so it’s a real shame it’s been rationed to us in this frost and drought affected vintage), a fresh and pure Pinot. Just 10% goes into old barrels. Vivid and glossy black cherry hue. Pretty, lifted aromas – berries with a vanilla hint. Fresh, bright and mouth-watering. Crunchy blackcurrants and red cherries. Graceful – negligible tannins. Perfect Pinot for summer, served cool with a plate of charcuterie or mild cheese. Now-2021

Red: Midweight & Full-flavoured

Les Hauts de Median, Petit Verdot, IGP Pays d’Oc, 2016, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.75 Case with 10% discount £105.30 Code VIC216

Petit Verdot ripens late even in the Languedoc: the grapes for this wine are always the last to be harvested from the vineyards near Béziers. Deeply hued, impressive example crafted by Aurélie Trébuchon: classy layers of red and black fruits, subtle tannins, and vivacious acid. Now-2019

Château La Grave, Minervois Rouge, Tristan et Julien, 2015, 13%

Bottle £9.75 Case with 10% discount £105.30 Code GRV115

This, from halves of Syrah and Grenache, is even more of a bargain than usual, from a vintage hailed by the owners, the Orosquette family, as the best for reds they had ever seen. Expansive Syrah spice marks the aroma, whilst the palate shows bramble and raspberry over a light tannic structure. Uncomplicated and easy drinking country wine. Now-2019

Château Barréjat, Madiran, Tradition, 2015, 12.5%

Bottle £10.25 Case with 10% discount £110.70 Code BAJ115
Magnums £20.95 Case with 10% discount (6 x 150cl.) £113.13
Code BAJ915
Jeroboam – 5 litres £85.00 Code BAJ515

One of our favourite reds, a deeply hued and concentrated blend of local grape Tannat with Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc. In the 2015 vintage it’s simply superb, honest and juicy, with an intensity and purity of fruit unusual at this price level. Perfect for rustic fare, from coarse sausages to cassoulet. Now-2021

Domaine Fontanel, IGP Côtes Catalanes, 2016, 14.5%

Bottle £10.95 Case with 10% discount £118.26 Code FON416

This great value wine comes from young vines of Syrah and Grenache growing within the prestigious Côtes du Roussillon Villages appellation – so it could actually be sold as such. Youthful purple. Gorgeously juicy and vital wine, lacking any bite of tannin. This shows a new world lushness and vibrancy of fruit - blackberries to the fore - but in an authentically Roussillon idiom. Now-2020

Domaine du Météore, Les Léonides, Faugères, 2015, 14%

Bottle £12.50 Case with 10% discount £135.00 Code MET115

About 30% each of Syrah and Grenache, and 20% of Mourvèdre and Carignan, unoaked. Red fruited nose with hints of spice. Lively and refreshing, with ripe blackberry and blackcurrant flavours, plenty of schist character and a long finish. Round and attractive, this is more polished than usual in this superb vintage and should be perfect with grilled beef. Now-2020

La Combe Saint Paul, Grés Rouges, La Clape, 2015, 14%

Bottle £12.50 Case with 10% discount £135.00 Code CSP615

Wines from Languedoc-La Clape have been upgraded so can be labelled simply La Clape AOP from the 2015 vintage, testament to the quality of wines coming off this sunny and windswept hump on the shores of the Med. (La Clape means a “heap of pebbles” in the old Occitan language). The Maurys’ vineyard near the sea is surrounded by pine and oak trees and the soil is characterised by *grés rouges* (red sandstone) hence the name. From 70% Syrah with 30% Mourvèdre, and only 10% raised in barrels, this is an excitingly fruity wine, all juicy raspberry and blackberry, lively and enticing. Pure, silky and fresh with just a savoury edge. Potential to develop too. Now-2020

Mas des Brousses, Chasseur des Brousses, IGP Pays d’Oc, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £12.95 Case with 10% discount £139.86 Code MAB116

From about 50% Merlot, 30% Grenache with some Syrah; a surprisingly successful marriage of Bordeaux and the Rhône. A luxurious mouthful of brambly fruit, supple but punchy, with hints of menthol and liquorice and subtle tannins. Very aromatic and long. Now-2021

Mas des Brousses, Coteaux du Languedoc, Terrasses du Larzac, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £17.50 Case with 10% discount £189.00 Code MAB214

Mourvèdre grown from cuttings from the famed Domaine Tempier in Bandol, with Syrah and Grenache, grown on the edge of the Cevennes. Concentrated but also high-toned and tense – mountain wine. Soft palate of blackberry and raspberry, savoury and fresh. With just the correct grip on the finish, this is a classy bottle which is built to age. Now-2024

Domaine Depeyre, Côtes du Roussillon Villages, Rubia Tinctoria, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £20.95 Case with 10% discount £226.26 Code DEP414

From 90% Syrah, based on one south facing plot, plus 10% Grenache, simply fermented in fibreglass tanks, this is a great unoaked red. It's named after the Latin name for the Common Madder, a Mediterranean plant whose root traditionally supplied a red dye, and when one sees the amazingly deep colour one can see why. Cassis-like perfume and a striking heart of bittersweet blackcurrants and liquorice with mineral depths. Energetic, velvety wine. Now-2023

Red: Oaky & Intense

Domaine du Grand Arc, Cuvée des Quarante, Corbières, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £12.95 Case with 10% discount £139.86 Code DGA315

Based on 45% Carignan with 35% Grenache and 20% Syrah, all in barrel, about 20% new. Deep purple. Strong aromas of raspberry coulis. Dense, old-viney feel. Vibrant red fruit, elegant and intense. Coffee notes from the oak. Drinking well and will keep. Now-2021

Château Barréjat, Madiran, Vieux Céps, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle £14.50 Case with 10% discount £156.60 Code BAJ315
Magnums £29.95 Code BAJ415

Old vines indeed, some over 80 years and some genuinely planted before the phylloxera louse destroyed almost all of Europe's vineyards: 80% Tannat plus the Cabernets, a splendid, traditionally framed and ageworthy example. Inky purple. Dense and vibrant blackcurrant heart with grainy tannins. Plenty of oak to keep it going - a really well-structured wine which can be enjoyed now or kept for years. Now-2025

Domaine du Grand Arc, En Sol Majeure, Corbières, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £15.50 Case with 10% discount £167.40 Code DGA414

60% Grenache and 40% Syrah, all in barrel, 50% new. This hedonistic wine is marked by extravagant aromas and flavours. Enticing scent of cassis. Luxuriant, fleshy black fruit, blackcurrants and blueberries, is lent depth by glossy vanilla and fleeting notes of herbs. Full bodied and powerful, this is already excitingly approachable but can be kept for years. Now-2023.

"Black cherry colour with black core, hence the name. Intensely sweet and almost minty in its vibrant black fruit – cassis and a hint of cassis leaf. Soft, rich and utterly caressing on the palate. Deep and velvety. Rich and generous and long. 17/20", Julia Harding MW, jancisrobinson.com, 7th June 2016

Domaine du Météore, Les Perséides, Faugères, 2015, 14%

Bottle £18.50 Case with 10% discount £199.80 Code MET415

From halves of old vine Syrah and Mourvèdre, aged for 18 months in new 300 and 450 litre *barriques*, this is a grand wine, expressive of this special schistous terroir. Cassis and cedar aromas. Outgoing blackcurrant and sweet spice flavours, soft and juicy with splendid, expanding volume. This is a well-oaked wine but the concentration of fruit deals perfectly with it and the finish is appetisingly fresh. Fine and complete. Now-2024

La Combe Saint Paul, L'Insoupçonné, Languedoc-La Clape, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £19.95 Case with 10% discount £215.46 Code CSP714

85% Syrah with Mourvèdre, given 10 months ageing in a mix of new and 2nd fill barrels – and a very limited production wine: we take a tenth. Very deeply hued and glossy. The perfume is inspiring – fresh crushed berries with a cassis note. Bittersweet blackcurrant flavours are tinged with hints of black chocolate and coffee. With great suavity and length, this brilliantly combines power and finesse, and shows how the best wines of the region can stand against any competition. Now-2024

Domaine Fontanel, Prieuré, Côtes du Roussillon Villages Tautavel, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £19.95 Case with 10% discount £215.46 Code FON314

From one parcel on a high, windswept, north facing argilo-calcaire slope, this blend of 2/3 Syrah, with Grenache, and a little Mourvèdre is given 18 months in new oak casks. It's always a dramatic wine, revealing layers of black fruit, spice and mocha flavours. Intensely blackcurranty in youth it ages like a top northern Rhône, becoming more complex, meaty and savoury. Now-2024



Stone, Vine & Sun

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Opening times: Weekdays: 9.00am-6.00pm
Saturdays: 9.30am-4.00pm