

# Cien y Pico

## (Hundred and Something)



as Zar puts it, "a little homage to Spanish and New York taxi cabs meets Cohiba Cuban cigars".

As to what's in these bottles... well, it's dramatic stuff. Both these wines are made from the inky, concentrated fruit of 100 year old vines (hence the 'hundred and something' name) of the local grape, the Garnacha Tintorera, supposedly a cross of Garnacha (Grenache) and Petit Bouschet. The Doble Pasta is made in a local Manchuela style

What do you get when an Australian winemaking couple, Zar and Elena Brooks, arrive in Spain - in particular the plateau of Manchuela, east of Madrid - with the idea of "saving some bloody old vines and vineyards", and "tilting at a few windmills in the land of Don Quixote"?

Well, first you see a bright yellow/orange screw-cap, topping an idiosyncratic label –



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Opening times: Weekdays: 09.00-18.00 Saturdays: 09.30-16.00

STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

Note: all price reductions in this list are valid until the end of August

### Cien y Pico Case

Eight bottles of Doble Pasta and four bottles of Knights Errant, including 10% discount

£125.46

Code: CIEDOZ

of the same name, involving the grape must being fermented over two batches of lees (somewhat akin to Ripasso wines in northern Italy), aged in barrel. The Knights Errant, a deliberately extreme Quixotic wine, is a massively viscous, strongly oaked wine for long keeping. Here is a chance to buy strikingly unusual wines at a decent discount.

#### Doble Pasta, Manchuela, 2007, 14° [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.95

Case [including 10% discount] £107.46

Code CIE107

Black purple. Berried scents, little preparing one for the depth of old-vine red and black fruit, melting, jellied and spiced with ginger and menthol. Good tannic structure. Aromatic, savoury and long. Now-2012

*"This is a lovely round and spicy smelling grenache: deep, juicy punnets of forest berries, some florals too, and gentle white pepper. Soft and supple in the mouth, sweet-sharp raspberry pip fruited and gentle spice again. Crisp tannins, a lingering finish, and delicious mouth-watering cut: shows how 'fine' old-vine grenache can be",* Tim White, *The Australian Financial Review*, April 2010

#### Knights Errant, Manchuela, 2007, 14° [Screwcap]

Bottle £14.95

Case [including 10% discount] £161.46

Code CIE307

Opaque, near black. Cassis and brooding oak aromas. Surprisingly lively attack - juicy, bittersweet, blackcurrant and raspberry. Very concentrated indeed. Firmish, youthful tannins. Huge promise - has the potential to be a cult wine! Now-2015

# Summer Pick

## Our Summer Case

Six fresh and juicy wines which all make essential drinking this summer: note that all bar the Spanish red are 12.5° or under. You can buy any of these wines by the unsplit case case with 7.5% off, or try a mixed case (see below) of two bottles of each of the six wines below, with the same discount, valid until the end of August (or while stocks last).

### Summer Six

Daily Drinking for Summer: a mixed case containing two bottles of each of the six wines, three white, one rosé and two reds

£65.00, including a 7.5% discount

Code SUM610

### White

#### Les Chapelières, Comté de Tolosan, IGP, 2009, 11.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.65

Case [including 7.5% discount] £62.72

Code AGW309

Formerly a Vin de Pays, this Indication Géographique Protégée (IGP) wine from South-west France, a blend of Ugni Blanc and Colombar, makes easy summer drinking, with its lowish alcohol and refreshing bite. Light citrusy aromas. Clean and lemony, with a mildly tropical fruit accent. Attractively rounded. Perfect for summer parties.

#### Araldica, Chardonnay, Piedmonte, Italy, 2009, 12° [Screw-cap]

Bottle £5.75

Case [including 7.5% discount] £63.83

Code ARA609

Unoaked and relatively low in alcohol, this Chardonnay, from the Monferrato hills in north-west Italy, is light in weight, fresh and attractively pear-flavoured. Open and inviting nose of melon with floral and peardrop notes. A palate of crisp fruit is rounded by herbal and mineral hints.

#### Les Chardons, Sauvignon, Vin de Pays de Loire, 2009, 12°

Bottle £6.95

Case [including 7.5% discount] £77.15

Code AUM309

Our best vintage yet of this Vin de Pays from Sophie and Thierry Chardon at Domaine de l'Aumonier in the Loire's Touraine region. Bright, grassy aromas. Pure gooseberry and sherbert lemon flavours of ripe Sauvignon Blanc, perfect for parties, salad lunches or as a fruity aperitif.



### Rosé

#### Mas de Canal Rosé, Vin de Pays d'Oc, 2009, 12.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.75

Case [including 7.5% discount] £63.83

Code VIC509

From Grenache and Cinsaut, crafted in the Provençale style, pale coloured, light and refreshing. Pale clear pink with a hint of onion skin. Light scent of berries. A refreshing mouthful of strawberry and cranberry. Nothing complicated, just a well-made, dry rosé for regular consumption all summer.

### Reds

#### Bodegas Borsao, Garnacha, Joven, Campo de Borja, Spain, 2008, 13.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.25

Case [including 7.5% discount] £58.28

Code BOR308

Borsao, based in Campo de Borja in the upper Ebro Valley, specialise in Grenache based wines. We look on this upfront wine, with open raspberry palate and a rich, juicy finish, as one of our "house" reds, popular in pubs and restaurants; and it was no surprise to us that this triumphed in the recent Sommelier Awards in London, winning a gold medal, two By the Glass prizes and selected as one of the Critic's Choices.

*"This would work with everything from cassoulet to daube and chorizo and chickpeas. The Aussies would die to produce wine like this. It has a real sense of place, and at this price it'll probably be the house red. It's very attractive for the money",* Martin Lam, of the excellent Ransome's Dock restaurant in Battersea.

#### Les Vignerons Réunis, Carignan, Vieilles Vignes, Vin de Pays d'Hérault, 2009, 12.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.95

Case [including 7.5% discount] £66.05

Code AGW609

Alain Grignon and his team in Carcassonne really know how to craft a fun, gutsy wine, counterpointing the vibrant red fruit and acidity of the Carignan grape with minimal oaking and a touch of sweetness. Flagrant purple. Brambly aromas. Delicious gush of ripe black cherries. Light, vibrantly fruity, and very winning. Supple enough to be enjoyed on its own yet with plenty of stuffing. Perfect for lighthearted barbecues.

# Our Favourite French Rosés



## Rosé French Foursome

A mixed case of three bottles of each of the four rosés, with a discount of just over 10%

**£87.50**  
Code: PIN210

### Château La Grave, Minervois Rosé, Expression, 2009, 13°

Bottle **£6.95**  
Case [including 10% discount] **£75.06**  
Code GRV409

Year on year this wine, from Syrah and Grenache grown by the Orosquette family in the Minervois, is our best-selling rosé: very ripe fruit makes it so enjoyable as an aperitif yet it's dry enough to accompany food too.

Bright salmon pink. Perfume of raspberries. Surprisingly intense gush of red fruit, very moreish, all the memories of Mediterranean sunshine in a glass.

### Domaine du Grand Arc, Corbières Rosé, La Tour Fabienne, 2009, 14°

Bottle **£8.25**  
Case [including 10% discount] **£89.10**  
Code DGA509

Bruno Schenk's rosé, from Cinsaut, Grenache, Carignan and Syrah, is widely considered to be among the best in the Corbières.

As usual, a neon pink hue, almost bluish pink! So fresh and zingy, with delightful *fraîses des bois* and redcurrant character, enlivened by stone fruit notes. Crisply dry, and combines the depth of bright fruit of a red wine with the freshness and bite of a white.

### Domaine du Météore, Faugères Rosé, Les Léonides, 2009, 13.5°

Bottle **£8.50**  
Case [including 10% discount] **£91.80**  
Code MET509

From Grenache with Cinsaut and a little Syrah, a rosé with generous fruit and exciting minerality.

Vibrant deep pink. Great depth of red cherry fruit, allied to a finesse and perfume which derives from the schistous soils. Really vital and impressive.

### Les Quatre Tours, Coteaux d'Aix en Provence Rosé, Signature, 2009, 12.5°

Bottle **£8.75**  
Case [including 10% discount] **£94.50**  
Code QUA509

This well-priced Provençale blend of Grenache, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, is becoming established as a firm favourite among those who like the characteristic Riviera style: pale colour, lowish alcohol and restrained elegance.

Pale salmon pink. Poised and smooth, delivering a fresh palate of peach, melon and plum, with satisfying weight and a fine dry finish. Nice length too. This is so complete and delicious.

# Seven Hills Walla Walla, Washington State, USA

Though Washington State has a coastline on the Pacific, Walla Walla, the heart of the state's wine industry, is well inland, east of the Cascade Mountains which act as a barrier to rainfall: indeed here only about 8-10 inches of rain falls every year. The northerly latitude - around 46 degrees - ensures long hours of sunshine during the summer, but cool autumn nights allow a long ripening season, delivering fine aromatics and good natural acidity. Soils are a fascinatingly complex mix of loess, silt and stones, shaped by titanic Ice Age floods and volcanic activity.

On a corner in downtown Walla Walla (hardly a metropolis), tucked away behind the façade of a former furniture factory, is the Seven Hills Winery, established in 1988 as one of the first five wineries in the area. Run by dynamic winemaker Casey McClellan, Seven Hills is highly regarded - acclaimed in 2003 as one of the top seven Washington Wineries - and best known for its wines from Bordeaux varieties. Made in very small quantities (for example



## Seven Hills Tasting Case

A case including four bottles of each of the three wines, with a discount of just over 10%

**£194.00**  
Code: SEVDOZ

a mere 350 dozen of the Seven Hills Vineyard Merlot), these are beautiful wines, not New World fruit bombs, very food-friendly, and they would appeal to Bordeaux lovers for their elegant fruit and impeccable balance. Note that we shipped these wines at a much more favourable exchange rate against the \$US than today - so they represent good value, especially with a 10% discount. These wines look like bargains against the eye-watering prices for 2009 Bordeaux!

### Merlot, Columbia Valley, 2006, 13.5°

Bottle **£15.75**  
Case [including 10% discount] **£170.10**  
Code SEV106

Sourced from some of the best sites in the Columbia Valley, notably Yakima Valley and Red Mountain. 81% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon. 18 months in oak (largely French with some American), 25% new.

*Such Bordeaux-like aromas: black fruit with cinnamon and cedar. Very ripe attack, a coulis of crushed berries, but that intense fruit is counterbalanced by fine acidity, a lead-pencil, herbal note, and woodsmoke. Builds well on the palate. Smooth and fine. Now-2014*

### Merlot, Seven Hills Vineyard, Walla Walla Valley, 2006, 13.7°

Bottle **£18.50**  
Case [including 10% discount] **£199.80**  
Code SEV306

Largely sourced from the older vine blocks of the famous Seven Hills vineyard, first planted in 1981. Includes just 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. All in French barrels, 40% new.

*Scent of ripe red berries with vanilla and spice - some baked associations. A really concentrated core of ripe berries, very lush, overlaid with chocolately oak notes, and hints of dried fruit and liquorice. Very silky tannins. Such depth and mass; and the power shows too on the long finish. Like a new-wave Pomerol. This will age so well. Decant to drink now, and to 2016*

### Cabernet Sauvignon, Walla Walla Valley, 2005, 13.5°

Bottle **£19.75**  
Case [including 10% discount] **£213.30**  
Code SEV505

All from the old block in the Seven Hills Vineyard. With 4% Merlot. 22 months in French barrels, 40% new. A much lauded wine: 92/100 in *The Wine Spectator*, 93/100 in *Wine Enthusiast*.

*Warmly black-fruited on the nose, with spice and nuts. The cassis fruit is however tempered by softer, red fruit notes of plum and raspberry. Very approachable now, with supple tannins and well-integrated, spicy oak, this will gain in complexity with keeping. Splendid finish. Now-2016*