

Wines for Christmas

STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

Wines for Christmas 2011

We have been shipping wine into the warehouse for months in anticipation of the Christmas list and subsequent rush. Never before have we stockpiled so much wine....So please call us and help us move in the warehouse!

Just a brief note on the content: the whites do lean towards unoaked styles, as these seem to find so much favour with you - so there are Sauvignon Blancs from the Loire, Chile, New Zealand and South Africa: and unoaked Chardonnays from the Mâconnais and Chile, plus both Petit Chablis and Premier Cru Chablis. But there's plenty of variety, with Viognier, Chenin Blanc, Riesling, Gewurztraminer, Torrontés, Roussanne, and some fascinating blends too.

Reds, on the other hand, lean the other way: though we offer lots of Pinot Noir and one Cru Beaujolais, many of the reds

here are on the medium to full-bodied end of the spectrum. It is winter after all, and hearty cooking cries out for wines with warmth and depth of flavour, like our favoured reds from the Rhône and Languedoc, but also Malbecs from Argentina, Carmenères from Chile, Rioja and Zinfandel.

..and don't forget some fizz, plus a few bottles of sweet or fortified wines - those treats which really make Christmas and the holidays special.

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.

Happy Christmas from all the growing team here (growing as in getting more numerous, not as in cultivating vines!)

Simon Taylor
November 2011

Please note Special Terms and Conditions for all Orders from the arrival of this list until Christmas

Free delivery (excluding Highlands, islands and Northern Ireland) for all orders of one whole case (12 bottles, which can be mixed) worth £100.00 or more, and for any further whole cases to the same address.

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LAST ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS: NOON WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER

(We undertake to send the order out that day for delivery before Christmas - but we can't absolutely guarantee delivery as the couriers very occasionally lose or drop cases....)

Note: the cover illustration is of a fermenting vat of 2011 Morellino di Scansano shot in October

Gifts for Christmas

Across these three pages is our pick of our favourite wines for gifts - a really varied selection that should have something for everyone. However, if you can't find quite what you seek, please call us to discuss your specific needs and preferences. We are happy to pack up any choice of wines from our stock in units of 2, 6 or 12 as gifts - so 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.

We can also offer vouchers to any value in multiples of £20.00 which can be redeemed against the purchase of wine with Stone, Vine & Sun. Just give us the recipient's name and address, how much you want to spend, and we will send out a list 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 despatched 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 these three pages, p.3 to p.5, include UK delivery (excepting Highlands and Islands - please ask for a quote).

How to Order - Either call us on 01962 712351 or email to 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.

Smaller Gifts

A select offering of one and two bottle packs, presented in red fluted gift boxes with a card enclosed - please be sure to give us your message. The prices quoted below include the red gift box and delivery. Simply add £2.25 if you would like a single bottle packed in a wooden box, or £2.75 for two bottles in a wooden box.

Single bottle of Champagne

SB11 £34.95

Serge Mathieu, Champagne Tradition, Pur Pinot, Brut, NV (p.9)

Two bottles - one white and one red

TB11 White Burgundy and Red Rhône £34.75

Elise, Petit Chablis, 2009 (p.15)

Amadiou, Cairanne, Côte du Rhône Villages, 2007 (p.23)

TB21 Champagne and Claret £50.25

Serge Mathieu, Champagne Tradition, Pur Pinot, Brut, NV (p.9)

Château Pierre de Montignac, Médoc, 2006 (p.24)



Magnums

Wouldn't you rather receive one jolly big bottle than two small ones? Magnums look spectacular and make a satisfying thud when you plonk them down on the table. Add £4.00 to the prices quoted if you would like the magnums to be sent in a wooden box. All prices quoted include delivery.

M11 £28.95

Château Barrejat, Madiran, Tradition, France, 2009 (p.21)

M21 £31.95

Domaine des Espiers, Côtes du Rhône, France, 2009

M31 £37.50

Amadiou, Cairanne, Côte du Rhône Villages, 2007 (p.23)



M41 £38.50

Château Gravieres de la Brandille, Cuvée Prestige, 2005

M51 £38.75

Tabalí, Syrah, Reserva Especial, Limarí Valley, Chile, 2007

M61 £68.75

Serge Mathieu, Champagne, Cuvée Prestige, Brut, NV

M71 £71.75

Ridge, Geyserville, California, USA, 2009 (p.25)

.....and a Jeroboam

5 litres (nearly seven bottles) of this robust country red from south-west France.

J11 £76.50

Château Barrejat, Madiran, 2008
(N.B. If we sell out of this, the 2009 vintage follows at £78.00)



Sixes

S11 New World Six £54.00

Three bottles of each of these two bright wines

Mirror Lake, Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand
2010 (p.12)

Luis Felipe Edwards, Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva,
Colchagua, Chile, 2010 (p.20)

S21 French Rainbow £60.95

Two bottles each of a white, rosé and red

Olivier Fichet, Mâcon-Villages, Terroir de Burgy, France,
2009 (p.14)

Grand Arc, Corbières Rosé, La Tour Fabienne, France,
2010 (p.17)

Château Tour de Bellegarde, Bordeaux, France, 2009 (p.20)

S31 Mixed Entertainment £76.50

Two bottles each of Sparkling, White and Red

Drusian, Prosecco di Valdobbiadene, DOC Extra Dry,
Italy, NV (p.8)

Fryer's Cove, Sauvignon Blanc, Bamboes Bay, South Africa,
2010 (p.14)

René Lequin-Colin, Bourgogne Pinot Noir, France,
2009, (p.22)

S32 Grand Gallic Six £116.50

Six different bottles: with one champagne, two each of
classic whites and reds, plus a bottle of delicious fortified
Muscat: this six is guaranteed to impress!

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Brut, NV (p.9)

Masson-Blondelet, Pouilly-Fumé, Les Angelots, 2009, (p.16)

Domaine Fourrey, Chablis, 1er Cru, Côte de Lechet, 2009
(p.16)

Château Pierre de Montignac, Cuvée Fernand Ginestet,
Médoc, 2006 (p.24)

Fourrier, Gevrey-Chambertin, Vieille Vigne, 2007 (p.25)

Domaine de la Pigeade, Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise,
2010 (p.27)

S50 Champagne Six £143.70

Six bottles of our house champagne, packed in the grower's
smart slimline box

Serge Mathieu, Champagne Tradition, Blanc de Noirs,
Pur Pinot, NV (p.9)



Christmas Dozens

We now offer more mixed dozens than ever before, as we find so many of our customers trust our selections. All cases except the last two contain two bottles of each of the six wines listed.

CC11 Christmas Decorations £77.00

Three whites, three reds, offering bright and fruity drinking from all over the world

- Ca' di Ponti, Grillo, IGT Sicily, Italy, 2010 (p.10)
- Rio Alto, Chardonnay, Chile, 2011 (p.10)
- Les Chapelières, Comté de Tolosan, IGP, France, 2010 (p.10)
- Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d'Oc, France, 2010 (p.18)
- 25 Lagunas, Malbec, Argentina, 2010 (p.18)
- Soldier's Block, Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2010 (p.19)

CC21 Dreaming of a Red Christmas £89.30

Six reds, mostly robust and friendly winter warmers

- 25 Lagunas, Malbec, Argentina, 2010 (p.18)
- False Bay, Pinotage, Western Cape, South Africa, 2010 (p.19)
- Soldier's Block, Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2010 (p.19)
- Château La Grave, Minervois, Tristan et Julien, France, 2010 (p.19)
- Luis Felipe Edwards, Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva, Colchagua, Chile, 2010 (p.20)
- Pigeade, Ventoux Classique, France, 2010 (p.20)

CC31 New World Sunshine £89.50

Three whites and three reds, all from the southern hemisphere

- Goedverwacht, Crane White Colombar, South Africa, 2011 (p.11)
- Mirror Lake, Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2010 (p.12)
- Tabalí, Chardonnay Reserva, Limarí Valley, Chile, 2010 (p.12)
- Soldier's Block, Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2010 (p.19)
- Carinae, Cuvée Brigitte, Mendoza, Argentina, 2009 (p.21)
- Anakena, Single Vineyard Pinot Noir, Leyda, Chile, 2009 (p.21)

CC41 Regional Terroirs £111.60

Three whites, three reds, all wines really expressive of their origins

- Joostenberg, Little J White, Western Cape, South Africa, 2010 (p.11)
- Carinae, Torrontés, Salta, Argentina, 2009 (p.13)
- Fichet, Mâcon-Villages, Terroir de Burgy, France, 2009 (p.14)
- Fincas Rewen, Syrah, San Juan, Argentina, 2009 (p.20)
- Mas des Brousses, Chasseur des Brousses, France, 2010 (p.22)
- Mud House, Pinot Noir, Central Otago, New Zealand, 2009 (p.23)

CC51 Global Experience £131.60

Unusual drinking from all over the world: three whites and three reds from unusual grapes and stimulating blends - dare to be different!

- Château Barrejat, Pacherenc du Vic-Bilh Sec, France, 2010 (p.12)
- Luis Felipe Edwards, Family Selection Roussanne, Colchagua, Chile, 2009 (p.13)
- Bernhard & Reibel, Riesling, Coup de Foudre, Alsace, France, 2009 (p.14)
- Terres Falmet, Saint-Chinian, L'Ivresse des Cîmes, France, 2007 (p.22)
- Torre d'Orti, Valpolicella Superiore, Ripasso, Italy, 2008 (p.23)
- BLANKbottle, The Big Spaniard, Western Cape, South Africa, 2009 (p.24)

CC61 Santa's Old World £160.20

The wines we would expect a sophisticated, middle aged Santa to keep for himself: an eclectic mix of sparkling wine, two whites and three reds.

Vitteaut-Alberti, Blanc de Blancs, Crémant de Bourgogne, France, NV (p.8)

Domaine Fontanel, Côtes du Roussillon Blanc, France, 2010 (p.15)

Benito Santos, Albariño, Igraxario de Saiar, Rías Baixas, Spain, 2010 (p.15)

René Lequin-Colin, Bourgogne Pinot Noir, France, 2009 (p.22)

Lar de Paula, Rioja, Vendimia Seleccionada, Spain, 2005 (p.24)

Val delle Rose, Morellino di Scansano Riserva, Italy, 2007 (p.25)

CC71 French Noel £173.30

A case for the traditionalist from the classic regions of France: Champagne, two whites and three reds.

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Brut (p.9)

Domaine d'Elise, Petit Chablis, 2009 (p.15)

Cherrier Père et fils, Sancerre, F2010 (p.15)

Domaine Calot, Morgon, 2009 (p.22)

Château Pierre de Montignac, Cuvée Fernand Ginestet, Médoc, 2006 (p.24)

Domaine Le Couroulu, Vacqueyras Classique, 2007 (p.24)

Cases including twelve different bottles

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

C11DOZ Christmas Stocking £91.40

One fizz, five dry whites and five reds, and finishing with a 50cl. bottle of sweet wine.

Viña Casablanca, Blanc de Blancs Brut, Chile, NV (p.8)

Rio Alto Chardonnay, Central Valley, Chile, 2011 (p.10)

Aumonier, Les Chardons, Sauvignon Blanc, France, 2010 (p.11)

Benvenuto de la Serna, Mil Piedras Viognier, Argentina, 2010 (p.11)

Joostenberg, Little J White, Western Cape, South Africa, 2010 (p.11)

Mirror Lake, Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2010 (p.12)

Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d'Oc, France, 2010 (p.18)

25 Lagunas, Malbec, Argentina, 2010 (p.18)

Soldier's Block, Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2010 (p.19)

Les Vignerons d'Estézargues, Cuvée des Galets, Côtes du Rhône, France, 2010 (p.19)

Château Tour de Bellegarde, Bordeaux, France, 2009 (p.20)

Anakena, Late Harvest, Requínoa, Chile, 2010 [50cl.] (p.26)

C21DOZ The Twelve Days of Christmas £133.05

A bottle of Champagne, five whites, five reds, finishing with a half bottle of Muscat de Beaumes de Venise.

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Brut, NV (p.9)

Santa Barbara, Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi, Italy, 2010 (p.13)

Carinae, Torrontés, Salta, Argentina, 2009 (p.13)

Fichet, Mâcon-Villages, Terroir de Burgy, France, 2009 (p.14)

Cederberg, Chenin Blanc, Cederberg, South Africa, 2011 (p.14)

Cherrier Père et fils, Sancerre, France, 2010 (p.15)

Fincas Rewen, Syrah, San Juan, Argentina, 2009 (p.20)

Anakena, Single Vineyard Pinot Noir, Leyda, Chile, 2009 (p.21)

Terres Falmet, Saint-Chinian, L'Ivresse des Cîmes, France, 2007 (p.22)

Spookfontein, Cabernet Franc, Hemel & Aarde, South Africa, 2008 (p.23)

Domaine des Amadieu, Cairanne, Vieilles Vignes, France, 2007 (p.23)

Domaine de la Pigeade, Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise, 2010 [37.5cl.] (p.27)

Sparkling & Champagne

This year we bring back two wines which have been popular in the past: Viña Casablanca's classy Blanc de Blancs; and the beautifully presented Prosecco from the Drusian family. We also introduce our new find: grower's champagnes from Franck Thomas, a fifth generation vigneron based in the heart of the Vallée de la Marne, at Thomas-Hatté. These are distinctive wines, with a depth of mature flavour surprising at these prices. The Mathieu's *Tradition* continues to be our best selling fizz so do try it if you haven't yet been converted!

Viña Casablanca, Blanc de Blancs Brut, Casablanca, Chile, NV, 13°

Bottle £9.95 Case £113.43 Code CSB1NV

Chile, with its excellent record with cool-climate varieties, is fast becoming better known for its good value sparklers. From 92% Chardonnay with 8% Chenin Blanc grown in the Casablanca Valley near the frigid Pacific, this has surprising finesse.

A biscuity nose; and a tasty, dry palate of pears, ripe apples and cream: a classy, enjoyable fizz with a delicate mousse.

Chapin & Landais, Saumur Brut, Le Grand Saumur, France, 2008, 12.5°

Bottle £11.50 Case £131.10 Code CHL108

A really reliable stalwart. Making sparkling wine out of Chenin Blanc - a fresh, high acid grape - has been a tradition in and around Saumur in the Loire valley since the 18th century, so the locals have had plenty of practice!

Fine mousse. This always has a pretty scent of apples and pears. Very clean, appley fruit, not absolutely bone dry, and appealing freshness.

Drusian, Prosecco di Valdobbiadene, DOC Extra Dry, Italy, NV, 11°

Bottle £12.50 Case £142.50 Code DRU1NV

The Drusian family are third generation Prosecco producers with vineyards in the hills around San Giacomo di Valdobbiadene. This smartly presented bottle has established itself as a firm favourite with our customers.

Deliciously sherberty, light, and with the merest hint of fruity sweetness, one can consume this charming example with alarming ease.

Vitteaut-Alberti, Blanc de Blancs, Crémant de Bourgogne, France, NV, 12°

Bottle £13.50 Case £153.90 Code VIT1NV

The Vitteauts' Blanc de Blancs is made in Rully from 80% Chardonnay, with crisp Aligoté to brighten the Chardonnay from the Côte Chalonnaise - which is always going to be riper than that in Champagne. It's a creamily ripe ringer for a Blanc de Blancs Champagne at a sensible price.

Lemon colouring. Soft floral aromas underpinned with ripe pear and melon flavours on the palate. A touch of honey and a long, creamy finish. Well-aged, and delicious.



Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Brut, 12°

Bottle £22.50 Case £256.50 Code HAT1NV

This full-flavoured Champagne - apparently this style is very much Le Gout Anglais, as the French prefer their champagne crisper - is based on 70% Pinot Meunier with 20% Chardonnay and 10% Pinot Noir. The Pinot Meunier ages faster, so delivers a satisfyingly rounded and mature style.

Appealing and forward, yet with convincing depth of appley fruit and rich brioche character. Lively and persistent.

Serge Mathieu, Champagne Tradition, Pur Pinot, Brut, NV, 12°

Bottle £23.95 Case £273.03 Code MAT1NV

This is 100% Pinot Noir from the Bar-sur-Aube, the south of the Champagne region and a little warmer, so ideal for Pinot. It's always quite deep in colour, well-aged, and offers great breadth of red fruit flavours.

Deep tone. Attractively ripe and broadly flavoured, with an engaging creaminess and intensity. Strong berried fruit. Great mouthfeel and length.

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne Rosé Brut, NV, 12°

Bottle £25.50 Case £290.70 Code HAT5NV

This great value Rosé is from a similar blend to that above, but with the Pinot Noir vinified as a red wine to give colour.

Pale pink with a soft but fine mousse. Complex ripe cherry aromas are supplemented on the palate by more black fruit and creamy nougat notes. Crisp, elegant and with a delightfully dry finish.

Jacquesson, Cuvée 734, Brut, NV, 12°

Bottle £32.50 Case £370.50 Code JAC134

Though small, the house of Jacquesson is right at the top of the champagne hierarchy, known and admired for its elegant and very dry style. Cuvée 734 is based on the 2006 vintage and sourced only from Premier and Grand Cru vineyards. The blend is 54% Chardonnay, 26 % Pinot Meunier and 20% Pinot Noir.

Attractive pale colour with a fine mousse. Light and stylish, with mineral complexity. The palate is expansive, with nutty, oatmeal characters and a classy, very dry finish.



Whites for Daily Drinking & Parties

All unoaked wines, full of fruit, fresh and bright - note that three wines are from the 2011 vintage in the southern hemisphere.

Ca' di Ponti, Grillo, IGT Sicily, 2010, 12.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.50 Case £62.70 Code PON110

Sicily is fast becoming known for good value whites made from grapes such as Cataratto and Grillo, the latter retaining freshness and character even in Mediterranean heat.

Gently floral aroma. Not an overtly fruity style - understated melons and pears - but subtly almondy, quite weighty, but with refreshing bite too.

Rio Alto Chardonnay, Central Valley, Chile, 2011, 13.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.95 Case £67.83 Code RIO611

Made by Viña San Esteban in Aconcagua, but from fruit sourced further south, this is unadorned, unoaked Chardonnay.

Young, fresh, clean, and lemony, with the merest pineapple hint.

Les Chapelières, Comté de Tolosan IGP, France, 2010, 11.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.95 Case £67.83 Code AGW310

Blended largely from Ugni Blanc and Colombard by the wine-making team run by the charismatic Alain Grignon, this white from South-west France makes excellent party drinking, with its lowish alcohol, bright fruit and refreshing bite.

Light citrusy aromas. Clean and lemony, with pleasing accents of mildly tropical fruit. Attractively rounded.

Santa Luz, Sauvignon Blanc, Bin 955, Valle Central, Chile, 2011, 12° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.95 Case £67.83 Code LFE911

Chile is the best place in the world for good value Sauvignon Blanc: though one still has to hunt hard to seek true varietal character at a fair price. We found this, produced by up-and-coming Luis Felipe Edwards.

Modest, but true to the variety, a well-made wine showing mildly tropical fruit with a grassy streak.



Goedverwacht, Crane White Colombar, Robertson, South Africa, 2011, 11° [Screwcap]

Bottle £6.75 Case £76.95 Code GDV311

Jan du Toit's Colombar, packed with fruit and just off-dry, makes an attractive apéritif.

Lively aromas of tangerine and hothouse flowers. Refreshingly juicy and zippy, showing passion-fruit, kiwi and a touch of guava. An excellent example of this South African speciality.

Les Chardons, Sauvignon Blanc, Vin de Pays de Loire, France, 2010, 12°

Bottle £7.25 Case £79.23 Code AUM310

Loire Sauvignon Blanc from our friends Sophie and Thierry Chardon at Aumonier in Touraine: pure and light, this makes perfect party drinking.

Bright grassy aromas. Pure gooseberry and citrus flavours of ripe Sauvignon Blanc, both fruity and refreshing.

Benvenuto de la Serna, Mil Piedras Viognier, Valle de Uco, Argentina, 2010, 13° [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 Case £90.63 Code BEN610

Argentina continues to be the best source of good value Viognier in the world. From highish altitude vineyards (about 1100 metres in altitude) in the stunningly beautiful Uco Valley south of Mendoza, this is unoaked, shows great typicity and is just so drinkable on its own or with any seafood.

Pale and clear. Gentle scent of stone fruit. Light and fresh, offering a peach and apricot palate.

Joostenberg, Little J White, Western Cape, South Africa, 2010, 13.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 Case £90.63 Code JOO110

95% Chenin Blanc from the Agter-Paarl area, enlivened with 5% Viognier, bottled by young Tyrrel Myburgh at his ancient family farm near Paarl. This is made in a bright and breezy style.

Scent of ripe pears. Bright attack, a real fruit salad of ripe red apples, pears and even mango. Juicy, fleshy, and rather joyous: just a few grams of residual sugar add to its appeal, especially as an apéritif.



Informal Whites

Regional French whites to the fore, showing the splendid diversity of the country; alongside Kiwi Sauvignon, crisp Verdicchio, top-notch Argentine Torrontés and a rare Chilean Roussanne.

Mirror Lake, Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2010, 13° [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 Case £90.63 Code MIR110

Now firmly established as one of our best selling whites, a wine cleverly sourced and blended from juice from some excellent estates (no names allowed!).

Bright and clear. Scent of ripe citrus, and that citrusy zip is to the fore on the palate, with lime and grassy notes. Refreshing.

Tabalí, Chardonnay Reserva, Limarí Valley, Chile, 2010, 13.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 Case £90.63 Code TAB110

An unoaked style of great freshness and purity from this tiny region in the north of Chile, where the vineyards are refreshed by the influence of the cool Pacific. Winemaker Felipe Muller is a master of Chardonnay - see his terrific oaked example on p.16.

Lively citrusy scent. Crisply vivacious, showing flavours of white peach and apricot. Finishes crisp and dry. This would convert many avowed Chardonnay-haters!

Château Barrejat, Pacherenc du Vic-Bilh Sec, France, 2010, 14°

Bottle £8.25 Case £94.05 Code BAJ610

M. Capmartin at Barrejat makes great value wines - see also his Madiran on p.21. Pacherenc is the white of this part of south-west France, a little known but delicious white based on 85% Gros Manseng with 15% of the obscure Arrufiac grape.

Pale gold. This always has an attractively herby nose. Really full flavoured palate of ripe pears, lightly honeyed and waxy, with again that sense of herbs. Mid weight but finishes crisp and dry.

Château Ballan-Larquette, Bordeaux Blanc, France, 2010, 12.5°

Bottle £8.25 Case £94.05 Code BAN110

From an estate owned by the Chaigne family, 40kms south-east of Bordeaux, and blended from halves of Sauvignon and Sémillon. Bordeaux Blanc now seems such good value in comparison to Loire wines, and as it offers just a little more weight and ripeness it seems more suited to winter drinking.

Attractive ripe apple scents; and that ripe red apple character follows on to the palate. Zippily refreshing, but with some lightly custardy richness from the Sémillon too. Charming.



Santa Barbara, Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi, Italy, 2010, 12° [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.50 Case £96.90 Code BAB310

Verdicchio is often referred to as the Italian Muscadet, and does accompany all types of seafood well.

A perfume of white roses and herbs. Mid-weight, well balanced and vigorous, with ripe citrus and apple fruit. Crisp finish.

Château de Putille, Anjou Blanc Sec, France, 2010, 12.5°

Bottle £8.50 Case £96.90 Code PUT710

We have offered this Chenin Blanc - with its mildly old fashioned label and traditional tall Anjou bottle - for several years, but the 2010 seems a big step up in terms of concentration.

Ripe pears and a touch of honey on the nose. Attractive weight and rich texture, with bright, pure flavours of apple and pear: a lovely example of young Chenin Blanc, and it finishes really well.

“Another cracking Chenin Blanc wine here, this time from its spiritual home, the Loire. This has a mineral, almost earthy character on the nose but the palate launches into full-on juicy, crunchy, chewy apple freshness. 91/100”, www.thewinegang.com, August 2011.

Carinae, Torrontés, Salta, Argentina, 2009, 13°

Bottle £8.95 Case £102.03 Code CAE609

Torrontés has to come from high altitude vineyards in Argentina’s north-west (in this case Salta) to offer the correct freshness and vigour to offset the grape’s flowery perfume. One can almost think of it as Argentina’s Gewurztraminer!

Very pale and clear, orange and rose blossom-scented, mid-weight, this is a fascinating example: dry, mineral, but exhibiting exotic flavours of lychees and cumquats, also gently floral, with nuances of macadamia nuts and fennel.

Luis Felipe Edwards, Family Selection Roussanne, Colchagua, Chile, 2009, 14° [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.75 Case £111.15 Code LFE809

This is Chile’s first pure Roussanne, and it’s a powerful, complex white sourced from the family’s vineyards in Lolol, not far from the cool Pacific. Part was aged in 3-4 year old barrels to give an attractive roundness.

Deep tone. Scent of apricots and nectarines. Intensely flavoured, creamy and full-bodied, the core of stone fruit is tempered by hints of almonds, honey, fig and even liquorice. “...this value-for-money Roussanne. It’s pale, yet intense, with subtle oak and flavours of pear, nutmeg, honeysuckle and wild herbs. Makes a welcome change from Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. More, please. 90 points”, Tim Atkin MW, Blog, 23rd December 2010



Festive Whites

These two pages feature many of our most distinctive whites: from perennially popular, unoaked French Chardonnay to dry Riesling, aromatic Albariño and cool-climate Cape Chenin Blanc and Sauvignon.

Domaine Olivier Fichet, Mâcon-Villages, Terroir de Burgy, France, 2009, 13° [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.95 Case £113.43 Code FIC509

Young Olivier Fichet's unoaked Chardonnay comes from his 6 hectares of vines in the excellent *terroir* of the northern Mâconnais near Viré.

Pure, lemony understated and smooth French Chardonnay, nicely weighted, with hints of stone fruit and nuts. Classy.

Cederberg, Chenin Blanc, Cederberg, South Africa, 2011, 13° [Screwcap]

Bottle £10.25 Case £116.85 Code CED111

From the highest altitude vineyards in the Cape, isolated in the Cederberg mountains, this has become one of our most distinctive wines: we often call it a mountain fresh example.

Scent of citrus and ripe melon. Mouthwatering entry of crisp pineapple, lime and kiwi. Ripe but zippy. Dry, stony finish.

Bernhard & Reibel, Riesling, Coup de Foudre, Alsace, France, 2009, 13°

Bottle £10.95 Case £124.83 Code BEP109

A stunning dry Riesling from Alsace, with explosive fruit: named after the large, old, oval barrels in which it ages, and with full organic certification.

Vibrant green apple nose, touch of stone. Clean attack opening to a delicious ripe lime and pink grapefruit cocktail. Youthful and already entrancing, this will also develop well.

Fryer's Cove, Sauvignon Blanc, Bamboes Bay, South Africa, 2010, 13.5°

Bottle £10.95 Case £124.83 Code FRY110

From an isolated 6 hectare vineyard just a few hundred metres from the cold Atlantic 250 kms north of Cape Town: Some tasters claim to taste salt in this wine, which is entirely possible given the proximity to the sea, as the saline sea mist leaves fine salt flakes on the grapes.

Very pale and clear. Scent of cream, citrus and a hint of green pepper. Pungent gooseberry and cut grass, with real volume, in part derived from a very small proportion being fermented in barrel. A splendid Cape SB to rival plenty of top Kiwi examples.



Domaine d'Elise, Petit Chablis, France, 2009, 12°

Bottle £11.25 Case £128.25 Code ELS109

We have bought every vintage of Frédéric Prain's Petit Chablis since 2001: testament to its quality and consistency.

Pale and clear. Pure mouthful of lemony freshness, lightly creamy but also bright and mineral. So clean, complete and simply drinkable. "This is lemony, streaked with minerals, not at all raw; it has just a hint of honeybread softness, but even in a boiling year like 2009 it is suffused with the chill scent of pale northern sunlight", Oz Clarke, 250 Best Wines 2012, p.64

Domaine Fontanel, Côtes du Roussillon, France, 2010, 14°

Bottle £11.95 Case £136.23 Code FON710

From old vines of Grenache Blanc, Roussanne and Malvoisie, planted together in 1908, well-oaked: and always a splendidly mineral and interesting wine.

As ever, a lovely honeyed, stone-fruited nose with a fennel hint. Textured and creamy with notes of honey, ripe peach and apricot. Long and well structured.

Benito Santos, Albariño, Igrexario de Sair, Rías Baixas, Spain, 2010, 13°

Bottle £12.50 Case £142.50 Code BNS110

Albariño, from vineyards in cool and moist Galicia, makes a superb aperitif wine, but is also excellent with light seafood such as scallops or crab. American Todd Blomberg at Benito Santos is making a superbly pure example: note that he is a "natural" winemaker, using only minimal sulphur at bottling.

Just the style of Albariño we seek, combining forward apricot fruit and considerable weight with fine minerality and the merest saline hint. Jancis Robinson's Wine of the Week (17th June 2011), described as "really crammed with life and Albariño's marine breeziness..and unusual persistence". (www.jancisrobinson.com)

Cherrier Père et fils, Sancerre, France, 2010, 13.5°

Bottle £12.75 Case £145.35 Code ROS110

M. Cherrier has been delivering fine Sancerre from his vineyards on the slopes around Verdigny to us for years now. The 2010 vintage suffered from difficult weather at flowering, resulting in low yields of concentrated fruit.

Pure lemon with even a note of table grapes on the nose. Ripe citrus on the palate, with that characteristic stony minerality. Elegantly delineated and lasts so well.



Top Whites and Rosés

Among the whites, French classics to the fore - unoaked and oaked white Burgundy, a top Loire Sauvignon and Alsace Gewürztraminer - supplemented by emerging New World successes: Chardonnay with grace and finesse from Chile and a splendid Cape blend. Two rosés too, to ring the changes with big winter reds: an intensely redcurranty example from the Corbières; and a summer-berried, light and graceful Sancerre rosé.

André Kientzler, Gewurztraminer, Alsace, France, 2009, 13.5°

Bottle £13.50 Case £153.90 Code KIE209

Here are the hallmarks of the Kientzler style: clear in colour, lightly scented, pure in flavour, and, above all dry. It's no surprise that the brothers are regarded at being among the finest winemakers in Alsace.

Very pale gold. An almost explosive perfume leads to a palate that combines this variety's hallmark preserved fruit and floral characters with mineral complexity. So elegant and refined.

Tabalí, Talinay Chardonnay, Limarí Valley, Chile, 2009, 13.5°

Bottle £14.75 Case £168.15 Code TAB509

Tabalí's new top Chardonnay, from the limestone-rich Camanchaca vineyard just 12 kilometres from the cool Pacific, barrel-fermented and expensively oak-aged.

This has understated vanilla and cream aromas. Restrained, svelte body. So fine and precise. Decant and tell everyone it's a 1er Cru Chassagne-Montrachet - they will believe you!

Masson-Blondelet, Pouilly-Fumé, Les Angelots, France, 2009, 12.5°

Bottle £14.75 Case £168.15 Code MAS209

The estate covers about 21 hectares of vines around the village, from which they make several cuvées of Pouilly-Fumé from different soils: Les Angelots is from south and south-east facing chalky (calcareous) vineyards in the heart of the appellation.

Fresh aromas of gooseberries and ripe citrus are followed on the palate by delicate citrus flavours with stone fruit notes. Focused and intense but also pleasingly silky and refined.

Domaine Fourrey, Chablis, 1er Cru, Côte de Lechet, France, 2009, 13°

Bottle £16.50 Case £188.10 Code FRR709

We always buy two Premier Crus from the brother and sister team who run this estate at Milly: the more expensive Mont de Milieu for laying down; and this for drinking sooner. From the sunny 2009 vintage, it's already attractive and impressive, but will keep as well.

Cream and citrus aromas. Intense, creamy and mildly chalky. Smooth and silky. So clean, with real typicité. Textbook stuff.



BLANKbottle, The White Black, Western Cape, South Africa, 2009, 13.5°

Bottle £18.75 Case £213.75 Code BBO309

Winemaker Pieter Walser describes this as “a classic Swartland style white blend...of Chenin, Chardonnay, Viognier, Clairette and some other interesting stuff. The grapes are from the Paardeberg in the Swartland”. There’s some Roussanne, Marsanne and Grenache Blanc in this too, and the closest point of comparison in taste is probably a top Rhône or Roussillon white, but this style of wine is fast becoming a real success in the Cape.

Toasty nose, with nuances of honey, flowers and Indian spice. Quite weighty, with subtle stone fruit. Irony and mineral too. Fascinating, great food wine.

René Lequin-Colin, Chassagne-Montrachet, 1er Cru Caillerets, France, 2008, 13.5°

Bottle £33.95 Case £387.03 Code LEQ308

We tend to offer this vintage after vintage as it combines honeyed and juicy flavour with a mineral raciness: Caillerets implies stoniness, and this vineyard is extremely well-sited on the mid-slope in the line of the Grand Crus of Montrachet.

Quite deeply coloured, open and rich on the nose. The seamlessly integrated palate has buttered toast, hazelnut and mealy notes. Already splendidly approachable, this will drink well over an extended period.

Domaine du Grand Arc, Corbières Rosé, La Tour Fabienne, France, 2010, 14°

Bottle £8.75 Case £99.75 Code DGA510

Bruno Schenk’s deeply coloured and intensely flavoured rosé (from Cinsaut, Grenache, Carignan and Syrah), is widely considered to be among the best in the Corbières. He attributes its colour and splendid fruit to his recent adoption of “natural” winemaking. This is a splendid rosé as an aperitif and offers enough body to accompany spicy food such as curried prawns.

Strong pink hue. Delicious fraises des bois and redcurrant character. Crisply dry, and combines the depth of bright fruit of a red wine with the freshness and bite of a white.

Cherrier Père et fils, Sancerre Rosé, France, 2010, 13°

Bottle £13.95 Case £159.03 Code ROS310

Sancerre rosé is often over-priced, reflecting the demand from Parisians for this attractively light style from Pinot Noir. The Cherriers, on the other hand, price theirs fairly!

Clear bright pink. Bottled early to capture the maximum aromas. With pure, ripe strawberry and raspberry fruit, this is delightfully balanced and attractive.



Reds for Daily Drinking & Parties

Eight wines, seven grapes, six countries: plenty of variety here. These wines aren't profound, but they give simple pleasure; and most are supple enough to be enjoyed without food, so are perfect for parties.

Ca' di Ponti, Nero d'Avola, IGT Sicily, 2010, 13.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.50 Case £62.70 Code PON610

A characterful blend of Nero d'Avola from Sicily - including some concentrated old vine fruit - vinified at a co-operative in Piedmont. We always recommend this as a simple wine for accompanying a plate of meaty pasta - it certainly has enough stuffing to stand up to food well.

Vivid youthful purple. Open ripe brambly nose, so typically Mediterranean. Impressive attack, with rich black fruit. Simple, but also just a touch rustic and characterful.

Rio Alto, Carmenère, Aconcagua, Chile, 2011, 13.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £5.95 Case £67.83 Code RIO111

We really like Carmenère as a variety: unlike so many European varieties grown in the generally warmer New World vineyards it retains balance and freshness and avoids jamminess. There's a touch of Cabernet Franc about it, just the merest leafiness to this ripe and friendly example from Viña San Esteban.

Ripe scents, with the mildest hint of oak influence. Generous gush of cooked plums, a touch of vanilla and spice, and surprising length for a wine at this price.

Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d'Oc, France, 2010, 13° [Screwcap]

Bottle £6.95 Case £79.23 Code VIC310

This has won huge praise all autumn: a pleasingly soft and silky red that's attractive to drink without food. Merlot has become mildly unfashionable, but forget that prejudice and just enjoy this easy-drinking and underrated grape.

A wine which shows attractive typicity: aromas of sweet plum with a leafy touch, followed by a supple and lightly creamy, berried palate with barely discernible tannins.

25 Lagunas, Malbec, Argentina, 2010, 12.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £6.95 Case £79.23 Code LAF110

A great value, lightly oaked Malbec, 25 Lagunas is the second label of Fincas Rewen, a small and forward-looking winery in San Juan north of Mendoza.

Youthful purple. Open, brambly nose with the merest hint of cedar. Supple, ripe, wine, offering a gush of strawberries, plenty of flesh; and a pretty, perfumed finish. This would go down so well at parties.



False Bay, Pinotage, Western Cape, South Africa, 2010, 13° [Screwcap]

Bottle £6.95 Case £79.23 Code FAB810

False Bay is the second label of the ambitiously scaled Waterkloof estate, now confirmed as a great source of unoaked, good value, really well-made and well-presented Cape varieties.

Victoria plum coloured. High-toned scent of raspberry cordial and woodsmoke. Bittersweet raspberry and bilberry fruit, with just the merest savoury and smoky edge. This is a charming example - a bright and juicy Pinotage.

Soldier's Block, Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2010, 14.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.25 Case £82.65 Code SOL610

Look at this: a Shiraz sourced from (relatively) cool climate and prestigious McLaren Vale at this price. About a fifth goes into old barrels, just to round and soften the fruit.

Sun-baked scents over berried fruit. Blueberry and red berry fruit, decent acid balance, honest and gutsy.

Les Vignerons d'Estézargues, Côtes du Rhône, Cuvée des Galets, France, 2010, 14.5°

Bottle £7.50 Case £85.50 Code ESZ110

We have been offering every vintage of Les Galets, a blend of Grenache, Cinsaut and Syrah, from a small co-op near Avignon since 2003. This unfiltered red, invariably fruity and cheerful, makes really honest daily drinking, and the 2010 vintage seems to have a little more concentration and guts than usual.

*Scent of crushed raspberries. So fresh and fruity, all ripe red berries. Minimal, very supple tannins. Peck of spice. "Any of you looking for a delicious, crimson purple, crunchy, violet-scented rhône will have met their match with this one. Swig this hearty red from the Estézargues co-operative in the southern Rhône's gard département with barbecued sausages or grilled meat", Jane MacQuitty, 50 Best Red Wines for Summer, **The Times**, 2nd July 2011. Now-2013*

Château La Grave, Minervois, Tristan et Julien, France, 2010, 13°

Bottle £7.50 Case £85.50 Code GRV110

This blend of halves of Grenache and Syrah is just so open, simple and honest: the sort of youthful French country wine of old.

Vibrant purple. A ripe scent of crushed blackberries and blackcurrants prefaces a joyous gush of refreshing, juicy fruits, with the merest hint of supporting tannins. That attractive black fruit returns on the finish. "Grand réussite", Revue du Vin de France, June 2011.



Informal Reds

A selection somewhat dominated by regional French wines and South America - which perhaps reflects the excellent quality of reds available in the south of France and Argentina in particular.

Luis Felipe Edwards, Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva, Colchagua, Chile, 2010, 14°

Bottle £7.75 Case £88.35 Code LFE210

Colchagua is one of the top spots in Chile for Cabernet Sauvignon; and this is a perfect example of a style Chile does so well - lightly oaked Cabernet.

Youthful hue. Pretty perfume of black fruit, even a nice hint of cassis. Soft, blackcurranty, just a little of that typical minty note so often found in Chilean Cabernet. Attractive juiciness.

Fincas Rewen, Syrah, San Juan, Argentina, 2009, 13.8°

Bottle £7.75 Case £88.35 Code REW209

Part barrel-fermented, a Syrah from Huanacache, a region just south of San Juan (and north of Mendoza) which is carving out a reputation for the grape.

Cedary hints on the nose. Charming cassis, raspberry and cherry tone. Juicy, but with sufficient body; and that gush of delightful fruit is enlivened by notes of coffee and leather. A Syrah leaning more towards European fragrance than Australian power. Very supple and easy drinking. "A Syrah of class and refinement with lovely toasty, coffee flavours and a tight blackberry and cherry fruitiness to it too. A very good value for money and versatile red for the autumn. 90/100", The Wine Gang, www.winegang.co.uk, September 2011

Château Tour de Bellegarde, Bordeaux, France, 2009, 13.5°

Bottle £8.25 Case £94.05 Code TDB109

Crafted by the Janaud family at Villegouge near Fronsac, this 100% Merlot cuvée is all aged in barrel; and offers another example of how the superb 2009 vintage has delivered such enjoyable ripeness and charm.

So approachable, this delivers a pleasant scent of red fruits and a hint of fresh-cut oak. Opens out prettily on the palate, all bright redcurrant and red plums. Supple, with refreshing bite, and enlivened with hints of cinnamon and nutmeg. Perfumed, and all too drinkable.

Domaine de la Pigeade, Ventoux Classique, France, 2010, 13°

Bottle £8.25 Case £94.05 Code PIG610

We have listed Thierry's red Ventoux Classique (from Grenache, Carignan and Syrah), before but he has moved it onto a different level with the latest vintage. This exemplifies our ideal of Ventoux: different to Côtes du Rhône in its freshness and grace.

Mid purple. Open, pretty scent of fresh berries. This shows the crisp freshness of redcurrants and red cherries. Nicely perfumed, and, by Southern Rhône standards, light and refined - a bottle could vanish very fast indeed.



Château Barrejat, Madiran, Tradition, France, 2009, 13°

Bottle £8.25 Case £94.05 Code BAJ109

Magnum £16.95 Case (6 x 150cl.) £96.62 Code BAJ909

From 60% Tannat, with 20% Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc, unoaked, this is an honest, mildly rustic wine. In the terrific 2009 vintage it's just superb, right up there with Denis Capmartin's 2005.

Scent of black fruit with a hint of vanilla. black and red-fruited, gutsy, youthful, yet so approachable. Perfect to accompany cassoulet or strongly flavoured fowl.

Domaine des Trinités, Languedoc, France, 2007, 14°

Bottle £8.50 Case £96.90 Code TRI107

Made by Englishman Simon Coulshaw at his small estate in Faugères, this unoaked blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Carignan offers the gentle gaminess and mildly earthy complexity of maturity.

Cooked red fruits, just a smudge of tannins, and a scented finish. Tim Atkin, MW praised this wine as: "full-bodied and supple.... a lovely warmth of spiced red berries and wild herbs. 91/100".

Carinae, Cuvée Brigitte, Mendoza, Argentina, 2009, 14.5°

Bottle £9.25 Case £105.45 Code CAE809

A blend of 72% Malbec and 28% Cabernet Sauvignon (part in barrel), named after Brigitte, the wife of owner Philippe Subra at Carinae.

Deep ruby. The Cabernet brings a touch of menthol to the aromas. Very smooth black fruit, flavoured with cinnamon and liquorice. Very classy and drinking perfectly now.

Anakena, Single Vineyard Pinot Noir, Leyda, Chile, 2010, 13.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.25 Case £105.45 Code ANA910

Last year's vintage of this charming New World Pinot sold out far too fast, so we have shipped in a lot more this year. Sourced from the estate's own vineyards in Leyda, the cool-climate zone near the Pacific becoming well-known for Pinot, given a few months in old barrels, this is early maturing, true Pinot Noir which avoids the over-ripeness and jamminess of so many imitators to Burgundy.

Scent of crushed red fruits. Joyous fruit - all strawberries and raspberries, juicy and fragrant. Finishes with a flourish. A seductive winner.



Festive Reds

Such variety here: from the grace of Cru Beaujolais and Pinots from Burgundy and New Zealand to bigger wines from the Languedoc, the Rhône and South Africa; and a splendid example of a fascinating northern Italian style.

Mas des Brousses, Chasseur des Brousses, IGP Pays d'Oc, France, 2010, 13°

Bottle £9.25 Case £105.45 Code MAB110

From about half Merlot with Grenache and Cinsaut, this red from hillsides near Puéchabon is a marriage of Bordelais restraint with the ripeness and garrigue hints of the Languedoc.

*Scents of black fruit and herbs. Very ripe black-fruited palate, smooth and classy, with a little backing tannin. "This red might be merlot-based, but it reeks of the Languedoc's olive, thyme and pine-strewn scrubland. Very meaty and intense and will relax and mellow if given a bit of time", Victoria Moore in the **Daily Telegraph**, 7th July 2011*

Domaine des Terres Falmel, Saint-Chinian, L'Ivresse des Cîmes, France, 2007, 13.5°

Bottle £9.95 Case £113.43 Code FAL307

Yves Falmel's wine is named after mountain sickness (literally "the drunkenness of the peaks") as the sixty year-old vines for this wine are near the top of steep, limestone-crested ridge. From 40% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache and 30% Syrah, unoaked.

Deep purple. Attractive autumnal aromas - hedgerow fruits and herbs. A wine just à point between youth and maturity, with plenty of vigorous damson and briary fruit but also exhibiting hints of smoke and dried fruit. Southern fruit but classic structure.

René Lequin-Colin, Bourgogne Pinot Noir, France, 2009, 12.5°

Bottle £11.25 Case £128.25 Code LEQ609

Bourgogne Rouge from a great and sunny vintage is a delight to enjoy young (although this has the depth to keep for a year or two as well). The grapes for this splendidly ripe and concentrated Pinot are all destemmed and half the wine lies in tank whilst half goes into barrel.

Vivid purple. Open aroma of ripe black cherries. Crunchy red fruit and discreet tannins make this more svelte than previous vintages. A bargain.

Domaine Calot, Morgon, France, 2009, 13°

Bottle £11.25 Case £128.25 Code CAL409

One can't only drink winter warmers over the holidays: here is a delicious Cru Beaujolais, just perfect for drinking on Boxing Day with cold cuts. The Calot brothers make exemplary Morgon in their tiny cellar in Villié-Morgon, employing the unusual technique of heating the must briefly to start fermentation.

Scent of Morello cherries. Blackberries and black cherries to the fore, fresh and lively. Hint of cinnamon and exotic spice. A gentle savouriness suggests the merest hint of development.



Spookfontein, Cabernet Franc, Upper Hemel & Aarde Valley, South Africa, 2008, 14°

Bottle £11.95 Case £136.23 Code SPO208

We usually think this is the most successful wine from this estate's hillside vineyards high above Hermanus: more robust than a Loire example, but retaining the grape's crunchy and perfumed personality.

Enticing scent of red fruits perfumed with vanilla and a hint of green pepper. Full-flavoured currant, red cherry and damson fruit, bright, attractively sharp and juicy. Floral hints.

Torre d'Orti, Valpolicella Superiore, Ripasso, Italy, 2008, 13.5°

Bottle £11.95 Case £136.23 Code TOR108

A wonderfully colourful, baroque label somehow seems perfect for this extravagantly flavoured example of the Ripasso style, made using dried grape skins to add an extra layer of richness and complexity.

Deep purple. Blackcurrant scent with dried fruit hints. Splendidly ripe black cherries with rosehip and red berry accents. So smooth and enjoyable, with just a modicum of intriguing astringency to counterpoint the lush texture.

Mud House, Pinot Noir, Central Otago, New Zealand, 2009, 13.5° [Screwcap]

Bottle £11.95 Case £136.23 Code MUD609

The first vintage of the estate Pinot Noir from Mud House that winemaker Nadine Worley sourced from the estate's own vineyards in Central Otago, rather than Marlborough: and therefore offering more intense, velvety fruit.

Bright raspberry hue. Scents of ripe, mildly jammy fruit and toast. Rich raspberry coulis, with fine, balancing acid. Stylish and versatile.

Domaine des Amadieu, Côtes du Rhône Villages, Cairanne, Vieilles Vignes, France, 2007, 14°

Bottle £12.50 Case £142.50 Code AMB307

Magnum £25.50 Case (6 x 150cl.) £145.35 Code AMB907

From vines averaging well over fifty years old, this has such mass and depth that it could easily be mistaken for a much grander wine. About 50% Grenache, 20% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre, and 10% Carignan, part aged in old barrels, this attests to the quality coming out of Cairanne, arguably the top village in the whole Côtes du Rhône Villages appellation.

Attractive Kirsch aromas - so seductive - with the merest hint of sandalwood. Concentrated, old-viney fruit, redolent of mulberries and damsons, lightly spiced. Velvety, complete and long. Splendidly gutsy, this would be terrific with robust stews or anything with a strong, hard cheese sauce.



Grand Reds

Six countries represented here, and so many classic styles: from Bordeaux, Burgundy and the southern Rhône, via Tuscan Sangiovese and Spanish Tempranillo to Chilean Carmenère and Californian Zinfandel. There's also a contrast between more mature Old World vintages and the youthful vibrancy of the New World wines.

Lar de Paula, Rioja Crianza, Vendimia Seleccionada, Spain, 2005, 13.5°

Bottle £13.95 Case £159.03 Code LAR305

A selection based on older vines grown on high vineyards in La Rioja Alavesa, this offers greater concentration and character than most Crianzas and more freshness than most Reservas.

Enticing aromas of cooked fruit, vanilla and sealing wax. This is a really ripe, delectably fat wine, but it also shows vigorous black fruit and is enlivened by the sharpness of fresh blackcurrants. The aromatics unfold so well on the palate, and there's a plush backing of tannins too. Complete, perfectly ready to drink now, and so impressive.

Château Pierre de Montignac, Cuvée Fernand Ginestet, Médoc, France, 2006, 13.5°

Bottle £14.25 Case £162.45 Code PDM106

From a vineyard owned by the Salette family at Civrac, not far from the Gironde, this Médoc is a blend of about 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Crafted in a modern style it's splendidly accessible.

Aromas of cedar and toast; followed by a palate rather classic in its restraint and purity - but with generous black fruit.

BLANKbottle, The Big Spaniard, Western Cape, South Africa, 2009, 14°

Bottle £14.95 Case £170.43 Code BBO609

Sourced from old vines in Swartland, this remarkable red is a blend of about half Carignan, a third Mourvèdre with Grenache and Cinsault, given two years in old barrels. Winemaker Pieter Walser says "the Big Spaniard 2009 is driven by Carignan which gives it its colour and perfume. The Mourvèdre adds oomph and the Cinsault and Grenache, elegance".

Huge fruit expression both on the nose and palate: intense, liqueur-tinged aromas of mulberry, blackberry and damson, licked by vanilla oak. Gush of fleshy red fruit and blackberries, mildly cooked. Quite wild - wow.

Domaine Le Couroulu, Vacqueyras Classique, France, 2007, 14°

Bottle £14.95 Case £170.43 Code COW107

This is certainly the most impressive Classique we have ever tasted from Guy Ricard at this estate named after a curlew - and with an image of the bird on its label.

The aromas are rich and almost gamey already, followed by a very concentrated coulis of red fruits. You can sense the tannins, but they are so well covered by luxuriant, liqueur-scented fruit.



Errázuriz, Single Vineyard Carmenère, Aconcagua Valley, Chile, 2009, 14.5°

Bottle £14.95 Case £170.43 Code ERR209

From the Max V vineyard in Aconcagua, picked in late April and early May, and aged in French with some US oak, 30% new, this 100% Carmenère is unfailingly superbly ripe, svelte and exciting.

Deep and opaque. Blackcurrant scent, with that Carmenère green pepper note. Exuberant blackcurrant and redcurrant fruit flavoured with smoke, coffee and tobacco. Gorgeously smooth, fine oak balance, good grip, and cassis on the finish.

Val delle Rose, Morellino di Scansano Riserva, Italy, 2007, 13.5°

Bottle £16.95 Case £193.23 Code VDR307

Val delle Rose is a dynamic estate with vineyards lying on sandstone derived soils over rolling hills within sight of the sea south of Grosseto. From the highly successful 2007 Tuscan vintage, aged 12 months in barrel, comes this delicious Sangiovese, now drinking perfectly.

Open nose with classy smoky cherry aromas. A dense, well structured palate full of cassis and bramble, spiced by vanilla depths. Very attractive.

Ridge, Geyserville, California, USA, 2009, 14.3°

Bottle £27.95 Case £318.63 Code RID109

Magnum £59.75 Case (6 x 150cl.) £340.58 Code RID909

Geyserville has to be one of the most successful wines at this great Californian estate. It's a field blend (i.e. basically made up of Zinfandel with Mediterranean varieties planted nearby), based on old vines - up to 130 years in age. In this vintage the blend is 74% Zinfandel, 17% Carignane, 6% Petite Sirah, 2% Alicante Bouschet, and 1% Mourvèdre; and all is aged in exclusively US oak barrels, just 20% new.

So exciting young - all vital berries, lively spice and perfumed with cedar - but Geyserville also ages extremely well. This is dramatically vibrant and succulent.

Fourrier, Gevrey-Chambertin, Vieille Vigne, France, 2007, 13°

Bottle £32.50 Case £370.50 Code FUR107

This wine is from vines planted in 1928 to the north of the village, close to the hamlet of Brochon: very much the archetypal Gevrey, with considerable power for a Burgundy. Jean-Marie Fourrier is now recognised as one of the top growers in the village, with buyers beating a path to his door - but as we began working with him in the 2000 vintage we have a decent allocation!

Scents of crushed red fruit. As ever with M. Fourrier's wines, this is already open and approachable, with a very ripe core of mature red fruit surrounded by exotic notes of spice and mocha. Flowers on the finish.



Sweet Wines

Fine sweet wine is never going to be cheap - late-picked grapes yield less juice and often require drastic sorting (with a lot of the bunches rejected) to avoid off-flavours. We think all these four offer superbly pure fruit and value.

Anakena, Late Harvest, Requinoa, Chile, 2010, 12° [50cl.]

50cl. £7.50 Case (12 x 50cl.) £85.50 Code ANA510

From Viognier grown in the vineyards around the winery in Alto Cachapoal. Given that over half of the grapes were showing botrytis, leading to low yields; that this wine has about 103 grams of residual sugar; and that it has been given some time in barrel, it offers absurdly good value!

Scent of pineapple and fresh grapes. Gorgeous attack of crystallised pineapple and dried apricot with a rose petal note, balanced by citrusy finish.

Château Barrejat, Pacherenc Doux, Cuvée Passion, France, 2009, 13° [50cl.]

50cl. £11.75 Case (12 x 50cl.) £133.95 Code BAJ809

100% Petit Manseng picked by Denis Capmartin in splendid late October weather, and oaked. The locals would drink this with *foie gras*, but it's sweet enough to take light puddings.

Golden tone. Scent of ripe peach with hints of toffee and vanilla. Rich, velvet-textured, and exotic: intense peach, pineapple and tangerine flavours, with barley sugar. Delightfully long.

Château Pierre-Bise, Coteaux du Layon, Beaulieu, France, 2009, 12.5°

Bottle £16.25 Case £185.25 Code CPB309

Late harvest Chenin Blancs from the Coteaux du Layon (vineyards on the slopes above this tributary of the Loire) remain one of the great bargains of the sweet wine world. Claude Papin crafts a wonderful series of single vineyard wines at Pierre-Bise: in this case the vineyard is on schistous soils.

Bright pale gold. Very open and honeyed; classic Chenin Blanc aromas. Softly sweet palate of ripe pear, quince and peach, finely balanced. This has real depth of honeyed flavour.

Royal Tokaji, Gold Label 6 Puttonyos, Hungary, 2006, 11.5° [50cl.]

50cl. £26.95 Case (12 x 50cl.) £307.23 Code TOK606

A dramatically exciting Tokay from Furmint, Hárslevu and yellow Muscat, given 30 months in old barrels before bottling. When one tastes a wine like this one can see how this style was so prized in centuries past.

Perfume of dried fruits - apricots - with honey and an almond note. Intensely sweet, with lush flavours of caramelised peel, barley sugar, tangerines and peach, all balanced by piercing acidity. Fascinating nuances of cinnamon and clove; and finishes with a definite minerality.



Fortified Wines

Two French Vin Doux Naturels - 12 year old oxidised Grenache Blanc and delightfully fresh and floral Muscat; alongside a great value Port and a luscious Pedro Ximenez sherry.

Krohn, Port, Rio Torto Reserva, Portugal, NV, 20°

Bottle £10.25 Case £116.85 Code KRO2NV

The small house of Krohn is perhaps better known for excellent colheita tawnies, but this superior Ruby struck us as great value. From the classic port grapes, given two years in large old barrels and bottled unfiltered (so there may be a small deposit), it's correctly rich and plummy.

Deep youthful red. Pure, vigorous red fruit with an attractive smoky nuance. Medium-bodied, lightly spicy and hits the spot perfectly for a glass after dinner in the holidays.

Domaine Fontanel, Rivesaltes Ambré, France, 1999, 16.5°

Bottle £14.95 Case £170.43 Code FON999

The Ambré is 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, but this vintage was bottled after ten years in barrel! This complex wine has built up a cult following among our customers.

This looks like Cognac, and indeed smells quite like Cognac, with fumes of cooked plums, and a hint of sherry-like oxidation. As usual it tastes of sweet pears, but with a whole gamut of accompanying subtleties, including figs, dates, walnuts and coffee. It's mysteriously delicious.

Domaine de la Pigeade, Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise, France, 2010, 15°

Bottle £15.95 Case £181.83 Code PIG110

Half bottle £8.75 Case (12 x 37.5cl.) £99.75 Code PIG910

Young perfectionist Thierry Vaute at Pigeade is now recognised as crafting one of the best Muscats de Beaumes-de-Venise. Though it has a healthy 110 grams of residual sugar don't serve this with sweet puddings as it's so much better with fruit, cheese or, as the French would have it, as an apéritif.

A heady scent of orange blossom and lilies, and a gorgeously exotic palate of caramelised oranges. So light and aromatic for a fortified wine, all freshness, perfume and finesse. This vintage seems even more floral than usual. Serve chilled.

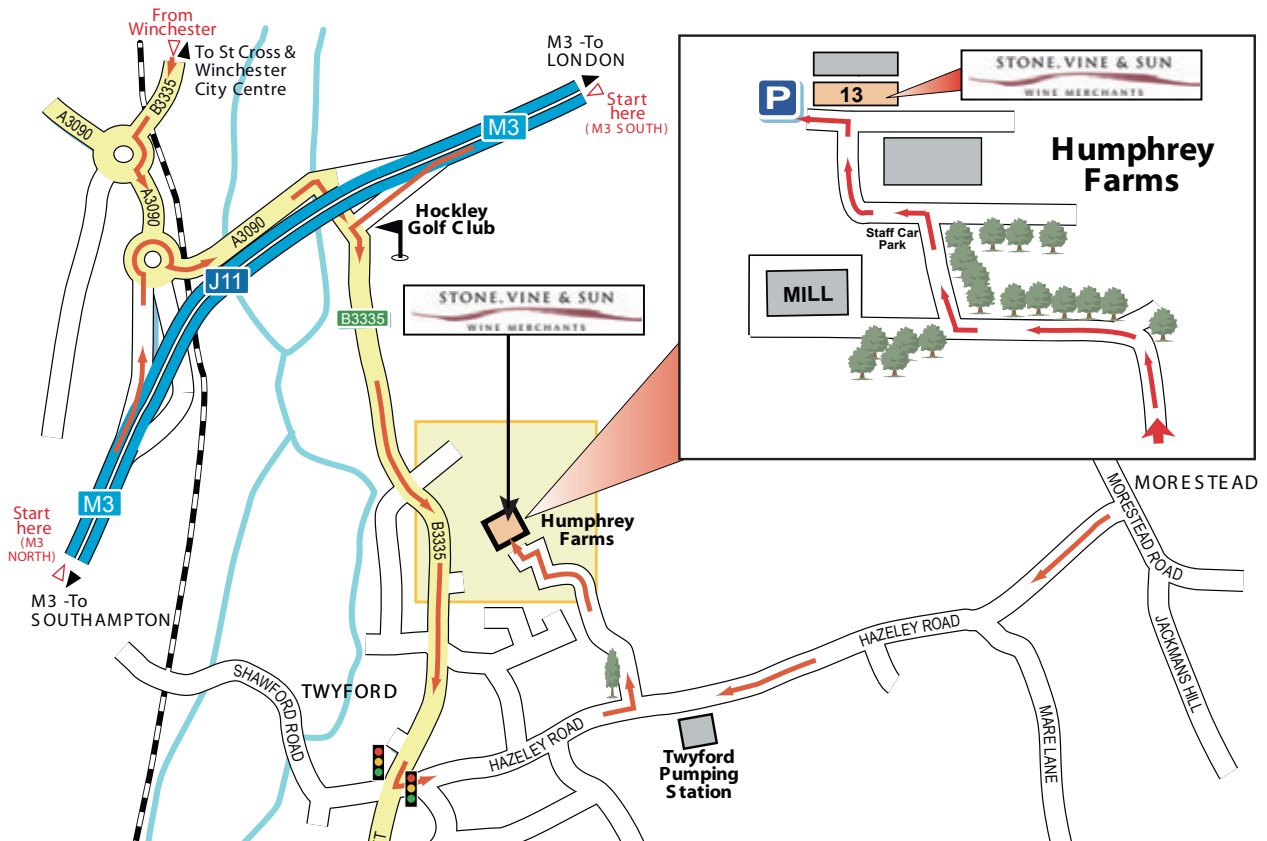
Bodegas Rey Fernando de Castilla, Pedro Ximenez, Spain, 17°

Bottle £16.95 Case £193.23 Code FER5NV

Bodegas Rey Fernando de Castilla make a superb range of sherries: we also stock their Dry Manzanilla.

Brown, mellow tone. Enticingly fresh scent of figs and toffee. So pure - essence of dates and raisins - and refined; but still correctly treacly. Too good to pour over ice cream, but if you insist...





Please note Special Terms and Conditions for all Orders from the arrival of this list until Christmas

Free delivery (excluding Highlands, islands and Northern Ireland) for all orders of one whole case (12 bottles, which can be mixed) worth £100.00 or more, and for any further whole cases to the same address.

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