

STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

The Beautiful South: Provence - Languedoc - Roussillon

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

AT STONE, VINE & SUN
PRE BOOKING IS
ESSENTIAL

ZOOM TASTING – APRIL 23RD, 6.30PM

To coincide with the publication of this list Simon Taylor will be hosting a Zoom tasting (to be joined by at least one winemaker from France) on Friday April 23rd at 6.30pm. Simon will be discussing the following six bottles from this list (two whites, a rosé and three reds) in particular focussing on new introductions and unoaked reds.

Mas Cremat, Balmettes, IGP Côtes Catalanes, 2020	(p.3)
Mas d'Agamas, Marsanne, IGP Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, 2020	(p.4)
Château Ferry Lacombe, Côtes de Provence Rosé, Naos, 2020	(p.7)
Mas Seren, Lilith, IGP Cévennes, 2019	(p.10)
Mas d'Agamas, Terrasses du Larzac, Nostre Mescladis, 2018	(p.11)
Pégaline, Pic Saint-Loup, L'Elémentaire, 2019	(p.11)

£98.50 for a set of six full 75cl. bottles, free delivery, and including a tin of Private Preserve, an aerosol of neutral gas, which you can use to keep those opened bottles perfectly fresh for drinking over the following days. Or share with friends outdoors!

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH OUTDOOR TASTING IN MAY

We will be holding a tasting of a selection of wines from this list, OUTDOORS AND WEATHER PERMITTING at our shop in Twyford on Friday 21st May 5.30pm to 7.30pm; and Saturday 22nd May, 9.45am to 3.00 pm. Please register beforehand by phone or email as numbers will have to be capped per session.

Email: sales@stonevine.co.uk **Telephone:** 01962 712351

Website: www.stonevine.co.uk

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH: PROVENCE - LANGUEDOC - ROUSSILLON

This is our nineteenth annual spring offering of wines from the south of France. We persist because our wine-drinking customers have embraced the value and excitement to be found there ; and that encourages us to carry on prospecting. We are really excited to introduce the wines of Domaine Pégaline in Pic Saint-Loup to this country (see p.11); we welcome back the splendid Faugères wines of Château de la Liquière (p.12); and we have added prestige Provence rosés from Chateaux Léoube and d'Esclans (p.8).

Last year I noted two trends: for increasing sustainable and organic viticulture; and also for eschewing the use of barrels and preferring to release only unoaked wines. Both of those continue. There are nineteen organic wines here; and Pégaline join Mas d'Agamas and Mas Seren in releasing wines only from tank, concrete or amphora.

The last thing I would draw your attention to is the stunning quality of the wines made from Syrah (or at least 70% Syrah) in the south. These are all terrific: La Combe Saint-Paul's L'Insoupçonné from La Clape, (p.9) Mas Seren's Mintaka, from the Cévennes (p.10); Pégaline's Pic Saint-Loups (p.11); La Liquière's Cistus from Faugères (p.12); and the Prieuré from Fontanel in Tautavel (p.15). As fine northern Rhône Syrah has become so much more expensive over the last decade, this is where Syrah lovers should head for the elusive "prix-qualité rapport"

Simon Taylor
April 2021

MIXED DOZEN - DISCOUNTED BY 10% AGAINST THE BOTTLE PRICES IN THE LIST

BS121 INTRODUCTION TO THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH
(FOUR WHITES, TWO ROSÉS AND SIX REDS) £119.95

One bottle of each of the twelve wines listed below

Petit Pont, Blanc, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2020	(p.3)
La Combe Saint-Paul, Vermentino, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2020	(p.3)
La Grave, Minervois Blanc, Expression, 2019	(p.3)
Mas Cremat, Balmettes, IGP Côtes Catalanes, 2020	(p.3)
Creysseles, Languedoc, Picpoul de Pinet, 2019	(p.3)
Petit Pont, Rosé, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2020	(p.6)
Ferry Lacombe, IGP Méditerranée Rosé, Mystère, 2020	(p.7)
Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, 2019	(p.4)
Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2019	(p.4)
La Croisade, Pinot Noir, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2019	(p.4)
La Grave, Minervois, Tristan et Julien, 2018	(p.5)
La Combe Saint-Paul, La Clape, Grés Rouges, 2018	(p.9)
Grand Arc, Corbières Rouge, Reserve Grand Arc, 2018	(p.14)

BS221 TERROIRS OF THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH
(FOUR WHITES, TWO ROSÉS AND SIX REDS) £152.55

One bottle of each of the twelve wines listed below

Mas d'Agamas, Marsanne,	
IGP Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, 2020	(p.4)
La Liquière, Faugères, Amandiers Blanc, 2020	(p.12)
Begude, Limoux, Chardonnay, L'Etoile, 2019	(p.13)
Fontanel, Côtes du Roussillon Blanc, 2018	(p.15)
Mas d'Agamas, Mourvèdre Rosé,	
IGP Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, 2020	(p.6)
Les Quatre Tours, Coteaux d'Aix en Provence Rosé,	
Signature, 2020	(p.7)
Fontanel, Hominus Sapanius, IGP Côtes Catalanes, 2019	(p.5)
Mas des Brousses, Chasseur des Brousses,	
IGP Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, 2019	(p.5)
Domaine Pégaline, Pin-sault, Vin de France, 2019	(p.5)
Mas Seren, Etincelle Nomade, IGP Cévennes, 2020	(p.10)
La Liquière, Faugères Rouge, 2019	(p.12)
Grand Arc, Corbières, Cuvée de Quarante, 2016	(p.14)

THE FOLLOWING CASES INCLUDE TWO BOTTLES OF EACH OF THE SIX WINES LISTED, WITH A DISCOUNT OF AT LEAST 10%

BS321 LANGUEDOC VALUES
(TWO WHITES, ONE ROSÉ AND THREE REDS) £95.85

Petit Pont, Blanc, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2020	(p.3)
La Combe Saint-Paul, Vermentino, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2020	(p.3)
Le Petit Pont, Rosé, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2020	(p.6)
Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, 2019	(p.4)
Comtesse de Marion, Merlot, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2019	(p.4)
La Croisade, Pinot Noir, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2019	(p.4)

BS421 ROSÉS OF THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH
(SIX ROSÉS) £128.75

Le Petit Pont, Rosé, IGP Pays d'Oc, 2020	(p.6)
Mas d'Agamas, Mourvèdre Rosé,	
IGP Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, 2020	(p.6)
La Liquière, Faugères Rosé, Les Amandiers, 2020	(p.6)
Ferry Lacombe, IGP Méditerranée Rosé, Mystère, 2020	(p.7)
Les Quatre Tours, Coteaux d'Aix en Provence Rosé,	
Classique, 2020	(p.7)
Ferry Lacombe, Côtes de Provence Rosé, Naos, 2020	(p.7)

BS521 L- R REDS (SIX REDS) £142.45

La Grave, Minervois Rouge, Tristan et Julien, 2018	(p.5)
Fontanel, Hominus Sapanius, IGP Côtes Catalanes, 2019	(p.5)
Mas Seren, Etincelle Nomade, IGP Cévennes, 2020	(p.10)
La Combe Saint-Paul, La Clape, Grés Rouges, 2018	(p.9)
Mas d'Agamas, Terrasses du Larzac,	
Nostre Mescladis, 2018	(p.11)
La Liquière, Faugères Rouge, 2019	(p.12)

BS521 GRANDS ROUGES DU SUD
(SIX REDS WITH 15% OFF BOTTLE PRICES) £214.60

Ribotte, Bandol, 2014	(p.9)
La Combe Saint-Paul, Languedoc-La Clape,	
L'Insoupçonné, 2016	(p.9)
Pégaline, Pic Saint-Loup, L'Elémentaire, 2019	(p.11)
Mas des Brousses, Coteaux du Languedoc,	
Terrasses du Larzac, 2017	(p.12)
La Liquière, Faugères Rouge, Cuvée Cistus, 2018	(p.13)
Fontanel, Côtes de Roussillon Villages, Tautavel,	
Prieuré, 2016	(p.15)

WHITE – IGPS AND WELL-PRICED APPELLATION WINES FROM LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

The white grape varieties suited to the heat of the south have plenty of interest: Vermentino (also known as Rolle in Provence), which thrives on the shores of the Mediterranean; stone-fruited Viognier and Roussanne; well-textured Picpoul, Marsanne and Macabeu (the last straddles the Spanish border); and grapefruitiness Grenache Blanc.

Most of these wines are from the plains near the sea: from around Narbonne and Béziers, although we also include here wines from Minervois, Corbières and Roussillon. Most of them are labelled under Indication Géographique Protégée (IGP), formerly known as Vin de Pays, and none has seen the inside of an oak barrel.

PETIT PONT, BLANC, IGP PAYS D'OC,



2020, 12.5%

BOTTLE £8.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £91.80

CODE PEP120

5 LITRE BAG IN BOX £44.50

(EQUIVALENT TO £6.67 A BOTTLE)

CODE BIB620

The Petit Pont wines are made by the Vic family near Beziers. The white is a *tutti frutti* blend of Vermentino with Chardonnay and spiced by other varieties. Fresh, easy-drinking mouthful showing stone fruit and melon with zesty acidity.

Now-2022

LA COMBE SAINT-PAUL, VERMENTINO, IGP PAYS D'OC,

2020, 12.5%

BOTTLE £9.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £102.60

CODE CSP220

The Maury family's Vermentino has become one of our benchmark wines, sold in splendid volumes to our private customers and Michelin starred restaurants alike. Open, stone fruited attack gives way to a more gentle, pine-scented, well-textured mid-palate. Fruity with a sense of pears, but finishes dry - a fine aperitif wine.

Now-2022

LA COMBE SAINT-PAUL, VIOGNIER, IGP PAYS D'OC,

2020, 13%

BOTTLE £9.75

CASE WITH 10% OFF £105.30

CODE CSP320

As usual this is more on the light, fresh, floral side of Viognier than more obviously weighty or over-ripe examples. Limeflower perfume. True fresh apricot flavour, just a little appealing fat and a good dry finish. As charming as ever, a lovely aperitif when the weather warms up.

Now-2022



CHÂTEAU LA GRAVE, MINERVOIS BLANC, EXPRESSION,

2019, 13%

BOTTLE £10.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £118.26

CODE GRV619

A textured and quite concentrated white from 60% Macabeu, 30% Vermentino and 10% Marsanne, with apple and melon flavours and hints of nuts and white pepper. We have been shipping this for 17 years - and it deserves to be better known. *Now-early 2022*

MAS CREMAT, BALMETTES, IGP CÔTES CATALANES,

2020, 13%

BOTTLE £11.25

CASE WITH 10% OFF £121.50

CODE MCR620

From halves of Grenache Blanc and Macabeu, this is both an authentic Roussillon blend and an easy-drinking charmer. Blossom, citrus and stone fruit scents; then generous white peach and mandarin flavours; all given interest by a discreet pithiness and herbal hints. Finishes attractively stony. Perfect for summer drinking.

Now-2022

DOMAINE DES CREYSSELS, LANGUEDOC, PICPOUL DE PINET, FRANCE,

2019, 13.5%

BOTTLE £11.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £124.20

CODE CRE119

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

The local Piquepoul grape has the advantage of being slow-ripening: picked after the heat of summer has passed it retains freshness and flavour. In the old Occitan tongue Picpoul means "lip-stinger", due to the grape's natural acidity, but this wine is a lot friendlier than that: look on it as the Muscadet of the Mediterranean, albeit with more heft and flavour. A touch more texture than usual, fresh and limey, with the merest saline note on the long finish. As appealing as an aperitif as with all types of seafood. The 2020 vintage will follow.

Now-early 2022

**LA COMBE SAINT-PAUL, LANGUEDOC BLANC,
CALCAIRES D'ENSÉRUNE, 2019, 12.5%**

BOTTLE £11.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £124.20

CODE CSP419

From halves of Roussanne and Vermentino (Rolle), grown on limestone soils, and just a little aged in old barrels. That neutral creaminess of the Marsanne is apparent alongside a certain chalkiness. Understated and more about texture than fruit. The 2020 vintage follows shortly.

Now-early 2022

**DOMAINE DU GRAND ARC, VEILLÉE
D'EQUINOXE, CORBIÈRES BLANC, 2019, 14%**

BOTTLE £11.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £124.20

CODE DGA619

An unoaked blend of 40% Grenache Blanc, 25% each of Roussanne and Vermentino, plus 10% Macabeu. Stone fruited aromas follow onto the palate, rich and well-rounded with notes of white pepper and an attractive honeyed accent. The finish offers a refreshing salinity. Such an interesting wine at a fair price.

Now-2022

**MAS D'AGAMAS, MARSANNE,
IGP SAINT-GUILHEM-LE-DÉSERT, 2020, 13%**

BOTTLE £14.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £156.60

CODE AGA620

Intriguing scent of ripe citrus - tangerines, with a note of dried peel. This shows true Marsanne mouthfeel, though it's not in the least heavy, and there's a minerality to it that lingers. Would cost a lot more if it was labelled as Saint Joseph or Saint-Péray!

Now-2022



RED IGPS AND WELL-PRICED APPELLATION WINES FROM LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

The IGP rules allow a lot of leeway in terms of grape varieties - hence the Bordeaux interlopers Merlot and Petit Verdot; and Pinot Noir has also been introduced, though it needs cooler sites to display true personality. If that isn't enough freedom, you can mix whatever you like and sell your wine as Vin de France - see the delicious marriage of Pinot Noir and Cinsault from Pégaline below. Appellation reds are always blends from the southern Rhône grape varieties: Grenache, Syrah, Carignan, Mourvèdre and Cinsault among others.

DON'T SKIP PAST THIS BUNCH - THERE ARE SOME CRACKING WINES HERE!

**LES PRADELLES,
IGP D'HÉRAULT,**

BOTTLE £7.75

CASE WITH 10% OFF £83.70



2019, 12%

CODE PRD119

Bottled at a smart new co-op at Cébazan in St.-Chinian, this is an easy-drinking blend of Carignan and Grenache from the plains of the Languedoc. Red fruited with a surprisingly good texture, no rough edges, soft, light and juicily berried. Perfect for uncomplicated daily drinking.

Now-early 2022

**PETIT PONT, ROUGE,
IGP PAYS D'OC,**

BOTTLE £8.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £91.80

5 LITRE BAG IN BOX £44.50

(EQUIVALENT TO £6.67 A BOTTLE)



2019, 12.5%

CODE PEP619

CODE BIB219

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

Now-early 2022

**COMTESSE DE MARION,
MERLOT, IGP PAYS D'OC,**

BOTTLE £9.25

CASE WITH 10% OFF £99.90



2019, 13%

CODE VIC319

Attractive typicity: aromas of sweet plum with a leafy touch, followed by a supple and lightly creamy, berried palate with barely discernible tannins. Very popular.

Now-2022

**LA CROISADE, PINOT NOIR,
IGP PAYS D'OC,**

BOTTLE £9.75

CASE WITH 10% OFF £105.30



2019, 13%

CODE AGW719

With fruit in part sourced from cool Limoux, crisp and classy, blended with riper grapes from the plains, this is a friendly, supple Pinot showing fresh cherries with a touch of vanilla.

Now-2021



**LES HAUTS DE MEDIAN,
PETIT VERDOT, IGP PAYS D'OC,**



2020, 14%

BOTTLE £10.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £113.40

CODE VIC220

Petit Verdot - a Bordeaux grape - 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-2022*

**CHÂTEAU LA GRAVE, MINERVOIS ROUGE,
TRISTAN ET JULIEN,**

2018, 13%

BOTTLE £10.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £118.26

CODE GRV118

From the Orosquette family, named after two once tiny and now strapping cousins in their 20s, this is a bright, hugely pleasing and honest country red; from halves of Grenache and Syrah, showing the strawberry sweetness of the former combined with the black fruit of the latter. So ripe and easy drinking, perfect to accompany anything from casseroles to box set TV watching on the sofa.

Now-2022

**DOMAINE FONTANEL, HOMINUS SAPANIUS,
IGP CÔTES CATALANES,**

2019, 14.5%

BOTTLE £12.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £135.00

CODE FON419

From young vines of Syrah and Grenache, plus a little Mourvèdre, grown in hot, dry and windy mountain vineyards near Tautavel (so it could actually be labelled as Côtes du Roussillon Villages). This long-term favourite here has been repackaged into a Burgundy shaped bottle and the label features a brightly coloured image of what looks like (charitably) finger puppets or happy ghosts or (mischievously) dancing condoms. These jolly figures are tenuously linked to Tautavel's ancient history of human habitation.

Whatever the intention, this vintage is delicious, a terrific introduction to the classic Roussillon style: it has great depth of colour; cherry and herbal aromas with a roasted note; and delivers a lively gush of black cherry and brambly fruit. There's a lovely cool black fruit profile, tinged with black olive tapenade, and hinting at that distinctive Roussillon tarry note. So much character, proper grip and all in balance: will drink superbly with a barbecue but as good for any red meat.

Now-2023

Note: this wine will arrive in mid May

**DOMAINE BEGUDE, LE CERISIER PINOT NOIR,
IGP HAUTE VALLÉE DE L'AUDE,
FRANCE,**

2020, 12.5%

BOTTLE £12.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £139.86

CODE BEG619

Renamed the cherry tree, this Pinot from the hills of Limoux is a long term favourite here, fresh and pure (just 10% goes into old barrels). Bright strawberry, raspberry and cherry flavours. 2020 was a hot and dry year, so it's good and concentrated whilst retaining an appealing lowish alcohol level. Perfect for serving chilled in summer with a light plate based on charcuterie or salmon.

Now-2022

**MAS DES BROUSSES, CHASSEUR DES
BROUSSES,
IGP SAINT-GUILHEM-LE-DÉSERT,**

2019, 13%

BOTTLE £12.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £139.86

CODE MAB119

This is from organically farmed (and certified) vines up in the wild hills at Puéchabon, north-west of Montpellier. The recipe for this successful marriage of Bordeaux and the south has changed over recent years; in this vintage it's based on young vine Mourvèdre with old vine Merlot, plus a little Syrah and Grenache. Juicy, sappy red cherry, strawberry and blackcurrant flavours - spiced by a little of Mourvèdre's savouriness. This feels crunchy and vital - very moreish and perfect for spring and summer drinking. Energy and aromatics on the finish. *Now-2023*

**MAS D'AGAMAS, CARIGNAN BLEU,
IGP SAINT-GUILHEM-LE-DÉSERT,**

2019, 13.5%

BOTTLE £14.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £156.60

CODE AGA119

Carignan Bleu - a variant of Carignan - is named because of the bluish tint the grapes take on when fully ripe. Vincent's grandfather made a massal selection (i.e. taking cuttings) of their vines to replant to keep this clone alive in their vineyards. It makes for a gorgeous purple colour; a bright scent of berries and plums spiked with vanilla; and a surprisingly (for this occasionally rustic grape) lush, well-textured, fleshy mouthful of black plums and spice. *Now-2023*



**MAS D'AGAMAS, GRENACHE,
IGP SAINT-GUILHEM-LE-DÉSERT,**

2019, 15%

BOTTLE £14.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £156.60

CODE AGA219

Flagrant purple. Dramatically open and ripe, showing sweet strawberries but also the crunch of redcurrants. Just a little tannin, but gorgeously juicy.

Now-2023

**DOMAINE PÉGALINE, PIN-SAUT,
VIN DE FRANCE,**

2019, 13.5%

BOTTLE £15.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £167.40

CODE PEG119

Two thirds Pinot Noir and 1/3 Cinsault, all from organically farmed vines grown on the calcareous slopes of Pic Saint-Loup - an unconventional but highly successful blend of not dissimilar varieties; Cinsault is also a mid-coloured variety producing lightish wines. This has a delightfully open and lifted scent of blueberries and raspberries - with a whiff of that Pinot farmyardy note. Light-bodied - but not without substance - this delivers a palate of both crunchy, fresh berries and riper glacé cherries. Vital and fresh, this should be served slightly chilled.

Now-2022

ROSÉS

With sales of rosé increasing annually, we have again expanded our offering - with the pretty Faugères rosé from La Liquière on this page - but more importantly with the prestige wines from Provence on p.8.



ROSÉS FROM THE LANGUEDOC

LE PETIT PONT, ROSÉ, IGP PAYS D'OC,



2020, 12.5%

BOTTLE £8.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £91.80

CODE PEP520

We sell far more of the Petit Pont Rosé than we do of the equivalent white and red added together – that's how good this honest rosé is. From Grenache and Cinsault, in the Provençal style, pale, light and refreshing, it offers a scent of red berries and a pretty mouthful of strawberry and cranberry fruit, with a crisp finish. Nothing complicated, just a well-made, dry rosé perfect for regular consumption.

Now-2022

LA GRAVE, MINERVOIS ROSÉ, EXPRESSION,

2019, 13%

BOTTLE £10.75

CASE WITH 10% OFF £116.10

CODE GRV419

From approximate halves of Syrah and Grenache, this unfailingly delivers splendid ripeness and intensity. Pale pink. An appealing and hugely generous gush of strawberries and raspberries. This is a perfect all rounder, fruity enough to enjoy on its own but also dry enough for food.

Drink this year.

MAS D'AGAMAS, MOURVÈDRE ROSÉ, IGP SAINT-GUILHEM-LE-DÉSERT, **2020, 13%**

BOTTLE £11.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £129.06

CODE AGA520

For details of Mas d'Agamas, see p.11. Mourvèdre is the grape associated with Bandol (see below); it makes for a distinctive style, with stone fruit and more exotic fruit hints alongside the more customary red-berried flavours. Very pale, lightly coppery hue. Appealing scent of fresh peaches – and that carries on to the palate, showing white peach, redcurrant and cranberries. Delicate and fine.

Now-2022

Note: this wine will arrive in mid May

DOMAINE BEGUDE, PINOT ROSÉ, IGP PAYS D'OC,



2020, 12.5%

BOTTLE £11.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £129.06

CODE BEG520

Sadly a very hot and dry summer has cut production of this organically farmed rosé, so it won't last long when it arrives. It's a light Pinot Noir rosé offering a real point of difference in the south. Clear pale salmon hue. Bright perfume of red berries. Light on its feet, refreshing, with a delicate sense of red cherry and a hint of stone fruit.

Now-2022

CHÂTEAU DE LA LIQUIÈRE, FAUGÈRES ROSÉ, LES AMANDIERS, **2020, 13%**

BOTTLE £13.25

CASE WITH 10% OFF £143.10

CODE BEG520

From a top estate in Faugères (see p.12), this is a vividly coloured example, based on about 60% Cinsault, with some Mourvèdre and Grenache. It's a full-flavoured, dry rosé, perfect to accompany salads or light dishes. Full of red cherry, cranberry and raspberry. Stony – that Faugères schist is evident – but silky and elegant too.

Now-2022

ROSÉS FROM PROVENCE

FERRY LACOMBE, MYSTÈRE ROSÉ, IGP MÉDITERRANÉE,



2020, 12.5%

BOTTLE £10.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £118.26

CODE FLA520

We introduced this last year and it was a huge hit: a smartly labelled, true Provence rosé bottled under screwcap at a reasonable price, coming from the vineyards of Château Ferry Lacombe (see below), supplemented by grapes sourced from neighbours. A blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Caladoc (a 20th century cross of Grenache and Malbec), it's very pale, fragrant, light and fresh, and offers very pretty red-berried fruit with a hint of white peach. Juicy finish.

Now-2022

LES QUATRE TOURS, COTEAUX D'AIX EN PROVENCE ROSÉ, CLASSIQUE,

2020, 13%

BOTTLE £11.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £129.06

CODE QUA420

From a small co-operative just north of Aix we ship two wines. The Classique is from about 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah plus a little Cinsault and Cabernet Sauvignon. It's pale in hue, light, clean and juicy. Gently strawberry flavoured, this would very much suit those who prefer an understated, easy-quaffing style.

Now-2022

LES QUATRE TOURS, COTEAUX D'AIX EN PROVENCE ROSÉ, SIGNATURE,

2020, 13%

BOTTLE £12.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £139.86

CODE QUA520

MAGNUM £27.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £148.50

CODE QUA920

(6 X 150CL.)

A long-term, consistently excellent favourite here, based on Syrah and Grenache with Cinsault. Very pale salmon pink; crushed red berry perfume; and a sense of wild strawberries. Refreshingly mouthwatering. Red fruit returns on a definite mineral finish. A winner again.

Now-2022

CHÂTEAU FERRY LACOMBE, CÔTES DE PROVENCE ROSÉ, NAOS,

2020, 12%

BOTTLE £14.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £161.46

CODE CFL520

MAGNUM £33.00

CASE WITH 10% OFF £178.20

CODE CFL920

(6 X 150CL.)

Naos is a Greek temple or shrine. The Pinot family who run this Château in the Vallée de l'Arc near St-Maximin-la-Ste-Baume. They like Greek names for their wines, perhaps because their vineyards lie in the foothills of Mont Olympe (819m.) and the Monts Auréliens. This is one of their best, from 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah grown on argilo-calcaire soils.

Very pale. Enticing, lifted perfume of peaches and rosehips. Generous fruit – red berries, redcurrants and white peach. Silky. Very long finish, marked by a frisson of minerality. So refined.

Now-2022



PRESTIGE PROVENCE ROSÉS

Provence is the home of the classiest and most exciting rosés in the world. Given we sell plenty of expensive white and red wine, we thought we should offer a wider selection of grander rosés too. We have had some fun tasting these.

DOMAINE DE LA RIBOTTE, BANDOL ROSÉ, CUVÉE ANAÏS, 2020, 13%

BOTTLE £18.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £199.80

CODE RIB520

Bandol, a small appellation on the coast east of Marseilles and west of Toulon, produces wonderful and distinctive rosés, based on the Mourvèdre grape which thrives in the sunshine and clay soils. It's a historic wine – the Count of Monte Cristo in Alexandre Dumas' great revenge novel of 1844 liked his glass of Bandol rosé "bien frais"!

This is the eighth vintage we have shipped of this example – exclusive to SVS – made by Laurence Desblaches, the first female winemaker in Bandol, and her son Nicolas – see also opposite for their red. Amazing aromas of peach juice and pink grapefruit leap out of the glass; followed by delectable intensity of peach melba and cream. Really well-textured, with a characteristic long and mineral, even saline, 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. (Note: not for people who want a rosé that doesn't taste of anything!)

Now-2023

Note: this wine will arrive in mid April

CHÂTEAU LÉOUBE, CÔTES DE PROVENCE, ROSÉ DE LÉOUBE, 2020, 13%

BOTTLE £18.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £204.66

CODE LEO520

MAGNUM £39.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £213.30

CODE LEO920

(6 X 150CL.)

We tasted the extensive Léoube range before settling on this, their principal wine. The estate was bought by the Bamfords (the JCB fame) in 1997. Their bent, as at their estate at Daylesford, was for organic viticulture, so the estate was converted to organics and every vintage has been certified since 2010. The wine maker is Romain Ott, scion of the famed Provençale wine estate.

Largely Grenache and Cinsault, with a little Syrah and Mourvèdre. Delicate pale pink. Berry and floral perfume. Lovely fruit, a perfect synthesis of red – strawberry and raspberry – and stone – apricot and nectarine – fruits. Dry, just slightly savoury. Delicious.

Now-2022

CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS, CÔTES DE PROVENCE, 2019, 14.5%

BOTTLE £34.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £372.60

CODE ESC519

Sasha Lichine, a Bordelais, bought the estate of Esclans, north-east of St. Tropez, in 2006 with high ambitions for making top quality rosé. Since then he has built a rosé empire, in particular with Whispering Angel, which started on his estate and has grown to be a 3 million bottle brand and the best-selling French wine in the USA. That, of course, has to be sourced from vineyards all over the appellation. Esclans is the home farm label, from Grenache and Rolle (Vermentino), part in stainless steel and part barrel-fermented.

Pale salmon pink. Muted, red-berried aroma. Intense red cherry and raspberry fruit – from the Grenache. Splendid concentration. Weighty, dry and penetrating: very much a rosé for food.

Now-2022

CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS, CÔTES DE PROVENCE, GARRUS, 2019, 14.5%

BOTTLE £95.00

CASE OF SIX WITH 5% OFF £541.50

CODE GAR519

When Sasha Lichine bought Esclans it was with the avowed intention of making the world's finest rosé. Garrus was first released in 2006, and as the Esclans website proclaims, it's become "a world class, iconic, luxury rosé". Yes – the price is exorbitant, but it's all about pricing power: if you make a rosé which has been acclaimed as the best in the world then you have the ability to set your own price. Based on a single vineyard of centenarian Grenache vines, with some Rolle, it's crafted like a top Burgundy: barrel-fermented and then aged for 11 months in new and nearly new large French oak.

Very pale and clear, onion skin tinge. Noticeable oak presence on the nose, alongside understated red fruit and herbs – bay and sage. Extraordinary volume on the palate – this is so expansive, but subtle at the same time. Almond oak notes balance the ripeness of the fruit. In some ways it's like a grand white Burgundy – there's the same sense of structure and minerality. This is quite different to any other rosé you will have tasted.

Now-2024

Here's a review from Jancis Robinson, who is certainly no automatic respecter of price or reputation:

"Herbily scented and with beautifully integrated acidity and real grip on the palate. Serious wine with real structure and breadth. Very long and reverberant. It's delicious now... 17.5/20", Jancis Robinson, [jancisrobinson.com](https://www.jancisrobinson.com), 9th November 2020.

And this is what Matthew Jukes had to say – with a remarkable score

"I sense that Garrus will, one day, be mentioned in the same breath as wines like La Tâche, Latour, Vieilles Vignes Françaises and Le Montrachet. 20+/20".

THE TOP TERROIRS: ON THE SHORES OF THE MED

The reds here are from vineyards within sight of the Mediterranean. Even a little maritime influence moderates the summer temperatures.

DOMAINE DE LA RIBOTTE, BANDOL

Bandol is an unusual appellation in the south as both rosés and reds need to be based on at least 50% Mourvèdre. This grape, by repute, likes to have its feet in water and its head in the sun – so it thrives on the moisture retentive clay soils and the long hours of sunshine in Bandol.

With our enthusiasm for the Desblache family's exquisite rosé (see opposite), we sometimes neglect their classic and robust red Bandol. Based on the long-living Mourvèdre, this is a terrific wine for hearty food. It demands bottle age and is now drinking perfectly.

DOMAINE DE LA RIBOTTE, BANDOL, 2014, 13.5%

BOTTLE £24.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £264.60

CODE RIB814

Already expressive, showing a nose of Asian spice on black fruit; with impressive, inky concentration, well-covered tannin and attractive savoury elements. A traditionally framed example, perfect to accompany robust meat dishes like venison or a local daube provençale.

Now-2024



LA COMBE SAINT PAUL, SALLES D'AUDE, LA CLAPE

La Clape (a "heap of pebbles" in the old Occitan language of the south), just east of Narbonne was once a rocky island; geologically speaking a *klippen*, an eroded remnant of a Jurassic up-thrust, cut off from the mainland. Sediments from the river Aude attached it to the mainland in the 14th Century. La Clape's potential for viticulture was actually spotted by the Romans, who planted vines and shipped wine from here back to their distant capital. The combination of some altitude (the rock rises over 200m.) sea mists, and plentiful wind (the *Tramontane* from the plateau to the north is particularly violent) gives a little freshness to the air here, and extends the growing season in one of the sunniest spots in France.

Paul and Line Maury might be amongst our youngest producers but winemaking runs in the genes. Paul's grandparents and great grandparents were winemakers specialising in single varietal wines, and you can find his fine examples of Vermentino and Viognier on p.3. In 2008 Paul came across the opportunity to buy vines on La Clape itself. His vineyard near the sea is surrounded by pine and oak trees; here Syrah is planted on typical clay-limestone soils, whereas the Mourvèdre vineyards show more clay and sand.

LA COMBE SAINT-PAUL, LA CLAPE, GRÉS ROUGES,

2018, 14%

BOTTLE £12.50

CASE WITH 10% £135.00

CODE CSP618

This enticing red is named after the vineyard soils derived from *grés rouge* (red sandstone). 60% Syrah with 20% each of Mourvèdre and Grenache, basically unoaked (10% in old barrels). Lovely deep purple. Lush and velvety black fruit - blackberry, sloe and plum - tinged with black liquorice. Gentle fruit tannins. A smartly presented bottle from this prestigious appellation which so over-delivers at the price.

Now- 2024

LA COMBE SAINT-PAUL, LANGUEDOC-LA CLAPE, L'INSOUPÇONNÉ,

2016, 14.5%

BOTTLE £19.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £215.46

CODE CSP716

There's a mere 4,000 bottles of this blend of 75% Syrah with Mourvèdre, given 10 months ageing in a mix of new and 2nd fill barrels. Youthful: blackcurranty flavours tinged with dark chocolate and savoury notes. With great suavity and length, this brilliantly combines power and finesse.

Now-2025

*"Still quite a dark, intense crimson after all this time in bottle. Very luxurious Syrah on the nose. Heady and rich with a leathery and liquorice finish. Some sweetness. Pretty luxurious for the money. Not too hot on the end. Intense Bandol-like end note. Drink 2019-2024 **QGV**, 16.5/20"* Jancis Robinson, jancisrobinson.com, 11th November 2020.

THE TOP TERROIRS: UP IN THE HILLS

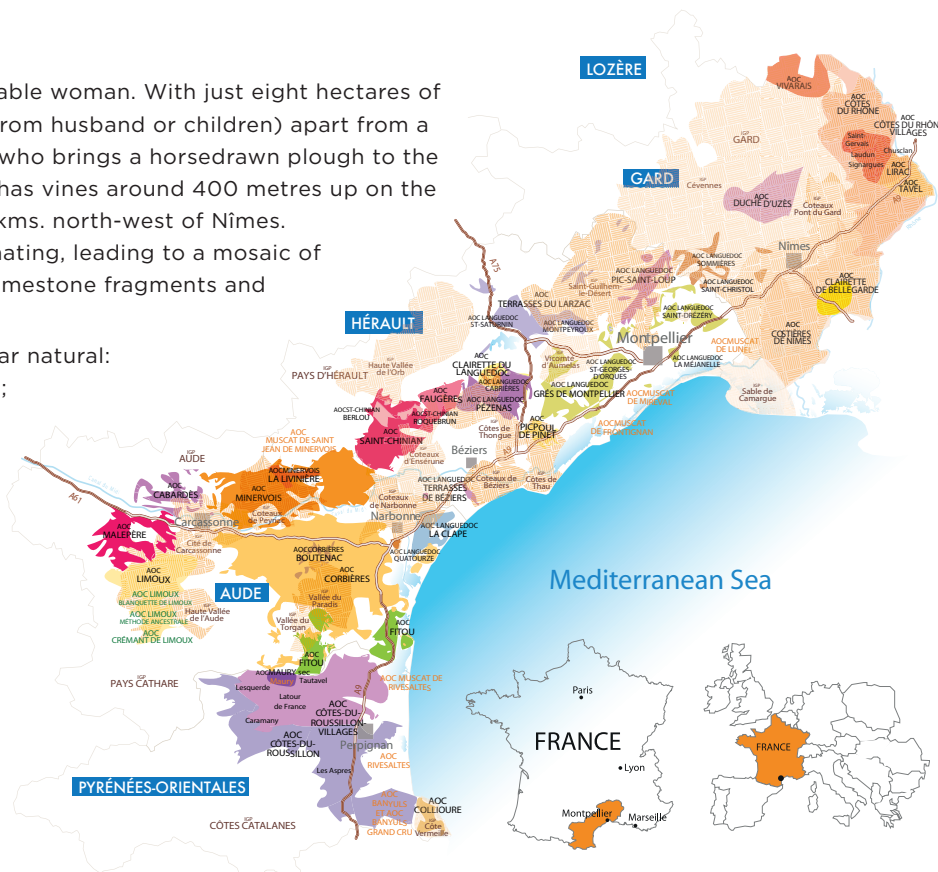
CÉVENNES

Not only does altitude bring cooler temperatures, so important in warmer regions, but it often brings healthy breezes too. In such conditions the growing season may be slightly longer, lending greater concentration and complexity to the wines. Looking at the geographical spread of our portfolio of estates, it is clear that many lie up right up against the central massif of France, whether the mountains of the Cévennes, the Larzac plateau or Faugères.

MAS SEREN, ANDOUZE

Emmanuelle Schoch is an infatigable woman. With just eight hectares of vines, she works alone (no help from husband or children) apart from a little manual help from a worker who brings a horsedrawn plough to the vines to clear weeds. Her estate has vines around 400 metres up on the edge of the Cévennes, some 40 kms. north-west of Nîmes. Here the folded geology is fascinating, leading to a mosaic of different soils: schist, dolomite, limestone fragments and volcanic grès rouges.

Viticulture and winemaking is near natural: organic cultivation; hand-picking; fermentation using only natural yeasts; and no barrels at all. Unsurprisingly the wines show an extraordinary purity.



MAS SEREN, ETINCELLE NOMADE, IGP CÉVENNES,

2020, 12.5%

BOTTLE £13.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £145.80

CODE MSS120

Last spring Jancis Robinson praised the 2019 vintage as being a “really interesting, artisanal red”, and the 2020 vintage is just as wild and promising. Etincelle Nomade translates as nomad spark. (This area still sees transhumance, the seasonal movement of flocks from lower, warmer pastures to the mountains). From 60% Syrah and 40% Cinsault: the latter brings bright strawberries to the blueberry of the Syrah. Lithe and supple, a true *vin de soif*, this pure and lively red is perfect for summer drinking.

Now-2022

MAS SEREN, LILITH, IGP CÉVENNES, 2019, 12.5%

BOTTLE £17.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £193.86

CODE MSS319

A different blend of halves of Cinsault grown on dolomite, and Grenache from calcareous limestone soils. Really extraordinary fragrance: fraises des bois and floral notes.

Now-2024

MAS SEREN, MINTAKA, IGP CÉVENNES,

2018, 13.5%

BOTTLE £22.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £243.00

CODE MSS418

Named after the dark star from the Orion constellation, 75% Syrah and 25% Grenache, again unoaked. Ripe, black fruits with spice and liquorice, concentrated, with velvety tannins and immense presence. Will age well.

Now-2026



THE TOP TERROIRS: UP IN THE HILLS

PIC SAINT-LOUP

The 1400 hectares of vineyards of Pic Saint-Loup (named after a hermit who lived on the mountain), lie just to the north of Montpellier, around the jagged 658m. peak which juts like a shark's fin into the blue southern sky. The Pic enjoys a fresher micro-climate than most of the Languedoc, with a little more rainfall and cooling breezes from the north. Syrah is particularly successful here, loving the combination of moderate temperatures and limestone-based soils.

For over a decade the growers here campaigned for an Appellation Controlée outright in its own name, rather than simply as a sub-zone of the Coteaux du Languedoc. They put in place their own stricter rules: 90% noble grapes, of which at least 50% should be Syrah, plus Grenache and Mourvèdre; maximum yields of 50hl./ha.; and no wine from vines less than 6 years old. That perseverance was finally rewarded with the creation of an Appellation from the 2016 vintage on. For years we have lacked an estate here, so it's great to have found the wonderful wines of Pégaline.

DOMAINE PÉGALINE, CLARET

Philippe Martin and Nathalie Héricourt farm a tiny acreage, but in a sweet spot near Claret where, under a typical Pic escarpment, the very low-yielding vines are grown in beds of scree and glacial fragments. All have been farmed organically since 2013 and Philippe and Nathalie are currently in the midst of the certification process. All three of their wines (see also the enticing Pinot Noir blend on p.5) are entirely made in tank – no oak contact at all.

**DOMAINE PÉGALINE,
PIC SAINT-LOUP, L'ÉLÉMENTAIRE, 2019, 14.5%**
BOTTLE £18.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £204.66

CODE PEG319

50% Syrah, 20% of each of Grenache and Mourvèdre and 10% Cinsault. So instantly classy is this that we were totally knocked out. Very deep hue. Lovely, violet-accented, Syrah perfume. Mélange of wild strawberry, red and black cherry, spiced with pepper and black liquorice. Proper structure built on fruit (as opposed to oak) tannins. Just a little of that attractive malted note one often finds in Pic Saint-Loup reds.
Now-2024

"New arrival Pégaline's Élémentaire proves how unnecessary small oak is to age pristine Pic fruits: this concentrated, fine-value wine is elegant, stealthy, seamless. Intricate floral notes combine with deft bramble and sloe fruits and gratifying tannins: a hugely impressive début. 93/100. 2021 – 2026", blind tasted by Andrew Jefford, October 2020, Pic St-Loup.. the 12 wines worth seeking out, Decanter.com

**DOMAINE PÉGALINE, PIC SAINT-LOUP,
LE CÔTÉ OBSCUR, 2019, 14.5%**

BOTTLE £29.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £318.60

CODE PEG419

A tiny production wine – which translates as The Dark Side – from 80% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre, aged in 450 litre clay amphorae. We have been rationed to just a few cases of this very deeply coloured red, which tastes like a young Hermitage. Scent of cassis, a sure sign of fine Syrah; and intense blackcurrants on the palate, plus notes of bacon fat, liquorice and malt. Youthful but also svelte.

Now-2028

Very limited stock

TERRASSES DU LARZAC

This zone covers a wide range of terroirs in the north of the Coteaux du Languedoc, abutting the Larzac plateau. This is largely a hilly band running from St Jean de la Blaquière in the west, across via St. Saturnin and Montpeyroux to Puéchabon in the east. Andrew Jefford, an intellectual wine critic who has lived in the Languedoc for many years, called the Terrasses du Larzac *"some of the greatest vineyard land in the south of France"* (**Financial Times**, 8th August 2009).

MAS D'AGAMAS, LAGAMAS

Young Vincent Visseque's story is similar to that of so many of our French partners. His family had been supplying grapes to three local cooperatives since the 1970s, but Vincent decided he wanted to make wine himself: since 2009 he has been steadily taking back the family vines as the grape selling contracts expire.

Vincent believes in a simple and precise regime: working hard in the vineyard, harvesting solely by hand, cossetting the bunches and putting all his wines into stainless steel tanks only. Most of his wines are IGPs made from single varieties (see p.3 & p.5 and his pretty Mourvèdre rosé on p.6) but our favourite amongst his reds is his Terrasses du Larzac, where the rules of the appellation demand at least three grape varieties in a blend.

**MAS D'AGAMAS, TERRASSES DU LARZAC,
NOSTRE MESCLADIS, 2018, 14.5%**

BOTTLE £14.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £161.46

CODE AGA318

Nostre Mescladis translates as "our blend", reflecting the approximate proportions of vines across the family vineyards: about 40% Grenache, and 20% of each of Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan, all given a long maceration to develop great depth of flavour but vinified and bottled unoaked. Lovely open perfume, redolent of the warmth of the south and the garrigue (the surrounding scrub, with bay, thyme, rosemary and lavender all contributing aromatics). Stunning: gorgeous black and red fruits with supple tannins. Young but already so enjoyable – and superb value.

Now-2023

THE TOP TERROIRS: UP IN THE HILLS

MAS DES BROUSSES, PUÉCHABON, TERRASSES DU LARZAC

Brousses translates as bush, or brush; this is, literally, the farm in the garrigue. Amidst the rolling scrub-covered hills around Puéchabon and the pebble-strewn terrasses near the Hérault river lie the domaine's plots of vines. Tall Géraldine Combes (from a family who have inhabited Puéchabon, near Gignac, since 1525) juggles looking after three boys with tending the vines. Husband Xavier Peyraud, grandson of the legendary Lucien Peyraud of Domaine Tempier, is the winemaker. What stands them apart from other estates in the Terrasses du Larzac is the high proportion of Mourvèdre, the vines coming from Xavier's carefully transplanted cuttings from Tempier in Bandol. They have been organic in practice for years (with 2019 the first certified vintage) and now largely eschew sulphur in winemaking. Note also the latest vintage of their popular Chasseur des Brousses on p.5.



MAS DES BROUSSES, TERRASSES DU LARZAC, FRANCE, 2017, 14%

BOTTLE £19.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £215.46

CODE MAB217

Seductive, warm Mediterranean perfume of garrigue, autumnal fruit and vanilla oak. Super-smooth palate of cassis and blackberry with a liquorice tinge. Already so sophisticated and will last for years. Given this is based on Mourvèdre (about half, with Syrah and Grenache), it's surprisingly well-groomed; and consistently the most ageworthy wine in our entire Languedoc-Roussillon portfolio. At best: *Now-2026*

"Dark purple. This really smells of Larzac with its stones and dried herbs. Really dense and serious with lots of potential for ageing, too. There's also the rich spice of Mourvèdre. A beaker of the warm, scrubby south. Well structured. Drink 2020-2027. 16.5/20", Jancis Robinson, MW, jancisrobinson.com, 8th May 2020

"Mourvèdre (50%), Syrah and Grenache. Some sulphites added because this was barrel aged (400 litres, no new oak). Vivid raspberry and cherry nose with some spiciness. This has a juicy, vivid black cherry and plum palate. Floral, black cherry notes with some nice peppery hints. It's ripe with some liquorice and garrigue complexity, with a bit of orange peel. Very fine and expressive. Deep but fresh with a grippy finish. 94/100", Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com, 6th December 2019.

FAUGÈRES

Faugères is a small and homogenous appellation - only 2,000 hectares in production, and about 35 growers - unique in Languedoc-Roussillon in that all of the vineyards lie on schist. Schist is formed of foliated sedimentary layers changed by heat and pressure. Its common distinguishing feature, like slate, is that it's brittle, so the vineyards look as though they are covered in shards of rock; which can range in colour from soft pinky-beige in Faugères to coal-black near Maury. It is hard to see how vines can survive on such a sterile matrix: they do so through their roots penetrating deep into the fissures in the rock to find moisture and nutrients during the long, dry summers. Both the estates below are based in Cabrerolles, at the northern border of the Appellation, where vineyards give way to the higher, colder plateau.

CHÂTEAU DE LA LIQUIÈRE, CABREROLLES

We used to work with La Liquière from 2002 until 2004 - then there was a generational change in the Vidal family and we felt the wines suffered. A chance to retaste with François Vidal made us realise what we have been missing: on this showing La Liquière is among the finest estates in Faugères. Vidals have lived in the village of Cabrerolles since the seventeenth century, but the estate was really founded by François's grandfather, who was one of the most vocal lobbyists for the creation of the Faugères appellation - which occurred in 1982.

The family have 60 hectares, largely at 300m of altitude on the schistous slopes which precede the massif to the north. Their wines reflect their situation, showing a natural concentration from very low yields (averaging just 25 hectolitre per hectare) off stony vineyards of largely bush vines; and an elegance which derives from the cooler breezes in the hills. Note also their rosé on p.6.

CHÂTEAU DE LA LIQUIÈRE, FAUGÈRES, AMANDIERS BLANC, 2020, 13%

BOTTLE £13.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £145.80

CODE LIQ620

This is from a vineyard planted on some of their highest land about forty years ago; a blend of Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Bourboulenc and Marsanne. Such a pretty, lifted scent: citrus peel, lemon verbena and blossom. Ripe citrus attack, fresh and airy, and in its finesse and bite this displays surprising minerality. A winner.

Now-2023

CHÂTEAU DE LA LIQUIÈRE, FAUGÈRES ROUGE, 2019, 14.5%

BOTTLE £14.75

CASE WITH 10% OFF £159.30

CODE LIQ119

The estate's principal wine, an unoaked, life-enhancing blend of Grenache and Syrah with a little Carignan and Mourvèdre. Youthful, vibrant purple. A lively and concentrated blast of fresh blackberry, blackcurrant and black cherry fruit. Transparent and expressive - a classic example.

Now-2024

THE TOP TERROIRS: UP IN THE HILLS

CHÂTEAU DE LA LIQUIÈRE, FAUGÈRES ROUGE, CUVÉE CISTUS, 2018, 14.5%

BOTTLE £20.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £226.26

CODE LIQ318

MAGNUM £43.50

CASE (6 X 150CL.) WITH 10% OFF £234.90

CODE LIQ918

DOUBLE MAGNUM [2014 VINTAGE] £89.50

CODE LIQ814

Named after the cistus or rock rose, the pretty shrub which dots the hillsides, a blend of 70% Syrah with 30% Mourvèdre. 2018 was a very small harvest (after problems with mildew) of high quality; 60% was aged in 500-litre barrels, and the rest in tank. A dark wine - dark in hue and dark in flavour profile - showing black cherry and cassis accented by black chocolate oak hints and liquorice. Fragrance of the *garrigue*. Still youthful and vigorous; with lurking mineral depths.

Now-2026



DOMAINE DU MÉTÉORE, CABREROLLES

The domaine is named after the huge crater of a meteor which punctures the vineyards; and all of the wines are named after meteor showers.

DOMAINE DU MÉTÉORE, FAUGÈRES BLANC, LES LÉONIDES 2019, 14%

BOTTLE £15.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £167.40

CODE MET719

The unoaked Météore white has reverted to its former name of Les Léonides. A blend of Vermentino (Rolle), Roussanne and Viognier, it's dramatically open, with a scent of stone fruit. Then there's a satiny texture to enjoy; and a mineral edge. Plenty of character and complexity, but still lively and fresh. *Now-2022*

DOMAINE DU MÉTÉORE, FAUGÈRES ROUGE, LES LÉONIDES, 2017, 13%

BOTTLE £13.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £145.80

CODE MET117

Syrah, Grenache and Cinsault, unoaked. This always exhibits a lovely, lifted perfume derived from the schist soils: scents of raspberries and violets. Lively and juicy, with blackberry and blackcurrant flavours and a long finish. There's definitely more concentration in this wine than previous vintages, without compromising its local character.

Now-2023

Limited stock

LIMOUX

Limoux, with vineyards lying across rolling hills - effectively the foothills of the Pyrenees - is an unusual appellation in the south as there is no AOP for red wines. It's best known for sparkling wines made in the Champagne method, i.e. with a secondary fermentation in the bottle, and locals claim that they were making fizz here long before Champagne. Limoux Chardonnay has to be from hand-picked grapes, both vinified and aged in wood.

DOMAINE BEGUDE, LIMOUX

We have been shipping wines from James Kinglake since he left his life in the City in 2003 to buy the Château Haute Begude, about 350 metres up in the foothills of the Pyrenees near Limoux. "I could not quite afford to buy in Burgundy so I chose the next best thing". He acknowledges how tough it is to be a farmer: his yields have been hit hard in recent vintages by frost (2016 and 2017), mildew (2018) and heat and drought (2019 and 2020). But his wines have become better and better. His attractively light 2020 Pinot Noir and Pinot Rosé (see p.5 & p.6) will arrive in May; and the 2020 vintage of Etoile will follow.

DOMAINE BEGUDE, LIMOUX, CHARDONNAY, L'ETOILE, 2019, 13.5%

BOTTLE £16.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £183.06

CODE BEG219

This is a star barrel-fermented Chardonnay, from very low yields - less than half those in Burgundy. It develops beautifully, with ripe citrus and buttery notes coming to the fore. Lots of volume and grip.

Now-2023

DOMAINE J. LAURENS, LA DIGNE D'AVAIL, LIMOUX

We have been recommending the sparkling wines of Domaine Laurens for years to customers who want attractive fizz with smart presentation without a Champagne price. Many of you

come back for more. Both are well-made and interesting; and while the Blanquette has its own and unique spectrum of flavours coming from the local grape Mauzac, the Cremant is more akin to a house Champagne.

DOMAINE J. LAURENS, BLANQUETTE DE LIMOUX, LE MOULIN, BRUT, NV, 12%

BOTTLE £14.50 CASE WITH 10% OFF £156.60 CODE LAU1NV

Elegantly made, using Champagne techniques, from 90% Mauzac, the traditional variety of Limoux, with 10% Chardonnay, grown in the foothills of the Pyrenees. Pale lemon with a fine mousse. Aromas of ripe pear and white flowers with the notes of warm nuts and cinnamon characteristic of Mauzac. Crisp and elegant citrus and stone fruit flavours meld seamlessly and lead to a finely focused finish. A perfectly refreshing aperitif, especially in warmer months.

Now-2022

DOMAINE J. LAURENS, CREMANT DE LIMOUX, LES GRAIMENOUS, BRUT, 2018, 12%

BOTTLE £15.75 CASE WITH 10% OFF £170.10 CODE LAU318

A blend of 60% Chardonnay with 30% Chenin, 5% Pinot Noir and 5% Mauzac. Such a refined nose with citrus and green apple scents, breadth and complexity. This is delightfully racy and vital, with ripe orchard fruits and a refined hint of breadiness. Such a versatile wine, an ideal accompaniment to seafood, even sushi and tempura and a dead ringer for Champagne.

Now-2023

THE TOP TERROIRS: UP IN THE HILLS

CORBIÈRES

The appellation of Corbières, established in 1985, is by far the largest in the Languedoc, and indeed the fourth largest in all of France, with over 15,000 hectares under cultivation. 95% of the wine produced is red. With the region dominated by some enormous co-operatives, and the predominant grape Carignan, much is of ordinary quality. Since 1991 there have been efforts to sub-divide this largely mountainous region into different terroirs, several of which have limited validity.

DOMAINE DU GRAND ARC, CUCUGNAN

Nicolas Schenk is now running the family estate created by his father Bruno, originally from Alsace, in 1995. The vines lie on classic *argilo-calcaire soils*, with some sandstone, around Cucugnan, in a valley of the Massif des Corbières in the very south of the appellation, overlooked by the amazing hill-top Cathar castles of Quéribus (which straddles the ridge dividing Corbières and Roussillon) and Peyrepertuse. The isolation and elevation sets it apart from the rest of Corbières and if there were more than three estates in the valley, it might warrant its own appellation. The vineyards lie from 250 to 600 metres in altitude; and the climate is unusual as it benefits from some Atlantic influence.

The family have been following organic principles for 20 years but Nicolas was behind the final push to certification from the 2016 vintage. He has a keen interest in biodynamics and is also continuing his father's pursuit of minimal intervention, in particular using natural yeasts and only a tiny amount of sulphur at bottling. That has always been the motto of the family, seeking to produce a wine as naturally as possible: here are organic and minimal intervention wines - without the "boutique" prices which usually accompany such practice. It's worth noting that the reds keep really well: even the Reserve Grand Arc will be drinking beautifully about six years after the vintage.



DOMAINE DU GRAND ARC, CORBIÈRES ROUGE, RESERVE GRAND ARC, 2018, 14.5%

BOTTLE £11.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £129.06

CODE DGA218

One of our staples at SVS, about 50% Carignan, with 35% Grenache and 15% Mourvedre, a splendid barrel-aged wine which can be drunk young or kept. Dark and intense, this delivers a big mouthful of red fruit backed by masses of ripe tannins. It's as gutsy as a more expensive southern Rhône and as elegant and concentrated as a much more expensive Bordeaux.

Now-2024

DOMAINE DU GRAND ARC, CORBIÈRES, CUVÉE DE QUARANTE, 2018, 14.5%

BOTTLE £13.25

CASE WITH 10% OFF £143.10

CODE DGA318

Based on 45% Carignan with 35% Grenache and 20% Syrah, all in barrel, about 20% new. This favourite blend at the Schenk cellar was first made by Bruno when he was forty years old - hence the name - and has never changed since. Very dense and opaque. Dark fruited nose with a touch of *torréfaction*, hints of roasted coffee and toast. This is a big, concentrated and ageworthy wine, properly structured with tannic substance, but at a modest price. Intense fruit, raspberry and blackcurrant, with crunchy acidity. Dense, already so impressive, but with years to go.

Now-2025

DOMAINE DU GRAND ARC, CORBIÈRES ROUGE, LA THÉBAÏDE, 2018, 14%

BOTTLE £18.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £204.66

CODE DGA718

A new wine for us, from approximate quarters of Cinsault, Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre, well-oaked. Very deep hue. Rich, complex fruit palate of blackcurrant, blackberry and blueberry, with notes of woodsmoke and liquorice. The Cinsault brings grace and freshness. Decant to serve now. Super wine and a keeper.

Now-2025

THE TOP TERROIRS: UP IN THE HILLS

ROUSSILLON

The vineyards in the north and west of the Roussillon are brutally stony - away from the plain around Perpignan - especially along the wide and steep valley of the Agly river, near St. Paul de Fenouillet and Maury, and the parallel valleys, for example around Tautavel or Latour-de-France. Here gnarled old bush vines scratch out an existence on decayed granite, gneiss, schist and glacial pebbles in a brutally hot, dry and windswept environment.

There is a tri-partite classification in (theoretically - don't pay too much attention to it) ascending order of quality: Côtes de Roussillon; Côtes de Roussillon Villages, from a smaller zone largely in the hills to the north and west of Perpignan; and a further sub-category of Côtes de Roussillon Villages with the name of one of four villages appended: Latour-de-France, Lesquerde, Caramany and Tautavel. The latter, in particular, enjoys very dramatic terroir, with vineyards lying below looming cliffs.

MAS CRÉMAT, ESPIRA D'AGLY, ROUSSILLON

Crémat in Catalan means burnt, and the name refers to the extraordinary black schist soils at this estate in Espira d'Agly, north-west of Perpignan - they look like shining coal after a shower.

MAS CREMAT, CÔTES DE ROUSSILLON, L'ENVIE, 2019, 14%

BOTTLE £14.25

CASE WITH 10% OFF £153.90

CODE MCR419

Classic southern blend of Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Carignan - and showing just a little of that piquant tarriness which often marks Roussillon wines. Red fruit and liquorice on the nose. Strawberry, raspberry and blackberry on the palate. With a savoury meatiness, decent tannin and grip, this is a wine for roast red meats or a hard cheese board.

Now-2023

DOMAINE FONTANEL, TAUTAVEL

Elodie and Mathieu Collet bought the domaine from Pierre and Marie-Claude Fontaneil in 2017 and have already made a name for themselves, being elected no less than *Vignerons de l'Année (Roussillon) du Guide Hachette 2019*. After both graduating as agricultural engineers (from the prestigious Faculté Catholique de Lille) in 2004, Mathieu and Elodie decided to become winemakers. Elodie specialises in taste and, after working in sensory analysis for many years, now makes the wine at the domaine, while Mathieu enjoys working in the vines.

Their goal is to express the terroirs at their best and they want to make traditional wines, expressive of Roussillon: as such, the white is round and generous and the reds are rich and concentrated. The *Vin Doux Naturels* (see p.16) are fresher than they used to be, in accordance with the taste of their generation; and the reds are perhaps more polished than of old as they achieve finer tannins and a lighter structure. Note also their stunning value Côtes Catalanes on p.5



DOMAINE FONTANEL, CÔTES DU ROUSSILLON BLANC, 2018, 13.5%

BOTTLE £17.25

CASE WITH 10% OFF £186.30

CODE FON718

Half comes from an ancient (1908) complanted vineyard near Tautavel, largely holding Grenache Blanc and Gris plus a little Carignan Blanc, Muscat and Malvoisie; and half from younger Roussanne. With subtly integrated oak, this is a powerful white, with a wonderful gamut of flavours. Scents of pine and herbs; and then a generous mouthful of honeyed stone fruit - peach plus kernel - with hints of almond and liquorice. Creamy, fat and altogether satisfying.

Now-2022

DOMAINE FONTANEL, CÔTES DU ROUSSILLON ROUGE, INITIUM, 2017, 14%

BOTTLE £14.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £156.60

CODE FON117

Now with a smarter label. From Syrah, Grenache and Carignan grown on schist near Maury, unoaked, and a classic Roussillon red: youthful, vivid, brambly perfumes and flavours with characteristic notes of spice, tar and black olives. Vigorous but supple.

Now-2023

DOMAINE FONTANEL, CÔTES DU ROUSSILLON VILLAGES TAUTAVEL, CISTES, 2017, 14.5%

BOTTLE £18.50

CASE WITH 10% OFF £199.80

CODE FON217

Named after the Cistus, the spring-flowering rock roses growing wild in the scrub. 60% Syrah with 40% Grenache, the former mainly raised in old barrels from Château Haut-Brion (plus a few new barrels), the latter in tank. The style of this wine has changed: it's now overtly oaky - with toast, coconut and sweet vanilla notes more akin to a smart right bank Bordeaux or a Rioja Reserva than a Roussillon red. It's ripely voluptuous in a modern idiom, with a concentrated cassis core. Lots of texture but velvety.

Now-2022

DOMAINE FONTANEL, CÔTES DU ROUSSILLON VILLAGES TAUTAVEL, PRIEURÉ, 2016, 14.5%

BOTTLE £21.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £237.06

CODE FON316

Based on one parcel on a high, windswept, north facing argilo-calcaire slope, this blend of 85% Syrah with Grenache and Mourvèdre is given 18 months in used barrels from Haut-Brion. Dramatic wine, revealing layers of velvety, bittersweet black fruit with spice and mocha. We know this ages like a top northern Rhône.

Now-2028

FONTANEL'S VIN DOUX NATURELS

Vins Doux Naturels are made by stopping the fermentation of late picked, very ripe grapes, part way through its course, by the addition of alcohol (a process known as *mutage*); thereby preventing the yeasts from working, and leaving a fortified wine with plentiful natural, unfermented grape sugar and between 15 and 17 degrees of alcohol. It's an ancient art which probably came over the Pyrenees from Moorish Spain with the medieval spread of distillation – and examples of VDNs (not a sexually transmitted disease) are now found across the south of France, including Beauges de Venise and Rasteau. These are wonderful, distinctive fortified wines.

DOMAINE FONTANEL, MAURY, GRENAT,

BOTTLE £20.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £226.26

2017, 16%

CODE FON617

From one plot of 75 year old vines of Grenache Noir. This style is well-known for matching chocolate, but it's equally good with cheese, especially blue cheese, in a manner akin to a very fruity and forward port. Deep ruby colour. Inviting scent of puréed red berries; and then a wonderfully rich, sweet and fleshy core of raspberries, cherries and sweet spices. There's a lovely floral note too. Pure and fresh finish. Terrific drop.

Now-2025

DOMAINE FONTANEL, RIVESALTES AMBRÉ,

BOTTLE £21.95

CASE WITH 10% OFF £237.06

2011, 16%

CODE FON911

One of the most distinctive and exciting wines in our entire stock. From late-picked, 60 year-old vines of Grenache Blanc and Gris, the Ambré - literally amber - tone develops after at least five years of mildly oxidative ageing in barrel (and here it's kept a lot longer before bottling). Deep gold, clear and bright. This offer intriguing fumes: caramelised oranges, candlewax and marzipan, with a hint of sherry-like oxidation. That marmalade orange flavour is at the forefront, with accompanying subtleties such as apricot liqueur and walnuts. Not over-sweet, but airy and fragrant. This makes a wonderful partner to hard cheese such as aged cheddar, dried fruit and nuts.

Now-2027

STONE, VINE & SUN

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OPENING TIMES:

Weekdays: 9.00am-6.00pm

Open on Saturdays, 9.30am-4.00pm from
the 24th April

