

Château De La Liquière, Cabrerolles, Faugères

Our best (re)introduction of the year so far has been of the wines of La Liquière, unquestionably one of the top estates in Faugères. Vidals have lived in the village of Cabrerolles since the seventeenth century, but the estate was really founded by François Vidal's grandfather, who was one of the most vocal lobbyists for the creation of the Faugères appellation – which occurred in 1982. 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. 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.

The family have 60 hectares of vines at Cabrerolles, at the northern border of the appellation, where vineyards at around 300m. give way to the higher, colder plateau 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. The whites are chock full of stone fruit flavours. The reds are so expressive of both the scents of the garrigue, the local shrubby vegetation which surrounds the vines, aromatic with bay, thyme and rosemary; and the schist, which lends a distinctive (but hard to describe) high-toned note, especially in the unoaked wines.

We have jumped in and shipped a lot of these wines, earning slightly improved prices which we can pass on in this offer for 6+ bottles of any wine and the two mixed cases. We think all the wines are superb and want to encourage our customers to start enjoying them too.

**ALL DISCOUNTS IN THIS LIST
VALID UNTIL SEPTEMBER 26TH**

WHITE

FAUGÈRES BLANC, LES AMANDIERS, 2020, 13%
BOTTLE £13.50 6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £72.90
CASE WITH 15% OFF £137.70 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

"Lemon peel and a kind of aloe-vera and avocado cream. Pistachio nuttiness on the palate that tucks into a creaminess more vanilla than avocado. Some green-floral sweetness on the nose and palate, like angelica, elderflower, sweet cicely dipped in icing sugar. Fresh green pea (I could just imagine having this with scallops, bacon and green pea puree!). Fried sage and lemon peel with a gentle nip of bitterness. This is a heavenly food wine. I'm trying it with salted edamame pods and it is perfectly scrumptious, but it would be just as good with asparagus and poached egg, or a crunchy mange-tout chicken salad. GV. 16.5/20",
Tamlyn Currin, jancisrobinson.com, 17th May 2021

FAUGÈRES BLANC, CUVÉE CISTUS, 2020, 13.5%
BOTTLE £16.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £91.53
CASE WITH 15% OFF £172.89 CODE LIQ720

A barrel-aged blend of 60% Roussanne, 25% Vermentino and 15% Grenache blanc. Open peach perfume. Rich, almost voluptuous, expansive and highly aromatic; showing a Condrieu-like peaches-and-cream opulence, checked by a stony bite and a pithy, mildly bitter hint. Perfect to drink with crab or lobster. Delivers so much at this price.
Now-2023

ROSÉ



FAUGÈRES ROSÉ, LES AMANDIERS, 2020, 13%
BOTTLE £13.25 6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £71.55
CASE WITH 15% OFF £135.15 CODE LIQ520

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. Limited stock

RED

FAUGÈRES ROUGE, LES AMANDIERS, 2019, 14%
BOTTLE £13.50 6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £72.90
CASE WITH 15% OFF £137.70 CODE LIQ219

A unoaked blend of half Syrah with 20% of Grenache and Carignan and 10% Mourvèdre. Fascinating herby scent – dried thyme. This has a crunchiness which is refreshingly appealing – summer puddingy, with the bite of blueberries and redcurrants. Tangy, lively, mildly rustic, it's a great introduction to the style here.
Now-2023



FAUGÈRES ROUGE, L'AMPOULE, 2020, 13.5%
BOTTLE £13.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £75.33
CASE WITH 15% OFF £142.29 CODE LIQ420

L'Ampoule is a slang synonym for a bottle: in the south of France they talk of "péter une Ampoule" as to crack open a bottle. This is the estate's Cinsault-based wine (with a little Grenache) and displays all the red-fruited exuberance of the variety. Deeply hued, it gives off such a pretty perfume of crushed strawberries and rose petals; followed by a velvety, plush palate of fraises de bois. Can be enjoyed lightly chilled.
Now-2024

FAUGÈRES ROUGE, 2019, 14.5%
BOTTLE £14.75 6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £79.65
CASE WITH 15% OFF £150.45 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-2025

"Smells like hot plum jam on a leather saddle, like a blueberry pie that's been pulled out of the oven just in the nick of time. I wondered if this was going to turn out a bit too funky when I first smelt it, but the fruit is philharmonic. Burly, but Rubenesque. Ram-packed with bramble berries and blackberries and hedgerow leaves and stems and rock dust. Despite all the fruit, there is a neat, long bitter spine that tastes as if it's been spliced from quinine, black-olive pomace, grapefruit pith and wormwood, so the wine, as a whole, is not a fruit bomb but something far more interesting. This is a wine with the identity of Faugères tattooed onto its soul. The wine defines Faugères; Faugères defines the wine. GV. 16.5/20" Tamlyn Currin, jancisrobinson.com, 20th May 2021

FAUGÈRES ROUGE, CUVÉE CISTUS, 2018, 14.5%
BOTTLE £20.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £113.13
CASE WITH 15% OFF £213.69 CODE LIQ318
MAGNUM £43.50 3 MAGNUMS WITH 10% OFF £117.45
CASE (6 X 150CL.) WITH 15% OFF £221.85 CODE LIQ918

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

"I can see exactly why they've called this wine Cistus. The extraordinary smell of cistus, a Mediterranean rock rose, is called labdanum in the perfume industry. In the hot days of Languedoc summer, the volatile oils from the leaves fill the air, dropping on and clinging to the grape skins as night cools. Wines made in vineyards surrounded by cistus-dominated garrigue often have this gorgeous, resiny, pine-and-lemon top-scented but leather-plum-honey base-scented character, and this is no exception. The tannins are almost soothingly supple, but belted tightly to the wine. Without a second's hesitation, I would bring out the pasture-raised prime rib of beef. 17/20", Tamlyn Currin, jancisrobinson.com, 20th May 2021

FAUGÈRES ROUGE, TARROUSSEL, 2019, 14.5%
BOTTLE £23.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 10% OFF £129.33
CASE WITH 15% OFF £244.29 CODE LIQ019

Largely Grenache, from a lieu-dit near the cellar, with Carignan. This exhibits that lovely Grenache combination of vibrant black cherry fruit with a dash of spice and a subtle leatheriness. Currently a little youthful and punchy, it will keep well – and it's well-structured, so think robust daube of beef or venison. Great potential.
Now-2026

Mixed Cases

**Each case includes three bottles
of one white and three bottles of
each of three reds, with a
DISCOUNT OF 15%**

LIKEABLE LIQUIÈRE	£142.00	CODE LIKLIQ
Faugères Blanc, Les Amandiers,		2020
Faugères Rouge, Les Amandiers,		2019
Faugères Rouge, L'Ampoule,		2020
Faugères Rouge,		2019

LIQUIÈRE LUXE	£195.30	CODE LIQLUX
Faugères Blanc, Cuvée Cistus,		2020
Faugères Rouge,		2019
Faugères Rouge, Cuvée Cistus,		2018
Faugères Rouge, Tarroussel,		2019

Artisan Wines, Burgenland

For some time we have been seeking an Austrian estate making red and sweet wine in the Burgenland, preferably in the northern part of this region around the Neusiedlersee, the huge shallow lake at the far eastern edge of Austria, south-east of Vienna and near the Hungarian border. Here, in the Pannonian climate zone, red grapes benefit from lovely sunny conditions, but the summer heat is moderated by the expanse of the steppe lake. Fortunately, we encountered the fascinating range crafted, in tiny quantities, by Ukrike Schmeid and Franz Schneider in Halbtorn just east of the lake, and are really excited to introduce them to this country. Vinification is traditional here – with fermentation in open vats and ageing in mix of barrels, mainly old.

We are not huge fans of the name – but one can understand why Franz came up with it. As he says,

“we are a family winery and working just 7 hectares. No employees throughout the year so a real artisanal approach”

WHITE

HEIDEBODEN WEISS, BURGENLAND, 2018, 13.5%
BOTTLE £13.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £79.52
CASE WITH 10% OFF £150.66 CODE ART618

A well-oaked blend of Grauburgunder (Pinot Gris) and Chardonnay. Creamy aromas; generous flavours of ripe citrus and cereals. Fat and well-textured. Good for richly sauced white meats.
Now-2022

SWEET

NEUSIEDLERSEE DAC RESERVE WELSCHRIESLING BEERENAUSLESE, 2019, 9%
HALF BOTTLE £16.50 6 HALVES WITH 5% OFF £94.05
CASE (12 X 37.5CL BOTTLES) WITH 10% OFF £178.20 CODE ART819

It's not as well known as it should be that the climate around the Neusiedlersee makes it one of the finest spots in the world for the production of sumptuous late harvest wines. The combination of dry, sunny autumns with the moisture off the lake creates perfect conditions for noble rot to develop. Welschriesling ripens late and retains its acidity, so although this Beerenauslese has 145 grams of residual sugar per litre, that's balanced by tingling acidity. Highly perfumed; with stunning botrytic, lime marmalade character, and plenty of viscosity, this is a real treat, to be sipped on its own or enjoyed with strong cheeses.
Now-2030

RED

SANKT LAURENT PURE, BURGENLAND, 2018, 12%
BOTTLE £11.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £68.12
CASE WITH 10% OFF £129.06 CODE ART118

Sankt Laurent, or St. Laurent, is a dark-hued grape widely grown in eastern Austria and Czechia. Here it shows a frank scent of crushed hedgerow fruit; and then sappy, black cherry and blueberry flavours. Open, crunchy and uncomplicated; perfect for light chilling in summer and drinking with anything piggy from cured meats, a Scotch egg or roast ham – or cold roast chicken.
Now-2024

HEIDEBODEN ROT, BURGENLAND, 2018, 13.5%
BOTTLE £14.50 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £82.65
CASE WITH 10% OFF £156.60 CODE ART318

A blend of 55% Blaufränkisch and 45% Merlot, given 20 months in old oak, a joyous drink. The aromas are of red and black fruits tinged with vanilla; perfectly prefacing a juicy, mid-weight cocktail of red cherry and strawberry with a typical smoky edge. Lots of vitality. A crowdpleaser.
Now-2024

NEUSIEDLERSEE DAC RESERVE, 2018, 13.5%
BOTTLE £19.50 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £111.15
CASE WITH 10% OFF £210.60 CODE ART418

In 2012 the Neusiedlersee Reserve DAC was created for wines from Zweigelt, fermented in oak and matured for at least 18 months. Zweigelt (formerly known as Rotburger) is arguably the most prestigious Austrian red grape, created as a cross of Blaufränkisch and St. Laurent in 1922 by Fritz Zweigelt. This, from the south-east facing Römerstein vineyard, is given 20 months in new and used oak vessels. Very deeply coloured. Come hither, lifted aromas of ripe berries and sweet vanilla oak notes. Concentrated, fleshy blueberry and currant heart - but not overdone, so has real drive too. Rose-petal hints. Terrific finish, promising further potential too.
Now-2027

“Attractive, inviting and very complex nose displaying lifted ripe cherries, blackberries, fine herbs, fruitcake, chocolate, sweet spices, earth and black olives. The layered palate shows amazing purity of fruit, refined silky tannins, balancing freshness and great persistence. 95/100. 2021-2032”, Dirceu Vianna, MW, **Decanter.com**, January 2021

ARTISAN RED ACES £160.00 CODE ARA21

Four bottles of each of the three red wines on this page, with a discount of over 12.5%

Refreshing Austrian Whites: from the Sax Twins in the Kamptal

We introduced the wines of Michael and Rudolf Sax last year to popular and critical acclaim.

Identical twin brothers, they began to assume control of their family estate and winery - which had roots going back to 1660 - in 2008 at the age of 18. Hugely energetic and charming, they are making their mark within Austria.

The family own about 30 hectares of vineyards around the town of Langenlois in the heart of the Kamptal wine region to the north-west of Vienna. The climate here is perfect for growing aromatic grapes, with hot sunny days leavened by nights cooled by breezes from the Waldviertel to the northwest. The twins make a wide range, from which we have selected these, all from different vineyards (= Ried). All are made in stainless steel and bottled under screwcap to exhibit freshness; and we know from tasting older vintages how well they keep.

GRÜNER VELTLINER, LUFTIKUS, NEIDERÖSTERREICH, 2019, 11.5%
BOTTLE £10.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £62.41
CASE WITH 10% OFF £118.26 CODE SAX119

From fruit grown in Ried Wechselberg on loess over granite. This is an excellent introduction to their range: there's a correct mildly vegetal scent of Grüner; a touch of spritz; and a nice vein of acidity under the lentil character. This makes a dry and refreshing all-rounder. The 2020 follows shortly.
Now-2022

FRÜHROTER VELTLINER, NIEDERÖSTERREICH, 2020, 12.5%
BOTTLE £12.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £73.81
CASE WITH 10% OFF £139.86 CODE SAX620

Frühroter Veltliner, a cross between Roter Veltliner and Silvaner, is one of those pinky-coloured grapes (like Pinot Gris) vinified as a white wine – but, tasted blind, easy to mistake for a rosé, as it has a distinctive if subtle, wild strawberry accent. With refreshing grapefruity bite and just a little savoury texture, it makes a perfect summer aperitif, inviting intriguing comparisons with both a crisp, dry Riesling and a red-berried rosé.
Now-2022

SAX WHITES CASE £150.00 CODE SAXDOZ21

A mixed dozen including two bottles of each of the six whites above, with a discount of 13.5% on the bottle prices

GRÜNER VELTLINER, ZWILLINGSLAUSER, KAMPTAL, 2020, 12.5%
BOTTLE £13.50 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £76.95
CASE WITH 10% OFF £145.80 CODE SAX220

Not from a named vineyard - Zwillingsslauser translates as the “naughty twins” - but based on fruit from Ried Kittmannsberg, a warm south-facing site with granitic soils incorporating feldspar, quartz and mica. These retain heat well, which suits Grüner. The previous vintage of this earned huge press praise, and this is just as good, with that characteristic Grüner scent and flavour of pears. There's a mineral thread underpinning this juicy and lightly creamy example. Very complete.
Now-2023

GRÜNER VELTLINER, RIED PANZAUN, KAMPTAL RESERVE, 2019, 13.5%
BOTTLE £15.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £90.91
CASE WITH 10% OFF £172.26 CODE SAX319

Kamptal Reserve simply means the wine has to go before a tasting panel. From an eponymous vineyard with loess soils incorporating lots of slate. This shows a lot of fruit - ripe grapefruit and pears - with a fullness in the mouth that is partly satiny and partly akin to creamed cereals. Fully dry, with a mineral edge, but a broad, fruity finish.
Now-2023. Limited stock

RIESLING, RIED LOISERBERG, KAMPTAL RESERVE, 2019, 13.5%
BOTTLE £15.95 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £90.91
CASE WITH 10% OFF £172.26 CODE SAX419B

From a high, terraced vineyard, up to 400m., south-east facing and from 50+ year old vines growing on meagre topsoil over slate. Pale gold. Very open perfume of grapefruit zest and white peach. Intense ripe citrus. This is vibrant, racy, dry (just 3.2 grams of residual sugar) Riesling with mineral zip.
Now-2024

SAX, RIESLING, RIED KAUFERBERG, KAMPTAL RESERVE, 2019, 13.5%
BOTTLE £17.50 6 BOTTLES WITH 5% OFF £99.75
CASE WITH 10% OFF £189.00 CODE SAX519

Brilliantly open scent of stone fruit and citrus; and that ripe citrus character, tangerine and pink grapefruit, dominates. But there are Vermouth-like herbal notes (aniseed?) there too – and a sense of stoniness. Such an exciting dry Riesling – a shame we were only allowed a few cases.
Now-2024. Limited stock

Austrian Flag Case

£144.90 CODE AFCDOZ
Comprising two bottles of each of these six wines, four whites and two reds,
with a saving of 12.5%

Sax, Frühroter Veltliner, Niederösterreich,	2020	Artisan, Heideboden Weiss, Burgenland,	2018
Sax, Grüner Veltliner, Zwillingsslauser, Kamptal,	2020	Artisan, Sankt Laurent Pure, Burgenland,	2018
Sax, Riesling, Ried Loiserberg, Kamptal Reserve,	2019	Artisan, Heideboden Rot, Burgenland,	2018