



CHRISTMAS WINES



STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

Christmas is Coming!

Welcome to our 2018 Christmas list – encompassing eighty seven wines and one Armagnac. In a broad list like this we can be both distinctively retro in our selection and also excitingly innovative: so you see excellent examples of currently unfashionable but totally worthy wines such as Soave, Muscadet or Valpolicella; and cutting edge introductions, for example top wines from Slovenia, plus distinctive rarities - Portuguese red varieties grown in the Cape or Sangiovese in Australia.

There is a notable difference this year - we are offering 5% off six bottles of the same wine and 10% off unsplit dozens. And our pre-selected dozens (see pp. 7-9) have 5% off too. We want to reward you for buying more from us – it's that simple.

For many people, at a busy time of year, this list is confusing – just too many wines to wade through. However, that's where we come in. There are five of us here in the shop, ready on the phone to chat about your needs and help you assemble the cases of wine you need for the holidays.

Over the next few pages there's also a selection of pre-selected gifts. 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. The mixed cases are understandably popular.

It's early to write this - but a Happy Christmas from all of us here at SVS all the same,

Simon Taylor, November 2018

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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Monday 24th December
9.00am-3.00pm

Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th December
Closed

Thursday 27th and Friday 28th December
9.00am-6.00pm

Saturday 29th and Monday 31st December
9.30am-4.00pm

Tuesday 1st January
Closed

Wednesday 2nd January onwards
Normal hours

LAST ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS: NOON THURSDAY 20th DECEMBER

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

Gifts for Christmas

Delivery charges* to one address are as follows:

1-5 bottles: £10.00, 6-11 bottles: £8.50,
1 case of 12 bottles: £5.95, 12-24 bottles: £8.50

Please note:

- Free delivery for orders of £150 or more (to one address), or over £75 in the Winchester area.
- The prices for the bottles, pairs, magnums and sixes on pages 3-5 include delivery.
- *Delivery prices vary for delivery to the highlands, islands and Northern Ireland - please ask us for a quote.

Do contact us to discuss your specific needs and preferences. To order either call us on 01962 712351 or email 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.

We are happy to pack up any choice of wines from this list in units of 1, 2, 3, 6 or 12 as gifts. If alternatively 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.

In addition to the price of the bottles our charges for smart red gift boxes for one to three bottles are as follows:

£1.25 for a single bottle gift box (or £4.75 for a wooden box);
£2.75 for a two bottle pack (£6.50 in wood).
£3.75 for a three bottle pack

Our quoted delivery charges (see left) would apply in addition.

We can also offer vouchers to any value in multiples of £10.00 which can be redeemed against the purchase of wine with Stone, Vine & Sun, either by phone or on our website. Just give us the recipient's name and address, how much you want to spend, and we will send out some lists 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 pages 4-6 include UK delivery (excepting Highlands and Islands – please ask for a quote)

Big Festive Tasting

Friday 30th November, 6.00pm-8.30pm

**Venue: Milner Hall, 9 St Peter Street,
Winchester SO23 8BW**

It seems apposite to welcome you to our Christmas tasting in this beautifully renovated and lit former Catholic church. Based on the wines in this list, this walk-round tasting will encompass: a few lighter whites; aromatic and oaked whites, including barrel-fermented Chardonnay; fizz for celebrations; robust reds from the Rhône, Languedoc-Roussillon and the New World; classics from Bordeaux and Burgundy; several from off the beaten track; plus, of course, those delectable sweet and fortified wines which are such a part of the festivities.

We will be charging £10.00 a head for the tasting, but we do offer 10% off any bottle price for any wine in the tasting, for all orders placed on the evening.

**Please let us know if you plan to attend –
or order tickets from our website.**

HOW TO ORDER

To order either call us on 01962 712351 or email 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.

Magnums

We love magnums and always stock a large selection. They look spectacular, can ornament a room, and exude generosity when plonked on to a table. Add £7.50 to the prices quoted if you would like the magnums to be sent in a wooden box.

All prices quoted include delivery.

M118 £31.50

Château Barrejat, Madiran, Tradition, France, 2016
Highly popular unoaked Madiran

M218 £36.50

El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera del Duero, Roble, Spain, 2015
Oaked Tempranillo, bold and robust

M318 £44.50

Château Rocher-Gardat, Montagne Saint-Emilion, France, 2015
Classy, forward, right-bank Bordeaux

M418 £52.50

Michele Taliano, Roche dra Bossora, Roero Riserva, Italy, 2012
Superb Nebbiolo from Piedmont

M518 £53.95

Domaine des Espiers, Gigondas, Les Grames, France, 2015
Terrific organically farmed southern Rhône

M618 £65.00

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Tradition, Brut, France, NV
Our house Champagne – see p.19

All prices include delivery



Even bigger bottles....

J18 £97.50

Château Barrejat, Madiran, Tradition, France, 2016
A spectacular five litre jeroboam (equivalent to 6 2/3 bottles) of popular unoaked Madiran

DM18 £110.00

Domaine Le Couroulu, Vacqueyras, Cuvée Vieilles Vignes, France, 2015
A double magnum, three litres, so four bottles of this wonderfully hearty southern Rhône from a great vintage



Sixes

All prices quoted include delivery.

Sampler Six

S18 £59.25

Six different bottles, all offering easy-drinking, uncomplicated pleasure

Los Seduras, Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, Chile, 2017 (p.10)

Les Chapelières, IGP Comté Tolosan, France, 2017 (p.10)

La Colinas del Ebro, Garnatxa Blanca, Terra Alta, Spain, 2017 (p.10)

Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2017 (p.11)

Segares, Rioja Tempranillo, Spain, 2016 (p.20)

Valle Frio, Pinot Noir, Maule, Chile, 2018 (p.26)



Sixes - continued

All prices quoted include delivery.

Happy Half Dozen

S28 £81.90

Six varied bottles: fine Prosecco, two whites and three reds

Drusian, Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Extra Dry, Veneto, Italy, NV (p.18)

Doring Bay, Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa, 2017 (p.12)

Olivier Fichet, Mâcon-Burguy, Les Trois Terroirs, France, 2017 (p.14)

Domaine du Joncier, l'O, Côtes du Rhône, France, 2016 (p.17)

Begali, Valpolicella Classico, Italy, 2016 (p.20)

Goedverwacht, Great Expectations Shiraz, Robertson, South Africa, 2016 (p.24)



French Classic Six

S38 £109.30

Six bottles from classic French regions: Champagne, two whites and three reds

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Brut, NV (p.19)

Domaine Fourrey, Chablis, 2016 (p.14)

Domaine de l'Aumonier, Touraine Sauvignon, 2017 (p.16)

Château Les Combes, Lussac-Saint-Emilion, 2015 (p.21)

Domaine Le Couroulu, Vacqueyras, Classique, 2013 (p.25)

Lequin-Colin, Bourgogne Pinot Noir, 2015 (p.26)



Christmas Dozens

All dozens include a discount of 5%. The first three cases contain two bottles of each of the six wines listed; the latter three twelve different bottles.

Normal delivery charges – see p. X - apply to all cases of twelve

Christmas Decorations

CC18 £95.45

Two bottles of each of three whites, three reds, offering bright and fruity drinking

Los Seduras, Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, Chile, 2017 (p.10)

Les Chapelières, IGP Comté Tolosan, France, 2017 (p.10)

La Colinas del Ebro, Garnatxa Blanca, Terra Alta, Spain, 2017 (p.10)

Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2017 (p.11)

Great Expectations, Crane Red Merlot, Robertson, South Africa, 2017 (p.11)

Segares, Rioja Tempranillo, Spain, 2016 (p.20)

Winter Reds

CC28 £127.95

Two bottles of six reds, generous, warming and food-friendly

Vignerons d'Estézargues, Côtes du Rhône, Cuvée des Galets, France, 2017 (p.11)

La Rocca, Nero di Troia, IGT Puglia, Italy, 2015 (p.23)

Goedverwacht, Great Expectations Shiraz, Robertson, South Africa, 2016 (p.24)

Domaine du Grand Arc, Corbières Rouge, Reserve Grand Arc, France, 2015 (p.24)

Silent Noise, SGZ, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2017 (p.24)

Michele Taliano, Barbera d'Alba, A Bon Rendre, Italy, 2017 (p.27)

Festive Favourites

CC38 £142.75

Two bottles of each of our fine Prosecco, two whites and three reds – popular styles for holiday entertaining

Drusian, Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Extra Dry, Veneto, Italy, NV (p.18)

Doring Bay, Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa, 2017 (p.12)

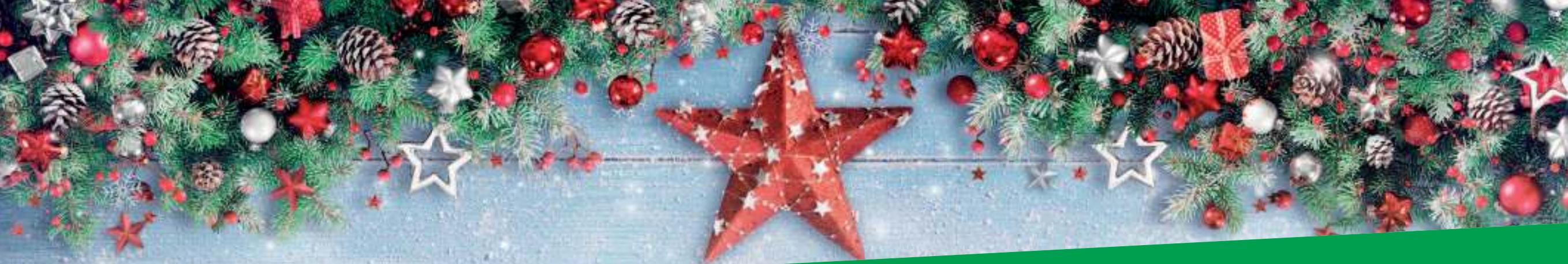
Olivier Fichet, Mâcon-Burguy, Les Trois Terroirs, France, 2017 (p.14)

La Pigeade, Ventoux, Les Sables, France, 2016 (p.20)

Les Graves de Loirac, Médoc, Cru Artisan, France, 2014 (p.21)

Michele Taliano, Barbera d'Alba, A Bon Rendre, Italy, 2017 (p.27)





Cases including twelve different bottles

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

Christmas Stocking C18DOZ £100.50

Six whites and six reds

Los Seduras, Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, Chile, 2017 (p.10)

Les Chapelières, Comté Tolosan, France, 2017 (p.10)

La Colinas del Ebro, Garnatxa Blanca, Terra Alta, Spain, 2017 (p.10)

Château La Grave, Le Blanc, IGP Hauts de Badens, France, 2017 (p.10)

Domaine Laballe, Sables Fauves, IGP Les Landes, France, 2017 (p.12)

La Combe Saint-Paul, Chardonnay, IGP Pays d'Oc, France, 2017 (p.14)

Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2017 (p.11)

Gran Verano Carmenère, Valle Central, Chile, 2017 (p.11)

Great Expectations, Crane Red Merlot, Robertson, South Africa, 2017 (p.11)

Segares, Rioja Tempranillo, Spain, 2016 (p.20)

La Rocca, Nero di Troia, IGT Puglia, Italy, 2015 (p.23)

Valle Frio, Pinot Noir, Maule, Chile, 2018 (p.26)



Xmas Delights C28DOZ £135.95

One sparkler, five whites, five reds and a bottle of port

Diamant de Loire, Crémant de Loire, Brut, France, NV (p.18)

Corte Mainente, Cengelle, Soave, Italy, 2017 (p.12)

Clos des Montys, Muscadet Sèvre et Maine sur lie, France, 2017 (p.12)

Doring Bay, Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa, 2017 (p.12)

La Combe Saint-Paul, Calcaires d'Ensérune, Languedoc, France, 2017 (p.13)

Olivier Fichet, Mâcon-Burgy, Les 3 Terroirs, France, 2017 (p.14)

La Pigeade, Ventoux, Les Sables, France, 2016 (p.20)

La Chapelle des Bois, Fleurie, Grand Pré, France, 2017 (p.20)

Goedverwacht, Great Expectations Shiraz, Robertson, South Africa, 2016 (p.24)

Begali, Valpolicella Classico, Italy, 2016 (p.20)

Les Graves de Loirac, Médoc, Cru Artisan, France, 2014 (p.21)

Krohn, Port, LBV, 2012, Portugal (p.31)

Christmas Crackers C38DOZ £183.50

A bottle of Champagne, five whites, five reds, and a sherry

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Brut, NV (p.19)

Domaine Fourrey, Chablis, France, 2016 (p.14)

Domaine de l'Aumonier, Touraine Sauvignon, France, 2017 (p.16)

Pasji Rep, Zelen, Vipavska Dolina, Slovenia, 2017 (p.16)

Filadoro, Greco di Tufo, Italy, 2016 (p.22)

Domaine Des Dieux, Chardonnay, Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, South Africa, 2014 (p.15)

Château La Justice, Fronsac, France, 2015 (p.17)

Fiorano, Terre di Giobbe, Rosso Piceno Superiore DOC, Italy, 2015 (p.17)

Domaine Le Couroulu, Vacqueyras, Classique, France, 2013 (p.25)

Wickhams Road, Pinot Noir, Gippsland, Australia, 2017 (p.26)

Michele Taliano, Barbera d'Alba, A Bon Rendre, Italy, 2017 (p.27)

Lustau, Dry Oloroso, Don Nuño, Spain (p.31)



Whites for daily drinking and parties

Vibrant, uncomplicated wines for easy-drinking occasions: Chilean Sauvignon Blanc, two quaffers from the south of France and a great value Grenache Blanc from Catalonia.

Los Seduras, Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, Chile, 2017, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.25 6 bts with 5% off £41.32 Case with 10% off £78.30 Code SED117

To be applauded for its typicity to the grape variety; one of our best sellers.

Bright, crisp and fruity; a lightly tropical perfume and then a cheerful mouthful of grassy and pineapple flavours, with a refreshing finish. Now-2019

Les Chapelières, IGP Comté Tolosan, France, 2017, 11.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.75 6 bts with 5% off £44.17 Case with 10% off £83.70 Code AGW317

From south-west France, and similar to wines from the Côtes de Gascogne, this is a fresh and easy-drinking blend of Ugni Blanc and Colombard with lowish alcohol and refreshing bite.

Clean, bright and lemony, with a pleasing pear accent. Not bone dry and as such perfect for parties. Now-2019

La Colinas del Ebro, Garnatxa Blanca, Terra Alta, Spain, 2017, 14%

Bottle £9.25 6 bts with 5% off £52.72 Case with 10% off £99.90 Code CDE717

This is the fourth - and best - vintage we have shipped of this 100% white Grenache from clay/limestone vineyards about 500 metres up (Terra Alta = highlands) in Catalonia.

Light air of stone fruit and herbs. More punch on the palate, showing pink grapefruit and white peach, some weight and a stony freshness. Good value - this would cost quite a bit more if from the Rhône. Now-2019

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

Bottle £9.50 6 bts with 5% off £54.15 Case with 10% off £102.60 Code GRV817

This used to be a nameless IGP – it looks so much better labelled as Le Blanc! It's from halves of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc: the former brings volume which is perfectly balanced by fresh citrus notes from the latter.

Simple and enjoyable, a tutti-frutti blend from grapes grown in plentiful sunshine. Very useful as an all-rounder, either as an aperitif or with fish and chicken dishes. Now-2019



Reds for daily drinking and parties

Open, demonstrative reds: again, two from the south of France, Languedoc and Rhône, plus chunky Cape Merlot and a fresh Chilean.

Les Pradelles, IGP d'Hérault, France, 2017, 12% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.50 6 bts with 5% off £42.75 Case with 10% off £81.00 Code PRD117

A typical Languedoc blend of Carignan and Grenache, bottled at a spanking new co-op at Cébazan in St.-Chinian.

Red fruited with a surprisingly good texture, no rough edges, soft, light and juicily berried. Perfect for parties! Now-2019

Apaltagua, Gran Verano Carmenère, Valle Central, Chile 2017, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 6 bts with 5% off £45.31 Case with 10% off £85.86 Code APA817

Apaltagua are a medium-sized Chilean winery, proud that all their grapes come from their own vineyards, giving them better quality control. Carmenère may have its origins in Bordeaux but thrives much better in the warmer Chilean climate and has deservedly become one of the country's success stories.

A juicy wine, a pleasant cocktail of redcurrant, blackberry and raspberry, with the merest hint of tobacco: just that bit more interesting than a Chilean Merlot. Now-2019

Great Expectations, Crane Red Merlot, Robertson, South Africa, 2017, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.75 6 bts with 5% off £49.87 Case with 10% off £94.50 Code GDV417

Made by the engaging Du Toit family at Goedverwacht (which translates as "great expectations") in Robertson, source of a lot of good value Cape wine.

The latest is a step up on previous vintages, fresher and more lifted than in the past, without losing its heartiness and generous plum fruit. With hints of coffee and spice this packs lots of flavour at the price. Now-2019

Les Vignerons d'Estézargues, Côtes du Rhône, Cuvée des Galets, France, 2017, 14%

Bottle £9.50 6 bts with 5% off £54.15 Case with 10% off £102.60 Code ESZ117

This is the 15th vintage we have shipped of this deliciously fruity Côtes du Rhône, from this unfailingly reliable co-operative of just ten growers between Avignon and Nîmes. All wines here are from sustainably or organically farmed grapes, made naturally (i.e. without any additives bar the merest bit of sulphur to ensure stability) and bottled unfiltered.

Juicy, well-textured blend of Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah: raspberryish mouthful, mildly spicy and very moreish. A long term favourite at SVS. Now-2019



Crisp and Bright Whites

The key here is freshness - and specifically acidity - a mouthwatering edge which makes one come back for another sip. Three wines (bar the Soave) come from vineyards cooled by oceanic climates.

Domaine Laballe, Sables Fauves, IGP Les Landes, France, 2017, 11.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.95 6 bts with 5% off £56.71 Case with 10% off £107.46 Code LAB117

The Sables Fauves is a terroir on the edge of the forest of Les Landes, south of Bordeaux. From about 50% Gros Manseng and 30% Ugni Blanc with 10% each of Sauvignon Blanc and Colombard, this is a stunning wine, delivering both great freshness and intense fruit.

Zingy attack dominated by passionfruit and guava; a juicy palate with good texture and a distinctive salinity. A bright aperitif or an excellent accompaniment to sushi or simply cooked white fish. Now-2019

Corte Mainente, Cengelle, Soave, Italy, 2017, 12.5%

Bottle £10.95 6 bts with 5% off £62.41 Case with 10% off £118.26 Code MAI117

The reputation of Soave, a DOC just east of Verona, was ruined by the supermarkets demanding ever higher yields of tasteless juice. The real thing, as here crafted by young Davide Mainente, is so enjoyable.

From 90% Garganega (with 10% Trebbiano di Soave) on calcareous soils, this is exceptional in a frost affected, low-yielding vintage. Overtly fruity and floral - white peach with jasmine - and medium-bodied, this offers a delicious glass. "Chock-full of fine fruit. Racy and so refreshing and charming! 16.5/20", Jancis Robinson MW, jancisrobinson.com, 5th November 2018. Now-2019

Clos des Montys, Muscadet Sèvre et Maine sur lie, France, 2017, 12%

Bottle £10.95 6 bts with 5% off £62.41 Case with 10% off £118.26 Code CDM117

A superior Muscadet, from ancient vines, mostly 80-100 years old, grown on thin, sandy soils over hard metamorphic rock: perfect as a match for a wide range of seafood, but a refreshing aperitif too.

There's an exoticism to this which is alluring - apricot and melon permeate the wine, though it's otherwise anti-fruity, with hints of hay and white pepper over a stony base. Now-2020

Doring Bay, Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa, 2017, 14.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £11.50 6 bts with 5% off £65.55 Case with 10% off £124.20 Code FRY317

Doring Bay is the second line (with an artful tin can label, a nod to the winery's location inside a former canning factory on the harbour) of Fryer's Cove, largely from fruit grown in their isolated, cool-climate vineyard on the cloudy Atlantic coast.

An intense, green-fruited and zippy example, punchy and herbaceous. Plenty of concentration and weight. A SB for winter! Now-2019



Weighty and Complex Whites

Winter calls for whites with body and depth of flavour: these four deliver in spades. These are whites for food, perfect to serve not just with full-flavoured fish but also with white meats from chicken to veal and pork.

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

Bottle £10.95 6 bts with 5% off £62.41 Case with 10% off £118.26 Code CSP417

From halves of Roussanne and Vermentino (Rolle), grown on limestone soils near La Clape on the Med., and with about 10% aged in old barrels, this combines weight and freshness well.

*Such an impressive wine at the price: attractive white peach character with the slightest accent of marzipan and a dry, chalky character too, making this an excellent accompaniment to even strongly flavoured dishes. Included in Rosemary George, My Top 30: Languedoc Whites, *Decanter* magazine, August 2018. Now-2019*

Fiorano, Donna Orgilla, Offida Pecorino, Italy, 2016, 13%

Bottle £15.50 6 bts with 5% off £88.35 Case with 10% off £167.40 Code FIO616

Offida Pecorino is a DOCG for wines from Pecorino, an ancient grape of the southern Marche, in this commune of Ascoli Piceno. At Fiorano, farmed organically and enjoying a perfect site in an amphitheatre of vines, it delivers a complex white.

Open, herby scent. Incisive mouthful of fresh pears and lemon with hints of fennel and menthol. Excellent depth - from six months ageing on the lees - but not in the least heavy. Classy. Now-2020

Nestares Eguizabal, Rioja, A Veredas, Spain, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £15.95 6 bts with 5% off £90.91 Case with 10% off £172.26 Code NES616

A wine we have just introduced, which has found favour among customers and sommeliers alike. Just rounded by barrel ageing, it's a far cry from oaky and oxydised white Rioja of old.

Well-textured and subtly flavoured with orchard fruit and herbs. Understated, but just grows and expands on the palate. Now-2020

Blankbottle, Moment of Silence, Wellington, South Africa, 2017, 14%

Bottle £16.95 6 bts with 5% off £96.61 Case with 10% off £183.06 Code BBO117

Moment of Silence (or MoS for short) is always the best value wine in Pieter Walser's eclectic zoo of mad and bad blends. Chenin Blanc from four different sites, plus Grenache Blanc and Viognier, barrel-fermented and aged on the lees for a year.

Bold, full-flavoured and concentrated, intensely stone-fruited with cream and nuts. We never can work out how Pieter gets so much texture into his whites! Now-2020





Chardonnay

A few customers may groan, but we sell hectolitres of Chardonnay, from unoaked (i.e. made using stainless steel or neutral tanks) to barrel-fermented. White Burgundy has become one of the most expensive wines in the world: we hunt - from Chile to the Cape to Australia - for wines which unashamedly have Burgundian qualities but which may come with a lower price tag. For two top examples see also p.28.

Unoaked

La Combe Saint-Paul, Chardonnay, IGP Pays d'Oc, France, 2017, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.95 6 bts with 5% off £51.01 Case with 10% off £96.66 Code CSP117

Young couple Paul and Line Maury are among the brightest of all our suppliers, delivering super value wines which both look and taste smarter than their price suggests.

Super this vintage: lively, lots of pear and tangerine fruit, ripe and rounded; everything one could want from simple, unoaked Chardonnay. Now-2019

Olivier Fichet, Mâcon-Burgy, Les 3 Terroirs, France, 2017, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £12.75 6 bts with 5% off £72.67 Case with 10% off £137.70 Code FIC517

Olivier Fichet's excellent unoaked Chardonnay, from three plots, including some very old vines, at Burgy near Viré in the northern Mâconnais. Deservedly hugely popular.

Open, generous French Chardonnay, nicely weighted, with hints of grapefruit and almonds. Now-2020

Domaine Furrey, Chablis, France, 2016, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £15.50 6 bts with 5% off £88.35 Case with 10% off £167.40 Code FRR116

From a brother and sister team in Milly, this is now showing superbly: decent Chablis keeps so well.

This opens beautifully, offering ripe, almost lightly honeyed scents, and then completely consistent flavours of citrus and dairy, with good weight too. Now-2021

Oaked

Errázuriz, Wild Ferment Chardonnay, Casablanca, Chile, 2016, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £11.95 6 bts with 5% off £68.11 Case with 10% off £129.06 Code ERR816

Errázuriz are leaders in Chile when it comes to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, continuously refining their wines. This consistently successful New World Chardonnay is now even better: from earlier picked grapes, it's now in a fresher, less oaked and lower alcohol idiom.

Good weight, very ripe - a hint of tangerine - and generous. Now-2020



Domaine Des Dieux, Chardonnay, Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, South Africa, 2014, 13%

Bottle £16.50 6 bts with 5% off £94.05 Case with 10% off £178.20 Code DDD114

Des Dieux has vineyards perfectly sited at the top of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. This wine has swiftly become one of our benchmarks, a full-flavoured, perfectly-ready-to-drink, barrel-fermented and aged (about 30% new oak) Chardonnay of concentration and length.

In the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards this was the highest scoring (Gold Medal and 96/100) Cape Chardonnay, described thus: "Exotic nose of honeysuckle, lemon and lime, wet chalk and creamy biscuit notes. There is subtlety, concentration, and weight of fruit on the palate with fine balance, a lemon-lime cordial intensity and long, mineral finish. Very classy and complex wine. 96/100".

Lequin-Colin, Bourgogne Chardonnay, Back to the Roots, France, 2016, 12.5%

Bottle £18.95 6 bts with 5% off £108.01 Case with 10% off £204.66 Code LEQ516

All in barrel, 10% new, and crafted in a deliberately old-fashioned way (hence the name), with lots of lees stirring. This is always superb, showing overt ripe fruit, attractively fat and rounded, but fresh too. We ship more and more of this wine each vintage - decant it and you can pass it off as something far grander.

"Racy, dry (no sweetness here), obviously French with very agreeable transparency. Super zesty. GV. 16.5/20", Jancis Robinson, MW, www.jancisrobinson.com, 24th October 2018. Now-2022

Hoddles Creek, Chardonnay, Yarra Valley, Australia, 2016, 13.9% [Screwcap]

Bottle £21.95 6 bts with 5% off £125.11 Case with 10% off £237.06 Code HOD116

Hoddles Creek Estate was established in 1997 when the D'Anna family decided to establish a vineyard on steeply sloping blocks at about 250m. situated in the southern, highest and coolest district of the Upper Yarra.

Restrained and subtle nose but then unfurls flavours of honey and ripe pears. Considerable weight cut by refreshing acidity. Very refined and complete, with genuine length, this is comfortably a match for more expensive white Burgundy. Highly recommended. "Big and rich initially but wonderfully delicate and racy. This is the stuff to challenge white burgundy! So clean but reasonably profound too. Convincing chew on the end. GV. 16.5/20", Jancis Robinson, MW, www.jancisrobinson.com, 5th November 2018. Now-2022

Pandolfi Price, Los Patricios Chardonnay, Valle del Itata, Chile, 2014, 15%

Bottle £22.95 6 bts with 5% off £130.81 Case with 10% off £247.86 Code PAP314

Winemaker François Massoc is acknowledged to craft the finest Chardonnays in Chile: here he is working with old vine fruit from southern Itata, enjoying a cool, maritime influenced climate.

This shows enticing aromas of smart toasty oak and dairy elements; followed by a powerful and well-textured mouthful of green fruit with a smoky note. Hugely impressive - a Chilean Meursault? Now-2021



Organics

We are always careful here as there isn't a precise definition of "Organic" wine – which is why we tend to refer to wine from organically farmed grapes. Whatever the distinction, all the growers featured here have their wine certified as organic. You will also see reference to biodynamics: this is organic cultivation with knobs on, in particular managing the vineyard and winemaking by phases of the moon, according to the theories of Dr. Rudolf Steiner. Do organics / biodynamics make a difference? Quite apart from the possible long-term health benefits, does one get a little more clarity of fruit and energy from organically farmed grapes? Or is it the placebo effect? Try and see....

White

Domaine de l'Aumonier, Touraine Sauvignon, France, 2017, 12.5%

**Bottle £11.95 6 bts with 5% off £68.11
Case with 10% off £129.06 Code AUM117**

This Loire Sauvignon Blanc is a long-established best-seller here, admired for its overt fruitiness, and served at numerous parties and weddings.

Well delineated ripe citrus with notes of cut grass, with satisfying generosity of flavour and volume.

"Pure, intense, rather floral fruit. Kerpow! A little bit richer than the average Touraine white. 16/20", *Jancis Robinson MW, jancisrobinson.com, 5th November 2018. Now-2019*



Pasji Rep, Zelen, Vipavska Dolina, Slovenia, 2017, 11.5%

Bottle £13.50 6 bts with 5% off £76.95 Case with 10% off £145.80 Code PAS117

Zelen used to be the grape for the aristocracy in the Vipava Valley – but as it's fickle to crop it's just grown in a few pockets there now. This is given lots of lees stirring, malolactic fermentation, and a third goes into old barrels.

Mid-weight, peach-fruited, creamy, with notes of sourdough and herbs. In some ways Zelen shows Viognier and Muscat-like flavours, but it has a personality all of its own and a depth of flavour which belies the lowish alcohol. "Smart label.

Smells of gingerbread men! Lots of excitement and some fine tannins. Interesting ... low alcohol too. 16/20", Jancis Robinson MW, jancisrobinson.com, 5th November 2018. Now-2020

Domaine du Météore, Les Aquarides, Faugères Blanc, France, 2017, 14%

Bottle £13.95 6 bts with 5% off £79.51 Case with 10% off £150.66 Code MET717

From vines right up against the plateau near Cabrerolles, cooled by the altitude and breeze: 50% Roussanne with 40% Rolle (Vermentino) and 10% Clairette, unoaked.

A scent of exotic fruit anticipates a wonderful cocktail of flavours; stone fruit and pineapple. Concentrated, fresh and complete. Now-2019

Amadieu, Cairanne Blanc, Haut de Beauregard, France, 2016, 14%

Bottle £20.95 6 bts with 5% off £119.42 Case with 10% off £226.26 Code AMB616

Stunning blend of Roussanne, Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Viognier (all bio-dynamically farmed, so organics with extras!), barrel fermented and aged.

Strong peach and citrus character, with rich apricot and cream in the background. Ripe, concentrated and fat. Weighty Mediterranean wine for strongly flavoured Mediterranean food – think olives, peppers, garlic and herbs. Now-2021

Red

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

Bottle £12.50 6 bts with 5% off £71.25 Case with 10% off £135.00 Code MET115

From about 30% each of Syrah and Grenache, and 20% of Mourvèdre and Carignan, unoaked; and always shows those distinctive, lifted and perfumed notes derived from the meagre schist-based soils in Faugères.

Lively and refreshing, with ripe blackberry and blackcurrant flavours, plenty of schist character and a long finish. Round and attractive, this is more polished than usual in this superb vintage and should be perfect with grilled beef. Now-2020

Domaine du Joncier, l'O, Côtes du Rhône, France, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £12.75 6 bts with 5% off £72.67 Case with 10% off £137.70 Code JON216

From Marine Roussel, queen of biodynamics, a hand-harvested, unoaked 100% Grenache from 45 year old vines in Lirac on the west side of the Rhône.

l'O stands not for water but purity in this intensely fruited wine, all raspberries and cherries, energetic, backed by soft tannins. Now-2020

Château La Justice, Fronsac, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle £14.95 6 bts with 5% off £85.21 Case with 10% off £161.46 Code JUS115

Organically farmed red Bordeaux is still rare. Justice has the same ownership as the neighbouring and historic Fronsac Château de la Dauphine, with the famed Michel Rolland as consultant: whisper it softly but some grapes come over the wall for this wine.

From 100% Merlot, this delivers generous black fruit with a hint of coffee, lots of energy and fine aromatics on the finish: its ambition shows how once Fronsac enjoyed stature to rival Pomerol and St Emilion. Now-2023

Fiorano, Terre di Giobbe, Rosso Piceno Superiore DOC, Italy, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle £15.50 6 bts with 5% off £88.35 Case with 10% off £167.40 Code FIO315

From 80% Montepulciano and 20% Sangiovese, grown in the wonderful summer of 2015, aged in old French oak barrels.

This is a big, expansive wine, perfect for winter food (in the Marche it would be wild boar but here pork casserole would do nicely!), punchy and concentrated, but with the lively cut of blackberry and blackcurrants too. Now-2021



Note: for further organic wines see also Fiorano's Pecorino (p.13), Lequin-Colin's Bourgogne Chardonnay (p.15) and Pinot Noir (p.26), Pasji Rep's Pinot Noir (p.23), M. Monier's bio-dynamic St Joseph (p.25), and Palagione's Antajr (p.27).

Sparkling Wine and Champagne

Alongside three Champagnes we offer cool-climate sparklers from the Loire, Limoux, the Veneto, the Cape - and just down the road in the Meon Valley in Hampshire!
Note that both our "house" Champagne from Thomas-Hatté and the English sparkler from Exton Park are available in useful halves and showy magnums.

Sparkling

Diamant de Loire, Crémant de Loire, Brut, France, NV, 12.5%

**Bottle £12.75 6 bts with 5% off £72.67
Case with 10% off £137.70 Code DIA1NV**

New to our list this summer: if you are seeking an easy-drinking, light, perfectly clean and fresh fizz, then look no further. Sparkling wine from Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay has been produced in Saumur in the same way as Champagne (i.e with a secondary fermentation in the bottle to create the fizz) since the early nineteenth century.

Fine mousse. Ripe, gently appley fruit, lightly creamy, with a little structure too. Easy to like, and classier than a lot of Prosecco. Now-2019

Domaine J. Laurens, Blanquette de Limoux, Le Moulin, Brut, France, NV, 12%

Bottle £13.50 6 bts with 5% off £76.95 Case with 10% off £145.80 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. Now-2020

Drusian, Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Extra Dry, Veneto, Italy, NV, 11%

Bottle £14.50 6 bts with 5% off £82.65 Case with 10% off £156.60 Code DRU1NV

Our wonderful, much praised Prosecco from a family owned producer with vineyards in the heart of the Valdobbiadene. *Deliciously sherberty, light, and with the merest hint of fruity sweetness, this makes a perfect aperitif. Now-2019*

Domaine des Dieux, MCC, Brut, Claudia, Elgin, South Africa, 2012, 11.5%

Bottle £17.95 6 bts with 5% off £102.32 Case with 10% off £193.86 Code DDD412

At the 2018 Champagne & Sparkling Wine World Championships this won the Trophy for Best South African Sparkling wine. Remarkably, in September Claudia 2012 also won the Amorim MCC (Methode Cap Classique) Challenge in Cape Town, in a field of no less than 127 entries – so effectively it has come out top with both local and international palates. From 80% Chardonnay and 20% Pinot Noir, made in the Champagne method with four years on its lees and another under cork, this delivers terrific value.

This was the CSWWC judges' note: "Great gunpowdery-toastiness on the nose, then with smoky notes and pristine fruit on the palate. Lovely lean structure. Very long and linear. An elegant wine". It stands comparison with plenty of far more expensive vintage Champagnes: yeasty, creamy and with great breadth on the palate. Now-2021



Exton Park, Britagne, Reserve Brut, NV, 11.5%

**Bottle £27.95 6 bts with 5% off £159.31
Case with 10% off £301.86 Code EXT1NV
Half bottle £16.95 6 halves with 5% off £96.61
Case [12 x 37.5cl.] with 10% off £183.06
Code EXT2NV
Magnum £63.50
3 magnums with 5% off £180.97
Case [6 x 150cl.] £342.90 Code EXT9NV**

The Exton Park wines, made by French winemaker Corinne Seely, from some of the earliest Hampshire plantings, and are amusingly named Britagne.

From a blend of 60% Pinot Noir and 40% of Chardonnay, a lively fizz: critics are beginning to appreciate that the distinctive qualities of English sparkling wine grown on chalky soils are bright acidity and a mineral edge. Now-2019

Champagne

Thomas-Hatté, Champagne, Tradition, Brut, NV, 12%

**Bottle £26.50 6 bts with 5% off £151.05 Case with 10% off £286.20 Code HAT1NV
Half bottle £13.95 6 halves with 5% off £79.51 Case [12 x 37.5 cl.] with 10% off £150.66 Code HAT2NV
Magnum £55.00 3 magnums with 5% off £156.75 Case [6 x 150cl.] £297.00 Code HAT9NV**

Our "house" Champagne, crafted by fifth generation champagne grower Franck Thomas from his family's historic holdings of just 3 hectares of vines around Fleury la Rivière, about 10 kilometres north-west of Epernay. 70% Pinot Meunier, 20% Chardonnay and 10% Pinot Noir, and that unusually high proportion of Pinot Meunier lends an early maturing charm, and some of the character of a well-aged vintage Champagne.

Splendidly rounded, creamy and mature, with some brioche and nutty nuances. Now-2018

Pol Roger, Champagne, Champagne, Brut, NV, 12%

Bottle £40.95 6 bts with 5% off £233.41 Case with 10% off £442.26 Code POL1NV

The classic, white foil cuvée, a blend of roughly equal thirds of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, given about four years ageing before release. (We do also have a few bottles of Pol's 2006 vintage at £65.00).

Biscuity, generous fruit, dry, yet plenty of weight and a nutty finish. Now-2021

Taittinger, Prélude, Champagne Grands Crus, Brut, NV, 12.5%

Bottle £41.50 6 bts with 5% off £236.55 Case with 10% off £448.20 Code TAI3NV

From halves of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, all from the best vineyards classified as Grand Crus, and given a minimum of five years ageing on the lees before release.

That extra ageing really shows in the rounded volume and the honeyed hints on the nose and palate. So polished and elegant, just slips down so easily. Would be excellent with light fish dishes too. Now-2022



Bright and Juicy Reds

Over the holidays one doesn't just need blockbusters – red refreshment is needed too, from soft wines like the Rioja for drinking on their own to bright wines with some cut. Reds like Beaujolais and Valpolicella are perfect for drinking with cold meats and charcuterie.

Segares, Rioja Tempranillo, Spain, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £9.75 6 bts with 5% off £55.57
Case with 10% off £105.30 Code NES116

From a small - 25 hectare - family-owned Rioja estate which we call our own. Situated in Rioja Media, the vineyards, in four plots, lie on a plateau at 520-650 metres between the Ocón and Jubera valleys. The wines have a distinctive house style: all are from only Tempranillo, and all exhibit a lovely purity of red fruit, with a lush texture aided by being bottled with minimal filtration.

Unoaked example of the joven style from 30+ year old vines which deliver excellent concentration. Very ripe, pulpy and strawberryish, soft and juicy; a simple pleasure. Now-2020

La Pigeade, Ventoux, Les Sables, France, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £10.95 6 bts with 5% off £62.41 **Case with 10% off £118.26** **Code PIG616**

The best vintage we have shipped yet of Thierry Vaute's Ventoux. From 40% Grenache, 40% Carignan and 20% Syrah grown on sandy soils, it's different to Côtes du Rhône in its freshness, grace and more moderate alcohol level.

Brilliant this year, almost candied cherry-ripe, lightly spiced with nutmeg; lovely flesh, perfume and bite. "Rich fruit with a herbal overlay. Lovely round stuff. Like a southern Rhône but fresher. VGV. 16/20", Jancis Robinson, MW, www.jancisrobinson.com, 5th November 2018. Now-2020

Begali, Valpolicella Classico, Italy, 2016, 12.5%

Bottle £11.95 6 bts with 5% off £68.11 **Case with 10% off £129.06** **Code BEF116**

Oh for those frivolous days of one's youth, drinking "Valpol" with "Spag Bol". Underrated now, good Valpolicella is such a juicy, light and pure wine.

From 2/3 Corvina and 1/3 Rondinella, offering a pretty and lively mouthful of juicy red cherries. Sappy and bright. Now-2019

La Chapelle des Bois, Fleurie, Grand Pré, France, 2017, 13%

Bottle £12.95 6 bts with 5% off £73.81 **Case with 10% off £139.86** **Code CHB117**

A change of ownership at this estate - always a cause for concern - but Frederic Montangeron's first vintage at La Chapelle des Bois is excellent.

Bright cherry colour. Rose and red-fruited fragrances. Crunchy cherry and berry mouthful, vivacious, with just a tiny hint of palate refreshing tannin. Served cool (but not too cold), this is a charmer. Now-2020

Bordeaux Blends

One of the wine world's classic wine styles: the traditional blends of Bordeaux – from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc (plus Petit Verdot and Carmenère) now imitated all over the world. See also the organically farmed Château de la Justice, Fronsac on p.17 – though strictly it's not a Bordeaux blend as 100% Merlot.

Les Graves de Loirac, Médoc, Cru Artisan, France, 2014, 12.5%

Bottle £12.50 6 bts with 5% off £71.25 **Case with 10% off £135.00** **Code GDL114**

From the Gillet family, grown on gravelly soils in Jau-Dignac et Loirac in the north of the Médoc, this blend of 2/3 Cabernet Sauvignon and 1/3 Merlot was a surprising discovery this September. Cru Artisan is an association of 44 privately owned domaines in the Médoc.

This smells ripe, savoury and enticing; and follows through perfectly, drinking well, with nice fat and even an attractive suggestion of cassis. Scores so well for sheer drinkability. Now-2021

Château Les Combes, Lussac-Saint-Emilion, France, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £14.95 6 bts with 5% off £85.21
Case with 10% off £161.46 **Code GRC415**

We can't have a Christmas list without one of Frederic Borderie's wines, paragons of ripeness, balance - and value.

Simply delicious in this great vintage, this unoaked Merlot-based wine always shows pure red fruit - raspberries and cherries - with fine acid. Supple, aromatic and very winning. Now-2022

Château Beauregard Ducasse, Graves, Albert Duran, France, 2015, 14%

Bottle £18.95 6 bts with 5% off £108.01 **Case with 10% off £204.66** **Code BDU615**

Gruff M. Perromat's top wine, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon with a little Petit Verdot, from his gravelly vineyards set in the woods of the far eastern end of the Graves.

First impression is of great mass; then it suggests a black fruit compôte with dried figs, with woodsmoke, spice and liquorice. Old-fashioned but so expressive and with years to go. Now-2025

Chamonix, Troika, Franschoek, South Africa, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £20.95 6 bts with 5% off £119.41 **Case with 10% off £226.26** **Code CHX214**

This wine was named Troika as it used to be a blend of three grapes, but in this vintage it's 50% Cabernet Franc, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, with 10% Petit Verdot and Merlot. Given 18 months in barrel, about half new, it's superb this vintage, a top 5 star winner in **Platter**.

*Cool black fruit with a hint of menthol, meaty elements and splendid concentration. "...aromatic dark berry & charcuterie notes, malleable tannins, savoury tobacco, tealeaf & cedar nuances", **Platter's 2017 Wine Guide**. Now-2021*



Off the Beaten Track

Across these pages we list less familiar whites and reds: these may be rare grapes or unusual blends; from lesser-known regions; or they may be familiar grapes grown in unlikely places. All are shipped by us not for tokenism but because we believe every one makes worthy drinking.

White

Tariquet, Chenin-Chardonnay, Côtes de Gascogne, France, 2017, 11.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.75 6 bts with 5% off £55.57 Case with 10% off £105.30 Code TRR317

From the Grassa family in south-west France, a successful blend: 25% of Chardonnay brings some creamy weight to the lighter Chenin Blanc.

Fresh, very melony, with accents of white flowers and pear. Now-2019

Left Field Albarino, Gisborne, New Zealand, 2016, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £11.95 6 bts with 5% off £68.11 Case with 10% off £129.06 Code LEF116

It makes complete sense to grow the grape which thrives in coastal Galicia and northern Portugal in maritime New Zealand. 15% went into old barrels, just adding a little roundness and complexity.

This is stone-fruited, lightly floral and shows a little heft. Pretty aperitif or drink with any seafood. Now-2019

Filadoro, Greco di Tufo, Italy, 2016, 13%

Bottle £14.50 6 bts with 5% off £82.65 Case with 10% off £156.60 Code FIM316

Greco is a grape which probably originated in the south of Italy, although it may have arrived with the ancient Greeks.

Greco di Tufo is the DOCG for the vineyards around the village of Tufo, on volcanic soils derived (unsurprisingly) from tuff or tufa.

This is a very distinctive style of wine, offering a fascinating spectrum of flavours, from tangerine and apricot to a clear saline note. This builds well, rounded and refreshing, and shows a splendidly long dry finish: it's intense and characterful. Now-2019

Zanut, Rebula, Goriska Brda, Slovenia, 2015, 12.5%

Bottle £15.50 6 bts with 5% off £88.35 Case with 10% off £167.40 Code ZAN115

Rebula is the Slovenian name for the Italian Ribolla Gialla grape, but it's more widely grown in Slovenia than in Friuli, especially in Brda, near the Italian border, where Borut Kocijančič at Zanut farms just seven hectares of the vineyards, mostly terraced and all grassed, on soils, rich in minerals, composed of clay, slate and sandstone.

Fascinating aromas of smoke and sandalwood with a floral note. It's dry, concentrated, lightly savoury and very long. Surprisingly full-bodied, it's a wine to drink with food, especially chicken or white fish in a sauce. "Clean, bracing nose of white peach juice. Bone dry and very pure with masses of fruit but no sweetness. Slightly powdery texture. Long and GV. 16/20", Jancis Robinson MW on jancisrobinson.com, 29th April 2018. Now-2019



Red

La Rocca, Nero di Troia, IGT Puglia, Italy, 2015, 14%

Bottle £9.95 Case £113.43 6 bts with 5% off £56.71 Case with 10% off £107.46 Code ROD415

A little grown grape which is a Puglian speciality; here the Nero di Troia is part aged in large old Slavonian oak vats. It's quite fast maturing, which helps soften the characteristic tannin.

Savoury and aromatic, a nice balance of black fruit and gentle acid. Perfect to accompany a spicy pasta dish. Now-2019



Pizzini, Nonna Gisella Sangiovese, King Valley, Australia, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £14.95 6 bts with 5% off £85.21 Case with 10% off £161.46 Code PIZ616

Many Italian immigrants were among the first settlers in the King Valley, bringing Italian vines. It's arguably the highest wine-growing region in the country, with vineyards on the slopes at 300m. to 800m, so it definitely qualifies as a cooler zone by Australian standards.

Named after Alfredo Pizzini's grandmother, so intended to be "warm and humble just like its namesake", this is a very winning wine. Aroma of cooked strawberries; and then it's deliciously ripe and charming, with real berry and cherry fruit concentration. Cries out for any Italian food from lasagne to tagliata. Now-2021

Cape Rock, Capa Roca, Olifants River, South Africa, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £17.50 6 bts with 5% off £99.75 Case with 10% off £189.00 Code CAP615

Based on Portuguese varieties - 37% each of Touriga Nacional and Souzao - plus Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and others.

"Deep purplish crimson. Correct intensity. Really luscious with a little bit of ocean freshness and a hint of saltiness. Truly complex wine. Great stuff! VGV. 16.5+/20", Jancis Robinson MW, jancisrobinson.com, 5th November 2018. Wonderfully warming and velvety wine, tasting of spiced damsons and plums. A winner. Now-2020

Pasji Rep, Pinot Noir, Vipavska Dolina, Slovenia, 2016, 14%

Bottle £20.95 6 bts with 5% off £119.41 Case with 10% off £226.26 Code PAS816

Samo Premrn is such an accomplished winemaker, crafting an exemplary range of organically certified wines on north-facing slopes at the eastern, narrow end of the Vipava Valley in western Slovenia. The valley, open to the Adriatic at the western end, also enjoys a cold mountain wind from the north, making it a sweet spot for Pinot.

Bright raspberries, very ripe and fleshy, concentrated, with a proper spine too. Very high quality Pinot. Now-2022

Rhône Varieties

Of the red grape varieties grown in the Rhône Valley – Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Carignan and Cinsaut (among others) – only the first two are widely planted outside France, especially Syrah / Shiraz, famed in Australia but increasingly successful in South Africa, California and Chile, as well as Sicily and Spain. Syrah / Shiraz is usually bottled unblended but the others tend to be made into hearty blends.

With bold flavours and generous body, these all make wines perfect for winter drinking.

Goedverwacht, Great Expectations Shiraz, Robertson, South Africa, 2016, 14% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.95 6 bts with 5% off £56.71 Case with 10% off £107.46 Code GDV616

This has been deservedly popular over the last year or so, delivering real varietal character at a fair price – and with more balance and freshness than an Australian example. It's a good all-rounder for a lot of red meat dishes.

Hugely winning: gush of cherry and raspberry, nicely perfumed, ripe, spicy and youthful but also supple. Now-2019

Domaine du Grand Arc, Corbières Rouge, Reserve Grand Arc, France, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £11.50 6 bts with 5% off £65.55 Case with 10% off £124.20 Code DGA215

One of our staples and best value wines at SVS – so no apologies for listing it again – from about 50% Carignan, with 35% Grenache and 15% Mourvedre, a splendid barrel-aged wine which can be drunk young or kept.

This is vigorous, delivering a gush of brambly fruit with spicy notes and fresh acidity. Now-2021

Cape Rock, Amnesty, Western Cape, South Africa, 2015, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £13.95 6 bts with 5% off £79.51 Case with 10% off £150.66 Code CAP815

Gavin Brand's take on a SGM blend – 36% Syrah, 33% Grenache, 31% Mourvèdre – given a year in old barrels, and with a wonderfully funky label.

Crushed strawberry perfume; and vivacious strawberry flavours, enlivened by pepper and spice. A charmer. Now-2020

Silent Noise, SGZ, (Shiraz/Grenache/Zinfandel), McLaren Vale, Australia, 2017, 14%

Bottle £13.50 6 bts with 5% off £76.95 Case with 10% off £145.80 Code SIL617

Silent Noise is the new project of young Charlie O'Brien, son of famed McLaren Vale winemaker Kevin O'Brien of Kangarilla Road.

An unusual blend; but the Shiraz doesn't dominate, and the fruit character of both the Grenache and Zinfandel comes through well. This is deliberately made in a breezy, up-front style, juicy and lively. Very food friendly – pork ribs or slow roast belly of pork would be perfect. Now-2020



Domaine Le Couroulu, Vacqueyras, Classique, France, 2013, 13.5%

Bottle £16.95 6 bts with 5% off £96.61 Case with 10% off £183.06 Code COW113

In 2013 Guy Ricard at Le Couroulu (= the curlew, the bird on his labels) only produced two thirds of his normal quantity, but he felt quality was excellent: "Les raisins était d'une grande concentration. C'est un superbe millésime, une année de garde".

Old-fashioned southern Rhône, about 50%

Grenache, with Syrah and Mourvèdre: forest fruit aromas preface an open, supple and juicy mouthful of raspberries and blueberry. Velvety, with splendid depths and subtle spice. Now-2021

Mas des Brousses, Coteaux du Languedoc, Terrasses du Larzac, France, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £18.95 6 bts with 5% off £108.01 Case with 10% off £204.66 Code MAB215

The Terrasses du Larzac – high stony vineyards on the edge of the Cevennes – are now widely accepted to be one of the top terroirs in the whole of the south of France. This is largely Mourvèdre (grown from cuttings from the famed Domaine Tempier in Bandol), with Syrah and Grenache, barrel-aged.

Concentrated but also high-toned and tense – mountain wine. Generous blackberry and raspberry, savoury and fresh. With just the correct grip on the finish, a classy bottle which is built to age. Now-2024

Jérôme Gradassi, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France, 2014, 14.5%

Bottle £23.95 6 bts with 5% off £136.51 Case with 10% off £258.66 Code GRD114

We love this Châteauneuf-du-Pape for its smooth and cultured demeanour – in the Clos des Papes idiom. From old vine Grenache with a good slug of Mourvèdre grown in the northern sector of the appellation, it drinks beautifully quite young but it has the concentration of the best wines of the appellation too.

"Sweet, spicy start. A very comfortable, relaxed, unforced wine with considerable charm. For early drinking though. The tannins are pretty light but the acid balance is good. 17/20", Jancis Robinson, November 2015. Now-2023

Domaine Monier-Perreol, St Joseph, Terres Blanches, France, 2014, 12.5%

Bottle £25.95 6 bts with 5% off £147.91 Case with 10% off £280.26 Code MOP114

This was perfectionist organic and bio-dynamic grower Jean-Pierre Monier's last vintage before handing over to his son Samuel. The low-yielding production of Terre Blanche (about a third new oak, the wood all aged naturally for seven years) derives from limestone/clay parcels on steeply pitched vineyards. Note the lowish alcohol – this is about finesse

Ripe, black fruited nose with a touch of vanilla. Pure blackberry fruit on the palate with a touch of cinnamon and vanilla. Lovely tension, a silky texture and perfectly supple. Now-2024



Pinot Noir

Yes, we admit it: we're obsessed with Pinot Noir here, in all its manifestations from good value Chilean or Languedoc charmers from via New Zealand, South Africa and Australia to the heights of Burgundy. It's not just because we drink these ourselves: far more important, you, our customers, enjoy drinking Pinot. So we continue to prospect for them to find new examples - we even ship a terrific organic Slovenian Pinot Noir (p.23). There's also a lovely Côte de Beaune on p.29. Pinot accompanies a wide range of foods (for example a lighter style is perfect with sweetbreads) but particularly any fowl, from chicken and guinea fowl to partridge and pheasant. Any of these would go well with the festive turkey.

Valle Frio, Pinot Noir, Maule, Chile, 2018, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.25 6 bts with 5% off £52.72
Case with 10% off £99.90 Code FRI318

This wine was one of our best discoveries of last year, and swiftly became a best-seller. From vines with some age planted in higher sites in the Maule Valley, it's surprisingly concentrated for a Pinot at this price, with a pretty lick of oak from barrel-ageing. Note - the 2018 vintage will arrive at the end of November - plenty of time to deliver before Christmas!

Pale and transparent. Lovely strawberry perfume. Bright fruit, good crunch and altogether true Pinot character. Now-2018



Lequin-Colin, Bourgogne Pinot Noir, France, 2015, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £14.95 6 bts with 5% off £85.21 Case with 10% off £161.46 Code LEQ615

We have been shipping François Lequin's Bourgogne for thirteen years, from vines farmed organically near Santenay (certified but not on the labels). All the wine goes into barrel, 10% new. This is currently slightly reduced so do decant vigorously - into a jug and back in the bottle works well. Look at the review!

"Glowing healthy ruby. Round fruit combines with admirable freshness in beautiful balance. Crunchy fruit in a Santenay way but overall this is sweet and pure. Exceptional value. ... VGV. 16.5/20", Jancis Robinson, MW, jancisrobinson.com, 24th October 2018. Inviting red fruits scents, and a generous, well-textured palate of cherries and fraises des bois: this remains good value. Now-2021

Fryer's Cove, Pinot Noir, Bamboes Bay, South Africa, 2015, 13%

Bottle £15.95 6 bts with 5% off £90.91 Case with 10% off £172.26 Code FRY615

Based on fruit from the calcareous Fryer's Cove vineyard outside Strandfontein, just above the frigid Atlantic. Note the pleasingly low alcohol level for a new world Pinot Noir.

An attractively fast-maturing Pinot, so already one enjoys pleasing savoury and undergrowth hints. Supple, strawberry and raspberry scented wine, aromatic, and lightly spicy. Now-2020

Wickhams Road, Pinot Noir, Gippsland, Australia, 2017, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £19.50 6 bts with 5% off £111.15 Case with 10% off £210.60 Code WIC617

Gippsland is an up-and-coming coastal region east and south of Melbourne. This has become one of our most applauded wines of the year, included in Matthew Jukes pick of 100 Best Australian Wines 2018/19: "... a remarkable wine and it has more vitality and friskiness than a Cirque de Soleil troupe of acrobats... a stunning expression of the Pinot Noir grape... bursting with cherry, plum and hedgerow glamour... mystical elixir".

Soft plum hue. Open, forward Pinot character: juicy and punchy raspberry fruit, already enticingly tinged with hints of that appealing savouriness which is so food friendly. Hugely successful and delicious. Now-2022

Italy

Four wonderful reds, two each from Piedmont and Tuscany.

Michele Taliano, Barbera d'Alba, A Bon Rendre, Italy, 2017, 13%

Bottle £12.95 6 bts with 5% off £73.81 Case with 10% off £139.86 Code TAN117

The Taliano brothers make delicious, good value wines from their modest cellars in Monti. About 1/3 of the wine is aged in old vats.

This is crafted in a supple, easy-drinking style, with forward and pretty raspberry and curranty fruit, creamy, with just a nudge of tannin. A crowd-pleaser. Now-2020

Boasso, Grappoli, Langhe Rosso, Italy, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle £17.95 6 bts with 5% off £102.31 Case with 10% off £193.86 Code BOA215

Grappoli are bunches of grapes - one adorning the label of this splendid blend: about 50% Nebbiolo, 40% Barbera and 10% Dolcetto, all grown around Serralunga, given a year in old vats. Like so many 2015 Italian reds this is a delightfully winning wine, with the juiciness of the Dolcetto and ripeness of the Barbera softening the more austere Nebbiolo.

Melting red fruit scent; and dominated by cherry flavours, with a suggestion of cherry liqueur. Balanced, silky, wine, refined yet with good supporting structure. Now-2021

Il Palagione, Antajr, IGT Toscana, Italy, 2011, 14%

Bottle £19.50 6 bts with 5% off £111.15
Case with 10% off £210.60 Code PAL411

Giorgio Comotti, owner of this estate with 10 hectares of vines just south of San Gimignano and east of Volterra is a charming and friendly soul. As with several of our Italian growers, viticulture here is organic. This is a bright, modern style wine of dramatic vivacity and punch.

70% Sangiovese with 15% of each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with lots of new French barriques. Surprisingly youthful, showy, intense and oaky, with a bittersweet, cassis heart. Lipsmacking, vital, this delivers immediate pleasure yet can be kept for years. Now-2022

Col di Lamo, Brunello di Montalcino, Italy, 2012, 14%

Bottle £34.00 6 bts with 5% off £193.80 Case with 10% off £367.20 Code CDL312

Brunello di Montalcino stands at the summit of Tuscan wines, which have to be 100% from the excellent local Sangiovese clone, known as Brunello, aged in barrel for two years and a further two years in bottle before being released. The Neri family vineyards lie at Torrenieri, just north-east of Montalcino, on soils based on sandstone and clay, with some of the alberese, the limestone-rich, schistous land which Sangiovese loves.

Dramatic aromatics: red fruits subtly spiced with nutmeg, cinnamon and tobacco. This vigorous, powerful wine builds beautifully on the palate. Good tannins there for keeping too. Now-2024



Grand Treats – White

Four oaked wines: two barrel-fermented Chardonnays, a white Bordeaux and a beautiful Condrieu.

Le Sartre, Pessac-Léognan, France, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle £25.00 6 bts with 5% off £142.50 Case with 10% off £270.00 Code LES115

Classic white Bordeaux is mysteriously out of fashion. This blend of 90% Sauvignon and 10% Semillon, barrel fermented and aged in a mix of new to 3 year old barrels, is vibrant and exciting.

Citrus and nut aromas, followed by a rich but fresh palate of exotic fruit and cream. Long. Already approachable - the oak is integrating nicely - open and dramatic. Stands up to smoked fish well. Now-2021

Domaine Saumaize-Michelin, Pouilly-Fuissé, Pentacrine, France, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle £27.50 6 bts with 5% off £156.75 Case with 10% off £297.00 Code SAU715

Roger Saumaize farms biodynamically (without certification) and thinks that delivers the balance between ripe fruit and mineral freshness which marks his brilliant wines. Named after the 5-sided marine fossils found locally, this wine is selected from several parcels across the estate and raised in larger 600 litre *demi-muids*.

Bouquet of citrus blossom and honey, intense and stony, consistent with the rich palate, concentrated and focused. The finish is fresh and limey. Now-2022

Domaine Pichat, Condrieu, La Caille, France, 2017, 13.5%

Bottle £41.50 6 bts with 5% off £236.55 Case with 10% off £448.20 Code PID617

At last we have managed to wheedle enough Condrieu (he only has three barrels) out of young Stephane Pichat to put it in a list. Here the Viognier grape makes truly inimitable wine.

1/3 in new barrels, with the ripe apricot and peach fruit and wonderfully rich texture balanced by bright minerality. Very long. Magnificent. If you have a lobster at hand (and I accept that we all don't) then drink this with it. Now-2020

Errázuriz, Las Pizarras Chardonnay, Aconcagua Costa, Chile, 2016, 13%

Bottle £55.00 6 bts with 5% off £313.50 Case with 10% off £594.00 ERR616

The top Errázuriz Chardonnay, named after the slate (Pizarras) with metamorphic rock in the vineyards near the cool Pacific. Stunning, this represents a new level of elegance for Chilean Chardonnay. It was scored by American wine critic James Suckling in May 2017 at 98/100.

Beautifully balanced, satiny Chardonnay. Less than 20% of the wine went into new barrels; and just 55% of the wine underwent malolactic fermentation; so one sees more fruit and more freshness. Such finesse and length: remarkable. Now-2022



Grand Treats - Red

Four countries here and four very different styles – all deliver pleasure.

El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera Del Duero, Reserva, Spain, 2014, 15%

Bottle £24.95 6 bts with 5% off £142.21 Case with 10% off £269.46 Code LAH314

Pilar Zapatero Pinto, daughter of the owning family, came to present her wines to customers in September, and this wine was the showstopper. This is so much more sophisticated than most Spanish reds: one reason is that it's aged only in French (rather than American) oak barrels.

100% Tempranillo, including some parcels 80-90 years old. Pure, lifted red fruit perfume on smart oak. Currently very youthful - but immediately approachable - showing svelte primary fruit. Powerful, but all beautifully in balance Now-2025

Jean Guiton, Savigny Les Beaune, 1er Cru, Les Hauts Jarrons, France, 2014, 13%

Bottle £28.50 6 bts with 5% off £162.45 Case with 10% off £307.80 Code GUI614

Young Guillaume Guiton is now getting wider recognition as one of the brightest young Burgundians: we (smug) spotted his talent eight years ago. He may not own the grandest vineyards, but he makes beautifully pure and silky Pinots still available for now at reasonable prices in this increasingly expensive region.

From old vines first planted 60 years ago on an east-facing slope close to Beaune; about 25% new oak. Very ripe fruit on the palate, with considerable mass. Lots of freshness and energy. Long. Now-2023

Cederberg, V Generations Cabernet Sauvignon, South Africa, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £37.50 6 bts with 5% off £213.75 Case with 10% off £405.00 Code CED915

We snaffled a little of this tiny production (about 400 cases produced a year) wonder. The fruit is from one vineyard, and for this wine owner David Niewoudt then makes a selection of the best barrels. The 2015 is a multi award-winner, including a gold medal in the 2017 Decanter World Wine Awards.

Cassis and vanilla perfume. Then crunchy, vivid black fruit, very youthful. Super-ripe tannins. Appealing hint of violets. Outstanding pure Cabernet. Now-2024

Begali, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, Monte Ca'Bianca, Italy, 2013, 16%

Bottle £49.50 6 bts with 5% off £282.15 Case with 10% off £534.60 Code BEF513

From a blend of Corvina, Corvinone and Rondinella, all grown in the single Monte Ca' Bianca vineyard, and all aged in French barriques, 1/3 new. Begali are one of the twelve "Famiglie Storiche", historic families of Amarone, an association dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of this famed style, whereby the wine is made from selected bunches of grapes dried in the autumn on straw to concentrate the sugars and dry extract. As such it's high in alcohol but not fortified. *This has the air of a very fine wine: smart oak, superb aromatics; and intense black fruit cut by fine acidity dancing around. Amarone is wonderful wine to sip with hard cheese (for example aged Cheddar) at the end of a meal, but you could pair this to strongly flavoured meat such as venison too. Now-2029*



Medium to Sweet Wines

As ever we warn against serving any of these with sweet puddings – they will be overwhelmed. The first is really an aperitif, and the other three far better on their own (instead of pudding?) or with cheese.

Dr Loosen, Erdener Treppchen, Riesling Kabinett, Mosel, Germany, 2016, 8% [Screwcap]

Bottle £15.95 6 bts with 5% off £90.91 Case with 10% off £172.26 Code DRL216

Ernie Loosen's off-dry Riesling, from the famous, brutally steep, red slate vineyard above Erden.

Delicious flavours – elderflower and lemon sherbet, with just a suggestion of spritz. A bottle can vanish awfully quickly. Now-2021

Château Barréjat, Pacherenc du Vic-Bilh, Cuvée de la Passion, France, 2016, 12.5%

50cl. bottle £12.95 6 bts with 5% off £73.81 Case [12 x 50cl.] with 10% off £139.86 Code BAJ806

100% Petit Manseng (superior to Gros Manseng, especially for late harvest styles) picked by Denis Capmartin in splendid late October conditions, well oaked.

Golden tone. Intense apricot and tangerine flavours, with dried fruit and toffee hints. Plenty of balancing acidity. Stunning with rich cheese. Now-2021

Château Pierre-Bise, Les Rouannières, Coteaux du Layon, Beaulieu, France, 2014, 11.5%

50 cl. bottle £20.95 6 bts with 5% off £119.41 Case [12 x 50cl.] £226.26 Code CPB514

Late picked Chenin Blanc from a vineyard on thin soil over splite at this famed estate. The Papin family's wines always balance sweetness with razor-sharp acidity to wondrous effect.

Mid gold. Rich, but not over-sweet, with tangy citrus cutting the mandarin and lychee flavours. Smoothly honeyed. Now-2022

Talosa, Vin Santo di Montepulciano, Italy, 1995, 14%

Half Bottle £23.50 6 bts with 5% off £133.95 Case [12 x 37.5cl.] £253.80 Code TAK895

From a careful selection of the best Trebbiano, Malvasia and Grechetto grapes picked in Tuscany in early October and dried for about four months before long ageing in small barrels. Yes it's expensive but the grapes were vinified 23 years ago!

Scent of cooked toffee. Wonderfully complex caramel and dried fruit flavours with a fresh citrusy edge. Reminiscent of the delicious oozing apple juice off a Tarte Tatin. Too good for biscotti dunking, but a lovely drop to drink with cake - or any cheese, especially mild blue cheese. Now-2029



Fortified – and an Armagnac

Late Bottled Vintage Port, fine Amontillado sherry, Vin Doux Naturel from the Roussillon and Armagnac: all perfect for sipping at Christmas, so bring on cake, cheese, nuts and raisins!

We don't usually list spirits, but a tasting of Tariquet's amazing range of Armagnacs converted us, and the 12 year old Folles Blanche was our favourite.

Krohn, Port, LBV, 2012, Portugal, 20%

Bottle £14.95 6 bts with 5% off £85.21 Case with 10% off £161.46 Code KRO112

Traditionally made LBV, so aged for four years in wood and then bottled without filtration (so this does have a deposit and does benefit from decanting).

Cooked plum and fruitcake character. Warming and friendly, no harsh acid or tannins, a ready to drink pleasure. Now-2022

Lustau, Dry Oloroso, Don Nuño, Spain, 20%

Bottle £14.95 6 bts with 5% off £85.21 Case with 10% off £161.46 Code LUS2NV

Lustau sheries offer wonderful quality at the price; this is 100% Palomino, deeply coloured and from a fairly old solera.

Dry palate of baked prune, damson and nuts. Weighty but fresh. Fascinating and understandably popular. Now-2020

Domaine Fontanel, Maury, France, 2014, 16%

Bottle £19.95 6 bts with 5% off £113.71 Case with 10% off £215.46 Code FON614

Maury is a lightly fortified wine from the Agly Valley north-east of Perpignan. This style of Vin Doux Naturel (literally naturally sweet wine, as all the sweetness comes from late-picked grapes, not added sugar) 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.

Based on one plot of 60 year old vines of Grenache Noir. Deep ruby colour. Really inviting nose of rich cherry fruits, cedar and sweet spices. Very pure, cherryish Grenache flavours (a little reminiscent of Bon Maman cherry jam), woven with notes of mocha, spice and cream. Perfect with chocolate desserts (Black Forest gâteau??). Now-2022

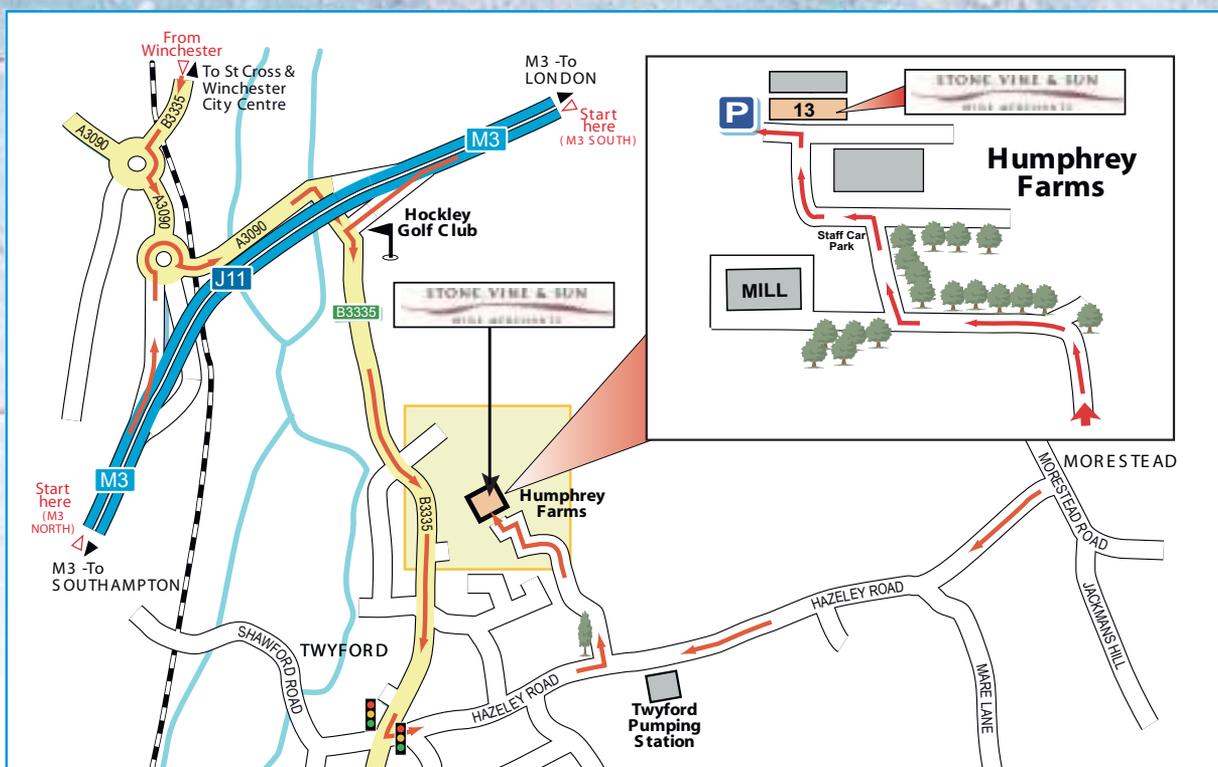
Chateau du Tariquet, Bas-Armagnac, 12 ans, Folle Blanche, France, 48.2%

Bottle [70cl.] £47.50 6 bts with 5% off £270.75 Code TRRFOL

Folle Blanche, a grape local to Charente-Maritime, is one of the principal grapes for the production of Cognac and Armagnac. As a grape it's known to be marked by fresh acidity and a 100% Folle Blanche is a rarity.

Clear barleysugar tone. Lively palate of bitter oranges and pineapples. This expands excitingly on the palate – it's really energetic and spicy. Now-2022





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