

Bordeaux and SW France - featuring splendid 2015 and 2016 reds

Cheerful Chileans

Sauvignon Blanc from Four Continents

Southern French Reds

German Riesling

Samo Premrn at Pasji Rep - a new star from Slovenia

Italian Duo - Arneis and Sangiovese

All wines
discounted by
10%
and eight mixed
cases by
12.5%

STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

Bordeaux and SW France

The Bordeaux region doesn't get a fair crack of the whip these days: the wines can be viewed as too expensive and too old school. It's absurd. Below the top 100 grand Châteaux the prices are stable and more than fair; and there are as many young *vignerons* determined to improve quality as anywhere else in France. Most important, the region is one of the winners in the climate change stakes: with warmer summers excellent wine can be made in decent volumes outside the perfect - but all too small - hallowed terroirs. It's already clear that 2015 and 2016 make up another of those harmonious pairings of excellent vintages in Bordeaux. As with 2009 and 2010, one can generalise: 2015 produced big, open wines for early drinking whilst 2010 is a "classic" vintage, with a more elegant structure. The summer of 2015 was hotter, so the grapes had higher sugar levels (and therefore higher alcohol) and less acidity. 2015 reds are softer, the fruit flavours are riper and they are so approachable and already delicious. 2016 was cooler, with fewer days in August over 35°C, so the resultant wines have fresher fruit, better acidity, and arguably, more complexity.

Here is a selection of our stock to bring you back to Bordeaux!

Simon Taylor - February 2019

Reds from SW France and Bordeaux: the splendid 2015 and 2016 vintages

Château Piconat, Bordeaux, 2015, 13%

Bottle £9.75 £8.77 Code PIC115

A recent retasting led us to ship more of this friendly example, with a pretty traditional label. Appealing red fruit, fresh and balanced, some body and finishes with a flourish. Very successful and complete blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. Now-2020



Mixed Dozens

Bordeaux and Neighbours

£103.95 BN19DOZ

Two bottles of two whites and four three reds, with a discount of 12.5% on list prices

Les Chapelières, IGP Comté Tolosan, 2017 (p.6)

Château Les Combes, Bordeaux Blanc, Sauvignon-Sémillon, 2017 (p.6)

Château Piconat, Bordeaux, 2015 (p.2)

Château La Plaigne, Bordeaux Supérieur, 2015 (p.2)

Château Barréjat, Madiran, Tradition, 2016 (p.2)

Château de Marsan, Cadillac, Côtes de Bordeaux, Cuvée Moulin Pasquier, 2016 (p.3)

Plush Claret of '15

£150.15 Code BR15DOZ

Two bottles of six reds, with a discount of 12.5% on list prices

Château Beausejour, Fronsac, 2015 (p.3)

Château Beauregard Ducasse, Graves, 2015 (p.3)

Château La Raze Beauvallet, Médoc, Cru Bourgeois, 2015 (p.3)

Château La Justice, Fronsac, 2015 (p.3)

Château Les Combes, Lussac-Saint-Emilion, 2015 (p.4)

Château Les Gravières de la Brandille, Bordeaux Supérieur, Cuvée Prestige, 2015 (p.4)

Château La Plaigne, Bordeaux Supérieur, 2015, 14%

Bottle £9.95 £8.95 Code PLA115

Charmingly labelled blend of 40% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Cabernet Franc, supple, aromatic, red and black-fruited with a proper claret structure. Cracking vintage of this long-term favourite. Now-2021 [Note: the excellent 2016 will follow at the same price]

Château Barréjat, Madiran, Tradition, 2016, 13%

Bottle £10.50 £9.45 Code BAJ116

Magnums £21.50 £19.35 Code BAJ916

Jeroboam - 5 litres £87.50 £78.75 Code BAJ516

"Pure fruit trumps the notorious tannins of the Tannat grape in this bright, energetic, unoaked wine", Jancis Robinson, FT Weekend Magazine, December 1st 2018.

Again superb, offering such vitality and fruit. Deeply hued and concentrated blend of 60% local grape Tannat with Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc, honest and mildly rustic. A best seller. Now-2021

Château de Marsan, Cadillac, Côtes de Bordeaux, Cuvée Moulin Pasquier, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £10.95 £9.85 Code MAR116

From about 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, this offers up extrovert aromas of berried fruit and vanilla oak; and a bright palate of red fruit with a hint of heated strawberries and cinnamon. Attractive, lively and youthful - and tastes like a more expensive name. Now-2021

Château Beausejour, Fronsac, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £11.95 £10.75 Code BEA115

Magnum £25.50 £22.95 Code BEA915

The Melet family has owned Château Beauséjour in Fronsac for five generations. Since 2011, the consultant oenologist has been one of Bordeaux's finest, Stéphane Derenoncourt: here the grapes are picked by hand and the wine is aged for eighteen months, two thirds in barrel. 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc; and terrific this vintage, delivering ripeness but also lively, red-fruited freshness. Well-textured and complete. Now-2023

Château Beauregard Ducasse, Graves, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle £13.50 £12.15 Code BDU815

From the far south of the Graves near Langon, a splendidly suave and traditional Bordeaux, based on Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon with a little Cabernet Franc, offering even better value than usual in the outstanding 2015 vintage. Open and generous red fruit, excellent aromatics, a well-covered structure and restrained Graves character too. Already delivers but will last for years. Now-2023

Château La Raze Beauvallet, Médoc, Cru Bourgeois, 2015, 13%

Bottle £14.95 £13.45 Code RAZ115

A discovery last September. From an estate in Civrac, this Cabernet dominated wine (with Merlot and Petit Verdot) offers smart cigar-box perfume, and then a fleshy, ripe raspberry heart with touches of spice. Distinguished at this price. One can barely go wrong with Cru Bourgeois in the perfect summer of 2015. Now-2024

Château Barréjat, Madiran, Vieux Céps, 2016, 14%

Bottle £14.95 £13.45 Code BAJ316

Magnums £30.95 £27.85 Code BAJ416

Old vines indeed, over 80 years and some pre-phylloxera: 80% Tannat plus the Cabernets, well-oaked. Inky purple. Flamboyant flavours of cherry, plum and blueberry, all tinged with mocha. Full-bodied; and plenty of tannin to keep it going - enjoy now or keep for years. Now-2025

Château La Justice, Fronsac, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle £14.95 £13.45 Code JUS115

Justice has the same ownership as the historic and famed Fronsac Château de la Dauphine and is also farmed organically (still rare in Bordeaux), with Michel Rolland as consultant. From 100% Merlot, this delivers generous black fruit with a hint of coffee, lots of energy and fine aromatics on the finish: it shows how once Fronsac enjoyed a stature to rival Pomerol and St Emilion. Now-2023

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

Bottle £18.95 £17.05 Code BDU615

Gruff M. Perromat's top wine, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon with a little Petit Verdot, well-oaked. 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

Château Perron, Lalande de Pomerol, 2015, 13%

Bottle £19.50 £17.55 Code PEQ115

About 80% Merlot and 10% each of Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon, from vines averaging 65 years old, and aged in barrel; 20% new, 40% first fill and 40% second fill. Charming perfume of fresh red berries. Silky and refined, not that concentrated but all in harmony. Cool red and black fruit. Showing less oak than many 2015s, this already gives a lot of pleasure. Now-2024

Château Barréjat, Madiran, Cuvée de l'Extrême, 2016, 14.5%

Bottle £22.95 £20.65 Code BAJ216

Extreme indeed: the inky, super-dense juice of ancient Tannat vines given 18 months in new barrels. Overt oaky waft. Voluptuous, bittersweet cherries (from candied to sour Morello) and sweet notes from the oak remind one of Black Forest gâteau. Hugely concentrated but not heavy. Extravagantly youthful - might last a long time.



Frederic Borderie at Gravières de la Brandille, Les Combes & Vieille Dynastie

We have been working with Fred since he emerged as a young star thirteen years ago. He now owns and runs three distinct vineyard areas with different labels: Gravières de la Brandille, from vineyards on gravel and clay terraces by the river Isle near St Medard de Guizières; Les Combes on the higher, limestone-based vineyards of Lussac-Saint-Emilion; and Vieille Dynastie, a parcel of six hectares of warm, clayey Lalande de Pomerol bought with this name in 2011.

Fred chooses unusual methods by Bordeaux standards; only one of the wines we list, the Gravières Prestige, goes into barrel. All the other wines are unoaked. When drinking them one is not aware of this: Fred explains that with long maceration (i.e. soaking of the juice with the skins and pips) "some tannins from the ripe seeds give light toasted flavours". Here are his 2015s for immediate consumption - and his stunning 2016s are listed opposite. We can not recommend these brilliant wines more highly.



Château Les Gravières de la Brandille, Bordeaux Supérieur, 2015, 13.5%

Bottle ~~£11.50~~ £10.35 Code GRC115
Magnum ~~£24.50~~ £22.05 Code GRC215

2/3 Merlot with about equal portions of Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc, drinking beautifully (and for years); as ever a superbly ripe, unoaked Bordeaux with plush red fruit. Now-2022

"And one from the right bank, a sort of baby Pomerol with a medicinal hint and great richness. Drink over the next few years.", Jancis Robinson, MW, **FT Weekend Magazine**, 30th November 2018.

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

Bottle ~~£14.95~~ £13.45 Code GRC415
Magnum ~~£31.50~~ £28.35 Code GRC714

From one 4.8 hectare plot with thin soils over limestone, among the highest in the appellation. 100% Merlot. Frederic Borderie saluted the terrific quality of his Merlot in 2015, so ripe and exuberant, delectably "confit". Simply delicious in this vintage, this unoaked wine always shows pure red fruit - raspberries and cherries - with fine acid. Supple, aromatic and very winning. Now-2022

Château Les Gravières de la Brandille, Bordeaux Supérieur, Cuvée Prestige, 2015, 14%

Bottle ~~£15.50~~ £13.95 GRC315

From 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, and a selection of older vines on prime gravel and clay soils, this has spent 12 months in oak barrels, about 25% new. This is always superb, and is often chosen both by our customers ahead of more prestigious names, and by French critics as one of the very best Bordeaux Supérieurs. Vanilla oak notes before a velvet-textured, concentrated palate with fine-grained tannins. A touch of spice. Decant and tell your friends it's the second wine of a classed growth! Now-2025

2016 reds, offered by the case of 6 only, with a 15% discount, from the winemaker featured on this page.

Château Les Combes, Lussac-Saint-Emilion, 2016, 13.5%

Case of 6 £76.25 Code GRC416

Vibrant red and black fruit - red cherry and bramble flavours - juicy and bright, backed by smooth fruit tannins. Ready, but perfectly poised so will keep for years. Now-2022

Château Les Gravières de la Brandille, Bordeaux Supérieur, Cuvée Prestige, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle Case of 6 £79.05 Code GRC316
Magnum Case of 6 x 150cl. £168.30 Code GRC916

Cedary aroma; and then a burst of intense red fruit - raspberry coulis. Silky, and so fine, with the merest suggestion of light tannins. Very persistent and aromatic. Best 2020-2026

Château Vieille Dynastie, Lalande de Pomerol, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle Case of 6 £91.55 Code VID116
Magnum Case of 6 x 150cl. £193.80 Code VID916

Wonderfully ripe - so rich, lush and supple. A sense of liqueur cherries - luxuriant fruit flavours over underlying structure. Only the remarkable purity indicates that this lovely red is unoaked. Now-2026

Mickael Moze-Berthon at Rocher-Gardat and Vieux Chantecaille

Mickael Moze-Berthon crafts powerful, clean and modern-style reds at his two cellars, one in the tiny hamlet of Bertin, north of Saint-Emilion where his principal wine is made, his Montagne Saint-Emilion; and the other in Pomerol. A stunning tasting with him last autumn really opened our eyes to quite how good his wines are, ripe and intense.



Château Rocher-Gardat, Montagne Saint-Emilion, 2015, 14.5%

Bottle £16.50 £14.85 Code ROG115
Magnum £34.50 £31.05 Code ROG915

90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, grown on seven hectares of thinly-soiled, *argilo-calcaire* slopes, into 30% new barrels. Perfect ripeness: vibrant raspberries and black cherries, youthful and vigorous. Plenty of potential. Now-2024

Vieux Chantecaille, Saint-Emilion, 2015, 15%

Bottle £22.95 £20.65 Code VCH115
Magnum £48.50 £43.65 Code VCH915

80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, into 50% new oak. Mickael has only 1¼ hectares of land within the Saint-Emilion Grand Cru boundary, just across the road from the famed Pomerol property of Le Bon Pasteur, but as his cellar is outside the limits of the St Emilion Grand Cru appellation he can only sell it as Saint-Emilion - so he is delivering wine from a Grand Cru terroir at a more modest price. Really classy, concentrated, svelte and cool red and black fruit, pure and harmonious. Decant to drink now. Now-2026

2016 reds, offered by the case of 6 only, with a 15% discount, from the winemaker featured on this page.

Château Rocher-Gardat, Montagne Saint-Emilion, 2016, 14.5%

Case of 6 £84.15 Code ROG116

Very open aromas, all crushed red fruit. Fleshy, ripe and stimulating. No need to wait to drink this. Great drive and length. Now-2023

Vieux Chantecaille, Saint-Emilion, 2016, 15%

Case of 6 £117.04 Code VCH116

Surprisingly fresh red fruit - bright strawberry flavour, great energy. The freshness hides the excellent mass and concentration. 2020-2026



Whites from SW France and Bordeaux

Fresh, breezy and fruity, and all between 10.5% and 13% in alcohol.



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

Bottle ~~£7.75~~ £6.98 Code AGW317

A best-seller, an easy drinking blend of Ugni Blanc and Colombard with lowish alcohol and refreshing bite. Clean and lemony, with a pleasing pear accent and a flinty freshness. Drink this year

Domaine du Tariquet, Classic, Côtes de Gascogne, 2017, 10.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle ~~£8.75~~ £7.88 Code TRR117
Magnum ~~£17.50~~ £15.75 Code TRR917

So brightly delicious, Ugni Blanc and Colombard tweaked with ripe Sauvignon Blanc and waxy Gros Manseng to give a zesty palate, citrus flavoured with notes of passion-fruit and pineapple. Drink this year

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

Bottle ~~£9.75~~ £8.77 Code TRR317

75% Chenin and 25% Chardonnay, fresh, very melony, with accents of white flowers and pear. Now-early 2020

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

Bottle ~~£9.95~~ £8.95 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-early 2020

Château Les Combes, Bordeaux Blanc, Sauvignon-Sémillon, 2017, 12%

Bottle ~~£10.50~~ £9.45 Code GRC617

Including about 20% Sémillon. Grassy aroma. Limey freshness, but also well-rounded and with a custard creaminess. Now-early 2020

Domaine du Tariquet, Amplitude, Côtes de Gascogne, 2017, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle ~~£12.50~~ £11.25 Code TRR417

A new wine from Tariquet, 100% Gros Manseng: dry, fresh, lightly grassy, with a core of ripe pears; but also gives an impression of honeyed richness with breadth and texture, hence the name. Impressive debut, a white as useful to accompany even quite rich chicken or pork dishes as an aperitif. Now-2020

Château Beauregard Ducasse, Graves, Albertine Peyri, 2015, 13%

Bottle ~~£16.95~~ £15.25 Code BDU115

Jacque Perromat's top white, 60% Semillon and 40% Sauvignon, all in new barrels. Oak now well integrated, supporting generous lime with cream, beeswax and honey. White Bordeaux of this quality is under-priced and under-rated - and it keeps very well too. Now-2021



Cheerful Chileans

Chile is the best source in the world for clean, well-made, fruity wines from well-known grapes at modest prices. So here are two whites and two reds, all with 10% off; and a mixed dozen at 12.5% off list prices

Los Seduras, Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, 2018, 12.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.25 £6.52 Code SED118

The latest vintage of this SB, to be applauded for its typicity to the grape variety at a fair price. Bright, crisp and fruity; a lightly tropical perfume and then a juicy mouthful of grassy and pineapple flavours, with a refreshing finish. Now-early 2020

Karu, Chardonnay, Valle Central, 2017, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £7.95 £7.15 Code KAR117

Crafted by the winemaking team at Emiliana, this is a well-made, very lightly oaked, ripe, pineapple-accented Chardonnay. Now-early 2020

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

Bottle £7.95 £7.15 Code APA816

Carmenère, a Bordeaux grape related to Cabernet Franc, is much more successful in the heat of Chile than it is in its home in south-west France. (Where once it was a significant component in Bordeaux it is now an also-ran there). This is a juicy wine, a pleasant cocktail of redcurrant, blackberry and raspberry, with the merest hint of the tobacco / nicotine notes which mark the grape. The Gran Verano wines are made at Vina Apaltagua from their own estate grown grapes. Now-2020

Valle Frio, Merlot, Maule, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £8.95 £8.05 Code FRI116

Does Merlot on a label seem to be going out of fashion, now a victim of its past success? It does seem rather odd given the huge volumes of right bank Bordeaux we sell, most of which is 75%+ Merlot! This is such a drinkable bottle, a big step up on a simple house Chilean Merlot. It shows juicy red cherry, a hint of cinnamon and a correct herbaceous note. Fleshy, not in the least jammy, and sufficiently restrained to be food friendly. Now-2020



Cheerful Chileans

£84.25 Code CC19DOZ

A mixed dozen of three bottles of each of the four wines above, with 12.5% off our usual bottle prices.



Sauvignon Blanc from Four Continents

Four Sauvignon Blancs from four countries - and surprisingly varied expressions of this popular grape. Here at SVS we eschew Sauvignons with residual sugar - all four are dry, crisp, bright and deliver the correct dose of zip and aromatic fruitiness. Note the mixed dozen with 12.5% off, bringing four super examples to you at under a tenner a bottle.



Apaltagua, Sauvignon Blanc Reserva, San Antonio, Chile, 2017, 13% [Screwcap]

Bottle £8.95 £8.05 Code APA617

From vineyards across the rolling hills of San Antonio, just 12 kilometres from the cool Pacific, south of Casablanca. Brilliant value, combining cool climate grassiness and sense of nettles with elderflower aromatics and bright fruit. Drink this year

Cape Atlantic, Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa 2017, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £9.95 £8.95 Code CED617

We are the sole importers of this brilliantly charged and zippy SB. It's made by top Cape winemaker David Niewoudt from the young Sauvignon parcels at his 3000 feet high vineyards in the Cederberg mountains, along with fruit from his Ghost Corner estate in cool and windswept Elim near the southernmost tip of Africa (hence the gannet on the label). It's crisp and precise, showing cool lemon and gooseberry Sauvignon flavours with a mineral bite. Drink this year

Esk Valley, Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2017, 13.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle ~~£11.25~~ £10.12 Code ESK117

Invariably an open, juicy and friendly Kiwi SB. Elderflower and grapey perfume. Bright and citrusy - an easy-drinking aperitif. Drink this year

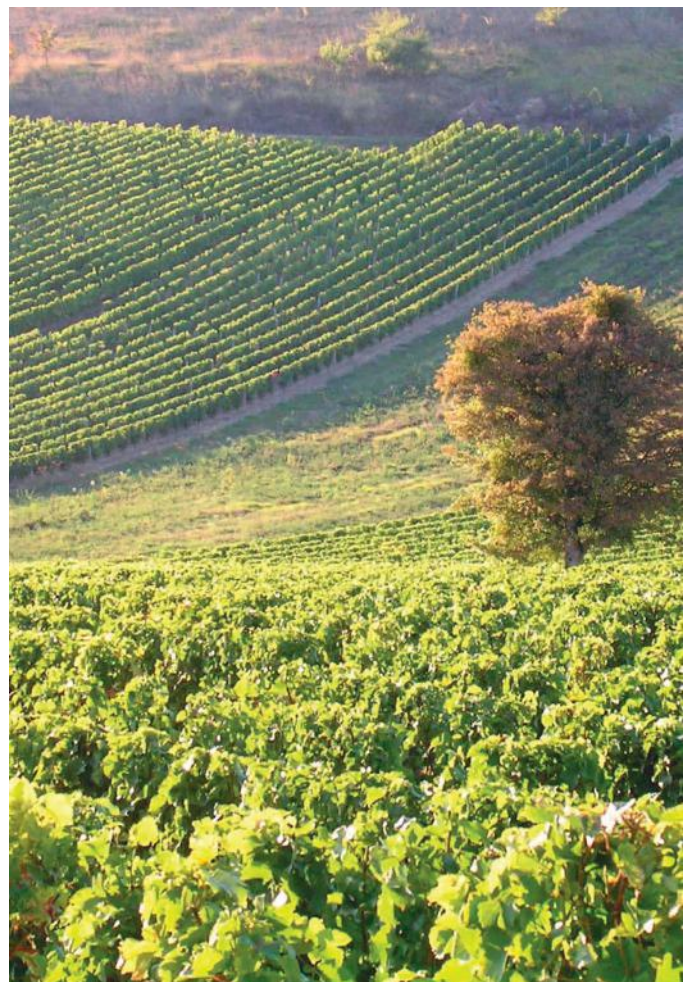
Francis Blanchet, Pouilly-Fumé, Les Pernets, France, 2017, 12.5%

Bottle ~~£15.50~~ £13.95 Code BLA117

We never rush to sell this upon first shipping: it's a steely, intense SB which needs several months in bottle before it shows at its best. We have been buying Pouilly-Fumé from the Blanchet family for 17 vintages. From vineyards, some on sand and some on flint soils, around the little village of Pouilly on the Loire east of Sancerre, this is always very true to the appellation, displaying bright lemon over a mineral acid thread. Fresh and bone dry on the finish, it accompanies a wide range of fish well, from smoked salmon via flat fish to cod and haddock. Now-2020

Four Continents Sauvignon £119.83 Code FCSBDOZ

Three bottles of each of the four Sauvignon Blancs, with a discount of 12.5% on list prices.



Southern French Reds

We have been prospecting in the south of France, from the southern Rhône to the Spanish border, for over twenty years and reckon we can spot value in this huge vineyard area as well as anyone. Here are four reds, none rustic, all smooth, ripe and oh-so-drinkable - and again a mixed dozen with 12.5% discount.



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

Bottle £7.50 £6.75 Code PRD117

From Carignan and Grenache, carefully crafted at the futuristic co-operative winery at Cébazan. Red fruited with a surprisingly good texture, no rough edges, soft, light and juicily berried. Perfect for parties - or just sitting in front of the box. Now-early 2020

Château La Grave, Minervois, Tristan et Julien, 2016, 13%

Bottle £9.95 £8.95 Code GRV116

From the Orosquette family, and named after two once tiny and now strapping cousins, a bright and uncomplicated, easy drinking red from halves of Syrah and Grenache. Youthful purple. Lovely squashed berry aromas, and a pure, surprisingly poised palate of ripe strawberry. Perfectly ripe yet of moderate alcohol, this is the smoothest vintage we have ever shipped of this Minervois. Now-2020

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

Bottle ~~£10.95~~ £9.85 Code PIG616

From 40% Grenache, 40% Carignan and 20% Syrah on sandy soils, this exemplifies Ventoux: different to Côtes du Rhône in its Provençale grace and moderate alcohol level. It's brilliant this vintage, 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, jancisrobinson.com, 5th November. At best: Now-2020

Domaine Fontanel, IGP Côtes Catalanes, 2017, 14%

Bottle ~~£11.50~~ £10.35 Code FON417

From young vines of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Carignan grown in hot, dry and windy mountain vineyards near Tautavel (so it could actually be labelled as Côte du Roussillon Villages). Gorgeously juicy and vital wine, lacking any bite of tannin, showing vibrant strawberry fruit, spiced with white pepper and liquorice. Australians would call it "smashable" for its enticing, drink-me perkiness - but it's an authentic Roussillon wine through and through. Now-2020

Southern French Reds £104.70 Code SFRDOZ

Three bottles of each of these four reds, with a discount of 12.5% on list prices.



German Riesling

Once as highly valued as the finest Bordeaux, German Riesling has slowly gone out of fashion in the last forty years. The principal reason is that "sweetness" in wine is now looked down upon as a vice, and anyone who enjoys it is wrongly viewed as unsophisticated. To those who lean that way please note: first, there's a lot more dry ("Trocken") German Riesling now than there used to be - and these styles work with a wide range of rich food such as ham and pork or salmon and oysters, as the acidity cuts fattiness so adroitly. Secondly, what sweetness there is in better German wine is balanced by citrusy acidity - so that a wine which initially appears vividly fruity up front actually finishes on a refreshing note. And whilst Kabinetts and Spätleses are usually drunk as appetite-sharpening aperitifs, they can also accompany seafood well, especially prawns, scallops and crab with a bit of sweetness and/or spice, as in Thai curries.

Helmut Dönnhoff, Ernie Loosen and Johannes Leitz are among Germany's top winemakers - do try these lovely, long-lived whites with a 10% discount; and a mixed dozen with 12.5% off.

Walt, Riesling, Pfalz, 2017, 11% [Screwcap]

Bottle £10.50 £9.45 Code WAL117

The Pfalz region near Alsace is perhaps better known for dry Riesling, but this is in the traditional style, which delivers an appealing balance between refreshing acidity and some residual sugar (about 20 grams a litre here). Grapefruity zip. Now-2021

Guntrum, Louis Dry Riesling, Rheinhessen, 2016, 12.5%

Bottle £10.95 £9.85 Code GUN216

With just under 7 grams of residual sugar, this well-priced dry Riesling is nicely balanced, offering citrus and stone fruit. Now-2021

Dr Loosen, Estate Riesling, Mosel, 2016, 8% [Screwcap]

Bottle £10.95 £9.85 Code DRL116

Ernie Loosen's entry level, off-dry Riesling is a benchmark Mosel example, showing the classic balance of sweetness and acid. Ripe lemon and green apple, fruity and refreshing. Now-2022

Leitz, Eins-Zwei-Dry, Riesling Trocken, Rheingau, 2016, 12% [Screwcap]

Bottle £13.95 £12.55 Code LEI416

This dry Riesling from Johannes Leitz's south-facing vineyards above the Rhine won the 2018 International Wine Challenge German White Trophy, beating numerous far more expensive wines: *"Super clean and tight. Lemon zest aromas, youthful but with lots of potential. Floral, honeysuckle and lime flower aromas and flavours. Creamy mid-palate, fresh, lively, zesty finish"*. Now-2022

Dönnhoff, Riesling Qba, 2013, 9.5% [Screwcap]

Bottle £14.95 £13.45 Code DON613

From the Dönnhoff family's vineyards of the middle Nahe region, on weathered volcanic soils with slate and quartzite. Elderflower and pineapple, very pure fruit character, and just off dry. Now-2021

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

Bottle £15.95 £14.35 Code DRL216

From the brutally steep, red slate vineyard. Delicious flavours - elderflower and lemon sherbet, with just a suggestion of spritz. A bottle can vanish awfully quickly. Now-2021

Leitz, Rudesheimer Magdalenenkreuz, Riesling Spätlese, 2017, 8% [Screwcap]

Bottle £17.95 £16.15 Code LEI217

From this well-sited vineyard high above the Rhine (with a red sandstone cross, *Kreuz*, reputedly dedicated to Mary Magdalene after the Black Death), a classic Spätlese with great depth of flavour: a scent of lemon sherbet; and then a really open mouthful of white peach and grape juice, lovely mid-palate sweetness (about 78gms/l.) and a mineral, clean and lasting finish. You could enjoy this with rich seafood like crab. Now-2023

Dönnhoff, Tonschiefer, Riesling Trocken, 2016, 12% [Screwcap]

Bottle £19.50 £17.55 Code DON516

Tonschiefer = clay slate. From low yields on dark clay / slate soils in the Leistenberg and Hanglagen vineyards, this is a stunning dry Riesling: perfumed and penetrating, with heft. Now-2022



Racy Riesling £135.15 Code RR19DOZ

A mixed dozen of two bottles of the first six wines listed above, with 12.5% off list prices.

Samo Premrn at Pasji Rep - a new star from Slovenia

I have now tasted twice with young Samo Premrn and each time found myself in awe of his command of winemaking, the purity and perfect linearity of his wines, the smartness of his labels and his general aura of genius. We have been out prospecting for over twenty years now; but it's not often we come across someone like this: we had to be his first UK importer.

His vineyards lie on largely north facing slopes at the eastern end of the Vipava Valley (Vipavska Dolina), which is open to the Adriatic at the western end and cooled by downdrafts from the Julian Alps to the north. All wines are certified organic and made using near natural techniques - but without any of the faults one so often sees in natural wine! In particular the two whites have some skin contact, a time-honoured and now much revived tradition in Slovenia - i.e. the juice is left on the skins of the grapes (as is customary in red wine making) for days, gaining flavours, texture and even a whisper of tannin.

White

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

Bottle £13.50 £12.15 Code PAS117

Zelen used to be highly rated, the grape for the aristocracy in the Vipava Valley, but as it's fragile and low-yielding it's now just grown in a few pockets there. This is given some skin contact, lots of lees stirring, malolactic fermentation, and a third goes into old, neutral barrels. Mid-weight, peach-fruited, creamy, with notes of sourdough and herbs. In some ways Zelen has Viognier and Muscat-like flavours, but it has a graceful personality all of its own and a depth of flavour which belies the lowish alcohol. Two days after seeing Samo I ate at Hisa Franko in Kobarid, arguably Slovenia's top restaurant. When I asked the sommelier for a glass of white wine before dinner I was brought a glass of this - that says it all. Now-2020

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

Pasji Rep, Jebatschin White, Vipavska Dolina, 2016, 13%

Bottle £18.95 £17.05 Code PAS316

A lightly oaked blend based on 50% Malvasia from ancient vines, with 30% Rebula (the Italian Ribolla Gialla), 10% of Zelen and 10% others, picked late and given six days skin contact. Intense stone fruit, accented by orange blossom, fennel and cereals; rounded and energetic. Brilliant, highly aromatic white in a Mediterranean idiom. Now-2021

Red

Pasji Rep, Jebatschin Red, Vipavska Dolina, 2016, 14%

Bottle £19.95 £17.95 Code PAS616

Merlot dominated, with about 15% Cabernet Franc and a little Barbera, well-oaked in a mix of new and old barrels, a beautifully ripe and flamboyant wine, delivering polished berried fruit with vanilla. Perfectly fresh, suave and clean, it lies in style between a very smart right bank Bordeaux - like a Lalande de Pomerol for example - and a gorgeous super-Tuscan. Now-2022

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

Bottle £20.95 £18.85 Code PAS816

The Vipava Valley is a sweet spot for Pinot. Bright raspberries, very ripe and fleshy, concentrated, with a proper spine too. Very high quality Pinot. Now-2022

*"Vipava's breezy climate suits Pinot Noir. Samo Premrn has recently taken over from his father and focusing on elegance in his wines. This refined version shows youthful raspberry fruit, gentle tannins and good length", Caroline Gilby, MW, Balkan Reds, **Decanter** magazine, February 2019.*



Pasji Rep Case £192.50 Code PR19DOZ

Three bottles of each of the four wines on this page with a discount of 12.5%.

Italian Duo

A white and a red of distinction and class, both at 10% off, with a mixed dozen at 12.5% off.

Michele Taliano, Montà, Piedmont

Michele Taliano Serni, Roero Arneis, 2017, 13.5%

Bottle £12.75 £11.47 Code TAN617

Brothers Alberto and Ezio Taliano are third generation growers with a cellar in Montà d'Alba. Their 13 hectares of vineyards are largely in Roero, which is just to the north of the river Tanaro.

If you go prospecting in Piedmont you drink a lot of Arneis - and it deserves to be better known as it has a lot more personality than most Italian white grapes. It's an ancient white grape in the region, a speciality of the Roero, where its name translates as "extrovert". Appealing scents: lemon verbena, pine woods and grassiness; and then a ripe, rounded palate, redolent of lime, cream and herbs. Excellent as an aperitif or with herby chicken or fish. Now-2020



Talosa, Montepulciano, Tuscany

Talosa, Rosso di Montepulciano, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £13.95 £12.55 Code TAK116

We have been working with the family owned Talosa estate for seven years now: they may not be the grandest address in Montepulciano (although their cellars are spectacular, hollowed out of the rock), but their wines consistently win awards in Italy and deliver extremely fair value. From the excellent 2016 vintage, which was distinguished by lovely sunny weather but also marked diurnal differences of temperature, this is from about 85% Sangiovese, with 15% Merlot, Canaiolo and Mammolo, aged in old barrels.

This is a big and youthful red, offering classic Sangiovese sour cherry and berry flavours; and there are good tannins there too, covered by the lush fruit. Attractively fat on the palate, it offers excellent concentration for a Rosso di Montepulciano and has the stuffing to keep well. So food friendly with everything from robust meat pasta dishes to roast pork or veal or strongly flavoured poultry. A lot of wine for about £12.50! Now-2022



Italian Duo Dozen

£140.15 Code ID19DOZ

Six bottles of each wine, with a discount of 12.5%.

For orders and all enquiries, please contact:

Simon Taylor: simon@stonevine.co.uk François Dupont: francois@stonevine.co.uk

Alistair Lacy: alistair@stonevine.co.uk Lauren Burrows: lauren@stonevine.co.uk

Telephone: 01962 712351 Fax: 01962 717545 Email: sales@stonevine.co.uk Website: www.stonevine.co.uk

No. 13 Humphrey Farms, Hazeley Road, Twyford, Winchester, SO21 1QA

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