

SPANISH TASTING AT THE SHOP (and REMNANTS DAY):
Saturday 14th September, 9.30am-4.00pm

Come and taste new arrivals and established friends from Spain
(plus a selection from the Summer Sale), all with discounts



NEW ARRIVALS FROM SPAIN

It's been too long since we went to Spain to review the scene: so here are seven new wines, plus new vintages from Segares in Rioja and Lagar de Isilla in Ribera del Duero amongst others. A lot of wines were tasted but we are highly critical buyers when it comes to Spain. There are some issues for winemakers there: victims as they are of climate change, suffering from increasing temperatures and minimal rain, could they do better? Could they pick earlier for freshness and lower alcohol, and could they use fewer/older/cleaner barrels? High alcohol levels and oak vanilla sweetness make too many wines clumsy and unbalanced. Picky as we are, we are pleased with our new discoveries, in particular the Consentido Macabeo, terrific at the price, the super-fresh Galician wines of Viña Leiriña, great value Monastrells and a lush and youthful Priorat.

STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

Simon Taylor - August 2019

MIXED CASES

Each case includes two bottles of each of the six wines listed, with a discount on the bottle prices of 10%

Generous Spanish Reds £103.00 Code SP19

(Six reds)

Bajel Pirata, Monastrell, Alicante, 2018
Borsao, Garnacha, Campo de Borja, 2018
Finca La Solana, Monastrell, (Organic & Vegan), Jumilla, 2018
Finca La Solana, Monastrell, Seleccion Especial, 2017
Segares, Rioja Tempranillo, 2016
El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera Del Duero, Roble, 2018

Hispanic Margins £131.50 Code SP29

(Three whites and three reds, all from lesser known regions)

Consentido, Macabeo, Yecla, 2018
Las Colinas del Ebro, Garnacha Blanca, Terra Alta, 2018
Viña Leiriña, Ribeiro Blanco, 2018
Viña Leiriña, Mencía, Ribeiro, 2018
Tierra Fuerte, Graciano, Métrida, 2015
L'Olivera, Naltres, Costers del Segre, 2013

Classic Spain £160.00 Code SP39

(Two whites and four reds)

Aba de Trasmia, Albariño, Rías Baixas, 2018
Nestares Eguizabal, Rioja, A Veredas, Spain, 2016
Finca La Solana, Monastrell, Seleccion Especial, 2017
Segares, Rioja Crianza, 2012
El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera del Duero, Crianza, 2016
Finca Tobella, Negre, Priorat, 2018

WHITES

Spanish whites have come such a long way since the clumsy, oaky and oxydised examples of a generation ago. Here are six diverse examples, all fresh and lively, the two from Galicia in particular.

Consentido, Macabeo, Yecla, 2018, 12% **NEW**

Bottle £9.25 Case with 10% off £99.90 Code CON118

Macabeo (Macabeu in the Languedoc-Roussillon) is the same grape as Viura, the principal ingredient in most white Rioja. Here it's picked early in September for freshness. We were knocked out by this example, from its open, stone-fruited scent to its excitingly ripe and weighty mid-palate of white peach and fresh grapes, all the way to a dry, savoury and stoney finish. Terrific at the price, and a cool label too. Now-2020

Las Colinas del Ebro, Garnacha Blanca, Terra Alta, 2018, 14%

Bottle £9.50 Case with 10% off £102.60 Code CDE718

100% white Grenache from clay/limestone vineyards about 500 metres up (Terra Alta = highlands) in Catalonia. This is a really good all-rounder, showing grapefruit scented with herbs - rosemary and bay leaf - with attractive texture and a distinct, lightly almondy finish. Now-2020

K-Naia, Rueda, 2018, 13% NEW

Bottle £10.95 Case with 10% off £118.26 Code KNA118

85% Verdejo with 15% Sauvignon Blanc – delivering plenty of bright and crisp fruit with an orange peel twist. But it also shows that savoury, dry edge which makes Rueda Verdejo so attractive. Now-2020

Viña Leiriña, Ribeiro Blanco, 2018, 11.5% NEW

Bottle £12.50 Case with 10% off £135.00 Code LEJ118

The maritime-influenced vineyards of Ribeiro lie just inland from Vigo in Galicia; where predominantly white varieties (about 80%) thrive. This is an unoaked blend of Treixadura, Palomino and Torrontés (not the Argentine version); herby and sappy, lime-scented, perfectly refreshing. Enjoy the lowish alcohol too. Now-2020

Aba de Trasmia, Albariño, Rías Baixas, 2018, 13%

Bottle £13.50 Case with 10% off £145.80 Code TRA118

Albariño is the best known grape and wine of Galicia in Spain's Atlantic north-west. This comes from Viña Moraima, a tiny co-operative (just 13 growers producing around 4,000 cases a year) established in 2006 near Pontevedra. Most of the growers are small farmers with vineyards on the slopes of the Salnés Valley: and some of the vines, largely high trained on trellises in the traditional manner, are very old indeed. It's lovely in the latest vintage, delivering a deliciously open palate of apricot and ripe citrus tinged with floral (lavender?) notes and a saline hint. Albariño makes a superb match to any seafood, but an enticing aperitif too. Now-2020

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

Bottle £15.95 Case with 10% off £172.26 Code NES616

Barrel fermented and lees aged Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, a modern-style and full-flavoured white Rioja, well-textured, and redolent of orchard fruit and herbs. Grows and expands on the palate impressively – a good foil for any white meat, even richly sauced. Now-2020

VALUE REDS

What Spain delivers in spades is ripe, authentic red wine at a very fair price. The Monastrell (= Mourvèdre) grape is the country's lesser-known winner, making deeply coloured, ripe and full-flavoured wines (far more tasty, incidentally, than weedy, over-cropped Tempranillo).

Bajel Pirata, Monastrell,

Alicante, 2018, 12%

[Screwcap] NEW

*Bottle £7.25 Case with 10% off £78.30
Code PIR118*

A simple, smooth, easy-drinking quaffer, strawberry-fruited, with a little substance and a hint of meatiness. Now-2020

Borsao, Garnacha,

Campo de Borja, 2018, 13.5%

[Screwcap]

Bottle £7.25 Case with 10% off £78.30 Code BOR318

Bodegas Borsao is a big co-operative, marketing wines from over 600 growers whose land undulates across the Moncayo hills. Garnacha (Grenache), the workhorse grape of the south of France, is dominant, occupying some 70% of plantings. This is not a complicated wine – but it's reliable, and always soft enough to enjoy on its own. Scent of berries. Upfront, lifted in style with open raspberry and cherry palate - ripely enjoyable. Now-2020

Finca La Solana, Monastrell, (Organic & Vegan),

Jumilla, 2018, 14% NEW

Bottle £9.75 Case with 10% off £105.30 Code LUZ118

This and the next wine are made by Bodegas Luzon in Jumilla. This unoaked, organic red is so bright, juicy and winning, strawberry flavoured but not in the least sweet, vivid and lightly savoury, with lots of energy. Terrific. Now-2021

Finca La Solana, Monastrell, Seleccion Especial,

Jumilla, 2017, 14.5%

Bottle £10.50 Case with 10% off £113.40 Code LU317

Monastrell given about four months in old barrels, mainly American, giving distinctively Spanish oak accents of coconut, milk chocolate and coffee over ripe, jellied blackberry and blackcurrant fruit. Wow – delivers a lot of punch at the price. Now-2021



RIOJA

BODEGAS NESTARES EGUIZÁBAL, GALILEA

Founder José Nestares Eguizábal bought 25 hectares of vines in 1983, and embarked for the next six years on replanting the whole estate to Tempranillo. Now the estate is run by two of his children, and the Bodega uses as its brand name Segares, the family name of their grandmother.

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: from only Tempranillo, all exhibit a lovely purity of red fruit, with a lush texture aided by being bottled with minimal filtration. The cellar holds a mix of about 2/3 American and 1/3 French oak barrels.



Segares, Rioja Tempranillo, 2016, 13.5%

Bottle £9.75 Case with 10% off £105.30 Code NES116

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, and hugely popular with our customers. Now-2020

Segares, Rioja Crianza, 2012, 13.5%

Bottle £13.95 Case with 10% off £150.66 Code NES312

Magnum [2011 vintage] £28.50 Case (6 x 150cl.) with 10% off £153.90 Code NES911

Excellent pure Tempranillo Rioja, all cooked strawberries, vanilla and spice, attractively mellow and drinking very well. Now-2021

Segares, Rioja Reserva, Spain, 2008, 14%

Bottle £19.50 Case with 10% off £210.60 Code NES408

The Reserva goes into 40% new French barrels, 60% in older American oak. It's wonderful to have some really mature Rioja at hand. Very intense, all ripe and perfumed red and black fruit with complex notes of toast, nutmeg, clove and sealing wax. Now-2021

RIBERA DEL DUERO

EL LAGAR DE ISILLA, LA VID

El Lagar de Isilla, a bodega established in 1995 in La Vid, just east of Aranda de Duero and due north of Madrid, owns about 40 hectares of vines - half fairly recently planted and half 65-95 years old - on largely sand and clay soils. We have offered their wines for 12 years now, and these, which win numerous accolades within Spain, offer solid value from the deeply fashionable region of Ribera del Duero. In this area the local name for Tempranillo is Tinto Fino or Tinta del País.



El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera Del Duero, Roble, 2018, 14%

Bottle £12.95 Case with 10% off £139.86 Code LAH118

Magnum [2015 vintage] £27.50 Case (6 x 150cl.) with 10% off £148.50 Code LAH915

A best-seller here, 95% Tempranillo with 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, given precisely 122 days (it says so on the label) in French and American oak barrels. Amazingly vibrant purple. A bold and robust glass full of cranberry, redcurrant and briary fruit, leavened by fresh acidity; and a dry, satisfying finish with a balsamic note. Perfect for red meat casseroles or roasts. Now-2021

El Lagar de Isilla, Ribera del Duero, Crianza, 2016, 15%

Bottle £18.25 Case with 10% off £197.10 Code LAH416

92% Tempranillo from 50-70 year old vines, with a little Cabernet and Merlot, given fourteen months in French oak (some new). Showy and extrovert, showing intense black fruit, dark chocolate, and a fresh, curranty bite. Great with roast lamb. Now-2023

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

Bottle £24.95 Case with 10% off £269.46 Code LAH314

100% Tempranillo, including some parcels 80-90 years old; in French barrels for 18 months. Pure, lifted red fruit perfume on smart oak. Still very youthful - but immediately approachable - showing svelte blackcurrant fruit. Powerful, with a backing of smooth tannins, and all in balance: a long keeper. Now-2025

OTHER REDS

Viña Leiriña, Mencía, Ribeiro, 2018, 11% NEW

Bottle £12.50 Case with 10% off £135.00 Code LEJ618

A light and crunchy unoaked Atlantic red, with a mere 11% of alcohol. The Mencía grape is perhaps better known in Bierzo, but is widely grown in Galicia. Here it's almost Beaujolais-like, vibrant purple, smelling of blueberries, and exhibiting a blueberry and redcurrant bite. Tangily refreshing, and an excellent match for fatty foods like ham and charcuterie – or any salad lunch. Now-2021

Tierra Fuerte, Graciano, Méntrida, 2015, 14%

Bottle £13.95 Case with 10% off £150.66 Code TIE115

Graciano is a high quality grape – described in Jancis Robinson's monumental Wine Grapes as "fragrant, fresh, potentially powerful and occasionally spicy". It makes elegant wine even in Mediterranean heat, and is usually found blended with Tempranillo (and other varieties) in Rioja. This example is grown on granitic soils in Méntrida in the province of Toledo, crafted by Beatriz Paniagua, and given about a year in 90% French (and 10% American) barrels. Immediate impressions are great, as it offers a vibrant purple colour and a generous perfume of berries and cigar box. With cooked strawberry and blueberry flavours, plus lots of heart and tannin to keep it going, this is a surprisingly classic Spanish red. Now-2023

L'Olivera, Naltres, Costers del Segre, 2013, 15%

Bottle £15.50 Case with 10% off £167.40 Code OLI813

From organically grown Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Trepat (also known as Bonicaire) and Touriga Nacional, very lightly oaked, this is lively and aromatic. Gush of raspberries and blackberries, very ripe and bright, enlivened by black pepper, vanilla and liquorice. Potent but smooth and not overdone, surprisingly Bordeaux-like, and drinking very well indeed. Now-2021

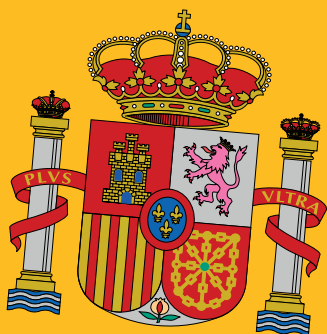
Finca Tobella, Negre, Priorat, 2018, 14.5% NEW

Bottle £16.95 Case with 10% off £183.06 Code TOB118

Priorat in Catalonia, with vineyards lying on slate and mica soils (known locally as *licorella*) on steep hillsides, is one of the great Spanish terroirs. It sprang to prominence in the 1990s when a number of growers began blending the traditional grape varieties of the region, Grenache and Carignan (known as Samsó locally), with recently introduced Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon; and also using more and newer French oak barrels for ageing. Finca Tobella was founded in 2003 with the purchase of four hectares near Gratallops by Californian John Lipscomb and Núria Tobella, and has since grown to over 20 hectares. Negre is based on the estate's younger vines of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache and Carignan, with 40% aged in new French barrels. It's very deeply coloured, inky; overtly flavoured by the barrels, with expensive, clean, cedary accents, over plush blackfruit; very concentrated, but with excellent freshness and liquorice hints. Very polished and smart wine; but also currently very youthful, so benefiting from decanting. Now-2023

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