

# **WINE LIST**

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#### **Bodega Partida Creus**

Massimo Marchiori & Antonella Gerona, an Italian couple originally from Piedmont, started Partida Creus in 2001 after moving to Bonastre in Narboneta, in Catalonia, to grow fruits and vegetables. When the local wines didn't meet their standards for quality natural wine, they decided to make their own! Patrida Creus is special in that unlike the locals, Massimo and Antonella took a chance on old vines of regional grape varieties - meanwhile, their neighbours thought they were crazy to not tear them up in favour of growing more mainstream, profitable grapes like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Their vineyards are mainly old, low-yielding vines of grape varieties that were long considered obsolete by other winegrowers in the area: Sumoll, Garrut, Trepat, Bobal, and Cartoixa among others. Whenever an opportunity arises, they buy or lease vineyards with such vines from neighbouring winegrowers in order to farm them sustainably - they even accepted an abandoned plot of Bobal bush vines even though it was 400km from Bonastre in Narboneta! In the vineyard, everything is farmed sustainably, no pesticides are used, and grapes are hand harvested with the help of his friends Orazio and Vincenza (a donkey and a mule). In the cellar, there is more observation than intervention, and very minimal use of sulphur, with some bottles having none at all. Cuvees are fermented in steel tanks, while single-varietal wines are often matured in various tyles of oak barrels. The resulting wines have a fresh acidity, direct fruit, and are lower in alcohol, quaffable, and refreshing with a true taste of the juice and the surrounding terroir.

## **Sparkling**

32	XL Ancestral Method 2021  100% Xarel-lo this is a beautifully made Natural Sparkling Wine with deep minerality and soft but pronounced fruit salad aromas. Partida wines can at times air on the side of funky but this one's clean, elegant and beautifully crafted. Basically, if you like complex, expressive sparkling wine, this is for you.	85
	White and Skins	
216	Bn Blanco Natural 2021 BN stands for Blanco Natural, mainly Macabeo, it also has a small percentage of Cartoixa Vermell, a white grape with light pink skins that gives this wine a peachy tint after a very brief bit of skin maceration. The juice is briny, with savoury aromas of straw-like yellow citrus. The acidity is up there, lots of mouthwatering piquancy.	68
217	SP Subirat Parent Blanco 2021 SP, from Subirat Parent, a vine related to Malvasia that Partida Creus saved from extinction. The vines grow on the clayey and calcareous soils of Catalonia. Spontaneously fermented with indigenous yeasts and aged in steel. Unfiltered. All nose is a burst of aromas of tropical fruit, sweet grapefruit, and lemon peel. On the palate it stands out for its freshness and minerality. A funky and charming wine.	70
218	VY Vinyater Blanco 2020 Vinyater, in all its citric glory. Here's a wine that'll transport you to coastal climes. Mediterranean herbal scrub, sea salt and fresh lemons.	82
219	CX Cartoxia Vermell Blanca 2021  Fresh, vibrant and lightly funky with plentiful white and citrus fruits. Benchmark. CX is made from Cartoixa Vermell, fermented on skins before maturation in stainless steel.	77
220	MC Macabeu Filbert 2019 Only ever produced in 2019, this comes off a particularly old plot of Macabeu which has now been ripped up. 10 days on skins, give her some air. So much to love here, stone fruits and florals explode, texture for days.	95
221	<b>GB Garnaxta Blanca 2020</b> GB or Garnaxta Blanca, short skin contact and aged for 8 months in steel tanks, beautiful amber colour, ripe juicy citrus jumps out with touch of salinity.	95
222	<b>SK Moscatel Blanco 2020</b> Super aromatic with oodles of tropical fruit and peachy flavours. Tightly wound, really tasty. This guy is all blossom and perfume.	93
223	BS Sumoll Blanco Skin Contact 2019 Great acidity and minerality with citrus and tropical fruit character. BS or Sumoll Blanco is an exceedingly rare white wine variety found in Catalonia, Spain, its plantings having fallen due to low yields despite its high quality potential. This is an advanced skin contact wine but totally delicious.	95

## <u>Red</u>

562	<b>TN Tinto Natural 2021 **</b> Here's the vintage blend, with the cépage alternating annually. Brambly, tart and fresh. Things are elevated here, with lift on the nose and palate. Smokey, herbal, delicious.	65
563	<b>GT Garrut Tinto 2020</b> Garrut Tinto, otherwise known as Mourvèdre. Dive down a tunnel of dark fruit and spice. Intensity is the word.	90
564	SM Sumoll Tinto 2020 Racy acidity and bright fruits, this gains seriousness and complexity with airtime. SM is made from Sumoll. This sits nicely between the smashable VN Tinto and the more serious TP bottling from Partida Creus.	90
565	BB Bobal 2021 ** Beautifully pure-fruited with lifted fragrance and great freshness. Bobal can have a natural tendency toward the deep, dark and tannic. No such issues here, we're in light red wine territory, but not light on flavour.	85
566	<b>UL Ulldellebre Tinto 2019</b> **  Ull de Llebre is the local strain of Tempranillo, and it's very much the antithesis of what you'll find to the west in Rioja. Carbonic fermentation, vibrant fruit, dusty tannins. It's a wild one, but in a nice way.	100
567	<b>TP Trepat Tinto 2019</b> Super vibrant with loads of red fruit and Mediterranean herb character. So pretty, so thirst-quenching, light and fresh but still full of flavour.	100

#### **BLANKbottle**

Pieter H. Walser, the man behind BLANKbottle, is one of the most inventive, energetic and productive winemakers in the Western Cape. He produces 30+ cuvees a year, each with its own unique story and presented in a "blank" bottle... well not exactly! The bottles have no mention of varietal but tend to have an artistic interpretation of what's inside. It is the stories behind the wines that give you the best insight into this uniquely creative character and the wines he produces. As Pieter explains: "Life is all about the stories you have to tell, and we all have ours to tell" In 2004, a lady came to my house (then also my office) to buy wine. She asked for anything but Shiraz. "I don't drink Shiraz", were her exact words. I poured her a glass of wine. She loved it and bought three cases. It was a straight Shiraz. It's a fact - we do judge the book by its cover.

When I started BLANKbottle, my goal was to create an honest wine brand that had no limitations when it came to style, vintage, area or cultivars in order to break down any preconceived expectations. Having no indication of cultivar on the bottle makes this possible. Not only does it demand complete honesty when it comes to quality, but it allows me the opportunity to introduce one-off, limited runs of interesting wines. Its flexibility turned out to be BLANKbottle's edge. Something for someone with an open mind and an adventurous heart. Stories, weird cultivars, weird wines, weird people, weird wine producing areas, travelling, surfing, figuring out my wife and embracing who my kids are. I am constantly amazed by people who have the ability to be true to themselves and thereby differentiate themselves from the norm.

#### White

#### 173 Jimmy 2020 70

A couple of decades ago a guy called Polla Brand drove the first Suzuki Jimny into South Africa from Namibia. The car ended up with a family member on a farm in the Voor Paardeberg. Come winter, the other vehicles struggled in the mud and slippery clay but the Suzuki, with its short wheelbase, cruised through really difficult terrain. Immediately gaining respect. From then on, the farmer, his son and his grandson (the current farmer) only drive Suzuki 4x4's on the farm. The current farmer also happens to be the Western Cape champion, racing in the Dunes along the West Coast of South Africa - with his little hyped-up supercharged Suzuki - hence the inspiration for the label. Verdelho is a really interesting variety to farm with in South Africa. It loves heat and has this unique characteristic of maintaining high acid levels in really ripe conditions. This is a variety that you need to keep an eye on during harvest. It gains sugar at an immense rate with the challenge of picking it before it gets too ripe. Where most other wineries add tartaric acid, we prefer having a very early-picked Verdelho, at a low alcohol and a beyond-massive acid in the winery. We make use of this as a blending component to add acid and freshness. And this is the true power of Verdelho. But I felt that it was time to show the consumer the real personality of the varietal. Every once in a while, you find a vineyard that is truly special. But for a small producer, it's often impossible to buy the whole vineyard due to the size of the production, so you are forced to share. Jimmy is 100% Verdelho from a few rows of a really big vineyard in the Voor-Paardeberg.

#### 174 Moment of Silence 2022

70

At tastings I often get the question: "How do you conceptualise new wines? "Although normally a firm believer in strategic planning, when it comes to new wines, I plan NOT to plan. You can never force a wine; you just need to follow the road you're on. The journey normally starts with a friend, which typically leads to another friend, new areas and vineyards. Ultimately, I end up with a wine that expresses the journey more than the actual destination, a combination of these people and their habitat. The perfect example of such a wine is the Moment of Silence. It's been a journey of epic proportion from the first vintage in 2007 until today - the release of the 2021 vintage. It all started off with a friend, Jan de Villiers, who took me to Wellington to meet a farmer. To be honest, I wasn't too keen on the area at first but by lunchtime that day I had completely changed my view. What made that meeting so significant in hindsight, was that I was unknowingly about to buy grapes from a farm originally owned by my direct family 7 generations ago and our meeting that day took place around the original Hauptfleisch dining room table owned by my family! It was only after 2 vintages of buying these grapes and making Moment of Silence, that my mom discovered this whilst doing a family tree - quite a confirmation don't you think? Moment of Silence 2021 is made up of 5 different vineyards:

#### 182 JCB Sauvignon Blanc 2021

85

In February 2014, I was on a small grape farm on Valley Road, Elgin, picking the first ever Sauvignon blanc destined for a Sauvignon blanc blend. As background, 90% of the time I make all my wines, even the same varietals from different regions, separate. They are picked one vineyard at a time; pressed and fermented as separate batches. Then, after a year in barrel (just before bottling), I decide how blends will be made up, I had Sauvignon and Sémillon grapes, aimed at the same blend, ripening on the exact same day. So, I tasted the Sauvignon blanc and the Sémillon on the spot and decided I needed 25% Sémillon and the balance Sauvignon blanc. I picked it like that and loaded the bakkie and trailer. 2.5 tons, a very obvious overload...Now I was on the one side of the river with my 2.5 tons (on my own) and needed to get to the other side to head out of the valley. So, I decided to drive around the vineyard and head down a road I had never driven on before. Thats where I got stuck. Completely and utterly. My (not 4x4) bakkie was just not strong enough to get the 2.5 tons over the hill onto the bridge to cross the dry river bed.So, you can just imagine my state of mind. Having left home at 4am for the umpteenth time (75 days into harvest), I was deeply tired, and frustrated and just completely stuck I walked through the river up the hill on the other side to get to the road that heads out the valley. Walking down the road looking for a signal, I passed a guy working next the road with a spade. He asked me where I was going. "I have a problem" I said. "Here in Grabouw we do not have problems" he replied. I pointed to my bakkie and the 2.5 ton overloaded trailer and replied: "That, there, is my problem... ". "That's no problem, walk with me" he said. And 100m down the road he pointed to a yellow JCB digger loader standing at the side of the road and said: " that's mine", Problem solved!

#### 183 Kortpad Kaaptoe 2021

August 2011, on a farm somewhere between Darling and Hopefield on the West Coast of South Africa, I was visiting a block of grapes, Carignan. I received a SMS from someone who needed me to be in Cape Town within the next hour. Being in the middle of nowhere, I asked the farmer the quickest way to Cape Town. In Afrikaans (one of the 11 official languages of South Africa), the "Kortpad Kaaptoe". He said that I needed to drive towards the Carignan, past the Shiraz and Fernao Pirez...."The FERNAO WHAT???", I asked him? "Fernao Pirez" he replied. Bush vines, unirrigated, planted by his grandfather 38 years before. So, on my shortest way to Cape Town (the "kortpad kaaptoe"), I found Fernao Pirez. A varietal I had never tasted wine of and something I never knew existed in South Africa. And that brings me to something so very important to me, I love interesting, true stories. So, if I find a story like this, a bit of family history stumbled upon on my shortest route to Cape Town, I want to tell that story, disguised as a bottle of wine. So, it is not ONLY about the wine. In life everything needs to be seen in context. If you take things out of context, wine becomes one dimensional and boring in a way. The label: Linocut of AC/DC inspired font. Printed on real organics paper with as much gold bling as possible. Labels are hand-applied with old-style wet glue technique. Please note that the label will slip off the bottle when it gets wet. The label is as natural as the wine inside the bottle.

#### 185 Smaug the Magnificent 2020

At the back of my warehouse, way into the corner, I have what I call The Drinking Stash. This is where you would want to be left unsupervised if there was any specific sold-out BLANKBOTTLE wine you liked. The last 24 bottles of almost every wine I produce go there (except the ones I over-sell by mistake and end up having to buy a bottle back from my agents overseas). So, in that drinking stash you would for instance find wines like the very first bottling of Moment of Silence (2007). Whenever I drink an older white like that, I am blown away by the ability of South African whites to age. In 2011, I bottled a white wine - a blend of Roussanne, Chenin blanc, Verdelho and Palomino. In South Africa, all wines have to go to the regulatory board/control agency after bottling, where they go through 3 checks. Firstly, they check the paper trail to confirm that what's in the bottle is what you claim it to be. They then analyse the wine for all sorts of much-too-complicated-to-explain stuff and it finally gets tasted by a board of winemakers who then approves or rejects the wine for export. This specific wine, the 2011 vintage, was initially approved. After a year the approval expired and at that stage, I still had at least 500 bottles to sell. I then had to re-submit, which I did, but at that point the wine was rejected by the tasting board. Now, you have the option to appeal, but at the time, I had much more pressing issues on my plate, so I transferred the bin towards my drinking stash to deal with later. As the years went by, I would grab a bottle to drink at home every once in a while, and each time I opened a bottle, I liked it more. November 2016, 5 years after bottling, I showed my UK agents the wine. They loved it and wanted to buy it all. So, I took a chance and re-submitted the wine to the board - it was approved! I then urgently needed a label for the wine, I mean, a sale is a sale... My son Luca drew a picture of the dragon of Lord of the Rings, "Smaug the Magnificent". So, I made him an offer: a retainer per bottle I sell in exchange for the use of his sketch. He accepted and I released a 5

#### 188 Epileptic Inspiration 2021

year old white blend with super success!

Since the beginning of BLANKbottle, I have been designing my own labels. At first, it was because there was absolutely no way I could afford designers. I made use of Microsoft Word, typed BLANKbottle, placed it into a block and played around with the colours - no designing skills required at all. And, to be honest, for the first 10 years I actually didn't like my labels much (besides maybe the honesty of it). Every year, I would again have to fight off the desire to employ professional label designers. For those of you who don't know this: I started having Epilepsy at the age of 30. Then in November 2013, whilst not on medication, I had another huge epileptic fit (the second one ever). So, the Dr booked me off driving and surfing, yet again. When I have a fit, what happens to me at first is that I forget everything. My long term memory returns quite soon thereafter (within hours), but I find that my short term analytical memory takes about 2-3 months to return - if at all... And this is how I started to design my new labels for the 2013 wines. I could not look at the computer due to the flickering screen. So, I started making use of scissors, paint, Lino, pencil and old paper. And the result: I think I had a breakthrough in design, inspiration of Epileptic proportions. So, the drawing and design of my own labels came as a direct result of my epilepsy. And here's the strange part which I cannot prove - I believe that something in my brain changed due to epilepsy. Before epilepsy I had no skill or desire to draw paint etc. Now I still don't have the skill, but at least I like my labels! All 47 of them.

**77** 

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75

In October 2015 I was sitting on a plane heading to Joburg, next to a guy who was (or so it seemed) plugged into his computer with wires and stuff. It looked like he was communicating with the machine in a way. Once we had landed, I asked him what on earth he was doing. He told me that he and his clinical psychologist business partner had started a marketing company called Neural Sense, based in Cape Town. They conduct market research by tapping into people's subconscious reactions to various inputs. I love weird things, so I told him I make wine and if ever he wanted to do something with wine, he was welcome to get in contact. And he did. Three months later I was sitting at the table in my winery hooked onto machines. All my subconscious reactions (in the LIMBIC part of my brain) to each of the 21 components were to be measured and recorded - a camera looking me in the eyes (for eye reactions), a thing on my finger (for blood oxygen levels), a heart rate monitor on my chest, something on my arm (for arousal levels e.g., heat/sweat) and a mobile EEG device on my head (for monitoring my brain waves). It was the time of year where I had to make up final blends and I was sitting with 21 different white wine components in barrel, which were ready for blending and bottling. They were all different varietals from different areas and vineyards. So, my assistant winemaker, Julia, took samples from all the barrels and put them into glasses, which my wife marked from 1 to 21. For each wine I would first close my eyes, then open them and they would start recording with the camera, hand me any wine and prompt me to nose, taste and spit - constantly monitoring and recording my heart rate, blood stuff and activity in my subconscious. Of course, I can't control my subconscious - before I think of reacting, I already had. We tasted through all 21 wines. I obviously spat, washed my mouth with water in between and we even did a few with clean water in my mouth and used that as a control or base reaction. This process took a whole day. I like to call it work. Their job was now to analyse the data. The way I understand it is that they look at all the parts of my brain that reacted, compare it with all the other blood and heart monitors and then work out with mathematical algorithm what I liked and disliked. The analysis of the data took months, so in the meantime Julia and I decided to blend a control - the best possible white blend from the same 21 parcels - making use of our conscious mind; the ORBITOFRONTAL CORTEX. When the results came, the two wines were so different! We blended both and bottled the 2 wines. Please note - we are NOT trying to prove something with this experiment. We were just trying to have fun. And we did...

#### 411 Master of None 2022

70

Late one night, in November 2017, we were busy with some preparations for a bottling the following day. We had a request from the marketplace. Something we felt we could adhere to - producing a red wine partner for Moment of Silence. Apparently, people find most of our range a bit intimidating at first. Moment of Silence does a great job at easing new buyers into the range, but it needed an accomplice, someone in the red wine ranks who could have its back. But although we had the wine, we didn't have the name yet. Working in the winery in the evenings doesn't happen too often (except in harvest), and so this inevitably leads to having a glass of wine whilst working. So, there we were, drinking German Riesling, getting all philosophical and having a very relevant debate. Is it possible to be an expert in each and every cultivar if you are making 38 varietals from more than 60 different vineyards - all under the same roof? The truth is that the idea never was to be a specialist in anything, we just wanted to tell stories - real stories - and the conclusion was that maybe we are simply a Master of None.

#### 426 Retirement at 65 2021

88

June 2014, I arrived at a farm in Darling where I was met by a very grumpy farmer. And for good reason I soon learnt. I had bought bits of grapes from the farmer during that year's harvest (which all turned out really promising) and was doing my annual post-harvest farm visit with a fresh barrel sample for the farmer to taste. One of his grape clients had previously persuaded him to farm a little Cinsaut vineyard by method of minimum intervention. Not in an organic kind of a way, but more towards a 300% leave-the-vineyard-to-be kind of way, to make a long story short, due to many contributing factors, all the grapes of this little Cinsaut vineyard ended up going to the pigs and he was blaming his minimum intervention 300% leave-the-vineyard-to-be client for all of this. To make matters worse, for the 62 years prior to this, the vineyard hardly produced grapes sufficient to produce wine with. You see, his grandfather planted the vineyard in 1951 and had still used a horse to plough the land. The vineyard is on the edge of the mountain in a little valley and the only food source around. So as the berries accumulated sugar, the birds would hop from bunch to bunch pricking the berries with their beaks, causing them to rot. And by the time the grapes ripened there weren't much left. Now things like this interest me. I asked him if we could give it one more try. He reluctantly agreed on the condition that he farms the block the way he believes one should. I, in turn, agreed to buy bird nets to cover the vines and we had a deal. So, in mid-2014 the vines were neatly pruned and he took care of the weeds. That spring, after bud break, the first soft green shoots appeared. Everything looked good! Then, one Sunday afternoon, I received a photo on WhatsApp. It was the vineyard in question with about 20 odd sheep feeding in the vineyard and no sign of the newly formed soft shoots - only brown stumps remaining as the vineyard celebrated its 64th birthday. Late that Friday night his sheep had broken through the fence and ate everything green in colour. So there went another crop and the farmer got even more despondent. But he didn't give up and so, in June 2015, he raised the fence. In early November we covered the whole vineyard in bird nets. Finally, in February 2016 (for the first time in 65 years!) the vineyard survived the onslaught of wild animals roaming the hillsides of Darling and we picked a very small, but healthy, crop.

#### 485 General Boesjaly 2021 \*\*

70

This is my won wacky take on Beaujolais Nouveau. Not made from Gamay though, but a blend of Grenache, Cinsault, Pinot Noir, Pinotage and some Chenin Blanc, made in a 'vin de soif' best-served-chilled style. It's one of my slightly wilder reds, and one for the natural wine devotees - slightly reductive on first opening, nothing that a good swirl and time open won't help!

## 523 Jaa Bru 2021

80

"Jaaaa Bru?" is South African slang for "Yes, my brother?" and this is the warm way I get greeted every time I phone the farmer who farms this vineyard. Jaaaa Bru, a 100% Malbec. Both grow on the slopes of the Helderberg Mountain - not facing the ocean as one might expect, but rather Stellenbosch, making these vineyards quite unique. Malbec is a strange-looking grape when it's ripe. When we pick, it always appears unripe. The berries are soft and juicy and the flesh is green in colour. We ferment this wine without any stems and age it in older French Oak barrels for less than a year. It produces an extracted, yet fresh and complex wine. Phonetically speaking, if you translate "Malbec" from Afrikaans to English, it literally means "crazy mouth". And that was quite clearly the inspiration behind the label.

501 Familiemoord 2021 90

October 2013 Last night, at 6 pm, my wife's phone rang while I was doing a Pilates session (my wife is a Pilates instructor) in our living room wearing an old t-shirt and pyjama pants. It was the lady that moved into our previous house just a few blocks away. "Are you OK?", she asked my wife. "What's going on in your street? The whole place is full of police". I ran out into the street and she was right – there were police vans parked bumper to bumper from right in front of our house, right down to the end of the street and around the corner! A yellow police crime-scene ribbon was spun around our neighbouring 7 erf property, police standing almost shoulder to shoulder and people from the area streaming in to get their piece of the action. Now this huge property's been vacant and for sale for many years. It is slightly run down at the moment, and the cause of much concern for the neighbours. "What's going on?", I asked my other neighbour. Neighbour: "No one wants to say". As I made my way through the crowd, I could see one policeman patrolling the crime scene with the help of his German Shepard. Being the direct neighbour to the property, I was directed to an inspector not dressed in police clothing. "There's been a murder", he said. "Goodness..." I replied. Inspector: "Yes, a man allegedly killed a child with a spade and buried him in a shallow grave". "Goodness..." I replied. Me: "When did this happen?". It sort of looked like he was getting irritated with me and he reluctantly replied: "Saturday". As my mind started to add up a few things (thinking maybe this is where I should just keep silent and walk away), I asked the next question: "Where did he bury the child?" Inspector: "You see where the dog's at? right there". "OOOOPSSSS", I replied, "that was me..." You see, on Saturday I had decided to build a sandpit for my 3 little ones to play in. The closest and most convenient place to get pure white sand from was under the grass of the vacant property right next to me. So, I neatly removed blocks of grass with my spade (the size of, come to think of it now, a small grave) until the white sand was exposed. I then dug a hole and transferred the sand to the sand pit on my property, replacing the sand with soil I dug up from the sand pit. Just before I started to close the 1.5 meter deep hole however, my 7-year-old son, Luca, jumped into the hole and covered himself with soil. I joined in the fun and continued to throw the rest of the soil on him until only his head stuck out. What we didn't notice at that point was the shocked faces of a few boys from the neighbourhood passing on their bikes at that very moment.... What they didn't see of course, was how Luca then wiggled his way out and I closed the hole and replaced the grass patches - very neatly so that no one could see I was there. These very upset children drove straight home telling the one kid's mom that a guy with long blonde hair killed a boy with a spade and is busy burying him in a shallow grave, at the vacant property in Brand Street. Initially she brushed them off, but after a sleepless night with hysterical children, she decided to investigate - and discovered the suspicious shallow grave, just as they said. So, she phoned the police who came out to the property and suddenly: CRIME SCENE... Policeman: "So you are the guy with the long blonde hair!". I (still dressed in my pyjama pants) confirmed the size of my son and he shouted to everyone: "Pack up guys, we found the suspect". Don't be surprised if my next wine is called "child killer" or "sandpit".

#### 530 St Rand Pinotage2019

110

Back in 2015 an old varsity friend referred me to a farmer called Boetie van Reenen. Not long thereafter a farmer whom I buy grapes from, as well as a fellow winemaker, referred me to the same guy. So, with 3 solid referrals, I met with this Darling farmer who apparently had some really interesting opportunities when it came to varieties like Cinsault and Chenin. In year 1, I bought some Chenin from him. Then, in year 2 (2016), the Retirement@65 vineyard came on board and finally, in 2017, a Pinotage vineyard. When it comes to reds, Pinotage is the first to ripen. Unfortunately, its early sweetness attracts birds from the mountain and they feast on the grapes. In the past, the farmer had therefore been forced to pick the 37-year old vineyard early, on a low sugar, before the birds came. But that meant that the grapes were not ripe yet and could only be used for the making of rosé. To prevent the bird-fest, I then purchased some bird nets and the farmer covered the little bush vines with it - it worked.

#### **Little Beauty**

The team at Little Beauty, headed by former Cloudy Bay winemaker Eveline Fraser, have established a reputation for producing elegant, refined and sophisticated wines from their corner of Marlborough. They are blessed with a unique micro-climate, nestled between the Waihopai River and the picturesque Richmond Range, which ensures excellent ripening conditions. Under the careful management of Eveline, the wine making process delivers true Marlborough wines while remaining exquisitely elegant. The flavours her wines exhibit is expressive but refined – capable of being enjoyed on their own, or matching very sophisticated food. In the world of wine, I'm quite new – as you would expect from us Antipodeans. My first vintage was only 2008. A 'breath of fresh air' one might say! Importantly, I'm only ever going to be available as a limited release. In fact, I'm so limited, my annual production represents a teensy 0.00055% of the total global wine market. A drop in the ocean! So, with me, you know you're getting something super special and very authentic. When it comes to the Black Editions, the phrase 'be-the-best-you-can-be' springs to mind. Best blocks, best clones, best rows, best vines, best bunches, best barrels. Hours and hours, and years of hard work has gone into this wine. Only made in exceptional vintages.

#### **White**

#### 224 Pinot Gris Black Edition 2013

The bins of hand harvested fruit were loaded into a tank press and whole bunch pressed to avoid extracting the natural phenolics the variety carries. Free run juice was enzyme settled before being racked into old white barrels for a natural ferment. The wine remained on ferment lees in barrel for a period. A couple of barrels went through a natural malolactic fermentation during this time. Barrels used were all Burgundy cooperages, The goal is for the Oak to be subtle, but supportive, the 2013 Black Edition Pinot Gris has warm summertime aromatics: sun ripened, warm, soft figs, grilled hazelnuts and slow roasted quinces plus a hint of caramelised brown sugar scorched to grilled apricots or peach.

#### 225 Sauvignon Blanc Black Edition 2018

The fruit was destemmed and pressed in a pneumatic press. A low extraction rate and only the free run juice was then cold settled for 48 hours before being racked and put straight to old barrels for a natural ferment. Barrels used ranged in age from 6 to 12 years old and include many of our favourite Burgundy Cooperages: Cadus, Gillet, Dargaud & Jaegle and Sylvain. Post ferment the wine stayed on light yeast lees for 12 months. A partial malolactic fermentation went through while the wine was still in barrel. Aroma: Very aromatic; fresh tropical fruit characters like ripe mango. Hints of passionfruit, blood orange, the palate is slightly creamy, rich in texture, Wild herbs, passionfruit skin, kumquat. To follow, caramelised citrus fruits, flinty lees, poached stone fruits. It's wonderfully persistent, long and generous. A powerful and opulent wine.

### 226 Pinot Gris 2021 60

The 2021 Little Beauty Pinot Gris already shows a lot of aromatic character: orange blossom, kumquat, hints of fleshy white peach and ripe apricots, The palate is creamy and textured. Characters like roasted hazelnuts, nougat, stone-fruits and baked pear. It is weighty, rounded and persistent.

#### 227 Sauvignon Blanc 2022

The fruit was de-stemmed and gently pressed in a pneumatic press. Juice was cold settled then racked and inoculated with different yeast strains. Fermentation takes place in stainless steel tanks to bring out the fabulous natural aromatics of the variety, Herbal notes like snow pea, fresh pea pod. Something savoury like tomato leaf. Tropical notes like honey dew melon, and passionfruit. White peach. Citrus notes like pink grapefruit, lemon grass, and a mineral note, Fresh and inviting, Juicy, mouth-watering. It feels succulent to drink.

#### 118 Reisling 2014

The fruit was whole bunch pressed at a low extraction rate. Only free run juice used. Ferment was initiated with three yeasts and fermented cool to retain the pure fresh varietal flavours. The ferment was stopped before going completely bone dry. The wine was racked off heavy yeast lees and then sat on fine lees in tank for a period. The wine was lightly filtered before being bottled. Aroma: The 2021 Little Beauty Dry Riesling is pale straw coloured. The aromas are delicate; blossom, lemonsherbet, citrusy, ginger powder, apple tart and mineral (flinty). A sense of purity. Palate: The palate is pretty, delicate and refreshing. There are the trademark citrus notes (limes and fresh clementine) combined with oyster shell and slate. Hints of old fashioned lemonade, lemon curd, baked quince, and beeswax.

95

90

65

#### Red

#### 522 Pinot Noir Black Edition 2015

130

The fruit was 100% de-stemmed into stainless steel open top fermenters and cold soaked for several days before the ferments started with naturally occurring yeasts. During ferment, each batch was plunged three times daily to gently extract the tannin and colour. Once dry, each batch was held at 20°C for a post ferment maceration of several weeks before being pressed off separately and transferred into old French Oak (225 litre, 1/3 new oak) barriques for maturation (almost 12-months). Aroma: Deep red in colour. The 2015 Black Edition Pinot Noir aromas are an exciting mix of coffee mocha and some savoury herb and baked red fruit compote. Here the journey starts... Palate: The palate is smooth and supple with hints of ripe, red fruits, combined with cinnamon quill and forest undergrowth. Some earthy notes too. It is alluring and elegant. The 2015 is only our fifth 5th attempt at this style.

#### 521 Pinot Noir Black Edition 2019

125

The fruit was 100% de-stemmed into stainless steel open top fermenters and cold soaked for several days before the ferments started with naturally occurring yeasts. During ferment, each batch was plunged three times daily to gently extract the tannin and colour. Once dry, each batch was held at 20°C for a post ferment maceration of several weeks before being pressed off separately and transferred into old French Oak (225 litre, 1/3 new oak) barriques for maturation (almost 12-months). Aroma: Deep red in colour. The 2019 Black Edition Pinot Noir aromas are an exciting mix of coffee mocha and some savoury herb and baked red fruit compote. Here the journey starts... Palate: The palate is smooth and supple with hints of ripe, red fruits, combined with cinnamon quill and forest undergrowth. Some earthy notes too. It is alluring and elegant. The 2019 is only our 6th attempt at this style.

#### 533 Pinot Noir 2021

70

The fruit was 100% de-stemmed into stainless steel open top fermenters and cold soaked for several days before the ferments started with naturally occurring yeasts. A full range of techniques used; some whole bunch ferment done, a hot barrel ferment and the usual split between free run and pressings batches. During ferment, each batch was plunged three times daily to gently extract the tannin and colour. Once dry, each batch was held at 20°C for a post ferment maceration of several weeks before being pressed off separately and transferred into French Oak (225 litre, mainly older oak) barriques for maturation. Aroma: Deep red, crimson hues. Aroma reminiscent of red fruits black cherry, floral notes (violets), hints of fresh herb, peat and meaty. Alluring. Palate: The palate displays elegance and richness. It feels mouth-filling, supple and there's persistence. There's a core of ripe cherry, plum, florals finishing with hints of earthiness. Moderate tannins.

#### **Judith Beck**

If someone like Judith Beck lives not just according to a postal address, but actually amidst the vines, then you can be sure that she has developed a deep relationship to her own vineyards. The most beautiful of these vines – she prefers the traditional varieties Zweigelt, Blaufränkisch, St. Laurent, Weissburgunder and Chardonnay – lie on the slopes and the hills of the Wagram. This area is for the most part, sun-exposed and rise from the lower lands east of the Neusiedler lake to the so-called Parndorfer Platte. The soils here are extremely diverse. In fact, a single vineyard alone can comprise humus, gravel, loam, limestone and minerals. The ideal base for complex, multifaceted wines that reflect their origin. Naturalness and identity are the features that Judith Beck wants to see and show in her wines. This approach is also a reason that she has been inspired by the ideas of Rudolf Steiner since 2007. That means she uses holistic methods in her biodynamically-managed vineyards, in order to keep the vines naturally healthy. Her wines are always more discreet than loud. Always worth a second look. In Judith Beck's own words: "International style can be produced by everyone, everywhere. My wines are my own. They are here and now. And that is for me the most beautiful thing. Like my life in the vineyards".

#### White

### 110 Weissburgunder 2019

65

Aged on the lees for 6 months, brilliant pale gold-yellow in the glass. The wine has refreshing aromas of citrus, pears and white peaches. The palate is full-bodied and well-structured with balanced fruit and acidity, a long finish and good ageing potential.

#### 210 Traminer

75

Traminer grapes are handpicked, destemmed and macerated with skins for 8-10 days, then pressed and transported to old barriques after the fermentation finishes to rest for 6-8 months. The nose on this is amazingly expressive - a Traminer-bouquet of roses, nutmeg and very ripe fruit, and it's smooth and fresh on the palate, with nice acidity, pithy tannins and good length. Unfiltered, unfined, minimal sulphur added.

#### **Pink**

#### 304 Pink 2022

50

85% Zweigelt, 15% Blaufränkisch 90% of the fruit was directly pressed and 10% of the Blaufränkisch was bled off (saignée). The varieties were vinified separately. Fermentation began with the native yeasts and the young rosé was aged in stainless steel tanks at low temperature on its fine lees for 4 months. The varieties underwent malolactic fermentation. Light rosé colour, the wine has a fruity aroma dominated by cherries, peaches and raspberries. The palate is refreshing with pleasant acidity, tones of raspberries and strawberries which complement the notes of citrus and fine spice.

#### Red

#### 401 Hunny bunny (No Sexual Services) 2021

75

Manual harvested grapes are left as whole bunches to macerate in stainless steel pots for 4 days. Fermented with natural yeasts. Aged in old wooden vats for 4000L for 6 months. Unfined and unfiltered. The other face of Blaufrankisch – light maceration, pale pinkish-red, refreshing stemmy sour cherry fruit with mouth-cleansing acidity.

#### 413 Beck Ink 2021

60

Two weeks maceration with Indigenous yeast, Matured for 12 months in old barriques, Malolactic fermentation in barrel. Dark ruby with a violet rim, fresh and animating aromas, pronounced sour cherry-fruit, Christmas spices, cinnamon and cloves, juicy on the palate with soft tannins and elegant spiciness in the finish.

#### 532 Blaufrankish 2021

65

Manual harvested grapes, destemmed but not crushed, about 50 % entire berries, fermented in wooden fermenter of 3500 lt, about three weeks of maceration, natural yeast, temperature control, aged for 10 months in used barriques with light sheet filtration before bottling. Dark cherry red with violet rim, blackberry flavours, sappy and supple on the palate. Soft, velvety tannins are supported by well-integrated acidity, spicy and fruity finish.

#### 535 Zweiglet 2020

65

The Zweiglet grapes are hand picked and fermented in stainless steel tanks. The wine is then moved to wooden casks for 2 months to complete its malolactic fermentation followed by 8-10 months in old barrels. This gives the wine complexity and richness, all perfectly balanced. The wine has lots of dark fruits and spicy notes but still retains a freshness to cut through the richness.

#### Testalonga

Craig Hawkins, the winemaker at Testalonga, is in a pretty brilliant place right now, he's just released his new vintage to the world!! He and Carla are now ensconced in Bandits Kloof in Piketberg, the northern reaches of the Swartland. He finally has a dedicated winery with plenty of space and a steady supply of excellent grapes from well-farmed vineyards. After years of experimentation, he has developed a style that he is comfortable, and successful with, and with that he makes around 40,000 bottles, using a variety of grapes under two labels: Testalonga El Bandito and Baby Bandito. Needless to say, Testalonga wines are premium natural South African wines loved across the world. Craig has never been part of the mainstream wine world, even in Swartland, but that is because he is not trying to be someone else. He has a clear idea of what he wants to do and the path he wants to take, which is to make wines for his own satisfaction and to his own taste. It is important to note that as his own taste has evolved so has the style of the wines. His independent and uncompromising approach has not always endeared him to South African authorities and he has been shunned by various critics and wine writers. Hence the name Testalonga El Bandito. Testalonga was the nickname of an old Italian guy who made his white wines like red wines. Craig asked him via a friend whether he could use the name for his labels and he laughed and gave his assent. Testalonga is also the name of a bandit from Sicily. Craig and Carla are now exporting to 29 different countries, most of which are in Europe, with here in the UK and Japan being the largest individual markets. Their influx of natural winemaking is really starting to cause a stir and generate a mass following worldwide. Their winemaking is both unique and valuable to the Winelands of Swartland. Their wines are produced on incredibly small quantities, so we feel very lucky to be able to stock them, but don't expect them to hang around long! In the 2017 vintage, they made just 24 bottles of the El Bandito Mangaliza which as you can imagine wasn't available for export! These tiny quantities keep the wines of Testalonga rare, exclusive and exciting! All the Testalonga wines are natural in both the winemaking perspective and in their modern presence. They are all made from organically grown grapes, which is something you don't see a whole lot of from surrounding winemakers in the area.

Like us, Craig is a firm supporter of the organic wine and natural wine movement – he mentioned in a comment late last year "You can say what you like about natural wines – you immediately know what you're getting. Commercial winemaking techniques can be used to hide bad qualities in your vineyards, whereas natural winemaking exposes poorer sites."

#### **Sparkling**

#### 41 Testalonga El Bandito 'I wish I Was a Ninja Pet Nat Colombard' 2022

70

The I Wish I was a Ninja Pet Nat is from a tiny block close to Lammershoek (the owner doesn't farm it, so he allows Craig to look after the vines), planted in 1994. This vineyard has become very important for Craig as it provides grapes with consistently low pHs which is crucial for this Cuvee. The Colombard grapes are hand-harvested and fermented in stainless steel at a low temperature. The juice was then racked six times during fermentation to remove the sediment. It was bottled under a crown cap with sugar of 58g/l where it was left to finish fermentation and build up a natural pressure of carbon dioxide. After 10 months the bottles were riddled and disgorged and topped with the same wine (from other decanted bottles) and crown-capped again. No SO2 was added to the wine and neither was any settling or fining agent used. The result is a bristling brilliant pet nat with an acidity of 8.9 and a residual of 23 g/l. It is aromatic and laser-bright, like lemonade for grown-ups.

#### 42 Testalonga El Bandito 'I am The Ninja Pet Nat Chenin Blanc' 2022

70

Naturally and organically produced, only 5000 bottles are made using chenin blanc grapes to produce a rounder softer feel than 'I wish I was a ninja'. Hand harvested then fermented in stainless steel at a temperature of 8 degrees. Racked 6 times during fermentation to remove the sediment. At a sugar of 52g/I it was bottled under crown cap where it was left to finish fermentation and build up a natural pressure of carbon dioxide. After 10 months the bottles were riddles and disgorged and topped up with the same wine (from other decanted bottles) and crown capped again. No S02 was ever added to the wine and neither was any settling or fining agent. The result is a bristling brilliant pet nat with an acidity of 8.9 and a residual of 23 g/I. It is aromatic and laser-bright, like lemonade for grown-ups.

#### **Whites and Skins**

#### 161 Baby Bandito 'Keep on Punching Chenin Blanc' 2022

66

Grapes are harvested by hand and whole bunch pressed. Fermented in 2000L stainless steel vats and 3500L Foudres using indigenous yeasts and ambient temperatures. The wine goes through malolactic fermentation before being bottled unfined and unfiltered with a very small amount of sulphur added before bottling. Engaging nose of white peach, apple and a hint of dried herbs. Ripe fruits and mineral flavours go with bright acidity on the palate and lead to a good length finish.

#### 162 Testalonga El Bandito 'Sweet Cheeks Muscat' 2022

90

The name comes from the children who every year love to pick at the sweet berries and eat them, hence "sweet cheeks". Probably the most fragrant wine we make. Hanepoot (Muscat d'Alexandrie) is actually a table grape and meant for eating but we did an experiment in 2013 with skin contact to try and extract the flavour and it has made one of our most refreshing wines to drink.

#### 164 Testalonga El Bandito' Mangalitza Harslevelu' 2022

95

Bush vines planted in 1971, organically farmed, situated in a very "wet" part of the Paardeberg, at the bottom of the slope. The vineyards grow very upright with very loose open clusters which help with good airflow to reduce disease pressure. The vineyard orientation and higher than average rainfall made for a challenging growing season, but the resulting yield and quality were worth the effort. Hand-harvested then fermented after being 100% whole bunch pressed. Pressed into  $1 \times 500L$  and  $1 \times 225L$  French oak barrels. No added yeast or acid. Full Malolactic fermentation takes place. SO2 is added a month before bottling, un-fined with a light clarifying filtration

#### 171 Testalonga El Bandito 'Skin Contact Chenin' 2022

90

A true orange wine with eight days on skins. Rich and savoury with bruised apple, citrus fruit, orange peel and peach aromas, hints of nuts and dried flowers. The "Skin" is our proudest wine being the first wine we bottled and made in 2008. The wine has come a long way and each year provides us with new flavours. We have toned down on the extraction and have now stopped experimenting as much as we used to. We have found our sweet spot that we enjoy for Skin Macerated whites and enjoy the balance we get from these flavours. We have reduced the length of time we leave the wines on the skin as the goal here is to find elegance and focus within this particular style which we love.

#### 184 Testalonga El Bandito 'Cortez Chenin' 2022

This is a rich, round, minerally, top Natural South African Chenin! It has a beautiful bright golden colour with aromas of wild honey and freshly baked bread which contrast with its dry, very racy with tangible sinewy texture. There is plenty of depth and complexity, a core of Asian pear and orange peel, layers of herbs, fennel, nuts with almost a seaweed saltiness and minerality. Seems to be quite Jura like in style but is also distinctively New World. Fascinating Chenin showing how South Africa is becoming a very exciting country for natural wine with life and vigour!

#### 186 Testalonga El Bandito 'Lords of Dog Town Chenin Blanc' 2022

90

95

48 year old Vines, Fermented and matured in a combination of foudre and stainless steel tanks. Exotic and expressive Chenin Blanc coming off a particularly unfertile plot. Whole bunch pressed and fermented in older oak. Chiselled and full of understated power.

#### **Reds**

#### 461 Baby Bandito 'Follow Your Dreams Carignan' 2022

65

A hugely aromatic and light bodied Carignan with aromas of crushed berries and flowers. The palate reveals sour cherry, strawberry and a bright acidity, but then evolves to sweeter potpourri-like floral notes of violets and a lingering savoury finish.

### 498 Baby Bandito 'Chin Up Cinsault' 2022

70

Planted in 1981, bush vine (un-trellised and dryland), farmed organically. This is a 3ha block on the farm of Rick Mcgrindle. It yields large but delicate grapes with thin skins of a pale complexion. However, in 2018 due to the extreme drought we had the crop was tiny and berries also smaller than usual which meant vinification needed to be gentler than ever.' The final wine is excellent quality with great concentration and freshness. Red apple, red cherry and a little earth. Juicy and fresh with soft tannins. Utterly smashable.

#### 537 Testalonga El Bandito 'Queen of Spades Tinta Amarela' 2022

90

This is juicy, crunchy red, make from a tiny (just 0.1 hecatre) vineyard dedicated to Tinta Amarela. Originally thought to be Tempranillo, this Portuguese grape (a.k.a. Trincadeira) makes dark and full-flavoured wine. this is bottled unfined, unfiltered, and with only a tiny dash of sulphites. Only a few available, so get in quick!

## **Single Bottle Sparkling**

25	<b>Nyetimber Cuvee Chérie Demi Sec, West Chiltington, West Sussex, England</b> 100 % estate grown chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier made in the traditional method Named after head wine maker Cherie Sprigs, crisp, off dry with toasted brioche, butter and honey.	90
23	Bragher NV, Vitivinicola Fangareggi, Emilia Romagna, Italy N.V. Founded in 2005 by Giuseppe Fangareggi, the family has been growing Lambrusco grapes since the 1800s. Today Giuseppe's son Matteo runs the property along with his mother Margherita and Uncle Roberto, and vineyards are spread across 8 parcels. Unusually for the area all work is organic and only indigenous yeasts are used for the primary fermentation. Bragher is not Lambrusco, being made from Grechetto Gentile, and is a creamy, long lees aged sparkling wine which pops on the palate with a lovely creamy texture.	65
13	Taittinger Brut Millésimé 2003  The Taittinger Champagne House only creates a 'Cuvée Millésimée' when the grape harvest is of an outstanding quality. Several years of maturing in the cellars will then be needed to ensure that the aromas slowly mature and develop the wine's complexity and long-lasting character, these vintages are made wholeheartedly with the discerning Champagne connoisseur in mind.	160
26	Irroy Brut NV, Reims, Champagne This is the perfect aperitif style Champagne with crisp white peach and ripe pear notes. It has great complexity, balance and elegance with touches of red fruit and biscuit on the palate. The blend is made up of 60% Pinot Noir/Pinot Meunier and 30% Chardonnay.	120
27	Irroy Brut Rose NV, Reims, Champagne Irroy Rose is a wonderful pink Champagne with lively fresh red berry flavours and delightful bubbles. The palate is balanced and elegant with a sense of fun and joy from the strawberry and cherry notes. It has structure and very fine bubbles.	135
40	Patrick Sullivan Jumpin Juice Pet Nat, Victoria, Australia 2020 Fizzy and very approachable, soft notes of watermelon and strawberry with some citrus zest predominate. Jumpin Juice is a collaboration between long-time friends and now Gippsland-based winemakers, Patrick Sullivan and Xavier Goodridge. Both have amassed their own loyal followings for high-quality lo-fi wines made from top-quality fruit. With Jumpin Juice they are free to explore parcels of fruit from all over the country - not just within their own G.I. These are fun, playful wines made with little to no additions built in a 'drink-me-now' style.	65
39	Davenport Vineyards Limney Estate Sparkling Wine, East Sussex, England 2017 Pinot Noir and Auxerrois grown on the vineyard at Rotherfield. This wine is aged on lees for 3 years and has a dry balance. There is a touch of smoke on the nose with an apple crumble character coming through. The yeasty flavours on the palate are balanced superbly by the strong Pinot Noir character which shows ripe strawberries and a limey fresh quality.	75
38	Maxime Blin Millesime, Reims, Champagne, France 2010  Domaine created in 1947 by Robert Blin, Maxime's grandfather. They became 'vigneron s independents' in 1988 under the impetus of Gilles, Maxime's father. Maxime returned to the estate in 2005, followed by his wife Claire in 2013. Maxime and Claire chose to go down the organic route in 2018 and the vineyard has been certified organic since 2021 and the first organic wine arrived in 2022.A fresh, round and powerful champagne with aromas of dry fruit, brioche due to the long lees ageing, 100% Pinot Noir, Manual harvest, whole bunch fermentation with selected yeast in stainless steel, matured on lees for 10 years.	140
44	Valentin Leflaive Granc Cru Le Mesnil Sur Oger 1550, Blanc de Blancs N.V., Champagne, France Le Mesnil sur Oger Grand Cru is the heart of Côte des Blancs that shows Chardonnay at its very best. It is the archetype of the Grands Chardonnays From Le Mesnil on Oger. This airy Champagne with light emerald reflections is characterized by a straight and precise nose where lime and tangerine are close to flint, its long and salivating finish is punctuated by pleasant salinity.	190

#### 16 Jaques Boncoeur Brut Reserve, Cote des Bar, Champagne, France N.V.

Beautiful aromatic complexity of green apples, lemon citrus with undertones of brioche and hazelnut. Delicate, persistent mousse on the palate fuses with a subtle combination of structure, vivacity and a creamy texture that envelops the core green and citrus fruit with added savoury undertone, 88% Pinot Noir 12% Chardonnay.

#### 37 Ancre Hills Blanc de Noirs, Monmouth, England N.V.

A feather-light Blanc de Noirs, certainly no flabbiness to this – apple-skin and Brazil nut on the nose, ripe red apple and citrus on the palate, with tension and precision to it, the wine was fermented in oak barrels, concrete egg and stainless steel with an elevage of over 12 months for the base wine, then ageing of 2-3 years on lees, Ancre Hill Estates is located in the Welsh county of Monmouthshire. The 12 hectares of vineyards are perfectly positioned on south facing slopes close to the border town of Monmouth and the Wye Valley. The estate utilises traditional Biodynamic and Organic Viticultural practices to produce the best possible fruits from carefully sourced and selected varieties with excellent heritage. The wines produced at Ancre Hill express the terroir of ancient mudstone and sandstone soils, giving the wines their character and natural flavours, with no external intervention or manipulation in the winemaking process.

18 Cremant de Bourgogne Brut Reserve NV, Domaine Deliance, Burgundy, France

Domaine Deliance is situated in Dracy-le-Fort, two kilometres from the village of Givry. The estate has 15 hectares of vineyard and they specialise in sparkling wines. The Crémant is produced in exactly the same way as Champagne and aged for over 20 months on lees prior to disgorging, adding greater complexity and weight. This is a fabulous alternative to Champagne and the cuvée we have chosen is dominated by Pinot Noir. The Crémant is naturally fermented and undergoes secondary fermentation after the wine has been blended and aged for 12 months. It lies sur latte for 20 months minimum prior to disgorgement and has 6-8 grams of sugar. A blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Aligote, The wine is aged for 24 months on the lees before release and is not filtered. A refreshing palate of floral, citrus aromas and notes of Brioche.

#### 45 Drappier Brut Nature Zero Dosage N.V. Champagne, France

For lovers of pure sensations, Drappier have created a 100% Pinot Noir cuvée with no dosage. It contains only the wine's natural residual sugar at less than 2g per bottle. Moreover, the use of an absolute minimum of sulphur gives the wine the freedom to express itself totally. On the nose there is crisp and at the same time ripe fruit. On the palate it is upright and pure, with abundant finesse and freshness. In Urville, at the heart of the Côte des Bar, Pinot Noir has found the perfect home. Created by Michel Drappier in its "Nature" version, this Blanc de Noirs expresses the essence of this grape variety. A generous yet mineral style. Golden colour with copper hues. Nose of freshly pressed black grapes, of red, white and citrus fruits. Ample palate with flesh of vineyard peach and bouquet of aromatic herbs. spicy notes in the finish. A fine tightly knit Champagne of great purity.

85

90

75

#### Single Bottle White, Orange and Skins

165	Consolation 'Filles de Mai' Macabeu, Argeles-Sur-Mer, Roussillon, France, 2019	70
	A range of wines produced by Andy Cook and Phillipe Gard intended to reflect the best of the region	
	year by year, 100% Macabeu, harvested by hand, whole bunch pressed, aged on lees for 6 months.	

year by year, 100% Macabeu, harvested by hand, whole bunch pressed, aged or Stone fruits, citrus and pear.

### 163 La Mar, Bodegas Terras Gauda, 2017

120

Small yield wine made with caino branco grape, bright and fresh yellow and citrus fruits, with a savoury and salty finish. This is the favourite wine of king Juan Carlos of Spain – he serves this at every official banquet to showcase how good Spanish wine can be.

#### 206 Sybille Kuntz Riesling 'Scharz' Auslese, Mosel, Germany 2007

140

Sybille Kuntz Scharz Auslese is an exceptional wine. It is not produced every year, only in the best vintages. Rich and complex with flavours of orange skin, tangerine, dried apricot and nectarine. The vines for the Auslese also grow in the best parcels of the Niederberg-Helden site in Lieser. During harvest the organic grapes are manually selected for only dark-golden almost violet botrytis grapes that have almost shrunk to dehydrated raisins. They are still a bit juicy and taste like fully ripe aromatic fruits.

# Domaine de L'arlot Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru Blanc, Burgundy, France 2015 Granny smith's apple, Citrus and Tropical fruits on the nose, with back notes of peach and fresh

170

Granny smith's apple, Citrus and Tropical fruits on the nose, with back notes of peach and fresh ginger on the palate. Finished in 20% new oak this is a perfectly balanced wine with a good concentration of flavour and balanced acidity. A superb classic Burgundy that punches well above its price point.

#### 166 Sybille Kuntz Riesling Spatlese Trocken, Mosel, Germany 2015

120

Sybille Kuntz's Riesling Spätlese is a complex wine and an amazing advert for Mosel Riesling. The wine has fantastic texture and richness on the palate, which is fleshy and intensely flavoured with green fruits, nectarine and honeysuckle. It is elegant, sophisticated and a joy to drink. The Spätlese is picked late, like the name suggests, towards the end of the harvest. The grapes for this wine come from the Grand Cru of Nierenberg-Helden where the gradients are so steep a pully system is used to transport the grapes up and down the slope, German wine labels can be confusing, but Sybille has done everything possible to make the wines easy to understand. Her wines (except for the Auslese) are fermented dry with an alcohol content of around 12% ABV. They are bottled by style rather than by vineyard, so the range is smaller than other producers. Their wines are all made from Riesling. The grapes for Qualitätswein are picked first, then Kabinett a little later and riper (more sugar in them) followed by Spätlese and finally Auslese, the off-dry style. As a result, the Qualitätswein is fresh, dry and fruity, the Kabinett fuller and more mineral is style, the Spätlese more complex, richer and rounded, whilst the Auslese is off-dry and drinks beautifully with some bottle age.

## 204 Gruner Veltliner 'Pankraz' Ingrid Groiss, Weinviertel, Austria 2019

100

100% organic Gruner Veltliner in the 'Pankraz' vineyard which is made up of sand, lime and conglomerate soils. 70% of the grapes are gently pressed without stems and fermented with natural yeasts. The remaining 30% of the grapes are destemmed but remain whole and are fermented in old 500 litre Austrian oak barrels. The wine is then aged for 11 months on its lees. The result is a quite remarkable wine, herb, grapefruit and peach flavours. It has a mouth-watering acidity with citrus and flower notes. Having lived the corporate life with Coca-Cola in her younger years Ingrid returned to her wine making roots in Weinviertel and set about producing fantastic wines from the vineyards her gran had planted some 50 years ago. Ingrid's wine has a great purity to them and the complexity off her Gruner Veltliners is quite amazing. The wines are all certified organic since the 2019 vintage and they get better with every vintage.

#### 128 Puligny Montrachet, Domaine Pernot Belicard, Burgundy, France 2015

170

Pernot-Belicard is a small six-hectare Domaine located in the heart of Puligny-Montrachet. The estate was originally formed in 2009 by Philippe Pernot, a descendant of the Paul Pernot dynasty. This release is a lovely fresh, classic white Burgundy, with citrus fruit elegance that is the hallmark of Puligny-Montrachet.

#### 167 Terra de Asorei 'Barrica' Albarino, Rias Baixas, Spain 2018

Alberino 'Barrica' Terra de Asorei is a complex, intense and utterly delicious Alberino which is made from grapes grown in the Salnes Valley, a premium sub region of Rias Baixas in Spain's Northwest. It is a small parcel of 3000 bottles which has spent six months in old oak barrels. The oak aging adds a lovely texture and intensity to the wines vibrant, fruity core which is dominated by stone fruit and more tropical fruit notes. The wine retains its characteristic freshness and salinity whilst achieving a complexity that takes Alberino to the next level, Terra de Asorei is a modern, forward-thinking winery located in the Galicia region of Rias Baixas in the Northwest of Spain. The Alberino grape variety thrives here in this cooler, Atlantic influenced corner of Spain (I.e., it rains a lot). Terra de Asorei farms 60 hectares of vineyards aged between 15 & 80 years old in the sub-region of the Salnes Valley. The winery as we know it today was formed in 2008 when six families, who had previously worked together as a mini co-operative, joined together to form one company. They are committed to the sustainable, humane and socially responsible production of high quality Alberino.

#### 197 Rancio Sec, Domaine Des Schistes, Roussillon, France N.V. 50cl

The vines of Domaine des Schistes have been producing top quality fruit for three generations. Until the late 80s, these grapes were sold to the local co-operative. However, by 1989, Nadine and Jacques Sire were beginning to grow frustrated at the fact their quality production was being thrown in to the mix at the co-op with fruit of lesser quality from surrounding vineyards. They took the decision to withdraw from the co-op and begin fashioning their own wines. After his parents had made the initial forays in to independent production, Mickaël joined the family team in 2004 and took the wines on to a new level. Rather than learning on the job, he had studied winemaking in various regions both in France and abroad. His innovations included modernising the winery, the purchase of smaller vats for enhanced selection in winemaking and the determination to begin working organically. Grenache Blanc (95%) and Macabeo blend from 60-year-old vines. Honey, curry, rich flowery and ripe fruit. Mouth is supple, rich and pleasant.

#### 190 Bodegas Cota 45 Miraflores UBE, Jerez, Spain 2021

A fresh, savoury wine, the UBE Miraflores is a beautiful introduction to the terroirs of Sanlúcar de Barrameda. This winegrowing region is renowned for its chalky albariza soils and coastal setting, which impart brightness and salinity onto wines produced here. Made in a 'sherry-like' style, this wine ages under Flor but is not fortified, with a focus on fruit character. The resulting wine is fresh and easy to drink. The nose gives intense floral aromas, with notes of very ripe white fruit and fresh yeast. The mouth is zesty with citrus, orchard fruit and a saline edge typical of the area.

#### 201 Chateau Musar Blanc, Bekka Valley, Lebanon 2016

Chateau Musar white is a unique blend of two ancient indigenous grape varieties, Obaideh and Merwah. It is fermented in oak and aged for 9 months before spending a further 7 years aging in the cellar before release, peach, lemon and honey notes. Chateau Musar is more than a wine. It is the story of one man's vision and struggle to succeed through the unlikeliest of odds. The wines are now iconic, enjoy cult status and are as unique as they are brilliant. Serge Hochar famously produced his wines through the civil war (1975-1990) and was perhaps one of the Godfathers of 'Natural Wine'. Heavily influenced by Bordeaux the wines come from calcareous, gravel and stone soils in Lebanon's Bekka Valley. The vineyards benefit from cool nights and seasonal temperatures which result in long growing seasons. It is a unique terroir that producers a unique range of wines.

### 194 Solikouri, Ramaz Nikoladze, Imereti, Georgia 2021

Founded in 2007 on the site of his great grandfather's vineyard and typical Imeretian cellar in Nakhshirgele. Two white Georgian grape varieties are planted in Ramaz's beautiful tiny wild vineyard: Tsitska and Tsolikouri. Natural winemaking methods are used in both the cellars and the vineyards and the qvevri are buried in the open air. Grapes are harvested by hand and destemmed. Fermented on skins with indigenous yeasts in Qvevri lined with beeswax. 3-4 months maceration minimum. Matured in Qvevri, unfined and unfiltered. Intense amber-hued wine with aromas of dried fruit, exotic oriental dry spice. Almost peachy with golden fruit and notes of wild mint and other herbs.

75

68

85

130

#### 198 Achillee Riesling Sec, Alsace, France 2021

One of the wineries where the younger generation is causing a stir is Achillée in the Riesling Bastion Scherwiller. The two sons Jean and Pierre Dietrich took over the winery from their father Yves in 2016, and they have been working biodynamically since 2003. With a lot of sensitivity, the guys now move a few steps further in the direction of natural wine, but always on the clean and not on the rough, wild side. Achillée Riesling, that's how Alsace works in a modern, natural and drinkable way: very light apple and pear, yeasty, roasted notes accompanied by sesame and peanut. You can feel the stony-mineral touch in the fragrance. On the palate, the Achillée Riesling runs tight and straight, with pure minerality and stimulating citrus fruit. Just Riesling, and with lots of character!

#### 200 Palmento Bianco, Vino di Anna, Sicily, Italy 2020

Palmento Bianco wine is a field blend of organically grown, indigenous grapes from the north face of Mt Etna, Sicily. The Catarratto (50% of the blend) was whole bunch pressed immediately and fermented in stainless steel. So too were the mixed cassettes of Minnella Bianco, Carricante and Insolia (approximately 10% of the final blend). The Grecanico Dorato (40%) was macerated on skins for 8 days and then pressed and blended with the other fermenting musts. Alcoholic fermentation was spontaneous and without temperature control. The finished wine underwent malolactic fermentation and remained on light lees for 10 months before it was bottled without fining or filtration, golden in colour reflecting the period of maceration on the skins of the Grecanico, this wine has attractive white peach and grapefruit aromas and flavours.

#### Achillee Pepin Orange Wine, Alsace, France N.V.

Coordinated by Pierre Dietrich of Domaine de L'Achillée, Pépin is a project that works closely with several small Alsatian winegrowers, all friends who have each been working organically for many years. The collaboration runs right through from grape growing to vinification, with the aim to make great natural wines. From batch to batch, the content and the winemaker may change but the ethos and the label remains the same. Made with Gewürztraminer, Auxerrois It's laden with notes of ripe tangerines, spice and fresh tannins.

#### 202 Patrice Beguet, Three Views a Secret, Alsace, France 2020

Patrice Beguet is committed to biodynamic methods (Demeter certified) at his winery in Mesnay, in the Les Planches-près-Arbois gorge in the Jura. All the wines are fermented with wild yeasts only, produced from vines sprayed with the lowest possible doses of copper and bottled without the addition of sulphur, with no fining or filtration, Named after a track by jazz bass great Jaco Pastorius, Three Views is an equal blend of three biodynamically farmed grapes sourced from Domaine Humbrecht in Alsace - Pinot Gris, Muscat and Gewurztraminer, which have spent four weeks on skins, resulting in a unique shade of almost marbled orange/pink. With each sip we pick you something different - blood orange, medicinal herbs, pineapple, stem ginger.

#### Andreas Tscheppe Sauvignon Blanc Green Dragon Fly Plus, Styria, Austria 2021 205

During the harvest of 2021, a tempest with heavy rain and a significant temperature drop came when the wines were fermenting in Andreas's new cellar which wasn't completely finished back then. As a result, the fermentation stopped its usual pace and became very slow instead. As a solution, Andreas bottled the wine with the remaining residual sugar under crown caps, to let them finish the fermentation in the bottle and develop a bit of fizz. To distinguish this "cellar calamity edition" from the "regular" Green Dragonfly (Grune Libelle) cuvée made in other vintages, the word "plus" is stated on the back label. Grapes are hand harvested and destemmed. The grapes are pressed to old big barrels where they fermented spontaneously. As the fermentation stopped due to weather damage and severe temperature drop in the cellar, the wine was finally bottled in March 2023 with the remaining RS under crown cap, to finish the fermentation there. Unfined and unfiltered, creamy, lush with a touch of the Sauvignon aromatics and a nice little fizz. Fresh and bright thanks to good balance of sugar, naturally high acidity, and Andreas's top-notch, empathetic farming.

#### Wild Pony, Daniel and Biancal Schmitt, Rheinhessen, Germany 2021

Bianka and Daniel Schmitt are two talented young winemakers who produce biodynamic wine in Rheinhessen. DB Schmitt's wines are pure and fresh, full of personality and life. Rheinhessen is the largest winegrowing area in Germany and has so far been largely associated with mass production. In recent years, however, the region's reputation has begun to change as a new generation of younger, more innovative winemakers are reducing yields and refining the largely undervalued terroir of this region. Bianka and Daniel are the epitome of this new wave of German winemakers who are working hard to produce wines of the highest quality with as little intervention as possible, this is a wild and funky orange wine with a sumptuous nose full of sun-drenched peaches and pink rhubarb. Flavours of cranberry, orange and honey flow into a refreshing finish with slightly salty and

80

75

110

130

#### 214 Benoit Courault 'Gilbour' Blanc, Anjou, France 2021

120

Benoit Courault is a young and established vigneron in Faye d'Anjou, a little village south of Angers along the Layon River. Not a son of a winemaker, early on, Ben decided to study wine. He went to Beaune. From 2003 until 2006, he worked with the famous vigneron Eric Pfifferling from Domaine L'Anglore in Tavel. Back to his native Loire, he found 5ha of vineyards and started his estate in 2006. Benoit's aim is to propose authentic wines of excellent quality produced with a constant concern for the natural balance of life cycles, a statement that you will find on his label "Vignes cultives dans le respect du vivant". 'Gilbourg' is Benoît's top cuvée of Chenin Blanc; Aged 8 months in oak cask and barrique it's harvested from several plots in Faye d'Anjou. Delicate, rainwater Chenin full of orchard fruits.

#### 211 Sepp Muster Grafin, Styria, Austria 2019

145

Maria and Sepp Muster took over his parents 10-hectare winery in the southern Austrian region of Styria in 2000 and began to work the vines biodynamically. They had an easy transition, as no herbicides or pesticides had ever been used there before. Rocky clay and silt soils dominate the steep hills of their vineyards. This clay silt is known locally as Opok after which two of their wines are named. The Graf wines also feature the opok soil but have steeper south facing slopes that reduce yields and produce wines of more structure and pronounced mineral character. All wines are made from spontaneous fermented grapes without any addition of yeast. The wine is fermented in large oak vats. Bottling without stabilization and filtration. Sauvignon Blanc, 16 days on skins, 20% stems. Full yellow colour. Richly textured pear and peach fruit. Lovely detailed palate is elegant with some grip and really pretty fruit. This is the most elegant of skin contact wines.

#### 199 Unico Zelo Jade & Jasper Fiano, Waikerie, Riverland, Australia 2021

60

Brendan and Laura Carter of Unico Zelo apply an intuitive approach to their wines, making them in natural in all sense of the term. They secure fruit parcels that match the varietal to the soil and climate to region. Nero D'Avola and Fiano from the hot dry Riverland and Nebbiolo from the blue slate soils of Polish Hill in the Clare Valley. Laura, chief winemaker and her husband, Brendan, are incredibly passionate about the soil and produce in Australia. It's their intent to showcase products to the rest of the world that embrace Australian native ingredients and pay homage to the indigenous custodianship who maintained the land for thousands of years. They seek Australian identity in the products they craft, and their hope is that these Australian stories can one-day be heard on a global scale. Unico is part of the "New Australia" movement focusing on alternative varietals, sustainability, natural yeast, vegan friendly. Full of white peach blossoms, honeydew and lemon, all covered in a generous splash of Granny smith Apple. This continues onto an electric palate, lifted by a rich fruit-sweetness, and sparked to life with a crispy acidity. A pleasure to drink at any time of the day.

#### 192 Arbois Savagnin 'Sous Voile' Chateau Bethanie, Jura, France 2018

85

Savagnin 'Sous Voile' from the Fruitière Vinicole d'Arbois is aged sous voile (under the Flor yeast) and typically released after four or five years. It resembles a mini Vin Jaune, displaying the same creamy, walnut-like flavour and distinguished by a wonderful racy acidity. It is a very unique wine. The Fruitière Vinicole d'Arbois co-operative is one of the oldest in France having been established in 1906. Its creation came in the wake of Europe's devastating phylloxera outbreak which nearly wiped out France's vineyards. 26 growers from Arbois decided to work together to make a stand against inferior wines being produced without a designated origin. They were so successful that it eventually led to the creation of France's first Appellation d'Origine Controlee (AOC) and the rest as they say is history. In 1969 the co-operative purchased Chateau Bathanie which is located in the heart of Arbois and equipped with modern wine making facilities. The palate is rich and textured and brimming with orchard fruit, cep mushroom and savoury umami notes. Despite its amplitude, it leaves the mouth fresh and longing for more.

### 133 Lovamor Albillo, Alfredo Maestro, Castilla-Leon, Spain 2022

**75** 

Alfredo Maestro Tejero's winery in Peñafiel was born in 1998 in the heart of the Ribera del Duero. From 2000 to 2006 the winery grew, gradually adding other plots in Castrillo de Duero, Olmos de Peñafiel, Quintanilla de Arriba, Bocos de Duero, Olmedillo de Roa, and Arauzo de Salce. In 2007 the search for land on higher ground leads to the discovery of land in Valtiendas nearly 1,000 meters above sea level with old Tempranillo vineyards planted on soils with boulders. The diversity of plants and soils give the wines a unique, distinct personality. Slightly pinkish, peachy orange colour. Fairly intense, with a slight haze. The nose is pronounced and distinctive with aromas of pear drop, banana and pear. The palate is dry with high acidity. Superbly textured with a lasting finish.

#### 158 Chardonnay, Ancre Hills, Monmouthshire, Wales 2020

Ancre Hill Estates, owned by Richard and Joy Morris, is located on the edge of Monmouth, south-east

80

Wales. The project began when they planted their first vines in 2006 and the couple now preside over 12 hectares, with particular emphasis on their plots of Pinot Noir & Chardonnay. All the land was former grazing pasture – never used for agriculture and as a result, the soils are healthy and wellnourished. The team at Ancre Hill apply a holistic approach to all activities in vineyard and winery, and practise conscientious biodynamics. The preps are stirred by hand, in rain water and sprayed strictly under the correct conditions. Only with this level of detail and personal involvement can biodynamic practices allow the vines to find the balance of life forces necessary for healthy growth and quality of production. Raw milk is used as a vine treatment, as it contains antiseptic properties and enzymes that act as fungal control and give foliar nutrition to the plant. Insecticides, pesticides and herbicides are not used at all, with weeds ploughed out from under the vines. A programme of cultivation provides the soil with aeration necessary for the development of a healthy micro-organism population, negating the need for petrochemical fertilisers. Co-plantation and the promotion of wild flora and fauna help maintain the balance of the eco-system and soils. The vineyards look in great condition with the vines showing the virtue of a reasoned and progressive farming techniques. The wines are fully DEMETER certified, adhering to the strictest production criteria. Working in this way not only creates better wines qualitatively, but wines of greater integrity and sustainability. As with many natural wines, lengthy cuvaison and ageing on the lees, contributes to the texture and ageworthiness of the wines. These are among the best British wines.

#### 191 Zibibbo 'ZBO' Brash Higgins, Riverland, Australia 2021

85

Brash Higgins is the alias of Brad Hickey, a Chicago native with a serious wanderlust, whose career as a sommelier and food writer has taken him all over the world. Having spent years talking about and selling wine, the next step in the journey was to make it, landing him in McLaren Vale to work a vintage. It was here that the wanderer finally settled, marrying local vigneron Nicole Thorpe, with whom he developed his eponymous label. Using grapes from their own organic Omensetter Vineyard as well as fruit sourced from like-minded growers, they have crafted a range of wines which allow Brash's experimental nature and pure instinct for flavour to shine through.100% Zibbibo. Intensely aromatic, with notes of apricots, elderflowers and honey on the nose. This suggestion of sweetness, however, is false and on the palate, the wine is bone dry, with a bold tannic grip from the skin contact.

#### 195 Loureiro 'Gorro' Portugal Boutique Winery, Lima Valley, Portugal 2022

70

The Portugal Boutique Winery was founded only a couple of years ago by childhood friends Nuno Aguiar de Morais Vaz and António Olazabal Ferreira. Their philosophy revolves around minimal intervention, allowing the grape variety and terroir to speak for themselves. By respecting this philosophy, each wine they produce tells a unique story and possesses a true sense of place. At present they work with a number of small, artisan growers specialising in the production of rare, indigenous grape varieties. From the Lima Valley, their Loureiro 'Gorro' is very much an example of a super-charged Vinho Verde! Expect bright, fresh and crisp flavours with mouth-wateringly refreshing acidity. The palate features note of green pear, white peach and quince with an incredible saline, mineral core.

#### 203 Ingrid Groiss 'Bernhardt' Gemischter Satz, Weinviertal, Austria 2016

120

Ingrid Groiss' 'Bernhardt' Gemischter Satz is a quite unique wine made from a single vineyard field blend, which is mash fermented (Maischevergoren). It is a powerful and complex white wine, yet displays beautiful fresh fruit flavours of ripe apple, green fruit and herbs. Mr Bernhardt was Ingrid's neighbour, who planted this vineyard in 1955. The wine is in honour of him. Describing herself as passionate, emotional and determined, this pretty much says it all about Ingrid Groiss and these are the sort of character traits I'd expect to find in a young wine maker who modernised their parent's winery. Having lived the corporate life with Coca-Cola in her younger years, Ingrid returned to her wine-making roots in Weinviertel and set about producing fantastic wines from the vineyards her gran had planted some 50 years ago. Ingrid's wines have a great purity to them and the complexity of her Gruner Veltliners is quite amazing. The wines are all certified organic now and they get better with every vintage.

#### 228 Lovamor Albillo, Alfredo Maestro, Castilla-Leon, Spain 2022

Alfredo Maestro Tejero's winery in Peñafiel was born in 1998 in the heart of the Ribera del Duero. From 2000 to 2006 the winery grew, gradually adding other plots in Castrillo de Duero, Olmos de Peñafiel, Quintanilla de Arriba, Bocos de Duero, Olmedillo de Roa, and Arauzo de Salce. In 2007 the search for land on higher ground leads to the discovery of land in Valtiendas nearly 1,000 meters above sea level with old Tempranillo vineyards planted on soils with boulders. The diversity of plants and soils give the wines a unique, distinct personality. Slightly pinkish, peachy orange colour. Fairly intense, with a slight haze. The nose is pronounced and distinctive with aromas of pear drop, banana and pear. The palate is dry with high acidity. Superbly textured with a lasting finish.

#### 208 Domaine des Roches Neuves, Saumar Blanc 'L'Insolite, Loire, France 2021

The 50-hectare Domaine des Roches Neuves is run by Bordelais Thierry Germain and is situated in the appellation of Saumur-Champigny. The winery has existed since 1850, and since purchasing the estate in 1991, Thierry has turned it into one of the finest in France. The estate is run strictly along biodynamic lines, harvesting is manual and yields are low. Vinification is carried out only in small batches and the wines are neither filtered not fined. I'Insolite' is 100% Chenin Blanc from 80-year old vines situated on clay-limestone.

#### 207 Metafisica IGT Toscana Bianco Castello Romitorio, Tuscany, Italy 2020

Metafisica IGT Toscana Bianco is the result of over 25 years of research on Chardonnay vines planted at high altitude near Castello Romitorio in north-west Montalcino. 2020 was the first vintage produced following this research. The project, started by Sandro Chia in 1997, was based on the notion of creating a physical and theoretical space - or in Italian 'spazio' - in which the concept of Chardonnay could be explored freely. After years of researching the correct plot, rootstock, and clone, Filippo Chia finally completed his father's work and identified the right 'spazio' suited to Chardonnay. Despite being a mere 0.2 hectares and producing only 1200 bottles, the terroir of this vineyard is very special as it sits at an altitude of 300m on a layer of prehistoric oyster shells. During vinification, the juice is macerated on the skins for 48 hours at low temperatures, before gentle pressing and cooling for a further 48 hours. After natural settling, the liquid starts the fermentation process. The subsequent wine rests on the lees in Barriques for 9 months, followed by a period of bottle aging in their temperature-controlled cellar until release. Castello Romitorio was a half renovated abandoned wreck when artist Sandro Chia purchased it in 1984. What was left of the building had been abandoned after WW2 and used only by shepherds until Baron Giorgio Franchetti, a historic building restorer, purchased it in the 1970s. He abandoned his plan (I didn't say he was a successful building restorer) and sold the property to Sandro who completed the work and brought the building back to life as his home and art studio. The building had been built originally in the 12th century as an imposing hilltop fortress to guard the town of Montalcino.

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90

#### Single Bottle Red

526

499	Domaine Tollot-Beaut Corton Charlemange Grand Cru, Burgundy, France 2017	165
	The grapes are fermented for 14 days in open tanks at controlled temperatures of 32°C. Then	
	malolactic fermentation is carried out with 50% new French oak barrels. Matured in French oak for	
	16 months before bottling, red berries, coffee and sweet spices, high acidity with structured tannins	
	keeps the balance text book perfect, with a lona fresh finish.	

#### 536 Chateau Gruaud Larose Saint-Julien, 2eme Grand Cru Classé, Bordeaux, France 2007 With a high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a very structured wine, the freshness coming from intense blackberries, blueberries, plum. Spice and bitter coffee flavours work hand in hand with the tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon 65%, Merlot 25%, Cabernet Franc 5%, Petit Verdot 5%.

#### 496 108 Clos Henri 'Waimaunga 'Pinot Noir, Marlborough, New Zealand 2020 In the foothills of the Wairau Valley in Marlborough, Clos Henri is a great New Zealand estate run by a Sancerre landmark: the Bourgeois family, winemakers for 10 generations. Eager to reveal the finest terroirs of Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc, Rémi and Jean-Marie Bourgeois set out to explore the world to find their pearl. After a long search, the family decided to set up in New Zealand, founding Clos Henri in 2000. Today, the estate comprises 110 hectares of vines, 42 hectares of which are certified organic. After being harvested by hand, the grapes were carefully sorted and 20% of the yield vinified in whole bunches. The grapes were then transferred by gravity into French oak barrels and cold-macerated for a week before undergoing spontaneous fermentation. Finally, the wine was aged in French oak barrels (20% new barrels) for 12 months. The nose is fresh and generous, with blueberry scents and subtle notes of violet. The palate unveils notes of cherry and strawberry. Velvety tannins are completed by notes of spices and leather, with a remarkable length.

#### 508 Hodgkinson Garnacah Peluda DOQ Priorat, Catalonia, Spain 2018 160 Scattered amongst the Garnacha vines planted in 1978, Luca identified and selected the Garnacha Peluda grapes. This variation of Garnacha Negra was widely planted before the phylloxera, but was abandoned as a varietal due to its lower yield and its slowness in ripening which allows a better phenolic ripeness with the same alcoholic content. The grapes are fermented separately in clay amphorae and are subsequently aged in French 500 Litre barrels for 24 to 30 months. Fermented spontaneously using low intervention, unfiltered and unfined, this 100% Garnacha Peluda wine has a character of its own, with an intense acidity that amplifies all aspects in the palate and with a unique powerful fruitiness in the nose true to this varietal character.

#### 546 Calcaire, Chateau les Croisille, Cahors, France 2019 Certified organic since 2010, but working biodynamically, the family truly believes that wine is made in the vineyard and practice what they preach. This is a leading estate in the new wave of Cahors finesse, freshness and balance are the watchwords here, Calcaire spends a couple of years in old 225litre French oak barrels, and the aim is for a medium- bodied, well integrated wine. Black fruit (this is Malbec after all), leather and spice — but this is not a big/oaky/jammy Malbec in the South American style, nor an impenetrable old-style black wine of Cahors – this is balanced, fine and with a long complex finish.

#### 486 Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil 'Les Rouilleres' Frederic Mabileau, Loire Valley, France 65 This is an attractive and textured Cabernet Franc with delicious red fruit flavours, gentle spice and a freshness that brings the whole wine together.

#### Castello di Bossi 'Corbaia' IGT Toscana, Italy 2018 527 280 Corbaia is a fantastic Super-Tuscan made by Chianti specialists Castello di Bossi. It is a blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. It is aged in Allier oak and has great finesse and superb complexity with intense dark cherry, prune and cassis fruit, balsamic notes, exotic spice and a dense, silky palate.

# Chateau Batailley, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France 2015 195 This wine is made from a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. It is medium bodied and has an intense nose of cassis, red fruit, classic cedar and a beautiful pepper spice. Brilliant balance and structure.

#### 528 Chateau Lafon Rochet, St Estephe, Bordeaux, France 2016

Chateau Lafon-Rochet 2016 has a very engaging bouquet, a mixture of red and black fruit laced with pencil shavings and loamy scents. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and a fine line of acidity. It is ripe and generous, yet maintains outstanding tension and reveals a savoury touch of peppercorns on the finish, typical to St Estephe.

547 Ridge Lytton Springs, Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County, United States 2020 150

190

In 1972, Ridge made its first Lytton Springs from vines planted on the eastern half of the vineyard at the turn of the century. Both the eastern and western portions of the vineyard were purchased in the early 1990s, (In the 1870s, under Captain William Litton's ownership, the two were part of one property; spelling evolved to Lytton by 1903.) The vineyard is planted to zinfandel and its principal complementary varietals. Hand-harvested, sustainably grown, estate grapes; destemmed and crushed; fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulphur for this wine (35 parts per million at crush, 88 ppm over the course of aging); 0.6% water addition; .002 g/L tartaric acid; pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions. Aged for 14 months in 100% air dried American barrels. 72% Zinfandel, 15% Petite Sirah, 9% Carignane, 2% Alicante Bouschet, 1% Cinsaut, 1% Counoise, more intense and a little spicier than the Geyserville. A little more savoury but wonderfully aromatic. Deep, with some sweet American oak spice but all seamlessly integrated even now. Ripe plum, spicy dark red fruit. Firm, chewy but supple.

#### 571 Geyserville, Ridge Vineyard, Sonoma County, America 2019

165

Ridge Vineyards was initially established in 1885 by an Italian doctor named Osea Perrone, who christened it the Monte Bello Winery. After decades of production, the vineyard fell into disuse, before being re-invigorated by a consortium of Stanford University graduates in the late 1950s. One of the members of that group was Paul Draper, a philosophy graduate, who is now CEO and head winemaker on the estate. After leaving university, Paul lived in northern Italy and travelled extensively in Paris, gathering the sufficient practical experience needed to head up a winery of such repute as the Ridge. The Ridge Geyserville has a dark ruby colour. Aromas of ripe black cherries and plum, sweet oak, mint and gravel earth. Rich bramble fruit entry, round and supple tannins, refreshing acidity and a long layered complexity in the finish a blend of 71% Zinfandel, 19% Carignane, 7% Petite Sirah, 3% Alicante Bouschet.

#### 507 Barolo Perno Vigna Santa Stefano Giuseppe Mascarello DOCG, Piedmont, Italy 2018

410

Barolo Perno Vigna Santo Stefano Giuseppe Mascarello comes from a vineyard in the commune of Monforte d'Alba. It is matured in medium sized Slavonian oak barrels for around 30 months and is a truly memorable wine. It has a complex fruit structure of wonderful oak flavours of pepper, tobacco, tar and truffle. Lively, fresh and a pure joy, Giuseppe Mascarello is one of Barolo's greatest names. The family have been producing wine in the Langhe since 1881 and today the estate is run by Mauro, aided by his son Guiseppe and daughter, Elena. The wine making process remains very traditional with hard and meticulous work being put into the vineyard. Manual weeding, crop thinning, and a very late harvest all ensure that the grapes are of the highest quality before they arrive at the winery. They believe in long macerations and extended maturation in large oak casks.

#### 502 Barbera d'Alba 'Scudetto. Giuseppe Mascarello, Piedmont, Italy 2019

135

Barbera d'Alba 'Scudetto' is a magnificent example of the Barbera grape from Mascarello. It is an intense and fruity wine with sappy red fruit, inky notes, liquorice and a wonderful underlying acidity. Pretty herb notes appear on the palate which is long and memorable. Giuseppe Mascarello is one of Barolo's greatest names. The family have been producing wine in the Langhe since 1881 and today the estate is run by Mauro, aided by his son Guiseppe and daughter, Elena. The wine making process remains very traditional with hard and meticulous work being put into the vineyard. Manual weeding, crop thinning, and a very late harvest all ensure that the grapes are of the highest quality before they arrive at the winery. They believe in long macerations and extended maturation in large oak casks.

#### 506 Andreas Syrah, Coastal Region, South Africa 2018

75

Nestled in the beautiful Bovlei valley, just outside Wellington and a little over an hour from Cape Town, sits the boutique Andreas estate, famous for its award-winning Shiraz and awesome accommodation! Here wine maker Shaun Meyeridricks (ex Boekenhoutskloof AKA Chocolate Block) supported by his small team of dedicated colleagues, invests all his energy and talent into producing Shiraz of the highest quality. Grapes are handpicked in the early mornings and carried to the cellar where they are hand sorted and then stored in 2500 and 5000 litre tanks. During fermentation the juice is pumped over the skins three or four times daily to extract colour and flavour. Post malo the wine is racked off the lees and carefully transferred to medium French oak barrels for eighteen months. Once bottled Shaun chucks it back in the cellar for one more year of aging to give the wine a little extra class. The result - fresh, vibrant aromas of forest fruits, with touches of spice and caramel and notes of hazelnut and dry prunes, a classy vanilla swipe indicates good use of oak. A surprisingly delicate palate of ripe sweet red fruits, sour cherries, raspberries, spice and pepper and soft round tannins.

### 592 Chateau De Pez, St Estephe, Bordeaux. France 2018

200

The oldest winery in the district of St. Estephe, Château de Pez was established in 1452 by Jean de Briscos. It is now owned by Louis Roederer Champagne, just the latest chapter in a very eventful history, which included a period of time spent under the ownership of the state in the aftermath of the French Revolution. Nowadays, the estate has developed a reputation that sees it acknowledged as among the leading Bourgeois Superieur wines of the Medoc appellation.

#### 594 Hermitage 'Les Miaux' Domaine Ferraton Pere & Fils, Rhone, France 2015

210

Ferraton Père et Fils is a small family-owned business that operates independently but under the Chapoutier expertise and finance. Certified organic since 1998, they vinify their parcels separately in order to show the diversity of the terroir. Complex aromas of blueberry, licorice and violet with dusty minerals notes. Full bodied and chewy on the palate with intense flavours of ripe blackberry fruits and hints of spice.

#### 510 Walter Massa Barbera 'Monleale' Piedmont, Italy 2012

110

Walter Massa 'Monleale' Barbera is one of the top Barberas from the leading producer in the Colli Tortonesi (southeast Piemonte). It is a wine of great depth and structure, dominated by lively, vibrant cherry and raspberry fruit. It has a sappy quality, freshness and beautiful rich gamey notes along with darker fruit on the finish.

### Volcanio Pais, A Los Vinateros Bravos, Itata, Chile 2021

55

Leonardo Erazo created "A Los Vinateros Bravos" winery in the heart of the Itata region in the south of Chile. The vines of Itata thrive in a steep hills landscape without irrigation. The volcanic and granitic soil provide an extraordinary environment for root growth resulting in very healthy vineyards, Leonardo doesn't interfere with the terroir to bring a strong sense of place into the bottle, using only native yeast and cement tank for fermentation and aging. 100% Pais. A fresh wine, delicate, marked by fine grain tannins that give a very unique structure and create a long lingering finish with a distinctive mineral character due to the volcanic soils where the old vines thrive.

#### 490 Chateau Clos Cantenac, Saint Emilion Grand Cru, France 2014

160

Covering 6 hectares of St. Emilion Grand Cru vineyards, Clos Cantenac benefits from an enviable terroir of deep gravel, sand and clay over limestone soils. Martin Krajewski (owner of Chateau de Sours), who purchased the vineyard in 2007, has found the perfect balance between experimenting with this intriguing variation in soil structures, while simultaneously respecting the history of the land. Martin and his team produce wines which do full justice to this prized terroir, highlighting why St. Emilion is one of the most desirable winemaking locations in the world. Smooth, lush and succulent bright red fruit, plum and black cherry flavours that spread right across the mouth with an impressive intensity of character that is both elegant and generous in delivery. It is deceptively soft with good weight and just the right amount of dryness to counter balance the richness of the wine.

#### 492 Mas de Daumas Gassac Rouge, Languedoc, France 2020

In 1971, the Guibert family founded the Mas de Daumas Gassac estate on an historical farm with a unique red terroir contributing to its reputation as the "First growth of the Languedoc". With 67 estate vineyard plots, farmed in total respect of nature and surrounded by the Garrigue forest. 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec, 2% Pinot Noir and 4% other rare varieties. Dark red in colour, it has complex notes of tart red fruit and black plum with a touch of leather. This wine is mouth filling with complex fruit and great body, powerful tannins and a ripe fruit finish. It has excellent acidity. **This drinks like "A Lafite in the Languedoc"** 

#### 495 Segla, Chateau Rauzan Segla, Margaux, Bordeaux, France 2014

Located in the prestigious Margaux appellation, Château Rauzan-Ségla, or Château Rausan-Ségla as it is referred to in some vintages, There are now 45 hectares of vineyards at Rauzan-Ségla and the grapes (63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc) are fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then matured in barriques (60% new) for 18 months.

#### 529 Tillingham Pinot Noir, Sussex, England 2021

Tillingham is a fantastic project run by Ben Walgate in East Sussex, it is situated off a winding country lane on a slope leading down to the Tillingham River which meanders down to Rye. Ben has already set about using organic compost across his five acres, and he plans to introduce sheep onto the land in the spring to help naturally control cover crop and weeds. He's even experimenting with biodynamic preparations so as to improve the health of his soil. Now here's a man who's serious about natural wine making! In all Ben has planted around 10,000 plants including thirteen English and International grape varieties, crunchy, light, strawberries. Semi carbonic: tank filled with whole cluster then topped with Pinot Noir juice. Pressed after five days and aged in concrete for six months, the racked to stainless steel and bottled by gravity with a small sulphur addition.

#### 543 Pisoni 'Lucia' Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands, California, USA 2019

The Monterey region, south of the San Francisco Bay area, where this comes from, is sometimes call California's 'salad bowl'. There are also quite a few vineyards around there as well of which Pisoni have some of the best. Their 'Lucia' label wines are made from a blend of their three vineyards, Pisoni, Soberanes and Gary's, in the cool climate Santa Lucia Highlands perched above the Salinas Valley. These wines are pretty sought after and only a few dozen bottles of the Pinot make it to the UK each year. Exceptionally well made, it has wild strawberry, lavender and rose petal aromas and elegantly ripe red cherry, pomegranate and raspberry flavours accompanied by a touch of forest floor earthiness and hint of sweet spice. A velvety palate, gentle tannins and a sustained length coupled with a wonderful freshness all result in a very accomplished wine.

#### 573 Gevrey Chambertin Vieilles Vignes, Domaine Seguin Manuel, Burgundy, France 2019

Founded in 1824, three generations of Manuel family ran their estate until the late 1800's when Marguerite Manuel married Félix Seguin, creating Domaine Seguin-Manuel as we know it today. Nowadays, the estate is controlled by Thibaut Marion, who has around 4 hectares of land, predominantly in Savigny. Additionally, he produces a wide range of cuvees from organic négoce fruit that he purchases from trusted growers in other appellations across Burgundy. On the nose, it combines black berry, spice and toasted aromas coming from the oak maturation. It shows an appealing fruit mingled with liquorice and gamy character. It is juicy and well-structured with good tannins on the palate. Powerful with a long finish.

#### 548 Irreductible Pineau d'Aunis, Clos Roussely, Loire Valley, France 2021

Vincent Roussely is the fourth generation to make wines here in the heart of Chenonceaux near the beautiful castle of the same name. The vineyards are farmed by hand with the help of Gibus the horse for the ploughing, and the health of the vines is apparent in the quality of the grapes. As is common in the region the cellar is carved out of limestone, deep underground, and the natural ferments proceed at a stately pace. Vincent's Pineau d'Aunis is raised in 800 litre amphorae, a vessel which does seem to suit this variety. The trademark white pepper character of Pineau d'Aunis is here in abundance, as well as supple red fruits and a silky mouthfeel. Light bodied and fine.

165

145

110

160

180

# 494 Ridge Vineyards, East Bench Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County, United States 2019

125

Ridge Vineyards was initially established in 1885 by an Italian doctor named Osea Perrone, who christened it the Monte Bello Winery. After decades of production, the vineyard fell into disuse, before being re-invigorated by a consortium of Stanford University graduates in the late 1950s. One of the members of that group was Paul Draper, a philosophy graduate, who is now CEO and head winemaker on the estate. After leaving university, Paul lived in northern Italy and travelled extensively in Paris, gathering the sufficient practical experience needed to head up a winery of such repute as the Ridge, Ridge has made Zinfandel on the single vineyard East Bench site since 2006. it is one of only two Ridge wines that are 100% zinfandel. The vineyard sits high overlooking Dry Creek Valley. The wine provides a nose of rich raspberry and pepper accompanied by floral and mineral notes. The palate is layered with dark cherry and black currant fruit, mineral, and cocoa. It has balanced acidity with fine tannins on the finish.

# 549 Ridge Vineyards, Monte Bello, Santa Cruz Mountains, Sonoma County, United States 2016

525

In 1886, high in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the first Monte Bello vineyards were planted, and winery construction begun. A first vintage from the young vines followed in 1892. During Prohibition (1920-1933), the vineyard was not fully maintained; some vines survived into the late 30's, but by the 1940s they were effectively abandoned. Eight acres of cabernet sauvignon were replanted in 1949. These were the source of the first Ridge Monte Bello (1962) and subsequent vintages until 1974 when younger blocks replanted in the 1960's were considered for inclusion. Since then, the historic vineyards on the ridge have gradually been replanted. Late winter rains brought some relief from another year of drought. Monte Bello's fractured limestone held onto this moisture for the vines to draw on through a mild summer. Unusually cold nights slowed ripening and developed firm acidity, while gentle extraction during fermentation kept tannins in balance. Through careful blind-tasting twenty-three lots were assembled and spent eighteen months in barrel, 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, 6% Cabernet Franc, Opaque purple-ruby colour. Ripe blackberry fruit, barrel spice, anise, violets, and crushed limestone. Opulent mountain fruit entry, firm acid, and finegrain, age-worthy tannins. Powerful complexity and tremendous length to the finish, an iconic wine form an iconic vineyard, that is utterly perfect to drink.

# 570 Domaine Drouhin Laurene Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon, United States 2019

175

Robert Drouhin's vision of an Oregon estate winery that could rival the great vineyards of Burgundy has been realized at DDO. From what began as test plantings of cloned Pinot Noir rootstock, Domaine Drouhin now encompasses 124 acres of hillside vineyards. Interspersed with the Pinot Noir vines are 11 acres of Chardonnay, planted at various elevations and, like in Burgundy, planted right alongside rows of Pinot Noir. In many ways, the 2018 Laurène embodies what Domaine Drouhin loves most about wines from the Dundee Hills. Offering beautiful clarity and a garnet color on approach, the aromatics brim with notes of dried red cherry, spice, wild herbs, earth, and subtle oak. Characteristically elegant, the wine evolves on the palate, moving seamlessly from its pomegranate welcome into its detailed lines of clove, white pepper, and cranberry.

#### 574 Vega Sicilia 'Pintia' Toro, Spain 2017

195

The independent member of the Vega Sicilia family. Pintia is young, intense and ground-breaking in nature. Proud of its origin, it has managed to reinterpret the Vega Sicilia culture in an innovative, brave and daring manner, at the head of the emergence of a new generation of Toro wines. As is the case of all Vega Sicilia wines, the harvest is by hand with the fruit being placed in 12-kg boxes and grapes, once in the winery, they are left in a cold chamber for 12 hours in order to preserve their fruit intensity. Along with the selection on the wine, a double sorting is carried out in the winery. This first removes those bunches that may have been wrongly picked in the field and the second focuses on the substandard berries that are found on optimum bunches. A cold maceration is carried out for 5 days prior to fermentation in oak wood vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in 100% wood. Subsequently, it is aged in French and American oak for 12 months.

These are wines of great intensity of colour and depth, cherry red with cardinal edges. The nose is broad, very clean, expressive and elegant, with great fruity intensity, wrapped in subtle, high quality wood. The palate offers a great structure, good tannic presence and a very friendly, fresh and persistent palate.

#### 575 Vega Sicilia Alion, Ribera del Duero, Spain 2019

250

Wine produced using the Tinto Fino variety. The grapes are harvest by hand in 12-kg boxes and are taken immediately to the winery to the sorting tables. Fermentation takes place in wooden tanks under controlled temperatures until a good polyphenolic structure is obtained which will provide the generous colour and firm structure that makes up part of the personality of this wine; and finally, the ageing of between 12 and 14 months, depending on the characteristics of the vintage, is performed in full in new French oak Bordeaux barrels. These barrels, from the leading Bordeaux firms, are a significant investment in oak as, harvest after harvest, all the wine that is produced in Alión will be aged in new barrels that, after the wine is decanted to be bottle, will not be used again by the winery. Once the wine is removed from the barrels, it will remain no less than 15 months in the stillness of the bottle, where it will end up assembling all the primary aromas of the fruit with the hues from its delicate ageing, resulting in an intense, complex and fleshy wine, but where the elegance is a distinguishing feature and hallmark of the winery.

### 519 Chateau Lagrange, St-Julien Grand Cru Classe, Bordeaux, France 2015

215

Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black core. Aromatic nose with elegant character, dark berries, discreet oak spices and very fine toasted aromas. the nose reminds you of walking into a flower shop carrying a basket of fresh-picked berries. The wine is silky, fresh, polished, elegant, and deep, with length, soft tannins, and waves of fruit and freshness in the finish. On the palate full-bodied yet elegant, ripe tannins with velvety character, with a long and fruity finish carried by the bold Cabernet Sauvignon. A powerful and well balanced wine.

#### 544 CVNE Vina Real Gran Reserva DOC, Rioja, Spain 2014

100

Viña Real has been producing wine since the nineteenth century and over the years has consistently brought fresh ideas and techniques to the Rioja region. Today they can be found in Rioja Alavesa, a sub-region that pioneered barrel-ageing, and indeed Viña Real themselves were one of the first to make crianza wines. Their first wine was sold way back in 1920 from vines near the Camino Real (or 'royal road', an historic Spanish highway) which is where their name originated. They have retained this name, although they are now under the much larger umbrella of producers run by the famous CVNE organisation. Despite their many years of experience, choosing when to harvest is still a tricky operation as they only want to pick grapes at their optimum potential. When harvesting does get underway, it is done by hand, and the grapes undergo a further selection on automatic 'hoppers' at the winery. Viña Real Rioja is fermented in stainless- steel tanks. Extra colour and tannin is extracted by frequently mixing the 'cap' of skins that form back into the juice. Malolactic fermentation follows in a portion each of French and American oak, before the wine is manually racked to stabilise it and get rid of deposits, herbal, jammy, spicy, ripe fruit. Round fine tannins, with a balanced long finish, easy to drink, elegant, fine reductive notes.

#### 572 Joseph Phelps Freestone Vineyards Pinot Noir, California, United States 2017

160

The two tiny-production, super-quality pinot noirs from Joseph Phelps Freestone Estate are almost equally compelling in quality in the 2019, the most recent release. The reds come from parcels in the Occidental-Freestone area on the West Sonoma Coast, which I believe is one of the best regions for pinot noir in the United States. Intense and spicy on the nose, with savoury notes of dark cherries, blueberries, black olives, toffee, oyster shells, porcini mushrooms, chocolate orange and sweet tobacco. This is insanely delicious with spicy, polished layers of berry fruit and earthy undertones. Ultra-fine, silky tannins. Medium body. Some coffee and mocha notes on the long, focused finish.

#### 524 Chateau Musar, Bekka Valley, Lebanon 2017

135

Chateau Musar is more than a wine. It is the story of one man's vision and struggle to succeed through the unlikeliest of odds. The wines are now iconic, enjoy cult status and are as unique as they are brilliant. Serge Hochar famously produced his wines through the civil war (1975-1990) and was perhaps one of the Godfathers of 'Natural Wine'. Heavily influenced by Bordeaux the wines come from calcareous, gravel and stone soils in Lebanon's Bekka Valley. The vineyards benefit from cool nights and seasonal temperatures which result in long growing seasons. It is a unique terroir that producers a unique range of wines, equal parts blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan. It is a showy and exotic Musar with an abundance of sweet cherry, plum and dried fruit aromas along with some plush chocolate and ripe dark fruit. Spicy on the finish.

#### 525 Chateau Musar, Bekka Valley, Lebanon 2000

145

Chateau Musar is more than a wine. It is the story of one man's vision and struggle to succeed through the unlikeliest of odds. The wines are now iconic, enjoy cult status and are as unique as they are brilliant. Serge Hochar famously produced his wines through the civil war (1975-1990) and was perhaps one of the Godfathers of 'Natural Wine'. Heavily influenced by Bordeaux the wines come from calcareous, gravel and stone soils in Lebanon's Bekka Valley. The vineyards benefit from cool nights and seasonal temperatures which result in long growing seasons. It is a unique terroir that producers a unique range of wines, equal blend of cabernet sauvignon, cinsault and Carignan, this is big, bold and intense but very well balanced, think dried fruits, spices, oak, leather and tobacco. This drinks superbly with a balance and finish that are perfectly judged, as always with a Musar this won't disappoint.

#### 538 Chateau Chasse Spleen, Moulis-en-Medoc, Bordeaux, France 2016

165

A beautiful underrated Bordeaux, these wines are always drinking way above their price point. Unfiltered wine aged in 50% new oak from 35 year old vines, 65% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot and 5% petit verdot, very perfumed and aromatic, blackcurrant and violet literally leap out of the glass, very well balanced with a long but light fresh finish.

#### 517 Chateau Branaire-Ducru 4eme Cru Classé, St Julien, Bordeaux, France 2014

210

Dark black fruit, plums, damsons, and cassis along with floral notes and spices. Chateau Branaire-Ducru is an extremely consistent 4<sup>th</sup> growth Chateau based in Saint Julien. The wines are Cabernet Sauvignon dominated with freshness and balance, beautiful to drink with an incredibly long and balanced finish. 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Franc, aged for 18 months in 60% new French oak barrels.

#### 541 Rioja Gran Reserva Especial 'Castillo Ygay' Marques de Murrieta, Rioja, Spain 2011

750

Castillo Ygay is Marques de Murrieta's top cuvee. It's an amazing expression of Rioja and has one of the wine world's most iconic labels. It is always made from grapes sourced from La Plana, a single-vineyard, planted in 1950 and located on a plateau at the highest point of Finca Ygay 485 metres above sea level. Made from a blend of 85% Tempranillo and 15% Mazuelo, aged for 24 months in French oak and aged for a further eight years at the estate before release. Marques de Murrieta was the first estate to establish the concept of a "Chateau" in the iconic La Rioja region of Spain. Luciano Murrieta produced his first wine in 1852 after travelling to Bordeaux where he was heavily influenced by the areas structure and wine making techniques. The estate was purchased in 1983 by the Cebrian-Sagarriga family who meticulously rebuilt the castle between 2007 and 2014. This is a very beautiful world-class, well-balanced Gran Reserve, big, bold and perfectly balanced amounts of acidity and tannins.

#### 500 Chateau Lynch Bages, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France 2019

550

Lynch Bages's vineyards are superbly sited on a plateau west of Pauillac town, in the small village of Bages. The 90 hectares of vineyards (Red: Cabernet Sauvignon 75%, Merlot 15%, Cabernet Franc 10%) lie on deep gravel beds over limestone. For the reds, fermentation is temperature-controlled with extensive 'remontage' to ensure concentration and depth of colour. A special system of pipes transfers the wine from the cuves to the oak barriques (60% new) where it matures for 15 months. The 2019 Lynch Bages is tight and surly at first, demanding a lot of coaxing from the glass. It eventually opens up with a mixture of red and black fruit, cedar and tobacco, gaining more harmony and intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins.

#### 514 Meyer Fonne 'Gallus' Pinot Noir, Alsace, France 2021

95

Although Meyer Fonne 'Gallus' Pinot Noir is named after Gallus Meyer (an ancestor who arrived in Katzenthal in 1732) it does also share some similarities to the West of Scotland word. This daring Pinot Noir is a blend of two plots, one grown on marl and sandstone in Ammerschwihr and one on limestone in Kientzheim. It is a bold, earlier maturing wine with lovely dark red fruits, with great underlying freshness along with nice spice notes and a Burgundian feel of earth and forest floor notes, Domaine Meyer Fonne was founded in the late 1800s by Felix Meyer and is still run today by Felix's great grandson, also called Felix. The Domaine now covers 18 hectares over 7 communes, namely Katzenthal, Ammerschwihr, Ingersheim, Riquewihr, Kientzheim, Colmar and Bennwihr. The diversity of soil type and vineyard exposure throughout these areas is so phenomenal that you're almost guaranteed to see groups of university students and amateur geologists surveying the unique land. The area is one of the world's greatest examples of terroir and its soil diversity means that several grape varieties can flourish here making it one of the most varied grape growing regions in the world.The Domaine has always been farmed organically and Felix likes to play around with a few Biodynamic techniques. Felix also prefers to use large, older foudres (wooden barrels) in conjunction with stainless steel vats for the more aromatic varieties. This gives the wines a delicacy, depth and complexity which is quite special.

## 539 Chateau Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France 2020

630

The 2020 Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is made from 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, and 6% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it needs considerable swirling to bring out fragrant scents of lilacs, tilled soil, rosehip tea, and Sichuan pepper, giving way to a core of cassis, black raspberries, and cedar chest with emerging iron ore and charcoal scents. The medium-bodied palate is so tightly knit, with firm, grainy tannins and lovely tension, finishing long and minerally. Stunning in every way!

#### 540 Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou, St Julien, Bordeaux, France 2016

650

Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou 2016 is one of the standout wines from the vintage. The wine possesses amazing aromatics amongst its black fruit profile, lovely balance of acidity and tannins, there is great elegance to this wine and a mineral acidity which leads to an effortless and stunning wine that is world class in every single way.

#### 542 Brunello di Montalcino 'Filo di Seta Castello Romitorio, Tuscany, Italy 2017

220

Filo di Seta is a unique and exceptional expression of Brunello di Montalcino by Castello Romitorio. The grapes are sourced from cooler Northwest facing vineyards located at 350 meters altitude. This is a distinctive microclimate in a hot area. The result is a Brunello with all the power and structure you'd expect but with an exceptional lightness and freshness that makes it fascinating. Dried cherry, floral notes, dark peony, earth, savoury notes and a perfumed edge. It is a wine you could smell all day and is almost electric on the palate but finishes with lovely silky charm and elegance. World class wine. Castello Romitorio was a half renovated abandoned wreck when artist Sandro Chia purchased it in 1984. What was left of the building had been abandoned after WW2 and used only by shepherds until Baron Giorgio Franchetti, a historic building restorer, purchased it in the 1970s. He abandoned his plan (I didn't say he was a successful building restorer) and sold the property to Sandro who completed the work and brought the building back to life as his home and art studio. The building had been built originally in the 12th century as an imposing hilltop fortress to guard the town of Montalcino. In the late 1980's Sandro set about restoring the land around the castle back to its former glory with an overhaul of the vineyards. New cellars were constructed in 2005 and Filippo, Sandro's son became an integral part of the team. The wines have become internationally recognised as elegant expressions of Sangiovese that flirt between the modern and classic style.

#### 511 Schlipf Schneider 'Otlinger Sonnhohle' Spatburgunder, Baden, Germany 2020

145

Schlipf Schneider 'Otlinger Sonnhohle' Spatburgunder (Pinot Noir) is sourced from a distinctive, steep, 2 hectare, south facing vineyard which is one of the Schneider's warmest vineyards and perfect for producing powerful yet elegant Pinot Noir. Aged for 24 months in large wooden barrels this is an age worthy and magnificent wine that displays all the qualities of world class Pinot Noir. Weingut Schlipf Schneider is made up of 15-hectares of vineyards spread over 70 plots on the Tullinger Berg mountain, just northeast of Basel, in the very southwest of Germany. The winery has been family owned since 1892 and is now in the capable hands of Johannes and Christoph Schneider, who took over from their parents, Claus and Susanne, in 2017. Johannes trained at Rossignol Trapet in Burgundy which has given him an invaluable insight into making superb Pinot Noir, or Spatburgunder as it is known here. In the past few years Johannes has moved to a more Burgundian model of bottling several different plots and vineyards separately, with the aim of expressing the different terroirs in the vineyards. The vineyards, which are now all farmed organically and with meticulous attention to detail, sit in a unique and wonderful location in the border triangle of France, Switzerland and Germany where they benefit from the warm Mediterranean air which flows up through the surrounding mountain ranges. It is a unique microclimate where Pinot Noir and the local Chasselas grapes thrive and produce amazing wines that are characteristic of their varieties but unique in their terroir. To be honest, we can't keep up with all the wines they produce, which includes sparkling, Chasselas, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc.

#### 515 Moulin -a-Vent 'La Rochelle'Jean Paul Brun 2018

100

Jean Paul Brun Moulin-a-Vent 'la Rochelle' is a magnificent wine with a wonderful depth of flavour, beautiful finesse and aromas of black fruit, violets, spice and hedgerow fruit. Like Morgon, the Beaujolais Cru of Moulin a Vent is famous for its longevity and more Burgundian style. Jean Paul Brun's 'La Rochelle' vineyard which is planted with 100% Gamay sits at the top of a hill and benefits from cooler breezes and granite soil. The area's soil also contains high levels of manganese which helps reduce the yields and results in more concentrated berries. Jean-Paul founded Domaine Terres Dorees in 1979 with four hectares of vineyards around his hometown of Charnay. His vineyard holdings have expanded nearly as much as his reputation as the Godfather of Beaujolais (I may have coined that phrase) and he now farms over 60 hectares which includes prime sites in the Cru Villages of Morgon, Moulin a Vent, Fleurie and St Amour. During the 1980s and 1990s Beaujolais captured the public imagination with Beaujolais Nouveau and a style of wine that was young, fruity, not very serious and smelt more like bubble-gum and bananas than wine. Jean Paul hated this style and wanted to make wine in a more traditional way that expressed the grape and the terroir. He has always farmed organically, and steers clear of manipulating the wines via carbon maceration, thermo-vinification and yeast inoculation which have become the norm in Beaujolais. He also believes his wines taste better at lower alcohol levels so does not add extra sugar (chapitalise) to raise alcohol levels. The resulting wines all have great complexity along with the juicy, almost sappy fruit associated with Beaujolais.

#### 576 Pinot Noir, Lethbridge, Victoria, Australia 2019

100

Lethbridge was born when three friends, Ray Nadeson, Maree Collis and Adrian Thomas decided to leave behind their careers in the science and medicine industry to pursue their passion for wine. Their joint venture centred on the Lethbridge Estate Vineyard, whose history dates back to 1874. They replanted many of the vines in 1996 and set about converting the land using solely biodynamic and organic practices. Located at a distance of 30km from the main wine area of Geelong, the estate enjoys a continental climatic condition. The vines are planted at an altitude of 250m above sea level, and it is neatly divided into parcels based on the soil type that is found here, a combination of clay, sandy clay and rockier ground. This combination of continental climate, varied soil types and altitude is critical to the production of the refined, sophisticated wines they produce. In addition to their own fruit, the team at Lethbridge also have partnerships with a handful of esteemed local grape growers in areas such as Henty, Heathcote and The Great Western regions. They believe that having access to these grapes allows them to produce wines which possess poise and balance each year, even in tougher vintages. This Pinot displays a gorgeous, subtle bouquet of cherry, raspberry, flowers and fresh leaves, which leads into a poised, beautifully textured, complex palate. Seamless and delicate yet with great underlying persistence and length, this is a masterclass in Pinot Noir winemaking.

#### 577 S'arai, Pala, Sardinia, Italy 2019

110

The Pala family began their adventure with wine in 1950 amongst the rolling, vine-covered hills of Serdiana, an idyllic village located in southern Sardinia. With mild winters and warm, dry summers, this part of Italy's second largest island is ideal for grape growing, with the traditional varietals finding a special home here. Under the guidance of Mario Pala as of 1995, the winery continues to be family-owned. Pala owns six different vineyard areas with a total of 68 hectares currently under vine. Each vineyard is planted with varietals that are chosen according to the microclimate and soil type of the individual site. All vineyards are cultivated following organic practices and without the use of chemical pesticides or fertilizers, ensuring the wines offer a true reflection of their unique Sardinian terroir. Deep, intense ruby red colour with light garnet reflections, very clear. Intense persistent aroma with prevailing notes of mature fruit with light almond taste. Dry and soft with a good structure, smooth and enveloping.

#### 513 Marie-Pierre Chevassu-Fassenet, poulsard, Cotes du Jura, France 2022

80

Marie-Pierre Chevassu-Fassenet took over her family's wine estate in 2008 and manages her 4.5 hectares from vine to cellar door herself. She uses indigenous yeast; her grapes are also harvested and destemmed by hand. The wine is unfined and unfiltered, and aged at ambient temperatures, this wine, made from local grape Poulsard, is a rustic wine, where flavours of bruised red apples and earthiness mingle with crispy acidity and savoury notes.

#### 578 Howard John, Lourens Family Wines, Hemel-En-Aarde Valley, South Africa 2021

85

Franco Lourens has served his apprenticeship as assistant winemaker to the highly-regarded Chris Alheit while simultaneously establishing his Lourens Family Wines project. From his base in Hermanus, he works with a series of growers to source the best fruit from sites of unique interest before a vinification process that involves indigenous yeasts, very light filtration and omits fining. The results are a spectacular selection of wines. This blend of Cinsault (33%), Grenache (30%), Syrah (21%) and Carignan (16%) is made in honour of Franco's late father. It is supple, rounded and elegant yet bursting with flavour. Expect initial notes of sweet cherries, olives before a lively palate with hints of damson and fine, elegant tannins. The finish is long and gently savoury, delicious!



## Champagne

## Champagne for the Independently Minded

Taittinger remains one of the few Champagne Houses to be owned and actively managed by the family named on the label.

Its origins date back to 1734 when the original house was founded by Jacques Fourneaux. The Taittinger link was established in 1931 when Pierre Taittinger, the founder of today's company acquired the House. Pierre spent time in the Champagne region when serving in the 1st world war as a young cavalry officer. Stationed at the Château de la Marquetterie, he fell in love with this remarkable property and its vineyards and eventually purchased the company. Today, the Reims based House is headed up by Pierre's great grandchildren Vitalie and Clovis, both of whom are actively involved in the day to day running of this thriving family Champagne House.

Taittinger's home is situated above miles of chalk tunnels and cellars. These 4th century UNESCO listed cellars once belonged to the Benedictine monks of the abbey of St Nicaise and are perfect for the slow ageing process required for great Champagne.

The hallmark of the Taittinger Champagnes is the high percentage of Chardonnay used in their winemaking which can be anything from 40% in the Brut Réserve Non-Vintage to 100% in the prestigious Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs. This Chardonnay dominance provides for a style of elegance, delicacy and finesse which is recognised worldwide and has earned the House many accolades and awards over the years.

	125ML	HALF BOTTLE	BOTTLE
NV Taittinger Brut Reserve	17	55	100
NV Taittinger Nocturne Sec	17		100
NV Taittinger Brut Prestige Rose'	18	60	110
NV Taittinger Prelude Grand Crus			125
NV Taittinger Folies de la Marquetterie			210
Taittinger Comtes De Champagne Blanc de Blancs 2004			550
Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Brut Rose 2004			600

## **CHAMPAGNE**

9	Billecart-Salmon Brut Réserve N.V. Mareuil-sur-Aÿ, Champagne, France	110
15	Bollinger Spécial Cuvée N.V. Ay, Champagne, France	140
17	Laurent Perrier Rose N.V., Tours sur Marne, Champagne, France	200
19	Dom Pérignon, Epernay, Champagne, France, 2013	500
14	Krug Grand Cuvée N.V., Reims, Champagne, France	550
20	Louis Roederer, Cuvée Cristal, Reims, Champagne, France, 2014	600
SPAR	<u>KLING</u>	
21	Proseco , Veneto, Italy, DOC, N.V.	45
22	Proseco Rose, Veneto, Italy, DOC, N.V.	45
31	Sea Change Free 0% Sparkling Wine, Italy	32
34	Gusbourne Brut Reserve, Ashford, England, 2019	90
35	Gusbourne Rose, Ashford, England, 2018	95
36	Gusbourne Blanc de Blancs, Ashford, England, 2018	100
30	Knightor Blanc de Blancs, Cornwall, England 2015	105
33	Knightor Vintage Cuvee, Cornwall, England 2013	90

## **FRANCE**

WHITE		
122	Chablis, Domaine Fevre, Burgundy, 2020	68
147	Bzikot Père et Fils, Bourgogne Blanc 'Cote D'Or, Burgundy, 2020	70
136	Pernand Vergelesses 1er Cru Sous Fretille, Pierre Meurgey, Burgundy, 2019	143
109	Pouilly-Fume 'Elisa' Organic, Domaine Jonathan Pabiot, Loire, 2022	70
103	Gewürztraminer Tradition Organic, Emile Beyer, Alsace 2020	51
117	Beaujolais Blanc 'Axiome' Domaine le Capreoles, Beaujolais 2021	75
101	Muscadet De Sevré Et Maine Sur Lie, Chateau Haute Carizere, Loire.2018	49
134	Vouvray Sec Les Tuffs, Domaine Darragon, Loire, 2018	45
105	Sancerre Blanc 'Silex' Domaine Paul Thomas, Loire, 2020	71
152	Picpoul de Pinet, Terre De Roqueloupie, South West, 2018	45
148	Minervois Blanc, Château Canet, Languedoc, 2020	53
149	Le Paradou Viognier, Château Pesquie, Cotes de Ventoux, 2021	48
RED		
407	Pinot Noir Hautes Cotes de Beaune, Domaine Henri Delagrange, Burgundy, 2022	73
432	Cotes du Nuit Villages Clos du Chapeau, Domaine De L'Arlot, Burgundy, 2014	93
433	Chorey Les Beaune, Domaine Tollot Beaut, Burgundy, 2019	98
463	Beaujolais Villages Vin Nature a Butiner, Terroir et Talents, Beaujolais, 2021	51
409	Chateau Brandeau, Castillon, Bordeaux, 2018	51
429	Côtes du Rhône, Grenache, Roche Audson, Rhône Valley, 2020	48
410	Crozes-Hermitage La Matinière, Domaine Ferraton, Rhône Valley 2021	68
438	Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Tradition Rouge, Château De L Gardine, Rhône Valley, 2019	100
472	Bandol Rouge, Domaine La Suffrene, Provence 2020	80
473	Malbec 'Extra Libre Organic', Château du Cedre, South West, 2021	75
483	Gamay Pinot Noir de Touraine, Domaine de la Rochette, Loire 2021	50
484	Pinot Noir 'Aromatheque' Organic, Domaine Schwach, Alsace 2021	55
488	Château La Graviere, Lalande de Pomerol, Bordeaux 2019	85

## **SPAIN**

WHITE		
156	Gran Cedro Blanco, Gonzalo Grijalba, Rioja, 2019	41
130	Albariño, Bodegas Terras Gauda, O Rosal, Rias Baixas 2020	68
119	Adegas Guimaro Blanco, Ribera Sacra, 2020	65
112	Cellar Gran Credo Miranius, Penedes 2019	60
169	Getariako Txakolina, Ameztoi, Basqu Country 2022	50
RED		
462	Gran Cedro Rioja, Gonzalo Grijalba, Rioja, 2020	41
420	Asua Rioja Crianza CUNE, Rioja, 2019	45
406	Rioja Reserva, Paco and Eliseo Grimon, Rioja, 2015	73
491	Syrah Parvus Organic, Alta Alella, 2019	65
404	Pittacum Bierzo Tinto, Bierzo 2019	60
<u>ITALY</u>		
WHITE		
107	Broglia, La Meirana, Gavi Di Gavi, Piedmont, 2020	58
115	Fattoria San Lorenzo Bianco Di Gino, Marche, 2018	43
155	Catarrato, Ciello, Natural Organic, Unfined, Unfiltered, Sicily, 2016	41
108	Baglio Bianco Catarratto on Skins, Ciello, Sicily, 2021	52
102	Falerio DOP Oris Bianco Organic, Ciu Ciu, Marche 2022	48
104	Tasca Regaleali Bianco, Sicily 2021	45
RED		
431	Moccagatta Barbaresco, Piedmont, 2011	88
436	Amarone Della Valpolicella, Corte Adami, Veneto, 2019	93
403	Bacchus Rosso Piceno Organic, Ciu Ciu, Marche 2022	50
402	San Valentino, Bacaia, Sangiovese Superiore, Emilia-Romagna, 2018	43
464	SP86 Rosso, Arianna Occhipinti, Sicily, 2022	75
440	Alessandrino Rosso, Valle Unite, Piedmont 2021	48

## **ENGLAND**

WHITE		
154	Chardonnay, Knightor Winery, Cornwall 2021	63
168	Trevannion, Knightor Winery, Cornwall 2022	63
180	Bacchus, Knightor Winery, Cornwall 2021	68
181	Madeleine Angevine, Knightor Winery, Cornwall 2021	70
RED		
465	'Carpe Diem' - Pinot Noir, Regent, Rondo, Knightor Winery, Cornwall N.V.	63
466	Pinot Noir, Knightor Winery, Cornwall, 2019	68
467	Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon, Knightor Winery, Cornwall 2021	73
<u>AUST</u>	<u>RIA</u>	
WHITE		
110	Judith Beck Weissburgunder Organic, Burgenland 2022	58
113	Schlehe Amber Orange Wine, Martin and Anna Arndorfer, Weinland 2021	65
180	'Blonde by Nature', Pittnauer, Burgenland 2022	70
RED		
413	Judith Beck Ink Organic, Burgenland, 2020	48
401	Judith Beck Hunny Bunny Organic, Burgenland 2021	70
401	Judicii Beak Hulling Bulling Bulgerhullu 2021	70
<u>GERN</u>	<u>IANY</u>	
WHITE		
123	Jacobus Reisling VDP, Peter Jakob Kuhn, Rheingau, 2018	58
SOUT	H AMERICA	
RED		
460	Maylet Origan Crand Recome Chile 2021	45
460	Merlot, Origen Grand Reserve, Chile, 2021	45
469	Wild Ferment Pinot Noir, Errazuriz, Casablanca Valley, Chile, 2019	45
417	Cabernet Sauvignon Corralillo, Matetic, Chile, 2019	58
471	Malbec, Zuccardi Brazos, Uco Valley, Argentina, 2020	48

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

WHITE		
170	Testalonga Mielie Green Chenin, Swartland 2022	55
185	Smaug the Magnificent, BLANKbottle, Elgin, 2020	75
RED		
487	Imbuko Releaf Cabernet Merlot Shiraz, Western Cape, 2020	45
411	Master of None, BLANKbottle, Wellington, 2022	57
AUST	<u>RALIA</u>	
WHITE		
125	"Samurai" Chardonnay, Free Run Juice, Riverland, 2020	41
126	Distant Noises Chardonnay, Tom Aarson, Mornington Peninsula, 2019	53
151	Helmsman Pinot Grigio, Robert Oatley, Central Ranges, 2019	45
RED		
416	"Samurai" Shiraz, Free Run Juice, 'Tastes like Ninja's', Riverland, 2021	41
493	Jumping Juice 'Half Full Red' Victoria 2021	60
418	Valley Floor Shiraz, Langmeil, Barossa Valley, 2019	63
434	Cabernet Franc 'FRNC' Brash Higgins, Riverland, Australia 2020	80
439	Vin de Sofa, Gentle Folk, Adelaide Hills 2023	70
<u>NEW</u>	<u>ZEALAND</u>	
WHITE		
118	Riesling, Little Beauty, Marlborough, 2014	65
153	Esk Valley Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, 2022	48
189	Pinot Gris, Pounamu, Marlborough 2014	75
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RED		
489	Mahi Pinot Noir, Marlborough, 2020	85

<u>SPARKLING</u>	125ml	175ml	250ml	Bottle
Prosecco DOC Valdobbiadene, Terre di Sant'Alberto, Italy	10			45
N.V. Taittinger Brut Reserve Reims, Champagne, France	17			100
N.V. Taittinger Brut Prestige Rose	18			110
N.V. Taittinger Nocturne Sec	17			100
<u>WHITE</u>				
Esk Valley Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2022		12	16	48
Picpoul de Pinet, Terre de Roqueloupie, Languedoc, France, 2018		11	14	45
Helmsman Pinot Grigio, Robert Oatley, Australia, 2019		11	14	45
Bzikot Pere et Fils, Bourgogne Blanc 'Cote D'Or, Burgundy, 2020		17	21	70
<u>RED</u>				
Asua Rioja Crianza Cune, Spain, 2019		11	15	45
Wild Ferment Pinot Noir, Errazuriz, Casablanca Valley, Chile, 2019		11	15	45
Merlot, Origen Grand Reserve, Chile, 2021		11	14	45
Malbec, Zuccardi Brazos, Uco Valley, Argentina, 2020		12	15	48
ROSE				
Judith Beck Pink, Burgenland, Austria, 2022		12	17	50
Chateau Grand Boise Rose 'Jadis' Cotes Du Provence 2021				73
Bandol Rose, Domaine le Suffrene, Cedric Gravier, Bandol, Provence, France, 2019				61
Whispering Angel Rose, Provence, France 2022		20	26	78