



SEAHAM
HALL

Wine List

Last Updated – 09.12.24

Some vintages may differ and all of our wines are subject to availability.

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Single Bottle Sparkling

- 45 45 Bollinger PN (VZ16) Ay, Champagne, France 220**
PN VZ16 is a 100% Pinot Noir (PN) blend from vineyards in Verzenay (VZ) based on the 2016 vintage. With the high proportion of Pinot coming from the chalky soils of Verzenay, PN VZ 16 showcases the charm of this unique terroir. Wonderful depth, elegance and tension, combine with a beautiful saline finish. Bollinger are famed for their Pinot Noir so there is little surprise that it's signature rich, open style shines through. The wonderful smoky, nutty and caramel tones imparted by Bollinger's distinct foudre ageing are already present and the reserve wines, aged for up to 15 years en magnum, add to its exceptional aromatic intensity.
- 23 Bragher N.V., Vitivinicola Fangareggi, Emilia Romagna, Italy 65**
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.
- 40 Patrick Sullivan Jumpin Juice Pet Nat, Victoria, Australia 2020 65**
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.
- 46 Gosset GR Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV, Ay, Champagne, France 165**
Gosset is the oldest producer in Champagne, with over 400 years of history and can trace back its roots to 1584 when created by Pierre Gosset. Located in the small village of Ay in the Vallee de la Marne, Gosset originally made red and white still wines which rivalled those of the Cote de Beaune. However, it wasn't until the 18th century when they turned their hand to Champagne and naturally, never looked back. Today their wines are made using the traditional varietals of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay and the house carefully avoids malolactic fermentation to preserve the wines freshness. Champagne Gosset is known for their attention to detail and pride in quality, a tradition maintained to this day and have become the pinnacle of finesse and elegance in Champagne. The Grand Cru Blanc de Blancs is made with 100% Chardonnay providing an elegant and fine sparkling perfect for any celebration. Beautiful aromas of stone and citrus fruit, honey as well as a touch of white flowers. Crisp yet seductive and silky on the palate with more citrus fruit and a hint of toastiness on the finish.
- 26 Irroy Brut N.V., Reims, Champagne 110**
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, 10% Pinot Meunier and 30% Chardonnay.
- 24 De Saint Gall Orpale Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Millésime, Cotes de Blancs Champagne, France 2008 210**
Orpale is the Prestige Cuvée from Champagne de Saint Gall, made from Grand Cru vineyards in the Cotes de Blancs of Mesnil-Sur-Oger, Cramant, Avize, and Oger. The wine is aged on its lees for 12 years, disgorged in May 2020 and is the drier side of Brut with 7 grams per litre. Orpale is without a doubt the most complex, accomplished wine of their portfolio, it is the result of a highly unusual process: a portion of the grapes used to make this Blanc de Blancs do not undergo malolactic fermentation to preserve the freshness and mineral character of one of the best plots of the Côte des Blancs. An elegant wine with complex aromas, superb on the palate and with a long finish.

- 38 Blanc de Blancs Brut 'Le Chevronné', G. Richomme, Côte de Sézanne, Champagne, France 2016** **120**
2016 was a particularly exceptional vintage and as such, two of the estate's best plots – Les Petits Macrets and Les Maillons – were blended together to create this wonderful Blanc de Blancs. Elegant and sophisticated on the nose, the palate is initially smoky, evolving to display notes of orange, chocolate, black fruit jelly and cloves. After some time, flavours of the garrigue take hold, with thyme and rosemary coming to the fore, backed up by hints of gingerbread and fresh honey. A wonderfully complex, sophisticated expression of vintage Blanc de Blancs.
- 49 Achillée Crémant d'Alsace Zéro Dosage, Alsace, France 2020** **95**
55% Riesling, 15% Pinot Blanc, 15% Auxerrois, and 15% Chardonnay grapes come predominately from 2 terroirs. The alluvial gravel and light clay soils of the plains surrounding the village of Scherwiller, and the decomposed granite soils from the northern hillsides of the Frankstein Grand Cru in the village of Dambach-la-Ville. Direct pressing of the whole bunches is followed by one-night of lees settling before the start of fermentation in stainless steel tanks. Alcoholic fermentation begins naturally using only indigenous yeasts and takes up to 1 month to complete. The still wine, or Vin Clair, is aged for 9 months on the fermentation lees in stainless steel tanks. The Vin Clair does not go through malolactic fermentation. At 9 months a solution of sugar and yeast, known as Liqueur de Tirage, is added to the Vin Clair to kick-start the secondary fermentation. The wine is bottled under a crown cap and a second fermentation occurs in the bottle, its then aged in bottle "sur latte" for 24 months in the cellar. At the completion of the aging process each bottle is disgorged, and no dosage is added.
- 50 Maxime Blin, Carte Blanche Extra Brut N.V., Montagne de Reims, Champagne, France** **120**
Nestled in the village of Trigny on the Montagne de Reims, Champagne Maxime Blin is a modern estate run with a nod to tradition. Since Claire and Maxime Blin took over in 2005, they've revitalised the estate, steering it towards a sustainable future. Embracing organic farming, they achieved certification in 2021. Their vineyards, a patchwork of small plots on sandy, chalky soils, yield grapes that truly express their terroir. They're exactly the type of family-run estate that enhances the reputation of Grower Champagnes, crafted from 80% Pinot Meunier and 20% Pinot Noir, resulting in a light and fruity style with a satisfying touch of oomph on the finish. All the fruit is sourced from the family's own vineyards in the Montagne de Reims village of Trigny. Boasting subtle light red fruit flavours, a golden hue, and delicate notes of white flowers, it's a good example of exemplary Grower Champagne.
- 51 Recaredo 'Terrers' Brut Nature Corpinnat, Alt Penedés, Catalonia, Spain 2019** **110**
This is mature, complex Cava produced with a patience, we actually shouldn't really use the word Cava as this is actually classed as a 'Corpinnat' - an offshoot DO that was created to ensure the wine was produced in the Penedès heartland to a specific quality level, avoiding bulk production, international varieties like Chardonnay & Pinot Noir finding their way into the blend, and for a focus on the vineyard work being organic. The wine has sat in the cellar maturing on its lees in the bottle for 38 months before being disgorged by hand. This kind of unrushed approach produces something that you could draw a parallel to Champagne or a decent Crémant with. The bubbles are delicate and impossibly tiny - something that can only be achieved with time, and the nose has that delicious breadly aroma of brioche from the lees contact as well as ripe peach and zesty lemons. Didn't think Cava could be serious? Think again!
- 32 XL Ancestral Method 2021** **70**
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.
- 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.

- 42 Testalonga El Bandito 'I am The Ninja, Pet Nat, Chenin Blanc 2022** **75**
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/l it was bottled under crown cap where it was left to finish fermentation and build up a natural pressure of CO2.
- 37 Ancre Hills Blanc de Noirs N.V. Monmouth, England** **95**
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 élevage 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.
- 28 Henri Giraud, Blanc de Craie, N.V. Ay, Champagne, France** **180**
Champagne Henri Giraud was first and foremost a family of growers who have tended to vines in Ay since 1625, making it one of the oldest and smallest family-run houses. However, radical change came in the capable hands of 12th generation CEO, Claude Giraud, who decided to release a wine for the first time under the family name and the rest, as they say, is history! The house style is based upon tradition; fermenting and ageing in Argonne oak barrels (the local forest which Claude stresses adds to the 'terroir' of their wines), giving them luxurious and full-bodied characters. Production is limited (ca. 250,000 bottles per year), which is small for a Champagne house and therefore demand is extremely high. Robert Parker Jr once said that Henri Giraud is 'the greatest Champagne house you've never heard of'...An All-Chardonnay blend sourced from the families' vineyards in Ay (the majority) and Louvois (30-40%) on the north side of the Montagne de Reims. It's based on the 2017 harvest, a difficult year by reputation but notably good for Chardonnay. A pale golden hue, it shows subtle citrus notes of orange zest while the palate is impressively grippy, with chalky textural intensity, salinity and a note of iodine. The textural complexity is amplified by a large slug of barrel-aged reserve wine to produce something really impressive.
- 39 Billecart Salmon Cuvée Sous-Bois Brut N.V. Mareuil-sur-Aÿ, Champagne, France** **180**
The Brut Sous Bois from Billecart-Salmon is a charming and original Champagne, the sparkling result of traditional blending skills and know-how going back to the very first Champagne producers. Completely vinified in oak, the cuvée is made from identical quantities of the Three grapes in Champagne: Chardonnay from Premier and Grand Crus in Côte des Blancs, Pinot Noir from Premier and Grand Crus in Montagne de Reims, Aÿ and Mareuil-sur-Aÿ, and Pinot Meunier from the Vallée de la Marne. Thanks to its vinification and ageing in used oak barrels, Brut Sous Bois displays complex aromas and a strong character. It undergoes a partial malolactic fermentation and contains between 30 and 35% of previous vintages. It matures on its lees in the winery for 6 or 7 years and 7g/l of sugar is added. Crystal-clear in the glass, it has a delightful golden-yellow colour with bright glints and fine sparkling bubbles. It is extremely rich in the nose with harmonious aromas of nuts, fresh citrus fruit and white fruits alongside seductive notes with fine hints of toasted butter, almonds and toffee expressing the elegant fullness of great Champagnes. Between medium and full-bodied, it is an elegantly fleshy and well-concentrated wine, with a generous texture and delicate bubbles. Its strength, honesty and character make the Brut Sous Bois cuvée a flawless and delightful Champagne.
- 18 Perrier-Jouet Belle Epoque, Fleur de Champagne Millésime Brut, Epernay, France** **400**
2014
Belle Epoque remains the iconic expression of Perrier- Jouët's floral, stylish and diamond cut style, hallmarked by the finest Chardonnays in the Côte des Blancs, benefitting from two centuries of winemaking expertise in the art of vintage. It is a beautifully elegant wine that closely mirrors the spray of white anemones adorning the bottle designed by Emile Gallé in 1902. The 2007 Belle Epoque cuvée is an assemblage comprising 50% Chardonnay from Cramant, Avize and Chouilly, bringing freshness, minerality and floral notes to the blend. The generosity and fresh fruit notes come from the 45% Pinot Noirs from Mailly, Verzy and Aÿ. Deschamps also chose to add 5% Pinot Meunier from Dizy to add ripe fruit aromas and extra roundness to the finishing touch of the final cuvée. The wine was aged for six years in the Perrier-Jouët cellars before disgorgement, when it was given a light dosage of 9g/l.

- 29 Camel Valley Pinot Noir Brut Rose, Wadebridge, Cornwall, England 2018 80**
Camel Valley Rose Brut is a great example of how good English Sparkling rose wine can be. Camel Valley sparkling Pinot Noir Rose Brut is made in the South West of England on the banks of the Camel River, just outside a town called Bodmin. Bob Lindo and his wife Annie planted the first vines in 1989 and have been making award winning wine ever since. All Camel Valley wine is now being made by their son Sam who took over in the early 2000's. Camel Valley Rose Brut is a fresh and traditional sparkling rose wine made from Pinot Noir grapes. It is classy, champagne method gem full of fresh strawberry and raspberry aromas and flavours. A lovely sparkling wine with a good acidic backbone which keeps it fresh for those warm summer nights.
- 16 Jaques Bon Coeur Brut Reserve N.V. Champagne, France 85**
90% Pinot Noir in the blend and two years of bottle age give Jacques Boncoeur Champagne extra depth and structure on the mid-palate. Produced by one of the leading co-operative Champagne Houses, located in the southern border of Champagne and Burgundy. It was founded in 1956 when 130 families came together all bringing work, passion and energy to the table. With 310 hectares of remarkable and unique vineyards, this heart-warming adventure of the community has been in place for over 50 years. 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 undertones.

SINGLE BOTTLE WHITE, ORANGE AND SKINS

FRANCE

- 202 Patrice Beguet, Three Views a Secret, Alsace, France 2020 110**
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.
- 168 Frantz Saumon Minéral Plus AOC Montlouis-sur-Loire, Loire, France 2020 95**
Frantz Saumon before being a well-known winegrower was a forest guard in Canada and then in France. A small estate consisting of six hectares of vineyard planted Chenin Blanc where the vineyards have an average age of thirty years with some even reaching the age of one hundred years. The peculiarity of this vineyard is that it is on five different terrains so that wines are completely different. Frantz in the cellar carries out only the necessary interventions, fermentations are spontaneous, uses only native yeasts and refinements occur only in steel tanks and wooden barrels of various sizes. The wines of Frantz Saumon are fresh, inviting with a light minerality and year after year its wines are always better. It has a straw yellow colour with golden hues. The nose is citrus with peach and apple notes in evidence. In the mouth it is round, fresh with marked minerality.
- 214 Arbois Savagnin 'Sous Voile' Chateau Bethanie, Jura, France 2018 120**
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, 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 Contrôlée (AOC) and the rest as they say is history. In 1969 the co-operative purchased Chateau Bethanie 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.
- 134 Riesling Grand Cru Clos St Landelin, Domaine Muré, Alsace, France 2019 105**
Muré is recognised as one of the most historic producers in Alsace, with origins going back to 1650. Today, the 11th and 12th generation are in charge, making wines that are improving year-on-year. They are also developing a burgeoning reputation for their impressive red wine production. The estate is based just outside the town of Rouffach in southern Alsace. Even in a region known for its lack of rainfall, this area is particularly dry and sunny, providing the perfect conditions for Pinot Noir cultivation. At the helm is René Muré, softly spoken and thoughtful, aided by his two children, Véronique and Thomas. The jewel in their crown is the famous monopole vineyard of Clos Saint Landelin – this site was named after an Irish saint who reputedly settled here in the ninth century to preach the gospel and it is located as part of the grand cru Vorbourg. Riesling of great character, layering concentrated lime juice with warm minerality, rich yet incisive on the palate.
- 200 La Soeur Cadette Melon Vin De France, Burgundy, France 2022 75**
This grape is common in the Muscadet appellations found around Nantes near the Atlantic coast; however, it has almost disappeared from Burgundy, think apples, vanilla, almonds and honey with a good dose of acidity and creaminess, and a little salinity to balance it all out, totally delicious!
- 160 Clos du Gravillas L'Inattendu Minervois, Languedoc, France 2022 85**
This is a blend of Grenache Gris and Grenache Blanc with a bit of Macabeu. It's fermented and aged on lees for 10 months in 500-litre barrels, and it's exceptional. The combination of expansive richness, high-voltage but super-ripe acidity, smoky minerality and a mosaic of flavours fills every corner of the mouth with thrilling vibration. It starts off clotted cream and grilled mango, and then it's wave after wave of sweet-orange acidity, glittering in the mouth. It's a wine with both density and silkiness of texture.

- 176 Bourcier Martinot Pouilly Fuisse 1er Cru Les Crays, Burgundy, France 2020** **120**
Bourcier Martinot is known for producing steely, mineral-laced Chardonnays. “Les Crays” is a land of limestone boulders located on the southern side of Macon’s Vergisson hill. It benefits from great sun exposure and is protected from Northern cold wind, producing a refreshing mineral rich wine. Les Crays has mingling aromas of creamy apples, buttered almond paste and fresh peach along with some lemon. In the mouth, it is medium-bodied, textural and fleshy with a bright mineral backbone. In the mouth, there is a broad number of complex flavours including creamy lime, spiced pear, tangerine, vanilla and toasty brioche. The structure is beautiful, with interwoven acidity quietly balancing the density and length, a top-class Burgundy Chardonnay with a delicate minerality and a long finish.
- 178 Patrick Baudouin Savennieres, Loire Valley, France 2021** **130**
An academic and philosopher before becoming a winemaker, Patrick Baudouin is a Loire maverick often referred to as ‘poet of terroir’. His wines are best described as ‘untamed’ and really express the specific plot they hail from. They are not manipulated or massaged into a style; they are wild in nature yet precise and clean in the glass. Quality is everything to Patrick and all grapes are hand-picked and hand-sorted so that only the best fruit goes into his wines. Savennières is known as one of the best terroirs in the Loire Valley, offering the complexity and minerality along with superb age ability. Not surprisingly, this is the origin of Baudouin’s top white and perfectly showcase how he simply lets the wine speak for itself. You’ll see it has intense citrus, tropical touches, apricot and quince, all weaved by an elegant mineral tension. Violet and wild flowers add a fragrant touch. The long saline finish lines this superb example, with bags of character, of one of Loire’s top terroirs and winemakers.

SPAIN

- 190 Bodegas Cota 45 Miraflores UBE, Jerez, Spain 2021** **85**
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.
- 228 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.
- 173 Alvear Tres Miradas Cerro Macho, Montilla-Moriles, Spain 2020** **95**
Alvear Tres Miradas Cerro Macho from DO Montilla-Moriles is one of the bottlings of the 3 Miradas collection. Produced by bodegas Alvear from Pedro Ximénez grapes sourced from the highest vineyard of Paraje de Benavente, situated in the Sierra de Montilla, at 610 metres altitude, the west-oriented, bush-trained vineyards are owned by winegrowers Juan Antonio and José Espejo. After the harvest, the grapes were pressed whole bunch and transferred into American oak barrels which had been previously infused with Fino. Then went through both fermentations spontaneously. After finishing the malacotic fermentation, it was aged under Flor veil in the barrels for 18 months.
- 163 La Mar, Bodegas Terras Gauda, 2017** **100**
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.
- 179 Vinicola Real 200 Monges Gran Reserva Blanco, Rioja Alta, Spain 2009** **180**
Bodegas Vinicola Real is an organic producer located in the heart of Rioja Alta, known for some of the highest-scoring wines in Spain. They do not use artificial herbicides and pesticides, opting for more natural methods of cultivation where they only hand-select the best parcels for each wine. 200 Monges Reserva is named after the 200 monks who inhabited the disappeared Monastery of San Martín de Albelda. The 2009 vintage is a blend of the best-quality grapes from two specific plots in the Najerilla and the Iregua Valley. When poured, it has a bright golden colour and aromas of dried flowers, ripe fruit, wild herbs, and dried fruit. The palate is robust, flavourful, and spicy with a backbone of citrus notes, ending with a long and saline finish. Very limited production with only 1500 bottles released after 8 years of ageing.

NEW ZEALAND

- 215 Chardonnay, Dog Point, Marlborough, New Zealand 2020** **100**
First planted in 1979, Dog Point is one of the oldest private vineyards in Marlborough. Owners Ivan Sutherland and James Healy were once part of the team that made Cloudy Bay one of the most admired wine brands in the world. Dog Point make just four wines — Sauvignon Blanc, Section 94 Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, all consistently terrific thanks to careful grape and wine selection in challenging years. Pronounced notes of gunflint and struck match on the nose are followed on the palate by ripe citrus and stone fruit flavours. focused, with a fine core of acidity and an almost crystalline purity on the mid-palate, giving way to a nutty, spicy finish.

SOUTH AFRICA

- 232 AA Badenhorst Kelder Steen Chenin Blanc, Swartland, South Africa 2020** **115**
Adi Badenhorst is one of the most exciting winemakers in South Africa. He is also the most frustrating. His laid back, self-deprecating, playful manner keeps you guessing and makes you wonder whether he has any idea what he is actually doing, whether he just chucks some grapes into a vat and hopes for the best, but we know full well that there is a huge amount of expertise that goes on behind closed doors, when no one is around to witness his skill and diligence ...and spoil his reputation! The 2022 Kelder Steen comes from the vineyard adjacent to the winery that tends to produce larger bunches. It has a lovely, slightly more exotic bouquet of Clementine, apricot, marmalade, and a touch of underlying beeswax. The palate is medium-bodied with a waxy texture and fine acidity. A more fruit-forward Chenin but with admirable tension on the finish."
- 233 Lindi Carien, Lourens Family Wines, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, South Africa 2020** **80**
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 that re-affirm Franco's commitment to his key mantra – "Wines need to be interesting!" Franco first produced this wine, honouring his wife, in 2015. The blend is made up of 50% Chenin Blanc, 42% Verdelho and 8% Grenache Blanc, matured for 10 months across a combination of old French barrels and amphorae. The nose is pretty and enticing, with aromatics of pear, peach and citrus plus hints of dried herbs. This leads to a wonderfully elegant palate, with a dense core of fruit balanced with bright acidity before a long, smooth, moreish finish.
- 115 Blouklip Steen, Lourens Family Wines, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, South Africa 2019** **120**
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 that re-affirm Franco's commitment to his key mantra – "Wines need to be interesting!" This 100% Steen, also known as Chenin Blanc, is produced from a single vineyard in Durbanville. Originally planted on shale soils in 1977, it consists of a plot of dry bush vines located only 10 kilometres from the Atlantic Ocean. Unlike other wines which often draw fruit from multiple sites, Franco wanted to bottle this wine to showcase the true terroirs of this unique soil structure. The wine itself is packed with stone fruit and orange character, as well dried herbs, ginger and a slight waxy note. It is rich and round on the palate with nicely integrated acidity and a gently savoury finish.

AMERICA

- 132 Solomon Hills Estate Chardonnay, California, United States 2020 200**
The sister winery to Bien Nacido, Solomon Hills was born as the Millers ventured slightly west from the Bien Nacido site. They stumbled on this special parcel of land that was also used in the late 1850s by the bandit Salomon Pico, the inspiration behind Zorro. The vineyard was planted in the late 1990's and christened Solomon Hills. It is the westernmost vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley, just eleven miles from the ocean. The combination of ocean-derived sandy loam soils and marine breezes contribute to creating wines marked by a zingy freshness, chiselled fruit and utter elegance. The aroma and palate profiles mirror each other with a delicate and svelte balance with tropical fruits of pineapple, underripe mango, and green papaya salad with a touch of tart green apple. The flavours continue with a precise minerality and very balanced oak that round out the finish.
- 159 Gewurztraminer 'Love O Love' Gerber Vineyard, Rogue Valley, Oregon, United States 2022 90**
100% old vine Gewurztraminer, dry-farmed, whole cluster pressed, nothing is added to the juice, no sulphur, nutrients, enzymes or yeast, native fermentation takes place in concrete egg, and acacia barrel, after nine months of lees contact, the wine is raked and blended. Lemon-gold colour the nose is soaring with spring flowers, flint, lemongrass, citrus, apples, and a steeliness that just pulls it all together. The complexity of the nose is echoed on the palate with palate-coating richness, intense dry fruit, and a grapefruit-inflected finish that is classic gewurztraminer.
- 234 Joy Fantastic Chardonnay, Sta. Rita Hills, California, USA 2019 120**
Sourced from the top 1-acre block of the vineyard where the soils are very thin and rich in diatomaceous earth, this Chardonnay is a mix of racy acidity and bright, vibrant texture. Aged for 11 months in neutral French barrels, it is a tropical, luscious and elegant journey in the mouth. The wine combines a play of preserved lemon, stone fruit, fruit salad, herbs, vanilla, lychee and some bitterness which freshens up the palate. A superb example of Chardonnay from the Sta Rita Hills in Central California. Only 100 cases produced.
- 240 Clendenen Family Vineyards Viognier "The Second Coming" Santa Barbera, California, USA 2016 135**
Jim Clendenen was famous for producing internationally acclaimed Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in California. Amongst the region's top producers, the wines he started producing in 1982 set the standard for modern, terroir-driven Californian wine from Burgundian grapes. Wines under the Clendenen Family Vineyards label are not just another label – this was a project of passion for Jim. These are artisan, nuanced wines from small lots producing distinctive wines that have had the luxury to be in the barrel as long as they need it. Le Bon Climat is a vineyard Jim bought many years ago in the Santa Maria Valley just 5 miles from the famous Bien Nacido site where the winery is. It is situated on a very steep, windy and cool-climate site which gives incredibly preserved aromatics in the wines that are made from there. Clendenen's "reserve" Viognier is a luscious, viscous dry white. Rich with beautifully stated fruit, this Viognier is a step above most. It is elegant, balanced, but powerful, with flavours of stone fruit, melon and honeysuckle mixed with vanillin, and captivating minerality. It is a remarkable wine that rivals the best French counterparts.
- 230 Clendenen Family Vineyards Library Release Le Bon Climat Chardonnay Santa Barbara, California, USA 2007 280**
Jim Clendenen was famous for producing internationally acclaimed Pinot Noir & Chardonnay in California. Amongst the region's top producers, the wines he started producing in 1982 set the standard for modern, terroir-driven Californian wine from Burgundian grapes. Wines under the Clendenen Family Vineyards label are not just another label – this was a project of passion for Jim. These are artisan, nuanced wines from small lots producing distinctive wines that have had the luxury to be in the barrel as long as they need it. This Chardonnay reflects Jim's ideal – superb concentration without over-ripening, low alcohol with strength and persistence. Wine has spent 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels, resulting in rich, textured white laced with succulent pears, apples, spices and flowers, all of which come together beautifully on a mid-weight frame. Lightly honeyed tones add complexity to the generous, inviting finish. This is very simply one of the best Californian Chardonnays you can drink.

208 Joseph Swan Vineyards Chardonnay 'Kent the Younger' Russian River Valley, Sonoma County, California, USA 2015 105

Joe Swan founded the estate 48 years ago in Sonoma County. He believed winemaking should be small crops to produce more intense, age worthy wines. Joe's last vintage was in 1987, followed by Rob and Lynn Berglund who run the estate today. Bold aromas of baking spices, Asian pear, and apples. On the palate, a juicy acidity and rich texture pair for an outstanding chardonnay!

199 HJ Wiemer Biodynamic Riesling, Finger Lakes, New York, USA 2019 100

HJ Wiemer's Biodynamic Riesling is produced with fruit hailing from the best, biodynamic certified, single parcel at HJW's estate vineyard. The complexity, energy and flavour biodynamics has proven to promote, really come through in this vibrant expression of Riesling. Deep and complex, there is a wide array of aromas, from quince, honey, lime zest, stone fruit, spices, to preserved lemon, in a wine that you want to savour at length along with some food. Riesling's trademark minerality and acid backbone provide refreshing length. A top wine from New York State and an outstanding example of commitment to top sustainability practices and attention to detail in every aspect, from vineyard to cellar.

GERMANY

- 206 Sybille Kuntz Riesling 'Scharz' Auslese, Mosel, Germany 2007** **130**
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.
- 166 Sybille Kuntz Riesling Spätlese Trocken, Mosel, Germany 2015** **100**
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 in style, the Spätlese more complex, richer and rounded, whilst the Auslese is off-dry and drinks beautifully with some bottle age.
- 229 Wild Pony, Daniel and Bianca Schmitt, Rheinhessen, Germany 2021** **75**
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. Bianca 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 savoury notes.

ITALY

- 207 Metafisica IGT Toscana Bianco Castello Romitorio, Tuscany, Italy 2020** **120**
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 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.
- 212 Poggio alle Gazze dell'Ornellaia, Tuscany, Italy 2022** **160**
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia is without a doubt of the most famous Italian estates and known for its flagship Super-Tuscan wines. Poggio alle Gazze dell'Ornellaia is a bright and vibrant white wine from the famous Ornellaia estate in Bolgheri, Tuscany. Aromatic, herbaceous and balanced, like a fresh breeze rolling in from the Mediterranean. A blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Vermentino, Viognier, Verdicchio and Semillon fermented in a combination of barriques (25% new and 25% used), steel tanks, and concrete vats to retain freshness and pure fruit characteristics. A wonderful white by Ornellaia! Aromatic and vibrant with notes of lemon, grapefruit, peach and apricot underpinned by honeysuckle filling the glass. Rich, creamy and rounded on the mid-palate followed by linear, focused acidity and a similar citrus and stone fruit dominated core with added grapefruit pith on the saline-infused finish. Totally delicious.
- 197 Corte del Lupo Bianco, Ca'del Bosco, Lombardy, Italy 2020** **120**
Ca' del Bosco's history began in the mid-1960s when Annamaria Clementi Zanella bought a small house on Erbusco, on a hill also known as "Ca' del bosc" surrounded by chestnut forests. Maurizio Zanella, the son of Annamaria, saw in Franciacorta the land that would "produce" the best grapes. And he was not wrong since his winery was the first and best expression of the potential of the region. Maurizio acquired great expertise in sparkling wines next to the best in Champagne. So, when he returned to Franciacorta, he knew very well what to do to create great wines, the wine is aged in oak barrels for 18 months, allowing it to develop notes of vanilla and roasted nuts. Full bodies stone fruits and a little minerality show the true expression of the wine making.
- 192 Impero Blanc de Pinot Noir, Fattoria Mancini, Marche, Italy 2022** **135**
The Mancini family have made wine here for five generations, and current owner Luigi Mancini's fascination is with more unusual grape varieties: either the Pinot Noir brought to this particular part of the northern Marche by the French two hundred years ago, or local treasures like Ancellotta and Albanella. In clay-limestone soil, with temperatures moderated by the Adriatic, these varieties thrive alongside the more mainstream Sangiovese and Montepulciano. 100% Pinot Noir. An impressive and distinctive wine, showing spice from the wood and bright red apple/peach aromas. Broad structure in the mouth, not unlike a Côte-de-Nuits white – balanced and positive, with herbal freshness. A simply stunning wine to drink.
- 231 La Stoppa Ageno, Emilia-Romagna, Italy 2020** **120**
La Stoppa Ageno is one of the benchmark Italian orange wines which are distinctive skin contact white wines. The grapes are macerated on the skins with native yeasts for thirty days and the wine is matured half in stainless steel and half in French barriques. It is orange/bronze colour with an amazing nose of tea, peaches, pears, sweet apricots and spice. On the palate there's lovely rich ripe peach fruit and also a tannic structure but it is also juicy with honey and floral notes. This extremely complex wine has a dry finish. The La Stoppa Ageno grapes are macerated on the skins with native yeasts for thirty days and the wine is matured half in stainless steel and half in French barriques.

AUSTRALIA

- 191 Prelude Chardonnay, Leeuwin, Margaret River, Australia 2021** **90**
Family owned, Leeuwin Estate, one of the five founding wineries of the now famous Margaret River district of Western Australia, is under the direction of two generations who work with a team of highly skilled winemakers to consistently produce wines ranking alongside the world's finest. In 1972, legendary Napa Valley winemaker, Robert Mondavi, identified the future site of the Leeuwin vineyard as being ideal for the production of premium wine and provided early mentorship to Denis and Tricia Horgan in the transformation of their cattle farm into Leeuwin Estate. Enjoying its first commercial vintage in 1979, Leeuwin was thrust into the international spotlight when Decanter Magazine gave its highest recommendation to the 1981 "Art Series" Chardonnay. The international accolades have continued and Leeuwin now exports to 30 markets. A ripe pineapple and toasted almond bouquet with hints of pear, light oak, and honeysuckle. On the palate, medium bodied with medium plus acidity. The mouthfeel is balanced, round, slightly viscous, and bright for a Chardonnay.
- 193 Vasse Felix Chardonnay, Margaret River, Western Australia 2019** **85**
Established in 1967 by regional pioneer Dr Tom Cullity, Vasse Felix is Margaret River's founding wine estate. One of the great wine regions of the world, Margaret River enjoys a truly unique environment and climate which makes it a paradise for winemakers and wine lovers alike. From the first plantings, right up to the modern day, Vasse Felix have always strived to explore and express the very best of the Margaret River region. Vasse Felix has four distinct and exceptional sites around the Margaret River region. Each vineyard is matched to the best possible varieties and clones, and farmed sustainably using traditional and organic practices. A fragrant aroma of white peach, pear and lemon gives way to buttery yeasty notes and fragrant oak which delivers almond and ginger nuances. Underlying notes of flint and saline minerality. The palate is full and complex, balanced with vibrant acidity. This freshness is followed by an immediate broadening of the palate with flavours of roasted nuts and grilled peaches leading to a long lingering finish.

LEBANON

- 201 Chateau Musar Blanc, Bekka Valley, Lebanon 2016** **130**
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 produces a unique range of wines.
- 194 Sept Obeideh Library Release, Batroun Mountains, Lebanon 2017** **105**
Sept produces wines that express the rich diversity and exceptional character of the Lebanese soil. A wine that offers the authentic taste of Lebanon, using indigenous yeast, and free from any additives. With a fervent mission to reconnect with nature and to celebrate Lebanese grapes and soil, Sept aims to become an ambassador of Lebanon's heritage and an inspiring model of biodynamic agriculture in the region and the world. Obeideh is a revived old indigenous grape varietal. Elegant and discrete, it has a nose of white flowers, night-blooming jasmine, and honeysuckle. The mouth is fresh and citrusy with hints of almonds and honey.

AUSTRIA

- 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.
- 195 Perfect Day, Pittnauer, Burgenland, Austria 2022** **80**
Gerhard Pittnauer is undoubtedly one of the stars of the Austrian winemaking scene, producing a host of powerful reds which showcase the quality of Austria's indigenous grape varieties. His base in the town of Gols is located in the Burgenland region, famed for the amount of sunlight it receives each year. As a result, Gerhard is able to fashion supple, modern wines that all display his signature, silky soft tannins. A highly aromatic orange wine with notes of blossom, peach skins, and dried apricot. A blend of 40% Chardonnay, 30% Muscat Ottnel, 20% Gruner Veltliner, 10% Traminer, with each component adding something unique to the blend, and the sum being greater than the parts.
- 198 Franz Hirtzberger Rotes Tor Gruner Veltliner Federspiel, Kamptal, Austria 2021** **105**
Franz Hirtzberger Rotes Tor Smaragd Grüner Veltliner 2022 is a full-bodied single-vineyard white wine from the Wachau region of Austria. Based in the historic white wine-producing Wachau Valley, five generations of Hirtzbergers have tended the vines which date back as far as the 13th century. Smaragd denotes grapes picked with the highest level of ripeness and is considered the highest quality level of the wines of Wachau. Light greenish yellow, silver reflections. Delicate notes of yellow pome fruit, a touch of mango and orange zest, with some herbal savouriness underneath. Full-bodied, white apple, juicy acidity, elegant and balanced, fine fruit expression on the finish, already accessible, limes in the echo, an animating food wine.
- 211 Sepp Muster Grafen, Styria, Austria 2019** **110**
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.

SINGLE BOTTLE RED

FRANCE

- 492 Mas de Daumas Gassac Rouge, Languedoc, France 2020** **165**
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"
- 577 Mark Haisma A Bogan in Bogandy Pinot Gamay, Burgundy, France 2022** **85**
"Bogan" is an Aussie slang term for a person whose speech, appearance, attitude, and behaviour are casual or unsophisticated. But underneath, they are intelligent, pride in where they are from, and a quick willingness to regale you with stories and tales. As an Australian in the heart of the Old World, Burgundy, this is a label Mark has always wanted to create. It allows him to play around with different styles and blends, a wine where he doesn't need to follow the rules because a Bogan seldom does what he is told at the end of the day. The 2022 "A Bogan In Bogandy" is a blend of Gamay and Pinot Noir. It has a vibrant purple colour when poured into a glass. The aroma is characterised by fresh and wild berries with a hint of pepper from Pinot Noir and crunchiness from Gamay. The ripe yet fresh palate of this wine makes it very approachable and easy to like.
- 500 Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste, Pauillac, France 2018** **230**
The 2018 Grand Puy Lacoste has a quintessential Pauillac nose of intense black fruit infused with graphite scents, pencil shavings and a very discreet marine influence. The palate is medium-bodied and taut, offering sappy black fruit, gritty tannins and a lot of crushed stone. The focused, graphite-driven finish could only come from this appellation. Superb. A wine to correct those bemoaning that Bordeaux no longer makes 'proper Claret'.
- 573 Château Durfort-Vivens, Margaux, Bordeaux, France 1999** **280**
Durfort-Vivens is an illustrious 2nd growth – right up there with Bordeaux's best! It has a long, rich history and with the current steward of the property, Gonzague it was the first estate in Margaux to go fully organic and is now fully biodynamic, too. The estate now puts 20% of the wine in clay amphora to add layers of complexity outside of oak barrels and preserve fruit and freshness in their wines. The 1999 vintage provides an appealing nose of black cherry, followed by a touch of vanilla and cigar box. Due to the wine's maturity tannins have now settled down, leaving a thick, viscous mouthful of brambly fruit at first, then the black cherries, then a third wave of intense blackcurrant and wild strawberry, before settling down to a long finale. A real gem to drink and a real part of history of this important estate.
- 502 Segla, Chateau Rauzan Segla, Margaux, Bordeaux, France 2017** **140**
Cassis, blackberries, mint, violets and liquorice. Full bodied refined tannins, a harmonious wine of immense character and finesse. Punching well above its status in Margaux appellation blind tastings.
- 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 4th 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.
- 540 Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou, St Julien, Bordeaux, France 2016** **495**
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.

- 519 Château 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.
- 590 Château Haut-Bages Liberal, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France 2005** **220**
*Château Haut-Bages Libéral is a 5th growth estate in Pauillac owned and run by Claire Villars-Lurton and her husband Gonzague Lurton (who runs the Bordeaux estate in Margaux, Durfort-Vivens). Claire also shares a passion for the expression biodynamic certification has given her wines. The 30-hectare property sits next door to Château Latour; the two are the only Pauillac estates with parcels of limestone soils which gives a certain mineral character to the wines. The estate has three plots that adjoin esteemed neighbours Latour, Pichon-Lalande and Grand Puy Lacoste which is one element of why this estate has been a sleeping giant for many years.
The 2005 vintage exhibits aromas of blackcurrant fruit, liquorice, spice, and forest floor. The palate is medium bodied, with a velvety rich tannin. A quintessential Pauillac that will bring joy to all, this drinks far above its price point.*
- 506 Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande Reserve, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France 2017** **220**
The second wine of the Château, the 2017 Reserve De Comtesse De Lalande is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon and 42% Merlot, with the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Terrific classic Pauillac notes of blackcurrants, tobacco, and chocolate define this beautiful wine, with balanced tannins, and a long finish, Aromas of dried violets, blackcurrants, ink and bitter chocolate.
- 546 Château La Tour Carnet, Haut-Médoc, Bordeaux, France 2000** **125**
Chateau La Tour Carnet is one of the most famous Medoc estates owned by Bernard Magrez, the gravelly soils are very similar to that of the neighbouring appellations of Pauillac and St. Julien. Facing south/southwest, many of the hillsides` clay-limestone subsoils are covered in a thick layer of Garonne and Pyrenees gravel. It is on these large gravelly hills that you find the best vineyards. The grapes are harvested by hand at optimal maturity. Sometimes, only part of a row can be harvested while the remainder is picked a few days later, when the grapes reach perfect ripeness. Very fine tannins and fresh fruit with sweet tobacco and black cherry character. Full-bodied yet reserved and balanced.
- 560 Reserve de la Comtesse Pichon Lalande, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France 2000** **240**
The second wine of the Château, reserve de la Comtesse is 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. Classic Pauillac notes of blackcurrants, tobacco, and chocolate define this beautiful wine, with balanced tannins, and a long perfectly balanced finish. It is one of the finest second wines this estate has produced.
- 561 Château Chasse Spleen, Moulis, Haut-Médoc, Bordeaux, France 2020** **110**
Located in Moulis, the smallest appellation in the Medoc, its extraordinarily varied terroir consists of complementary soil types going from pure Garonne and Pyrenean gravel to a mixture of clay and limestone. The estate has 90 hectares under vine, growing 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. The name? Allegedly a poet, possibly Byron, visited the Chateau in the 1820's, and used the phrase `dispel the spleen`, which roughly translates to `chase the blues away` with regard to the effect the wine had on him. Whether tall or not, it remains a good tale and the name Chasse-Spleen was adopted in 1861. 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.
- 512 Château Giscours Grand Cru Classe, Margaux, France 2016** **240**
Firm tannins, among the biggest in the appellation, but not overdone because of a vibrant, flexible quality to the elements of structure. Bilberries, cassis and dark ripe cherries in full force, complex, layered and well held together! A Beautiful wine with stunning balance and complexity.

- 499 Château Quinault l'Enclos, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru Classé, Bordeaux, France 2018** **140**
Situated in the heart of Libourne next to the Dordogne River, Château Quinault l'Enclos was bought in 2008 by Baron Albert Frère and Bernard Arnault. Together, they aimed to revitalize the vineyard and thus put Château Cheval Blanc's winemaker Pierre Lurton in charge. Château Quinault l'Enclos's vineyards are spread over 20 hectares of sand and pebbles mixed with a hint of clay. The 45 years old vines are 71.5% Merlot, 14.5% Cabernet Franc, and 14% Cabernet Sauvignon. Thanks to the restructuring of the vineyards and the major renovation of the vat room and cellar at Quinault, as well as the meticulous efforts of the Cheval Blanc team, Quinault L'Enclos has affirmed its position as an emerging estate. The 2018 vintage nose displays black fruit aromas of blackberry and cherry, going on to reveal spicy notes such as black pepper and gingerbread, combined with rose and peony overtones. The wine starts out rich and straightforward on the palate, becoming full-bodied and broad-based. It is incredibly smooth and well-balanced thanks to beautiful acidity. The aftertaste is wonderfully long, culminating in a crunchy finish.
- 495 Cornas, Chaillot, Franck Balthazar, Rhone, France 2020** **200**
Franck's flagship wine is the Chaillot bottling, from the fruit of century-old Petite Syrah vines that create a wine of stunning depth, concentration and complexity. Grapes are harvested by hand from granite-rich soils, about half coming from the ex-Verset parcel and then are fermented whole bunch with stems, with manual punch downs. From here, the wine is moved to 600-litre demi-muids, where they are aged for about 18 months before bottling. The Chaillot is dark purple and its highly perfumed nose reveals mineral-accented blackberry and blueberry with a background of exotic Asian spice and floral notes. The palate is densely packed but energetic with initial explosive dark berry preserve flavours, before secondary notes of cured ham, Kalamata olive and candied violet and cracked peppercorns kick in. Superb concentration, finishing with bright mineral cut, slow-building tannins and superb persistence. This wine manages to be dense yet aerial, combining heat and coolness in equal measure.
- 418 Sarget de Gruaud Larose, Saint Julien, Bordeaux, France 2000** **160**
Chateau Gruaud-Larose is a Second Growth Bordeaux property, situated in the appellation of Saint-Julien. The chateau has belonged to the Merlaut family since 1997 and they introduced sustainable development and organic farming methods in the vineyard, along with significant investment in the winery, while bringing a more refined style to the wines of the estate. The 80 hectares of vineyard land is on a single block of deep gravelly soils that are made up of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Very rich and plummy on the nose. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and plenty of fruit on the finish. Serious concentration here.
- 464 Chateau Phelan Ségur, St Estèphe, Bordeaux, France 2012** **190**
A rising star of St. Estèphe This 70-hectare property is nestled away between its famous neighbours Châteaux Calon Ségur and Montrose, under the ownership Philippe Van de Vyere, the future is an exciting one for Phélan Ségur in the more than capable hands of Managing Director; Véronique Dausse. 2012 is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot, lots of violet, sandalwood, currant and tar character. Subtle and pretty. Full body, fine tannins and a balanced fresh finish, a really pretty wine to drink.
- 518 Mas de Dumas Gassac Rouge, Library Release, St Guilhem-le-Desert Cite d'Aniane Languedoc-Roussillon, France 2012** **270**
Deep, black-ruby colour, the aromas have lifted cassis with leafy and mint touches. The palate is smooth with raspberry, mulberry and dark cherry. A chocolatey smooth texture precedes a fine grained, cedary tannic structure. The utmost passion, care and attention in the vineyard have paid dividends with a wine that delivers on every single level.

- 521 Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Gevrey Chambertin "Vieilles Vignes", Burgundy, France 2021 240**
The creation of the Heresztyn-Mazzini vineyard marks the beginning of a new adventure for Florence, from Burgundy, and Simon, from Champagne. After ten years spent working on the family vineyard in Gevrey-Chambertin, the couple decided to start their own venture. The estate currently covers 5.5 hectares spread across the villages of Gevrey-Chambertin, Morey-Saint-Denis, and Chambolle-Musigny. 2012 saw the first vintage from Heresztyn-Mazzini, an estate specialising in fine Burgundy red wines. At the Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini, every action is deliberate and thoroughly researched, from the vine to the cellar. Florence and Simon respect the environment and the natural world, and use environmentally friendly pest control. They spend a lot of time out amongst the vines, carefully monitoring their growth. Gevrey-Chambertin, Vieilles Vignes is an excellent, refined wine made using old vines. Complex and highly elegant on the palate, it has notes of red fruits and spices. A beautifully structured wine with a robust aspect.
- 531 Dard and Ribo Crozes-Hermitage Rouge, Northern Rhone, France 2022 140**
Staying the course over the past four decades while many of their contemporaries modified their approach to please international critics, Dard & Ribo have cemented their reputation for making pristine and effortlessly drinkable natural wines. René-Jean Dard and François Ribo met in their late teens while studying winemaking in Beaune. After Dard inherited his father's 1ha of Saint-Joseph vines in 1975, the duo purchased further small parcels in Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage and began making wines together from the 1984 vintage onwards. Today they tend just 8.5ha vines using meticulous organic farming techniques and without herbicides. From their cellar in the hamlet of Blanche-Laine, Dard & Ribo craft elegant and perfumed Syrah's, which deliver that rare combination of immediacy and beautiful ageing potential, as well as vivid, mineral-edged whites from Marsanne and Roussanne. Vinified with whole clusters in large wooden casks before ageing in demi-muids, they are bottled with minimal sulphur and without fining or filtration. From an assortment of sand and clay terroirs, Dard & Ribo's Crozes-Hermitage Rouge – from plots around Larnage – marries juicy fruit with black pepper and liquorice. From vines up to 130 years old, the Domaine's Hermitage is sappy and lively, and seamlessly layers its spice-laden fruit with fine-grained tannins and mouth-watering acidity. Hugely popular on the Paris natural wine scene since the mid-1980s, Dard & Ribo's bottles are now strictly allocated to restaurants and the Domaine's handful of loyal private customers, making them almost impossible to buy.
- 538 Domanie la Barroche 'Pure' Chateauneuf-Du-Pape, Cotes du Rhone, France 2018 350**
Made in super small quantities, rigorous bud pruning/green harvesting. The picking is entirely by hand, with a meticulous double sorting in the vineyard. Gravity-flow underground winery for gentle handling. Wine-making in tulip-shaped concrete tanks. Destemming of underripe stalks. The wine stays on the skins for over 4 weeks. Gentle extractions. Aging in old oak cask for 20 months. The wine is not filtered before bottling. 'Pure' is handcrafted from a single plot of 100-year-old vines and sandy soil, at the junction of "Grand Pierre", "Rayas" and "Pointu" districts. The century-old Grenache vines are deeply rooted in this mythical plot like no other, with sandy and red Comtat sandstone soil. Not only rare and unique, the resulting wine is indescribably... pure, as well as ethereal, delicate, elegant, fresh, natural, floral, silky, unctuous and absolute.
- 473 Chateau Montlandrie, Cotes de Bordeaux Castillon, France 2015 120**
Spend a bit of time in the Bordeaux wine scene and it won't be long until you hear Denis Durantou's name pop up in conversation with a vigneron or negociant. The owner of fabled l'Eglise-Clinet in Pomerol and Saint-Emilion's Saintayme, amongst others, is one of Bordeaux' most enigmatic wine personalities and his wines are some of the region's most highly regarded. Durantou bought Chateau Montlandrie in 2009, and has swiftly increased the property's reputation by delivering consistently excellent Merlot-based wines from the 12-hectare vineyard, with full, opulent fruit, heady spice and fine tannins, solid core of fruit its 'sexy and exotic with velvety tannins and a long finish with bright acidity. One to watch and one to drink.
- 486 Chateau Roc de Cambes, Cotes de Borg, Bordeaux, France 2017 155**
The 2017 Roc de Cambes has a fresh, lifted, energetic bouquet, notes of kirsch, warm plums and black raspberries that is very Left Bank in style thanks to the expressive Cabernet Franc. The palate is medium-bodied with pretty red berry fruit interlaced with dried orange peel, marmalade and brown spices. There is energy infused into this wine from start to finish.

- 539 Chateau Langoa-Barton, St Julien, Bordeaux, France 2012** **240**
Since 1821, generation upon generation of the Barton family have written the chapters of Château Langoa Barton. Owners to this day of the renowned Bordeaux property, awarded Grand Cru Classé status in 1855, Saint Julien is where the roots and the heart of the Barton spirit can be felt. A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, harvested from 3 to 15 October, 60% new barrels. The Langoa Barton has a surprisingly high-toned, quite glossy, exotic bouquet at first, although it appears to "calm down" in the glass to leave plenty of ripe red cherry and strawberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe, supple tannins. This is a generous, confident Langoa Barton, quite feminine (living up to its name) with a lovely ripe sensual finish.
- 549 Renaud Boyer Saint Romain Rouge AOC, Cote de Beaune, France 2021** **180**
Renaud Boyer cultivates his 5-hectares by hand and horse with great passion following strict organic and natural principles when making his wine, without additives or sulphur. From his holdings on the chalky fossilised soils of Saint Romain (40% of production come from these vines), the stony limestone plot of Les Reuchaux in Puligny-Montrachet to the clay heavy soils of Beaune, these are truly pure wines. The Saint-Romain Rouge is fascinating, revealing wild forest and bramble berries. It has a nervous quality and a heightened complexity. There's a lovely freshness here on the palate, with more high-toned wild mountain fruits and soft herbs and some red iron-laced minerality. The wine finishes on a note of ferrous earthiness and savouriness.
- 547 Les Cailloux du Paradis Le Cabernet Franc, Soings en Sologne, France 2018** **180**
Fermented and aged in used barriques for purity of fruit. It has dusty aromas of wild red berries with spicy flavours and herbal notes. Light, juicy, and vibrant structure. Located in the centre of Soings-en-Sologne, 35 kilometres from Blois, Claude Courtois and his sons are dedicated to the meticulous crafting of their wines through traditional methods, staunchly championing the cause of natural wine. The vineyards strictly follow principles that prohibit the use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, chemical fertilizers, or synthetic substances. The outcome is wines that are pure and vibrant, a testament to the excellence of biodynamic winemaking.
- 465 Chateau Duhart-Milon, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France 2011** **230**
Ranked as a fourth growth in the 1855 classification, Chateau Duhart-Milon is located in Pauillac, and is owned by Lafite-Rothschild. With grapes coming from a 73 hectare vineyard situated in Saint Estephe, the vineyard and winery management is undertaken collaboratively with the team from Lafite Rothschild and the blend of each vintage varies, depending on the conditions and the ripeness of the grapes. Duhart-Milon is known for creating wines of great finesse, with the underlying strength and power synonymous with the wines of Pauillac. Tart acids give this dark ruby/purple-tinged wine a crunchy, fresh, lively feel on the palate. 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot, this medium-bodied 2011 has loads of finesse and purity, It's full and round with a succulent, juicy structure, silky tannins and a plum, cocoa, cedar and berry aftertaste. Outstanding harmony and balance.
- 466 Chateau d'Armailhac, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France 2020** **150**
Chateau d'Armailhac is a fifth growth chateau located in Pauillac, Bordeaux. The property is owned and managed by Chateau Mouton Rothschild. Chateau d'Armailhac has 69 hectares of vines on 80% gravel, 20% clay-limestone soils, planted with the finest premium grape varieties. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. A great opportunity to bag the expertise of Rothschild, exceptional Pauillac character and the heritage of a Cru Classé at a great price. A blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Opulent and powerful with blackcurrants, blackberries and black olives. Full-bodied, tannic and extremely muscular, very well made with perfect balance and harmony.
- 472 Virginie de Valandraud, Saint Emilion Grand Cru, Bordeaux, France 2015** **125**
This small Saint-Emilion property, planted mainly to Merlot, is highly sought after and has developed a cult reputation in Bordeaux. One of the original 'garage wines', as its cash-strapped owners made the first vintage in 1991 in a rented garage, Valandraud has always strived to do things its own way. Their sometimes-controversial approach has not always won them fans amongst Bordeaux's wine bureaucracy, but their wines have done the talking and this tiny chateau is consistently released to wide critical acclaim. This is really excellent with blackberry, blueberry and asphalt aromas and flavours, full and powerful, yet racy and pretty, very limited production.

SPAIN

- 508 Hodgkinson Garnacha 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.
- 544 CVNE Vina Real Gran Reserva DOC, Rioja, Spain 2016** **85**
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. 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.
- 541 Rioja Gran Reserva Especial 'Castillo Ygay' Marques de Murrieta, Rioja, Spain 2011** **590**
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.
- 545 Vinos en Voz Baja Nace La Sierra, Baja Oriental, Spain 2022** **135**
Vinos en Voz Baja is a winery in the historic wine region of Rioja Oriental. It is owned by a husband-and-wife team: Carlos Mazo Gutierrez, an environmental biologist, and Isa Ruiz Marin, a graphic designer. Over the years, the estate has gained momentum and received significant recognition in a short period, including the "Wine of the Year" in Tim Atkin's 2024 special report on Rioja. Grenache is the main grape variety produced due to Carlos's belief in its ability to age long term. Made in very small amounts, these wines are always accessible and delicious to drink in the first few years of release, with massive upside for those who are willing to wait especially with his single plot expressions. This single vineyard expression delivers a generous, vivid wine, with brisk bramble and blueberry aromas and an elegant, finely textured, silky palate. These are Mediterranean influenced vines, to be sure.
- 568 Valbuena 5°, Vega Sicilia, Ribera del Duero, Castilla y Leon, Spain 2016** **440**
The 2016 Valbuena was produced with a blend of 94% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo) and 6% Merlot from 140 hectares dedicated to this wine. It fermented with indigenous yeasts, and the first year it matured in barrels (75% French, 25% American) and the second year in large oak vats. This is a floral and elegant vintage of Valbuena, very much in line with what has happened in the best vintages since 2010, it has an extroverted personality and is perfumed and generous, juicy and tasty and nicely textured, with fine-grained tannins and very focused and clean flavours, gorgeous aromas of blackberries, black chocolate and shitake mushrooms follow through to a full body with round, plush tannins.

- 548 Vinicola Real Especial Edition Reserva Tinto, Rioja Alta, Spain 2010** **210**
Bodegas Vinicola Real is an organic producer located in the heart of Rioja Alta, known for some of the highest-scoring wines in Spain. They do not use artificial herbicides and pesticides, opting for more natural methods of cultivation where they only hand-select the best parcels for each wine. 200 Monges Selección Especial Reserva is an exquisite wine from Rioja, crafted with 100% Tempranillo grape from the winery's finest vineyards. The vines, averaging around 50 years of age, yield very low quantities of fruit, resulting in the remarkable quality of the grapes. The 2010 vintage is highly expressive and robust. On the nose, it unfolds a spectrum of black fruits, with black cherry taking centre stage, interwoven with hints of chocolate and fresh mint. On the palate, it is akin to a dance of espresso coffee, clove, and nutmeg converging in a robust and full-bodied profile. This mature and spicy red wine is a bold expression, perfect for those in pursuit of a tasting experience with character and depth.
- 548 Commando G, La Bruja de Rozas, Castilla Y Leon, Spain 2022** **190**
There is a change in the 2022 La Bruja. It is no longer a village wine from Rozas de Puerto Real. In 2022, it is a regional wine, and in 2023, it also will be a regional wine but from Ávila, from the Cebrenos appellation, as they are focusing their work there. It's a juicy and aromatic Garnacha, very much in the Commando G style, with good ripeness, 14% alcohol and more in the style of the 2020. It has a medium-bodied palate and a sapid finish with contained ripeness and fine granite granularity. They macerated less to adapt to the vintage, and it partly fermented with less skins. It's a more approachable La Bruja, expressive, open and more fruit-driven, more in a Morgon style.
- 576 Russo San Lorenzo Single Vineyard Etna Rosso, Sicily, Italy 2021** **200**
 Giuseppe Russo is a quiet thoughtful man, formerly a pianist. In 2005 he founded his estate, named Girolamo as a tribute to his father, and has since been making organic wines in his family's old vineyards. The vines, many of which aged 100 years, are planted at high altitude on ancient lava flows. This is the magic terroir that provides the trademark minerality and salinity of Russo's wines. Taste them and you will easily understand why Giuseppe has gained a cult following, alongside other iconic Etna producers such as Frank Cornelissen or Pietra Dolce. Of Russo's three single vineyard reds, San Lorenzo is regarded as the most structured and deep. It has a more muscular body while still retaining Nerello Mascalese's trademark elegance and fine texture. The Grenache-like generosity of fruit is balanced by refreshing acidity and unmistakable Etna minerality. Complex nose with notes of Morello cherry, wild flowers and wild strawberries, topped by balsamic essence and tobacco. Smooth palate, with silky tannins and an incredible finish with lingering, refreshing flavours of blood orange and cranberry.
- 574 574 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. 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.

ITALY

- 507 Barolo Perno Vigna Santa Stefano Giuseppe Mascarello DCG, Piedmont, Italy 2018 350**
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.
- 496 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.
- 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.
- 536 Montefalco Rosse Riserva 'Pipparello' Paolo Bea, Umbria, Italy 2016 250**
A real artisan producer making organic hand-crafted wines. References in the archive of Montefalco, a beautiful Umbrian hill town (aren't they all?), document the presence of the Bea family in this region as early as 1500. This tiny estate is the classic Italian Fattoria, producing wine, raising farm animals for trade and home consumption and working the land to produce olives, fruits and vegetables. Paolo Bea, the senior member of the family, is the guiding force behind the production of these intensely pure wines, assisted by his son, Giuseppe, who farms the vineyards and Giampiero who looks after the vinification. No herbicides or pesticides are used at Paolo Bea. He believes that wine is an expression of nature and looks forward to the differences in each harvest. The wines are produced in the traditional way; grapes are hand-picked and bottled without filtration. Complex, profound, yet a sheer delight to drink, Paolo Bea Sagrantino is a seminal moment in anyone's wine drinking experience. Montefalco Rosso Riserva "Pipparello", made from Sangiovese, Sagrantino and Montepulciano, silky, warm, vibrant. A deep garnet colour, with warm, earthy, chocolately, animal aromas and a core of sweet blackberries. It has a lovely silky mouthfeel, and a long finished speckled with minerals. It's vibrant and intense – exactly what you'd expect from this esteemed winemaker. This wine spends 2 years in barrel before bottling. Only 700 cases of this wine were produced, so it is a truly artisan product.

- 528 Cavallotto Bricco Boschis, Barolo DCG, Italy 2019** **235**
Alfio Cavallotto may very well be the greatest Barolo producer few people have ever heard of! His winemaking is not only classic but old-fashioned (in a good way): indigenous yeast, oak fermentation, almost no temperature control, and long maceration with submerged cap. His wines are dark and concentrated and this 2019 is no different. Earthy and smoky, it has dark cherry and blood orange aromas alongside plenty of dried fruits, juicy red cherry, wild raspberry, star anise, all set against a backbone of tightly knit, fine-grained tannins. Bright acidity lends balance and great energy.
- 534 Piombaia Brunello di Montalcino DCG, Tuscany, Italy 2016** **150**
A biodynamic Brunello from one of the higher located wineries in Montalcino, featuring an elegant, classic Sangiovese character. Intense, full-bodied and elegant with notes of red and black berries and wild plums, intertwined with hints of cloves, thyme and cedar oak. The taste is impressive, full and persistent with ripe, silky tannins and an elegant acidity, leading towards a delicately spicy, long-lasting finish.
- 513 513 Monte Dall' Ora Amarone della Valpolicella Classico "Stropa" DCG, Veneto, Italy 2015** **300**
For La Stropa the grape drying process is masterful, full of detail and without the use of technology. Strictly selected and healthy grapes are left for about 3 months in small wooden crates which are placed on top of each other in a well-ventilated and cool environment on the roof of the winery. From there on, fermentation in oak tanks is spontaneous and the wine will be matured in large barrels (botti) for three years and left for at least another two and a half years in bottle. The fruit concentration is exemplary, Corvina's classic dark flowers are mixed with notes of liquorice and raisin along with fruit cake and chocolate. The palate has volume and dense tannins but the acidity is mouthwatering, restoring balance. Concentration and restrained power with breaths of freshness in an exemplary style of great wine.
- 504 "G" Vino Rosso, by Auriel, Piedmont, Italy 2020** **75**
Auriel is an organic -biodynamic winery founded in 2005 by Marta Peloso Felice Cappa, on the hills of Monferrato, in Piedmont. The vineyard of three hectares, planted in 2007-2008, is set right in the centre of over 60 hectares of pristine farmlands and woods, cultivated according to the biodynamic modern method, using no synthetic chemicals, fertilizers or herbicides. WHY "G"? It's a fact that the wine disciplinaries are made for conventional wines that can be "marked up" in the cellar to fit their parameters, no matter what's the real potential and influence of a specific soil, microclimate or the weather conditions of a specific year. Our "G" was born in 2018, when my wine from Grignolino grapes had a total acidity just slightly below the one required by the disciplinary of the doc (denomination of controlled origin) "Grignolino del Monferrato Casalese" we used to refer to. A slightly lower acidity in a wine so Savory and with such fine, but present, tannins, doesn't really seem like a problem to me! Everyone had always told me: "Your Grignolino is different and original!", so it was almost a natural transition and "G" was happily welcomed everywhere
- 483 Argiano Solengo Toscana IGT, Brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy 2019** **170**
Opening to a thick, blackish appearance, the Argiano 2019 Solengo is definitely more concentrated and tightly stitched together next to the 2018 edition. This is a supersized blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Petit Verdot, 20% Merlot and 5% Sangiovese that reveals the extra concentration of the vintage, and the important use of new and used French oak (for 18 months of aging), to create a texturally important and aromatically intense expression. The vines are planted in alluvial soils rich in sand and calcareous marl at 280 to 310 meters in elevation. The grapes are farmed organically and are relatively young, at up to 22 years of age. Plummy fruit and ripe blackberry segues to spice, tar and tobacco.
- 523 Le Serre Nuove dell'Ornellaia, Tuscany 2019** **180**
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia is without a doubt of the most famous Italian estates and known for its flagship Super-Tuscan wine. Ornellaia. Located in the region of Bolgheri on the Tuscan coastline, international varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grow in harmony alongside the native Sangiovese producing elegant and refined wines reflecting French elegance and Italian sophistication. A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, the 2019 Le Serre Nuove dell'Ornellaia shows a great degree of focus This wine reveals the sharp contours and etched character of the Cabernet Franc, especially with black liquorice and black pepper. The results are linear and pure. Elegant fruit notes of blackberry and dark currant add to the thick layering of the wine.

569 Caiarossa Rosso di Toscana IGT, Tuscany, Italy 2010

95

The 2010 Caiarossa, an extraordinary wine and the best from this estate since its commercial debut with the 2004 vintage, shows how far this producer has come in a very short time. Owned by same Dutch family who own the Margaux classified growths Château Giscours and Château du Tertre, Caiarossa uses a seeming mishmash of grapes 26% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Syrah, 12% Sangiovese, 4% Petit Verdot and 1% Alicante to make this impressive Super Tuscan. The 2010 has everything, fruit, spice, smoky herbal qualities — without having too much of anything. The tannins in this beautifully proportioned wine are velvety and scream sophistication. Bright Tuscan acidity refreshes the palate and keeps you coming back for more.

AUSTRALIA

503 Yarra Yering Dry Red No.1, Cabernet Sauvignon, Yarra Valley, Australia 2017 180

Yarra Yering Dry Red Wine No 1 is one of the flagship wines from Yarra Yering wines who are arguably one of the best wine producers in the Yarra Valley wine-growing region of Australia. Yarra Yering Dry Red Wine No 1 is their Bordeaux style blend (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot), whilst the Yarra Yering Dry Red Wine No 2 is a Rhone style blend composed of Shiraz with a little Marsanne, Viognier and Mataro (Mourvèdre). These are their two most famous wines. Grapes for Yarra Yering Dry Red Wine No 1 are hand-picked in 10kg boxes in the cool of the morning and delivered straight to the winery to ensure the best quality grapes. The grapes are then fermented using indigenous yeasts, with cultured yeast added part way through to ensure completion. Around 40% of the ferments have stalks added back in to contribute structure and aroma to the finished wine and one-third of the ferments are pressed after five days to complete fermentation in French oak barrels. The wine is then aged for 15 months in new French oak barrel before blending and bottling. The 2017 is a blend of Cabernet sauvignon 70%, Merlot 18%, Malbec 8% and Petit Verdot 4%.

522 Castagna La Chiave, Beechworth, Victoria, Australia 2018 185

The La Chiave is one of the Castagna specialties - a Sangiovese of seriousness and structure that sits at the top of the pile of Australian expressions of the variety. This is a powerful, firm, archetypal earthy Sangiovese that has raspy, moreish fruit and a whole lot of x-factor.

NEW ZEALAND

514 Pinot Noir, Dog Point, Marlborough, New Zealand 2021 100

First planted in 1979, Dog Point is one of the oldest private vineyards in Marlborough. Owners Ivan Sutherland and James Healy were once part of the team that made Cloudy Bay one of the most admired wine brands in the world. Dog Point make just four wines — Sauvignon Blanc, Section 94 Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, all consistently terrific thanks to careful grape and wine selection in challenging years. Subtle smoky notes frame the aromas of dark berries and plums. The palate shows opulent fruit over a velvety texture and silky, finely-grained tannins, finishing with a hint of warming spice.

LEBANON

- 524 Chateau Musar, Bekka Valley, Lebanon 2017** **140**
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 produces 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** **152**
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 produces 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.
- 526 Sept Syrah, Batroun, Mountains, Lebanon 2017** **260**
Sept produces wines that express the rich diversity and exceptional character of the Lebanese soil. A wine that offers the authentic taste of Lebanon, using indigenous yeast, and free from any additives. With a fervent mission to reconnect with nature and to celebrate Lebanese grapes and soil, Sept aims to become an ambassador of Lebanon's heritage and an inspiring model of biodynamic agriculture in the region and the world. The complex nose has aromas of ripe blackberries, plums, olives, and herbs. A very rich palate with medium tannins and a deep structure. This is a true expression of Lebanese Syrah at its very best.

ENGLAND

529 Tillingham Pinot Noir, Sussex, England 2021 **110**

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.

GERMANY

511 Schlipf Schneider 'Otlinger Sonnhohle' Spatburgunder, Baden, Germany 2020 **145**

Schlipf Schneider 'Otlinger Sonnhohle' Spatburgunder (Pinot Noir) is sourced from a distinctive, steep, 2 hectares, 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.

ARGENTINA

530 Bodega y Cavas de Weinert Gran Vino, Lujan de Cuyo, Argentina 1994 **240**

Made by Raul de la Mota and Hubert Weber, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Malbec and 15% Merlot. Aged in new French oak and classed as a single vineyard wine, aged for 3 years in the estates cellars before being released, this has so much depth and style, with soft leathery notes, overripe plums and sour cherries. A totally stunning example of how good an aged Argentinean wine should be, this is drinking superbly with total harmony in every sip.

AMERICA

- 543 Pisoni 'Lucia' Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands, California, USA 2019 160**
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 has 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.
- 571 571 Geyserville, Ridge Vineyard, Sonoma County, United States 2020 160**
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,
- 467 Railsback Freres Carbonic Carignan, Santa Barbara, California, USA 2020 88**
Railsback Frères began as a rosé project in 2014 by brothers Lyle and Eric Railsback, who call their rosé "Les Rascasses" (scorpion fish in French) as a homage to Lulu Peyraud. Lulu was the proprietress of Domaine Tempier in Bandol, maker of their favourite rosé in Provence. Lyle was previously selling wine for legendary French importer Kermit Lynch for twelve years before leaving to focus on this Santa Ynez project. His brother Eric started Lieu Dit wines in Santa Barbara, inspired by wines of the Loire valley, and owns Verve Wine in NYC and San Francisco. In addition to their dry rosé, they also make small lots of other Southern French grape varieties, including Vermentino, Carbonic Carignan, an inky red Mourvèdre, and Syrah from Bien Nacido that's made entirely without the use of SO2.. This is their Carbonic Carignan, emulating a style from Corbieres where the fruit is preserved and it is really very drinkable! Strawberries, cranberries, and baking spices, with herbaceous flavours of umami and sandalwood
- 515 Clendenen Family Vineyards Nebbiolo Reserva "Punta Exclamitiva" Santa Barbara, California, USA 2014 200**
Jim Clendenen was famous for producing internationally acclaimed Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in California. Amongst the region's top producers, the wines he started producing in 1982 set the standard for modern, terroir-driven Californian wine from Burgundian grapes. Wines under the Clendenen Family Vineyards label are not just another label – this was a project of passion for Jim. These are artisan, nuanced wines from small lots producing distinctive wines that have had the luxury to be in the barrel as long as they need it. The 2014 vintage offers generous aromas of black fruits, thyme, oregano and lavender. The underneath layer of leather and dried floral notes will surface after a few swirls in the glass. The palate showcases classic Nebbiolo notes of dried cranberries, spiced cherries and liquorice. This medium to full-bodied wine is framed by firm tannins, focus acidity and layers of flavour. Its finishing lingers with a savoury touch, an incredibly well-balanced and precise Nebbiolo, great reminiscent of a Barolo!
- 509 Lie Dit Cabernet Franc, Santa Barbara, California, USA 2020 80**
'Sans Soufre' means 'without sulphur'. This is relevant when making the purest expression of the wine possible. Lieu Dit's Cabernet Franc is exactly that – pure and juicy cold-climate red wine. The nose is dominated by fresh black fruit aromas with some cured meat and gameness. The palate is textured and smooth with flavours of black fruits, tomato skin and a subtle pepper undertone. Lieu Dit's Cab Franc is an elegant and superbly made wine from California with a long finish

- 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.
- 578 Railsback Freres Counoise, Santa Barbera, California, USA 2020** **115**
 This Counoise comes from a single parcel in Santa Ynez Valley that's wild with limestone and fossils. The original vines planted here come from revered Beaucastel in Chateauneuf-du-Pape. In a world of ongoing climate change, the grape has natural acidity lending itself well to warm growing conditions. The wine is similar to the profile of top-quality Northern Spanish Grenache or light Cru Beaujolais. It is floral and fresh with flavours of crunchy red berries, rose, fresh red cherry and structured with cranberry grip. Gentle minerally carries through on the long finish. It spends ten months in neutral French oak to achieve this complexity and will easily pair with a variety of foods due to its acidity and natural structure.
- 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.
- 510 Clendenen Family Vineyards Library Release Le Bon Climat Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara, California, USA 2006** **200**
Jim Clendenen was famous for producing internationally acclaimed Pinot Noir & Chardonnay in California. Amongst the region's top producers, the wines he started producing in 1982 set the standard for modern, terroir-driven Californian wine from Burgundian grapes. Wines under the Clendenen Family Vineyards label are not just another label – this was a project of passion for Jim. These are artisan, nuanced wines from small lots producing distinctive wines that have had the luxury to be in the barrel as long as they need it. Le Bon Climat is a vineyard Jim bought many years ago in the Santa Maria Valley just 5 miles from the famous Bien Nacido site where the winery is. It is situated on a very steep, windy and cool-climate site which gives incredible preserved aromatics in the wines that are made from there. It produces Pinot Noir that is dark and meaty with outstanding complexity. The wine was aged in the best new French oak barrels for 24 months and bottled without filtration. The 2006 vintage the latest library release from the estate. A fully matured and delicious Pinot Noir to drink. On the nose, this wine exhibits enticing aromas of ripe red berries, such as cherries and raspberries, along with subtle floral notes and a hint of earthiness. The palate is beautifully balanced, with a medium body and silky tannins that provide a smooth and velvety texture. Flavours of red fruits, including cranberries and strawberries, are complemented by delicate spice undertones, such as cinnamon and clove.



CHAMPAGNE
TAITTINGER

Reims

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.

The Taittinger 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	18	65	110
NV Taittinger Nocturne Sec	17		100
NV Taittinger Brut Prestige Rose	17	70	110
NV Taittinger Prélude 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

SPARKLING

21	Proseco , Veneto, Italy, DOC, N.V.	49
22	Proseco Rose, Veneto, Italy, DOC, N.V.	49
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	75
136	Pernand Vergelesses 1 ^{er} Cru Sous Fretille, Pierre Meurgey, Burgundy, 2019	143
154	Muré Orchidées Sauvages Gewurztraminer, 2019	65
109	Pouilly-Fume 'Elisa' Organic, Domaine Jonathan Pabiot, Loire, 2022	70
117	Beaujolais Blanc 'Axiome' Domaine le Capreoles, Beaujolais 2021	75
101	Muscadet De Sevré Et Maine Sur Lie, Chateau Haute Carizere, Loire.2018	49
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, 2022	48
196	Louis Latour, Grand Ardeche Oak Aged Chardonnay, Ardeche 2021	65

RED

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 Teyssier Grand Cru, Saint-Émilion 2018	55
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, Clos du Caillou, Rhône Valley, 2019	120
484	Pinot Noir 'Aromatheque' Organic, Domaine Schwach, Alsace 2021	55
488	Château La Gravière, Lalande de Pomerol, Bordeaux 2019	80

SPAIN

WHITE

111	La Miranda de Secastilla Blanca, Somontano, 2018	55
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, Basque Country, 2022	50
216	BN Blanco Natural, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2021	70
217	SP Subirat Parent Blanco, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2021	75
218	VT Vinyater Blanco, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2020	80
219	CX Cartoxia Vermell Blanca, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2021	77
220	MC Macabeu Filbert, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2019	95
221	GB Garnaxta Blanca, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2020	95
222	GK Moscatel Blanco, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2020	93
223	BS Sumoll Blanco Skin Contact, Partida Crues, Penedes, 2019	90

RED

462	Gran Cedro Rioja, Gonzalo Grijalba, Rioja, 2020	41
420	Asua Rioja Crianza CUNE, Rioja, 2019	45
491	Syrah Parvus Organic, Alta Alella, 2019	65
404	Pittacum Bierzo Tinto, Bierzo, 2019	60
562	TN Tinto Natural, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2021	65
563	GT Garrut Tinto, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2020	90
564	SM Sumoll Tinto, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2020	90
565	BB Bobal, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2021	85
566	UL Ullidellebre Tinto, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2019	100
567	TP Trepas Tinto, Partida Creus, Penedes, 2019	100

ITALY**WHITE**

155	Catarrato, Ciello, Natural Organic, Unfined, Unfiltered, Sicily, 2016	41
108	Baglio Bianco Catarratto on Skins, Ciello, Sicily, 2021	52
128	Arianna Occhipinti SP68, Sicily 2022	80
102	Falerio DOP Oris Bianco Organic, Ciu Ciu, Marche 2022	48
107	Trebbiano d'Abruzzo Classico, Gianni Masciarelli, Abruzzo 2022	48
104	Tasca Regaleali Bianco, Sicily, 2021	45

RED

431	Moccagatta Barbaresco, Piedmont, 2011	88
430	Gianni Gagliardo Barbera d'Alba Doc Superiore Madama, Piedmont 2020	65
437	Agricola Gaia, Birch Barbera DOC, Piedmont 2021	52
436	Villa Antinori Chianti Classico Riserva, Tuscany 2021	90
441	Fabulas Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 'Farae' Organic, Abruzzo 2022	50
440	Alessandrino Rosso, Valle Unite, Piedmont, 2021	55

AUSTRIA**WHITE**

180	'Blonde by Nature', Pittnauer, Burgenland 2022	70
114	Pinot Blanc, Prieler Orga Leithaberg, DAC, Burgenland 2019	110
210	Judith Beck Traminer, Burgenland, 2020	75
110	Judith Beck Weissburgunder, Burgenland, 2020	60
113	Schlehe Amber Orange, Martin and Anna Arndorfer, Weinland, Austria, 2022	55

RED

413	Judith Beck Ink Organic, Burgenland, 2020	50
401	Judith Beck Hunny Bunny Organic, Burgenland 2021	70
532	Judith Beck Blaufrankish, Burgenland, 2021	65
535	Judith Beck Zweigelt, Burgenland, 2020	65

GERMANY**WHITE**

123	Jacobus Reisling VDP, Peter Jakob Kuhn, Rheingau, 2018	58
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SOUTH AMERICA**RED**

460	Origen Gran Reserva Merlot, Luis Felipe Edwards, Chile, 2020	45
417	Cabernet Sauvignon Corralillo, Matetic, Chile, 2019	60
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, 2020	75
174	Moment of Silence, BLANKbottle, 2022	70
182	JCB Sauvignon Blanc, BLANKbottle, 2021	85
183	Kortpad Kaaptoe, BLANKbottle, 2021	77
188	Epileptic Inspiration, BLANKbottle, 2021	80
187	Orbifrontal Cortex, BLANKbottle, 2021	90
161	Baby Bandito 'Keep on Punching Chenin Blanc' 2022	66
162	Testalonga El Bandito 'Sweet Cheeks Muscat' 2022	90
164	Testalonga El Bandito 'Mangalitza Harslevelu' 2022	95
171	Testalonga El Bandito 'Skin Contact Chenin' 2022	90
184	Testalonga El Bandito 'Cortez Chenin' 2022	95
186	Testalonga El Bandito 'Lords of Dog Town Chenin Blanc' 2022	90

RED

411	Master of None, BLANKbottle, 2022	70
426	Retirement at 65, BLANKbottle, 2021	88
485	General Boesjaly, BLANKbottle, 2021	70
501	Confessions of a White Glove Chaser 2021	100
505	Familiemoord, BLANKbottle, 2021	90
461	Baby Bandito 'Follow Your Dreams Carignan' 2022	65
498	Baby Bandito 'Chin Up Cinsault' 2022	65
537	Testalonga El Bandito 'Queen of Spades Tinta Amarela' 2022	90

AUSTRALIA

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	65
434	Cabernet Franc ‘FRNC’ Brash Higgins, Riverland, Australia 2020	80
439	Vin de Sofa, Gentle Folk, Adelaide Hills 2023	75

NEW ZEALAND

WHITE

118	Riesling, Little Beauty, Marlborough, 2014	65
227	Sauvignon Blanc, Little Beauty, Marlborough, 2022	65
225	Sauvignon Blanc Black Edition, Little Beauty, Marlborough, 2018	90
226	Pinot Gris, Little Beauty, Marlborough, 2021	60
224	Pinot Gris Black Edition, Little Beauty, Marlborough, 2013	95
153	Esk Valley Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, 2022	48
189	Pinot Gris, Pounamu, Marlborough 2014	75

RED

489	Mahi Pinot Noir, Marlborough, 2020	85
469	Esk Valley, Pinot Noir, Marlborough 2022	50
533	Pinot Noir, Little Beauty, Marlborough 2021	75

SPARKLING	125ml	175ml	250ml	Bottle
Prosecco DOC Valdobbiadene, Terre di Sant'Alberto, Italy	11			49
N.V. Taittinger Brut Reserve Reims, Champagne, France	18			110
N.V. Taittinger Brut Prestige Rose, Reims, Champagne, France	18			110
N.V. Taittinger Nocturne Sec, Reims, Champagne, France	18			110
WHITE AND SKINS				
Bzikot Père et Fils, Bourgogne Blanc 'Cote D'Or, Burgundy, 2020		17	23	75
Picpoul de Pinet, Terre De Roqueloupie, South West, 2018	11		15	45
Esk Valley Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough 2022	12		16	48
Helsman Pinot Grigio, Robert Oakley Central Rangers 2019	11		15	45
RED				
Esk Valley, Pinot Noir, Marlborough 2022	11		15	50
Origen Gran Reserva Merlot, Luis Felipe Edwards, Chile, 2020	11		15	45
Malbec, Zuccardi Brazos, Uco Valley, Argentina, 2020	12		16	48
Asua Rioja Crianza CUNE, Rioja 2019	11		15	45
ROSE				
Judith Beck Pink, Burgenland, Austria, 2022	12		17	50
Bandol Rose, Domaine le Suffrene, Cedric Gravier, Bandol, Provence, France, 2019	16		19	61
Whispering Angel Rose, Cotes Du Provence, France 2022	17		21	70
Pink Diesel, Cotes Du Provence Rose IGP	11		15	45

PORT

Bulas 10 Year Old Tawny Port, Douro, Portugal	8
Ramos Pintos 30 Year Old Tawny Port, Douro, Portugal	18
Fonseca Quinta Panascal NV, Douro, Portugal	8
Cockburns Vintage Port, Douro, Portugal 2000	14
Cockburns Ruby Port, Douro Valley, Portugal	6

SHERRY

Nectar Pedro Ximenes, Gonzales Byass, Jerez, Spain	7
Del Duque 30 Year Aged Amontillado VORS, Gonzales Byass, Jerez, Spain	9
Fernando de Castillo Antique Palo Cortado N.V. Andalusia, Jerez, Spain	12
Leonor Palo Cortado 12 Year Aged, Gonzales Byass, Jerez, Spain	8
Dandelion Vineyards 'Legacy of Australia' XXXO Pedro Ximenez, South Australia	10

DESSERT WINE

Lieser Niederburg Helden Riesling Beerenauslese, Mosel, Germany 2011	17
Banylus Rimage, Chateau de Jau, Roussillon, France	8
Brannland Iscider, Vannasby, Sweden	9
Petit Manseng Doux Cuvee Gaston Phoebus, Domaine de Cabidos, Bearn, France 2015	8
Tokaji Edes Szamorodni Dorgo, Tokaji, Hungary 2017	9
Riversaltes Ambre Domaine Fontanel, Vin Doux naturel, Roussillon, France 2015	7
Chateau Filhot Sauternes, Bordeaux France 2015	10
Prunotto Moscato D'Asti, Piedmont, Italy 2022	7
Passito Rosso 'Passione' Cantine de Falco N.V. Puglia, Italy	7
Eric Bordelet, Poire Granit, Chateau de Hauteville, Normandy, France 2022	9
Casal dei Ronchi Recioto della Valpolicella, Serego Alighieri, Veneto, Italy 2015	20