

CORK & BOTTLE

Wine Bar

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www.thecorkandbottle.co.uk

THIS SEASON'S SPECIALS

WHITES

ESK VALLEY HAWKES BAY CHENIN BLANC 2010 28.50

Does everyday drinking white get any better? "Dry with flavours of citrus, baked apple & honey", says winemaker Gordon Russell. "We say delicious"! 13%ABV

BOECKEL PINOT GRIS 2010 12.5%ABV 26.50

Beautifully aromatic and fulsome with both weight and delicacy on the finish.

CHABLIS 2010 Domaine Vauroux 28.50

"Oliver Tricon makes a crisp, racy style with minerally flavours and a delicate hint of lemons". *Guide Hachette des Vins*. Quite! 13%ABV

ANJOU BLANC 2009 DOMAINE de la CROIX LOGES 27.25

80% Chenin Blanc 20% Chardonnay. Guavas on the nose and the glorious honey and apricot fruits found in ultra-ripe Chenin grapes.

YALUMBA WILD FERMENT CHARDONNAY 2009 31.50

EDEN VALLEY. Subtle fruit flavours with a splash of lightly toasted oak. The exotic attributes of Oz Chardonnay with Burgundian style. 13.5%ABV

ROSÉ

CHATEAU DE CHAUSSE Provence ROSÉ 2011 13.5%ABV 26.50

Deliciously bone dry with extroverted luscious fruit. One of Provence's finest.

REDS

JULIENAS 2009 Domaine le Cotoyon 13 %ABV 26.50

Beaujolais at its best. Frédéric Bénat makes a wine stuffed with vibrant cherries.

GRANT BURGE 'MIAMBA' SHIRAZ 2009 14.5%ABV 32.50

Our all-time favourite of Grant's wonderful reds. Lovely gentle oak spice with a Linaerina. soft, robust yet delicate finish.

VACQUEYRAS 2009 "Domaine Grand Montmirail" 32.50

A marvelously luscious mouthful of beautifully ripe flavours with a solid backbone & gentle

2.

THE LOIRE

Our Loire section has expanded over the last few years. Is this because we have bought a Chateau down there? No. Is it because Christelle comes from this region? Maybe. Mainly it is the glorious, individualistic wines.

1. TOURNAINE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011 13%ABV 22.95

HENRY MARIONNET. A tropical fruit cocktail with a zingy soft finish.

2. CHEVERNY ROSÉ 2010 DOM. de la DESOUCHERIE 22.95

80% Pinot Noir with Gamay. Layer upon layer of raspberries and cherries with a zippy, lingering finish. 13%ABV

3. VOUVRAY SEC 'Domaine Rouletière' 2010 12%ABV 28.50

Jean-Marc Gillet has crafted a beauty. Elegant & complex, with a lightness of being. Chenin Blanc - perfect for the ABC (Anything but Chardonnay) brigade.

THREE CLASSIC SANCERRES FROM JEAN-PIERRE VACHER

4. SANCERRE BLANC 2010 13%ABV 30.50

Classic stuff! The ultimate Sauvignon Blanc.

5. SANCERRE ROSÉ 2010 13%ABV 30.50

Is this one of the world's great Rosés? Yes. Glorious ripe Pinot Noir fruit bursting with strawberries and raspberries. Like still pink Champagne.

6. SANCERRE ROUGE 2009 12.5%ABV 30.50

Tangy, robust, gamey cherry flavours with soft depth & lingering finish.

7. ANJOU ROUGE 2009 Domaine de la Croix Loges 27.25

50% Cabernet Franc, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon. A robust yet soft, earthy character bursting with chocolate, blackcurrants & spice flavours. 12.5%ABV

ALSACE

10. PINOT BLANC 'RESERVE' 2011 Boeckel 23.50

Aromatic, soft, flowery and bone dry with an easy-going finish. 13%ABV

11. RIESLING 2010 Boeckel 24.50

Another aromatic, bone-dry white - as opposed to German Rieslings. Subtle nuances. 12.5%ABV

12. PINOT GRIS 2010 Boeckel 13%ABV 26.50

Just about every winemaker in the New World has discovered the virtues of this magical grape. The Boeckel family have been flaunting it since 1853! A beautifully aromatic and fulsome wine with weight and a delicate finish.

13. GEWURZTRAMINER 2011 Boeckel 28.50

A one bottle example of the glories of this grape. Lychees & spice. 13%ABV

14. PINOT NOIR 'Les Terres Rouges' 2006 Boeckel 30.95

One of the best light Pinots we have tasted. Zingy raspberry and strawberry fruits with a subtle, smooth & sexy finish. Best lightly chilled. 13.5%ABV

BEAUJOLAIS

3.

WHEN TO DRINK BEAUJOLAIS

- * An ideal refreshing pick-me-up at MIDDAY
- * At LUNCH it's the perfect accompaniment to meat, seafood and salads.
- * A perfect glass for quiet reflection in the AFTERNOON.
- * The best wines of all for PRE-THEATRE DINING as the lightness allows one to stay awake for the play.
- * With DINNER it's a glorious mix of style and substance.
- * It's intrinsic gaiety supplies the perfect AFTER THE SHOW glass.

Otherwise ... don't touch the stuff!



'Beaujolais, Sir? I think we may have one bottle left...'

15. BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES 2010 J.M. Laforest 21.95
Smashing, extroverted wine shrieking of the joys of light, fresh Gamay. No resemblance to most of the wines in the UK with this appellation. 13%ABV
16. REGNIE 2010 Jean-Marc Laforest 25.00
Don met Jean-Marc when he was a juror at the "2000 Fetes des Crus". His Regnie was unanimously awarded the Gold Medal. A month later it also struck Gold at Paris... and has been winning trophies ever since! A whoosh of vibrant, intense raspberry fruit plus zippy elegance. 13%ABV
17. BROUILLY 2010 Jean-Marc Laforest 25.00
Archetypal easy-going, early drinking Gamay from the master. Lovely depth of cassis & raspberry fruits balanced with a soft, unctuous finish. 13%ABV
18. JULIÉNAS 2009 Domaine le Cotoyan 26.50
Frédéric Bénat is a class act, who also happens to be the father of one of our ex-staff, Geoffray. This wine has a lovely style with rich, luscious cherries. 13%ABV
19. SAINT AMOUR 2009 Domaine le Cotoyan 26.50
Packed with soft and silky, rounded plums and redcurrants. Stunning stuff! This is one of my favourites of the ten Beaujolais Cru. 13%ABV

20. MORGON 2009 Domaine Leyre-Loup 36.50

This is "exotic" Beaujolais from a Domaine created by Jacques Lanson in 1993. A lovely fruity nose leads into a mouthful of unctuous ripe cherries & cassis. Wonderfully robust with flavours that linger on .. and on. 13.5%ABV

BURGUNDY

WHITES

21. SAINTE VERAN 2010 'Les Sables' 27.50
DOMAINE GAEL MARTIN

We love this appellation. "Posh Macon Blanc" really. 100% unoaked Chardonnay with heaps of supple, generous flavours - honeysuckle, peaches ... you name it. Excellent on its own or with our salads. A marvelous, affordable white Burgundy. Often available by the glass & carafe. 13%ABV

OLIVIER TRICON'S DOMAINE DE VAUROUX

Olivier is one of the new superstars on the Chablis scene. He makes crisp, racy wines with minerally flavours & a delicate hint of lemons. "Typicité parfait", says the *Guide Hachette des Vins*.

24. CHABLIS 2010 28.50

He makes a crisp, racy style with minerally flavours & a delicate hint of lemons. "Typicité parfait", says *Guide Hachette des Vins*. 12.5%ABV

25. CHABLIS PREMIER CRU 'Montmains' 2008 41.50

A more complex bouquet with delightful intense honey aromas. Rich, full-bodied flavours which linger. A great wine. 12.5%ABV

26. MONTAGNY PREMIER CRU 2008 40.50

DOMAINE STEPHANE ALADAME.

An adorable, elegant wine with lovely nutty flavours and perfect balance. Terrific! In fact "textbook Montagny" from one of the region's new young superstars. One star in *Guide Hachette des Vins*. 13%ABV

27. MEURSAULT 'LE LIMOZIN' 2009 62.50

Domaine Rene Monnier. I don't suggest that you quaff this every day. But if you owe yourself a treat then this opulent, creamy, oh so sexy classic is the wine. Maybe shout the bank manager, divorce lawyer or even the marriage counsellor, who will then be able to offer an opinion next time the other side asks "why does my wife/husband spend so much on wine?" 13%ABV

REDS

5.

Don has spent 45 years extolling the delights of Pinot. Then along comes bloody Miles in "Sideways". He waxes lyrical about the subtle nuances and, hey presto, everyone is trying the stuff!

30. BOURGOGNE PINOT NOIR 2009 27.50

LOUIS JADOT. A splendid introduction to the subtle refinement of Pinot Noir. Upfront raspberry & strawberry flavours with a lively finish. A great House on form. 12.5%ABV

31. DOMAINE ARLAUD BOURGOGNE 'RONCEVIE' 08 37.50

A fascinating single vineyard wine from 'the wrong side of the tracks', i.e. the southern part of the Gevrey Chambertin area. Lovely fragrant, juicy, up-front strawberries and raspberries. Drinking beautifully now. 12.5%ABV

32. MERCUREY 1er CRU 'EN SAZENAY' 2008 43.50

DOMAINE TUPINIER-BAUTISTA. Top class Mercurey is hard to beat ... and affordable. Extroverted & vibrant, unsophisticated, up-front Pinot flavours - like the best of Central Otago but with more delicacy & less sweetness at the end. "Juicy, brambly & charming", says my mate Francis Murray, who just happens to be the importer. 13%ABV

33. SANTENAY 1ER CRU "BEAUREGARD" 2006 52.50

DOMAINE JOSEPH BELLAND. Attractive fulsome stuff from Roger Belland, the family's fifth generation vigneron. All the richness and depth of great Santenay. A star in *Guide Hachette des Vins*. 13%ABV

34. NUITS ST GEORGE 'VIELLES VIGNES' 2007 55.00

DOMAINE GUY DUFOULEUR. Subtle Pinot flavours where the violets & raspberries mellow into soft nuances of this glorious grape. I have tasted many lesser Nuits at twice the price ... 13%ABV

37. CHARMES CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU 2003 105.00

DOMAINE ARLAUD. This Domaine is one of our favourites on the Cote D'Or. Cyprian Arlaud is one of the regions rising stars and his Charmes is wonderful. Silky and seductive stuff; 'liquid satin' with undertones of gentle spices. Drinking beautifully right now and worth every penny, considering that nearby *Domaine de la Romanée Conté* goes for about \$20,000 a bottle! You owe yourself a glass or three once in a while! 13.5%ABV

6.

BORDEAUX

WHITE

39. CHATEAU HAUT BELIAN BLANC 2010 22.50
Sauvignon-Semillon. Delicious grassy fruit with considerable zip and a round finish. 12%ABV

RED

40. CHATEAU LAFORET 2010 23.50
Lovely plummy Merlot flavours with a splash of Cabernet Franc strawberries. From an Entre Deux Mers fifth generation family of Vignerons. 13%ABV

41. GRAND BATEAU 2010 Barrière Frères 27.00
75% Merlot, 25% Cab Sauvignon. A firm, fruity structured wine with judicious oak, & an easy finish. Created by the winemakers of 2nd Growth Chateau Beychevelle as house wine of the Monaco Yacht Club. Maybe you had a bottle or three when you last parked your yacht? 13.5%ABV

43. CHATEAU LAROCHE JOUBERT 2007 29.50
COTES DE BOURG. Heaps of Merlot in this soft, unctuous blend from the Right Bank. "Très belle expression du Merlot", says my mate from Bordeaux, Laurence Ehrmann. 13.5%ABV

44. CHATEAU BEAUREGARD

LAGUPEAU 2008 GRAVES

55% Cab Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Cab Franc.
From one of Bordeaux's best value appellations. Our broker in Bordeaux describes this wine well - "Jacques Perromat is a first rate red wine maker. He makes a wonderful wine offering the fine & classy 'Graves' with mineral-tobacco characteristics".

13.5%ABV



AND ... ONLY £27.95

46. CHATEAU HERMITAGE MAZEYRES 2006 45.00
POMEROL. Robert Parker pontificates and everyone listens ... "2006 was a Merlot year on the Right Bank with Pomerol the star". Well, I have shipped a beauty! 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Lovely black fruits on the nose, and a delightful combination of full frontal flavours with the lovely understated 'Bordeaux elegance'. 13%ABV

AND ... 2004 EN MAGNUM 13%ABV 95.00

TWO EXCELLENT CRU BOURGEOIS

7.

50. CHATEAU DE LESCOURS 2004 12.5%ABV 40.50
SAINT EMILION. 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cab Sauvignon.
Luscious classic from one of the oldest Estates in the appellation.
Blackcurrants & cherries with a balanced style & long finish.
51. CHATEAU CITRAN 2001 49.50
CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNEL. "Excellent bouquet with good flavour
and balance", says David Peppercorn in *The Wines of Bordeaux*. 13%ABV

CHATEAU KIRWAN en magnum

3rd Growth Margaux

This is marvelous stuff at modest prices for a 3rd Growth these days.

"Over the past few years, Kirwan has not put a foot wrong",

Gault Millau magazine.

53. CHATEAU KIRWAN 2002 Magnum 120.00
A lovely rounded wine with powerful elegance and concentrated blackcurrant
fruits. Cigar box and cassis flavours abound. 13.5%ABV
54. CHATEAU KIRWAN 1999 Magnum 110.00
"A very good vintage", *Decanter*. "Blackcurrant pastille aromas & sweet fruit",
Stephen Brook in his opus, *The Complete Bordeaux*. 13.5%ABV

"The Magnum is the perfect size for two; the wine waiter and me",

Victor Lanson

55. CHATEAU LANGOA BARTON 2002 89.95
3RD GROWTH ST JULIEN. One of Don's all-time favourites. Pure blackcurrants
with a lengthy robust finish. Drinking beautifully now!
"The 2002 has remarkable purity and intensity", says Brook.
56. CHATEAU PONTET-CANET 2001 105.00
5th Growth Pauillac. In the heart of the appellation just south of the Mouton-
Rothschild estate, this vintage has had the advantage of a real Indian summer at
harvest.
57. DOMAINE DE CHRYVALIER 1986 130.00
CRU CLASSE GRAVES PESSAC-LEOQNAN. Elegant gorgeously flowery
fruit. "The wines are deep and need time to develop with great breeding and length
of flavour", says the estimable *David P.* 12%ABV



PLEASE ASK AT THE BAR
FOR OUR BORDEAUX & BURGUNDY
BIN ENDS LIST

8.

THE RHONE VALLEYWHITE

61. CROZES HERMITAGE BLANC 2007 30.50
 DOMAINE LES HAUTS DE MERCUROL. A fascinating combination of Marsanne and Roussane. Heaps of character. Crisp lemon flavours with a hint of dried apricots. The perfect 'winter white'! 12.5%ABV

ROSÉ

62. VACQUEYRAS ROSÉ 2010 13.5%ABV 27.50
 Grenache, Mourvèdre & Cinsault. A terrific whoosh of vibrant strawberries.

RED

63. COTEAUX TRICASTIN 2009 22.50
 DOMAINE DE LA QUIBERTE
 Soft, gentle Grenache flavours with a gentle splash of Syrah pepper. 13%ABV

64. DOMAINE LA GARRIGUE "CUVEE
 ROMAINE" COTES DU RHONE 2010 25.50

50/50 Syrah & Grenache. A one-bottle introduction to the glories of the Rhone valley. Soft & generous warm style with heaps of prunes & robust plums. Easy drinking. 14%ABV



65. CROZES HERMITAGE 2007 32.50
 DOMAINE MICHEL POINARD. Gorgeous juice, peppery and spicy with hints of rooth raspberries and plums. Superstar winemaker Christelle has produced a delightfully subtle 100% Syrah; light years away from most of the South Australian blockbusters. In fact, one of the all-time great Crozes! 12.5%ABV

66. VACQUEYRAS 2007/09 32.50
 DOMAINE DU GRAND MONTMIRAIL. 13%ABV
 65% Grenache, 25% Syrah & Mourvèdre. A marvellously luscious mouthful of beautifully ripe fruit flavours with a solid backbone & gentle pepper spice.

68. GIGONDAS 2007/09 "Cuvee Vielle Vignes" 39.50

DOMAINE DU GRAND MONTMIRAIL.
 This estate is on glacial rocks, which act as storage heaters, producing gorgeously ripe, voluptuous Grenache, Mourvedre and Syrah fruit flavours from the 50 year old vines. "Les tannins sont fondues et laissent une impression generale de rondeur et d'équilibre". One star, *Guide Hachette*. 14%ABV

SOUTH OF FRANCE

9.

CHATEAU DE CHAUSSE PROVENCE

Yves & Roseline Schelcher are great friends. Their state of the art vineyard & boutique winery benefit from the cooling breezes of the Mediterranean & consequently the wines are more subtle than most ...

81. CHATEAU DE CHAUSSE ROSÉ 2011 26.50

We think this vintage is the finest pinko Roseline has ever made. Deliciously bone dry with luscious, extroverted fruit. 13.5%ABV

82. CHATEAU DE CHAUSSE ROUGE 2007 14%ABV 29.50

CABERNET SAUVIGNON-SYRAH. Gloriously robust layer upon layer of red & black berry fruits and spices, balanced with bounteous smoky oak.

Also available in 2008 magnum 14%ABV 65.00



DOMAINE DE PUILACHER LANGUEDOC

This superb 38 hectare Estate is in the Herault valley foothills, just west of Montpellier. The Farges family create hand-crafted, individualistic wines.

83. 'PROLOGUE' CHARDONNAY 2009 22.50

Light & fragrant with a delicious lemony style & a zippy finish. Like a top-class cool climate Oz Chardonnay with a similar lingering finish. 14%ABV

CAZAL VIEL BEZIERS

God bless the talented proprietor/winemaker Laurent Miquel. He did a Masters in Quality Management at Leeds University then worked for Nissan on Tyneside. The sun lured him back to his roots, so he did a degree in oenology at Montpellier University. In 1996 he established this magnificent Estate. *Jancis Robinson* succinctly sums up - "value with a strong regional accent".

84. VIOGNIER 'GRANDE RESERVE' 2011 27.95

Marvellous intense flavours of honeysuckle and dried apricots. 'To me this tastes like baby Condrieu', says *Jancis*. 13.5%ABV

85. SYRAH-GRENACHE 2010 23.50

The Estate is a shrine to the classic Rhone styles. The 70% Grenache flaunts juicy ripe cherry fruits with considerable depth. 14%ABV

10. TWO PAGES OF THE NEW SPAIN

Spain is now producing some of the most forward thinking wines in the world. These guys are making brilliant wines without losing the traditional flavours.

Chilled

LA GUITA MANZANILLA

65% of all the Sherry drunk in Spain is Manzanilla ... and 60% of all Manzanilla enjoyed is La Guita! Light, aromatic and nutty, with a beautifully clean finish. This is terrific stuff ... A great aperitif.

£4.45 glass £18.95 half bottle 15%ABV

BODEGAS CHIVITE -NAVARRA

The Chivite family have been in this region, neighbouring Rioja, since 1647.

87. GRAN FEUDO ROSADO 2011 22.50

A lusciously extravagant whoosh of pinko flavours. 100% Garnacha (Grenache). 13%ABV

88. GRAN FEUDO CHARDONNAY 2009 23.95

Deliciously fragrant fruit from high terraces near the River Aragon. Lovely unoaked style with zingy citrus flavours. Easy drinking. 13%ABV

89. GRAN FEUDO CRIANZA 2006 24.50

70% Tempranillo, 25% Garnacha (that's Grenache to you and me), 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, and aged in American oak for 12 months. Well balanced, spicy fruit, with a soft style. Great value!! 12.5%ABV

90. GRAN FEUDO RESERVA 2006 26.50

A marvellous introduction to three 'old and new' red wine grapes strutting their stuff in Navarra - Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. 13%ABV

91. GRAN FEUDO VINAS VIEJAS RESERVA 2005 30.95

Tempranillo, Garnacha (Grenache), Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon from vines 45-60 years old. Full-bodied, mouth-filling black fruits with vanilla spices and a velvety softness - plus a powerful finish. Great stuff! 13%ABV

93. ALBARINO RIAS BAIXAS 2010 30.50

"SERRA DA ESTRELA". This varietal is Spain's answer to Viognier. A lovely amalgam of peaches, apricots and dried fruits. One of the world's most user-friendly "food whites". 13%ABV

BODEGAS FARINA – TORO

99. 'GRAN COLEGIATA' CAMPUS 2003 Vinas viejas 42.50
One of Spain's greats! From pre-phylloxera vines up to 140 years old. 15 mths in new French oak. Gloriously complex; cherries, red berries ad spice. 14%ABV

TORRES

Fancy a bottle of Jean Leon Xarel-Lo Chardonnay? See Vash's page.

101. NEROLA 'TINTO' 2008 26.50
80% Syrah & 20% Monastrell (Mouvedre to you & me) aged in French oak for 12 months. A lovely soft, juicy wine with heaps of gentle spices. Served up-front on American Airlines transatlantic flights. 14%ABV

102. MAS LA PLANA 2006 55.50
CABERNET SAUVIGNON. This wine demolished Margaux, Lafite and other French ultra-expensive classics in the legendary 1976 Gault Millau Paris tasting. Voluptuous and powerful with touches of smoky oak and gentle spice. Hard to find - but we have heaps! 14%ABV

103. RIBERO DEL DUERO CRIANZA 2009 'Celeste' 29.95
Marvellous stuff from a new Bodega with high altitude (895 metres!), cool climate vineyards. Alluringly spicy, smoky nose with elegant luscious blackberry and cherry fruits with a glorious robust but balanced oak finish. 13.5%ABV

RIOJA

104. RIOJA IBERICOS 2009 25.50
The TORRES family have diversified with a state of the art winery in Rioja Alavesa. This is a new take on the region - more vibrant up-front fruit no longer masked by excessive oak. Considerably depth and weight with beautiful balance. Lovely stuff! 14%ABV

105. ONDARRA RIOJA RESERVE 2005 32.50
A luscious, brooding beauty with layers of strawberries & raspberries balanced with vibrant oak. This wine will run and run: Perfect with our steak sandwiches. 13.5%ABV



12.

ITALY

110. PINOT GRIGIO VENEZIE 'Sachetto' 2011 21.50
The 'Real Deal'. I love this varietal from the Veneto. It has lovely hints of pears, almonds and melons with a crisp finish. Great value! 12%ABV
111. FRASCATI SUPERIORE 2010 'Poggio le volpi' 28.25
I have always been a great fan of Frascati, from the Rome hills, and this is one of the best. Forget the vulgar stuff at your local Trattoria/corner shop/supermarket! The business! Excellent, nutty style with just the right amount of weight, & bone dry. Great with our salads - or on its own. 13%ABV
112. GAVI DE GAVI "FOSSILO" 2011 PIEMONTE 28.50
100% Cortese, a very trendy white Italian varietal. A beautiful wine with the taste of tangy greengages, gentle spice and a crisp finish. 12.5%ABV
113. PODERE MONTEPULCIANO d'ABRUZZO 2010 22.50
UMANI ROCHI. From the Marche region, adjacent to Tuscany. Vash loves the central east Italy grape Montepulciano and we all concur. It offers easy drinking with ripe plums and a soft, lingering finish. 13%ABV
114. NEGROAMARO LUCCARELLI 2011 24.50
SALENTO, PUGLIA. Native varietal from the Southern peninsula which is the 'heel of Italy'. A lovely, in-your-face extroverted beauty reeking of black plums and prunes. This wine has power and is terrific value! 13.5%ABV
115. BARBERA D'ASTI 'Superiore' 2010 30.95
MICHEL CHIARLO. This superstar winemaker makes a very different easy-going Barbera with elegant, lively fruit, and a gloriously racy finish. 13.5%ABV
116. CHIANTI CLASSICO VICCHIO MAGGIO 2010 30.50
A great mélange of extroverted red fruits - ripe cherries to the forefront. Boy is this 2008 good for drinking right now! ORGANIC. Regularly available by glass and carafe. 13%ABV

117. CASTELLO DI BROLIO 2007 65.00
CHIANTI CLASSICO. Not quite come to terms with Italy's finest red wine? Well, we have just the wine for you. A wonderful, unctuous Sangiovese, the finest from the glorious Ricasoli Estate. Gloriously intense blackberry and plum flavours with a firm but silky structure and beautifully subtle new oak. Owner Stefano, the 4th generation Baron, says, "The Castello di Brolio expresses the refined elegance that only the terroir of Brolio's finest vineyard sites could produce. It is our 'great wine'". We say ... "A masterpiece"! 14%ABV

SWEET & STICKIES

13.

All available by the glass ... see blackboards

120. SAINTE CROIX DU MONT 2006

29.95

CHATEAU DES DEUX LIONS. This appellation borders Sauternes and, in our opinion, offers much better value. Rich and luscious, nutty, sweet fruit, with an oh so soft finish. Wonderful! 13%ABV

121. BERTON RESERVE BOTRYTIS SEMILLON '09

23.50

Half bottle. Luscious honeyed flavours with peaches and apricots. Beautifully balanced. 11%ABV

THREE NEW WORLD MUSCATS

half bottles

122. QUADY'S ORANGE MUSCAT 'Essencia' 2009

26.25

Outrageous orange zest flavours. Delicious with our chocolate desserts. 15%ABV

123. QUADY'S BLACK MUSCAT 'Elysium' 2010

26.25

Rich & full flavoured. The perfect accompaniment to blue cheese. 15%ABV

124. GRANT BURGE 10 YEAR OLD TAWNY

19%ABV 45.00

The Thunder From Downunder! Wonderfully expressive Barossa beauty with richly flavoured Christmas-cake characters. A surprisingly dry finish.



AND NOW FOR THE GROWN UP STUFF

BLANDY'S 2001 HARVEST MALMSEY MADEIRA

Rich & Rounded with delicate toffee flavours. Great stuff. 19%ABV

£38.50 bottle £6.40 glass

SMITH WOODHOUSE QUINTA MADELENA 1996 VINTAGE PORT

£53.50 bottle £8.95 glass 20%ABV

CHAMPAGNE

14.

"DON HEWITSON CUVÉE" 44.95

Classic structure. Mellow Pinot flavours with a delicious splash of top class chardonnay. 12%ABV

Half bottle £23.75 Magnum £90.00

DON HEWITSON "PREMIER CRU"

BLANC DE NOIR 49.95

This cuvee is 100% Pinot, made from only the finest grapes in Hautvillers - the integral source of much of Dom Pérignon. Luscious, toasty, classic flavours. GREAT! 12%ABV

GARDET

BLANC DE BLANCS 49.95

The finest Chardonnay grapes from the Cote des Blancs. A delicate mousse with a creamy white froth and a rich and fruity bouquet.

DON HEWITSON ROSÉ 55.00

REAL Champagne Rosé - 100% Pinot Noir. Heaps of raspberry & strawberry flavours. Close your eyes & forget the bubbles ... and you are in the heartlands of Burgundy. 12%ABV

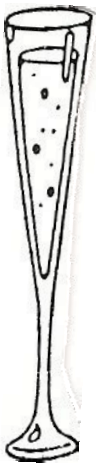
POL ROGER

POL ROGER White Foil 56.50

"Vibrant & mature - a beautiful, soft style". 12.5%ABV

POL ROGER VINTAGE 2000 75.50

Glorious array of the finest Chardonnay fruit with remarkable length. This is simply one of the finest vintage champagnes of my career! 12.5%ABV



All quotes are from Don's book
"The Glory of Champagne"

EXOTICA

GEORGE GARDET "1^{er} CRU"

SAIGNÉE 70.00

A wonderful, luscious, full-bodied pinko. taste which lingers and lingers. 12% ABV

BOLLINGER ROSÉ 75.00

"Like Premier Cru Burgundy ... with bubbles! Gloriously rich Pinot Noir with a splash of Chardonnay".



2005 ROSÉ DE

100% Pinot ... and a

TAITTINGER

COMTES DE CHAMPAGNE

BLANC DE BLANCS 1995 185.00

Arguably the finest Prestige Cuvée of the past two decades. Luscious, complex creamy Chardonnay. Wonderful! 12%ABV

PERRIERJOUET

BELLE ÉPOQUE 2004 205.00
Fruity power with elegance. 12.5%ABV

*** and, of course, ***
where would one be without ...

DOM PERIGNON 2003 215.00
Moët & Chandon 12.5%ABV

WE ALWAYS HAVE A FEW OTHER BEAUTIES - AND MAGNUMS
SEE BLACKBOARDS ...

MUMM CORDON ROUGE 54.95
"Elegant, soft and creamy." Never tasted better! 12%ABV

BOLLINGER

I must admit a bias. In October 1972 I paid my first ever visit to France. On the first day I lunched at Madame Bollinger's house and sat on her left. A wonderful lady. When she died in 1977 the world was a much poorer place.

BOLLINGER 'SPECIAL CUVÉE 68.75
'The aristocrat' of Non-Vintages. 12%ABV

BOLLINGER 2000 110.00
'GRANDE ANNÉE'.
"Gloriously rich, classic structure with a beautiful balance of honeyed fruit & a pain grillé finish. 60% P/Noir, 35% Chardonnay." 12%ABV

TAITTINGER

"Taittinger's hallmark is the high percentage of Chardonnay in the blend. Elegant wines with great finesse."

TAITTINGER BRUT RESERVE 60.95
"Dry and light, with a delightful lemony finish". 12%ABV

TAITTINGER VINTAGE 2002 76.95
"50% Chardonnay, 50% Pinot Noir. Wonderfully vivacious, ripe fruit with biscuity flavours. Lovely stuff". 12%ABV

16.

CALIFORNIA REDS

California may have overtaken France as No.2 wine supplier to Blighty, but, let's face it, most of the stuff consumed here is industrially produced rubbish - high in alcohol content with vast quantities of residual sugar. And yet there are some wonderful wines; the difficult part is finding ones that offer good value.

139. WENTE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2008 27.00

LIVERMORE VALLEY. Seductive aromas with a gentle, easy-going style redolent of blackcurrants, relaxed oak and gentle spices... 15.5%ABV

140. CLINE CELLARS ZINFANDEL 2010 29.50

A voluptuous beauty with layer upon layer of raspberries, cherries, tobacco flavours and a myriad of exotic spices. In fact, a stellar Zinfandel. 14%ABV

141. CLINE CELLARS MOURVÈDRE 2010 42.50

'ANCIENT VINES'. From a 100 year old plot. A wonderfully expressive study in the unique characteristics of this Rhone varietal - luxurious plums, herbs, mocha and Asian spices. You name your exotic spice ... it's in the glass! 15%ABV

142. LA CREMA SONOMA COAST PINOT NOIR 2009 43.50

Don first tasted this on Celebrity Cruises. He was knocked out, came back to dry land and had to find some! Glorious ripe fruit with black cherries and blueberries galore. Definitely not a fruit bomb; simply sophisticated elegance! 14%ABV

143. STAG'S LEAP "HANDS OF TIME" 2009 70.00

NAPA VALLEY. A Bordeaux-inspired blend with heaps of rich black fruit flavours and ripe mouth-filling tannins. Have a glass of Champagne while it breathes...it is worth waiting for! 13.5%ABV

144. JOSEPH PHELPS 'LE MISTRAL' 2006 73.95

The ultimate 'Rhone Ranger'. Grenache, Syrah & Mourvèdre from Monterey County, south of San Francisco. Gorgeous sweet red berry fruits with gentle spice & oh so soft tannins. Not everyday drinking, but worth every penny. 15%ABV

145. DUCKHORN VINEYARDS 'DECOY' 2007 75.00

A 'Meritage' wine as they call it Stateside, i.e. a Bordeaux blend - 45% Cab Sauv, 36% Merlot, 11% Cab Franc, 8% Petit Verdot. Robust and spicy with lengthy, well rounded flavours and a long, gently spiced finish. 14.5%ABV

CALIFORNIA WHITES

146. WENTE 'MORNING FOG' CHARDONNAY 2010 27.00
A creamy 'Stateside Classic' from the San Francisco Bay area. This beauty hits the palate head on with lush tropical fruits and a sublime, sexy style with subtle oak, cinnamon and vanilla from careful barrel ageing. 13.5%ABV
147. CLINE CELLARS VIOGNIER 2010 29.50
A superb rich white blockbuster with a panoply of exotic flavours - dried apricots, peaches, orange blossom & honeysuckle, to name a few. 14%ABV
148. LA CREMA SONOMA COAST CHARDONNAY '08 42.50
Elegant with a rich, buttery style with lingering hints of limes, spiced apples and vanilla with subtle oak at the finish. Unctuous stuff ... a Cult wine Stateside, but don't let that put you off! 90/100 Parker. 14%ABV



ARGENTINA

ANDELUNA

This is an amazing Mendoza Estate in the foothills of the Andes. Superstar Bordeaux oenologist Michel Rolland has helped to produce some South American stunner. The wines are very focused with up-front fruit and the prices are reasonable! *Decanter Magazine* - "Argentinean Winery of the Year".

150. CHARDONNAY 2010 14%ABV 28.50

A deliciously attractive style. Medium weight with a touch of gentle spice.

151. CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2010 14.5%ABV 28.50

Vibrant red fruits & chocolate with an ever so beautiful lingering finish.

152. TRAPICHE BROQUEL BONARDA 2009 29.50

An interesting red varietal from Italy. "The second Malbec", according to some winemakers. Deep brooding plums, tobacco & vanilla flavours. 14%ABV

153. CHAKANA 'RESERVE' MALBEC 2009 29.50

Selected parcels of finest Mendoza fruit aged in oak for 12 mths. A delicious amalgam of game, leather, figs and vanilla with a big finish. 14%ABV

18.

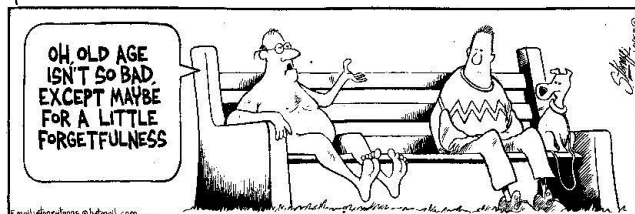
CHILE

165. CASAS del BOSQUE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011 22.95
RESERVA. CASABLANCA VALLEY. An aromatic, soft style with heaps of tangy Passionfruit and grapefruit flavours. 13.5%ABV

166. TORRES "Cordillera" CHARDONNAY 2011 27.50
85% Chardonnay and 15% Viognier. Miguel Torres says, "The bread, apple and cinnamon aromas of the Chardonnay are balanced with fresh fruits and the flintiness of the Viognier". Quite. 13.5%ABV

167. CARMEN PINOT NOIR RESERVE 2011 24.95
CASABLANCA VALLEY. A lovely floral style with heaps of strawberries & violets. From vineyards 500m above sea level and 30km from the cooling Pacific Ocean - perfect for Pinot! 13.5%ABV

168. DE GRAS CARMENERE 'RESERVA' 2011 26.00
COLCHAQUA VALLEY. Heran Gras is an extraordinary winemaker. He has created a unique wine which has a bit of everything. Soft black plums and cherries with a fulsome finish of spices and toasty oak, plus delicate vanilla overtones. Unfiltered ... 14.5%ABV



PORTUGAL

Fancy a bottle of Quinta Do Crasto white Douro? See Vash's page.

171. ALTANO ORGANIC DOURO RED 2008 26.50
From the family that gives us Dow, Graham, Smith Woodhouse & Warre ports. Top-notch, modern winemaking with ripe berries: Tinta Roriz & Touriga Franca. 14%ABV

172. CALLABRIGA 2007 DOURO VALLEY 28.50
The "New Portuguese Wines" are a bit of a learning curve. Unfathomable names with uncompromising styles. This wine only has the former problem - produced from the Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional & Touriga Franca grapes. "This full-bodied red is elegant, rich and finely crafted with delicious bright red cherry, raspberry and plum flavours", *The Wine Spectator*. Often available by the glass - so you can be adventurous! 14%ABV

SOUTH AFRICA

19.

For decades the South Africans, starved of international competition, persuaded themselves that their dull whites and fruitless BBQ reds full of acetone (nail polish to you and me) were fine and dandy. Things have changed dramatically, but only in some of the Estates.

WHITES

180. "HAZY VIEW" CHENIN BLANC 2010 21.50
Attractive guava and tropical fruit salad flavours with a clean, dry (but not bone dry) finish. Good on its own or with our salads. 13%ABV
181. BUITENVERWACHTING SAUV BLANC 2011 24.95
Not rated any South African Sauvignon Blancs yet? This is a revelation! I first tasted this on the six star "Crystal Serenity" when working on board as their wine lecturer. It is a glorious amalgam of extroverted gooseberries with melon and a splash of guava - plus a subtle finish. Only problem is the pronunciation! 13.5%ABV
182. KLEIN CONSTANTIA CHARDONNAY 2009 25.50
Deliciously ripe, limey fruit. Only lightly oaked with a beautiful, well-balanced, soft finish. 14%ABV

REDS

183. KLEINE ZALZE PINOTAGE 2010 25.00
"FOOT OF AFRICA". Extroverted plums and spices with more user-friendly characteristics than most examples of this Pinot Noir-Cinsault cross. 14.5%ABV
184. KLEIN CONSTANTIA CAB SAUV/MERLOT '08 26.50
Blackcurrants on the nose with heaps of red berry flavours and a hint of mint. Softer and more elegant than most Rainbow Nation cabernets. 14.5%ABV



HAMILTON RUSSELL - HERMANUS

Eureka! These beauties are as scarce as hen's teeth, but after my complaints in the last list, my mate Anthony Hamilton Russell has upped my allocation.

186. HAMILTON RUSSELL CHARDONNAY 2010 45.00
"Classy and fine-edged. 3 Stars", Hugh Johnson. 13%ABV
187. HAMILTON RUSSELL PINOT NOIR 2009 55.00
"Small yields, French-inspired vinification, careful barrelling. Three Stars", Hugh Johnson, again. 13.5%ABV

20.

FOUR PAGES OF THE GLORIES OF OZ

CRANSWICK ESTATE, GRIFFITH, NSW.

VEGETARIAN WINES. They have been fined (clarified) naturally, by gravity; a lengthy process unloved by the big industrial boys. No fining agents (usually derived from animal or fish products), have been used ...

191. CRANSWICK ESTATE MERLOT 2011 13.5%ABV 23.50

Soft, smooth & juicy stuff, with heaps of plums & cherries with a silky finish.



BAROSSA/MCLAREN VALE

196. SIMON HACKETT CABERNET 2008 27.50

Luscious MCLAREN VALE fruit, with a soft, vibrant, red berry fruit finish. Rewarding stuff! Perfect with our steak sandwich. 14%ABV

197. SIMON HACKETT 'OLD VINE' GRENACHE 2008 28.50

Another McLaren vale beauty! Vines with an average age of 45 yrs don't produce high yields, but they offer a vibrant amalgam of juicy, sleek red fruit flavours which linger ... and linger. 14%ABV

198. BOB BERTON "BLACK" SHIRAZ 2010 25.50

Bob is a good friend and a very skilful winemaker. Here he makes a big, brooding South Australian monster with huge, unrestrained flavours. 14.5%ABV

199. BOB BERTON'S COONAWARRA CABERNET
SAUVIGNON RESERVE 2008 31.50

Our old mate, and CSB regular over the years, has crafted a beauty. Typically Coonawarra with brooding red fruits, cassis & eucalyptus, plus a healthy dash of cinnamon spice. Wonderful value for money ... 14.5%ABV

This will regularly be featured by the glass & carafe on the Exotica board.

YALUMBA

21.

Oz's oldest and largest family winery

Our mate, Rob Hill-Smith, runs this family operation with an incredibly dedicated management team. No short-termism demanded by shareholders. No bean counters demanding costs to be cut. No 'work experience' marketing misanthropes changing tack every year.

200. "Y" RIESLING 2009 26.50

Much Barossa Riesling is grown on the hot climate flat. Not Yalumba. This vivacious, crisp beauty is grown on higher slopes. Lovely citrus fruit with a soft finish. Dry ... but not arid. 11%ABV

202. "Y" VIOGNIER 2011 26.50

Yalumba were the first New World winery to tackle the vagaries of this fickle varietal, which requires heaps of patience. 13.5%ABV

203. "Wild Ferment" CHARDONNAY 2009 31.50

EDEN VALLEY. Subtle fruit flavours, with a splash of lightly toasted oak. The exotic attributes of Oz Chardonnay combine with Burgundian style elegance. 13.5%ABV

* * *

204. SANGIOVESE ROSÉ 2011 25.50

"Exotic aromas of raspberries, strawberries and cream", says Rob Hill-Smith. 11.5%ABV

* * *

205. "Y" SHIRAZ 2009 "Galway Hermitage" 26.50

Opulent, juicy flavours with silky violets, spicy oak and an ethereal and soft finish. One of Yalumba's historic greats at a modest price! 13.5%ABV

206. "Hand Picked" SHIRAZ-VIOGNIER 2009 47.50

The 5% Viognier softens the riot of spicy, extroverted Barossa Shiraz flavours. Rob H-S says, "gloriously expressive". Exactement! 14.5%ABV

207. "THE SIGNATURE" 2006 Cabernet Shiraz 67.50

Beautifully mature Oz Classic. Gloriously mellow spice and blackberry fruit flavours with a soft American oak finish. We will decant - enjoy a glass of my Champagne whilst it breathes. 14.5%ABV

22.

TYRELLS Hunter Valley

Which of these two stunning whites for the ABC (Anything But Chardonnay) Brigade is best? Up to you ...

208. "OLD WINERY" VERDELHO 2010 25.50
HUNTER VALLEY. A great introduction to the delights of this grape in this region. Tropical fruit and honey balanced by a crisp finish. 12%ABV

209. "OLD WINERY" SEMILLON 2010 25.50
HUNTER VALLEY. This valley is by far the greatest place in the world for bone-dry Semillon. Floral aromas with soft lemons and honeysuckle, plus a clean finish ... and only 10.5%ABV

210. "OLD WINERY" PINOT NOIR 2010 25.50
Good straightforward concentrated fruit - strawberries and cherries. 12.5%ABV

211. GIANT STEPS "Sexton Vineyard" PINOT NOIR 08 42.50
Yarra Valley. Gorgeous, vibrant, juicy raspberries and strawberry fruit with meaty flavours that linger. More Burgundian in style than most Oz Pinots. Brilliant stuff! In fact, one of the few truly great New World pinots. 14%ABV

GRANT BURGE Barossa

212. BAROSSA VINES CHARDONNAY 2011 24.50
Plenty of peach and melon flavours with a creamy, buttery style. 13%ABV

213. BAROSSA VINES CAB-MERLOT 2008 25.50
Generous up-front, soft blackcurrant and mint flavours balanced with a smidgeon of gentle oak. 'Affordable Bordeaux comes to the Barossa'. 14%ABV

214. "MIAMBA" SHIRAZ 2009 32.50
My favourite of all Grant's reds. Lovely gentle spice with a delicate yet robust finish which lingers. 14.5%ABV

215. "CAMERON VALE" CAB SAUVIGNON 2006 32.50
Great! Chocolate, violets and beautiful mint .. with voluptuous oak. 14.5%ABV

216. "THE HOLY TRINITY" 2008 47.50
GRENACHE/SHIRAZ/MOUVEDRE. Heaps of soft, ripe plum, Grenache flavours beautifully balanced with spice and deliciously aromatic with an ethereal, soft, savoury oak finish. 15%ABV

217. GRANT BURGE 'MESHACH' 2004/05
*100 year old vines producing a big win of amazing concentration ..
But there is also a lovely subtlety of oak and spice flavours*
"Glorious Barossa Shiraz- the new Grange", *Winestate Magazine*. £95.00
bottle 15%ABV

JIM BARRY CLARE VALLEY, South Australia. 23.

Ah, the glorious Clare; one of the greatest South Oz regions. The late, great Jim Barry planted his first wines in 1959, so no problems with maturity. Son Peter runs the show now, with a brilliant application to quality.

220. "SILLY MID ON" 2009 31.50

SAUVIGNON BLANC-SEMILLON. "I wanted to make the best possible easy-drinking white", says Peter. 11.5%ABV

221. "LODGE HILL" RIESLING 2008/09 31.50

A Sth Oz classic. An ethereal blend of dryness with silk, mineral & gently spicy citrus flavours. Try a bottle - you won't be disappointed. 11.5%ABV

222. "THE COVER DRIVE" CAB SAUV 2009 31.50

A combination of wines from their vineyards in the Clare & Coonawarra. Soft, blackcurrant fruit flavours with lingering ripe cassis & eucalyptus flavours, plus gentle oak. The biggest selling premium wine on our list. 14.5%ABV

223. "MCRAE WOOD" SHIRAZ 2005 15.5%ABV 61.50

Layers of spice, minerals, savoury black pepper and sweet fruits with fine tannins and a clean structure. Best decanted to allow the flavours to open.

224. "FIRST ELEVEN" CABERNET SAUVIGNON '05 61.50

100% Coonawarra. Named in honour of Australia's great cricketing legends, this is a wine of rare and outstanding quality. 15%ABV

225. "THE ARMAGH" 2006 215.00

"One of Australia's very best wines", James Halliday. A wonderful, brooding, voluptuous monster. 15%ABV

Vasse felix, margaret river.

This brilliant winery was the first to plant (as recently as 1967) in Western Australia's premium wine region. The Holmes à Court family run a magnificent establishment - typically extroverted Australian brashness combined with traditional methods; all overseen by superstar winemaker Virginia Willcock.

236. VASSE FELIX CAB SAUVIGNON '06 14.5%ABV 45.50

"A stunning wine; red & dark fruits laced with peppermint and a dash of liquorice in the mouth. Delicious cabernet", Sydney Morning Herald.

24. TE MATA ESTATE HAWKES BAY

Don and John Buck go back to 1965, so there is a little bit of bias here. So, let's quote from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate - "Te Mata has fashioned a clutch of stunning wines in both 2008 & 2009 .. bona fide classics". Enough said!

240. ELSTON CHARDONAY 2009 37.50

A marvellous concentration of lime and apple flavours with great finesse. "It is without doubt the best New Zealand Chardonnay", says the iconic Australian wine writer, James Halliday. 14%ABV

241. AWATEA 2009 CABERNET-MERLOT 35.00

Cabernet Sauvignon & Cabernet Franc, plus a splash of Petit Verdot. Lovely rounded, ripe fruit style with easy-going tendencies. New World meets the Old in style. 13.5%ABV

242. COLERAINE 2009 89.95

Cabernet Sauv, Merlot & Cabernet Franc. This is the business! Arguably New Zealand's finest red. Marvelous brooding plethora of blackcurrants, chocolate with some liquorice in the background. An amazing wine (Don recently enjoyed a bottle of the still youthful 1983) and yet it is most approachable in its youth. 95/100 Parker. Hugh Johnson recently rated this beauty as "could easily pass for a Bordeaux Cru Classé". John likes to put it up blind against Mouton, Lafite et al, with amazing results. So, it is great value! 14%ABV

247. AKARUA "RUA" PINOT NOIR 2010 45.00

CENTRAL OTAGO. Winemaker Matt Connell has created a soft, aromatic, sensuous beauty. Juicy, vibrant cherries mixed with cinnamon, mocha, plums and gentle spice - just to keep one's palate busy. 14.5%ABV

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**A GREAT GIFT FOR FARAWAY
FRIENDS WHO KNOW THE PLACE**



COOPERS CREEK HUAPAI

25.

This West Auckland winery was established by our mate Andrew Hendry way back in 1980. It is one of the few family owned major players, with vineyards in all the major Kiwi wine regions. If you like zippy, full frontal fragrances then look no further.

251. MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC 2010 26.50

Aromatic, herbaceous tropical fruits. All the goodies. 13.5%ABV

252. MARLBOROUGH RIESLING 2008/09 27.00

Subtle, concentrated citrus flavours with a crisp finish. Andrew reckons "it leaps from the glass". 13%ABV

253. MARLBOROUGH PINOT NOIR 2009 29.95

From a single vineyard in the middle of the Wairau Plains. Delicate black plums and cherries with gentle spice and delicate oak. A more European style than many other Kiwi Pinots. 13.5%ABV

OPAWA Marlborough

A 25 hectare spread on the gravel soils of the Rapaura valley, created by Yalumba.

255. OPAWA PINOT GRIS 2010 13.5%ABV 28.50

New Zealand pinot gris is not particularly reliable as many winemakers seem to love residual sugar. This is definitely a Kiwi, but with gentle spice, peaches & lychees - plus a dry finish like the finest from Alsace. Terrific!

256. OPAWA PINOT NOIR 2011 14%ABV 28.50

An expressive, Kiwi Pinot - definitely not European in style. Cherries and raspberries with a smoky finish which lingers. One of the best value Pinots I have tasted anywhere in the world! Often available by the glass & carafe.

ESK VALLEY Hawkes Bay

Founded in 1933, this is one of the region's oldest Estates. Superstar winemaker, Gordon Russell, crafts elegant wines and, with his reds, believes in blending varietals à la Bordeaux.

257. MERLOT-CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MALBEC 27.50

GIMLETT GRAVELS "BLACKLABEL" 2009. Lush, ripe berry fruits. The fulsome, chocolaty Merlot blends beautifully with the fragrant Cabernet; and then there is the touch of Malbec for robustness. A terrific example of Kiwi red wine making at its finest. This beauty will be available by the glass on the Exotica board from time to time ... so you can sample it and judge whether my prose is too purple! 14%ABV

26.

TWO VERY DIFFERENT MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANCS

258. MUSSEL BAY SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011 23.50

A plethora of tropical fruits with a delightful crisp and light finish. An easy-going, fragrant style which the Aussies would love to emulate. 13%ABV

259. SAINT CLAIR SAUVIGNON BLANC 2010 41.50

"THE PIONEER BLOCK", Dillon's Point, Lower Wairau valley. Superstar winemaker Matt Thomson describes his classic as 'an intense concentration of blackcurrant, passionfruit and citrus with a mineral note that gives the palate an intensity which lasts and lasts'. *Cuisine Magazine* gives this a 5* rating. Reminiscent of the halcyon days of 'Cloudy Bay, before they expanded and became supermarket suppliers! 13.5%ABV

TINDALL ESTATE MARLBOROUGH

A Marlborough rarity - a family-owned single vineyard winery processing fruit from only their own vines. The Sowman family first planted grapes in the Wairau valley in 1995, so the vines are mature now. They prune ruthlessly for low yields and then allow the grapes to hang a little longer than most "to ensure long, slow ripening which gives delicious flavour profiles. We are not fans of the overtly aggressive Sauvignon Blanc style", says Terry Sowman. "We are proud to put our face behind the label. Small family producers such as us must survive to ensure the passion and romance associated with wine."

262. SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011 26.50

A marvellously floral yet sophisticated style with great tropical fruit zest and a touch of lychees. 13.5%ABV

263. CHARDONNAY 2008 29.50

Chardonnay is the forgotten grape in New Zealand. This is a lovely wine with citrus, peaches and melon plus gentle oak. 14%ABV

264. PINOT NOIR 2008 31.50

A restrained soft Burgundian style with delicate raspberries and a chocolately finish on the palate. Definitely not one of the New World Pinot fruit bombs! 13.5%ABV

VASH'S PAGE

27.

vash, as always, has come up with some 'left field' selections. The make-up of the blends of the reds are particularly fascinating.

290. TORRE ZECCHIE PROSECCO Treviso 25.50

Ever heard of the Glera grape? Thought not. This is 100% Glera - light, zippy style with citrus and lemon flavours ... and only 11%ABV.

291. BODEGA CHAKANA TORRONTÉS 2010 22.50

ARGENTINA. A lovely pale gold colour. Vash loves the aromatic style with a mouthful of white peaches. 'Perfect for the ABC (Anything But Chardonnay) brigade. Terrific on its own - even better with one of our salads'. 14.5%ABV

292. EDGEBASTON 'THE BERRY BOX' 2009 25.50

Superstar winemaker David Finlayson has created this STELLENBOSCH beauty. 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Shiraz, 17% Merlot and splashes of Malbec & Petit Verdot. It is exactly as the name says - a collection of mouth-watering berry fruits with touches of anise and vanilla in the long, lingering finish. Scarce as hen's teeth in South Africa, but we have plenty! 14.5%ABV

293. CHATEAU KSARA 'RES. DU COUVENT' 2009 27.50

LEBANON's oldest winery. Organic cultivation without irrigation at 1,000 metres altitude produces an intensely fruity, meaty, robust blend of 55% Syrah, 25% Cabernet Franc, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. 13%ABV

294. FRANKLIN TATE ESTATE SHIRAZ 2010 27.50

One of the MARGARET RIVER's newer wineries, created by industry veteran Tate, with some of the finest mature vineyard sites in the region. This beauty is 96% Shiraz with some Viognier to contribute a little lightness of being. Lovely ripe fruit fermented in French and American oak. A softer style than most Oz Shiraz with fresh, vibrant cherry fruits and an extroverted spice, and oak on the finish. 13.5%ABV

295. BOER & BRIT 'THE FIELD MARSHALL' 2009 29.50

WESTERN CAPE. Made by two guys who met at oenological school. Stefan Gerber (the Boer) and Andrew Milner. Over 100 years' ago their grandparents were bitter rivals - now they are in partnership making outstanding wines. 55% Tinta Amerele, 40% Carignan, plus Shiraz. Layer upon layer of ripe plums, pomegranates and cloves with plenty of spice. Vash says, "Not a breakfast wine - out perfect with one of our steaks!" 14.5%ABV

HOUSE WINES

300. CH LAVANAU SAUV-SEMILLON 2010 18.95
Delightfully soft, zingy flavours. SILVER MEDAL at Foire de Paris. 13%ABV
301. CHARDONNAY 2009 DOMAINE DE PUILACHER 22.50
Light and fragrant with a delicious lemony style and a zippy finish. 14%ABV
302. SANCERRE 2010 JEAN-PIERRE VACHER 30.50
The ultimate Sauvignon Blanc! A hedonistic assemblage of gooseberries & apples. Light years from most wines that bear the same name. 13%ABV
303. CHEVERNY ROSÉ 2010 DOM. de la DESOUCHERIE 22.50
80% Pinot Noir with Gamay. Layer upon layer of raspberries and cherries with a zippy, lingering finish. 13%ABV
304. MERLOT 2009 BARRIÈRE FRERES 18.95
VIN DE PAYS D'OC. South of France sunshine created with the expertise of a top Bordeaux house. A charming, easy-going style. 13.5%ABV
305. CHATEAU LAFORET 2010 BORDEAUX 13%ABV 23.50
Lovely gentle fruit - Merlot with an intriguing splash of Cabernet Franc.

SPARKLING

306. PLOU & FILS SPARKLING BLANC 12%ABV 28.50
Méthode Traditionnelle. Extroverted style with heaps of ripe Chenin Blanc.
307. PLOU & FILS SPARKLING ROSÉ 28.50
Méthode Traditionnelle. A whoosh of raspberries & strawberries in a delicate, fragrant style. 12%ABV
308. "THE BEES KNEES" OZ SPARKLING RED 34.50
Rymill Winery, COONAWARRA. The 'Thunder From Downunder'. Cabernet, Merlot and Shiraz. Heaps of ripe fruit flavours which linger ... & linger. One glass you're great; two you're Tony Blair; three - you need a brain transplant. Arguably one of Oz's finest ... 14.5%ABV

CHAMPAGNE

DON HEWITSON "CUVÉE SPÉCIALE"

Classic structure. Soft, mellow finest Pinot flavours with a delicious topping of 30% premier cru Chardonnay. Same as the Dorchester's "House Fizz" where you won't get any change from £50! 12%ABV

Bottle £44.95 Half Bottle £23.75 Magnum £90.00