

THE GRAPEVINE

Winter 2023/24

ISSUE 59



Hennings Wine Merchants

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▲ Vegan and Vegetarian ● Organic

AUSTRALIA

LARRY CHERUBINO

Brilliant value from one of Australia's hottest winemakers



Larry Cherubino Ad Hoc Cruel Mistress Pinot Noir 2021, Pemberton – AU | Sourced from several locations in the Great Southern, this Pinot Noir has fantastic graphite, mineral and juicy black cherry notes. It's vibrant, yet softly textured and has the kind of purity and freshness that all Pinot Noir lovers crave. **£16.95 reduced to £14.99**

Larry Cherubino Ad Hoc Hen & Chicken Chardonnay 2021, Pemberton – AU | Pale and beautifully balanced with hints of subtle vanilla and that winning cool climate acidity. This is a 'go-to' Chardonnay with plenty of purity, texture and complexity. **£16.95 reduced to £14.99**

FRANCE

BURGUNDY

Christmas in a glass...

The Earth has spun 365.25 times on its axis, and we find ourselves, once more, heading at what feels like breakneck speed towards Christmas and the end of yet another year! Excitement, I know, is at fever pitch! But calm yourselves, you have some

serious decisions to make; what are you going to drink over the festive period? It's the single most important question in my house and it's the one I get most animated about. I always use Christmas as an excuse to go a little overboard, or under table,

depending on the time of day! I like to cover all eventualities and tastes, but I always come back to my favourites, Burgundy being one of them. So, without further ado let's get stuck in as we're spoilt for choice! *Hannah Hennings*



Mâcon Les Préludes Vignerons des Terres Secrètes 2021, Burgundy – FR | What a little gem! I massively underestimated this one until we opened it for a tasting, after which I've become a firm fan. Unoaked, nicely balanced, lovely stone fruit flavours with a fresh citrusy finish. **£14.95 reduced to £12.95**

Marsannay Les Favières Château de Marsannay 2015, Burgundy – FR | 2015 was a great vintage for reds from the Côte de Nuits. For those of you that sampled and enjoyed the 2014 that we recently stocked, you must come back for this. Subtle nose, supple palate of black cherry and plum supported by an intelligent use of oak, fine texture and good length. It's a parcel so is limited stock! **£34.50**

▲ **Bourgogne Chardonnay Cuvée des Chanoines de Notre Dame Jaffelin 2021, Burgundy – FR** | It needs no introduction from me; most of you have probably sampled this tidy little number. Excellent balance between fruit and acidity with subtle oak and great length. Creamy with a vibrant finish. **£22.95 reduced to £19.95**



▲ **Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvée des Chanoines de Notre Dame Jaffelin 2021, Burgundy – FR** | Like the white this needs no introduction to Hennings old-schoolers – I’m guessing you know it well! Fragrant nose of ripe cherries, smooth palate with rounded tannins, the fruit is well balanced with the oak, the result? A very elegant Pinot for the money. **£25.95 reduced to £22.95**

Pernand-Vergelesses Les Combottes Louis Jadot 2018, Burgundy – FR | Excellent depth, full bodied but certainly not without finesse. I’ve tried a few vintages of this wine and it never disappoints. I’m not sure how they have done it this time, but it might be the inclusion of 1er Cru fruit in the blend... **£47.50 reduced to £39.99**



Château des Jacques Moulin-à-Vent Clos du Grand Carquelin 2013, Beaujolais – FR | A wild card so I’ve saved this one ‘til last. This is utterly delicious; you have to try it! A wine with true pedigree, given its age it still exudes vitality. The nose is abundant with inviting red fruit and spice. The palate does not disappoint: the tannins are well integrated, the fruit full and lush. A poor man’s Pinot? I don’t think so! **£31.50 reduced to £26.50**



WINTER FAVOURITES

Consistency, and quality, is key with our weeknight wines for winter



- ▲ **Călușari Pinot Grigio 2022, Vile Timisului – RO** | Clean and crisp on the palate with an abundance of melon, apples and a citrus with a mouth-watering finish. **£10.50 reduced to £8.95**
- ▲ **Le Versant Chardonnay 2022, Languedoc – FR** | Very aromatic on the nose with white flowers, honey and pineapple, livened up by hints of toast from the ageing. Full on the palate with a long tropical and roasted finish. If you love Mâcon you should give this a go. **£11.50 reduced to £9.50**
- ▲ **Mayfly Sauvignon Blanc 2022, Marlborough – NZ** | No tricks here, just a youthful and exquisite Sauvignon Blanc with prominent asparagus, mature peach and exotic fruit notes on the nose. Fresh and deliciously crisp with excellent natural acidity and a long citric and peach aftertaste as well as a rounded body and good structure. **£13.95 reduced to £12.50**
- ▲ **Baglio Gibellina U. Passiento Bianco 2022, Sicily – IT** | Intense, elegant and complex, this is a wonderful combination of citrus, grapefruit, apple and white flesh fruits with a hint of Mediterranean flora. **£13.95 reduced to £12.50**

Domaine du Haut Perron Touraine Chenonceaux 2022, Loire – FR | Elegance and richness are the perfect descriptors here; there's an oily texture that coats the palate as well as luscious citrus, apricot and passion fruit notes with toasted oak. **£16.50 reduced to £12.95**



Les Roucas Merlot 2021, Languedoc – FR | An easy drinking Merlot with plum and blackberry fruits on the nose. Smooth and full bodied with lots of red fruits, plum and a subtle note of chocolate on the finish. Terrific value from a producer we've dealt with for decades. **£9.95 reduced to £8.50**

Ontañón Rioja Crianza 2018, Rioja – SP | Everything you want a Crianza to be! It has intense black fruit and warm spice, good depth of flavour with some balancing freshness and supple tannins. It's really approachable yet is still a classic Crianza. **£13.50 reduced to £11.50**

▲ **Mont Rocher Cabernet Franc Vieilles Vignes 2022, Languedoc – FR** | Luscious and mouth-watering, blackcurrant and redcurrant fruit characters. Fresh and vibrant with a twist of nutmeg and clove through to the finish. **£11.50 reduced to £9.99**

▲ **Nieto Senetiner Malbec 2022, Mendoza – AG** | Blackberry, plum and sweet spice abound in this, our most popular Malbec! Somehow it's even juicier than it's ever been before! This isn't just from Mendoza, it's from the superior quality Lujan de Cuyo sub-region, and it's made from 40 year old vines. Crazy value as always. **£13.50 reduced to £11.95**

▲ **Les Coteaux Côtes du Rhône Villages 2021, Rhône – FR** | Yep, it's back again for about the fifth year running but, judging by the sales figures, you clearly love it so why the heck not? Brambly fruit and terrific value for money; you won't find a CDR that comes close for the money. **£12.75 reduced to £10.95**



▲ **Neropasso Originale Biscardo 2020, Veneto – IT** | A real customer favourite. All ripe cherry and plum compôte with smoothness to spare. Think of it as a very, very, very baby Amarone. **£13.95 reduced to £11.95**



ITALIAN REDS

Gloomy and cold, wet weather? Red wines of Italy are an offer you can't refuse...

It appears that France is about to take over the long-held mantle of largest wine producing country on earth from Italy. Whilst Italy has always been well known for producing lashings of Pinot

Grigio and Prosecco, there is so much more quality and diversity across its regions; some will be known to you and some will not. I have no doubt that a cold (and probably wet) snap will be upon

us soon; this is when the wines of Tuscany, Veneto and Piemonte come into their own. Winter warmers indeed, something for everyone here at all price points and styles. *Matthew Hennings*



▲ **Uggiano Chianti Riserva Fagiano 2020, Tuscany – IT** | We're running out of superlatives for this wine. Each year we look at a raft of Chianti Riserva options to meet our high standards for Christmas and in recent years this has blown the competition away. If it ain't broke... It has fine balance between soft red cherry and plum fruits and warming spices/balsamic characters. A superb wine to pair alongside ragu (of course) or a rich tomato-based pasta. This is a seriously elegant Chianti. **£16.50 reduced to £13.50**

▲ **Gaja Ca'Marcanda Promis 2020, Bolgheri – IT** | Headed up by the legendary Angelo Gaja who purchased this Bolgheri estate in 1996, this is real Tuscan royalty. A different style from other wines from the Gaja estate, this simply doesn't disappoint and lives up to its *Promis*. A blend of Merlot, Syrah and Sangiovese producing a hedonistic mix of rich black fruit entwined with spice and vanilla undertones and immense finesse. Bearing in mind this is Gaja's entry-level red, it is well worth the opportunity to taste one of Italy's greatest winemakers at a relatively affordable price. **£42.50 reduced to £35**

▲ **Capitel San Rocco Valpolicella Ripasso Tedeschi 2019, Veneto – IT** | Chances are you've heard of Valpolicella, though perhaps not the Ripasso style; these wines have been passed over dried skins of last year's Amarone wine. Amarone is usually big money and always a powerful wine. In fact, during our rigorous selection process for this Christmas Grapevine we tried an Amarone at more than double the price of this wine and I would select this over it every time as it's such cracking value. Wonderfully fresh dark cherry and blackcurrant fruit with enough acidity and tannin to keep it in perfect balance. Don't take our word for it – wine critic Joanna Simon recently voted this as her wine of the week! **£24.50 reduced to £19.99**



▲ **Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino Vigna Paganelli Riserva 2015, Tuscany – IT** | I was lucky enough to attend the annual Brunello En Primeur 2018 tasting late last year and was blown away by the quality of Il Poggione's 2018. Following the event, I kept my eyes peeled for some of the estate's wines from a drinking vintage and we managed to get our hands on a chunk of the fantastic 2015. This wine has just crept into its drinking window and will continue to shine for probably another 25 years. A great wine to enjoy over Christmas or offer as an excellent present without the need for the recipient to rush to drink it. Good luck with resisting THAT urge though.

“This is Brunello with a capital B. The 2015 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Vigna Paganelli benefits from a warm and sun-soaked microclimate that is shielded from cold winter winds. You can taste the good health of the grapes thanks to those very direct aromas of black cherry, plum, tar, campfire ash and chalky mineral. The Paganelli vineyard is 12 hectares in size, with vines planted in 1964. The last time this wine was made was in 2012. Fruit from those old vines shape complex aromas, elegant tannins and bright freshness.” 97pts, Wine Advocate. **£89.50 reduced to £79.95**

▲ **Rive Barbera d'Asti Il Cascinone 2019, Piemonte – IT** | Like the Fagiano Chianti, this is another festive serial offender that we seem unable to better at the price. It always over-delivers with its classic Barbera style of complex dark berry fruit and spice framed by wonderful acidity. No doubt due to those high altitude, old vineyards that control the growing cycle carefully with hot days and cool nights. Get some cheese on the go, fire up the pizza oven or dive into a bowl of pasta with a glass of this in hand. **£19.50 reduced to £15.95**

BORDEAUX

CHRISTMAS CLARET

Traditionalists rejoice! Our festive Bordeaux selection is here

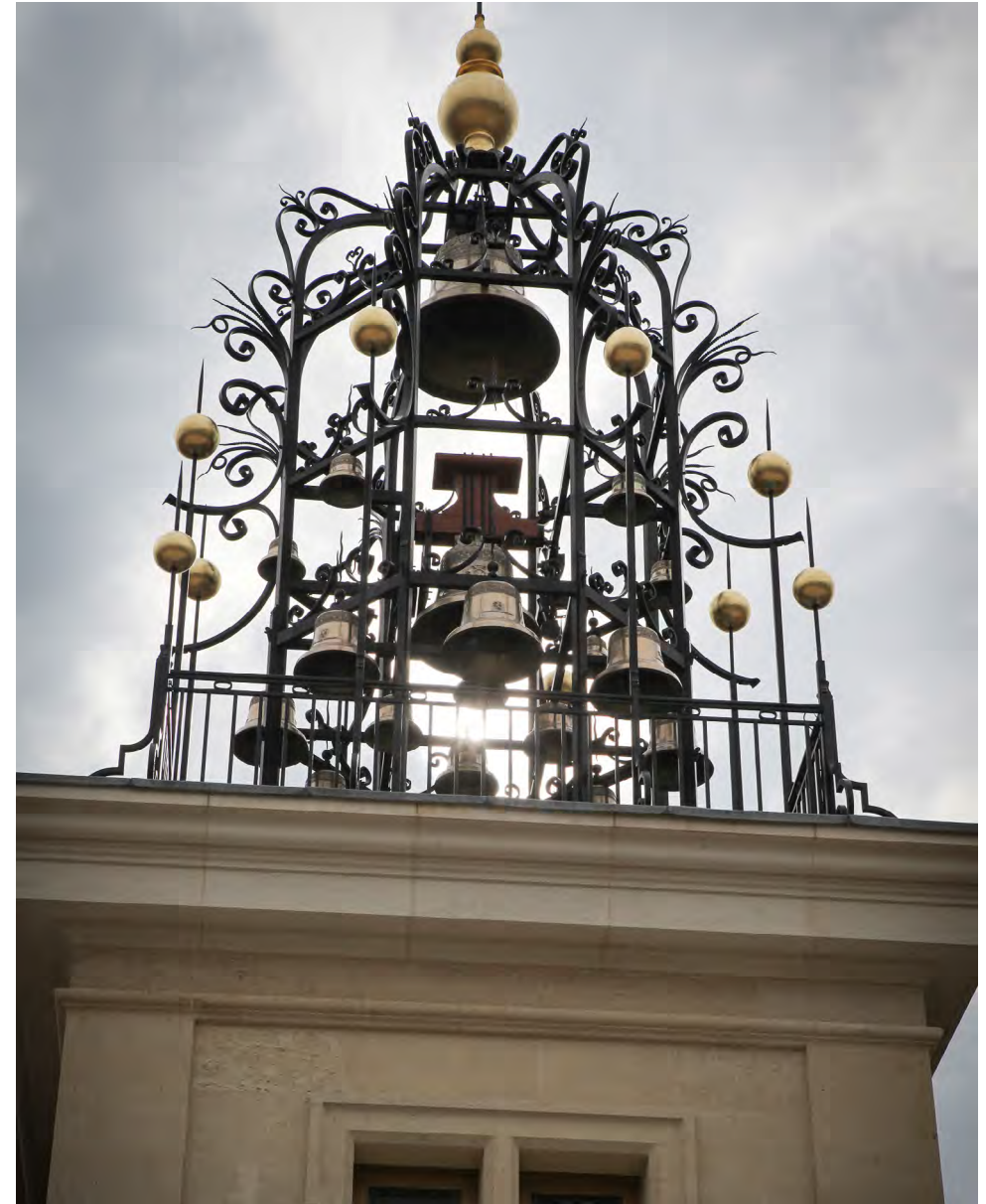
▲ **Château du Lort 2020, Bordeaux – FR** | This is our best value Bordeaux at Christmas, and has been for years. This predominantly Merlot wine is truly great value; nothing more needs to be said. **£15.99 reduced to £13.95**

Château Haut Bergey 2015, Pessac-Léognan, Bordeaux – FR | A clean and pure bouquet with black cherries, boysenberry, crushed stone and lavender aromas; very precise and detailed. Medium-bodied with supple tannin. **£27.50 // parcel price**



Amiral de Beychevelle 2019, Saint-Julien, Bordeaux – FR | "Lovely intensity on the nose, aromatic and expressive. Smooth and high-toned on the palate, bright with a classy shine to the black fruits. I really love the aromatics on the profile here, you get that perfume and gloss with depth and soft tannins. Easy-drinking second wine, easy to recommend." 93 pts, Neal Martin. **£41.95 reduced to £37.50**

Le Carillon de Rouget 2019, Pomerol, Bordeaux – FR | The second wine of Château Rouget. The terroirs dedicated to Le Carillon de Rouget are slightly higher than the ones selected for Château Rouget. This, combined with the relative youth of the vines compared to the ones of the Grand Vin, results in earlier ripening grapes that gives the wine its roundness and approachability when young. Predominantly Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Franc, this is lovely and smooth on the palate with velvety tannins, plush black fruits, pencil shavings and wood notes on the finish. **£40.50 reduced to £35.95**



GALETS ROULÉS

Iconic rocks = iconic wines in the Southern Rhône



Châteauneuf-du-Pape, arguably one of the most recognisable names in the wine world, and certainly a strongly appreciated option as your contribution to a dinner party. Aside from knowing the name and the reassurance of associated quality, what is it that makes this appellation so special? From Grenache to Galets, here is a whistle stop tour of the key points you need to know to complete your Châteauneuf Filofax, Rodders!

Nestled in the heart of the Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape is undoubtedly the most famous appellation within the valley; its renowned status perhaps due to the fact it was one of the very first appellation contrôlées to be declared back in 1936. Interestingly though, unlike other established appellations,

there isn't a hierarchical system, or specific quality classification. In fact, up to 13 grape varieties are permitted to be blended into a bottle of Châteauneuf (although it can be more), some of those being white. So you could say, in a country full of restrictions from region to region, this pocket of the Rhône has the biggest license for creativity!

The secret to the success of this wine is perhaps down to the topography; the vineyards are stretched across varying levels of altitude as the land rises up from the Rhône river. Vines are planted on a complex range of soils including sandstone and clay, but the most distinguished soil type of the region is the *Galets Roulés* – large pebble-shaped rocks, that originate from the bottom of the ancient river. These soak up the sunshine throughout

the day then radiate the heat back onto the vines during the night, aiding the phenolic ripeness and complexity of the grape varieties.

Significant producers will tend to stick with Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault and even Viognier, but the king of the region is Grenache. Likely-as-not, Grenache will be the dominant grape in many red Châteauneuf-du-Pape as it provides the ripe red fruit characteristics and subtle white pepperiness you may be most familiar with.

Producers are numerous, as is quality, within this well-known appellation. Why bother risking a sub-standard bottle at a dinner party, when Hennings Independent Traders has a tried and tested selection from Domaine Chante Cigale ready and waiting? *Steph Aburrow*



- ▲ **Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc Domaine Chante Cigale 2022, Rhône – FR** | Move over white Burgundy! This is my pick of winter whites. 20% Grenache Blanc, 20% Roussanne, 20% Bourboulenc 20% Clairette, 20% Picpoul from vineyards with an average age of 30 years. Aged for little bit of time in contact with its lees and a smidgen (15%) in French oak, creating a stylish white with inviting warm, spicy aromas and a full-flavoured palate of poached pears and white peaches with an endlessly long finish. **£33.50 reduced to £27.50**
- ▲ **Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge Domaine Chante Cigale 2021, Rhône – FR** | From vineyards averaging 60 years of age, this is a blend of 65% Grenache Noir, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre and 5% Cinsault. It is hand harvested then macerated for just over three weeks, before being left to age (70% in steel and 30% in French oak) to deliver a traditional style with peppery, leathery aromas leading to a dry palate with spices, more pepper and a hint of vanilla before a delicious, firm finish. **£35.50 reduced to £29.95**
- ▲ **Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes Domaine Chante Cigale 2020, Rhône – FR** | This is the special stuff! Vieilles Vignes directly translates as old vines and this combination of 70% Grenache Noir, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre comes from a site with vines of an average age of 80 to 100 years. This delivers an extraordinarily complex wine with a riot of flavours and savoury notes. Following careful hand harvesting, the Grenache and Mourvèdre spend time resting in 'Demi-Muid' which are Rhône-specific 600l oak barrels, while the Syrah sits in Burgundian barrels. These parcels are then blended to produce just 6000 bottles each vintage. This is a tremendous wine with an ageing potential of 15-20 years, so whether you decide to grab one for now, or a little later, you won't be disappointed. **£51.95 reduced to £45**

SPARKLING WINE

Celebrate Thursday nights in style with our fizz for Christmas!

Who doesn't enjoy a bottle of something fizzy?! Whether it's the fun-filled bubbles of Prosecco, the often-overlooked gems of Spain's Cava, the rising stars from the South of England, or simply the old faithfuls from Champagne, sparkling wine has the unique ability to elevate an occasion. I'm not just talking about the effects from the alcohol but more the joy it brings! It might be part of a celebration, a party or simply where you're enjoying a glass or two after a long day; it's fun, is satisfying to open and tastes great too!

You might know the story of how sparkling wine came to be. A French Benedictine monk, by the name Dom Perignon,

created sparkling wine through sheer accidental ingenuity, the golden ticket being secondary fermentation in the bottle. Today, sparkling wine continues to grow and evolve: closer to home we have the likes of Nyetimber Estate (a staple for me if you want a consistent and reliable English fizz) exceeding their production year-on-year and giving Champagnes a good run for their money.

Cavas are under appreciated but are having a bit of resurgence, offering so much quality for their price. They can be picked up quite inexpensively, but are always made in the traditional method (secondary fermentation in the bottle). The value is terrific given they're not cutting corners

during production! There are also the powerhouses of Prosecco production coming out of Italy that offer fun and enjoyable value through the Charmat method of production. It's almost easy to forget where it all started; but the prestigious houses of Champagne always show their class, prestige and pedigree.

With so many options, you may be wondering what we have pulled out of our Christmas sack this year. Well, some seriously delicious sparklers! We have trusted old favourites and a few new faces to tempt your tastebuds and see you through the festive period and into the New Year.

Alex Lill

▲ **Joseph Perrier Cuvée Royale Brut NV, Champagne – FR** | JP has a special place in our history and is a family we have been closely partnered with for many years. Cuvée Royale oozes classical Champagne elegance. Bright and expressive with fine ripe apple, mandarin citrus and brioche notes on a honeyed finish. All for sub £35! **£42.95 reduced to £34.95**

▲ **Joseph Perrier Cuvée Royale Brut Rosé NV, Champagne – FR** | It wouldn't have been right if we hadn't included a bottle of Rosé Champagne in the mix. Succulent red fruits of strawberry and cherry with a hint of liquorice and mint on the finish. Pair with a strawberry meringue... a New Year's Eve treat perhaps? **£54.95 reduced to £48.95**

▲ **Taittinger Brut Millésimé 2015, Champagne – FR** | Only produced when Taittinger deem the vintage of outstanding quality, this is a seriously good vintage Champagne. Showing a fine pale gold in colour, this has notes of white flowers, apple, honeysuckle and toasted almond, finishing long and sophisticated with an ever so subtle whiff of truffle. Elegance through and through. **£79.99 reduced to £69.99**



▲ **Bohigas Brut Cava Reserva NV, Catalunya – SP** | Top tier cava full of fresh apple, pear and a dash of citrus fruit. Biscuity complexity on the finish with a faint hint of spices and cream. Zippy and well-structured with a creamy finish, this is fantastic value! **£17.50 reduced to £14.50**

▲ **Nos Amours Blanc de Blancs NV, FR** | Made from 100% Ugni Blanc from the South of France, this is crisp and revitalizing with fresh apple, pear and citrus fruits intermingled with creamy notes on the finish. A little gem for value and such great value. **£10.50 reduced to £8.95**



▲ **Passaparola Prosecco NV, Veneto – IT** | Top quality from the Friuli Grave DOC. Bursting with freshness, expect flavours of citrus and pear fruits with a gentle lemon tart finish. **£13.50 reduced to £11.95**

▲ **Nyetimber Classic Cuvée NV, West Sussex – EN** | No introduction needed; this is the poster child for sophisticated English Sparkling. Honey, almond pastry and green fruit flavours are balanced so gracefully with brioche and lemony notes on the finish. Consistently in our top three most sold wines year-on-year and for good reason. **£34.95 reduced to £29.95**

▲ **Nyetimber Tillington Single Vineyard 2014, West Sussex – EN** | Wowzers, I mean, look at that price. Reduced by £25 and a bit pounds, that, to me, is a no-brainer of a sparkling for Christmas Day! 78% Pinot Noir and 22% Chardonnay, this shows delicate strawberry notes balanced alongside praline and brioche notes. Elegant and oh-so delicious. **£105 reduced to £79.50**

GLOBAL GOODIES

Festive fine wines for all!

Vasse Felix Chardonnay 2020, Margaret River – AU | The quintessential Margaret River Chardonnay, made from a selection of Vasse Felix's premier plots of powerful Chardonnay. Made in the modern Margaret River style of elegance, power and restraint, with wild complexity. **£33 reduced to £29.99**

Dönnhoff Tonschiefer Dry Slate Riesling 2022, Nahe – GM | A full-bodied, mineral Riesling with terrific fruit and acidity. Tonschiefer (clay slate) refers to the sloping vineyards of the Leistenberg as they're characterised by guess what type of soil? The area produces superbly elegant wines and none are much better than that from the masterful Dönnhoff. **£30.50 reduced to £26.95**

▲ **Chablis Domaine Daniel Séguinot 2022, Burgundy – FR** | The purest form of Chardonnay with cool, stainless steel fermentation and no oak maturation. We were delighted with the quality of this when we tasted it; lovely texture and flavour with white nectarines and green fruits, finishing with a lean, flinty minerality. No surprises here; it's a Chablis that everyone will love. **£22.95 reduced to £20**

▲ **Pouilly-Fumé 'Argile à S' Bouchié Chatellier 2021, Loire – FR** | Domaine Bouchié Chatellier is one of the most outstanding producers in Pouilly-Fumé. Rubbing neighbourly shoulders with the inimitable Didier Dagueneau, and with vines planted on the same Silex soils as Didier's. The incredibly rich flinty minerality of the soil gives the wine a delicious complexity that few others can match. This is what all Sauvignon Blanc should taste like! **£29.50 reduced to £26.50**

▲ **Meerlust Rubicon 2018, Burgundy – FR** | "... dazzles with gentle waves of blackberry crumble, crème de cassis, macerated black cherries, freshly tilled earth, unsmoked cigars and a finely textured, powdery tannin frame...This really is another exquisite vintage with charm and poise, Grand Vin potency and an overt, unbridled determination to deliver long-term drinking pleasure..." 96 Pts, Greg Sherwood MW **£38.50 reduced to £34.50**

▲ **Luis Cañas Reserva Selección de la Familia 2018, Rioja – SP** | One of our all-time favourites! Composed of a blend of 85% Tempranillo and 15% secret stuff, the nose is brimming with complex aromas of cedar, leather, ripe sweet fruit and herbs with a fine oak finish. Richly textured and juicy with dense bramble fruits, liquorice, cocoa and spices. The only Rioja to have at Christmas. **£30.95 reduced to £26.95**





•▲ **Emiliana Coyam 2020, Colchagua – CH** |

A field blend of the estate's finest organic Syrah, Carmenère and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is rich, sumptuous and elegant. Lifted notes of cherries, plums, blueberries and blackberries, along with refreshing hints of black pepper, leather and pencil lead. This is an absolute turbo-charged belter! It's named after the oak forests which surround Emiliana's magical and spiritual Colchagua home, Los Robles. **£24.95 reduced to £20**

•▲ **Two Paddocks Pinot Noir 2021, Central Otago – NZ** |

The flagship from Two Paddocks – an organically grown barrel selection from the estate properties. In 2021 this wine was produced from the four Neill family Central Otago vineyards. Dark blackberry, wild herb, and intriguing spice notes. The wine then moves into a dense richly-textured mouthfeel. Elegance and finesse abound holding the wine into a tightly knit package. Terrific Pinot Noir from Sam Neill (yes, that Sam Neill). **£36.95 reduced to £34.50**



Jean-Luc Jamet Valine Syrah 2021, Rhône – FR | Jean-Luc Jamet worked for many years alongside his brother Jean-Paul, at the iconic family estate, Domaine Jamet. However in 2013 the brothers split the 16 hectare estate evenly, into two 8 hectare properties. Today Jean-Luc and his wife Evelynne have been joined at the estate by their second son, Benoit, who supports in both the vineyards and the winery. The purity, balance and elegance of this Syrah are off the scale. This is a must try for any red wine lover and it's a steal considering the pedigree. **£33.50 reduced to £28.95**

MAGNUMS

DOUBLE THE FUN

Save some table space with our festive magnum selection

- ▲ **Château du Bousquet 2019, Côtes de Bourg – FR** | A traditional Côtes de Bourg style, Château du Bousquet owes much of its incredible value to an exceptional plot of small-berried Malbec. While it only makes up a small part of the blend, it gives the wine richness, finesse and aromatic precision that is rarely seen in Côtes de Bourg. Such a great wine for the money. **£33.50 reduced to £29.95 // 150cl**
- ▲ **Biscardo Neropasso 2020, Veneto – IT** | Ripe grapes are hand picked and the thinnest bunches are chosen, with the berries not too close one to another, so that the air can circulate. These are laid out in large perforated boxes to ensure excellent ventilation. The boxes are stacked in the fruttai, a large airy room and the grapes undergo the Appassimento process. Once pressed, the wine is aged partly in steel tanks and partly in Tonneaux. The final wine is an intense ruby red with hints of cherry, black cherry and plum compôte. The finish is fine and velvety with soft tannins at the end; a real customer favourite! **£30 // 150cl // special parcel price**
- ▲ **Uggiano Chianti Riserva Fagiano 2019, Tuscany – IT** | Warm, rich aromas of black cherry, dried fruits, spice and light balsamic notes. Richly flavoured and generous on the palate, with spicy, meaty notes balancing plum characters, fresh cherry acidity and lightly herbal characters. A well structured and integrated wine with great concentration and complexity. **£28.50 // 150cl // special parcel price**

Dal Bello Prosecco NV, Veneto – IT | In the picturesque Colli Asolani hills of Veneto, near Treviso, Dal Bello produce some of the most attractive, engaging prosecco there is. Love and passion for their wine and their land is the philosophy of the Dal Bello family, who has been producing wines in the hills of Asolo for many years. This bright and attractive offering showcases this philosophy perfectly. **£17.95 // 150cl**

- ▲ **Nyetimber Classic Cuvée Brut 2010, West Sussex – EN** | Nyetimber Classic Cuvée 2010 in magnum is a phenomenal wine and Nyetimber's final single vintage Classic Cuvée bottled in magnum. Made from a blend of 51% Pinot Noir, with 36% Chardonnay and 13% Pinot Meunier making up the rest of the blend, this is drinking beautifully after a decade in bottle, and has many more years ahead. **£87.50 reduced to £75 // 150cl**

Château Carignan 2019, Bordeaux – FR | This 2019 is composed and harmonious on the nose, with pencil box and black fruit notes. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins; very well balanced, fresh and old school with a persistent finish. This is a superb 2019, built to last, but ready to go now! **£42.50 // 150cl**

▲ **Luis Cañas Crianza 2019, Rioja – SP** | Ruby red colour, a clean nose with notes of balsamic, and fine nuances of plum and oak. Smooth, fruit and spice flavours with toasted oak, velvety cherry fruit and a slight hint of liquorice. Lasting rich fruit flavours with smooth round tannins. Complex and structured. **£43.95 reduced to £39.50 // 150cl**

Château Lacoste Borie 2015, Pauillac, Bordeaux – FR | As Tim Atkin MW says, this "is a wine for claret drinkers rather than points junkies." This 2015 is in the perfect window at the moment with refined floral notes and gentle oak. It's more serious than it might first seem though and has lovely supporting tannins, a twist of vanilla and balancing acidity. **£79.50 // 150cl // special parcel price**



HALF BOTTLES

Enjoy quality over quantity (in moderation) this Christmas



▲ La Giustiniana Lugarara Gavi di Gavi

2022, Piemonte – IT | Aromas of white fruit, stone fruit and lime zest followed by a subtle yet persistent bouquet of green apples. The palate is well-balanced with a fresh acidity and impressive structure. Almond notes on the finish. **£12.50 reduced to £10.99 // 37.5cl**

Gaja Sito Moresco 2020, Piemonte – IT

Intense and bright ruby colour. Violet, mulberry and fresh spice aromas on the nose. Crunchy red fruity flavours of red plum and red cherry, along with fresh savoury aromas, lead to a long-lasting finish with a hint of minerality. 60% Nebbiolo / 40% Barbera. **£25.95 reduced to £21.99 // 37.5cl**

Château Meyney 2020, Saint-Estèphe,

Bordeaux – FR | "The 2020 Meyney has a lively, quite powerful nose delivering plenty of blackberry, boysenberry and briar scents, plus touches of freshly tilled loam and wilted iris flower; I appreciate how forthright this is. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannins and graphite-laced blackberry. Quite citric toward the finish, showing Pauillac-like pretensions. This is a classy Saint-Estèphe from Meyney that will age with style." 91-93 points, Neal Martin. **£25 reduced to £21.95 // 37.5cl**

●● Pieropan Soave Classico 2022, Veneto

– IT | This wine is brilliant straw yellow in colour, with greenish hints. On the nose it has aromas of almond blossoms and marzipan, with a touch of citrus. On the palate it is rounded and has flavours of ripe fruit perfectly balanced by a fresh, clean acidity that enhances its long length. **£12.50 reduced to £10.99 // 37.5cl**

▲ Greywacke Wild Sauvignon 2021,

Marlborough – NZ | Think papaya, honeydew melon and ripe, golden quinces drizzled with citrus flower water and a squeeze of orange skin oil. A delicious floral fragrance and juicy tropical fruit, infused with a fennel-like herbal thread and a faint whiff of wood smoke. This is an alternative style of Sauvignon Blanc that's intricate and textural, with a rich, succulent palate. **£18.95 reduced to £16.95 // 37.5cl**

● Domaine Vacheron Sancerre Rouge

2019, Loire – FR | One of Sancerre's leading producers, Domaine Vacheron has been certified biodynamic and organic since 2005, with minimal intervention and hand harvesting. Made from 100% Pinot Noir, this 2019 has intoxicating red berry and spice aromas. The delicate palate shows purity of raspberry, strawberry and red cherry with a pomegranate and spice finish. **£24.50 reduced to £20 // 37.5cl**

Lopez de Heredia Viña Tondonia

Reserva 2010, Rioja – SP | A blend of 70% Tempranillo, 20% Garnacha and 5% each Graciano and Mazuelo. It has been aged for six years in American oak, with racking taking place twice every year. A traditional Rioja par excellence, marrying fruit and spice, charcuterie, vanilla and earthy richness; a cornucopia of quality, in other words, and one which will continue to get better and better. **£25.95 reduced to £23.95 // 37.5cl**

▲ Joseph Perrier Cuvée Royale Brut NV,

Champagne – FR | Composed of 35% Chardonnay, 35% Pinot Noir and 30% Pinot Meunier. 23 crus (wines from separate Champagne villages) are carefully blended to create a fine and delicate cuvée, which is aged typically for three years. It's an easy, balanced style with crisp floral fruit aromas including notes of apple and pear. This half of Champagne is the perfect apéritif, due to its freshness, long-lasting aromas and full body. **£22.95 reduced to £19.95 // 37.5cl**

▲ Kopke 10 Year Old Tawny Port, Douro

– PG | From one of our favourite houses, this is lusciously smooth with complex sweet spice and rich dried fruits alongside honey and subtle wood. An endless finish, this is great with an array of desserts and, of course, a decadent Christmas cheese board. **£14.50 // 37.5cl**

NEGLECTED NECTAR

The perfect beginning, or end, to almost any meal



Kleine Zalze Project Z Sweet Fortified NV, Coastal Region – SA | Erm, I wasn't sure why we were bothering with looking at this for inclusion in this issue, as all of the sweet bases had been covered by the other wines on these pages. How wrong I was. This is an utterly bonkers wine that had me mesmerised. Good luck guessing what it is at a blind tasting, as it had buttery textural notes akin to Bual madeira, the mouthfeel and acid structure reminiscent of a Colheita port, and something of the Palo Cortado sherry about it (although I couldn't quite put my finger on what). All those great wines rolled into one and wrapped up in a gorgeous little bottle? A certain Christmas hit as far as we're concerned. **£27.99 // 37.5cl**



▲ **Château Petit Vedrines 2016, Sauternes, Bordeaux – FR** | This second wine of Barsac Cru Classé Doisy Vedrines offers terrific value for money. Richly flavoured with lush stone fruit and honey notes. Go like the locals and drink it as an apéritif instead of after dinner. **£16.95 reduced to £14.95 // 37.5cl**

Graham's 20 Year Old Tawny Port, Douro – PG | Amber, golden tawny in colour with an excellent nutty and rich dried fruit bouquet. Rich and smooth, this is perfectly balanced, with a long and elegant finish. Don't forget to serve this chilled for maximum deliciousness! **£49.50 reduced to £40**

Errazuriz Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc 2019, Casablanca – CH | Bright golden in colour with lively flavours of honey, ripe apricots, almonds and citrus fruits that create a creamy yet very well-balanced wine with zippy, refreshing acidity. Pair with creamy cheeses or fruity deserts to complement the wines acidity and sweetness. **£11.99 reduced to £8.99 // 37.5cl**

Warre's Quinta da Cavadinha 2006, Douro – PT | Warre's Quinta da Cavadinha is one of the finest vineyard estates in the Douro and produces outstanding wines that are used to make Warre's Classic Vintage Port. In non-declared years the best of the estate's wines are bottled as single quinta Vintage Port. These wines share the same characteristic Warre's style, with fine elegance and lifted floral aromas, but more closely reflect the unique characteristics of the Cavadinha vineyard. The 2006 is a delicious single quinta port with flavours of mulberry, raisin and prunes. It'll need decanting and is ready for drinking now. **£32**

◆ **Les Pins de Tirecul La Gravière Monbazillac 2021, Bergerac – FR** | We had high hopes for this as we have stocked the brilliant Château Tirecul for a few years now. In reality though, how good could this third (behind Madame and Château) wine possibly be? Having finished the bottle off with a hastily assembled cheese board, we can confirm that it is utterly delicious! Amazing concentration of marmalade, honey and peach flavours with perfect acidity to cut through. As good a Semillon-based sweetie as you'll find for under £40. **£16.50 reduced to £14.50 // 50cl**

▲ **Fernando de Castilla Antique Pedro Ximenez, Jerez – SP** | If you haven't tasted this wine then get ready for an epiphany. 20+ years old and 450g+ of natural sugar per litre. This is borderline jam. It does however somehow keep it all in check with amazing depth of flavour and acidity. Liquid Christmas pudding that demands chilling and is true decadence. **£38.15 reduced to £34.50 // 50cl**

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