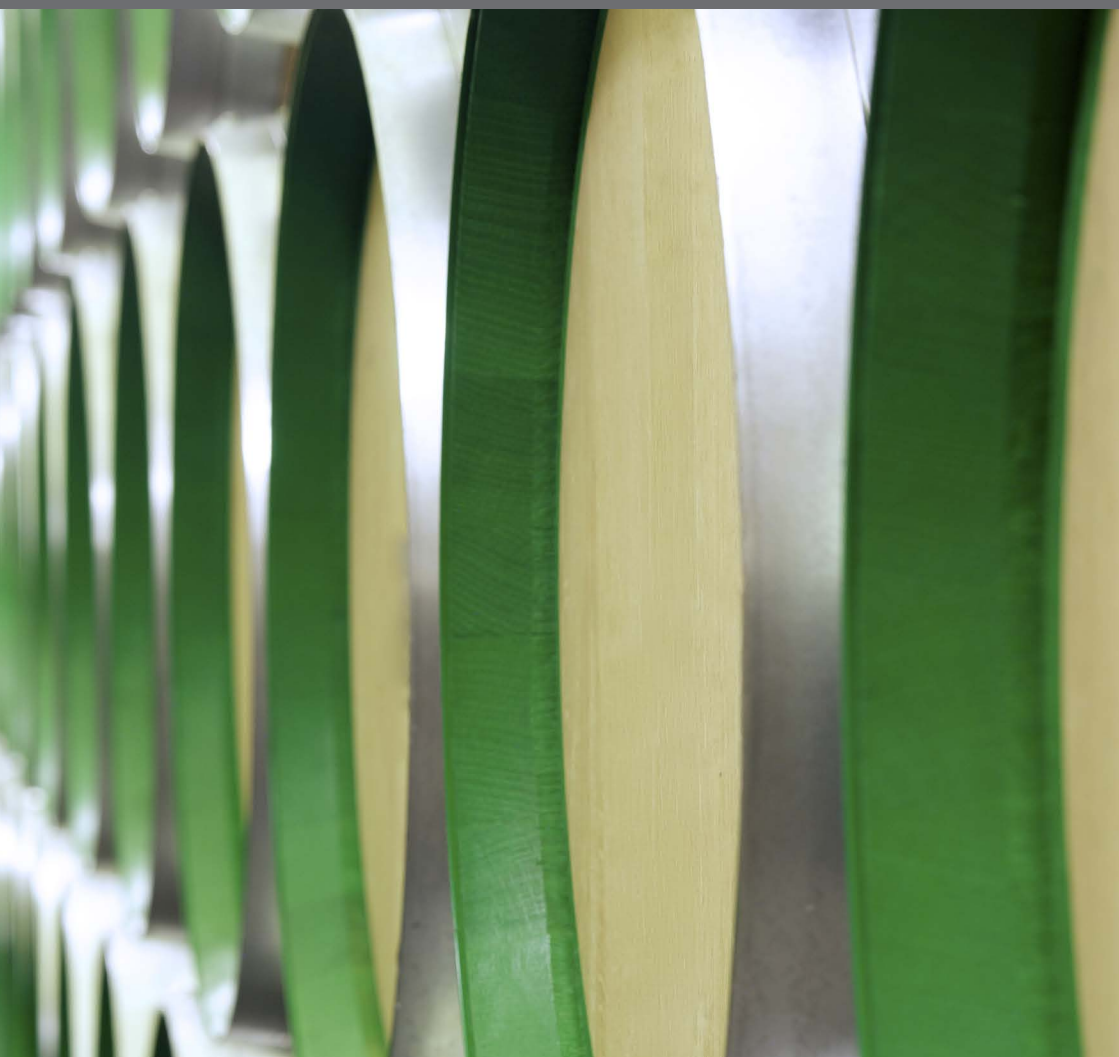


Hennings Wine Merchants

THE GRAPEVINE

ISSUE 40

AUTUMN 2015



ORIGINAL ITALY | TEAM PICKS | GUSBOURNE ESTATE | NEW WEBSITE & MUCH MORE

Summer certainly had its ups and downs with regard to the weather but on the whole offered a brilliant opportunity to enjoy the refreshing whites and spicy Provence Rosé wines of our last Grapevine in their preferred environment! As I stare out of my window Autumn, seemingly, is upon us so it's time to revel in some fuller reds and richer whites. We've got some cracking new and exciting Italian wines including some rustic reds and a delicious new Prosecco among a plethora of fuller and richer wines – the Cien Y Pico and Aragonia Garnacha are my picks. Order some wine, put the heating on, sit down and pop your feet up – silly season is almost here. *Matt Parkinson*

Countries key | AG – Argentina | AT – Austria | AU – Australia | EN – England | FR – France | GM – Germany | IT – Italy | NZ – New Zealand | PG – Portugal | SP – Spain

BLAST OFF

What do cats have to do with wine? We're not sure either but these two are purr-fect...

FELICETTE GRENACHE ROUGE, VIN DE PAYS D'OC – FR | A bright red colour with purplish reflections. A powerful nose of violets and red fruits. Very tasty in the mouth with raspberry and plum aromas. Medium-bodied on the palate, soft and juicy. **£8.99 reduced to £7.99**

FELICETTE GRENACHE BLANC, VIN DE PAYS D'OC – FR | Pale yellow colour with green and luminous reflections. Exotic fruits and citrus on the nose, with hints of peach and nectarine. In the mouth, the wine is fresh and well-balanced with flowery notes and a mix of minerality and exotic flavours. A long finish with a lovely vivacity. **£8.99 reduced to £7.99**



WINE TASTINGS

The perfect opportunity to finesse your festive wine rack



EXPLORE BORDEAUX, PULBOROUGH HQ, FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2015 – 1900 TO 2030

8 wines in 90 minutes – get ready for a Bordeaux baptism! Join Benoît Pauc and Jean Baptiste for a tour through the Castel Frères red Bordeaux portfolio. Wines to be tasted include: Château Montlabert,

St Emilion Grand Cru; Château Croix Montlabert, St Emilion Grand Cru; Brio de Cantenac Brown, Margaux; Château Cantenac Brown, Margaux Grand Cru Classé.

Places are limited to 65 so be quick! A selection of bread and cheese will be provided. £20 per person.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS, PULBOROUGH HQ, FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2015 – 1830 TO 2030

Join the Hennings' team for an informal walk-around tasting of our festive selection. We'll have lots open from our Christmas edition of The Grapevine

as well as some special extra bits and pieces. £15 per person.

£5 from each ticket will be donated to local children's charity The Chestnut Tree House.

QUINTA DE SANT'ANA, PULBOROUGH HQ, FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2015 – 1900 TO 2030

Discover the brilliant wines from Portugal's Quinta de Sant'Ana. Owner James Frost will guide you through their range of wines as well as giving

the story behind the Quinta and what it's like to live and work on an estate with your wife and seven sons! Many of his wines are perfect for the festive period so this tasting would be a great opportunity to find some treats for Christmas. £20 per person.

TEAM PICKS

With so much choice it can be a struggle picking a bottle to take home after work – here are some that made the cut

TERRASSEN FEDERSPIEL GRÜNER VELTLINER DOMÄNE WACHAU, WACHAU – AT |

£12.95 reduced to £9.99

Amanda, Petworth | “Easy! My pick has to be the Federspiel Grüner Veltliner from Domaine Wachau. I am a huge Sauvignon Blanc fan but wanted to try something a bit different. This fitted the bill as it is similar to a Sauvignon Blanc with the high acidity, but has more exotic flavours and more weight. This is a fantastic example of the variety for under £10.”

CHABLIS FOURNILLON, BURGUNDY – FR | £13.99 reduced to £11.99

Rachel, Chichester | “This is one of Chichester shop’s favourite wines at the moment. It’s a very well balanced Chablis with lovely hints of green apple and pear as well as the all important minerality. Such a wonderful wine at a great price.”

BERONIA COLECCION GRACIANO, RIOJA – SP | £14.99 reduced to £12.99

Damian, Goring | “An under-rated Rioja variety that usually plays second fiddle to Tempranillo. However, seek out a rare stand alone Graciano and enjoy the complexity of intense fruit and peppery spice. The fact that the finish is reminiscent of good quality 70% dark chocolate, makes it one to remember.”

“...the best wine I tasted on the entire trip...”

CHURTON BEST END SAUVIGNON BLANC, MARLBOROUGH – NZ | £25.00, very limited

Colin, Pulborough | “While tasting my way round New Zealand and Australia earlier this year, visiting several of our suppliers, I came across this new premium Sauvignon Blanc from Churton. Without question the best wine I tasted on the entire trip. So good in fact I had to badger our buyer to import some for us to sell – enjoy!”

GRAND VERDUS GRANDE RÉSERVE 2009, BORDEAUX – FR | £20.99 reduced to £17.99

Adrian, Pulborough | “The Grand Verdu Grand Réserve 2009 brings everything I love about great Bordeaux wine into one reasonably priced (for Bordeaux) bottle. Rich and deep with notes of berry superseding the balanced oak, it’s a wine to drink when you’re reminiscing. There is no need to worry about decanting or laying it down – it’s perfect now.”

CENT’ANNI VALPOLICELLA RIPASSO, VENETO – IT | £13.99 reduced to £11.50

David, Goring | “The Ripasso process of production gives this wine from Veneto a full flavour with rich tannins and deep cherry notes. It is perfect for drinking all year round, on its own, with pasta or even Sunday lunch. I drink it and so should you!”

“...I had to badger our buyer to import some...”

“...one of Chichester shop's favourite wines...”

“...reminiscent of good quality 70% dark chocolate...”



“...everything I love about great Bordeaux...”

“...a fantastic example of the variety...”

“...perfect for drinking all year round...”



Take time to ponder and explore Europe's indigenous grapes like this chap

“Italy has such a long history of making wine from indigenous grape varieties seldom seen elsewhere. It all stems back to when the Romans ruled the region, bringing grapes back from Greece. It is widely believed most of the grape varieties worldwide today originated from this part of Eastern Europe. From north to south, red or white, the diversity

in Italy is enormous. Everyone is aware of the phenomenon that is Prosecco, but were you aware it's made from a grape called Glera? Probably not or that Uva di Troia is a red grape from Apulia in the heel of Italy producing good juicy wines, no? So expand your thinking and try something new, you never know you may like them!”

ITALIAN INTRIGUE

It's worth venturing off the beaten track when it comes to Italy's indigenous varieties. Words by Colin Nicholson



[CHARDONNAY, PINOT BLANC AND PINOT NOIR] RIVA DI FRANCIACORTA BRUT NV, FRANCIACORTA – IT | Ok, so not indigenous but...high class fizz from the massively unknown Franciacorta area of Italy. This has got a couple of years of age on its side so has some great Champagne-esque qualities as well as some delicate floral notes. **£16.99 reduced to £14.99**

[GLERA] NANI RIZZI VALDOBBIADENE PROSECCO CRU MILLESIMATO NV, VENETO – IT | Proper DOCG Prosecco from Valdobbiadene with hints of ripe apple and peach. This is floral and elegant. **£14.99 reduced to £12.99**

[UVA DI TROIA] CITERNA ROSSO, PUGLIA – IT | Harmonious, round, dark fruit and sweet tannins with a lovely bit of savoury spice. Could Uva di Troia become the next Nero d'Avola? You heard it here first! **£10.99 reduced to £8.99**

[PRIMITIVO] L'AMIA ROSSO, PUGLIA – IT | “Not nearly as big or jammy as Primitivo from this neck of the Italian woods can be; the L'Amia from Alberto Longo shows attractive dark cherry fruit, tinged with herb and succulent fresh fruit, underpinned by the tannic heft you expect from a sun-blessed Southern Italian rosso.” The Wine Gang. **£11.99 reduced to £9.99**

[SANGIOVESE] AVIGNONESE ROSSO DI MONTEPULCIANO 2013, TUSCANY – IT | Lovely berry fruit nose with a hint of spice. Good weight in the mouth, rounded with a soft dryness on the finish. Montepulciano is a small medieval hilltop town south of Siena, producing some of Italy's finest wines, and is most famous for its Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. The DOC of Rosso di Montepulciano was created in 1998. It is very much the younger brother of Vino Nobile – maintaining the traditions of the region while being more accessible. **£14.99 reduced to £12.99**

GUSBOURNE ESTATE

There's only one English producer with a history dating back to the 15th century and a listing on the AIM Stock Exchange.

Words by Matt Parkinson, tasting notes by Laura Rhys MS



L-R, top-bottom: Winemaker Charlie Holland. Vineyard Manager Jon Pollard. Flowers are often a great indication of a minimalist approach to vineyard intervention. Joyous new growth! Modern stainless steel tanks and traditional oak barrels are equally at home in the winery.

"Gusbourne Estate has a long history at Appledore, Kent and dates back to 1410. In 2004 Andrew Weeber took over the Estate and began planting vines with a clear vision – to create sparkling wines that would hold their own against their European counterparts.

Fast forward to 2010 when the first wines went on general release and it was clear from the critical acclaim that they were

on the right path and the team's hard work had paid off.

The Estate combines the best of traditional techniques like hand harvesting with cutting-edge winemaking technology and a minimal intervention ethos throughout the crafting of their fantastic wines. This really shines through in the finished wines and you can tell, by the complexity of their wines, the amount of

hard work in all stages of the winemaking process as well as the uniqueness of their low-yielding Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier planted vineyards.

We're delighted to add Gusbourne Estate's brilliant wines to our burgeoning English selection and reckon they'd sit very nicely at any celebration or, looking ahead, a certain festive occasion."

GUINEVERE 2013, KENT – EN | "Tasted shortly after bottling, Guinevere 2013 was already exhibiting a generous nose of butter and creamy oak, with a citrus streak: all classic traits of a barrel fermented cool climate Chardonnay. On the palate, there is a combination of greengage and lemon, providing a taut but developing flavour, and on the finish the buttery notes return with impressive length. This is sure to develop further in bottle." Laura Rhys MS. **£21.99**



Hand-labelling at Gusbourne Estate

PINOT NOIR 2013, KENT – EN | "A delicate garnet in colour, this wine has a lifted, perfumed nose highlighting classic cool climate Pinot Noir characteristics of raspberry and strawberry patisserie with notes of peppermint and black pepper. A juicy palate of cherry and cranberry is backed up with a touch of sweet vanilla wood and coffee. The finish is long and smooth exhibiting mineral complexity." Laura Rhys MS. **£21.99**



BRUT RESERVE 2010, KENT – EN | "An evolving nose of vanilla and baked pastries. The palate is fresh and lively, with a hint of cherry strudel, preceding a more autolytic development on the finish." Laura Rhys MS. **£29.99**

BLANC DE BLANCS 2010, KENT – EN | "A bright golden colour with a delicate mousse, this Blanc de Blancs has classic Chardonnay aromas of green apple, citrus and mineral notes combined with buttered toast and tarte tatin richness from extended lees ageing. The palate is well balanced with a streak of zesty acidity complementing a gentle mousse that gives way to a creamy, hazelnut and baked apple. Drinking very well now, it will continue to develop over the next two or three years. This wine is a great accompaniment to seafood in general, but is perfect with freshly shucked oysters." Laura Rhys MS. **£37.99**

GARNACHA

Spain's unsung hero comes out from the shadow of Tempranillo.

Words by Steph Aburrow

ARAGONIA GARNACHA ESPECIAL,

CAMPO DE BORJA – SP | “If we were to write a checklist for what constitutes a cracking Spanish Garnacha, the Aragonia has got it covered. 100% Garnacha? Check. Old vines to give extra depth and concentration? Check. Deep and dark fruit flavours with a good kick of spice? - Check! Add to all that its warming mocha finish and a fab offer price tag – easy to see why it’s called *Especial*.” **£13.95 reduced to £11.95**

CIEN Y PICO DOBLE PASTA,

MANCHUELA – SP | “This wine is the business. Right from the awesome bright orange label, it is bold, captivating and just keeps on giving. Deep purple colour, aromas of crushed juicy dark red fruits that follow through seamlessly onto the palate with savoury notes. Everything is perfectly integrated with the softest of tannins. You’re definitely going to need to grab at least two of these – it’s more than a bit moorish!” **£12.99 reduced to £10.99**



“Garnacha, AKA Grenache, is a lot like the middle child of the family – rarely paid the attention they deserve, with people often giving them the wrong name, but in truth they form a vital part of the family.

Many are surprised to discover Garnacha is Spain’s most widely planted red grape variety (nope, not Tempranillo!) and over in the southern Rhône you will find it hidden, in plain sight, as the main variety in the world famous blend Châteauneuf-du-Pape. As if that wasn’t enough to surprise you, it is also responsible for some of the greatest rosés produced today.

For me though, Garnacha, from its original home in Spain, is the perfect wine to settle into Autumn. Its delicate thin skins ripen beautifully in hotter climates and produce full bodied wines with soft tannins. They’re generous wines that burst with juicy red fruit flavours of strawberry, raspberry and rich red plum, coupled with spicy savoury notes such as white pepper. If that doesn’t get you in the mood to light the fire, give Garnacha a bit of bottle ageing and it even develops hints of autumnal garnet flashes in colour.

Patience is a virtue with our middle child of the wine world. Head deep into the hidden hills of north east Spain to discover Priorat, the only other region

in Spain alongside Rioja to gain DOCa status (that loosely means it’s really really good). Garnacha has found a little pocket of paradise here; steep terraced slopes harbour unique red slate soils which contain tiny little particals that sparkle in the sun. These particals do a fine job of retaining just enough heat and water for the vines to thrive. These low yielding vines are often also very old and in turn the wine they produce is richly

concentrated with layer after layer of complexity.

Once you’ve tasted a great Garnacha you’ll find it hard to ignore this under-appreciated gem – it goes to show it’s always the quiet ones that shine in the family isn’t it?”



Image opposite: Garnacha fresh off the vines.

LAYING DOWN THE LOIRE

Arguably the most diverse wine region in France, there's never been a better time to explore the Loire. Words by Damian Wingate

“Follow the beautiful Loire River from its starting point on the Atlantic coast through to central France, just south of Orléans, and you'll find probably the most diverse range of wine styles of any of France's wine producing regions.

Split neatly into three separate sections – Western, Middle and Upper – the Loire

Valley produces many of France's most recognisable wines. In the Western area, Muscadet, produced from the Melon de Bourgogne grape is king. This is often seen in the company of good shellfish – make sure it has Sur Lie on the label as it means you'll have a better bottle that's had some nice lees ageing. In the Middle you'll find Vouvray which is made from the much

maligned yet incredibly versatile Chenin Blanc which gives the wines amazing honeyed characters and gripping acidity. As you move to the Upper Loire you'll find the classic mineral laden, flinty renowned wines of Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé.

The Loire Valley is rightly famed for the diversity of the wine it produces – there are also wonderful light,

fruity reds; fresh fruit driven rosés; luscious, honeyed sweet whites and fine, soft sparkling wines made in the same way as Champagne.

This vast and beautiful stretch of land really does produce a wine for almost every palate, probably the only region in the world that can honestly make that claim.



COTEAUX DU GIENNOIS BLANC LES BEAUX JOURS EMILE BALLAND, LOIRE – FR |

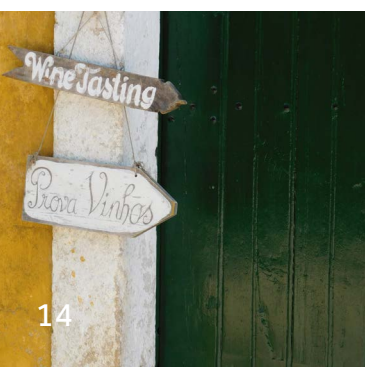
“Situated as it is, directly north of Pouilly-Fumé, you'd presume that the Coteaux du Giennois appellation would be more widely known. However the wonderful Sauvignon Blancs that come from here tend to slip under the radar and therefore represent fantastic value for money. Gooseberry led aromas and a palate of crisp citrus fruit and good minerality. This wine by Emile Balland is a real find that you may not find here for long at this price.” **£11.99 reduced to £9.99**

POUILLY-FUMÉ DOMAINE LEBRUN, LOIRE – FR |

“If it's a decent glass of Sauvignon Blanc you're after, then Pouilly-Fumé would have to be high on your list of destinations. It's bursting with flinty character and rich citrus flavours, along with classic grassiness. This Domaine Lebrun is a classic example of a characterful yet balanced Loire wine.” **£14.99 reduced to £12.99**

QUINTA DE SANT'ANA

An estate reborn thanks to passion and dedication now has the wines to match its history. Words by Chris Goldman



FERNAO PIRES, LISBOA – PT | Very pale yellow with aromas of passion fruit. An explosion of fresh fruit on the palate, with a rich, herbaceous touch and long fine finish. **£11.99 reduced to £9.99**

TINTO, LISBOA – PT | Fresh, vibrant, juicy and plummy with nice density of pure berry fruits, backed up by some spiciness. A joy to drink and a great alternative to Côtes du Rhône. **£11.99 reduced to £9.99**

TINTO RESERVA, LISBOA – PT | Bright with loads of cherry and berry fruit and good acidity. Focussed and pure with plenty of weight. Lovely integrated use of oak. **£19.95 reduced to £16.95**

“On a recent trip to Portugal I found myself negotiating hair pin turns on a mission to seek out the hidden gem that is Quinta de Sant’Ana. Nestled in the hills some 35km or so North of Lisbon I found myself rounding the final corner and being greeted by the unmistakably yellow estate that, for James Frost and his wife Ann, signifies so much more than a home for themselves and their seven sons.

Ann’s side of the family, the Von Fürstenburgs, owned and lived at the predominantly arable estate until the revolution in 1974 when the family returned to Germany and the gates were closed. A family friend ensured that the estate didn’t become completely derelict and in time the farm was handed down to Ann and her husband James, an Englishman from Dorset. They then set about not only turning the estate into the most beautiful setting for weddings, parties and holiday accommodation but also painstakingly re-instating its vineyard. James’ background is that of farming and with the help of his winemaker has certainly played to his strengths developing the vineyard and ensuring that quality, not quantity, is the key.

Images opposite: you’ll struggle to miss the yellow Quinta as you approach. A beautiful chapel and vineyards too.



Indigenous grape varieties such as Fernão Pires and Touriga Nacional sit happily alongside international varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir.

The estate is heavily influenced by the Atlantic and as a result the whites are crisp and the reds fresh and full of character. The winery is small yet perfectly formed with two lagares (granite troughs) where the grapes are still trodden in the traditional way, surrounded by the more modern vats and stainless steel tanks. The combination of the traditional and modern can be found throughout Quinta de Sant’Ana with nods to the history of the Quinta being found everywhere including the name of their top wine – Baron Von Fürstenburg.

The variety and quality of Portuguese wine has come on in leaps and bounds recently and as is often the case in relatively underrated areas of the wine world there are some real bargains to be had, we think that these wines offer real value and are well worth your attention. Saúde!”

Taste all of the Quinta's wines at our tutored tasting at the end of November – see page 3 for more details.

OLD VINES

Some things get better with age; even if they don't we should still be thankful. Words by Nick Poston



When I was asked to write about old vines I thought of the beginning of A Tale of Two Cities, 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...', as many of my most enjoyable bottles have come from vines 50-100 years old but unfortunately some of the most undrinkable ones have too.

As the vine ages the grower has fewer grapes but, potentially, more concentration, complexity and more nutrients accumulated from the soil (the old adage springs to mind, great wine is made in the vineyard). Also,

vines are like humans where the best results are gained when a degree of stress is present. However, great wine is about a balance so this opportunity can lead to high extract (colour and tannin), high alcohol wines that stand out in a crowd and win medals but at the expense of freshness, subtlety and drinkability.

There is also a conflict between heart and mind too. The vigour and yield of the vine can decrease after 20 years and after 50 years most vineyards are viewed as uneconomic. So, and I suppose

this is the exciting bit for me, old vines facilitate the mavericks and pioneers – often on the wrong side of the hill with the worst soil and terrain imaginable for viticulture. In spite of this they create interesting and idiosyncratic wines that are anathema to formulaic, identikit wines, that bean counters and shareholders cherish, but make the whole world of wine a much more diverse place.

Make sure you try the Cien Y Pico on page 10 as it's made from 100+ year old vines! – ED.



SEDA VERMELLA OLD VINE VIURA, RIOJA – SP | This cracking white is of the modern, fresh and unoaked style. Made with hand-picked grapes from 65 year old vines with a splash of Malvasia, it is bright, fresh and zesty with a delicious texture. **£9.99 reduced to £8.50**

CAPRICHOS OLD VINE GARNACHA, CARIÑENA – SP | Superb value old vine Garnacha. Sweet blackberry, plum and raspberry on the nose and a heady palate. Plum, damson, cassis and raspberry as well as spice, oak and chocolate. Juicy and long – a bargain! **£7.50 reduced to £6.50**

CHABLIS TOUR DU ROY VIEILLES VIGNES, BURGUNDY – FR | Crafted from 60 year old vines this is pure crystalline goodness! There's a lovely bit of richness thanks to 40% of the cuvée being aged in used oak barrels. **£17.99 reduced to £14.99**

FONCALIEU CARIGNAN OLD VINES, VIN DE PAYS D'OC – FR | Produced from low yielding old vines grown in limestone gravel soils. Red fruit and garrigue aromas with hints of toast. Medium-bodied with nice spice notes. **£8.99 reduced to £6.99**

RUGBY WORLD CUP 2015

If wines played rugby, which position would they be? Yes, we're really doing this...

WINGER [NEW ZEALAND]

LEFTFIELD SAUVIGNON BLANC, MARLBOROUGH | Clinical with flamboyant tendencies. Crisp finisher. **£12.99 reduced to £10.99**

INSIDE CENTRE [ARGENTINA]

LA CHAMIZA POLO PROFESSIONAL MALBEC, MENDOZA | Lean yet strong with powerful explosive energy and attacking prowess. **£11.99 reduced to £9.99**

HOOKER [SOUTH AFRICA]

HOLDEN MANZ VISIONAIRE, FRANSCHHOEK | Focussed and powerful with a high level of skill that belies its size. **£14.99 reduced to £12.99**

FULL BACK [ENGLAND]

LYME BAY BACCHUS FUMÉ, DEVON | Confident with plenty of physicality when it matters. Brilliant flair. **£15.99 reduced to £13.99**

LOCK [FRANCE]

ARDÈCHE CHARDONNAY LOUIS LATOUR, ARDÈCHE | Easily forgotten about but offers reliability that's crucial in the grand scheme of things. **£9.99 reduced to £7.99**

NUMBER 8 [AUSTRALIA]

THE BLACK CRAFT SHIRAZ BY MAGPIE ESTATE, BAROSSA | Quick, strong and dependable on its own. The ultimate team player? **£12.99 reduced to £10.99**

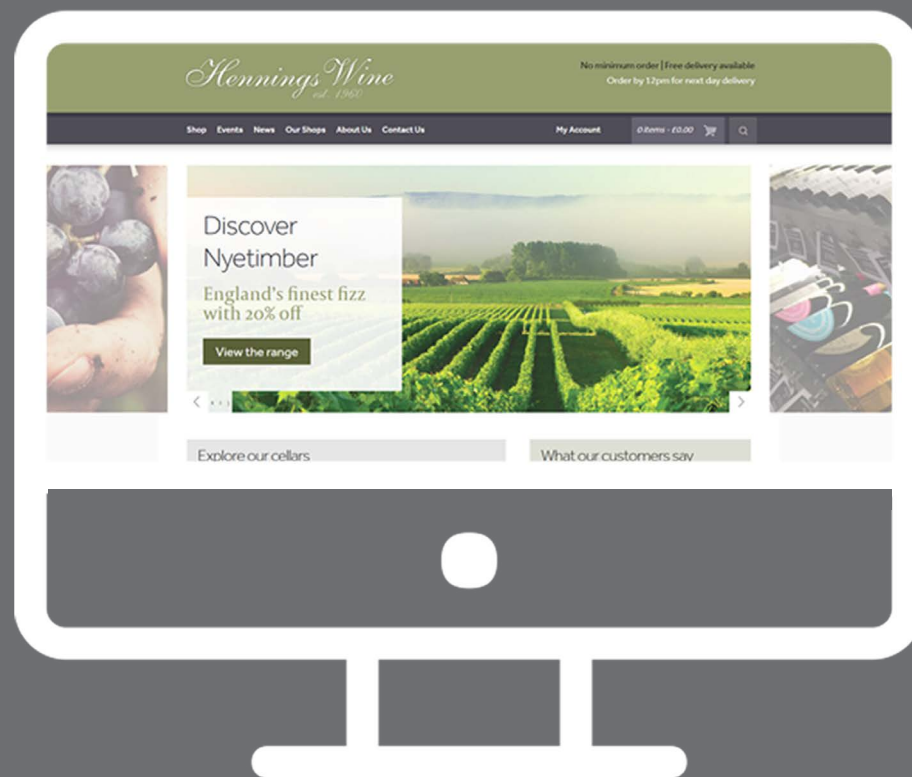


NEW WEBSITE

Our new site is packed to the gunnels with functionality!

We're delighted to announce that our new website is now up and running and we couldn't be happier with the result. Not only is the new site fully optimised for viewing on all manner of devices but it also has some great new features including: easy repeat ordering, collect in shop

option, favourites lists, multiple delivery options, news and events pages, international shipping and much more. We could go on about how clever it is for pages but think you should go and have a peek for yourselves – we hope you like it!



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Petworth, Golden Square 01798 343021

Pulborough, Lower Street 01798 872671

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Details available on our website

All bottles are 75cl unless otherwise stated. E&OE. Prices are per bottle. Stated vintages may be subject to change at any time. Gift packaging, where shown, is offered subject to availability. Bottle, packaging and closure designs may change at any time. Wines and prices offered are subject to availability until Saturday 31st October 2015.

Hennings Wine Merchants Ltd - registered in England. No 666499. The Wine Cellars, Station Approach, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1AQ

