

— THE —  
**WINE**  
SOCIETY  
— 1874 —

## 20 reds under £10

OUR PICK OF THE BEST RED  
WINES AT LOW PRICES

## *Bistro* classics

THE PERFECT FRENCH WINES  
FOR SIMPLE, TASTY DISHES

## Autumn savings

OUR CROP OF SEASONAL  
SAVINGS FROM OUR GROWERS

# Bold and brilliant South Africa at its best

# 1874



ISSUE 12  
AUTUMN 2023

Amy Matthews  
ACTING SENIOR EDITOR



The start of September holds feelings of flux and contrast. The onset of autumn layered on a lingering golden summer. The back-to-school sense of new starts crossed with the culmination of growing seasons and an abundant harvest.

# Welcome

## TO OUR AUTUMN ISSUE

This issue is a companion to those September sentiments – with the wines to match. Jo Locke MW spoke to me about her recent trips to South Africa, and we realised that much of the country's appeal is in its dramatic contrasts. Her selection of wines encompasses the very best of old and new; from historic producers to burgeoning names, and the most modern winemaking to sustainability projects for old vines, explore the wines on page 8. We journey on with Jo, visiting Portugal on page 18, and exploring some of its best regions via the popular cities of Lisbon and Porto.

Continue the theme of contrast with a discussion piece from Pierre Mansour and Freddy Bulmer about the use of oak in wine; of course, at The Wine Society we know that superb wines can be made with and without oak, but you can enjoy reading the fervent arguments for each side on page 32.

Find this wine on p37



After launching our strategy for reducing the environmental impact of our business, our Director of Sustainability, Dom de Ville, tackles another subject of the utmost importance – ensuring human rights along the entirety of the wine production process. Read more about the issues and how The Society is committing to making a difference on page 16.

Elsewhere, you'll find fine examples of malbec from Argentina on page 30, and lesser-known pleasures from around the fringes of the Rhône Valley on page 38. Looking for autumn value? You'll find 20 of our favourite reds under £10 on page 22 and a bevy of supplier-funded savings on page 41.

It's a packed edition so open a bottle, turn the pages, and raise a glass to the contrasts of the season.

Find this wine on p24



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An update on our pricing promise and what duty changes mean for you, Chair Alan Black reports back from our AGM, Sarah Knowles MW salutes flourishing biodiversity, and we introduce a Marsala to savour.

### p8 | South Africa

Reap the rewards of Jo Locke MW's inspiration from her most recent trips to this magnificent land of contrasts, from discovering new producers to preserving old vines.

### p16 | Ensuring the fair treatment of workers in our supply chain

Dom de Ville highlights the vital issue of human rights within the wine production chain, and explains what action The Wine Society is taking to make a difference.

### p18 | Portugal

Let Jo Locke MW be your tour guide, with two routes into discovering the wines of Portugal – through Lisbon and Porto.

### p22 | 20 reds under £10

Enjoy the rich flavours of autumn without breaking a tenner with these delicious bottles.

### p26 | Bistro classics

Tim Sykes identifies the French wines that cry out for simple bistro cuisine, and resident food and wine matchmaker Steve Farrow picks some dishes to match.

### p30 | Malbec: another level

Argentina's superstar variety hits the heights. Toby Morrhall explains how some of our top producers get the very best out of their malbec.

### p32 | To oak or not to oak?

Pierre Mansour and Freddy Bulmer go head to head in this celebration of two different winemaking approaches to ensure you can enjoy the best of both.

### p34 | Members' favourites

Discover which bottles your fellow members rate as sure-fire successes; browse this selection of some of our most popular wines.

### p38 | Over the hills & far away

Take the adventurous route with Marcel Orford-Williams as he explores the fringes of the Rhône Valley.

### p41 | Autumn savings

Enjoy these seasonal savings thanks to our generous suppliers.

Let us know what you think of this issue of 1874 and what you'd like to see in future editions at [1874magazine@thewinesociety.com](mailto:1874magazine@thewinesociety.com)

Production & marketing manager [Victoria Markham](#)  
Still-life photography [Johnny Stephens](#)

The Wine Society supports **drinkaware**  
For facts, advice and more, visit [be.drinkaware.co.uk](http://be.drinkaware.co.uk)

### WINE INFORMATION KEY

**RED WINE BODY SCALE**

A	B	C	D	E
Very light	Light to medium	Medium to full	Full/very full	

**WHITE WINE DRYNESS SCALE**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bone dry		Dry but rich		Medium dry	Dessert grade sweetness			

P Synthetic closure    V Vegetarian    † New vintage    ☉ Biodynamic  
 S Screwcap    Ve Vegan    O Organic

Please be aware that due to global supply issues, wines may have a different closure to those advertised.

## 1874 on the road

Join us for live events across the UK to taste and talk about the wines and themes covered in this issue. Find out more at [thewinesociety.com/events](http://thewinesociety.com/events) or scan:



# SocietyNEWS

BY AMY MATTHEWS

CEO Steve Finlan lets you know his thoughts on a tumultuous few months for wine prices and what you can expect from The Wine Society, Sarah Knowles MW enjoys the benefits of a more biodiverse approach in the vineyard, and we introduce you to the real Marsala. Meanwhile, Chair Alan Black looks back on this year's successful AGM.

## Fair and steady pricing at The Wine Society

CEO STEVE FINLAN REFLECTS ON WHERE OUR PRICE PROMISE PUTS US IN RELATION TO THE MARKET



Steve Finlan  
CEO

Holding prices means that we are paying for both the cost of inflation and the biggest increase in duty for nearly 50 years. It is a big commitment, but also a very 'Wine Society' thing to do for our members. Since we made our announcement in April, it has been interesting watching the other wine retailers and seeing an increase in volatility of price, promotion and discounting.

After 40 years working in retail and with a first-hand knowledge of what the trade does, I believe so strongly that it's never been harder for customers to trust the prices that they pay. Now, having led The Wine Society for the past five years, I have also seen at close quarters how difficult it is for excellent everyday fair prices to look good against a backdrop of so many different techniques of pricing camouflage. It is no wonder that at the end of last year, the consumer magazine *Which?* declared that only one in seven discounts during Black Friday were genuine.

### CAMOUFLAGE TECHNIQUES

The classic 'high-low' technique is to raise prices and then discount against the artificial higher price. It is perfectly legal but the same *Which?* report found that, in nearly 90% of cases, the same product had been on sale at the same or a lower price in the previous six months. Customers are right to question whether these are real 'discounts'.

Another practice is offering customers the lower price but only when buying in volume. In reality, nobody is expected to buy at the higher price. Again, does this make it a real discount?

And some even make prices up; beware of 'market prices' used by some retailers. This can be really canny as the wines offered are exclusive to that retailer, so there are no exact price comparisons available; they will choose 'comparative wines' to set the market price and, as a customer, you are relying on their opinion. Comparisons are often different grapes, different vintages or, in my favourite example, a competitor using the same winemaker but comparing the single-vineyard first wine (from The Wine Society) with their wine made in volume from bought-in grapes – and showing a saving of only £2! Do you think that is a fair comparison?

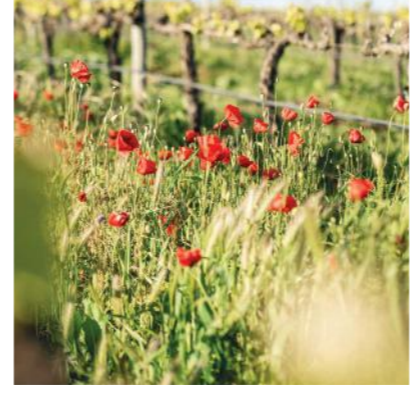
### EVERYDAY FAIR PRICES

Why can you trust The Society? Because we have an everyday fair price that always offers the best value. Because we offer free delivery and allow you to buy only what you want to buy, delivered next day for no extra charge. Because we maintain a vast range and never compromise on quality just to hit a particular price.

Running a mutual like The Wine Society is a privilege and has also taught me about true customer focus. I can confirm from personal experience that many businesses may say they are 'obsessed' by the customer but, in reality, they favour shareholder returns and bonuses. For us, it is refreshing that you are members and not customers. We work for you and, once we have paid our bills, all your money goes into lower prices or better service. With so little transparency from disingenuous discounters and their calculating mechanics, I can see why many may be tempted by the likes of '25% off' but, for us, the most important thing of all is trust.

We will be very transparent with you; providing great prices plus fast and free delivery puts a real strain on our business and we will need members to spend a little more with us this year to make our stance sustainable. We ask this in full confidence that our price and proposition is second to none, and also guarantee that any cash generated from member loyalty will go straight back into holding and then reducing prices.

How best to describe what we will be doing? **Working together, as co-owners, for lower prices.**



A word from...



Sarah Knowles MW

## VINEYARD BIODIVERSITY

A STEP TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

I have a vivid memory from a visit to Champagne in 2008. A vineyard manager proudly pointed out the white strips of prized chalk that could be seen between each pristine row from our vantage point overlooking the Côtes des Blancs. Fifteen years on, there has been a dramatic change in the landscape as the move towards sustaining beneficial cover crop within the vineyards has taken hold. Now I see grasses, complementary wild flowers and legumes in the vineyards well into the spring, only cut or crimped in the height of the summer to create less competition for water for the precious vines. The benefit of greater biodiversity often outweighs the threat of vegetal competition in the minds of viticulturalists. In fact, bare earth under vines now prompts concerns about possible overuse of herbicides and fears of premature soil erosion.

This change in viticultural practices is visually striking to see within the high-intensity region of Champagne, and it's one that is echoed around the world. I have had in-depth discussions about native Australian fauna and flora (including a particular love of Australian orchids) with Steve Pannell in the McLaren Vale and how they've boosted beneficial insect life; I remember a conversation about the importance of woodlands in Chianti Classico with Guido Orzalesi at Castello La Leccia and the relative (and hugely topical) microclimate regulation impact they can have on the vines in hot summers; I've witnessed the complex, holistic approaches of farmsteads and regenerative agriculture currently ongoing at Hanzell and Tablas Creek in California.

Crucially, vineyard diversity is being taken seriously, not just at smaller estates but also on a larger scale. At Delicato in Lodi, an owl-box program has seen local numbers of barn owls swell, helping counter the gopher population that enjoys munching on the vines and grapes, and at Champagne Henriot, chef de cave Alice Tétienne is spending a large amount of her time with her growers using drones and sensors across the vineyards to help promote sustainable and informed viticultural practices.

It is easy to get lost in the romanticism of it all – there is no question a wild-flower-flecked, hedgerow-lined vineyard strewn with owl boxes and distant sheep grazing peacefully looks, and photographs, much better. But a more cynical approach of looking only for pitfalls and greenwashing can prove equally reductive. Vineyards, and broader agriculture, are ultimately more complex, and deserve producers who commit to a balanced approach for the good of the land, the quality of fruit, and the long-term health of the vineyard.

Explore

# Curatolo Arini Marsala Superiore Riserva 10 Year Old

AMY MATTHEWS INTRODUCES A BOTTLE WHICH JUST MIGHT CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT MARSALA

The history of Sicily's most famous fortified wine starts, counterintuitively, with an Englishman. John Woodhouse landed on the island in 1773 and, acting on a hunch, fortified the local wines with grape spirit and shipped them back to the UK. Sicilian communities thrived on this new stream of business, boosting local viticulture and founding multiple Marsala wineries in the 19th century. Of those, only three survive, and just one is now run by direct descendants: Curatolo Arini.

Alexandra Curatolo manages the marketing of her family's wines around the world. 'Our priority is to change the positioning of Marsala from the pantry to the table' she says, 'We want to refurbish the idea of Marsala, and change the concept of a simple cooking wine to a complex and refined wine.' The winery was established in 1875 by Vito Curatolo Arini, passed down by the men and women of subsequent generations, and now run by the fifth-generation Alexandra and Riccardo. They're not stuck in the past – they've been bold innovators throughout, turning to the University of California to expand their oenological expertise in the 1970s, and working with superstar consultant Antonio Antonini from the 1990s to make sure their wines are the epitome of both traditional and modern quality.

One thing has not changed: the secret family recipe used since 1875. Most of their Marsala is crafted with the addition of grape must (the juice, stems, seeds, skins and pulp from pressing grapes) from the highest-quality grillo grapes heated in an old *quarara*, a large copper pot, until it's reduced by 70%. 'The result is a unique ingredient, a concentration of notes that go from dry fruits to toasted almonds, from honey to toffee, that give our Marsalas their distinctive character' says Alexandra. They also age them for far longer than the legal minimum, knowing that time and patience are critical for the evolution of these beautiful wines.

'Notes that go from dry fruits to toasted almonds, from honey to toffee...'



The UK appetite for Marsala has slowed since the 1770s and, as Alexandra notes, it's often known more as an ingredient in cooking than a drink in its own right. If you're new to Marsala as a delicious glassful, this will be the bottle to convince you. The Sicilian tradition is to drink Marsala at the end of a meal with typical dishes like almond cakes or ricotta cheese desserts, but the Curatolo family recommend trying theirs with both sweet and savoury foods, thanks to the natural umami notes in the Marsala. Well chilled, the Superiore Riserva makes for the perfect digestif – lighter than a spirit, more balanced than a liqueur, and an ideal partner to lingering around the table with a generous cheeseboard.

Alexandra is confident that her family's delicious Marsala will garner a new generation of devotees: 'We are working hard on building a solid and enthusiastic crowd of Marsala lovers around the world: it's a long and winding path, but we will be patient, as our lovely wine has taught us to be.'

'We will be patient, as our lovely wine has taught us to be.'

## Curatolo Arini Marsala Superiore Riserva 10 Year Old

Seriously good rich and complex Marsala. A great alternative to Madeira, sweet sherry or Port, this 10-year-old fortified wine has a salted, roasted pecan flavour, with preserved lemons and praline developing on the extremely long finish. 18%

Ref IT35991 **4** Ve

Special introductory price of £17.50 instead of £18.50 a bottle



Alexandra Curatolo, fifth generation of this family-owned Marsala winery



## Your Committee

Alan Black

### Chair Alan Black on our recent AGM

The Society's 149th Annual General Meeting, held on Monday 10th July, was attended by 773 members (505 members in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London and 268 online) and 128 guests.

There was a real buzz about the meeting and the tasting afterwards, with a lot of engagement.

I called the Annual Review 'The Value of Our Difference' and used this as the theme of my introduction, discussing the various benefits with which The Society, as a mutual, can provide members which others can't. These include low prices, absorbing costs instead of charging members more, focusing on quality not profit, a wide range of wines, investing in wines for the future, free next day delivery, tastings and events, withdrawing part cases from reserves, human contact, our sustainability plans and investing everything we make back into the business.

We don't maximise profit; we maximise member satisfaction. We don't seek profit for itself but focus on quality, value, service and experience. This makes us a very different organisation from a normal wine retailer. This distinction provides members with real and practical value: The Value of Our Difference.

After the introduction, we answered questions asked in the room, online and also those asked in advance of the meeting.

The questions covered a wide range of topics, including sustainability, various wine issues, change in The Society, The Society's performance, the defined benefit pension scheme, tastings and events, delivery, communications, packaging, the website and possibility of a Society app and attracting new members.

For the first time following last year's Rule changes, members attending online were able to vote, and those in the room used electronic devices so that we could quickly and accurately tally the votes of all those voting. There were some teething issues and it took longer than anticipated to register members and issue the devices.

The unexpectedly high attendance in London did mean that the room was almost overfull and the tasting was extremely busy. We are already working on what to do next year when it will be our 150th anniversary, and we expect many members will want to attend this special event.

## OLIVER JOHNSON OBITUARY

### Ray Bowden, Society Chairman from 1992 to 2009, pays tribute to former Society Chief Executive Oliver Johnson

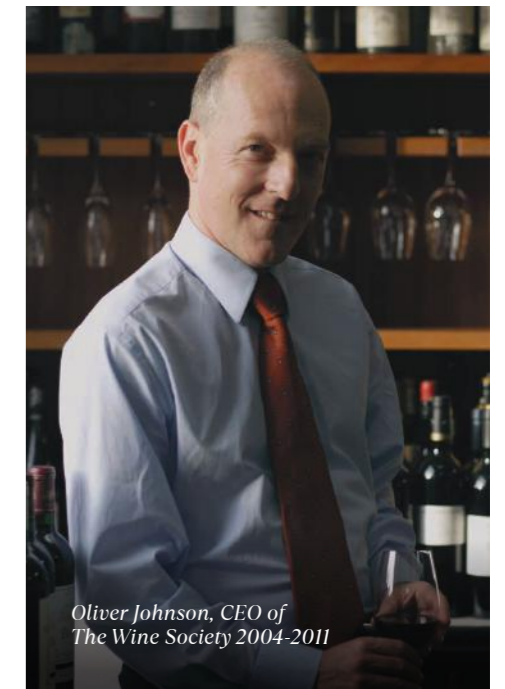
We are very sad to report the untimely death, at the age of 67, of Oliver Johnson, who was The Society's Chief Executive from 2004 to 2011.

He steered The Society through many key events during his tenure, including the construction of Warehouse Four at a cost of £5.5m, the acquisition of 0.69 acres of adjacent land which completed the rectangle of the current site, successfully negotiating the recession and currency collapse in 2007-09, and coping with major new pension-fund legislation.

Oliver was a great supporter of The Society's mutuality, as reflected in his voluntary and non-executive activities outside The Society, including chairing the governors of a local school, and a non-executive directorship of The Forest Company.

I was Chairman during his time as CEO and I had a close and successful working relationship with him. I always looked forward to our regular monthly review meetings.

Ray Bowden  
CHAIRMAN 1992-2009



Oliver Johnson, CEO of The Wine Society 2004-2011

# SOUTH AFRICA

JO LOCKE MW  
 REPORTS BACK  
 ON HER RECENT  
 VISITS AND PAINTS  
 A PICTURE OF A DYNAMIC  
 COUNTRY THAT THRIVES ON  
 COMBINING ITS TRADITION  
 WITH VIBRANT MODERNITY



Returning to the Cape over the past 18 months has been a joy, and I have found my enthusiasm undimmed by absence. The wines here are the fruits of my two most recent visits, shortlisted from the wealth of opportunity that South Africa presents to any wine buyer.

The autumn of 2022 saw the first Cape Wine (South Africa's international wine show) for four years and the buzz was palpable, from the energy and confidence of the producers in the room, to the excitement shared among the international visitors who had returned in droves.

My visit this spring was a little earlier, and longer, than usual, catching the end of the 2023 harvest, hearing the latest news from the horse's mouth, and visiting as many producers as could be squeezed in, including some for the first time. I could have stayed three months and still not done it justice!

Filling specific gaps in the range is always a priority, but mostly I prefer to visit with an open mind, in the spirit of discovery. I hope you will find plenty of interest and variety here as a result, delivered via some unmissable old favourites and exceptional new finds. There is value at all levels, not least in South Africa's rich heritage of old vineyards, now strengthened by its old-vine certification scheme, the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

## ESSENTIALS



Ntsiki Biyela – founder and winemaker of Aslina, and a pioneering black female winemaker in South Africa.

### Reds



**Pickenierskloof Wine Co. Lo & Behold Grenache-Carignan, Swartland 2022**

Majority sweet, silky grenache with 20% darker carignan fruit offering touches of smoke, chocolate and spice, finishing smooth on the palate. 13%

Ref SA19881 **C S Ve**  
 £8.75 bottle | £105 dozen

**Dirt Track Cinsault, Swartland 2022**

Duncan Savage's juicy, lighter-style cinsault works a treat when served cool, and is capable of standing up to all manner of foods. 13.5%

Ref SA19841 **C S**  
 £9.50 bottle | £114 dozen

### NEW

**Du Toitskloof Shiraz, Western Cape 2020**

A friendly and accessible shiraz in the Côtes-du-Rhône style, with the warmth of 80% Swartland fruit and a smooth finish. 14%

Ref SA20021 **D S**  
 £9.75 bottle | £117 dozen



The eponymous canon at the entrance to the Kanonkop estate

### NEW

**Thelema Mountain Red, Western Cape 2020**

Thelema's 'house' red is a blend of shiraz, grenache and petit verdot, all from their own vineyards, the majority on the Sutherland farm in Elgin. No new oak, just deliciously juicy fruit. Drink now to 2025. 14.5%

Ref SA19991 **S D Ve**  
 £11.50 bottle | £138 dozen

**Jacques Mouton 'Catherine' Cabernet Sauvignon, Stellenbosch 2021**

The new partner to the popular chardonnay, this is a medium-bodied, fruit-driven cabernet with light plum fruit and a hint of spice. Drink this year and next. 13.5%

Ref SA19681 **C**  
 £11.50 bottle | £138 dozen



**The Society's Exhibition Pinotage, Stellenbosch 2020**

Pinotage was created in 1925 as a cross of pinot noir and cinsault. It ranges from light and fresh, to the fuller-bodied, satisfying and rich, spicy style that Kanonkop makes for us. Drink now to 2028. 14%

Ref SA19651 **D †**  
 £12.50 bottle | £150 dozen

### NEW

**Kanonkop Kadette Cape Blend, Stellenbosch 2019**

Pinotage leads in this classic Cape Blend, plus merlot, cabernet sauvignon and a splash of cabernet franc. Moderate oak adds to the natural sweetness and spice. Buy now to enjoy a supplier-supported saving. Drink this year and next. 14%

Ref SA20111 **D Ve**  
 £12.50 bottle | £130 special dozen price

**SAVE £20 PER DOZEN**

### Whites

**The Society's South African Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch 2023**

The new label alludes to sustainable farming. Old-vine fruit provides richness, an earlier-picked proportion delivers citrus and stone-fruit flavour. 13%

Ref SA20121 **2 S Ve †**  
 £8.50 bottle | £102 dozen

**Quando Sauvignon Blanc, Robertson 2023**

The vineyards were picked in three successive *tries* this year to deliver crisp, bright, nettle and lime fruit. Buy now to enjoy a supplier-supported saving. 12.5%

Ref SA20131 **2 S Ve †**  
 £9.75 bottle | £107 special dozen price

**SAVE £10 PER DOZEN**

### Rosé

### NEW

**Simonsig Rosé Chenin Blanc-Pinotage, Western Cape 2023**

This wine blends the Cape's two signature grapes (64% chenin, 36% pinotage) to make a charming pink that slips down effortlessly. 13.5%

Ref SA20081 **2 S**  
 £8.95 bottle | £107 dozen

## MIXED CASE

### SOUTH AFRICAN ESSENTIALS

The taste of South Africa in a case. A 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:

#### REDS

- Piekenierskloof Wine Co. Lo & Behold Grenache-Carignan, Swartland 2022
- Dirt Track Cinsault, Swartland 2022
- Du Toitskloof Shiraz, Western Cape 2020
- Thelema Mountain Red, Western Cape 2020
- Jacques Mouton 'Catherine' Cabernet Sauvignon, Stellenbosch 2021
- The Society's Exhibition Pinotage, Stellenbosch 2020
- Kanonkop Kadette Cape Blend, Stellenbosch 2019

#### ROSÉ

- Simonsig Rosé Chenin Blanc-Pinotage, Western Cape 2023

#### WHITES

- The Society's South African Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch 2023
- Quando Sauvignon Blanc, Robertson 2023
- Boplaas Alvarinho, Calitzdorp 2023
- Jacques Mouton 'Madeleine' Chardonnay, Franschhoek 2021

Ref MX23172 | £124

### Reds

NEW

#### Fryer's Cove Grenache-Cinsault, Cape West Coast 2022

A succulent blend from cool, windswept vineyards on the Atlantic coast with pretty, cherry fruit and silky texture. Delicious served on the cooler side. Drink now to 2025. 13.5%

Ref SA20171 **C S Ve**  
£12.50 bottle | £150 dozen

NEW

#### Du Toitskloof Legacy Nebbiolo, Western Cape 2020

Du Toitskloof is one of very few in the Cape to make nebbiolo. This is not Italy, but there is a familiar delicacy of aroma, with hints of cherry and hay to the flavour. Drink now to 2025. 14%

Ref SA20041 **D**  
£13.50 bottle | £162 dozen

NEW

#### The Fledge Praeteritus Bosstok Tinta Barroca, Swartland 2020

A quirky label for a serious wine, made from Certified Heritage Vineyards planted in 1971, here in tribute to the Portuguese grape tinta barroca. Velvety, rich and concentrated. Drink now to 2026. 14%

Ref SA20261 **D**  
£14.95 bottle | £179 dozen



NEW

#### The Liberator 'Le Merle Noir' Merlot, Paarl 2020

15% petit verdot adds a little spice and perspective to this rich, chocolatey, velvet-glove merlot. A hedonistic wine to indulge in. Drink now to 2028. 14.5%

Ref SA20211 **D**  
£17 bottle | £204 dozen



NEW

#### Minimalist Connect the Dots Syrah, Western Cape 2021

This young wine blends syrah from across the Cape and includes a significant proportion of whole-bunch fruit to produce a fragrant, elegant expression of the grape. Drink now to 2031. 13.5%

Ref SA20241 **C**  
£20 bottle | £240 dozen



### Whites

NEW

#### Boplaas Alvarinho, Calitzdorp 2023

Building on Calitzdorp's heritage of Portuguese grapes in style, this is a delicious unoaked alvarinho displaying ripe stone-fruit flavour. Drink this year and next. 12.5%

Ref SA20101 **2** †  
£10.50 bottle | £126 dozen



#### Jacques Mouton 'Madeleine' Chardonnay, Franschhoek 2021

Classically honed, citrusy barrel-fermented chardonnay made by La Couronne, one of the oldest established farms in the picturesque Franschhoek valley. Drink now to 2025. 13.5%

Ref SA18501 **2**  
£10.95 bottle | £131 dozen



NEW

#### Delheim & Hammel Staying Alive Riesling, Simonsberg-Stellenbosch 2022

A German-South African collaboration born of the long friendship between Christoph Hammel and Delheim after his internship there. The wine marries the skill and the spirit of two winemakers passionate about riesling, and it's a beauty. Drink now to 2027. 13%

Ref SA20271 **2 S**  
£14.50 bottle | £174 dozen



NEW

#### Painted Wolf 'Teardrop' Viognier, Breedeckloof 2022

Named for one of the African Wild Dogs the Painted Wolf team work so hard to protect, Teardrop is a delightful viognier from cool, high-lying vineyards where longer hang-time brings finesse with ripeness. Drink now to 2025. 14%

Ref SA20281 **2 Ve**  
£16 bottle | £192 dozen

NEW

#### Minimalist Experimental White, Cape Coastal 2022

An extraordinary wine from young star Sam Lambson, this is a multi-variety, multi-technique blend of chardonnay, chenin blanc, a little old-vine muscat and a splash of riesling. A crisp, saline, bright, must-try white. Drink now to 2025. 13%

Ref SA20251 **2**  
£18.50 bottle | £222 dozen



NEW

#### Aslina Skin Contact Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch 2022

Ntsiki Biyela had been wanting to try her hand at this increasingly popular technique for some time and this year believes she's got it right (and we agree!). It brings a little more structure to the wine, with a touch of citrus pith and crunchy apricot fruit. Drink now to 2025. 13.5%

Ref SA19911 **2 V**  
£18.50 bottle | £222 dozen



#### Lýsa Albariño, Stellenbosch 2021

A maiden vintage with lovely brightness of fruit, this is a pristine, refreshing aromatic white with fine minerality and length. Drink this year and next. 13.5%

Ref SA19191 **2 Ve**  
£23 bottle | £276 dozen



### Rosé

NEW

#### Pink Valley Rosé, Stellenbosch 2021

Very pale pink made by the Taaibosch team from vineyards dedicated to rosé production and, unusually, majority sangiovese, with a little grenache noir. Crisp and delicate but engaging too. Drink this year and next. 12.5%

Ref SA20161 **2 S**  
£13.50 bottle | £162 dozen

### Fortified

NEW

#### Boplaas Cape Tawny, Western Cape NV

In the classic fortified style, this is a ten-year-old blend of tinta barroca and touriga nacional, silky sweet and complex following extended barrel maturation. 17.5%

Ref SA20151 **7**  
£19.50 bottle | £234 dozen

## LOOKING BACK

### The legacy of old vines

The Cape is the first wine producing region to establish an old-vine certification scheme. Managed by The Old Vine Project it certifies vines which are at least 35 years old, and wines qualify for the Certified Heritage Vineyards seal which carries the date of planting. Jancis Robinson MW describes how it aims to '...allow grape prices to rise and become sufficiently attractive to farmers that they will not be tempted to pull out the older, less productive vines that may well make some of the finest wine.' The Old Road Wine Co's superlative semillon, Delheim's noble late harvest riesling, or Kaapzicht's Kliprug chenin are fine examples.

These wines command higher prices, but there are many more that benefit from the extra concentration, character, and often quality that comes naturally from older vines. Even our Society's Chenin includes the fruit of vines over thirty years old.



'Staying Alive' Riesling winemakers Roelof Lotriet, Christoph Hammel and Nongcebo Langa

Vineyards of the Boplaas winery in Calitzdorp

## MIXED CASE

### EXPLORE SOUTH AFRICA

Adventure through South Africa with these exciting bottles. A six-bottle case with one bottle of each of the following:

#### REDS

- Fryer's Cove Grenache-Cinsault, Cape West Coast 2022
- The Fledge Praeteritus Bosstok Tinta Barroca, Swartland 2020
- Du Toitskloof Legacy Nebbiolo, Western Cape 2020

#### WHITES

- Painted Wolf 'Teardrop' Viognier, Breedekloof 2022
- Minimalist Experimental White, Cape Coastal 2022
- Lýsa Albariño, Stellenbosch 2021

Ref MX23173 | £98

# LOOKING FORWARD

## A taste of the future

Much has been made of the new wave of South African winemakers, the movers and shakers in the Cape wine industry who have been pushing boundaries since Nelson Mandela's long walk to freedom. Many of the original new wave are now household names – Chris Alheit, Sebastian Beaumont, Miles Mossop, Duncan Savage – and they're joined by the latest waves of highly qualified, well-travelled, creative and exacting winemakers who make South Africa the most dynamic of wine producers. Their wines feature both in our Explore section, with grapes, styles and techniques off-the-beaten-track, and in the Fine Wine section, sitting rightly alongside their longer established peers. Try Ntsiki Biyela's Wine Champion cabernet or Skin Contact chenin. Or compare and contrast two Stellenbosch cinsaults from Alex Milner and Lukas van Loggerenberg, or white blends from Minimalist and Thistle & Weed. Just be prepared to get the new-wave bug.

# FINE WINE

### Reds

#### Aslina by Ntsiki Biyela Cabernet Sauvignon, Stellenbosch 2020

Winemaker Ntsiki Biyela started her Aslina label with the 2014 vintage. The classically framed 2020 was one of our Wine Champions this year, delivering generous black fruits lifted by a refreshing hint of mint. Drink now to 2026. 14.5%

Ref SA18551 **D**  
£17 bottle | £204 dozen

#### Kaapzicht Estate Rooiland Pinotage, Bottelary-Stellenbosch 2020

Modern and muscular pinotage, supported by 15% cabernet sauvignon, from Kaapzicht's spectacular vineyards in the Bottelary hills, offering sleek dark plum fruit, with notes of roasted coffee and oak spice, all supported by robust but velvety tannins. Drink now to 2026. 14.5%

Ref SA18201 **D** **Ve**  
£17.50 bottle | £210 dozen

#### Newton Johnson Walker Bay Pinot Noir 2022

The younger vineyards behind this wine are now 'growing up', bringing a little more depth to the friendly charm of this fragrant, cool-climate pinot. Drink now to 2026. 13.5%

Ref SA20201 **C** **Ve**  
£20 bottle | £240 dozen

#### NEW

#### Beaumont Family Dangerfield Syrah, Bot River-Walker Bay 2020

Just seventeen barrels were made of this dark-fruited, fresh young syrah which combines structure with effortless charm. Drink now to 2030. 13%

Ref SA20291 **C**  
£20 bottle | £240 dozen

#### NEW

#### Van Loggerenberg 'Geronimo' Cinsault, Stellenbosch 2021

The wine most improved by the move to a new cellar, says Lukas van Loggerenberg, delivering even silkier texture and purity, with hallmark raspberry fruit, exquisite delicacy and freshness. Drink now to 2026. 12.5%

Ref SA19581 **B** **Ve** †  
£22 bottle | £264 dozen

#### Miles Mossop 'Max', Stellenbosch 2019

A modern classic, blending cabernets sauvignon and franc with merlot and petit verdot. Its bouquet of sweet fruit, with touches of spice and graphite flows through to a plush palate. Drink now to 2029. 14%

Ref SA19921 **D** **Ve**  
£22.50 bottle | £270 dozen

#### NEW

#### Natte Valleij Cinsault, Stellenbosch 2021

Our first wine from Alex Milner who has made the lighter, modern expression of cinsault a speciality. From the oldest block he works with, this shows some savoury development, and structure balanced by great freshness. Drink now to 2025. 11.5%

Ref SA20321 **B** **Ve**  
£25 bottle | £300 dozen

#### Taaibosch 'Crescendo', Stellenbosch 2019

Cabernet franc takes the lead in this refined Bordeaux-style blend from new star, Taaibosch. Its refined tannins are well balanced by fine oak handling (26% new), lovely fragrance and finesse. Drink now to 2032. 13.5%

Ref SA18991 **C**  
£26 bottle | £312 dozen

#### NEW

#### Minimalist 'No Place Like Home', Elgin 2021

Maiden release from a cool Elgin site that winemaker Sam Lambson started working with in 2020 with a focus on bringing out the natural spiciness of fine examples of the grape. Drink now to 2036. 13.5%

Ref SA19781 **C** †  
£27 bottle | £324 dozen

#### Van Loggerenberg 'Breton', Stellenbosch 2021

An elegant and beautiful expression of the cabernet franc grape in the cooler 2021 vintage, displaying classical aromas of pencil shavings and red fruits. Drink now to 2026. 13%

Ref SA19601 **C** **Ve** †  
£28.50 bottle | £342 dozen

#### Kanonkop Estate Pinotage, Simonsberg-Stellenbosch 2020

Kanonkop's expertise in dry-farmed old bush-vines, traditional vinification in open fermenters, and generous oaking is a given, and the estate pinotage is a wine to rely on, to have or to hold. Richly textured, with fresh berry fruit and a touch of spice. Drink now to 2034. 14%

Ref SA19931 **D** **Ve** †  
£30 bottle | £360 dozen

#### NEW

#### Muratic Estate Martin Melck Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Simonsberg-Stellenbosch 2020

From a single vineyard on this historic Simonsberg property comes a rich and impressive cabernet with classical tobacco and graphite notes and great length of flavour. Newly released, this wine is approachable now but will reward patience. Drink now to 2030. 14.5%

Ref SA20341 **D** **Ve**  
£33 bottle | £396 dozen

#### Bockenhoutskloof Cabernet Sauvignon, Stellenbosch 2018

Fruit sourced mostly from the Helderberg, increasingly sought-after for Bordeaux varieties, this is classically framed, with smart use of top-quality oak, and will repay keeping. Drink now to 2028. 14.5%

Ref SA18841 **D** **Ve** †  
£36.50 bottle | £438 dozen

#### NEW

#### Kaapzicht Estate Steytler Vision Cape Blend, Stellenbosch 2020

Not made every year, and one of the Cape's finest examples, majority pinotage, with 31% cabernet sauvignon and a splash of merlot. A wow wine on my last visit, this voluptuous red is dense and velvety yet beautifully balanced. Drink now to 2035. 14.5%

Ref SA19961 **D** **Ve**  
£49 bottle | £588 dozen

Daniel and Carin Steytler, the fourth generation of the family to run the Kaapzicht winery

**Whites**

**NEW**

**André Van Rensburg Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon, Stellenbosch 2021**

The maiden release of AvR's first white is, no surprise, a classically honed Bordeaux-style blend. Sauvignon-led, racy and mineral, with typical touch of lanolin, this will benefit from time in a decanter (or cellar). Drink now to 2027. 13.5%

Ref SA19361 **2** **Ve**  
£18 bottle | £216 dozen

**NEW**

**Kaapzicht Estate Kliprug Old Vine Certified Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch 2022**

The Kliprug vineyard was planted in 1982 and consistently delivers generous, textured fruit supported by a touch of chalky minerality and freshness, here topped with seductive lemon butter notes. Drink now to 2028. 13.5%

Ref SA19971 **2** **Ve**  
£18 bottle | £216 dozen

**NEW**

**Hogan Chardonnay, Cape Coast 2022**

A blend of cooler-climate Elandsloof with warmer Banghoek Valley fruit which marry beautifully to deliver a classical expression of the grape, with a touch of smokiness, and creamy texture supported by fine minerality. Drink now to 2027. 12%

Ref SA20331 **2**  
£23 bottle | £276 dozen

**Thistle & Weed 'Duwweltjie' Chenin Blanc, Paarl 2021**

From a windswept Certified Heritage vineyard planted in 1961, whose gnarled old vines bring both intensity and subtlety to the energy and structure of this impressive multi-layered chenin. Drink now to 2027. 13%

Ref SA19321 **2** **Ve** †  
£23 bottle | £276 dozen

**Newton Johnson Family Vineyards Chardonnay, Upper Hemel en Aarde Valley 2021**

Refined barrel-fermented chardonnay which blends fruit from three granite vineyard parcels whose differing aspects each add further complexity to the wine. Drink now to 2025. 13.5%

Ref SA20221 **2** **Ve** †  
£24.50 bottle | £294 dozen

**NEW**

**Old Road Wine Co. Grand-Mère Single Vineyard Semillon, Franschhoek 2021**

Extraordinary old-vine semillon from the celebrated La Colline vineyard which epitomises this grape's heritage in the Cape. It displays both concentration and finesse, with an uplifting streak of salinity, and great length on the palate. Drink now to 2027. 13%

Ref SA20181 **2**  
£24.50 bottle | £294 dozen

**Thistle and Weed 'Khakibos' Cape White Blend, Western Cape 2022**

Multi-regional, multi-variety blend of verdelho, chenin, palomino, alvarinho and fernão pires. Part is fermented on the skins, delivering a wine as multi-layered as its make-up, with refined texture and fresh minerality. Drink now to 2027. 13%

Ref SA20311 **2** **Ve** †  
£25 bottle | £300 dozen

**Botanica Mary Delany Collection Chenin Blanc, Citrusdal Mountain 2022**

Elegantly honed chenin from a high-altitude vineyard planted in 1960, labelled in tribute to the late Henk Laing who farmed it. 2022 delivered lower alcohol but the wine has plenty of substance, with typical citrus and fynbos aromas. Drink now to 2029. 13%

Ref SA20301 **2** **Ve** †  
£27 bottle | £324 dozen

**Sparkling & sweet**

**NEW**

**Pierre Jourdan Cap Classique Blanc de Blancs, Franschhoek 2017**

Made by Haute Cabrière, this is a refined bubbly, 100% chardonnay, with low dosage, lovely freshness and real precision. 12%

Ref SG3951 **2**  
£18.50 bottle | £222 dozen

**NEW**

**Half bottle of Delheim 'Edelspatz' Botrytis Riesling, Simonsberg-Stellenbosch 2021**

Naturally occurring botrytis is rare in the Cape but the old-vine certified 'Office' vineyard, planted in 1984, has it most years, producing a fresh, marmaladey nectar with soaring citrus and apricot flavours. Drink now to 2030. 12%

Ref SA20192 **8**  
£23 half bottle | £276 dozen



Acclaimed winemaker at Newton Johnson Family Vineyards, Gordon Newton Johnson

**MIXED CASE**

**SOUTH AFRICAN FINE WINE**

The very best of South African winemaking. A six-bottle case with one bottle of each of the following:

**REDS**

- Miles Mossop 'Max', Stellenbosch 2019
- Minimalist 'No Place Like Home', Elgin 2021
- Kanonkop Estate Pinotage, Simonsberg-Stellenbosch 2020

**WHITES**

- Thistle & Weed 'Duwweltjie' Chenin Blanc, Paarl 2021
- Newton Johnson Family Vineyards Chardonnay, Upper Hemel en Aarde Valley 2021
- Botanica Mary Delany Collection Chenin Blanc, Citrusdal Mountain 2022

Ref MX23174 | £153



# Ensuring the fair treatment of workers in our supply chain



Dom de Ville

Dom de Ville, our Director of Sustainability and Social Impact, breaks down some of the challenges around human rights and working conditions in the wine sector and what The Society is doing to tackle them.

Most of us don't spend much time thinking about the people involved in getting wine to our glasses. Planting, cultivating, harvesting, making and transporting all require time and skill from people who ensure we can enjoy our wine at its peak. Many of the faces behind these processes are largely unknown and the conditions they work in often unseen.

This was brought home to me by a vineyard manager at a recent dinner I attended. He had taken over a vineyard in southern England the previous summer and was shocked by the state of the seasonal workers brought in to pick grapes at harvest time. Originally from Nepal or Kazakhstan, they were driven to the vineyard in a minibus, they looked generally tired, dishevelled and poorly fed (despite the vineyard providing food and doing their best to look after them), then at the end of the day got back in the bus and disappeared.

While the use of seasonal workers is common practice in agriculture, the question he raised was 'How do I make sure we do this differently next year?'. With contracts and payment usually made directly with the labour agency

rather than the workers themselves, farmers often have no idea if the workers are paid and treated properly once they get back on the bus.

While this particular case was not a Wine Society supplier, it does highlight the risk of similar situations taking place in farms and vineyards across the globe, as well as close to home. Farmers need agricultural workers to harvest their crops, often within a very short timeframe when the fruit and veg is at its best. With the onset of climate change, the picking window is becoming harder and harder to predict. Farmers have also had to contend with the Covid-19 pandemic,

**'The rights and wellbeing of workers are often the first things to disappear'**

conflict in Europe and an economic downturn all affecting global migration patterns and availability of people to work.

In Europe, agency workers often come from countries such as Nepal, Romania and Kazakhstan to

find work – or they can also be migrants who have come to Europe to find a new life, legally or otherwise. The rights and wellbeing of these workers are often the first things to disappear when crops are in danger of being left in a field to rot and economic pressures are being felt in all areas of the supply chain.

It would be naive, therefore, to assume that The Society is immune to risks of human rights and labour issues existing in our supply chain. Exploitation and abuse are often hidden, happening in secret on farms and vineyards that have the best of intentions; a recent Oxfam report found around 1,500 cases of worker exploitation of varying degrees across four main winemaking regions in Italy.\*

## CREATING CHANGE

Given these urgent challenges, what are we doing at The Wine Society to tackle human rights issues in wine? Our ambitious aim is to have the world's most socially and environmentally sustainable wine supply chain by 2030, and we have already started to take active steps to make it happen. We take a zero-tolerance approach to any activity that violates human rights and it is our responsibility to prevent and mitigate the risk of such violations in our business and our supply chains. This is why we are putting such effort into our Responsible Sourcing programme.

Fortunately, we're starting from a good place. We have great relationships with our suppliers, and have been working with many of them for a long time. Our buyers visit their regions regularly and we have processes in place to conduct quality checks and in-person audits. We now want to apply a similar process



Paulina Gonzalez, an intern working at Schug winery in California. Schug often hires oenology and viticulture students, housing and mentoring them as part of the process.

and level of due diligence to social and environmental issues, talking to our suppliers about the people they employ, and how they are maintaining global standards.

To help with this, we have developed a Social and Environmental Code of Conduct and Human Rights Policy that outline our commitments and our expectations of suppliers. Suppliers sign up to our requirements which are based on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) foundations, which include:

- no forced labour, child labour or discrimination
- actively promoting worker representation and channels for reporting grievances
- decent standards of accommodation where provided
- living wages
- recognising the rights of local communities to clean air and water.

Our next step is to roll out a continuous improvement programme across our wine supply chain. This will involve conducting a human rights risk assessment, starting with our own-label wines, to identify where the greatest risk of human rights and labour issues lie and then working with those suppliers to prevent and mitigate them.

## A MODEL FOR SUCCESS

One of our suppliers who is tackling human rights and labour issues head on in Spain is Sumarroca, who produce The Society's Cava Reserva Brut.

Sumarroca partners with the Mercè Fontanilles Foundation in their scheme to give young migrants a solid footing. The scheme supports them with cultural and language lessons, as well as connecting them with companies like Sumarroca, where they work in the vineyards and winery while being encouraged in their professional development. They have been warmly welcomed (the cultural enrichment goes both ways) and prove to be a new stream of potential viticultural talent, perhaps creating vineyard managers of the future.



Johannes Albertus Petro, vineyard foreman at Kaapzicht in South Africa. Nicknamed 'Uncle Gert', he has worked there for more than 31 years.

Although we're still developing the best approach, this may include worker surveys whereby people in our supply chain can communicate directly with The Wine Society through accessible technology, independent audits and working with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to support suppliers and workers according to the local need.

The Society's approach is to work together with our suppliers, providing encouragement and support – rather than judging or penalising. This is the only way we can raise standards across the sector. It is also why we are researching how best to set up an online forum that will enable suppliers to more easily talk to each other, learn and share best practice.

We are about to roll out an independent whistleblowing line across our entire global supply chain. If any worker in our supply chain sees wrongdoing, they can phone the line, talk to someone in their language and report the incident, which will be investigated by The Society.

We are also supporting The Sustainable Wine Roundtable, a global collaborative platform for sustainability across the industry.

We want our members to know when they buy their wine from us, not only is the quality and price the best it can be, but that it is made responsibly, and by someone who is benefiting from a fair and sustainable wine industry.



Jo Locke  
MW

# A TALE OF TWO CITIES Portugal

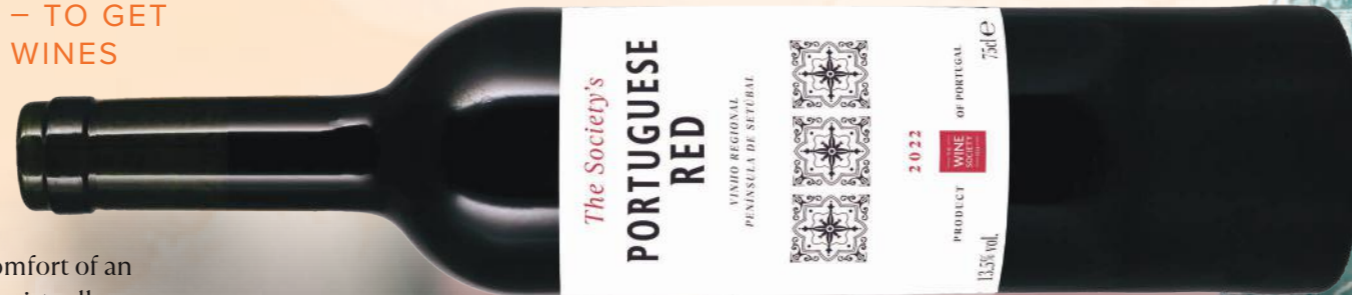
JO LOCKE MW DIVES IN TO PORTUGAL VIA TWO HUBS – LISBON AND PORTO – TO GET TO KNOW THE REGIONS AND THE WINES AROUND THESE CULTURAL AND OENOLOGICAL CENTRES

Our Portuguese journey continues! So many of us have enjoyed exploring the ‘new Portugal’ in the past few years, whether that be from the comfort of an armchair during lockdown, feet on the ground, or virtually, through the increasing number of Portuguese wines we are seeing here in the UK, and that appetite continues. Portugal is busy rolling out its new programme of sustainable wine production across all regions, making it an even more appealing wine producer to buy from in the future.

Most of us travelling to Portugal arrive via the two main cities of Porto and Lisbon, both wonderful destinations in their own right, and both gateways, including to the rich and varied wine regions of inland Portugal and the Atlantic coast.

Go in via Lisbon and you are within striking distance of the key regions of Alentejo, Lisboa, Setúbal, and Tejo, with numerous more esoteric and fine wine regions along the way. I’ve been loving the new wines passing across The Wine Society tasting bench, and I am continuing to explore the warm south of Portugal, notably the regions of Alentejo and Setúbal. Indeed, our Society’s Portuguese red has been such a popular addition that we take the opportunity here to explore the Setúbal region, and the warm south, a little further.

Arrive in Porto and from there not only can you enjoy the wine lodges and World of Wine in Vila Nova da Gaia, but you can travel easily inland up the River Douro, north to the Minho and Vinho Verde country, or south and east to Bairrada and Dão.



## VIA PORTO

### Reds

NEW

#### Esporão Murças Assobio, Douro 2021

Esporão has its own vineyards in the Douro and the wines are certified organic from this vintage. A fragrant, silky-textured red with the minerality that comes from higher-altitude vineyards. Drink now to 2025. 13%

Ref PW10191 **C**

£11.50 bottle | £138 dozen

NEW

#### Rui Madeira Beyra Reserva Tinto, Beira Interior 2021

A beautifully perfumed blend of local tinta roriz (tempranillo) and jaen (mencía) from cool, high-altitude vineyards in north-eastern Portugal, close to the border with Spain, with well-judged use of oak. Drink now to 2026. 14.5%

Ref PW10361 **D**

£19.50 bottle | £234 dozen



LISBON

#### Quinta do Crasto Vinhas Velhas Reserva, Douro 2020

Dense and velvety old-vine red from one of the great red wine estates in the Douro. Rich, heady, dark fruit is complemented by present but well-managed fine tannins. Drink now to 2035. 14.5%

Ref PW10271 **D** **Ve** †

£30.50 bottle | £366 dozen

NEW

#### Quinta da Pedra Escrita, Douro 2019

Made by Rui Madeira and certified organic, this fine red is beautifully fragrant, with wonderful freshness and energy for all its concentration. Drink now to 2029. 14.5%

Ref PW10371 **D** **O**

£31 bottle | £372 dozen



PORTO



## GET TO KNOW THE GRAPES OF PORTUGAL

Portugal's 250-plus native grape varieties can prove unfamiliar, even to the most seasoned wine drinker. Here are some of the key grapes to look out for around our two hubs:

- **Encruzado (white)** – Dão's most prized white grape variety which offers delicacy and complexity. Fresh and fragrant in its youth, it also has the potential to age very well.
- **Arinto (white)** – an adaptable grape grown in many regions across Portugal but perhaps most successfully in the areas near Lisbon. Fresh with citrus acidity and green-apple flavours.
- **Castelão (red)** – one of the most widely planted varieties, particularly in the south (including Setúbal) where it is often called periquita, making fleshy, fruity, sometimes gamey reds for short or long-term keeping.
- **Touriga nacional (red)** – the backbone of many Ports and now appreciated for the quality of its red wines too. Small grapes give a high concentration of colour, extract, sweetness, and aroma, which can make it ideal for longer term ageing.
- **Tinta roriz/aragonez/aragonês (red)** – known as tinta roriz in northern Portugal, aragonez/ês in the south and tempranillo in Spain, this is one of the principal red grapes prized for its rich tannins and aromatic, raspberry, red-fruit flavour.





## MIXED CASES

### PORTO AND LISBON INSPIRATION CASE

Discover the wines from beyond these two wonderful cities in a 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:

#### REDS

- The Society's Portuguese Red, Península de Setúbal 2022
- Casa Ermelinda Freitas Dona Ermelinda, Palmela 2021
- Mola Tinto, Península de Setúbal 2021
- Alves Vieira, Alentejano 2022
- Esporão Murças Assobio, Douro 2021
- Herdade do Rocim, Alentejano 2021

#### WHITES

- The Society's Vinho Verde 2022
- Casa Ermelinda Freitas 'Sino Grande', Península de Setúbal 2022
- Esporão Monte Velho, Alentejano 2022
- Fonte do Ouro, Dão 2022
- Coelheiros Branco, Alentejo 2022
- Quinta da Romeira 'Prova Régia' Arinto, Bucelas 2022

Ref MX23175 | £121

### PORTUGAL FINE WINE CASE

Six of the most delicious Portuguese bottles with one bottle of each of the following:

#### REDS

- Rui Madeira Beyra Reserva Tinto, Beira Interior 2021
- Quinta do Crasto Vinhas Velhas Reserva, Douro 2020
- Quinta da Pedra Escrita, Douro 2019

#### WHITES

- Quinta da Romeira 'Prova Régia' Arinto, Bucelas 2022
- Crasto Superior, Douro 2021
- Quinta da Pedra Alta Reserva, Douro 2020

Ref MX23176 | £136

PORTO CONTINUED

## Whites

### The Society's Vinho Verde 2022

Now sporting its smart new label, this is a classic example of this light and easy-drinking style from northern Portugal, with delicate spritz and a bright, fresh palate. 12%

Ref PW9991 2 S

£7.25 bottle | £87 dozen

**NEW**

### Fonte do Ouro, Dão 2022

Particularly good with fish and seafood, this is a fresh and adaptable dry white made from local encruzado and arinto grape varieties. Drink this year and next. 13%

Ref PW10351 2 Ve

£10.95 bottle | £131 dozen

### Crasto Superior, Douro 2022

Altitude is key to the freshness in this verdelho-viosinho blend from the hot, dry Douro Superior. Barrel-fermented and matured in French oak for six months, this has a lovely creamy texture supported by a fine seam of acidity. Drink now to 2027. 12%

Ref PW10391 2 Ve †

£17 bottle | £204 dozen

### Quinta da Pedra Alta Reserva, Douro 2020

A wine in only its third vintage, majority viosinho for its affinity with the older oak barrels used here, with the addition of gouveio for freshness and a touch of tropical fruit. Drink now to 2028. 12.5%

Ref PW10091 2 Ve

£22.50 bottle | £270 dozen

### Niepoort Conciso Branco, Dão 2019

Elegantly barrel-fermented Dão white with saline freshness accompanying aromas of white flowers, citrus and beeswax, and typically firm backbone of acidity. Drink now to 2027. 12%

Ref PW9981 2 Ve

£25 bottle | £300 dozen

## Fortified

### Fonseca Guimaraens Vintage Port 2008

Guimaraens, often mistaken for a single quinta Port, is in fact the fruit of three properties, made when a classic Fonseca Vintage Port is not declared, more approachable in its youth but still with good ageing potential. The 2008 is still vigorous, dark and rich. Drink now to 2038. 20.5%

Ref PT2711 7 Ve

£28 bottle | £336 dozen



## Reds

### The Society's Portuguese Red, Península de Setúbal 2022

From family-owned Casa Ermelinda Freitas, southeast of Lisbon, this friendly red combines local castelão, which is all juicy red fruits, with Alicante Bouschet which brings darker black fruit and fleshiness. 13.5%

Ref PW10031 C Ve

£6.25 bottle | £75 dozen

### Casa Ermelinda Freitas Dona Ermelinda, Palmela 2021

From the sandy soils of Setúbal, with cabernet sauvignon and touriga nacional providing extra colour, structure and breadth of dark fruit to complement the sweeter fruit and texture of castelão. 14%

Ref PW10251 D Ve †

£8.75 bottle | £105 dozen

**NEW**

### Mola Tinto, Península de Setúbal 2021

A juicy, sweet-fruited red made from local touriga nacional blended with syrah, which has settled so well in southern Portugal. 13.5%

Ref PW10341 C Ve

£9.25 bottle | £111 dozen

**NEW**

### Alves Vieira, Alentejano 2022

Made by the team at Rocim, a smooth, succulent blend of traditional local grape varieties Alicante Bouschet, trincadeira and castelão. 14%

Ref PW10401 D

£9.50 bottle | £114 dozen



### Herdade do Rocim, Alentejano 2021

From the Vidigueira sub region's granite and schist soils, a fragrant blend of touriga nacional, Alicante Bouschet and aragonez, with pure bright fruit, silky texture and freshness. Drink now to 2025. 14%

Ref PW9871 D Ve

£12.95 bottle | £155 dozen

## Whites

### Casa Ermelinda Freitas 'Sino Grande', Península de Setúbal 2022

Deliciously light and aromatic blend of local grapes fernaõ pires, antão vaz and verdelho, versatile and cracking value. 12.5%

Ref PW10311 2 Ve †

£7.75 bottle | £93 dozen

### Esporão Monte Velho, Alentejano 2022

A favourite and delicious blend of indigenous grapes typical of the warm Alentejo region, fresh and easy to drink on its own, and super-versatile at the table. 13%

Ref PW10141 2 S

£8.95 bottle | £107 dozen

### Coelheiros Branco, Alentejo 2022

Certified organic from this vintage, this handsomely presented dry white owes its purity and freshness to the arinto grape which retains its acidity even in the heat of the Alentejo region. Drink now to 2026. 13.5%

Ref PW10331 1 Ve † O

£12.50 bottle | £150 dozen



### Quinta da Romeira 'Prova Régia' Arinto, Bucelas 2022

From an old property restored by winemaking giant Sogrape and made from arinto, whose life-affirming acidity carries the delicate green-apple and white floral perfume and flavour onto the palate. Drink now to 2025. 13%

Ref PW10291 1 V †

£15.50 bottle | £186 dozen

## Rosé

**NEW**

### Coelheiros Rosé, Alentejo 2022

Syrah makes delicious rosé all over the world and the Alentejo region is no exception. Beautifully presented, certified organic, partially fermented in barrel for extra depth and texture, this is a well-upholstered pink for the table. Drink this year and next. 13%

Ref PW10261 2 Ve O

£12.95 bottle | £155 dozen

## Fortified

**NEW**

### Bacalhõa Moscatel de Setúbal 2019

Packed in its own gift carton, this is a beautifully presented fortified muscat, a speciality of the Setúbal peninsula. Naturally concentrated in cask to develop caramelised citrus and apricot aromas, lifted by hints of mint and rosemary. Drink now to 2030. 17%

Ref PW10221 8 S

£12.95 bottle | £155 dozen



**Château La Croix d'Hourquet, Bordeaux 2021**

A soft, round and easy-drinking petit château claret delivering plenty of Bordeaux character at a very fair price. 12.5%

Ref CB6751 **B**  
£6.95 bottle | £83 dozen



**Gentleman Vigneron Merlot, IGP Atlantique 2020**

With bags of ripe merlot fruit and rounded tannins, this is a brand new wine from the Furt family's vineyards at Grave de Bertin. Vibrant unoaked Bordeaux red. 14%

Ref CB6401 **C**  
£7.95 bottle | £95 dozen



**Casa Ferreirinha Esteva, Douro 2021**

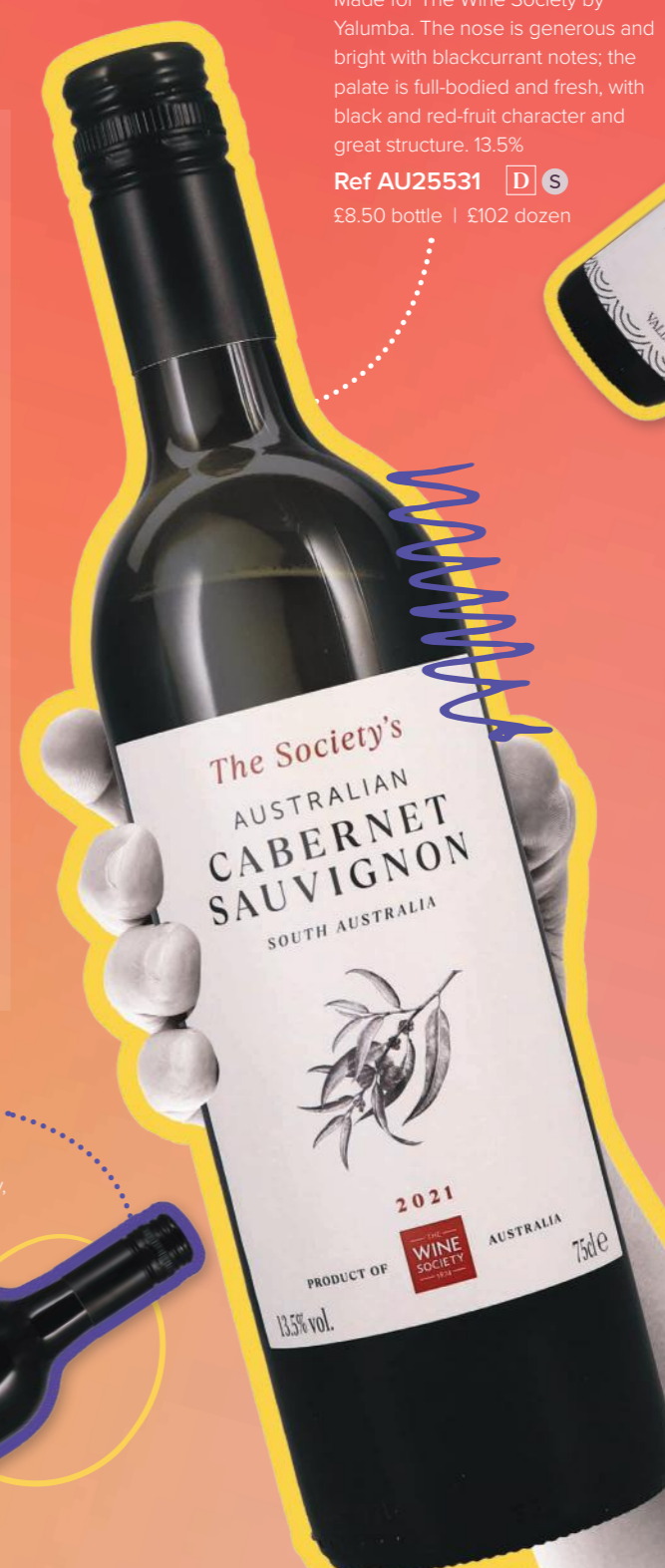
Modern Douro red from one of the giants of the industry. With fresh red and black fruits and a smooth, fragrant palate, this is a simple and easy anytime red. 12.5%

Ref PW10411 **B S Ve**  
£8.50 bottle | £102 dozen

**The Society's Australian Cabernet Sauvignon 2021**

Made for The Wine Society by Yalumba. The nose is generous and bright with blackcurrant notes; the palate is full-bodied and fresh, with black and red-fruit character and great structure. 13.5%

Ref AU25531 **D S**  
£8.50 bottle | £102 dozen



**Salice Salentino Riserva, Vallone 2020**

Generous, intense, blackcurrant-infused Puglian red from old, bush-trained negroamaro vines on Vallone's San Pacrazio vineyard, softened by time in old oak barrels. 13.5%

Ref IT38191 **C Ve**  
£8.75 bottle | £105 dozen



TWENTY REDS

UNDER £10

AUTUMNAL REDS TO ENJOY THIS SEASON

**Saint-Chinian, Domaine Raynier 2022**

Great-value, full-bodied and fruity blend of grenache and syrah that is soft and easy to drink. 14%

Ref FC44871 **C S Ve**  
£7.50 bottle | £90 dozen



**Merlot, Pays d'Oc, Domaine du Bosc 2022**

There is a lovely sense of balance in this soft, juicy merlot from the Languedoc. The fruit is ripe and generous yet there is freshness and a certain grace. 14.5%

Ref FC44781 **C S Ve**  
£7.95 bottle | £95 dozen



**The Society's Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo 2021**

From a high quality, coolish vintage in Chile, this is impressive cedary, fine-flavoured, partially oak-matured cabernet offering excellent value for money. 14%

Ref CE12351 **D**  
£7.95 bottle | £95 dozen



**The Society's Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2021**

This much-loved Montepulciano has ripe-cherry and strawberry perfume, a pure fruit richness and a refreshing finish. 13.5%

Ref IT35901A1 **C P**  
£7.95 bottle | £95 dozen

**The Society's Australian Shiraz 2020**

Wonderfully vibrant, bold, generous and fruity, with flavours of black cherry, blueberry and blackberry. 14%

Ref AU24751 **D S**  
£8.95 bottle | £107 dozen



**Kékfrankos, Feind 2022**

Kékfrankos is Hungary's finest red grape and this is a pure, lightly oaked example from the shores of Lake Balaton. Cherries, strawberries and a light cedar spice characterise this light, juicy red wine best served lightly chilled. 12.5%

Ref HU2061 **B S †**  
£8.95 bottle | £107 dozen

**Aglianico del Vulture, Le Ralle 2019**

Made from the aglianico grape on volcanic southern slopes, with a perfumed nose of fig and black-cherry fruit, tobacco and violets. A medium-bodied wine with firm tannins and a long finish. 13%

Ref **IT34281** **C** **Ve**  
 £9.25 bottle | £111 dozen



**Mitravelas 'Red on Black' Agiorgitiko 2022**

A generous fruit-forward agiorgitiko from Nemea that's bursting with red fruits and violets on the nose, with a supple, spicy palate. A perfect anyday Greek wine and a winner with pizza or a barbeque. 13.5%

Ref **GR2761** **D** **Ve**  
 £9.50 bottle | £114 dozen



**Finca Muñoz Coleccion de la Familia Tempranillo, Castilla 2020**

A big, bold and deeply coloured red that expresses the warmth and ripeness of the Spanish heat in La Mancha. Blackberry and spice are enhanced with toasty oak notes. 14.5%

Ref **SP18841** **D** **Ve**  
 £9.50 bottle | £114 dozen



**Stift Klosterneuburg St Laurent 2020**

From Austria's oldest winery, founded in 1114. The native St Laurent grape has been made into a beautifully juicy and sour-cherry-laden wine with upfront fruit, medium body and notes of tobacco leaf. 13%

Ref **AA4181** **C** **S** **Ve**  
 £9.50 bottle | £114 dozen



**Saint-Pourçain Rouge La Réserve Spéciale, Vignerons de Saint-Pourçain 2020**

Medium-bodied blend of majority gamay with pinot noir, with red berry and light, spiced cherry-fruit flavour, finishing on a more savoury note with a touch of oak sweetness. 13.5%

Ref **LO17901** **C** **S**  
 £9.75 bottle | £117 dozen



**The Society's California Old-Vine Zinfandel 2021**

A classic California zinfandel, with cherry cola on the nose, fresh strawberry and tart red cherries coming through on the full, soft palate and a hint of vanilla on the finish. 14.5%

Ref **US11251** **D** **S**  
 £9.25 bottle | £111 dozen



**Papa Luna Garnacha-Syrah-Mazuelo, Calatayud 2020**

A big, rich, plump and peppery Spanish red for lip-smacking chorizo nibbles or flame-grilled peppers. 15%

Ref **SP17911** **D** **Ve**  
 £9.50 bottle | £114 dozen



**Château Freyneau Le Second, Bordeaux Supérieur 2020**

A satisfyingly ripe, plummy claret made from 95% merlot and 5% cabernet franc. Produced sustainably and aged for 18 months in stainless-steel tanks to ensure maximum fruit expression. 14.5%

Ref **CB6771** **D**  
 £9.95 bottle | £119 dozen



**Pisano Progreso Tannat Reserve 2022**

Fresh, floral, blackberry-scented Uruguayan tannat, with a balanced palate, not dry or hard, but with Atlantic freshness and brambly flavour. It's an exclusive wine blended for The Wine Society. 13.5%

Ref **UR561** **C** **Ve**  
 £9.95 bottle | £119 dozen



**MIXED CASES**

**AUTUMN REDS UNDER £10**

A mixed case to stock your rack this season. A 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:

- Château La Croix d'Hourquet, Bordeaux 2021
- Saint-Chinian, Domaine Raynier 2022
- Gentleman Vigneron Merlot, IGP Atlantique 2020
- The Society's Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo 2021
- Merlot, Pays d'Oc, Domaine du Bosc 2022
- The Society's Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2021
- Casa Ferreirinha Esteva, Douro 2021
- The Society's Australian Cabernet Sauvignon 2021
- The Society's Australian Shiraz 2020
- The Society's California Old-Vine Zinfandel 2021
- Finca Muñoz Coleccion de la Familia Tempranillo, Castilla 2020
- Stift Klosterneuburg St Laurent 2020

Ref **MX23177** | £100

**REDS UNDER £10 EXPLORATION CASE**

Get even better value by exploring less obvious bottles – discover more with this case of wines from off the beaten track. A six-bottle case with one bottle of each of the following:

- Kékfrankos, Feind 2022
- Aglianico del Vulture, Le Ralle 2019
- Mitravelas 'Red on Black' Agiorgitiko 2022
- Papa Luna Garnacha-Syrah-Mazuelo, Calatayud 2020
- Saint-Pourçain Rouge La Réserve Spéciale, Vignerons de Saint-Pourçain 2020
- Pisano Progreso Tannat Reserve 2022

Ref **MX23178** | £56

# Bistro Classics



Sometimes the tastiest dishes really are the simplest. With straightforward recipes, classic ingredients and rustic charm, French bistro cuisine is the perfect choice for effortless food and wine matching at home. *Tim Sykes* chooses the accompanying wines for easygoing enjoyment and *Steve Farrow* suggests two dishes so simple they barely require a recipe.

There is something very satisfying about informal, uncomplicated dining in France. Whilst white tablecloth restaurants are an occasional treat when I'm on buying trips, I derive just as much pleasure from a bistro meal. You can't beat simple, well-executed staples like quiche lorraine, salade niçoise, rillettes de porc, entrecôte-frites and poulet rôti in relaxed, 'un-starchy' surroundings. And the same goes for the accompanying wine. The traditional way of serving wines in bistros was by the *pichet* (jug) or *carafe*. A local wine would arrive at the

table along with basic glass tumblers. Things have moved on somewhat in recent years, and it's rare to be served wine in such simple stemware today, but the local bistro wine lives on. Here I have picked out a selection of the kind of wines from our range that are traditionally served by the *carafe* in bistros across France. We also include a couple of bistro 'classics' recipes for you to try alongside the wines. Vive le bistro français!

*Tim Sykes*

## BEAUJOLAIS

Tim has chosen two very different styles of Beaujolais, but both will prove a beautiful bistro-style match for chicken. The Fleurie would be a very fitting partner to a traditional coq au vin (or any chicken casserole made with red wine) or fuller-flavoured poultry like guinea fowl. For an instant bistro experience at home, open the Beaujolais-Villages (served in Tim's 'basic glass tumblers' for authenticity!) with a shop-bought rotisserie chicken, oven fries and a tangily dressed frisée salad.



### Château de Lacarelle, Beaujolais-Villages 2021

Perfumed and fresh, this is a lovely example of the open, inviting Beaujolais style, full of uncomplicated charm. Drink this year and next. 12%

Ref BJ9431 C Ve

£10.50 bottle | £126 dozen



### Fleurie, Domaine la Portelle 2017

A fully mature Fleurie from an impeccable source which we snapped up recently. This was aged in small wooden barrels, and is now showing Burgundy-like mellowness. Smooth and satisfying. Drink this year and next. 13%

Ref BJ9461 C Ve

£11.95 bottle | £143 dozen

## PROVENCE AND BORDEAUX BLANC

Although the rosé is more regionally appropriate, both of these crisp, fresh wines are perfect partners for a light but punchy salade niçoise. Originating from the city of Nice, there is Gallic heated debate about the historically authentic ingredients, and thus it lends itself to an easy dish using what you might have in the kitchen. Steve Farrow has written his favourite version of this bistro classic, a timely choice for any September sunshine and juicy late-season tomatoes.



### Dourthe No 1 Sauvignon Blanc, Bordeaux 2022

From Dourthe, pioneers of modern Bordeaux sauvignon, comes this fresh white showing aromatic complexity and charming fruit. 12.5%

Ref BW7441 2 Ve

£9.25 bottle | £111 dozen



### Côtes de Provence Rosé, Merle, Château Pas de Cerf 2022

Stylish, well presented and utterly delicious, this Provence rosé is made from mostly grenache with cinsault and tibouren in support. This tastes dry and fruity with a hint of redcurrant and citrus. Drink now to 2025. 13%

Ref FC44361 2 Ve

£12.95 bottle | £155 dozen



## SALADE NIÇOISE

*Who needs the sun?*

We'll happily espouse the cause of rosé all year round. Match it with lighter dishes (like this salade niçoise) to evoke a classic French summer even in the colder months.

### Recipe:

Salade niçoise is the epitome of Provençal sunshine eating. Like all classic recipes the ingredients list polarises opinion, like the merits of tuna – tinned or fresh? – or anchovies or both (get thee behind me anchovies as far as I'm concerned).

Potatoes, green beans or podded broad beans and cucumber are all examples of contentious ingredients, but what is de rigeur with everyone are chopped lettuce, soft-set hard-boiled eggs and, of course, sweet, ripe tomatoes, salty black olives and the gentle bite of something oniony.

I think a vinaigrette of red wine vinegar and fruity olive oil is the perfect thing to set off the fresh but punchy flavours, with just a little garlic rubbed around the bowl beforehand, with torn basil leaves a delight too.

*Steve Farrow*

# TARTE À L'OIGNON

**Recipe:**

The doyenne of Francophile food writers, Elizabeth David, is an inspiration for the benchmark version of this luscious treat of a tart.

Gently fry lots of sliced onions in butter until soft and golden, cool and mix with a couple of large beaten eggs, a large handful of grated gruyère cheese and, departing again from the redoubtable Mrs David's lead, 300ml of double cream.

Line a tart tin with shortcrust pastry and fill with the mixture. Bake in a moderate oven for 20 to 30 minutes until golden on top with a slight but perceptible wobble in the middle. Eat it just barely warm for simple luxury.

*Steve Farrow*



## ALSACE AND BEAUJOLAIS BLANC

Both these wines will pair beautifully with creamy or cheese-filled dishes, with enough weight to stand up to those flavours plus a refreshing acidity to add contrast. Open with a generous cheese selection, an easy Croque Monsieur or any grilled cheese sandwich, or with Steve Farrow's tip for the ultimate bistro comfort food – a warm homemade onion tart.



### Domaine des Côteaux de Font Curé, Beaujolais Villages Blanc 2022

White Beaujolais isn't seen very often in the UK but this is a delight. With a pale colour and attractive, clean-cut chardonnay fruit on the palate, it's a wine that would make a lovely refreshing alternative to a Mâcon-Villages from Burgundy. Drink this year and next. 12.5%

**Ref BJ9871** 2 Ve  
£12.50 bottle | £150 dozen



### Pinot Blanc, Trimbach 2021

The usual blend of auxerrois and pinot blanc, bright and delicate aromatically, with creamy texture and refreshing finish. Drink now to 2025. 13%

**Ref AL16771** 2 S Ve  
£14.50 bottle | £174 dozen

## LOIRE

The reds Tim has selected from the Loire will turn a supper of rillettes or a rustic pâté from a good deli into a French feast. Add a crusty loaf, some cold salted butter and a typical accompaniment of grated carrots in a vinaigrette or celeriac remoulade (finely cut batons in a mustardy dressing). Lamb chops cooked simply with some rosemary also make a lovely bistro dish for cabernet franc.



### Saumur Rouge, 'Les Plantagenêts' Cabernet Franc 2021

Altogether lighter and fresher in the new vintage, a return to a more classic Loire style, with pure red fruits and a clean, fresh finish. 12.5%

**Ref LO17721** B Ve  
£9.25 bottle | £111 dozen



### Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil 'Les Cailloux', Famille Bougrier 2022

Cabernet franc with a fresh berry and violet perfume. This is an easy-drinking brasserie-style red from a good vintage in the Loire Valley, with pure bright fruit that really shines when served cool. Drink now to 2025. 12.5%

**Ref LO18071** 2 P V  
£10.95 bottle | £131 dozen

## RHÔNE

Lyon, capital of the Rhône-Alpes region, is famous for its sausages. These Rhône reds would both be delicious with charcuterie like a Rosette de Lyon, or for something more substantial, pair with a dish of sausage and lentils. Cook any robust, full-flavoured sausage, and serve on top of puy lentils (or other dark lentils) braised in stock and dressed with olive oil and a splash of red wine vinegar.



### Côtes-du-Rhône, Domaine Jaume 2021

Three generations of the Jaume family farm some 200 acres of vineyard in the village of Vinsobres. The climate here is influenced by Alpine foothills so that cooling breezes play on the vines, preserving fresh fruit flavours in the wines. Easy-drinking, yet full-flavoured and food friendly. Buy now to enjoy a supplier-supported saving. 13.5%

**Ref RH65231** D Ve  
£9.50 bottle | £104 special dozen price

**SAVE £10 PER DOZEN**



### Ventoux Les Traverses, Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2021

A grenache-dominated red from the lower slopes of the Mont Ventoux in the Rhône, this is very fruity and ripe but with a feeling of freshness on the finish, and yet generous and long. 14.5%

**Ref RH65141** D Ve  
£9.50 bottle | £114 dozen

## BORDEAUX

While Tim has chosen a left and right bank bottle, both these wines are majority merlot and can also be drunk with similar dishes to great effect. For the classic claret match, it's got to be steak; try a traditional Entrecôte Bordelaise. Soften some finely chopped shallots with thyme in the pan in which you cooked your steak, add red wine and butter, season and reduce until glossy. An easy salad of watercress or lamb's lettuce will set this off well, plus frites or garlicky sautéed potatoes.



### Château Cap L'Ousteau, Haut-Médoc 2019

An appealing, very well-priced claret from vines located in the Lamarque commune, between Margaux and Saint-Julien. The wine displays the hallmark balance and freshness of the vintage. This is the second wine of Château du Cartillon. 13%

**Ref CM30061** C  
£9.75 bottle | £117 dozen



### Château Jamard Belcour, Lussac Saint-Emilion 2018

A polished and fragrant merlot-based claret from the satellite Saint-Emilion commune of Lussac. Displays soft tannins and a long, chocolatey finish. Drink now to 2025. 13.5%

**Ref CS12691** C  
£13.95 bottle | £167 dozen

# Malbec



Toby Morrhall

## ANOTHER LEVEL

TOBY MORRHALL EXPLAINS HOW TERROIR, MATURATION AND BLENDING ARE CONTRIBUTING EVER MORE COMPLEXITY TO ARGENTINE MALBEC

There are many facets to malbec. It responds to terroir, and the cool Valle de Uco produces wines with a distinctive flavour and structure. Our own-label wines are interregional blends which create a consistently satisfying result. Weinert's characteristic style derives from extensive barrel maturation, and some of their malbecs are blended with other varieties.

'Another superb wine, from Teho...Very deep crimson. Lusciously, gorgeously sweetly fruited with great structure'

JANCIS ROBINSON MW



### MIXED CASE

#### MALBEC: ANOTHER LEVEL

The case to prove there's more to malbec. A six-bottle case with one bottle of each of the following:

- The Society's Argentine Malbec 2022
- Quimay Valle de Uco Malbec 2020
- Weinert Carrascal Malbec 2020
- The Society's Exhibition Mendoza Malbec 2021
- Weinert Carrascal Corte Tinto Mendoza 2019
- Quimay Valle de Uco La Consulta Malbec 2022

Ref MX23179 | £70

### SOCIETY WINES

We blend between regions, often combining Valle de Uco malbecs for aroma and freshness with more power from warmer sites such as Agrelo, varying the blend according to the vintage. These two wines are among the best we have made.



#### The Society's Argentine Malbec 2022

This is ripe and plummy with a soft and velvety palate. 85% Valle de Uco and 15% Agrelo. The new label illustrates a typical sheepskin-covered Gaucho saddle. 13.5%

Ref AR4851 D S Ve †  
£8.95 bottle | £107 dozen



#### The Society's Exhibition Mendoza Malbec 2021

This wine combines an aromatic, floral nose with a ripe and concentrated yet fresh palate rounded out by 15 months' oak maturation. 60% Valle de Uco, 40% Agrelo. Drink now to 2029. 14%

Ref AR4801 D  
£12.50 bottle | £150 dozen

### WEINERT WINES: MELLOWED BY LONG MATURATION

Weinert age their wines in large, old, oak barrels (*toneles*) of 2,000-6,000 litres for up to nine and a half years, transforming the simple, brash, fruity aromas and firm structure of youth to gentle, mature, mellow wines with a complex and comforting register of flavours including leather and tobacco aromas and sweet tannins on the palate. Their Carrascal Corte Tinto and Cavas wines are blends. The soft and fleshy malbec benefits from the firm structure of cabernet sauvignon and the spice of merlot.

#### Weinert Carrascal Corte Tinto Mendoza 2019

A lovely blend of 45% malbec, 35% cabernet sauvignon, and 20% merlot kept in toneles until mellow and round. Mature, forest floor aromas and polished tannins. Drink now to 2027. 14%

Ref AR4661 D Ve  
£12.50 bottle | £150 dozen

#### Weinert Carrascal Luján de Cuyo Malbec 2020

Big, round and fruity malbec matured 18 months in toneles until tannins are sweet and soft. It comes from Finca Besares in Luján de Cuyo, a small 8ha vineyard located in Chacras de Coria planted circa 1950. Drink now to 2027. 14.5%

Ref AR4691 D Ve  
£13.50 bottle | £162 dozen



#### Weinert Cavas de Weinert Mendoza 2011

Traditional-style wine, a blend of 40% malbec, 40% cabernet sauvignon and 20% merlot, aged in toneles for nine-and-a-half years until soft and round. With soothing, mature notes of tobacco, cedar and leather, this has some similarities with Musar and Rioja reservas but with its own Argentine twist. Drink now to 2030. 14.5%

Ref AR4421 D Ve  
£25 bottle | £300 dozen

### VALLE DE UCO: THE SECRET IS OUT

Situated 40 miles south west of the city of Mendoza, this valley is producing some of Argentina's best wines yet it is little known. Grown in the cool Valle de Uco, malbec has more floral aromas, superior freshness and a greater intensity of flavour than when planted in warmer areas. Limestone soils in the Paraje Altamira and La Consulta subregions contribute extra structure and length to the palate. There is a long history of viticulture in the Valle de Uco but its name rarely appeared on labels. Indeed, some of the names of its subregions were trademarked until recently. But the secret is out now!

#### Quimay Valle de Uco Malbec 2020

Aromatic floral wine, concentrated on the palate but not heavy. It was matured for 12 months in 15% new oak. 80% was French oak and 20% American. 14%

Ref AR4581A1 C S Ve  
£9.95 bottle | £119 dozen

#### Quimay Valle de Uco La Consulta Reserve Malbec 2022

Made from a 30-year-old vineyard in the very cool La Consulta subregion, at 1,100 metres. Fine violet-scented aromas and a red and black fruit palate which is ripe yet fresh. Drink now to 2028. 14%

Ref AR4791 C Ve  
£13.95 bottle | £167 dozen



#### Zaha Toko Vineyard Paraje Altamira Malbec 2019

The silty and limestone soils in the Altamira subregion give an exquisite, fine-grained texture and produce a sensual silky palate. Drink now to 2030. 13.5%

Ref AR4591 C  
£21 bottle | £252 dozen

#### LTU La Consulta Malbec 2018

Fine, firm malbec from an excellent year, matured for 28 months in barrel, of which 30% were new. Drink now to 2032. 14%

Ref AR4531 D  
£38 bottle | £456 dozen



#### Teho Tomaal Vineyard La Consulta Malbec 2018

Made from a vineyard planted in 1940, this is dense, powerful and structured malbec yet the tannins are soft and sweet and the fruit is generous and welcoming. Drink now to 2033. 13.5%

Ref AR4571 C Ve  
£46 bottle | £552 dozen

Two of our buyers, Freddy Bulmer and Pierre Mansour, each take a side and write enthusiastic (and sometimes tongue-in-cheek) arguments for and against the use of oak in winemaking

Pierre Mansour



**TO OAK...**

'There's no such thing as over-oaked wine, just under-wined oak' is the motto of a well-known barrel broker in the US who over the years helped introduce The Wine Society to some of California's best wine producers. His perspective is compelling and one which I believe holds true in the debate on oak use in wine.

First, let's start with the facts. Oak is used widely in winemaking because it has a natural affinity with wine and offers a variety of functional benefits. Not least it is a practical way to store wine. But more importantly the use of oak adds flavour complexity, improves mouthfeel and softens tannin. There are many variables: the type of oak (French, American or Eastern European), the size, the age and the time the wine spends in oak. New oak brings its own flavour to wine, one that is admired by many wine drinkers, whether it be notes of vanilla, spice or coconut. There are alternatives to oak barrels, such as oak staves or chips, which will contribute the oaky flavour but these can sometimes be quite coarse and unintegrated.

**'Oak barrels facilitate a slow, gentle oxygenation of the wine, which enhances texture'**

The key though is 'the use of oak' because it takes skill and experience to achieve this successfully, to ensure that oak is bringing something additional to the quality and taste, and not overwhelming a wine. Just like in cooking, a chef can master the use of chilli but an amateur can easily overdo spicing, masking any of the flavour of the raw ingredients. Rioja is the archetypal example of oak ageing – bodegas like La Rioja Alta, CVNE and Muga are masters of this – yet the ageing requirements in Rioja (crianza, reserva, gran reserva) make no reference to wine quality. Top producers like these always reserve the very best grapes and wine to support extensive ageing in barrel. No risk here of under-wined oak.

Another benefit of oak barrels – new or old – is they facilitate a slow, gentle oxygenation of the wine, which enhances palate texture. In Alsace large old wooden casks are used by many producers for precisely this reason. The time in oak also results in a brighter, clearer and more stable wine, deepening the colour and avoiding the need for filtration. In many ways it is the most natural way to do this; it just takes patience!

Freddy Bulmer



**...NOT TO OAK!**

While many winemakers have a love affair with oak barrels, and often for good reason, they aren't always the best option. Many of the most pure, vibrant and refreshing wines in the world are completely unoaked, and it's thanks to the inert vessel used in their production that the fruit flavours and crisp acidity are allowed to shine through in a pristine and unadulterated way.

One of the greatest developments in winemaking technology is the stainless-steel tank: temperature control at the press of a button, easy to clean, no impact on the flavours. Concrete eggs are also fantastic oak alternatives because they promote lees movement in the wine, helping to bring layers of texture and complexity without detracting from the purity of the fruit by needlessly loading on sweet spice or coconut notes. Clay amphorae shouldn't be sniffed at either; they pre-date oak barrels by over 3,000 years and have continued to be used for so long because they work! Both will outlive an oak barrel considerably, with far less upkeep.

**'It takes confidence for a winemaker to keep their best wines unoaked'**

Oak and ego are often closely linked. I've tasted countless wines over the years where the first thing you notice on sniffing is a huge whiff of wood, and it's common to find winemakers who feel like bigger is better, ignoring that it's more about how you use it. At its worst, it's a sort of vinification man-splaining (vin-splaining!) where any opportunity the fruit had to show what it's capable of is trodden all over by loud, careless, and obnoxious flavours of vanilla, toast and butterscotch. Even worse is when oak is used to mask poor-quality fruit. Didn't get it right in the vineyards? Stick it into some oak and that should take the edges off. No thank you!

Given the ever-growing importance of sustainability, is the deforestation and carbon-heavy shipping of French and American oak really worth it? I love the sense of 'honesty' about so many of the great unoaked wines of the world. It takes confidence for a winemaker to keep their best wines unoaked; there's nothing for the fruit to hide behind so it has to be good quality! When it's done right there's a vitality and energy that can be found which make the best examples such a joy to drink, and keeps the focus on what good wine should really be about – the vineyards and a true sense of place.

**MIXED CASE**

**BEST OF BOTH MIXED CASE**

Delve into the world of oaked and unoaked wines for yourself in this handpicked 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:

**WHITES**

**UNOAKED**

- The Society's White Burgundy 2022
- Ignacio Recabarren Casablanca Sauvignon Blanc 2021
- Grenache Blanc, Domaine du Bosc 2022

**OAKED**

- Côtes du Roussillon Blanc, Cuvée Cavalcade, Château de Corneilla 2021
- Bogle Vineyard California Chardonnay 2021
- SPOKE Resolute Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2022

**REDS**

**UNOAKED**

- Cruz de Piedra Garnacha 2021
- Chinon 'Le Temps des Cerises', Domaine de la Noblaie 2022

**OAKED**

- Navajas Crianza, Rioja 2018
- Zephyr 6 Marlborough Pinot Noir 2021
- Koyle Costa Rapel Coastal Pinot Noir 2022
- Quimay Valle de Uco Las Chacayes Cabernet Franc 2021

Ref MX23180 | £144

To OAK or not to



# Members' Favourites

'A lovely midweek red with **expressive fruit** on the nose and palate. Great **value** for the price.'

Malcolm D

Who better to recommend trusted bottles that deliver time and again than your fellow members? Here is a selection of reds and whites that are well-loved and re-ordered, along with words of praise from some delighted drinkers.

## Reds

### Lascar Classic Carmenère 2022

This is a good entry-level example of this variety from Chile, with its black-pepper nose and ripe, juicy and succulent palate. 13%

Ref CE12511 **C S**

£6.50 bottle | £78 dozen

### Sabina Tempranillo, Navarra 2021

A modest, inexpensive Spanish red from the country's most famous grape. Smooth, fruity and mellow, with a touch of cedar. 14%

Ref SP18221 **C S Ve**

£6.50 bottle | £78 dozen

*Smooth, mellow, easy to drink, and goes with anything. Recommended.*

David B

### Cantoiseau Rouge, Vin de France 2022

A soft-textured French red, fruity with a touch of spice, and good value, this is best served a little cool. 12.5%

Ref FC44501 **B S Ve**

£6.75 bottle | £81 dozen

### Domaine Laborie, Pays d'Oc 2022

Full of deliciously ripe and brambly fruit, this blend of grenache, carignan and a little merlot consistently hits the sweet spots for flavour, price and quality. 13.5%

Ref FC44701 **B S Ve**

£6.95 bottle | £83 dozen

*Super value big everyday red. Fruity, lots of bottom but great balance, long finish, very little oak or bitterness. Delicious.*

Stephen B

### Château Lamothe Saint Germain, Bordeaux 2021

A fresh and lighter-weight wine in 2021 due to the cooler growing conditions. Easy-drinking merlot-dominant claret to be enjoyed on the fruit. 13%

Ref CB6741 **B V**

£7.25 bottle | £87 dozen

### Duo du Midi, Pays d'Oc 2022

Brilliant, fruity Languedoc red made from cabernet franc and malbec, with fresh flavours of raspberry and a touch of cranberry. 13%

Ref FC44861 **C S**

£7.25 bottle | £87 dozen

### Baccolo Appassimento Rosso Veneto 2021

This popular Veneto red's opulent rich style is achieved by partial natural air-drying of the grapes (a mix of merlot and corvina). Black cherry, leather and spice. 13.5%

Ref IT37091 **C S Ve**

£7.75 bottle | £93 dozen

### Château Lary-Tagot, Bordeaux 2020

Ripe, fleshy and satisfying, this is an impressive Bordeaux at this price level. Unoaked to ensure maximum fruit expression. 14.5%

Ref CB6641 **D S Ve**

£7.95 bottle | £95 dozen

### Viña Zorzal Garnacha, Navarra 2021

A fresh garnacha from Navarra, next door to Rioja, with bags of charm, red-berry fruit, plump texture and modest weight. 13.5%

Ref SP18511 **C Ve**

£8.50 bottle | £102 dozen

### Navajas Crianza, Rioja 2018

A flattering and expressive Rioja full of vanilla and red fruit flavour made in the oaky style. Enjoy on its own, with leg of lamb or a root-filled roast. 14%

Ref SP19261 **D Ve**

£9.25 bottle | £111 dozen

'I have raved before about earlier vintages, but this one **tops the list** with its deeper herby flavours and *unparalleled smoothness*.

A dream in a bottle?'

Graham T

### Côtes-du-Rhône, Château Courac 2018

Full-bodied fruity Rhône red from the village of Laudun, matured for four years in vat. Deep colour and dark spicy fruit with body, ripeness and freshness. 15%

Ref RH67201 **D**

£9.75 bottle | £117 dozen

*Just gorgeous. A really nice Rhone wine. One of our favourite areas with lots of choice. But this was so good we immediately reordered.*

Richard B

### Château Pey La Tour Réserve, Bordeaux Supérieur 2018

A repeat Wine Champion last year, praised by Sebastian Payne MW as a 'cracker' thanks to its generous, ripe, merlot-fruited palate. Textbook claret that deserves its place on any dinner table. Drink now to 2027. 15%

Ref CB5741 **D V**

£11.95 bottle | £143 dozen

'This is a lot of wine for the money. **Classic Bordeaux notes**, cool black fruit and crushed rock. Superb balance. Highly recommended. *Outstanding value.*

Paul J

## MIXED CASE

### MEMBERS' FAVOURITES REDS

The reds on our members' shopping lists this autumn. A 12-bottle case containing two bottles of each of the following:

- Lascar Classic Carmenère 2022
- Domaine Laborie, Pays d'Oc 2022
- Château Lamothe Saint Germain, Bordeaux 2021
- Baccolo Appassimento Rosso Veneto 2021
- Navajas Crianza, Rioja 2018
- Côtes-du-Rhône, Château Courac 2018

Ref MX23182 | £94





## MIXED CASE

### MEMBERS' FAVOURITES WHITES

Tried and tested whites for the season. A 12-bottle case containing two bottles of each of the following:

- Lascar Classic Valle Central Chardonnay 2022
- A Fistful of Schist Reserve Chenin Blanc, Swartland 2023
- Les Pierres Bordes Marsanne-Viognier, Pays d'Oc 2022
- Duo Des Mers Sauvignon-Viognier, Vin de France 2022
- Piemonte Cortese 2022
- Sauvignon Blanc 'Pure Vallée' Vin de France, Famille Bougrier 2022

Ref MX23183 | £86

'Great value for money. One of the regulars for my rack.'

Katherine R

### Whites

#### Lascar Classic Valle Central Chardonnay 2022

This good-value Chilean chardonnay offers ripe melony flavours and a fresh, round palate. 13%

Ref CE12341 **2 S**  
£6.50 bottle | £78 dozen

#### A Fistful of Schist Reserve Chenin Blanc, Swartland 2023

This easy-drinking South African white comes from the perfect spot for old chenin vines. Its stone-fruit flavours and smooth mouthfeel make it great with food or without. 12.5%

Ref SA20441 **2 S Ve**  
£6.95 bottle | £83 dozen

#### Les Pierres Bordes Marsanne-Viognier, Pays d'Oc 2022

This marriage of two Rhône grape varieties from the Minervois/Saint-Chinian border is fresh, round and fruity. 12.5%

Ref FC44191 **2 Ve**  
£7.25 bottle | £87 dozen

#### Duo Des Mers Sauvignon-Viognier, Vin de France 2022

Fragrant, fruity, dry and refreshing white made with sauvignon from Gascony and viognier from the Languedoc. 12.5%

Ref FC44201 **2 S Ve**  
£7.50 bottle | £90 dozen

*This is a very happy marriage of the two varieties and the result is definitely better than the mere sum of two parts.*

Witek M

#### Piemonte Cortese 2022

A lovely introduction to the Gavi grape of north-west Italy, cortese, which is fresh and light in touch, with abundant pear, apple and lemon flavours. 12.5%

Ref IT36161 **2 S Ve**  
£7.50 bottle | £90 dozen

*Perfect for sipping as a dry aperitif, and goes very well with smoked salmon.*

Melanie E

'This has been my standard white for a long time, always **consistently fun** and delicious.'

Thomas P

#### Sauvignon Blanc 'Pure Vallée' Vin de France, Famille Bougrier 2022

Crisp and refreshing Touraine-inspired sauvignon from the specialist team at Bougrier, with a hint of riper pineapple fruit. 11.5%

Ref LO18001 **2 S V**  
£7.75 bottle | £93 dozen

*Dry and fruity and excellent value for money. Perfect flavour of pear and minerality. Incredibly drinkable, great mouthfeel.*

Annie C

#### Feudo Arancio Grillo Sicilia 2022

Easygoing sunny Sicilian grillo showing apricot and pink grapefruit notes with a touch of saltiness on the refreshing finish, unsurprising for vines growing so close to the sea. 13%

Ref IT36961 **2 Ve**  
£7.95 bottle | £95 dozen

#### Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine sur Lie, Domaine des Ratelles 2021

Typically refreshing sur Lie muscadet from the Vinet family in the western Loire, the classic match for shellfish but light and versatile too. 12%

Ref LO18381 **1 Ve**  
£8.25 bottle | £99 dozen

#### Picpoul de Pinet, Domaine Félines Jourdan 2022

One of the best-value whites from the south of France. Full-flavoured and dry, yet with crisp freshness and a beguiling citrus and herb flavour. 12.5%

Ref FC44471 **1 S Ve**  
£9.75 bottle | £117 dozen

#### Spy Valley Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2022

Consistently good year on year. Full, fresh and fruit-forward sauvignon, with grapefruit, lime, nectarine and passionfruit aromas. Generous, juicy and refreshing. Drink this year and next. 12.5%

Ref NZ13911 **2 S Ve**  
£11.95 bottle | £143 dozen

*How do they do it. Excellent again - my love affair with this wine continues.*

Alan S

#### Domaine Mallory et Benjamin Talmard, Mâcon-Villages 2022

A cooler year in Burgundy but quality is as good as ever. Fermented in stainless steel to capture the fruit then kept on lees to enrich the flavour until bottling. Drink now to 2026. 12.5%

Ref BU85801 **2 Ve †**  
£12.50 bottle | £150 dozen

#### Pazo de Villarei Albariño, Rías Baixas 2022

A lovely fruity introduction to the fresh, aromatic quality of Spain's famous north-western grape, a wine that is wonderful with seafood. Drink now to 2025. 13%

Ref SP19001 **1 S**  
£12.95 bottle | £155 dozen

Tell your fellow members about the bottles you've loved from The Wine Society - you can leave a review of every wine you've bought. **Just click on 'My wines' in your account**



## MIXED CASE

### MEMBERS' FAVOURITES MIXED DOZEN

A whole case of wines that come highly recommended by your fellow members. A 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:

#### REDS

- Lascar Classic Carmenère 2022
- Sabina Tempranillo, Navarra 2021
- Cantoiseau Rouge, Vin de France 2022
- Duo du Midi, Pays d'Oc 2022
- Château Lary-Tagot, Bordeaux 2020
- Côtes-du-Rhône, Château Courac 2018

#### WHITES

- Feudo Arancio Grillo Sicilia 2022
- Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine sur Lie, Domaine des Ratelles 2021
- Picpoul de Pinet, Domaine Félines Jourdan 2022
- Spy Valley Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2022
- Domaine Mallory et Benjamin Talmard, Mâcon-Villages 2022
- Pazo de Villarei Albariño, Rías Baixas 2022

Ref MX23181 | £108

# OVER THE HILLS & FAR AWAY

TAKING THE ROADS LESS TRAVELLED OF A POPULAR REGION, MARCEL ORFORD-WILLIAMS EVOKES THE ENTICING AND UNDER-EXPLORED FRINGES OF THE RHÔNE VALLEY, WHERE HE FINDS GREAT VALUE



The Gorges de l'Ardèche near the Côtes du Vivarais in the southern Rhône.



Standing tall, somewhere in the middle of a vast expanse of vineyard, the horizons stretch out for miles towards Languedoc and Auvergne to the west, Provence and the Alps to the east. Fields of lavender, olive groves and almonds are interspersed with dozens of little vineyards waiting to be discovered.

There are all sorts of reasons why these areas were neglected and overlooked in the past. Suffice to say that is no longer the case thanks to a new generation of growers and of course, the inevitable shift in the climate that has improved the chances of making lovely wines in these outlying areas, and thanks to cooler temperatures, better balanced wines than in the classic, better exposed areas.

Marcel Orford-Williams



## TOWARDS THE SOUTH: CAMARGUE AND COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

The Rhône delta is surely better known for flamingos and wild horses but tucked away at the edges are pockets of vineyards on sandy or stony soils.

### Costières de Nîmes La Ciboise, Chapoutier 2021

From a stony plateau outside Nîmes in the south of France, this is an exuberantly fruity grenache-syrah blend, rich and full-bodied with a touch of spice and a flavour of ripe plums. 14%

Ref RH65131 **D** **Ve**  
£9.50 bottle | £114 dozen

### Mas de Rey 'Esprit Camargue', Bouches-du-Rhône Terre de Camargue 2021

To the flamingos and wild horses, can be added patches of fine vineyard in the Camargue, down in the Rhône delta. Fruity, soft and easy to drink and best served a little cool. Drink now to 2026. 13%

Ref RH68091 **C**  
£10.95 bottle | £131 dozen



## TOWARDS THE WEST: UZÈS, VIVARAIS AND THE ARDÈCHE

A sea of limestone stretches out to the west for miles, supporting a large and scattered vineyard. The Ardèche river cuts through in spectacular fashion.

### Domaine Camp Galhan, Les Frigouliers, IGP Cévennes 2022

Round, soft and deliciously fruity with hints of ripe red fruits, strawberries and cherries and a touch of warm spice. This could be drunk on the cool side. Drink now to 2025. 13%

Ref RH68061 **B**  
£10.50 bottle | £126 dozen

### Côtes du Vivarais Grand Aven, Vignerons Ardéchois 2020

A fabulous red from near the famous Gorges de l'Ardèche, aged in natural rock caves, deep underground. Its full-flavoured peppery fruit would go well with grilled lamb chops. Drink now to 2029. 15%

Ref RH68261 **D** **Ve**  
£10.95 bottle | £131 dozen

### Duché d'Uzès Les Pérassières, Domaine Camp Galhan 2022

A delicious syrah from vineyards at the western edge of the Rhône Valley, beyond the medieval town of Uzès itself. With its peppery, blackberry fruit and made using mostly the syrah grape, this is excellent with steak and chips. Drink now to 2026. 13%

Ref RH68051 **B**  
£12.50 bottle | £150 dozen

### Chardonnay Les Gravettes IGP Ardèche, Vignerons Ardéchois 2022

The southern Ardèche is a good place to find chardonnay. Here it thrives on the stony, sandy soils and long, hot summers, and is picked early to conserve all the fruit and crispness. Enjoy this with fish, poultry or, indeed, on its own. Drink now to 2026. 13.5%

Ref RH68141 **2** **P** **Ve**  
£10.50 bottle | £126 dozen



## NORTHERN FRINGES

Most vines are famously planted on steep slopes close to the river. Yet the plateau was once an important vineyard and many growers are returning to the cooler climate, especially for whites. Around the city of Lyon, an historic vineyard still exists among the suburbs.

### Coteaux du Lyonnais, Domaine des Hauts de Chasselay 2022

On the heights above Lyon, odd vineyards and orchards remain, often surrounded by the suburban sprawl. This is made from gamay and is Beaujolais-like, though more rustic. Perfect with charcuterie such as Rosette de Lyon. 14.5%

Ref FC44621 **C**  
£9.50 bottle | £114 dozen

### Côtes-du-Rhône Blanc Couzou, Jean-Luc Jamet 2019

Mostly marsanne but with roussanne and viognier in the blend, this comes from the plateau area on the border with Côte-Rôtie. Full-flavoured and rich with an exciting complexity due to the blend of all three northern Rhône white varieties. A must for fans of the region's whites. Drink this year and next. 14%

Ref RH59981 **2**  
£24 bottle | £288 dozen



## TOWARDS THE ALPS, IN SEARCH OF FRESHNESS: GRIGNAN, VALRÉAS AND DIE

### Grignan-les-Adhémar, Delas 2020

A grenache-syrah blend from the Tricastin at the northern end of the southern Rhône. This is amazingly good value from on-form Delas: dark, vibrant and richly flavoured. 14%

Ref RH60771 **C** **Ve**  
£9.50 bottle | £114 dozen

### Châtillon en Diois, Cave Poulet 2021

Very rare red made from gamay grown at high altitude and planted on narrow ledges amidst the splendour of the Vercors mountains. This is sappy, light and delicious. Drink now to 2025. 13.5%

Ref RH68171 **B** **Ve**  
£13.95 bottle | £167 dozen

### Grignan-les-Adhémar Rouge Emotion, Domaine de Montine 2020

A delicious grenache-syrah blend from an estate just below the town of Grignan. The tannins are ripe and round and as with most wines from this vintage, there is a hint of freshness which makes it very appealing. Drink now to 2029. 14.5%

Ref RH68071 **C**  
£13.95 bottle | £167 dozen

### Grignan-les-Adhémar Blanc Cuvée Gourmandise, Domaine de Montine 2022

Creamy, full-flavoured Rhône viognier with peach and exotic guava flavours. Very ripe and full-flavoured, and perfect with fish or duck pâté. Drink this year and next. 13%

Ref RH68311 **2**  
£11.50 bottle | £138 dozen

### Valreas, 'Comme Un Saphir' Roussanne, Clos Bellane 2021

The Rhône still has so much untapped potential, and this white is made from roussanne grown, unusually, on chalk. It is tightly wrought now, but offers fabulous fruit and length of flavour too. Drink now to 2030. 13.5%

Ref RH67361 **1**  
£28 bottle | £336 dozen

## TOWARDS THE EAST: VENTOUX AND THE HILLS OF THE LUBERON

### Luberon Rouge, Lou Parpèl, Chapoutier 2021

This is a lovely, fruit-driven Rhône red made from grenache and syrah, and coming from the scented hills of the Luberon. Utterly gorgeous. Drink now to 2026. 13.5%

Ref RH65181 **C** **Ve**  
£10.95 bottle | £131 dozen

### Ventoux, Domaine de Martinelle 2021

Corinne Faraval is the other half of husband Thierry who makes great Gigondas at Domaine la Bouissière. She runs her own estate and makes wines that have depth and character. Grenache dominates with syrah, mourvèdre, carignan and even a little viognier in support. Drink now to 2028. 14%

Ref RH67561 **D**  
£17.50 bottle | £210 dozen

### Ventoux 'Silica' Rouge, Château Pesquié 2020

Châteauneuf-inspired Rhône red made from very ripe grenache and cinsault. Supple, soft and round with a lovely long finish on a note of strawberry and spice. Drink now to 2025. 15.5%

Ref RH67581 **E** **Ve**  
£34 bottle | £408 dozen

### Ventoux Blanc Les Ribes du Vallat, Château Juvenal 2022

Made from the clairette grape with a little viognier, this is a full-flavoured white Rhône with complex flavours that hint at peach, aniseed, honeysuckle and a touch of citrus. Creamy in texture, but the relatively high elevation in the Ventoux does wonders for freshness. Drink now to 2026. 14%

Ref RH68241 **2** **Ve** **O**  
£12.95 bottle | £155 dozen

### Luberon Blanc, Château de Mille 2021

A fine, fruity Provençale white made from clairette and ugni blanc and part aged in large oak barrels. Fabulous fruit, seductive and long. Perfect with or without food. Drink now to 2025. 13%

Ref RH67911 **2**  
£17.50 bottle | £210 dozen

## MIXED CASES

### RHÔNE FRINGES ESSENTIAL REDS

Go off the beaten track to find the best flavours. A six-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:

- Costières de Nîmes La Ciboise, Chapoutier 2021
- Coteaux du Lyonnais, Domaine des Hauts de Chasselay 2022
- Grignan-les-Adhémar, Delas 2020
- Domaine Camp Galhan, Les Frigouliers, IGP Cévennes 2022
- Mas de Rey 'Esprit Camargue', Bouches-du-Rhône Terre de Camargue 2021
- Grignan Les Adhémar Rouge Emotion, Domaine de Montine 2020

Ref MX23184 | £63

### EXPLORE THE RHÔNE FRINGES

Get to know these hidden gems. A six-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:

#### REDS

- Luberon Rouge, Lou Parpèl, Chapoutier 2021
- Duché d'Uzès Les Pérassières, Domaine Camp Galhan 2022
- Ventoux, Domaine de Martinelle 2021

#### WHITES

- Chardonnay Les Gravettes IGP Ardèche, Vignerons Ardéchois 2022
- Grignan-les-Adhémar Blanc Cuvée Gourmandise, Domaine de Montine 2022
- Ventoux Blanc Les Ribes du Vallat, Château Juvenal 2022

Ref MX23185 | £75

# AUTUMN SAVINGS

## WINES AT EVEN BETTER PRICES – THANKS TO SUPPLIER-FUNDED SEASONAL SAVINGS

### Reds

	REF	PRICE
<b>Percheron Shiraz-Mourvèdre, Western Cape 2021</b>	SA17821A1	£7.50 bottle £82 special dozen price <b>SAVE £8</b> per dozen
Popular, well-presented South African blend with floral perfume, enhanced by notes of forest fruits, cassis and spice. 13.5% <b>D</b> <b>S</b> <b>Ve</b>		
<b>Percheron Old-Vine Cinsault, Western Cape 2021</b>	SA18191	£7.50 bottle £82 special dozen price <b>SAVE £8</b> per dozen
Light, pure and easy modern South African cinsault with bright cranberry fruit and refreshing acidity. Serve cool with autumn barbecues. 13% <b>C</b> <b>S</b> <b>Ve</b>		
<b>Viña Bombín Crianza, Rioja 2018</b>	SP18541	£8.50 bottle £90 special dozen price <b>SAVE £12</b> per dozen
An excellent Rioja which is plump, round and soft with a touch of lovely oaky spice from 12 months' ageing. 13.5% <b>C</b>		
<b>Nerofino Rosso Vigneti delle Dolomiti, Castel Firmian 2020</b>	IT38411	£9.50 bottle £102 special dozen price <b>SAVE £12</b> per dozen
A blend of teroldego for blackberry fruit plus lagrein to add juicy softness with hints of sour cherry. Aromatic, rich, and well structured. 13% <b>C</b> <b>Ve</b>		
<b>Château d'Emeringes, Beaujolais-Villages Vieilles Vignes 2021</b>	BJ9341	£9.50 bottle £108 special dozen price <b>SAVE £6</b> per dozen
This is a fresh, perfumed style of Beaujolais that delivers remarkable value for money. Enjoy slightly chilled. 12.5% <b>B</b> <b>P</b> <b>Ve</b>		
<b>Viña Zorzal Graciano, Navarra 2020</b>	SP18181	£9.75 bottle £105 special dozen price <b>SAVE £12</b> per dozen
An evocative Spanish red which expresses the wild, herby character of graciano. The 2020 is juicy and round. 13.5% <b>D</b> <b>Ve</b>		



	REF	PRICE
<b>Susumaniello Salento Rosso, Vallone 2020</b>	IT38241	£9.95 bottle £107 special dozen price <b>SAVE £12</b> per dozen
Ancient grape variety susumaniello had almost disappeared before Vallone successfully reintroduced it on their estate. There is juicy red-cherry fruit with black-tea-like notes on the palate and spice on the finish. 13.5% <b>C</b>		
<b>Concha y Toro Corte Ignacio Maipo Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 2021</b>	CE12561	£9.95 bottle £113 special dozen price <b>SAVE £6</b> per dozen
Made by Ignacio Recabarren exclusively for us. Matured in 225-litre barriques for soft tannins – ideal with steak or rib of beef. 14.5% <b>C</b>		
<b>Concha y Toro Corte Marcelo Limarí Pinot Noir 2021</b>	CE12251	£9.95 bottle £110 special dozen price <b>SAVE £9</b> per dozen
Made from a 50:50 blend of two of Concha's best vineyards - Quebrada Seca which produced a fine style that was matured in tank to preserve the bright cherry fruit, and San Julian which produced more structured wines, matured in barrels. 14% <b>C</b>		
<b>Concha y Toro Corte Lorena D.O. Cauquenes Carignan-Grenache 2020</b>	CE11711	£9.95 bottle £110 special dozen price <b>SAVE £9</b> per dozen
A blend of 65% carignan planted in the 1950s which contributes structure and freshness, and younger grenache for sweet fruit. 14% <b>D</b>		



## Whites

	REF	PRICE
<b>Percheron Chenin Blanc-Viognier, Western Cape 2022</b>	SA19061	£7.50 bottle
Accessible and popular Cape White Blend with chenin's tropical and fresh stonefruit flavour lifted by a little aromatic viognier. 13%		£83 special dozen price <b>SAVE £7</b> per dozen
		<b>2 S Ve</b>
<b>Chardonnay, Pays d'Oc, Domaine de Pennautier 2022</b>	FC44241	£8.50 bottle
A lovely, fruity chardonnay from outside Carcassonne in the Languedoc, where the slightly cooler climate allows the grapes to flourish and retain freshness. 13.5%		£92 special dozen price <b>SAVE £10</b> per dozen
		<b>2 S Ve</b>
<b>Concha y Toro Corte Ignacio Casablanca Sauvignon Blanc 2021</b>	CE11831	£8.95 bottle
2021 was outstanding in Chile. Blackcurrant-leaf and gooseberry fruit make this bright sauvignon easy to love, with or without food. 12%		£96 special dozen price <b>SAVE £11</b> per dozen
		<b>2 S</b>
<b>The Society's Falanghina 2022</b>	IT36951	£9.25 bottle
Falanghina is one of Italy's many native grape varieties that shouldn't be left under the radar! Crisp, dry and expressive with tangy nectarine. 13.5%		£102 special dozen price <b>SAVE £9</b> per dozen
		<b>2</b>
<b>Concha y Toro Corte Marcelo Limarí Chardonnay 2021</b>	CE12261	£9.95 bottle
This intense and fine chardonnay was partly fermented and matured in barrels to contribute depth of flavour and richness. 14%		£107 special dozen price <b>SAVE £12</b> per dozen
		<b>2</b>
<b>Fiano Colle di Tilio, Janare 2022</b>	IT36971	£11.95 bottle
Fiano has a lovely soft orchard-fruit flavour. This unoaked, mineral expression has a refreshing finish. Perfect with creamy pasta dishes or roasted vegetable salads. Drink now to 2025. 13%		£132 special dozen price <b>SAVE £11</b> per dozen
		<b>2</b>
<b>McManis Viognier 2021</b>	US11471	£12.50 bottle
Heady viognier from California, with apricot and peach flavours and a soft velvety mouthfeel. Wonderful with roast chicken or pork. Drink this year and next. 13.5%		£142 special dozen price <b>SAVE £8</b> per dozen
		<b>2 S Ve</b>

	REF	PRICE
<b>Tannat Les Deux Vaches Rouges, Vin de France, Famille Laplace 2021</b>	FC44081	£10.50 bottle
The iconic tannat grape with an accent on fruit, generosity and ease of drinking. Perfect cool with steak or duck confit. Drink now to 2026. 13.5%		£116 special dozen price <b>SAVE £10</b> per dozen
		<b>D Ve</b>
<b>Painted Wolf 'Peloton' Cape Blend, Western Cape 2019</b>	SA17321	£10.95 bottle
Fully mature and savoury Cape Blend, here with the essential pinotage complemented by shiraz and durif. Every bottle sold contributes to wildlife conservation. Drink this year. 13%		£111 special dozen price <b>SAVE £20</b> per dozen
		<b>C S Ve</b>
<b>McManis Family Lodi Petite Sirah 2021</b>	US11481	£12.50 bottle
A plum and vanilla-rich California red with a loyal following who enjoy its generous, soft and full-bodied charms. Drink now to 2025. 14%		£144 special dozen price <b>SAVE £6</b> per dozen
		<b>C S Ve</b>
<b>Lavradores de Feitoria Tinto, Douro 2021</b>	PW10521	£12.95 bottle
A blend of traditional Douro grapes, with bright, sweet berry fruit and fragrance, easy charm and silky texture, with food-friendly grip on the finish. Drink now to 2025. 12.5%		£147 special dozen price <b>SAVE £8</b> per dozen
		<b>B S V</b>
<b>5 Litre Box of Côtes-du-Rhône, Famille Jaume</b>	RH49945	£47 box
Five litres of round and fruity red from Domaine Jaume, who have been supplying The Wine Society with Côtes-du-Rhône since 1981. 13.5%		£45 per box special price <b>SAVE £2</b> per box
		<b>D V</b>

## Sparkling

	REF	PRICE
<b>Crémant de Limoux, Cuvée Saint-Laurent, Antech 2020</b>	SG3991	£13.31 bottle
Party-perfect fizz and even better al fresco. Enjoy its crisp freshness, and touch of honey with samosas and other subtly spiced canapés. 12%		£138 special dozen price <b>SAVE £21</b> per dozen
		<b>2 Ve</b>

## AUTUMN SAVINGS REDS CASE

Six reds to delight this season. A 12-bottle case containing two bottles of each of the following:

- Percheron Shiraz-Mourvèdre, Western Cape 2021
- Viña Bombín Crianza, Rioja 2018
- Château d'Emeringes, Beaujolais-Villages Vieilles Vignes 2021
- Côtes-du-Rhône, Domaine Jaume 2021
- Susumaniello Salento Rosso, Vallone 2020
- Concha y Toro Corte Ignacio Maipo Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

Ref MX23186 | £98

**SAVE £11.80 per case**

## AUTUMN SAVINGS WHITES CASE

Six delicious whites to match autumnal dishes. A 12-bottle case containing two bottles of each of the following:

- Percheron Chenin Blanc-Viognier, Western Cape 2022
- Chardonnay, Pays d'Oc, Domaine de Pennautier 2022
- Concha y Toro Corte Ignacio Casablanca Sauvignon Blanc 2021
- The Society's Falanghina 2022
- Concha y Toro Corte Marcelo Limarí Chardonnay 2021
- Fiano Colle di Tilio, Janare 2022

Ref MX23187 | £100

**SAVE £12.20 per case**

# MIXED CASES



## AUTUMN SAVINGS MIXED DOZEN

A mixed case to take you through all the flavours of autumn. A 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:

### REDS

- Percheron Old-Vine Cinsault, Western Cape 2021
- Nerofino Rosso Vigneti delle Dolomiti, Castel Firmian 2020
- Viña Zorzal Graciano, Navarra 2020
- Concha y Toro Corte Marcelo Limarí Pinot Noir 2021
- Painted Wolf 'Peloton' Cape Blend, Western Cape 2019
- McManis Family Lodi Petite Sirah 2021

### WHITES

- Percheron Chenin Blanc-Viognier, Western Cape 2022
- The Society's Falanghina 2022
- Quando Sauvignon Blanc, Robertson 2023\*
- Concha y Toro Corte Marcelo Limarí Chardonnay 2021
- Fiano Colle di Tilio, Janare 2022
- McManis Viognier 2021

Ref MX23188 | £110

**SAVE £11.05 per case**

\*Featured on page 9



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## A TASTE OF AUTUMN MIXED CASE

A tour through our buyers' selections for autumn with bottles from South Africa, Portugal and beyond. A 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the wines pictured.

Ref MX23189 | £111



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Prices valid until **Tuesday 3rd October, 2023** while stocks last.

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