The ‘Cinderellas’ of the wine world, ripe for exploring in this exceptional year...
The genesis of this offer goes back to January 2019 and my first trip of the year. Travelling though the Auvergne, my first stop was at Domaine Sérol, an estate in the Côte Roannaise I have been visiting for 25 years. Never had I come across wines of such beauty, and winemaker Stéphane Sérol was lost for words; nothing in his experience could match 2018 which is truly exceptional.

It was an exciting start to my voyage of discovery and as I continued, I found the same story playing out wherever I went, from Marcillac in the southern Massif Central to the Alpine vineyards of Savoie, where Chignin producer Jean-François Quénard talked of 2018 in the same hallowed tones as the legendary 1959.

In 2018 Mother Nature really had waved a magic wand across these regions, which, like many in my remit, lie way off the beaten track. Often these so-called ‘Cinderella regions’ are in the shadow of more illustrious neighbours, sometimes in areas that would normally struggle to ripen grapes. My colleagues had similar tales to tell; from England to Bulgaria and all points in between, the stories are magical. I was determined that these lesser-known wines and regions should have their well-deserved day in the sun (or night in the ballroom!).

I am delighted to share these treasures with you and know that you will delight in tasting the fringe benefits of the fabulous 2018 vintage too. To encourage you to ‘go to the ball’ too, there’s a line-up of mixed cases to choose from, some with discounts too.

Marcel Orford-Williams, Wine Buyer

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**Reds**

**Carlos Lucas Ribeiro Santo, Dão 2018**
From an estate on Portugal’s Estrela mountain, where the Dão region’s typical granitic soils bring freshness and minerality even in the ripest of vintages. Oak, often used to add body, just wasn’t needed in 2018, allowing the unique and bright fruit flavours of the region, with their distinctive twist of herbs, to come to the fore. 13%  
ref CD-PW7871  
£8.50 bottle | £102 dozen

**Valpolicella Valpantena Torre del Falasco 2018**
All too often dismissed as a simple Italian pizza wine, Valpolicella’s inherent charm really shines in years like 2018. Unhampered by oak and made dry, as this is, the corvina grape can really sing. Alluring and perfumed, much like good Beaujolais, its bright acidity and gentle tannins allow for great food pairings beyond the standards. Equally, just open and enjoy with a plate of salami or bowl of olives and... relax! 12.5%  
ref CD-IT26821  
£8.50 bottle | £102 dozen

**Bononia Estate Gamza 2018**
Bulgaria’s gamza, (kadarka in Hungary), is more of a prima-donna than a Cinderella grape variety. 2018 provided the long, warm growing season it needs to achieve phenolic ripeness – softening the grape’s naturally high acidity and turning the often bitter herbal flavours to luscious cherry and redcurrant. A brilliantly refreshing, supple and eminently charming red wine that wears its glass slipper most elegantly! 13.5%  
ref CD-BG361  
£8.50 bottle | £102 dozen

**Chinon Confidences, Famille Bougrier 2018**
Bougier took advantage of the great conditions for Loire cabernet franc in 2018 and created a range of special vineyard selections. This deeply coloured, ripe and bright fruited example was rewarded by a place at the table in the Elysée Palace in the summer of 2019. A more than worthy accolade for this outstanding vintage which really did go to the ball! 13%  
ref CD-LO15441  
£8.95 bottle | £107 dozen

**Marcillac ‘Lo Sang del Pais’, Domaine du Sérol 2018**
The steep, iron-rich slopes of this out-of-the-way corner of the Aveyron have been excellent vineyard country for centuries. Fer servadou, the grape known locally as mansois, normally produces a light, sappy red. Not so in 2018! Full-flavoured and ripe, with crunchy fresh raspberry fruit, this is possibly more Prince Charming than Cinderella. 13%  
ref CD-FC36941  
£8.95 bottle | £107 dozen

**Pinot Noir Puy de Dôme, Cave Saint-Verny 2018**
It is often said that pinot noir rarely succeeds outside Burgundy, yet here in the Auvergne (where it was known as auvernat) it enjoys a long tradition. Lovely ripe, cherry-like unoaked fruit, this is deeply coloured, full-flavoured and quite exceptional in 2018. 14%  
ref CD-FC38021  
£9.50 bottle | £114 dozen

**Côte Roannaise Éclat de Granite Domaine Sérol 2018**
Roanne, on the upper reaches of the Loire, is a mountain away from Beaujolais (literally) and also lies on granite, as the name suggests. The gamay grape is also king here and 2018 was spectacular across the region but for this often-overlooked Beaujolais village there is more than a sprinkling of fairy dust. Such was the quality of the fruit that making this deliciously fruity gamay without added sulphur was entirely possible, and is quite delicious. Enjoy this year at its youthful best. 13%  
ref CD-BJ8071  
£10.50 bottle | £126 dozen

**Chiroluages Domaine de la Boisselière 2018**
The lesser-known cru of Chiroubles usually makes the lightest but also one of the prettiest of Beaujolais. 2018 was spectacular across the region but for this often-overlooked Beaujolais village there is more than a sprinkling of fairy dust. Such was the quality of the fruit that making this deliciously fruity gamay without added sulphur was entirely possible, and is quite delicious. Enjoy this year at its youthful best. 13%  
ref CD-FC36701  
£11.50 bottle | £138 dozen

To order these wines visit: thewinesociety.com/fairytale2018
Dogliani Luigi Einaudi 2018
Once a popular Piedmontese wine, dolcetto, (or ‘little sweet one’), has lost ground to nebbiolo and barbera. But it still reigns supreme in the rolling hills around Dogliani, 35 miles southeast of Turin. Its good colour, plenty of raspberry and cherry flavour, and softer acidity make it a joy to drink and especially so in this generous vintage. Drink now to 2022. 13.5%
ref CD-IT28491
£11.50 bottle | £138 dozen

Val de Loire Vendée Moulin Blanc Pinot Noir, Jérémie Mourat 2018
The Vendée, an outpost appellation of the Loire below Nantes, is the sunniest part of France, but farming organically can be hard going. Not so in 2018. The fruit ripened beautifully, offering a little more substance than in the fine 2017 vintage but still offering refreshing bright cherry and berry fruit. Drink now to 2023. 13%
ref CD-LO15361
£11.95 bottle | £143 dozen

Vin de Savoie, Mondeuse Terres Rouges, Jean François Quénard 2018
Refreshing, full-flavoured Alpine dry red packed with ripe fruit but only moderate alcoholic strength in an outstanding vintage (the best in living memory). 2018 brought greater intensity of colour and flavour from the mondeuse grape. Delicious with charcuterie or hard cheese. Drink now to 2024. 12%
ref CD-JU1481
£12.95 bottle | £155 dozen

Côtes du Forez, La Madone 2018
The wines of the Côtes du Forez always suffered a bit of an identity crisis, lying as they do between the Loire and the Auvergne, but this deliciously fruity gamay from the Massif Central’s volcanic soils has no such concerns; round with plenty of depth and length to its black-cherry fruit, it’s superb in 2018. Drink now to 2022. 12.5%
ref CD-PW7921
£14.50 bottle | £174 dozen

Whites

Chardonnay St. Roch, Puy de Dôme 2018
A fine, steely chardonnay from vines planted in 1991 on the Kimmeridgian marl slopes of the Auvergne. The 2018 is ripe and full-flavoured whilst maintaining wonderful freshness. A substitute for Chablis maybe? 14%
ref CD-FC38351
£9.95 bottle | £119 dozen

Viognier Grès du Trias, Coteaux de l’Ardèche, Vignerons Ardéchois 2018
This is a lovely, deeply expressive viognier grown on sandstone near the famous gorges of the Ardèche. Cool nights in August preserved all the lovely peachy fruit of the viognier grape. Elevate your Friday-night korma with a glass or two of this. 14%
ref CD-RH53591
£9.95 bottle | £119 dozen

Moselle ‘Les Gryphées’, Château de Vaux 2018
An exceptional vintage in the Moselle in this far north-eastern corner of France – the Molozays couldn’t recall another like it! The result? This popular blend is fuller and riper, even a touch exotic – the Molozays couldn’t recall another like it! The result? This popular blend is fuller and riper, even a touch exotic. Drink over the next year. 13%
Low stock. Available only as part of the Cinderella Whites and mixed cases on the back page.

Vadio Branco, Bairrada 2018
Bairrada, just inland from Portugal’s Atlantic coast, can be a challenging place to grow grapes, but 2018 was a ‘make hay while the sun shines’ vintage. There’s mouthwatering balance between the mineral freshness typical of the region’s indigenous grapes cercial and bical, the perfume of white flowers and creamy texture on the palate. Drink over the next year. 13%
ref CD-PW7921
£14.50 bottle | £174 dozen

Albourne Estate Selection 2018
2018 will go down as an all-time-great vintage in England, certainly where still wines are concerned. After minuscule harvests in 2016 and 2017, this vintage was a welcome relief, with a long, hot summer and perfect conditions for juicy, ripe wines. This example from Albourne Estate is a nice snapshot of the style, with lots of mouthwatering peach, pear and citrus fruit aromas. Drink now to 2022. 12%
ref CD-EN1351
£14.95 bottle | £179 dozen

Kaseler Dry Riesling, von Kesselstatt 2018
2018 is an outstanding German vintage, recalling for some the likes of 1959. A hot summer produced perfectly ripe fruit without excessive acidity and so ideal for making expressive, dry wines such as this Kaseler from the Ruhr Valley. Drink now to 2025. 12.5%
ref CD-GE12691
£14.95 bottle | £179 dozen

Coteaux du Layon Saint Aubin, Domaine Cady 2018
Perfectly healthy ‘noble rot’ is the key to the exquisite purity and balance of this delicious dessert wine, from young star of the Loire Alexandre Cady. Even better, after two frost-hit vintages, yield was up too. A beauty of a wine now, this will develop greater complexity with time in bottle. Drink now to 2026. 12%
ref CD-LO15381
£13.95 bottle | £167 dozen

Clairette de Die, Chapoutier 2018
For a man like Michel Chapoutier who likes living on the edge, finding improbable slopes to plant vines, 2018 may be his vintage. This is his first foray into the marginal, Alpine country of Die known for its sparkling wines. Light, fruity and not too sweet, this is perfect chilled and served as a delicious aperitif. Drink this year and next. 7.5%
ref CD-SG2911
£13.95 bottle | £167 dozen
2018 ‘Cinderellas’ in Red
Discover the fringe benefits of this magical vintage from less-expected but deliciously rewarding origins.
A 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:
• Carlos Lucas Ribeiro Santo, Dão 2018
• Valpolicella Valpantena, Torre del Falasco 2018
• Bononia Estate Gamza 2018
• Chinon ‘Confidences’, Famille Bougrier 2018
• Marcillac ‘Lo Sang del Pais’, Domaine du Cros 2018
• Pinot Noir Puy de Dôme, Cave Saint-Verny 2018
• Chiroubles Domaine de la Boisselière, 2018
• Côtes Roannaise Éclat de Granite, Domaine Sérol 2018
• Dogliani Luigi Einaudi 2018
• Val de Loire Moulin Blanc Pinot Noir, J Mourat 2018
• Côtes du Forez, La Madone 2018
• Vin de Savoie Mondeuse Terres Rouges, Jean François Quénard 2018

ref CD-MX2057
£110 £13.25 saving

2018 ‘Cinderellas’ in Red & White
No glass slipper or special chalice needed, just open and enjoy!
A 12-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:
Red
• Marcillac ‘Lo Sang del Pais’, Domaine du Cros 2018
• Pinot Noir Puy de Dôme, Cave Saint-Verny 2018
• Bononia Estate Gamza 2018
• Valpolicella Valpantena Torre del Falasco 2018
• Côtes Roannaise Éclat de Granite, Domaine Sérol 2018
• Chinon ‘Confidences’, Famille Bougrier 2018
White
• Vadio Branco, Bairrada 2018
• Moselle ‘Les Gryphées’, Château de Vaux 2018
• Albourne Estate Selection 2018
• Viognier Grès du Trias, Coteaux de l’Ardèche, Vignerons Ardéchois 2018
• Kaseler Dry Riesling, von Kesselstatt 2018
• Chardonnay St. Roch, Puy de Dôme 2018

ref CD-MX2059
£119 £12.70 saving

2018 ‘Cinderellas’ in White
Mother Nature ensured that all could go to the ball in this magical year.
A six-bottle case containing one bottle of each of the following:
• Chardonnay St. Roch, Puy de Dôme 2018
• Viognier Grès du Trias, Coteaux de l’Ardèche, Vignerons Ardéchois 2018
• Vadio Branco, Bairrada 2018
• Moselle ‘Les Gryphées’, Château de Vaux 2018
• Albourne Estate Selection 2018
• Kaseler Dry Riesling, von Kesselstatt 2018

£75

ref CD-MX2058

This offer is open until Sunday 5th April, 2020 while stocks last.