



Wine List



— Honoring —

Cafe des Amis

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Marvin R. Shanken
Editor and Publisher

Café des Amis Wine List

Welcome to Café des Amis! We hope that you will enjoy the delicious wine list we have assembled for your dining pleasure. The list focuses on wines from our home country, France, with the addition of some of the most important wines from the Unites States and Italy, as well.

You may notice that each of the wines on the list has a column indicating the price Per bottle (as well as the price per glass, where applicable). This column shows a page number.

Each page will have information about the specific wines on the corresponding page.

The first several pages are, in essence, a Table of Contents as much as a wine list.

Merci!

WINES BY THE GLASS

GLASS

BOTTLE

SPARKLING

Le Mesnil Brut Blanc de Blanc Grand Cru

Chardonnay · *Champagne*

25.00

85

Moutard Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Blanc de Blanc, NV

Chardonnay · *France*

11.00

37

Pierre Sparr Cremant d'Alsace Rosé, NV

Pinot Noir · *France*

14.00

45

WHITE WINES

E. Guigal, 2023

Viognier, Marsanne, Roussanne · *Côtes du Rhône*

12.50

41

Domaine de la Ferrandiere, 2024

Chardonnay · *Southwest France*

9.00

33

Château Lamothe de Haux, 2023

Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon · *Bordeaux*

11.00

37

Dom. de Vaufruges Vouvray, 2023

Chenin Blanc · *Loire Valley*

12.00

42

Pierre Sparr 'Alsace One,' 2020

Riesling, Muscat, Pinot Gris · *Alsace*

12.50

41

Domaine Long-Depaquit, 2023

Chardonnay · *Chablis, Burgundy*

18.00

49

Paul Cherrier, 2023

Sauvignon Blanc · *Sancerre*

19.00

59

Fritz Muller alcohol-free

Müller-Thurgau · *Germany*

10.00

34

ROSÉ WINES

Château St Cyrgues, 2024

Grenache, Syrah · *Costieres de Nimes*

9.00

33

RED WINES

Château Argadens, 2019

Merlot, Cabernets · *Bordeaux Supérieur*

11.00

42

Albert-Bichot 'Origines,' 2022

Pinot Noir · *Burgundy*

14.00

55

Domaine de la Solitude, 2022

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre · *Côtes du Rhône*

12.00

39

Le Roc 'La Folle Noire d'Ambat, 2020

Negrette · *Fronton*

12.00

39

Mas de Chevalier, 2023

Cabernet Sauvignon · *Pays d'Oc*

10.00

34

Chateau de Jarnioux Beaujolais, 2023

Gamay · *Beaujolais*

12.00

39

DESSERT WINE

Château Guiraud 'Petit Giraud,' 2020

Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon · *Sauternes*

10.00 (2oz)

60

Quinta dos Pesos, 1991

Arinto, Gallego Dourado, Ratinho · *Carcavelos*

16.00 (2oz)

HALF BOTTLE SELECTION

Le Mesnil Brut Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru

Champagne

49 (375ml)

p.3

Albert-Bichot, 2017

Puligny-Montrachet

85 (375ml)

p.76

Château Pape Clement 'Clémentin de Pape Clement,' 2018

Bordeaux - Pessac-Léognan

70 (375ml)

p.58

Château Pape Clement 'Prelat de Pape Clement,' 2018

Bordeaux - Graves

40 (375ml)

p.59

Can't finish the bottle of wine that you are enjoying? Café des Amis can seal the bottle for you to take with you at the end of your meal!

CHAMPAGNE, SPARKLING & STILL ROSÉ WINE BY THE BOTTLE

CHAMPAGNE – NON VINTAGE

Le Mesnil Brut Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru, Brut	<i>Champagne</i>	96	p.3
Le Mesnil Brut Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru, Brut	<i>Champagne</i>	51 (375ml)	p.3
Gosset Brut 'Grande Reserve,' Brut	<i>Champagne</i>	120	p.7
Veuve Cliquot, Brut	<i>Champagne</i>	120	p.8
Bollinger 'B16,' Brut	<i>Champagne</i>	295	p.6
Bollinger 'Special Cuvée,' Brut	<i>Champagne</i>	150	p.6
Prevost La Closerie 'Les Beguines,' Extra Brut	<i>Champagne</i>	250	p.11
Bérèche 'Reserve,' Brut	<i>Champagne</i>	125	p.11
Le Mesnil 'Sublime' Grand Cru, Brut Rosé	<i>Champagne, Rosé</i>	143	p.3
Gosset 'Grand Reserve,' Brut Rosé	<i>Champagne, Rosé</i>	180	p.7

CHAMPAGNE – VINTAGE

Bollinger 'Grande Année,' Brut, 2012	<i>Champagne</i>	290	p.4
Bollinger 'Grande Année,' Brut, 2014	<i>Champagne</i>	325	p.5
Bollinger 'Grande Année,' Brut, 2015	<i>Champagne</i>	387	p.5
Pommery 'Cuvée Louise,' 2005	<i>Champagne</i>	325	p.9
Veuve Cliquot Brut 'Grande Dame,' Brut, 2008	<i>Champagne</i>	399	p.8
Veuve Cliquot Brut 'Grande Dame,' Brut, 2012 (Louis Vuitton Box)	<i>Champagne</i>	425	p.9
Dom Perignon, Brut, 2009	<i>Champagne</i>	310	p.10
Louis Roederer 'Cristal,' Brut, 2013	<i>Champagne</i>	550	p.13
Pol Roger 'Sir Winston Churchill, 2015	<i>Champagne</i>	520	p.13
Les Monts Fournois 'Cote Vertus' 1 ^{er} Cru, 2010	<i>Champagne</i>	260	p.14
Taitinger 'Comtes de Champagne,' Blanc de Blancs, Brut, 2011	<i>Champagne</i>	390	p.12
Taitinger 'Comtes de Champagne,' Brut Rosé, 2007	<i>Champagne, Rosé</i>	460	p.12
Bollinger 'Grande Année,' Brut Rosé, 2015	<i>Champagne, Rosé</i>	438	p.5

OTHER SPARKLING WINES

Moutard	<i>Methode Traditionelle</i>	37	p.15
Pierre Sparr Rosé, NV	<i>Cremant d'Alsace</i>	45	p.15
J. Schram, 2014	<i>North Coast, California</i>	250	p.14

STILL ROSÉ WINES BY THE BOTTLE

	BOTTLE	PAGE
Château St. Cyrgues, 2024	<i>Costieres de Nimes</i>	33 p.16
Château d'Estoublon 'Roseblood,' 2024	<i>Provence</i>	49 p.16
Moret-Brealynn Rose of Pinot Noir, 2024	<i>Santa Lucia Highlands, California</i>	59 p.193

FRENCH WHITE WINES – BY THE BOTTLE**ALSACE** **17**

Albert Boxler Gewurztraminer 'Reserve, 2018	<i>Alsace</i>	99 p.21
Albert Boxler Gewurztraminer 'Brand' Grand Cru, 2016	<i>Alsace</i>	150 p.21
Domaine Ostertag Riesling 'Muenchberg', 2021	<i>Alsace</i>	149 p.19
Domaine Ostertag Pinot Blanc 'Le Jardin,' 2021	<i>Alsace</i>	59 p.19
Domaine Ostertag Sylvaner 'Vieilles Vignes', 2020	<i>Alsace</i>	59 p.20
Domaine Ostertag Riesling 'Le Jardin', 2020	<i>Alsace</i>	59 p.20
Domaine Ostertag le bal des Masques 2020 (<i>orange wine</i>)	<i>Alsace</i>	50 p.22
Pfister Pinot Gris, 2022	<i>Alsace</i>	62 p.18
Pierre Sparr 'Alsace One, 2021	<i>Alsace</i>	41 p.18

BORDEAUX **27**

Loudenne, 2019	<i>Bordeaux</i>	75 p.28
Château Lamothe de Haux, 2024	<i>Bordeaux</i>	37 p.28
Clos des Lunes, 2023	<i>Pessac-Léognan</i>	55 p.29
Château La Louvière 'L de la Louvière,' 2022	<i>Pessac-Léognan</i>	75 p.29

FRENCH WHITE WINES, CONT'D**BOTTLE****PAGE****BURGUNDY – CHABLIS****62****VILLAGE**

Domaine Long-Depaquit, 2023	<i>Chablis</i>	60	p.63
Patrick Piuze 'Plateau de la Cornasse,' 2022	<i>Chablis</i>	80	p.63

PREMIER CRU

Pattes Loup 'Les Butteaux,' 2017	<i>Chablis</i>	140	p.64
Patrick Piuze 'Les Sechets,' 2022	<i>Chablis</i>	110	p.64

GRAND CRU

Domaine Long-Depaquit 'Blanchots,' 2019	<i>Chablis</i>	170	p.65
Domaine Long-Depaquit 'Les Clos,' 2022	<i>Chablis</i>	280	p.65
Domaine Long-Depaquit 'Bougros,' 2021	<i>Chablis</i>	175	p.66
Domaine Long-Depaquit 'Vaudesir' 2021	<i>Chablis</i>	185	p.66
Lucien Lemoine 'Les Preuses,' 2018	<i>Chablis</i>	790 (1.5L Magnum)	p.67
William Fevre 'Bougros,' 2017	<i>Chablis</i>	260	p.68
William Fevre 'Bougros,' 2020	<i>Chablis</i>	170	p.68

BURGUNDY & BURGUNDY - MACONNAISE**62**

Albert Bichot Aligoté, 2023	<i>Burgundy</i>	39	p.69
Benjamin Leroux, 2022	<i>Burgundy</i>	99	p.69
Héritiers du Comte-Lafon, 2023	<i>Macon-Villages</i>	57	p.71
Marie-Pierre Manciat 'Les Petites Bruyeres,' 2021	<i>Pouilly-Fuisse</i>	55	p.71
Philippe le Hardi, 2020	<i>Mercurey</i>	65	p.70
Sangouard 'Les Rochettes,' 2022	<i>Saint-Véran</i>	65	p.72

PREMIER CRU

Albert Bichot, 2022	<i>Montagny</i>	75	p.72
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BURGUNDY – COTE D'OR

VILLAGE

Alvina Pernot, 2022	<i>Saint-Romain</i>	110	p.73
Château Gris 'Les Terrasses' Monopole, 2020	<i>Nuits-Saint-Georges</i>	190	p.73
Domaines des Comtes-Lafon, 2017	<i>Meursault</i>	225	p.74
Domaines des Comtes-Lafon, 2020	<i>Meursault</i>	250	p.74
Domaines des Comtes-Lafon 'Clos de la Barre' Monopole, 2019	<i>Meursault</i>	300	p.75, 74
Domaines des Comtes-Lafon 'Clos de la Barre' Monopole, 2020	<i>Meursault</i>	375	p.75, 74
Albert Bichot, 2016	<i>Meursault</i>	120	p.76
Albert Bichot, 2016	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	85 (375ml half bottle)	p.76
Domaine Lafflaive, 2019	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	395	p.77
Moret-Coffinet 'Les Houilleres,' 2020	<i>Chassagne-Montrachet</i>	190	p.77

PREMIER CRU

Jean-Charles, 2022	<i>Saint Aubin</i>	110	p.78
Alvina Pernot 'Le pièce sous le Bois,' 2020	<i>Meursault</i>	175	p.78
Domaine des Comte Lafon 'Charmes,' 2020	<i>Meursault</i>	540	p.79
Lucien Le Moine 'Les Terres Blanches,' 2020	<i>Nuits-Saint-Georges</i>	359	p.79
Domaine Clos de la Chapelle 'Les Reversees,' 2015	<i>Beaune</i>	115	p.80
Domaine Clos de la Chapelle 'Les Reversees,' 2020	<i>Beaune</i>	125	p.80
Pousse d'Or 'Les Cailleret,' 2021	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	300	p.81
Domaine Leflaive Puligny-Montrachet 'Clavoillon,' 2018	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	425	p.82
Domaine Leflaive Puligny-Montrachet 'Clavoillon,' 2019	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	450	p.82

GRAND CRU

Domaine de la Pousse d'Or, 'Chevalier-Montrachet,' 2021	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	1500	p.81
Lucien Le Moine, 'Corton-Les Fiètres,' 2014	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	450	p.83
Alvina Pernot, 'Corton Charlemagne,' 2021	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	580	p.83
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, 'Corton-Charlemagne,' 2022	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	3500	p.84
Capitain Gagnerot, 'Corton Charlemagne,' 2019	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	350	p.85
Alvina Pernot, 'Bâtard-Montrachet,' 2021	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	1100	p.85
Lucien Le Moine, 'Bâtard-Montrachet,' 2019	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	1800	p.86
Domaine Leflaive, 'Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet,' 2018	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	1900	p.87
Albert-Bichot, 'Montrachet,' 2023	<i>Puligny-Montrachet</i>	3000	p.88

FRENCH WHITE WINES, CONT'D**BOTTLE****PAGE****LOIRE VALLEY & SAVOIE****128**

Domaine des Baumard 'Clos du Papillon,' 2016
Thibaud Boudignon 'Clos de la Hutte,' 2018
Domaine de Vaufuget, 2023
Paul Cherrier, 2023
Ladoucette, 2020
Arnaud Lambert Brézé 'Clos de Midi,' 2023
Famille Joly Savennieres Monopole, 2019
Domaine Claude Branger 'Terroir Les Gras Moutons,' 2021

Savennières
Savennières
Vouvray
Sancerre
Pouilly-Fume
Saumur
Clos de la Coulée de Serrant
Muscadet Sèvre et Maine

99
149
42
60
85
49
290
45

p.129
p.131
p.129
p.130
p.130
p.131
p.132
p.132

SOUTHERN RHONE**153**

E. Guigal, 2023
Rotem & Mounir Saouma 'Inopia,' 2016
Château de Nalys Grand Vin, 2022

Côtes du Rhône
Côtes du Rhône
Châteauneuf-du-Pape

41
75
180

p.155
p.154
p.154

NORTHERN RHONE**135**

Jean-Louis Chave 'Circa,' 2022
E. Guigal 'Ex Voto,' 2015
M. Chapoutier 'Chante Allouette,' 2018
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2018
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2019
E. Guigal 'La Doriane,' 2020
Domaine Georges Vernay 'Chaillées de l'Enfer,' 2018

St-Joseph
Hermitage
Hermitage
Hermitage
Hermitage
Condrieu
Condrieu

67
475
290
525
525
245
262

p.136
p.137
p.137
p.138
p.138
p.139
p.139

SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE

Domaine de la Ferrandiere Chardonnay, 2024

Pays d'Oc

33

p.167

WHITE WINES, CONT'D - DOMESTIC WINES/OTHER WORLDLY WINES**BOTTLE****PAGE****DOMESTIC WHITE WINES****184****SAUVIGNON BLANC**

Ojai 'McGinley Vineyard,' 2023	<i>Santa Ynez Valley</i>	69	p.186
Spottswode, 2024	<i>Napa & Sonoma Counties</i>	107	p.186

CHARDONNAY

Diatom, 2023	<i>Santa Barbara County</i>	46	p.187
Staglin 'Salus Benchlands,' 2023	<i>Napa Valley</i>	84	p.187
Chateau Montelena, 2022	<i>Napa Valley</i>	162	p.188
Ramey 'Ritchie Vineyard,' 2014	<i>Russian River Valley</i>	197	p.189
Ramey 'Ritchie Vineyard,' 2022	<i>Russian River Valley</i>	188	p.189
Aubert Wines, 2022	<i>Carneros</i>	155	p.190
Aubert Wines 'CIX' Estate,' 2023	<i>Sonoma Coast</i>	265	p.190
Sixto 'Uncovered, 2015	<i>Washington State</i>	69	p.191
Au Bon Climat 'Hildegard,' 2019	<i>Santa Maria Valley</i>	89	p.191

OTHER WORLDLY WHITE WINES

Wegeler Riesling, 2013	<i>Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Germany</i>	67	p.192
Idda	<i>Mt. Etna, Italy</i>	150	p.192

FRENCH RED WINES BY THE BOTTLE**BOTTLE****PAGE****BEAUJOLAIS & BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGE****23**

Château de Jarnioux, 2021

Beaujolais

39

p.24

Jean-Marc Burgaud 'Les Vignes des Lantignié,' 2023

Beaujolais-Villages

37

p.25

CRU BEAUJOLAIS

Jean-Marc Burgaud 'Côtes du Py,' 2023

Morgon

55

p.25

Lucien Le Moine, 2019

Morgon

490 (1.5L Magnum)

p.26

BORDEAUX**27**

Château Argadens, 2019

Bordeaux

42

p.30

BORDEAUX – RIGHT BANK**27**

Château Mayne-Vieil 'Cuvee Alienor,' 2020

Fronsac

45

p.31

Château Puygueraud, 2022

Francs-Côtes de Bordeaux

58

p.31

Château Evangile, 2008

Pomerol

490

p.32

Château Le Fleur-Pétrus, 2017

Pomerol

690

p.33

Château Petrus, 2010

Pomerol

7999

p.34

Château Le Gay, 2012

Pomerol

350

p.35

Château Tour Mallet, 2020

Pomerol

110

p.36

Château de la Maréchaude, 2023

Lalande de Pomerol

59

p.36

Château Fombrauge, 2018

St-Émilion Grand Cru

120

p.37

Château Fombrauge, 2020

St-Émilion Grand Cru

110

p.37

Château Fombrauge, 2021

St-Émilion Grand Cru

105

p.37

Château Bois Cardinal, 2012

St-Émilion Grand Cru

65

p.38

Château Cheval Blanc, 2016

St-Émilion Premier Grand Cru Class A

2000

p.40

Château Cheval Blanc, 2017

St-Émilion Premier Grand Cru Class A

1500

p.40

Château Angelus, 2016

St-Émilion Premier Grand Cru Class A

950

p.39

Château Angelus 'Carillon d'Angelus,' 2018

St-Émilion Grand Cru

285

p.39

Château Pontet-Fumet, 2015

St-Émilion Grand Cru

69

p.41

Château Figeac, 2015

St-Émilion Grand Cru

542

p.41

FRENCH RED WINES, CONT'D**BORDEAUX – LEFT BANK**

			BOTTLE	PAGE
Château Gloria, 2015	<i>Saint-Julien</i>		150	p.42
Château Gloria, 2018	<i>Saint-Julien</i>		180	p.42
Château Gloria 'Esprit de Gloria,' 2019	<i>Saint-Julien</i>		88	p.43
Croix de Beaucaillou, 2011	<i>Saint-Julien</i>		130	P.44
Ducru-Beaucaillou 'Le Petit de Ducru-Beaucaillou,' 2019	<i>Saint-Julien</i>		117	p.44
Château Léoville Las Cases, 1989	<i>Saint-Julien</i>	<i>Second Growth</i>	850	p.45
Château Léoville Las Cases, 2000	<i>Saint-Julien</i>	<i>Second Growth</i>	925	p.45
Château Cos d'Estournel 'Les Pagodes De Cos,' 2014	<i>Saint-Estéphe</i>		159	p.46
Château Cos d'Estournel 'Les Pagodes De Cos,' 2016	<i>Saint-Estéphe</i>		175	p.46
Château Cos d'Estournel 'Les Pagodes De Cos,' 2017	<i>Saint-Estéphe</i>		150	p.46
Château Cos d'Estournel 'Les Pagodes De Cos,' 2019	<i>Saint-Estéphe</i>		175	p.46
Château la Haye, 2019	<i>Saint-Estéphe</i>		75	p.48
Chateau Pedesclaux 'Fleur de Pedesclaux,' 2016	<i>Pauillac</i>		90	p.48
Château Grand-Puy Ducasse, 2020	<i>Pauillac</i>		269	p.49
Château Pichon Longueville Baron, 2005	<i>Pauillac</i>	<i>Second Growth</i>	700	p.51
Château Lafite Rothschild, 2022	<i>Pauillac</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	2250	p.50
Château Latour, 1996	<i>Pauillac</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	2500	p.52
Château Latour, 2009	<i>Pauillac</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	3200	p.52
Chateau Mouton Rothschild, 2016	<i>Pauillac</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	2000	p.53
Chateau Mouton Rothschild, 2017	<i>Pauillac</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	1450	p.53
Chateau Mouton Rothschild, 2019	<i>Pauillac</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	1475	p.53
Château Margaux, 1996	<i>Margaux</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	2800	p.54
Château Margaux, 2005	<i>Margaux</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	2300	p.54
Château Margaux, 2009	<i>Margaux</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	2300	p.54
Château Margaux, 2010	<i>Margaux</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	2350	p.54
Château d'Issan, 2015	<i>Margaux</i>	<i>Third Growth</i>	220	p.55
Château d'Issan 'Blason d'Issan, 2018	<i>Margaux</i>		89	p.55
Château Giscours, 2016	<i>Margaux</i>	<i>Third Growth</i>	185	p.56
Château Angludet, 2011	<i>Margaux</i>		180	p.56
Château Haut-Brion, 2021	<i>Pessac-Léognan</i>	<i>First Growth</i>	1475	p.57
Château Pape Clement, 2018	<i>Pessac-Léognan</i>		300	p.58
Château Pape Clement 'Clémentin de Pape Clement,' 2018	<i>Pessac-Léognan</i>		120	p.58
Clos Marsalette, 2020	<i>Pessac-Léognan</i>		95	p.59
Château de Cruzeau, 2022	<i>Pessac-Léognan</i>		75	p.60
Château la Fleur Saint-Bonnet, 2023	<i>Medoc</i>		39	p.60
Château la Tour Carnet, 2018	<i>Haut-Médoc</i>	<i>Fourth Growth</i>	120	p.61
Château Citran, 2015	<i>Haut-Médoc</i>		69	p.61

FRENCH RED WINES, CONT'D**BOTTLE****PAGE****BORDEAUX – OTHER FORMATS**

Château Pape Clement 'Clémentin de Pape Clement,' 2018	<i>Pessac-Léognan</i>	70 (375ml half bottle)	p.58
Château Pape Clement 'Prelat de Pape Clement,' 2018	<i>Graves</i>	40 (375ml half bottle)	p.59
Château Montrose, 2006	<i>Saint-Estéphe</i>	<i>Second Growth</i>	670 (1.5L Magnum) p.47
Leoville Las Cases, 2010	<i>Saint-Julien</i>	<i>Second Growth</i>	1525 (1.5L Magnum) p.46

BURGUNDY – BOURGOGNE & COTE CHALONNAISE**62**

Benjamin Leroux, 2022	<i>Burgundy</i>	99	p.89
Albert Bichot 'Origines,' 2022	<i>Burgundy</i>	55	p.89
Domaine Faiveley "Vielles Vignes ' 2021	<i>Mercurey</i>	89	P.90

BURGUNDY – COTE DE BEAUNE**62****VILLAGE**

Domaine du Pavillon, 2016	<i>Meursault</i>	105	p.116
Domaines des Comtes Lafon, 2020	<i>Volnay</i>	250	p.119

PREMIER CRU

Nicolas Potel 'Clos Rousseau,' 2017	<i>Santenay</i>	112	p.117
Nicolas Potel 'les Valozieres,' 2015	<i>Aloxe-Corton</i>	140	p.117
Domaine de la Pousse d'Or 'En Caillerets,' 2021	<i>Volnay</i>	250	p.118
Domaine du Pavillon 'Les Santenots,' 2021	<i>Volnay</i>	250	p.118
Domaines des Comtes Lafon 'les Santenots du Milieu,' 2017	<i>Volnay</i>	375	p.119
Domaine Faiveley 'Fremiets,' 2021	<i>Volnay</i>	240	p.120
Dom de la Pousse d'Or 'Clos des 60 Ouvrées Amphore,' 2021	<i>Volnay</i>	260	p.120
Domaine Clos de la Chapelle 'en Carelle,' 2019	<i>Volnay</i>	180	p.122, 121
Domaine Clos de la Chapelle 'Champs Pimont,' 2022	<i>Beaune</i>	125	p.121
Domaine Clos de la Chapelle 'Grands Epenots,' 2017	<i>Pommard</i>	180	p.121
Benjamin Leroux 'Rugiens-Hauts,' 2017	<i>Pommard</i>	217	p.123
Domaine du Pavillon 'Les Rugiens,' 2021	<i>Pommard</i>	290	p.123
Joseph Voillot 'Vieilles Vignes', 2022	<i>Pommard</i>	150	p.124
Simon Bize 'Aux Vergelesses,' 2017	<i>Savigny-les-Beaune</i>	160	p.124
Benjamin Leroux 'les Haut Jarrons,' 2017	<i>Savigny-les-Beaune</i>	160	p.125
Colin Barollet 'Les Jarrons,' 2019	<i>Savigny-les-Beaune</i>	95	p.125
Benjamin Leroux 'La Piece sous les Bois,' 2018	<i>Blagny</i>	135	p.126

FRENCH RED WINES, CONT'D**BOTTLE****PAGE
57****GRAND CRU**

Nicolas Potel 'Corton-Les Renardes,' 2017	<i>Aloxe-Corton</i>	275	p.126
Domaine Clos de la Chapelle, 'Corton-Rognet,' 2015	<i>Aloxe-Corton</i>	225	p.121
Domaine de la Pousse d'Or 'Clos de la Roche,' 2018	<i>Morey-Saint-Denis</i>	866	p.127
Domaine de la Pousse d'Or 'Corton-Clos du Roi,' 2021	<i>Aloxe-Corton</i>	320	p.127

BURGUNDY – COTE DE NUITS**57****VILLAGE**

Lucien Le Moine 'Aux Champs Perdrix,' 2019	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	400	p.91
Benjamin Leroux, 2017	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	175	p.91
Domaine Faiveley, 2021	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	212	p.92
Domaine Faiveley 'Vieilles Vignes,' 2021	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	170	p.92
Benjamin Leroux, 2017	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	175	p.93
Albert-Bichot, 2019	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	150	p.93
Bruno Clair Les Longeroies,' 2018	<i>Marsannay</i>	120	p.95,94
Bruno Clair Les Longeroies,' 2019	<i>Marsannay</i>	120	p.95,94
Bruno Clair Les Longeroies,' 2021	<i>Marsannay</i>	135	p.95,94
Joseph Roty, 2021	<i>Marsannay</i>	125	p.96
Benjamin Leroux, 2017	<i>Chambolle-Musigny</i>	185	p.96
Benjamin Leroux 'Les Allots,' 2017	<i>Nuits-Saint-Georges</i>	140	p.97

PREMIER CRU

Bruno Clair 'Clos du Fonteny' Monopole, 2020	<i>Gevrey Chambertin</i>	327	p.97, 94
Domaine Faiveley 'Les Porêts,' 2021	<i>Nuits-Saint-Georges</i>	280	p.98
Château Gris, 2021	<i>Nuits-Saint-Georges</i>	220	p.98
Albert Bichot 'Clos de la Perriere,' 2019	<i>Fixin</i>	165	p.99
Marchand-Tawse 'les Millandes,' 2021	<i>Morey-Saint-Denis</i>	240	p.99
Domaine du Clos Frantin 'Les Malconsorts,' 2020	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	575	p.100
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, 2020	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	1000	p.102

FRENCH RED WINES, CONT'D**BOTTLE****PAGE****BURGUNDY – COTE DE NUITS****57****GRAND CRU**

Francois Lamarche 'La Grande Rue' Monopole, 2014	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	900	p.101
Lucien Le Moine 'Grands Echezeaux,' 2019	<i>Flagey-Echézeaux</i>	1500	p.101
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 'La Tache,' 2011	<i>La Tache</i>	5400	p.103
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 'La Tache,' 2021	<i>La Tache</i>	5600	p.103
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 'Richebourg,' 2011	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	4400	p.104
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 'Richebourg,' 2013	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	4500	p.104
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Romanée-St-Vivant, 2009	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	5000	p.105
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Romanée-St-Vivant, 2018	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	4000	p.105
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Romanée-St-Vivant, 2019	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	5000	p.105
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Romanée-St-Vivant, 2020	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	5000	p.105
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Romanée-St-Vivant, 2021	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	5000	p.105
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Romanée-St-Vivant, 2022	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	4500	p.105
Benjamin Leroux 'Clos St Denis,' 2016	<i>Morey-Saint-Denis</i>	550	p.106
Lucien Le Moine 'Clos St Denis,' 2011	<i>Morey-Saint-Denis</i>	415	p.106, 109
Domaine de la Pousse d'Or 'Clos de la Roche,' 2018	<i>Morey-Saint-Denis</i>	960	p.107
Albert-Bichot 'Latricieres-Chambertin,' 2018	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	399	p.108
Domaine de la Pousse d'Or 'Charmes Chambertin,' 2021	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	850	p.112
Domaine du Clos Frantin 'Chambertin,' 2018	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	900	p.108
Domaine Faiveley 'Charmes Chambertin,' 2021	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	795	p.112
Lucien Le Moine 'Chambertin-Clos de Beze,' 2015	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	1550	p.110, 109
Lucien Le Moine 'Chambertin-Clos de Beze,' 2019	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	1430	p.110, 109
Lucien Le Moine 'Charmes Chambertin,' 2014	<i>Gevrey-Chambertin</i>	555	p.111, 109
Bruno Clair 'Bonnes Mares,' 2018	<i>Morey-Saint-Denis</i>	880	p.113
Domaine de la La Pousse d'Or 'Bonnes Mares,' 2021	<i>Chambolle-Musigny</i>	1200	p.113
Domaine du Clos Frantin, 2017	<i>Clos-de-Vougeot</i>	480	p.114
Domaine du Clos Frantin 'Richebourg,' 2019	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	2500	p.115
Domaine du Clos Frantin 'Richebourg,' 2021	<i>Vosne-Romanée</i>	2500	p.115

FRENCH RED WINES, CONT'D

LOIRE VALLEY

	BOTTLE	PAGE
Pascal Lambert 'Les Terrasses', 2021	<i>Chinon</i>	57 p.133
Arnaud Lambert 'Brézé Mazurique,' 2023	<i>Saumur</i>	42 p.133
Bertrand Galbrun 'Amicale,' 2021	<i>Bourgueil</i>	53 p.134
Domaine Guiberteau, 2022	<i>Saumur</i>	75 p.134

NORTHERN RHONE

	BOTTLE	PAGE
Vincent Paris 'Granit 60', 2021	<i>Cornas</i>	115 p.140
Vincent Paris 'La Geynale,' 2021	<i>Cornas</i>	130 p.140
Jean-Louis Chave Selection 'Offerus,' 2022	<i>St. Joseph</i>	62 p.141
E. Guigal 'Lieu Dit,' 2020	<i>St. Joseph</i>	150 p.141
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2020	<i>St. Joseph</i>	195 p.143, 142
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2021	<i>St. Joseph</i>	192 p.143, 142
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2022	<i>St. Joseph</i>	199 p.143, 142
Jean-Louis Chave Selection 'Farconnet,' 2021	<i>Hermitage</i>	150 p.144
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2018	<i>Hermitage</i>	550 p.145
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2020	<i>Hermitage</i>	575 p.145
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2021	<i>Hermitage</i>	550 p.145
Jean-Louis Chave Estate, 2022	<i>Hermitage</i>	590 p.145
E. Guigal 'Ex Voto,' 2015	<i>Hermitage</i>	675 p.146
Jean-Louis Chave 'Silene,' 2022	<i>Crozes-Hermitage</i>	62 p.146
E. Guigal 'Château d'Ampuis,' 2016	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	275 p.147
E. Guigal 'Brune et Blonde,' 2017	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	175 p.148
E. Guigal 'La Landonne,' 2010	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	850 p.149
E. Guigal 'La Landonne,' 2013	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	800 p.149
E. Guigal 'La Landonne,' 2015	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	900 p.149
E. Guigal 'La Mouline,' 2009	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	850 p.150
E. Guigal 'La Mouline,' 2015	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	900 p.150
E. Guigal 'La Turque,' 2012	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	850 p.151
Domaine Georges Vernay 'Fleur du Mai,' 2021	<i>Collines Rhodaniennes</i>	75 p.152

NORTHERN RHONE – LARGE FORMAT

E. Guigal 'Château d'Ampuis,' 2012	<i>Côte-Rôtie</i>	575 (1.5L Magnum) p.147
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FRENCH RED WINES, CONT'D**BOTTLE****PAGE****SOUTHERN RHONE****153**

Etienne 'Essen,' 2023	<i>Lirac</i>	78	p.156
Domaine de la Solitude, 2022	<i>Côtes-du-Rhône</i>	39	p.156
Les Sang des Cailloux, 2021	<i>Vacqueyras</i>	75	p.157
E. Guigal, 2021	<i>Gigondas</i>	74	p.157
Château des Tours 'Grand Reserve, 2014	<i>Côtes du Rhône</i>	325	p.159, 162
Château de Fonsalette, 2011	<i>Côtes du Rhône</i>	510	p.160, 162
Château de Fonsalette, 2012	<i>Côtes du Rhône</i>	650	p.160, 162
Domaine Lafond, 2021	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	95	p.158
Pignan, 2009	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	1000	p.161, 162
Pignan, 2010	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	800	p.161, 162
Pignan, 2011	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	550	p.161, 162
Pignan, 2012	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	600	p.162, 161
Château Rayas, 2009	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	2700	p.163, 162
Château Rayas, 2010	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	1800	p.163, 162
Château Rayas, 2012	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	1700	p.163, 162
Clos Saouma 'Arioso,' 2014	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	383	p.164
Clos Saouma 'Omnia,' 2020	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	220	p.164
Domaine de Saje, 2020	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	99	p.165
Clos des Papes, 2022	<i>Châteauneuf-du-Pape</i>	270	P.166
Domaine de Beurenard, 2021	<i>Rasteau</i>	79	p.165

SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE

Le Roc 'La Folle Noire d'Ambat' Negrette, 2020	<i>Fronton</i>	39	p.168
Fin de Folie, 2018	<i>Côtes de Catalanes</i>	90	p.168
Cosse et Maisonneuve Cahors 'Solis,' 2021	<i>Cahors</i>	39	p.169
Mas la Chevaliere Cabernet Sauvignon, 2023	<i>Pays D'oc</i>	34	p.169

RED WINES, CONT'D**BOTTLE****PAGE****ITALIAN RED WINE****170****TUSCANY****171**

Frescobaldi CastelGiocondo, 2020	<i>Brunello di Montalcino</i>	162	p.172
Siro Pacenti 'Vecchie Vigne,' 2019	<i>Brunello di Montalcino</i>	285	p.172
Volpaia Riserva, 2020	<i>Chianti Classico</i>	113	p.173
Ornellaia, 2022	<i>Bolgheri</i>	424	p.174
Gaja Ca'Marcanda 'Promis,' 2023	<i>Toscana</i>	137	p.173
Ornellaia 'Le Volte,' 2023	<i>Toscana</i>	75	p.175
Tenuta di Trinoro 'Campo di Camagi,' 2021	<i>Toscana</i>	258	p.175

PIEDMONT**176**

Gaja 'Dagromis,' 2021	<i>Barolo</i>	295	p.177
Paolo Scavino 'Bric Del Fiasc,' 2021	<i>Barolo</i>	237	p.177
Produttori del Barbaresco 'Torre,' 2021	<i>Barbaresco</i>	115	p.178
Produttori del Barbaresco Riserva 'Paje,' 2020	<i>Barbaresco</i>	195	p.178

MT. ETNA**179**

Benanti Etna Rosso 'Contrada Dafara Galluzo,' 2020	<i>Mt. Etna, Sicily</i>	39	p.180
Passopisciaro Rosso 'Contrada C,' 2021	<i>Mt. Etna, Sicily</i>	174	p.180

VENETO**181**

Romano Dal Forno Superiore, 2019	<i>Valpolicella</i>	290	p.183
Tommasi Amarone della Valpolicella Classico, 2020	<i>Valpolicella</i>	149	p.182
Tommasi Valpolicella Ripasso, 2021	<i>Valpolicella</i>	52	p.182

RED WINES, CONT'D**BOTTLE****PAGE****DOMESTIC WINES****184****CABERNET SAUVIGNON**

Eberle 'Vineyard Selection,' 2022	<i>Paso Robles</i>	59	p.193
Miner Family Vineyards, 2019	<i>Napa Valley</i>	78	p.194
Caterwaul, 2023	<i>Napa Valley</i>	123	p.194
Merryvale, 2018	<i>Napa Valley</i>	141	p.195
Matthiasson, 2022	<i>Napa Valley</i>	185	p.195
Rivers-Marie, 2022	<i>Napa Valley</i>	231	p.196
Spottswoode Estate, 2022	<i>Napa Valley</i>	520	p.196
Chateau Montelena 'Estate,' 2010	<i>Napa Valley</i>	469	p.197
Chateau Montelena 'Estate,' 2011	<i>Napa Valley</i>	469	p.197
Chateau Montelena 'Estate,' 2014	<i>Napa Valley</i>	469	p.197
Chateau Montelena 'Estate,' 2019	<i>Napa Valley</i>	379	p.197
Chateau Montelena 'Estate,' 2021	<i>Napa Valley</i>	379	p.197

PINOT NOIR

Peay Vineyards, 2023	<i>West Sonoma Coast</i>	129	p.198
Clarice 'Rosella's Vineyard,' 2023	<i>Santa Lucia Highlands</i>	179	p.198
Kosta Browne, 2023	<i>Sonoma Coast</i>	235	p.199
Ojai, 2016	<i>Santa Barbara County</i>	99	p.199
Au Bon Climat 'Knox Alexander,' 2017	<i>Santa Maria Valley</i>	99	p.200
Au Bon Climat 'Knox Alexander,' 2019	<i>Santa Maria Valley</i>	99	p.200

ZINFANDEL

Bedrock 'Old Vine,' 2023	<i>Sonoma County</i>	51	p.201
Once & Future 'Oakley Road,' 2021	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	61	p.201

SYRAH

K Vintners 'Motor City Kitty,' 2021	<i>Yakima Valley</i>	86	p.202
Alban Estate 'Reva,' 2019	<i>Edna Valley</i>	253	p.202

“Any man who eats dessert is not drinking enough.”

-Ernest Hemingway

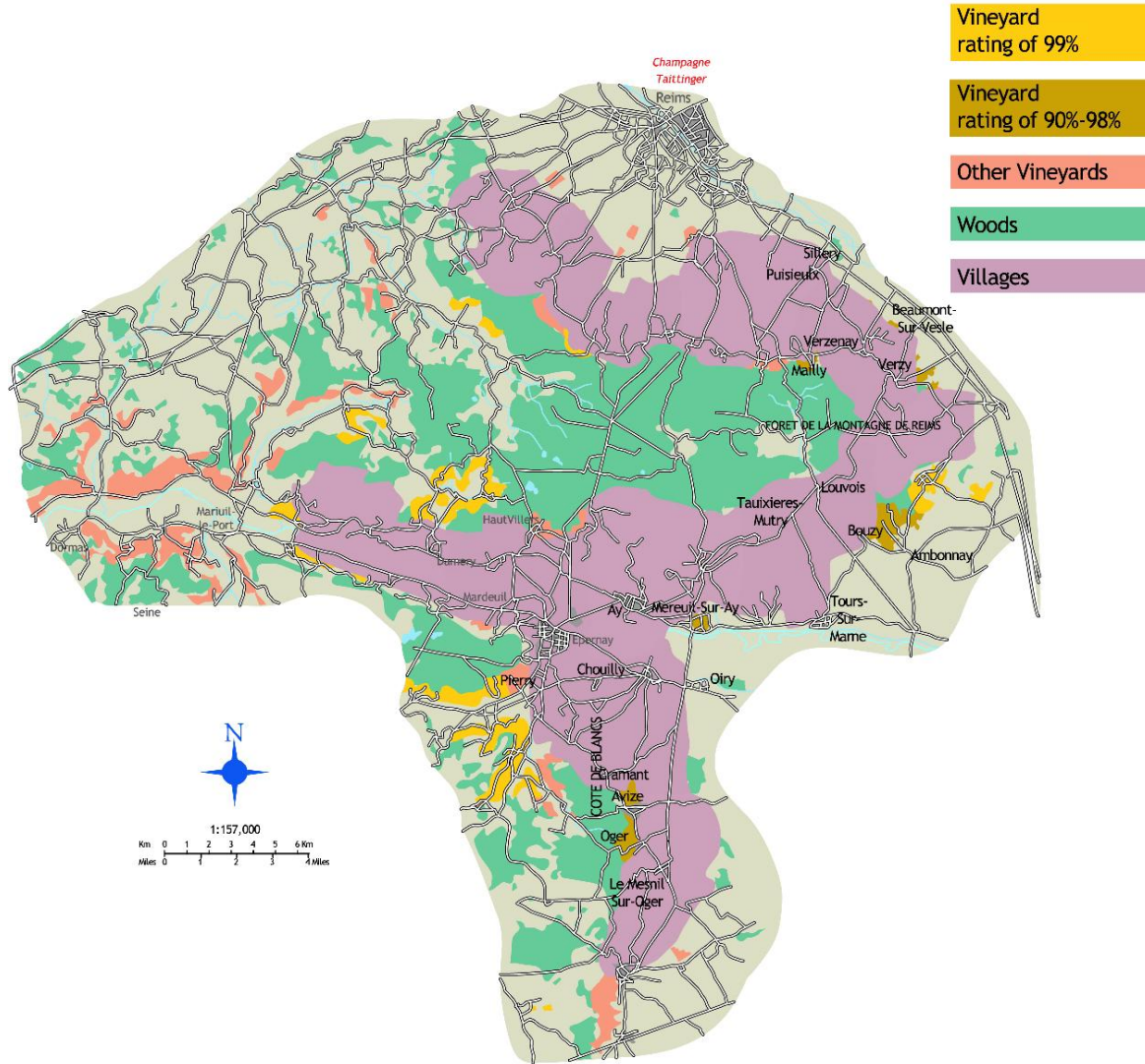
Château Guiraud ‘Petit Giraud,’ 2020	<i>Sauternes</i>	60	p.203
Château Guiraud, 2009	<i>Sauternes</i>	150	p.204
Château Guiraud, 2015	<i>Sauternes</i>	85 (375ml)	p.204
Château d’Yquem, 2009	<i>Sauternes</i>	750 (375ml)	p.205
Domaine des Baumard, 1967	<i>Quarts de Chaume</i>	400	p.205

Can’t finish the bottle of wine that you are enjoying? Café des Amis can seal the bottle for you to take with you at the end of your meal!





Champagne



LE MESNIL

Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Brut NV

Cepage:
Chardonnay

The fruit for this outstanding Blanc de Blancs is sourced from the same village Krug and Salon make their incredibly expensive luxury Champagnes (which sell for \$500+). Founded in 1937, Le Mesnil produces cuvees from Grand Cru vineyards on the chalk soils of the Cotes de Blancs. The house takes its name from the town 'Le Mesnil-sur-Oger', only 17 Villages in the Champagne region with the right to the designation 'Grand Cru'

Yeasty, baked bread notes are followed by some brioche and a hint of citrus on the nose. The palate is surprisingly full and rich for a Blanc de Blancs with mouth-filling flavors of yeast lees, baked bread, cashew and biscuit. Creamy texture and excellent length. Long aftertaste of yeast lees, baked bread and brioche. This is an incredibly versatile wine with our cuisine.

Rather than having this to start a meal, consider having Le Mesnil through the entire meal. This is our House Champagne, and one of the all-time greatest values in Champagne!

\$96 750ml
\$51 375ml half bottle



LE MESNIL

'Sublime' Rosé Grand Cru Brut NV

Cepages:
Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

While Champagne LeMesnil may be most known for their gorgeous Blanc de Blanc, the Sublime has charmed us time after time. And after customers have asked us if they can buy cases of this to take home, it seemed sensible to put the wine on our list.

The aptly-named 'Sublime' rose is a combination of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir with nearly 35% reserve wines, to give the wine more complexity and to preserve the house style.

This wine has seductive aromas, reminiscent of a summer breeze and a lovely fruity palate. An elegant wine, ideal as an *aperitif* but can also be enjoyed throughout a meal.

There is enough weight here to pair beautifully with red meats, or as a special treat, try it with a dessert featuring red fruits.

\$143 750ml bottle



BOLLINGER

'Grande Anée' Brut 2012, 2014, 2015

Cépages:

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay

Bollinger's 'LGA,' sometimes goes years without being produced, underscoring the wineries dedication to only release this legendary wine in exceptional vintages. Thankfully there have been several wonderful vintages lately!

We have procured as much of this gorgeous wine as we could, hoping to have some left many years down the line...but the wine is so stunning now that it is difficult to overcome the urge to drink it young.

To drink this wine is to be in love with Champagne.

BOLLINGER 'GRANDE ANEE' 2012 \$290

Bollinger's 2012 Brut La Grande Année is showing well, offering up an incipiently complex bouquet of crisp yellow orchard fruit, fresh peach, orange oil, toasted walnuts and dried apricot that's still quite reserved with less than a year on cork. Full-bodied, deep and muscular, the 2012 is blockier and broader-shouldered than its 2008 predecessor, with a weightier and even more concentrated palate built around a bright spine of acidity, concluding with a chalky finish that carries appreciably dry extract.

BOLLINGER 'GRANDE ANEE' 2014 \$325

'Racy acidity drives this mouthwatering Champagne, enlivening the rich panoply of flavors. Features a fine and creamy mousse that's still a lively springboard for aromas and flavors of crème de cassis, glazed tangerine, roasted hazelnut, ground coffee, pickled ginger and white blossoms. Long and satiny, with minerally salt and chalk notes gaining momentum on the lasting finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now.' – **Wine Spectator**

BOLLINGER 'GRANDE ANÉE' 2015 \$387

'This expressive Champagne features a rich, well-spiced range of flavors chiseled by well-honed, integrated acidity, which lends a racy feel to the ripe black cherry and mulberry fruit and notes of salted almond, pink grapefruit granita, crystallized honey and pickled ginger that ride the raw silk-like mousse. Hints of chalk and spring blossoms play on the clean-cut, lasting finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Disgorged May 2023. Drink now through 2040.' – **Wine Spectator**





BOLLINGER

'Grande Année' Brut Rosé 2015

Cépages:

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay

La Grande Année Rosé is another expression of La Grande Année, enhanced by the addition of a unique red wine from the Côte aux Enfants. This iconic Aÿ vineyard, owned entirely by Bollinger, is only vinified to make red wine when grapes achieve optimal ripeness.

La Grande Année Rosé 2015 is a blend of 11 crus, predominantly Pinot Noir from Verzenay, Aÿ and Mareuil-sur-Aÿ and Chardonnay from Chouilly and Avize. The blend includes 5 % red wine from La Côte aux Enfants parcel.

2015 was an excellent year. The delicate texture of the 2015 cuvées produces exquisitely harmonious wines. La Grande Année Rosé reflects the savoir-faire and expertise of Maison Bollinger, creators of a cuvée that is as exceptional as it is pure.

'Like a racing spinnaker, this is tightly trimmed yet voluminous in character. Toasty notes of roasted almond and vanilla wafer are deftly integrated with sun-dried black cherry, baked peach, blood orange sorbet and candied ginger flavors, all well-defined by racy acidity and a subtle streak of salinity. This is long and fragrant, with pain d'épices, graphite and tea rose notes playing on the finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Disgorged February 2024. Drink now through 2040.' – *Wine Spectator*

\$438

A BRIEF PRIMER ON CHAMPAGNE

Champagne may be one of the least understood types of wine in the world...and it is also one of the most wonderful! Many people think only of Champagne when it is time for a celebration, but it is also wonderful with food. The effervescence of Champagne makes the wine a natural palate cleanser!

Most large Champagne houses (*Bollinger, Veuve Clicquot, etc*) tend to purchase grapes from hundreds growers of grapes. Most of the nearly 16,000 grape growers in Champagne do not produce their own wine; rather they sell their grapes to the large houses. These wines will be labeled with the letters **NM (Negociant Manipulant)**.

'Growers Champagnes,' that is, Champagnes made only from vineyards the winemaker themselves own. Available in much smaller quantities than the large houses, these can be absolute jewels worth seeking out. These will be labeled with the letters **RM (Récoltant Manipulant)**.

Cooperatives are a third type of producer, where a group of growers band together to produce a Champagne made only from the members' grapes. Champagne Le Mesnil is a perfect example of a **CM (Co-operative-Manipulant)**.

Brut – this is a measure of sweetness in a wine. Most sparkling wines (aside from Moscato) will be labeled as 'Brut.' The only 2 dryer versions are Extra Brut and Brut Nature, which are rarely seen in the US.

Blanc de Blanc – a white wine made from white grapes (Chardonnay, almost exclusively)

Blanc de Noirs – a white wine made from red grapes – typically Pinot Noir and sometimes Pinot Meunier

Rosé – a Champagne that is pink in color, which can be made from red grapes exclusively, or with the addition of Chardonnay.



BOLLINGER

'B16' Brut NV

Cépages:

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay

Bollinger presents B16, a unique and original creation shaped by nature's challenges, an illustration of the Maison's expert know-how when crafting a great vintage Champagne. Born from an atypical year of contrasting weather conditions, 2016 explores the unique aroma profiles to be found in the terroirs of the Montagne de Reims.

As the third release in Bollinger's 'By Bollinger' series, following the B03 and B13 editions, this champagne is a testament to the producer's skill in navigating challenging weather conditions to create an exceptional and original wine. Exclusively made from Grands and Premiers Crus, focusing on the latest-ripening areas of the Montagne de Reims. Vinified in barrel and aged under natural cork, B16 was celled for 7 years on the lees, then riddled and disgorged by hand.

On the nose, it offers an intricate bouquet of floral notes like hawthorn and acacia honey, layered with lively accents of ripe stone fruits, and sweet almond. Its flavor profile is defined by a silky, ethereal texture that is perfectly balanced and culminates in a long, delicate finish. The extra-brut *dosage* ensures the wine's purity and refined character shine through.

\$295



BOLLINGER

'Special Cuvée' Brut NV

Cépages:

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay

Bollinger's Special Cuvée champagne is representative of their vineyards. With 60% of the House's vineyards producing Pinot Noir, this grape is the predominate variety in the Special Cuvée blend. Bollinger allow their non-vintage to mature for three years, which is twice as long as required, as they believe that great champagne needs time to develop its full character. Champagne Bollinger are the only Maison to age a proportion of their reserve wines in magnum, at any one time they have around 700,000 reserve wine magnums, representing around a third of their total reserve wine stocks.

A golden color with a beautifully fine mousse. The nose is complex with ripe fruit and spicy aromas. On the palate, rich apple and peach notes burst through. Hints of brioche and fresh walnut linger on the lasting finish to enhance this powerful Special Cuvée.

\$150

CHAMPAGNE GOSSET

'Grande Reserve' Brut NV

Cépages:

Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier

Gosset Grande Reserve is a truly faithful expression of the Gosset style. To achieve a cuvee of this quality, the cellar-master has blended the best of the various champagne crus at the grape-harvest with wines specially chosen from our reserve stocks for their richness and maturity.

Over the last several decades, the Gosset style has remained consistent—the wines show a sophisticated style that highlights the flavors and nuances of their reserve wines. The Gosset Grande Reserve Champagne offers creaminess and smooth textures.

The nose opens with the fresh ripeness of yellow apple and highlights of Granny Smith. It has beautifully subtle autolysis on the palate, deepening into notes of creamy apple crumble, Golden Delicious and Mirabelle plum, while remaining utterly strait-laced. Elegance, length and absolute freshness are inherent and quietly convincing.

\$120



CHAMPAGNE GOSSET

'Grand Rosé' Brut NV

Cépages:

Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

Gosset is a venerable house dating back to 1584 (it is actually the oldest house in Champagne, pre-dating Champagne as we know it now!).

It has seemed to us the Rosé Champagnes have been getting both fruitier and darker in color over the past several years, but here is one that recalls a more classic style. It distantly hints at cherries but fixes its focus on minerals and yeast in its aromas, and it follows with a full slate of toasty, champenized traits on the palate. It is explosively foamy but very creamy in feel with a fine lift of brightening acidity lending great length to its finish, and its impressive depth is never dependent on bulk. It is a wine for drinking with meals rather than being quaffed all alone, and it is sure to age effortlessly.

Pale pink; minerals and racy acidity; raspberry, crisp citrus and elegant style' vibrant and long. As with the Brut 'Excellence,' the Grande Rosé never goes through malolactic fermentation.

\$180





Veuve Clicquot is one of the most famous Champagnes in the world. Since its founding in 1772, Clicquot has not only been heralded for its wine, but also for the courage and creativity of Madame Clicquot who is regarded as being the first businesswoman of the modern era. From the well-known 'Yellow Label' to the Grande Dame prestige cuvees which pay homage to the '*grande dame de la Champagne*,' Madame Clicquot, for many, Veuve Cliquot is synonymous with Champagne.

VEUVE CLICQUOT

Brut NV

Cépages:

Pinot Meunier, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

The well-known "Yellow Label" has become synonymous with quality. The layers of citrus and minerality from the Chardonnay, brambly berry from the Pinot Meunier, and the refined full structure from the Pinot Noir, which is the dominant variety in this blend, makes this an outstanding Non-Vintage Champagne.

This is an elegant style of Champagne whose understated apple and butter flavors are well balanced by crisp acidity.

\$120

VEUVE CLICQUOT

'Grande Dame Brut 2008

Cépages:

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay

This is a sunny and delicious 2008, with brightness infusing the wine. Exhibiting aromas of pear, toasted bread, confit citrus and smoke, the 2008 Brut La Grande Dame is full-bodied, rich and textural, with a deep and layered core, ripe but racy acids and a saline finish. A blend dominated by fully 92% Pinot Noir, this is true to the cuvée's rich and muscular style, but the vintage lends it welcome additional cut and precision.

This is a classic wine from a fantastic vintage.

\$399

VEUVE CLICQUOT

'Grande Dame Brut 2012
(Louis Vuitton Box)

Cépages:

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay

A unique limited edition of Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame 2012 designed by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. It is with its iconic symbols, the flower and the polka dots, that Yayoi Kusama adorns La Grande 2012 gift box and bottle. The polka dots, Yayoi Kusama's signature patterns, evoke the Champagne bubbles.

Initial notes of white flowers on the nose, such as jasmine, honeysuckle and vine flowers can be felt and then opens with fruitier nuances of apple, pear and peach. A few notes of fresh almond and frangipane complete the bouquet. In the mouth, the cuvée reveals more complex aromas: dried apricot, hazelnuts, honey and sugar candy. Silky textures give the wine its personality, elegance and character.

\$425



POMMERY

'Cuvee Louise' Brut 2005

Cépages:

Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

This particular vintage showcases the exceptional craftsmanship and attention to detail that Pommery is renowned for. The grapes used in this blend are sourced from prestigious grand cru vineyards, with two-thirds Chardonnay from Avize and Cramant and one-third Pinot Noir from Aÿ. This combination of varietals contributes to the wine's impressive concentration and longevity.

Upon opening the bottle, one is greeted by enticing aromas of vanilla pod, gingerbread, and soft spice. These delightful scents are a testament to the warm and sometimes balmy weather conditions of the 2005 vintage. On the palate, the wine unveils a honied autolytic core, accompanied by hints of toffee, crème brûlée, and citrus peel. Subtle notes of quince and walnut add further complexity and contribute to its innate richness.

\$325



**DOM PERIGNON***Brut, 2009***Cépages:**

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay

Dom Pérignon could very well be the most celebrated champagne brand in the world, so it's only natural that people get excited when a new vintage is released. The stretch of excellent weather condition of 2009 was unprecedented, and allowed for the exploration of new frontiers of grape ripeness in Champagne. The vintage offers a taste of the ripest and richest fruit, grapes in their prime, with the promise of the future wine's freshness and energy. The 2009 vintage brings a prodigious, sunny, bold and generous decade to a close.

Stylish and seductive from the outset, already open and expressive with delicate ripe stone fruit, floral touches and minerality but also graceful, pure and lifted. Suave and glossy on the attack with very fine mousse, and a fine-textured mid-palate that hints at the warmth of the vintage underpinned by freshness. Beautifully judged, with hints of honey leading to a polished finish and a touch of crisp grapefruit...simply delicious with huge appeal now but not at the expense of balance.

Complete and harmonious with an irresistible vibrancy and energy.

\$310

“I had taken two finger-bowls of champagne, and the scene had changed before my eyes into something significant, elemental, and profound.”

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, ‘The Great Gatsby’

PREVOST LA CLOSERIE

Extra Brut 'Les Béguines' Extra Brut NV

Cépage:

Pinot Meunier

Jérôme Prévost and his estate of Champagne La Closerie are part of a small but powerful coalition of tiny producers making intense, terroir-transparent, vinous Champagnes. Rather than follow the traditional Champagne model of blending grapes, vintages, and vineyards to produce a "standardized" product, Jérôme and his fellow "Champagne Renegades" produce terroir-specific bottlings primarily dedicated to one grape and one vintage.

The NV Extra Brut Les Béguines is a wine of immense charm and generosity of spirit. Mingling aromas of walnuts, fenugreek, pear, yellow orchard fruit, licorice, white flowers and buttery pastry with evocations of peach and apricot, it's full-bodied, fleshy and voluptuous, with a broad and textural attack that segues into an ample, enveloping core, concluding with a sapid finish.

Sadly, the world at large is discovering how incredible the Champagnes of Prevost are, and we can never get as much as we want!



\$250

CHAMPAGNE BÉRÊCHE

Brut Reserve NV

Cépages:

Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier

It's been nearly two decades since growers began to dominate the headlines in Champagne. Yet, over that period, surprisingly few growers have managed to separate themselves from the pack—by virtue of their genius or their gift for making Champagne of unique expressiveness. Two that have are the brothers, Raphaël and Vincent Bérêche.

In fact, many authorities feel that Champagne Bérêche et Fils has now taken its place among the region's finest producers, house or grower. Antonio Galloni calls Raphaël and Vincent's Champagnes "among the very best readers will come across," adding that he buys the wines "whenever I see them." John Gilman writes simply that Bérêche is "at the top of its game and producing some of the finest wines in all of Champagne!"

Bursting with aromas of orange oil, crisp orchard fruit and fresh bread, it's medium to full-bodied, fleshy and gourmand, with tangy acids and an enveloping, pillowy profile.



\$125



TAITTINGER

*'Comtes de Champagne' Grand Cru
Blanc de Blancs 2011*

Cépage:
Chardonnay

The 2011 Champagne Blanc de Blancs 'Comte de Champagne' is from all the Grand Crus of the Côte de Blancs, save for Oiry.

2011 was a challenging year in Champagne, yet once again, Taittinger made a lovely Comtes de Champagne. While it is not the powerhouse that some may expect from this bottling, it is lithe, elegant, and showing beautifully at this stage.

With a kiss of toasted and buttered brioche, caramel apple, hazelnuts and a hint of saline, this wine gets more savory as it opens, although it still shows as being fairly youthful. The palate is full, with a fine mousse and a dusty feel of chalk, as well as fresh and pithy citrus.

Mineral driven, bright, energetic, and truly delicious! While there was initially some doubt about how this wine would age, it appears to have a long life ahead of it.

\$390



TAITTINGER

'Comtes de Champagne Rosé Brut 2007

Cépages:
Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier

The Comtes Rosé is made from 100% Grand Cru grapes and produced only in exceptional years. The Chardonnay grapes come from the prestigious Côte des Blancs, and the Pinot Noir from the Montagne De Reims. Only juice from the first pressing is used, in order to ensure the structure and long aging potential that is so essential to this exceptional Champagne.

This Champagne features extraordinarily delicate bubbles and a fresh, highly refined nose with complex aromas of wild strawberries, morello cherries and black currants with hints of fresh almonds and licorice. On the palate, the initial fruitiness quickly intensifies and leads into a rich, structured midpalate and a generous finish.

The 2007 vintage, per usual, has garnered effusive praise, with Wine Spectator saying: 'This harmonious rosé Champagne offers quiet grace, with a pleasing juiciness to the sleek acidity, framing finely knit flavors of raspberry, peach, brioche and candied pink grapefruit zest. Showing a raw silk-like texture, this caresses the palate through to the fresh, ginger-laced finish.'

\$460

LOUIS ROEDERER*'Cristal' Brut 2013***Cépages:**

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay



The 2013 vintage of Cristal from Maison Louis Roederer is the only one in the last two decades to be made from fruit that was harvested in October, as global warming has pushed most picking dates in the Champagne region forward into September. Spring was cool and flowering in 2013 did not occur until the month of July- almost unheard of in recent times! The cépages this year is sixty percent pinot noir and forty percent chardonnay, with one-third of the vins clairs barrel-fermented for this vintage. As always, none of the vins clairs went through malolactic fermentation and the wine was finished with a dosage of eight grams per liter.

The 2013 Cristal is made from an estate within their estate, and sourced from 45 mid-slope, old vine sites on the chalkiest parcels in the Côte des Blancs, Mountain of Reims and Grand Valley of the Marne. It is composed of 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay, and like the 2012, is treated to 32% barrel fermentation, mostly in very large oak uprights. It comes from one of the latest harvests in my career in Champagne, which did not start until October.

\$550**POL ROGER***'Sir Winston Churchill' Brut 2015***Cépages:**

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay



Pol Roger is one of the few remaining family-owned grande marque Champagne houses. Their grande marque status was guaranteed at the turn of the century when about 20 producers banded together to establish exacting quality controls for Champagne. The annual production at Pol Roger - less than 120,000 cases - is found in the best restaurants of France, England, and the USA, and is exported to over 30 countries.

Pol Roger also was the Champagne of choice of British dignitary Sir Winston Churchill, who once said of Champagne, "...In victory I deserve it, and in defeat I need it!".

Very complex nose with a wide spectrum of candied citrus, dried peach and mirabelle tart aromas. Bold and rich, particularly on the mid-palate, but with a great deal of subtlety and delicacy for the vintage. This is already delicious, but at the finish you really taste how this has been made for the long term. Great drive and persistence right at the end.

\$520

LES MONTS FOURNOIS*'Cote Vertus' 1er Cru 2010***Cépage:**

Chardonnay

Born in Champagne in a grower's family, Juliette Alips rapidly found her passion. With the mentorship of her close cousins, Raphaël and Vincent Bêrêche, she discovered and learned all the ins and outs of producing champagne, from farming, to vinification, tasting and blending. Now, with the help of her two cousins, she is starting this new adventure with Domaine Les Monts Fournois. Located in the north part of the Montagne de Reims, in the sub-area called La Grande Montagne, the Premier Cru Les Monts Fournois will be the focus of the domaine.

This is a little gem, which spent a whopping 13 years on the lees. 100% Chardonnay from Premier Cru vineyards in Vertus, sitting between the ridges, with full sun exposure. Incredibly fresh for its age, this opens up with notes of ripe yellow fruits, moving into a pure, electric palate showing great minerality and definition. A lovely wine, very true to the Chardonnay variety, combining refinement and delicacy. A truly memorable Blanc de Blancs!

**\$260****SCHRAMSBERG***'J Schram Blancs' 2014***Cépages:**

Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

From the inception of Schramsberg's efforts in 1965, the winery has sought to achieve the greatest elegance and individuality possible in our sparkling wines. J. Schram Blancs epitomizes Schramsberg's philosophy to create a wine in which no effort has been spared and no care has been omitted.

Representing only 2-3% of the winery's annual production, the Chardonnay-focused J. Schram Blancs blend is assembled from the very best base wine lots of the approximately 300 produced each year. This special bottling is dedicated to Schramsberg's founder, Jacob Schram, and has been a great success since its premier 1987 vintage was released in 1992.

The 2014 J. Schram Blancs opens with vivid aromas of Meyer lemon, nectarine, golden apple, and poached pear, combined with nuances of Belgian waffle and vanilla cake. The juicy palate features broad elements of rich baked citrus, dried pineapple, and apple strudel, layered with marzipan and ginger. A bright, long finish is driven by a backbone of generous, fruitful acidity.

A brilliant wine by California's greatest sparkling wine house.

**\$250**



MOUTARD

Methode Traditionelle Blanc de Blancs, NV

Cépage:
Chardonnay

The families of Champagne Moutard Diligent have been living in the village of Buxeuil since the mid-17th century, and have a long tradition of both grape growing and wine production. This unique combination lends itself to rich, fruity Champagnes with a different minerality than those made from the chalkier subsoils of the Marne in the north.

This is a relatively new wine from Moutard. While it is made in the same method in which Champagne is, the grapes for this wine are actually grown in Chablis, not Champagne.

Sharp, clean acidity with a steely minerality against a fruit profile of granny smiths and zingy citrus fruit. Bready notes from the secondary fermentation give a rich complexity that rounds off this fantastic wine.

\$11.00/glass \$37/bottle



PIERRE SPARR

Crémant d'Alsace Rosé Brut, NV

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Established in 1680, , and still family-owned to this day, Pierre Sparr remains focused on producing quality wines, a pure expression of Alsace, which are aromatic, fruity, elegant, clean and vibrant. Pierre Sparr wines are food-friendly and accessible for everyday consumption.

Pierre Sparr’s sparkling wines use grapes that are farmed sustainably, dry-farmed (no irrigation), and hand-harvested. Located in the Vosges hillsides and Rhine valley, elevation 200 to 400 meters (656 to 1,312 feet), primarily eastern and southern exposures.

Crémant d’Alsace Brut Rosé is a sparkling rosé from 100% Pinot Noir. This brut-style wine’s red berry aromas of strawberry and raspberry lead into mouth-filling, juicy flavors and lively acidity. Quite simply, this is delicious and completely crushable, but still offers nuance and complexity. We’d drink this by itself or with almost anything on our menu!

\$14.00/glass \$45/bottle



CHATEAU SAINT-CYRGUES

Costières de Nîmes 2024

Cépages:

Grenache, Syrah

Located in Saint Gilles, which borders the Camargue region (think wild white ponies and fresh French salt) at the mouth of the Rhone River, Chateau Saint Cyrgues was built on the ruins of the Church of Saint-Cirice de Marge in 1654. This abbey had at one time been part of the Saint Cyrgues priory, where cultivation of vine was part of the monks' daily rituals. Chateau Saint Cyrgues was seized during the French Revolution as clerical property, after which it changed hands many times.

Costières de Nîmes (which loosely translates to 'the slopes of Nîmes') sits at the nexus of rocky hills of Provence and the sandy alluvial plains of the Camargues. Many of its areas feature the larger, flat, galets, the signature stones of Chateauneuf du Pape.

Light-bodied and fresh – bursting with notes of spring-time flowers, wild cherry, and raspberry. Simply delicious!

\$9.00/glass

\$33/bottle



CHATEAU D'ESTOUBLON

'Roseblood,' Provence 2024

Cépages:

Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault, Rolle

Nestled against the southern slopes of the Alpilles in the heart of Provence, Château d'Estoublon has been passionately perpetuating the tradition of olive oils and exceptional wines since 1489.

Today, the 200-hectare estate is owned and directed by an all-star cast: former French president Nicolas Sarkozy, model & musician Carla Bruni, the Courbit Family, and the Prats Family, previous owners of Château Cos d'Estournel. The team works alongside technical director Anais Maillet, former winemaker of Château Lafon-Rochet in St-Estephe and Terrazas de los Andes in Mendoza to create their flagship rose: Roseblood. They've chosen to write their history in harmony with nature by farming their vineyards both organically and sustainably.

Crafted from vines planted at 350-400 meters in altitude and on clay, limestone soils, the 2023 Roseblood d'Estoublon reveals a fresh, delicate bouquet of grapefruit, lemon, flowers, herbs and iodine. Medium-bodied, juicy and round, it's fresh with lively acids and a long, mouthwatering, ethereal finish.

\$49

ALSACE – A REGION UNLIKE ANY OTHER

The wines from Alsace are some of the most delicious in France, yet they are also the most misunderstood. Part of the reason for the confusion, is that this part of France was in the past actually a part of Germany. This is reflected in the names of many of the producers (Deiss in particular is very Germanic), the shapes of the bottles and the way the wines are labeled.

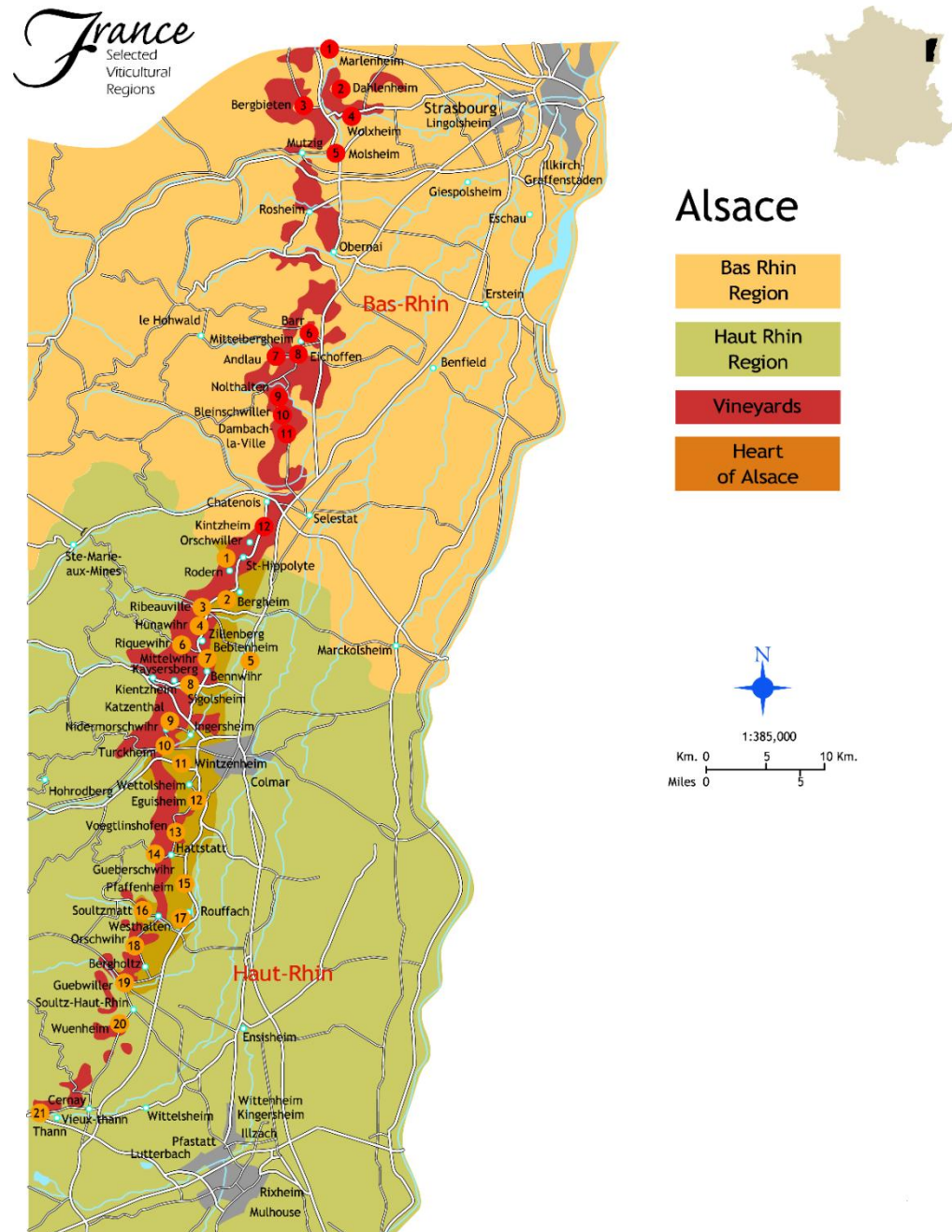
In 1871, Alsace was annexed to the new German Empire following its victory in the Franco-Prussian War. The occupation lasted until 1918 when, after Germany's defeat in the First World War, the region was ceded to France under the Treaty of Versailles. The region was then occupied once by Germany during the Second World War. This influence still shows today in a language known as Alsatian, a language spoken by nearly half the population!

The region lies just to the East of the Vogues Mountains, and being in the rain shadow means the region is warmer and drier than much of the rest of France. The white wines from this region tend to have a richness and an opulence not found in the wines of neighboring Germany.

The wines in Alsace are also typically labeled by the grape varietal, which is unusual in France. In this sense, they are easier to understand than a region such as the Loire Valley, where only the name of the region is listed, and one must know what the grapes are in the bottle (we try to make that a little easier in this wine list by telling you the name of the grapes in each wine).

This wines are wonderful with really rich foods. Pâté is a particularly good partner for the wines of Alsace.

S'gilt!





DOMAINE PFISTER

Tradition 2022

Cépage:
Pinot Gris

Domaine Pfister began life in 1780 during our Revolutionary War. That seems a long time ago, until you learn that Pfister's village of Dahlenheim was favorably noted for wine production in the distant year of 884. Mélanie Pfister is one of the upcoming stars in Alsace, and she 'officially' took over from her father with the 2006 vintage, but dad is far from retiring. He very proudly has got his daughter's back, and works the vines as hard as he ever did.

Almost tropical overtones on the nose announce ample pure fruit. Russet pear has both a touch of fresh Amalfi lemon and luscious honey. Yet the palate is slender, taut and dry. A lovely, dry evocation of the varietal richness of Pinot Gris, framed on very light feet with elegance and poise.

Totally appetizing.

\$62



PIERRE SPARR

Alsace 'One' 2021

Cépages:
Muscat, Riesling, Pinot Gris

Alsace has been celebrated for its lovely, dry white wines for centuries, but it has gained a reputation for enticing traditional method sparkling wines in recent years. In the heart of Alsace's finest district, the Haut-Rhin, Maison Pierre Sparr follows a 300-year-old tradition of winemaking that began during the reign of King Louis XIV. The devotion to the land, the attention to the smallest detail and the uncompromising quest for excellence is in every bottle bearing the Sparr family crest.

On the nose first of all fresh and mineral, light notes of fruity lychee, paired with exotic flavors. The palate follows with fresh fruit flavors, a dynamic acidity plays around the tongue, balanced with plenty of extract and a pleasantly light, racy body. The long spicy finish has a fancy touch of acidity.

This is a wonderful entry into the world of Alsace wines!

\$12.50/glass

\$41/bottle



DOMAINE OSTERTAG

'Meunchberg' Grand Cru 2021

Cépage:

Riesling

Ostertag's "Mountain of the Monks" parcel has absolutely everything going for it: nine centuries of uninterrupted grape cultivation, an insane swirl of lava and sandstone in the ground, perfect southern exposition, steep, horse-plowed slopes, old vines, and a pristine location in an undeveloped hidden valley, far from the rattle and hum of modern society. What more could a grand cru want?

The nose is textbook Alsace Riesling: aromatic notes, accompanied by hints of aromatic herbs and marked minerality. It has an incomparable elegance and intensity. The delicate texture of the sandstone meets the power of the volcano in a sensual but very vibrant wine. The feminine charm of the sandstone perfectly balances the masculine fire of the volcano. The finish is timeless, savory and spicy, of rare complexity and nobility.

Powerful, elegant and stunning.

\$149



DOMAINE OSTERTAG

'Les Jardins' 2021

Cépage:

Pinot Blanc

André Ostertag is clearly one of the most dynamic producers in Alsace today, and certainly one of the highest rated. André is passionate and free-thinking, and his wines reflect this. Biodynamism was extended to 100% of the domain in 1998, precluding any use of herbicides, chemical fertilizers and insecticides. All viticultural work is done manually, including harvest. In the cellar, press cycles are long and gentle, fermentations are long and conducted without artificial yeasts, and wines are left on their lees.

The result is an uncommonly full-bodied and structured Pinot Blanc - yet dry. It exudes fresh fruity aromas of fresh apples, yellow peaches and nectarine. A hint of hazelnut comes out with air.

Deep but tense with a clear mineral feel and delicate creaminess.

\$59



DOMAINE OSTERTAG

'Vieilles Vignes' 2020

Cépage:
Sylvaner

There is poetry to Ostertag's practices. He looks for the nuance of *terroir* rather than the typicality of a grape varietal.

This wine is biodynamic, which you could say goes several steps beyond organic in terms of being in tune with nature. Beautiful aroma, silky mouthfeel, fresh with old-vine weight, interesting, and downright delicious.

A very beautiful, atypical Sylvaner. We love its balance and dashing energy. From vines agreed aged between 50 -75 years old, planted on a dozen plots of the town of Efig, with very varied soils. After aging for almost a year in vats, this Sylvaner displays a profile that is both fresh and fleshy. The bouquet is pure and expressive, with notes of white flowers, chervil, pear and white peach, complemented by a more exotic touch reminiscent of grapefruit. The imprint of the soil brings here a fine salinity and a delicate bitterness, evoking fresh almonds and citrus skins.

\$59



DOMAINE OSTERTAG

'Les Jardins' 2020

Cépage :
Riesling

To call André Ostertag a revolutionary winemaker is to tell just half the story. He is a pioneer, certainly, but also an ardent environmentalist (as demonstrated in both his wine and his sculpture, another passion). After training in Burgundy, André returned to the family domain in Alsace with renewed zeal: he lowered yields considerably and introduced viticultural and vinification techniques from other regions to his own home ground.

Beautiful floral aromatics lead the experience with this wine. Light apple, lemon and mineral aromas can also be found. The palate is perfectly balanced and dry with apple, lemon and mineral flavors. The acidity is spot on. The finish is long and fantastic, leaving tart apple and lemon flavors lingering on the palate. This is a fantastic Riesling!

\$59

ALBERT BOXLER*'Brand' Grand Cru* 2016**Cépage:**

Gewurztraminer



Jean Boxler, many generations removed from his ancestor of the same name that moved here from Switzerland in 1673, currently rules the roost at this humble yet incredibly exciting domaine. Intense and serious about his land, his craft, and his wine, Jean is the genius behind what are some of the finest white wines in Alsace.

The family's holdings are centered around the ancient village of Niedermorschwihr in the Haut-Rhin, dominated by the imposing granite hillside grand cru, Sommerberg. Jean vinifies micro-parcels within this cru separately, de-classifying some into his Réserve wines and producing multiple bottlings of Sommerberg from the different *lieux-dits* depending on the vintage.

Brand is an imposing grand cru, standing steep and proud above the town of Turckheim, exposed due south and planted in pure granite. Hot stone is a theme in this wine. This is Boxler's most powerful Riesling—deeply flavored, colored, and structured, built to age. These vines work hard to make a living, and the intensity of that struggle shines through magnanimously.

\$150**ALBERT BOXLER***'Reserve' 2018***Cépage:**

Gewurztraminer



Boxler is known for his impeccable mastery of the Gewurztraminer variety and this cuvée is a perfect illustration of such work. Well-integrated flavors of mango, white peach, lychee, and ginger dominate this unctuous yet refreshing palate.

The Hill of Sommerberg ends essentially at Jean Boxler's house, which make sit easy for him to practically live in the vineyards!

After harvest, the wines are vinified and aged in old *foudres* in a small cellar underneath the family home until bottling. Not much has changed over the centuries; not much has needed to. Tasting through the entire range of Boxler's wines is ample proof of the fact that Alsace, along with Burgundy, is the source of the world's most complex, exciting white wines, and will probably always be.

Ripe and juicy nectarine and lychee fruit is accented by a lovely range of apple blossom, grated ginger and smoky mineral notes in this mouthwatering, medium-bodied white. Long and expressive on the finish. Pair with Pates and rich foods.

\$99

DOMAINE OSTERTAG*'Le Bal des Masqués' 2020***Cépage:**

Gewurztraminer

For fans of 'orange wines': that is, wine made from white grapes where the juice is left in contact with the grape skins, similar to how a red wine is made. In truth, white wine grapes aren't actually white at all; their skin can range from pale yellow to more of a copper color.

Arthur Ostertag continues his experimentation with the Gewurztraminer grape with this fourth rendition of his skin-fermented white wine that is playfully accompanied by a comic-strip label series.

Expect a coppery color, an incredibly complex aroma that includes strawberry, tomato, and sweet pepper, and a well-structured palate with a red wine tannin.

This wine is not for everyone, but if you are a fan of natural wines, and want to try out an orange wine, this one's for you.

**\$50****WHY ARE WINES FROM ALSACE LABELED DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER FRENCH REGIONS? AND WHAT'S WITH THE TALL, SKINNY BOTTLES?**

Many wines from France carry the name of the region, or the appellation from which they come. Then you just have to know what the grapes are in the region (although we helpfully list the grapes on every wine in this wine list!). This can be a daunting task, but it's actually easier in Alsace...most of the time.

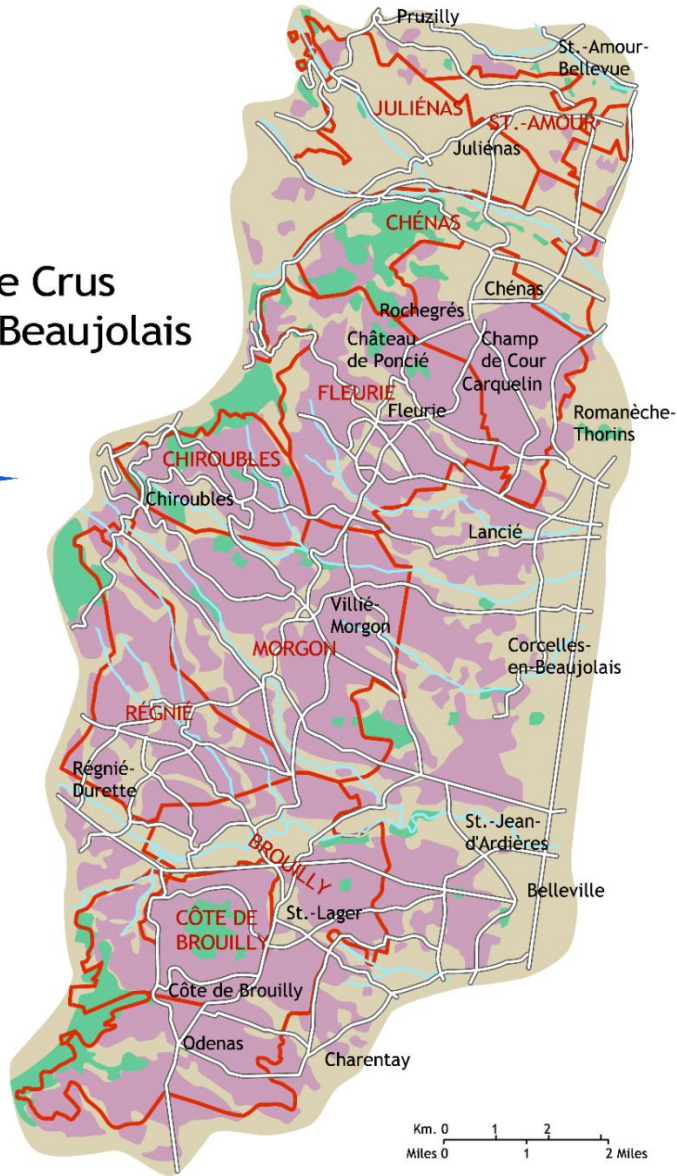
Fifty kilometers and the Rhine River separate Alsace from Germany. Just like in Germany the white wines dominate here, and just as in Germany it is Riesling that is the iconic grape. Perhaps this is where the similarities end since Alsatian wines have their very own special character which is neither French nor German, but simply Alsatian.

Regarding nationality, it was quite a complicated situation before the 30-years war. The national boundaries were fluid and Alsace was just on this frequently changing boundary where constant battles were fought. The 30-years war affected Alsace very much and the population halved. This led to the French King Louis XIV (Alsace had become French) giving away land for free to those who wanted to settle there. In 1870, the Franco-German war began, and when it ended two years later, Alsace was once again German. That would remain the case until the end of WW1, when Alsace once again returned to France. It becomes easy to see why so many wines from Alsace have Germanic winery names, and why a similar bottle shape is used (called a *flûte d'Alsace*)!

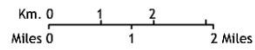
Those tall bottles are almost always labeled with the name of one of Alsace's Noble Grapes: Riesling, Pinot Gris, Gewurztraminer and Muscat. These are the only grapes that are allowed to be used in wines carrying the Grand Cru vineyard designation in Alsace. Occasionally you will find blended wines, but 80% of wines from Alsace are a single varietal wine.



The Crus of Beaujolais



Vineyards
Woods
Limits of Grands Crus



CHATEAU DE JARNIOUX*Beaujolais 2021***Cépage:**
Gamay

Located at the southernmost tip of wine-producing Burgundy, the Beaujolais is a region that cannot be ignored. This is an impressive terroir and the birthplace of the Gamay grape, which fully expresses itself here more than anywhere else. Jarnioux and its hilly landscapes offer gorgeous panoramas of the Saône valley. Here, the vines are planted in calcareous clay soil (sedimentary in origin and therefore comparable to the soil profiles found in Burgundy). In this exceptional region, where it is warmer than in the rest of Burgundy, both the soil and the people working it contribute to the highly exceptional Gamay wines produced here, thereby affirming a true Beaujolais terroir.

Delectable, fresh, typical nose with notes of strawberry and candy. Clean, red-fruited Beaujolais with clarity to its currant and red-berry flavor. It's simple and lasting, fresh and fun. The 2021 vintage is a lighter brighter than the 2020's warm weather bottling, and all the better for it.

This is one of our favorite wines to enjoy on the patio, by itself, or with our Pate!

\$12.00/glass**\$39/bottle**
**BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU, BEAUJOLAIS,
BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGE & CRU BEAUJOLAIS EXPLAINED**

Many people who are familiar with Beaujolais know it primarily from the festive **Beaujolais-Nouveau** bottles that release on the third Thursday of each November. While fun quaffers, for the most part these are not wines meant for contemplation; they are 'wines of the moment' to celebrate the end of the year's harvest.

Wines labeled as '**Beaujolais**' are the wines that can come from anywhere in the Beaujolais region. The reds must all be made of Gamay, but there is some Chardonnay grown in the region for white wines.

Beaujolais-Villages wines are step above basic Beaujolais in terms of complexity, and are made in villages that produce better quality grapes.

At the top of the pyramid lie the **Cru Beaujolais**. These are wines made from within the 10 best growing regions in Beaujolais: Brouilly, Chenas, Chiroubles, Cote de Brouilly, Fleurie, Julienas, Morgon, Moulin-a-Vent, Régnié and St Amour.

Cru Beaujolais is, in our opinion, one of the great values of the world. The wines offer tremendous pleasure when young, pair wonderfully with a wide variety of foods, and can age beautifully. The best of them can resemble top Burgundies with some age!

JEAN-MARC BURGAUD

*Beaujolais-Villages
'Les Vignes des Lantignié' 2023*

Cépage:
Gamay

The Beaujolais Village from Burgaud comes from Lantignié at Castle Thulon, a village famous for its hills and its granite. Winemaking, farming and bottling take place in the cellars of Thulon (from the 13th century) from Jean Marc's great-aunt Mrs. Ham. Beaujolais Villages, "Les Vignes de Thulon" is an exclusive domain with the average age of vines around 50 years old.

To develop a great wine, Burgaud believes the winemaker must know their terroirs, work to get the best possible grapes, and this harmony can arise from large bottles.

And so, how does it taste? Like gamay should from Beaujolais. It's light to mid weight with a beautiful nose of rose petal. It's clean, concentrated, tart and floral with predominant flavors of berries and a stray stone fruit or two.

This is absolutely beautiful!

\$37



JEAN-MARC BURGAUD

Morgon 'Côte du Py' Cru Beaujolais 2023

Cépage:
Gamay

Jean-Marc Burgaud is a top Beaujolais grower, claimed by many to be the best producer in Morgon. He comes from a family of winemakers, and his own career in the industry began in 1989 after he completed a diploma in oenology.

Burgaud's aim is always to illustrate his passion for winemaking in the most important place of all: the glass. Perhaps most well-regarded is his Morgon, the meatily-structured Cote du Py.

The aromas of the Côte du Py are very smoky, with rich blackberry and black cherry fruit, iron, stones and the suggestion of coffee. Medium body and acidity are combined with a substantial amount of tannin. There is a great deal of blackberry and black cherry, smoke, mineral, and hints of tar and herbs. There is a liveliness and multi-faceted aspect to the flavors that is very appealing.

If you are not already a fan of Cru Beaujolais, this may be the wine will make to believer out of you. Brilliant!

\$55



LUCIEN LE MOINE*'Morgon' Cru Beaujolais 2019***Cépage:**
Gamay

Is this the most limited wine that Mounir Saouma makes? Certainly these magnums of Morgon from Lucien Le Moine were the first we had not only seen, but had even heard of!

In fact, there are only 2 Magnums came to Missouri – and we bought them both. The owner of the importer (Pinnacle Imports), Bill Kniep, intended to buy these for his own personal cellar, but fortunately (for us, not for him), he forgot the wine was in his warehouse, and we swooped in and bought it!

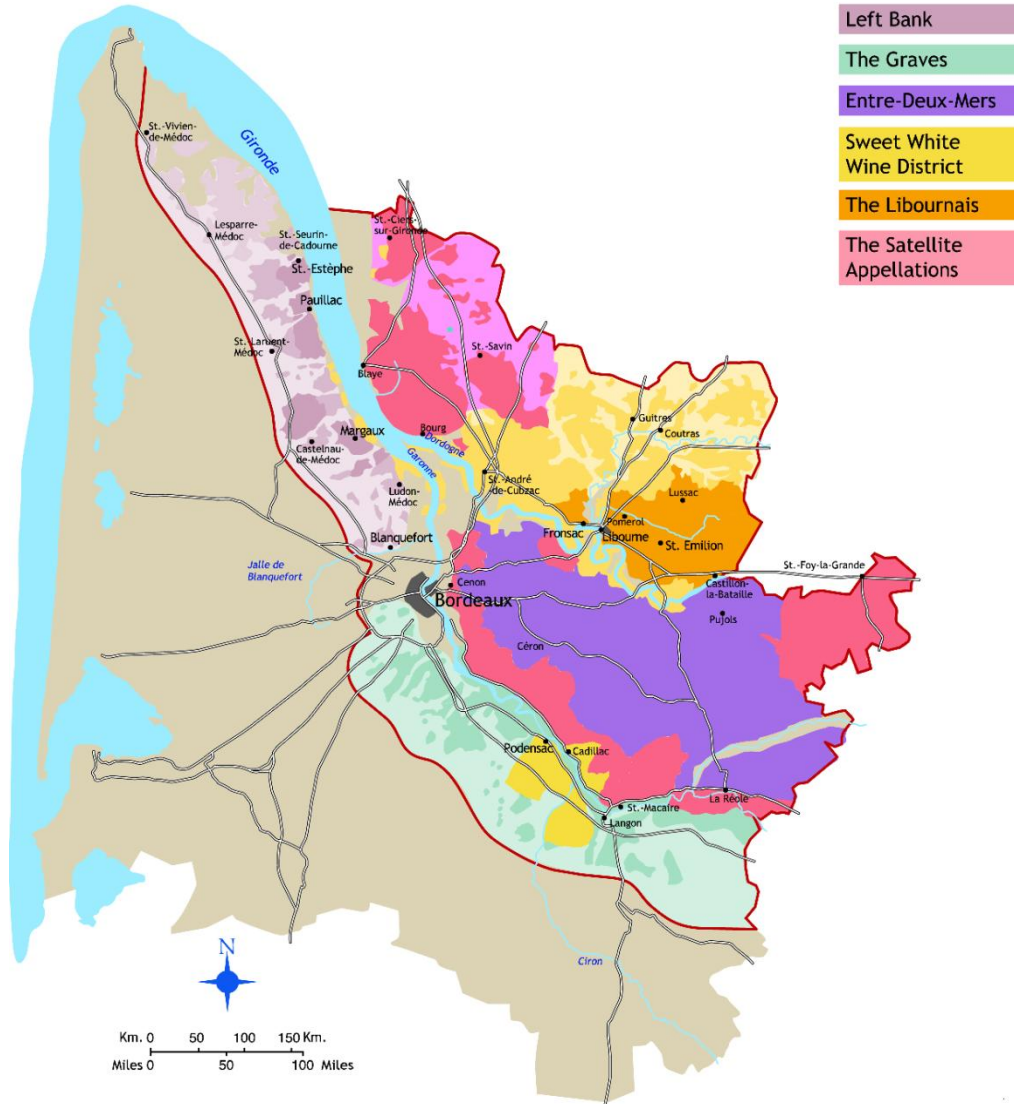
There is a belief that in the distant past, great Beaujolais could surpass even the finest Burgundies with age; Mounir treats this wine in the same way that he treats his Pinot Noirs from Beaujolais' northerly neighbors. This is truly special, and rare. Being in a Magnum, this wine will age and develop more slowly than it would if it were in a 750ml sized bottle, and it will be a pleasure enjoying this wine over the course of an evening as it evolves in your glass.

Morgon is perhaps our favorite of the Beaujolais Crus, and if there is a better producer than Le Moine... we'd certainly like to try their wines, too!

\$490 1.5L Magnum

France
Selected
Viticultural
Regions

Bordeaux





LOU DENNE

Bordeaux 2019

Cépages:

Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc

Loudenne also boasts a rich history spanning 350 years. A prestigious past that owes much to two British merchants: Alfred and Walter Gilbey. In 1875, these two lovers of life and "beautiful things" decided to make the estate their home port in France.

The port of Loudenne then made it possible to ship wines by sea to London and also to their distribution outlets around the world. They built the ultra-modern winery for the time and redesigned the English-style grounds. For 125 years, the Gilbey family, and later the company they founded, built the vineyard's reputation and made Loudenne a desirable place to live and entertain.

The 2019 is drinking nicely, with white grapefruit, sliced apple, crushed stone, flint and dried lemon on the nose. Medium-bodied with sharp acidity. Tangy, flinty and zesty.

\$75



CHÂTEAU LAMOthe DE HAUX

Bordeaux 2024

Cépages:

Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Muscadelle

Château Lamothe's foundations date back to the 16th century. Its renovation in the 19th century transformed the building into a charming residence whose facade is pictured on the label. Located in the commune of Haux, on top of a clay-limestone slope in the heart of the Bordeaux wine country, this estate has been devoted to winegrowing from the very beginning, and has belonged to the same family for 4 generations (as of 1956).

This is as complex as a Pessac-Leognan at half the price. The winemaking is traditional. It is aged on the lees for about 3 weeks, which accounts for its round, smooth, and remarkably fruity flavor. It is ideal as an aperitif, or with fish, seafood (a must with oysters), and cheese.

The 2021 Lamothe has a light honeysuckle and orange zest-scented nose that needs aeration to really coalesce. The palate is viscous on the entry and spicy on the back palate and boasts floral aromas and bright citrus fruit flavors. The palate is round and fresh, with a long finish.

\$10.00/glass

\$37/bottle

CLOS DES LUNES*Pessac-Léognan 2023***Cépages:**

Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc

Founded by Olivier Bernard, the owner of Domaine e Chevalier in Pessac-Leognan and Chateau Guiraud in Sauternes, the property previously made undistinguished, sweet wines under the name of Chateau Haut Caplane. That is no longer the case, now that Olivier Bernard and his son, Hugo Bernard began turning things around at Clos des Lunes. Today, Hugo Bernard is essentially managing Clos des Lunes.

The Clos des Lunes has loads of rich, sweet, pomelos, lemon peel, and crisp green apple, with a touch of honeysuckle. The palate of vibrant, fresh and refreshing, with a real crisp finish.

The wine was made from a blend of 65% Semillon and 35% Sauvignon Blanc.

**\$55****CHATEAU LA LOUVIÈRE***'L de la Louvière' Pessac-Léognan 2022***Cépage:**

Sauvignon Blanc

Château La Louvière has long been famous for its white wines. In fact, these already highly-prized by Canadian merchants in the 17th century ! A century later, they were to be found on the finest tables in Saint Petersburg. The very elegant white La Louvière is now among the finest dry white wines in the Graves, and is a fine ambassador for the Pessac-Léognan appellation.

Château La Louvière's second wine, L de La Louvière, is made with the same care and attention as its older brother. This wine is immensely attractive thanks to its roundness and fruitiness. It is produced according to traditional methods with a few modern touches in a prestigious location where art reigns alongside winegrowing.

Intense on the nose with delicious aromas of yellow and exotic fruits, accompanied by subtle hints of citrus. Barrel ageing adds delicious notes of gingerbread. The attack is full and silky, with a lovely freshness in the middle of the palate that lingers through the finish.

**\$75**



CHÂTEAU ARGADENS

Bordeaux Supérieur, 2019

Cépages:

Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec

Château Argadens is owned by the Sichel Family, important *negociants* in Bordeaux.

At the end of the 1960s, the Sichel Family firmly established itself in the southern part of the Côtes de Bordeaux area, by setting up the Bel Air cellar in the village of Saint-Maixant. At that time, it became the first Bordeaux wine merchant to possess its own winemaking cellar. Unceasingly striving to improve procedures, infrastructures and wines made in its cellar, the Sichel Family stepped up its presence by purchasing, in 2002, Château Argadens.

The Argadens this vintage shows a classic Bordeaux nose of deep, concentrated Blackcurrent fruit and leathery spice. The palate is generous and complex giving delicious, dark, bramble fruit, tobacco and cloves with gentle hints of vanilla oak and soft, ripe tannins.

\$11.00/glass

\$42/bottle

BORDEAUX VS. BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR WINES

Bordeaux is among the oldest wine producing regions of the world, with over 12,000 producers. The region itself has over 25 different appellations, most referring to a specific and geographically defined area that offers unique soils, microclimate and sun exposure. However, there are two appellations that are often confusing for the average consumer and they are 'Bordeaux' and 'Bordeaux Supérieur'. These are not specific appellations like the Cotes de Bourg, or St. Emilion, but appellations that encompass the entire region.

If a producer grows grapes anywhere within the Bordeaux wine region, and then produces wine from those grapes, the wine can be labelled as Bordeaux. This includes negociants (wine brokers) and anyone who purchases grapes and/or finished wines and bottles them. Thus, the range of production can be enormous from a bottling of 5000 to 500,000 bottles, and quality ranging from basic industrially produced wines to good basic wine offering good value.

Look more for Bordeaux wines displaying the appellation 'Bordeaux Supérieur'. Why you ask? What is the difference? Is the wine actually superior to those labelled merely 'Bordeaux' and does it warrant the few dollars more in price? The short and simple answer is yes.

Wines offered for consideration for the Bordeaux Supérieur appellation are judged by a juried panel from submitted samples and must meet the same criteria as "Bordeaux" wines, and additionally show superb ripeness (meaning that the wine must reach 12% alcohol).

CHÂTEAU MAYNE-VIEIL*Fronsac 'Cuvée Alienor' 2020***Cépage:**
Merlot

Chateau Mayne Vieil is a single vineyard (47 hectares) in Fronsac on a hill of clay loam with a moderate slope at an altitude of nearly 40 meters. The vineyard is planted with 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. The village of Fronsac lies due north of Pomerol about 15 minutes from the famous chateaus of Le Pin and Cheval Blanc.

Château Mayne-Vieil Cuvée Alienor is a selection of old Merlot vines from a single parcel on the estate. This is the luxury cuvée from vineyards in the Seze family, which has owned Chateau Mayne-Vieil since 1918.

With its perfumed fruits and firm tannins, it is serious as well as sumptuous. It has weight and a dry texture that will soften into the blackberry fruits and generous structure.

This is a fantastic introduction to Bordeaux, for a wonderful vintage!

\$45**CHÂTEAU PUYGUERAUD***Francs – Côtes de Bordeaux 2022***Cépages:**
Merlot, Cabernet Franc

The Francs-Côtes-de-Bordeaux appellation is a subregion of Bordeaux, located on the right bank of the Dordogne river in southwest France. It is one of the smallest regions in Bordeaux but has its own AOC designation since 2009.

Chateau Puygueraud was purchased by George Thienpont in 1946. The Thienpont family was already quite successful in Bordeaux by those days, as they were popular negociants and they owned Chateau Vieux Chateau Certan in Pomerol as well as Chateau Troplong Mondot in St. Emilion at one point as well!

The 49-hectare vineyard of Chateau Puygueraud is planted to 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec, with the vines averaging 30 years of age.

An array of fresh dark and blue-fruit aromas, together with hints of baking spices, chocolate and crushed rocks. Full-bodied and compact with firm, polished tannins and delicious, succulent fruit. We'd decant this one, but it is really lovely right out of the bottle, if you do not want to wait. This is brilliant stuff, the essence of Bordeaux.

\$58

“Most of the men regarded Europe as a wine list. In their mental geography Rheims, Rhine, Moselle, Bordeaux, Champagne, or Würzburg were not localities but libations.”

- Edna Ferber



CHÂTEAU L'ÉVANGILE

Pomerol 2008

Cépages:

Merlot, Cabernet Franc

Château L'Évangile's wines are described in an old edition of "Grand Vins de Bordeaux", as "full-bodied and elegant, with incomparable finesse." Some things never change!

Chateau L'Évangile is one of the oldest properties in Pomerol. In fact, Chateau L'Évangile has a long history dating all the way back to 1741. By 1900, Chateau L'Évangile was widely considered the third-best wine in all of Pomerol, just behind Vieux Chateau Certan and Petrus.

In the 1990s, l'Évangile was purchased by the owners of the famous Chateau Lafite-Rothschild estate, who have invested vigorously in both the vineyards and the winery.

2008 was a vintage that initially seemed liked it was going to be a disaster. The year started cool and rainy, and budbreak was problematic. However, the rest of the year was perfect, and the resulting wines, though small in quantity, were of fantastic quality.

The dense purple-colored 2008 l'Évangile exhibits a floral nose of sweet mulberries, black currants, and black cherries, a full-bodied, lush texture, silky tannins, and an exceptionally fine finish.

\$490

CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR-PETRUS*Pomerol 2017***Cépages:**

Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot



Château La Fleur-Pétrus is one of the most renowned vineyards of Pomerol. This historic estate, situated exclusively on the plateau, was named in the 18th century for its position across the localities 'Petrus' and 'La Fleur'.

The personality of Château La Fleur-Pétrus lies in the careful association of the famous gravel and clay terroirs of the plateau of Pomerol. The vineyard, located at 33 to 38 meters above sea level, draws its identity from the nuances of soil and elevation of each parcel. Those parcels which are dominated by gravel tend to yield wines of great elegance, while those dominated by clay are distinctly velvety, dense, and structured.

The 2017 Chateau La Fleur-Pétrus is a gorgeous wine that stays in the classic style of the vintage yet still packs plenty of oomph and textural richness. Based on 93% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot, **its** deep ruby/purple color is followed by a seamless, medium to full-bodied 2017 that has fantastic cassis and black raspberry fruits, lots of floral and spice nuances, subtle oak, and ripe, present, polished tannins. It doesn't have the opulence of the 2015 and 2016, but it's about as classy as they come.

Always one of our favorites, we make sure that there is always some in the Café des Amis wine cellar.

We would recommend decanting of this great wine.

\$690

PETRUS*Pomerol 2010***Cépage:**
Merlot

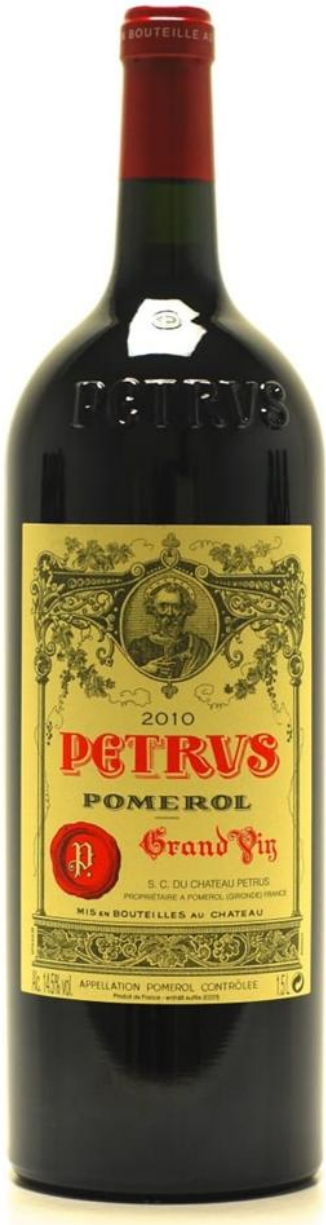
The name Pétrus first appeared in 1837, when the estate was owned by the Arnaud family. It was owned by this family since the end of the 18th century. The vineyard, situated on the plateau in Pomerol on the right bank of the Gironde estuary, had been planted almost entirely with Merlot. Only 5% was reserved for Cabernet Franc, but in 2010 they changed to 100% Merlot grapes. Although the wines from Pétrus were considered one of the best from Pomerol in the 19th century, it was not until the end of World War 2 that the wine became famous throughout the world with the fantastic 1945.

The widow Madame Loubat became the sole proprietor of the domain in 1940. After the harsh winter of 1956, almost 70% of the vineyard was destroyed. Instead of replanting, Madame Loubat decided to cut back the vines on surviving rootstocks, thus ensuring that the average age of the vines remained high. Madame Loubat died in 1961, and the property was divided into 3 shares. When Jean-Pierre Moueix died in 2003, his son Jean-François Moueix became the owner of Pétrus. The surface area of Pétrus covers 11.4 Ha and the average age of the vines is 45+ years.

All the grapes are harvested by hand and because the vineyard is quite small, the harvest can be done in one to three days only. The selection of the grapes is rigorous. There is no second wine, so the average production is about 25.000 – 30.000 bottles every year.

Given the pedigree of both the wine, and the vintage, it is no surprise that both The Wine Advocate and James Suckling awarded this wine a perfect 100-point score. From James Suckling:

‘This a Petrus with extraordinary balance and depth. It shows such elegance in the nose with complexity of black olives, dark fruits, and flowers. The palate is full and ultra-velvety yet there is a cashmere quality to the texture. It takes your breath away. There's almost a Burgundian quality in the mouthfeel meaning it takes you deep into the soil and captivates your attention. Greatest modern vintage of Petrus ever?’

\$7999***(We're rolling back prices!)***

CHÂTEAU LE GAY

Pomerol 2012

Cépages:

Merlot, Cabernet Franc

The Return of one of our favorites! We first tried this gorgeous wine at our first annual Historical Bordeaux wine dinner in the Spring of 2024, and quickly sold out that night of every bottle that we had purchases. We thought that was the last we would see of this bottle, but were able to purchase 2 more 6 packs of the wine through Maison Sichel, a top-flight Bordeaux negociant, ensuring that the provenance of the wine was perfect!

Located in the esteemed Pomerol appellation of Bordeaux, Château Le Gay has earned its place among the region's most distinguished wineries.

The tale of Château Le Gay is a narrative woven into the rich fabric of Pomerol's winemaking history. Originating in 1845 under the name Domaine du Gay, the estate took its moniker from the *lieu-dit*, Le Gay.

Château Le Gay's 10.5 hectare (26 acre) vineyard is a haven for Bordeaux's finest grape varietals, with 90% dedicated the Merlot and the rest to Cabernet Franc. The terroir of the Pomerol plateau, a blend of clay and gravel, imparts distinctive characteristics to the grapes. Notably, the vineyard boasts vines nearly 50 years old, with some dating back to pre-1956 frost. The Château's grand vin is made from vines that are at least 40 years old.

The 2012 from Le Gay sports an inky purple color as well as masculine, lifted notes of plums, violets, licorice and scorched earth. A big, rich, concentrated effort, it has impeccable purity, a firm, focused, structured core, notable acidity, and superb concentration. This is in a tremendous place right now – the texture is velvety, the fruit is still singing, and the wine is just now beginning to show some secondary characteristics.

This is probably the last we will be able to get of this incredible wine. We'd decant it briefly, but even if you just want it straight in the glass, you will not be disappointed.



\$350

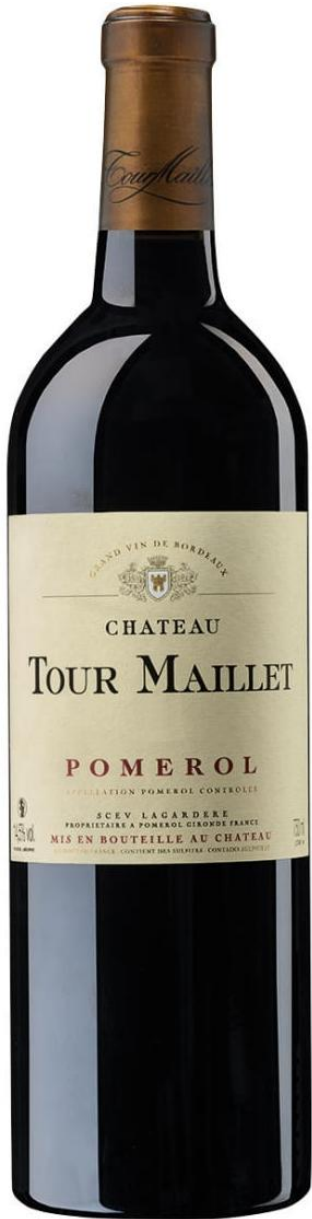
CHÂTEAU TOUR MAILLET*Pomerol 2020***Cépages:**
Merlot

Few Pomerol estates capture both history and terroir as beautifully as Château Tour Maillet. This small, family-run property traces its roots back generations and have long been part of the Pomerol landscape. The estate is one of the appellation's under-the-radar treasures.

Tour Maillet's estate vineyards lie just a short distance from the legendary Pétrus plateau, on the same band of deep clay-gravel soils that define the very best terroirs. Here, old-vine Merlot flourishes, producing wines with both power and elegance in true Right Bank style.

Hubert de Bouard of Chateau Angelus and well-known enologist Michel Rolland have lent their expertise and consulted for Tour Maillet and their know how definitely shows.

Blueberry and spices, with hints of vanilla and light coffee. Full and juicy, with bright acidity and a clean, medium finish. This feels fully mature and ready to go now.

**\$110****CHÂTEAU DE LA MARECHAUDE***Lalande de Pomerol 2023***Cépages:**
Merlot, Cabernet Franc

The Chateau de la Marechaude Lalande-de-Pomerol is a refined Bordeaux red that embodies the charm and elegance of the Right Bank. Lalande de Pomerol is a good appellation to explore for value, and to get a sense of what the Right Bank of Bordeaux has to offer.

The Chateau de la Marechaude Lalande-de-Pomerol offers aromas of ripe plum, blackberry, and cherry layered with subtle notes of spice, cedar, and cocoa.

On the palate, the Chateau de la Marechaude Lalande-de-Pomerol is smooth and balanced, featuring silky tannins, vibrant freshness, and a long, polished finish. Representing both tradition and finesse, the Chateau de la Marechaude Lalande-de-Pomerol captures the authenticity of its terroir, making it a versatile wine suitable for both aging and immediate enjoyment.

**\$59**

CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE*Saint-Émilion Grand Cru 2018, 2020, 2021***Cépages:**

Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec

Bernard Magrez's Chateau Fombrauge enjoys a privileged location, beautifully situated on the first line of the hills of Saint-Emilion overlooking the Dordogne Valley. The estate's history dates to the sixteenth century and at a time when agricultural activity through the farms of the region was mostly grains, Fombrauge played a pioneering role in the history of the great wines of Saint-Emilion. When Bernard Magrez purchased the Chateau in 1999 he gave new life to the estate, investing in its renovation. His dedication and passion came to fruition as the estate officially became Saint-Emilion Grand Cru in 2012.

This red wine is planted on a vineyard of 58 hectares. The average vine planted is 36 years old. The vines are planted on clay, limestone and sandstone. The wine is aged for 18 months in three different ways. 45% of the yield is aged in new barrels, 45% in used barrels, and 10% in concrete vats.

CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE 2018 \$120

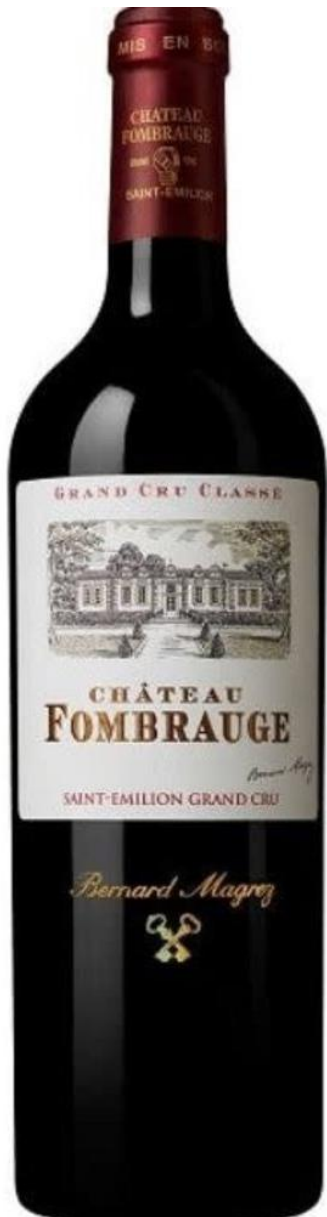
The 2018 Fombrauge needs some swirling to unlock notions of preserved plums, blackberry compote and Black Forest cake, with wafts of tree bark, tar and licorice in the background. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers impactful black fruits with a firm, grainy framed and soft acidity, finishing on a lingering aniseed note.

CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE 2020 \$110

Château Fombrauge 2020 has a dark red hue, intense fruit aromas and elegant tannins. The nose reveals aromas of cherries, blackberries and raspberries, along with spicy notes. On the palate, the wine is round, soft and silky. Its deep richness, matched with a nice freshness and a long and mellow finish, make it already a great Fombrauge, with a long ageing potential.

CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE 2021 \$105

This is a generous wine from the largest Grand Cru Classé estate. The black fruit and licorice aromas are paralleled by the opulent dark plum flavors, the tannins cushioned by the opulent texture.





CHÂTEAU FLEUR CARDINALE 'BOIS CARDINALE'

Saint-Emilion Grand Cru Classe 2012

Cépages:

Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon

At the beginning of the 19th century, traces of vines and winemaking facilities already existed, in the origins of the Château Cardinale. The place really began to function in 1920 under the name of "Clos Bel-Air". In 1975, Jean-Louis Obissier, a great lover of racehorses, became the new owner of the vineyard. On the death of his two best riders, Fleur and Cardinal, he decided to rename the property in their honor: the Château became Fleur Cardinale. In 2001, Dominique Decoster, owner - among others - of the Haviland company in Limoges, sold all his porcelain businesses and bought the Château with his wife Florence in order to settle there and give his wines the excellence they deserve.

Bois Cardinale is a second wine from Chateau Fleur Cardinale. The wines from this estate are always round and generous, and the 2012 Bois Cardinale is no exception. This is drinking beautifully right now.

\$65



CHÂTEAU ANGELUS*Saint-Émilion Premier Grand Cru Classé A 2016***Cépages:**

Merlot, Cabernet Franc



Chateau Angelus has one of the longest histories in the St. Emilion appellation. The de Bouard family has an even longer history in the region. In fact, the de Bouard family has been in Bordeaux for more than 700 years. They arrived in St. Emilion in 1782.

Chateau Angelus takes its name from a common, everyday event. On a daily basis, the people working their vineyards heard sounds of bells from three local churches. That sound inspired the now famous name of the chateau as well as the logo and the sculpture of the logo that appears in the backyard of the property. The estate has old vines dating all the way back to 1918. While the oldest vines are Merlot, the estate has 10 hectares of Cabernet Franc that are more than 60 years of age.

Subtle and profound aromas of blackberries, wet earth and sweet tobacco. Hints of spice, too. Full-bodied and so deep. It's incredibly vertical and long. Just like looking down a well. Firm and powerful tannins, yet polished and balanced. Goes on for minutes. One of the greatest ever.

\$950**CHÂTEAU ANGELUS
'LE CARILLON'***Saint-Émilion Grand Cru 2018***Cépages:**

Merlot, Cabernet Franc



This is a really together second wine of Chateau Angéus with a tight and focused center palate of blackberries and hints of chocolate and hazelnuts. Carillon is a blend of fruit from three sources: 7 hectares around the château, 5 hectares closer to Cheval Blanc and 3 hectares in the Saint Christophe des Bardes sector.

The 2018 Le Carillon d'Angéus is laced with striking floral/savory aromatics and brisk saline notes that complement a core of bright red-toned fruit. Pliant and supple, with notable purity and class, the 2018 is gorgeous today and benefits from an extra touch of Franc that did not go into the Grand Vin.

It is especially fine in 2018 and could very well turn out to be an overachiever.

\$285



CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC

Saint-Émilion Premier Grand Cru Classé A 2016, 2017

Cépages:

Cabernet Franc, Merlot

While vines have been cultivated on property since antiquity, the estate was officially formed in 1832 when land was split-off from the esteemed Château Figeac and sold as a separate property. In the hands of its dutiful new owners, Château Cheval Blanc was formed, its vineyards renovated, and the winery's production quickly gained recognition for its exceptional quality. The wines were acknowledged early on for their excellence, earning prestigious medals at the 1862 London and 1878 Paris Universal Exhibitions, accolades that are still proudly featured on the Cheval Blanc label today.

Central to Cheval Blanc's distinctive character is its remarkable soil composition. While the Right Bank is typically known for a predominance of limestone-rich clays, Cheval Blanc is situated near the border of Pomerol along an atypical outcropping of gravel-laden soils. As a result, the château cultivates a significant proportion of Cabernet Franc, making up just over half of plantings, setting it apart from the Merlot-dominated vineyards of Saint-Émilion. The resulting blends exhibit layers of perfumed aromatics, with opulent, rounded tannins, a reflection of Cheval Blanc's distinct terroir.

CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC 2016 \$2000

Medium to full-bodied, the palate has jaw-dropping elegance and depth, offering up layer upon layer of fragrant red and black fruits plus an extraordinary array of mineral sparks, supported by a rock-solid grainy texture, finishing with epic persistence and an edifying perfume. This is a very different style from the rich, opulently hedonic 2015, yet this wonderfully fragrant, beautifully poised and intellectually compelling 2016 is equally extraordinary.

CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC 2017 \$1500

Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Cheval Blanc needs a fair bit of coaxing to reveal notions of plum preserves, redcurrant jelly, kirsch and red roses plus emerging nuances of aniseed, Sichuan pepper, pencil lead and charcoal. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers impressive intensity with layer upon layer of red and black flavors with sparks of minerals and floral notes plus a firm line of fine-grained tannins and bold freshness to support, finishing very long and very fragrant.

CHÂTEAU PONTET-FUMET*Saint-Émilion Grand Cru 2015***Cépages:**

Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon

The Bardet family have been growing grapes and making wine in Saint-Émilion since 1704. In the 19th century, they bought Château Pontet-Fumet, a 14-hectare vineyard with 35-year-old vines. Roger Bardet produced the first vintage of estate bottled Château Pontet-Fumet in 1962.

The Château Pontet-Fumet is located near the village of Vignonet in the well-known wine-growing region of Saint-Émilion. It is one of the outstanding Grand Crus in Saint-Émilion, where the soils of the vineyards are characterized by sandy gravel soils.

Bringing out the richness of this vintage and its generous fruit, this wine is dense and packed with succulent black fruits. Crisp acidity adds to the fruitiness of the wine, while also underlining the firm structure, which is beginning to mellow beautifully.

**\$69****CHÂTEAU FIGEAC***St Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé 2015***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc

Figeac is a famous property, and a historic one at that! Château Figeac is not an old Bordeaux vineyard. Figeac is an ancient Bordeaux vineyard! In fact, the genesis of the estate can be dated as far back as the second century during the ancient Gallo-Roman period. At that time, the owner of the property, Figeacus, gave his name to the villa he built in the same location. Wine reviewers loved this wine, and we are confident that you will, too.

'A hold onto your hat wine, the 2015 Château Figeac is pure perfection and one of the wines of this terrific vintage. A blend of 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, its deep purple color is followed by a huge nose of crème de cassis, black raspberries, smoked earth, and graphite. This is followed by a full-bodied, opulent and incredibly concentrated Saint-Emilion that has everything in the right places, no hard edges, thrilling purity of fruit, and a great, great finish. This is one of those rare gems that carries huge intensity and richness, yet still glides across the palate with no sense of weight or heaviness. Winemaker Frédéric Faye thinks the 2016 is even better but that certainly isn't stopping me from giving this crazy good wine a triple digit score. Everyone owes it to themselves to try and taste this wine at least once!' - *Jeb Dunnuck*

**\$542**



CHÂTEAU GLORIA

Saint-Julien 2015, 2018

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot

Château Gloria was founded by Henri Martin, of Médoc, in 1942 when he acquired six hectares of vines in Saint-Julien. He added onto the estate over the years and once he purchased Château Saint-Pierre, 'a classed estate' from the 1855 Bordeaux Classification, it enabled him to create the world renowned estate, Château Gloria. After Henri passed away in 1991, his daughter Françoise and her husband, Jean-Louis Triaud took the lead, continuing Henri's legacy.

Chateau Gloria is fairly unique among the major appellations on the left bank of Bordeaux. The estate was only pieced together in the 1970s so there is no 1855 classification that the estate can rest its hat on. Instead, Chateau Gloria has to prove its quality and value year after year with exceptional wine. This estate regularly produces wine worthy of mention among the very best producers of Saint Julien.

The investments made at Chateau Gloria have yield excellent results, and the wines have continued to get better and better.

CHÂTEAU GLORIA 2015 \$150

The 2015 Château Gloria is a beautiful Saint-Julien that's well worth seeking out and drinking. Blackcurrants, damp earth, spicy oak and hints of leafy herbs all flow to an upfront, elegant, yet fruit forward 2015 that has sweet tannin and good freshness.

CHÂTEAU GLORIA 2018 \$180

The 2018 Gloria has turned out beautifully. Medium in body, with terrific balance and tons of class, Gloria will especially appeal to readers in search of a wine that is not super-exuberant, as so many 2018s are. Bright floral notes, blood orange and red berry fruit all run through this wonderfully expressive Saint-Julien.

Both of these exceptional vintages are really starting to come into their own, although we'd still recommend decanting.

**CHÂTEAU GLORIA
'ESPRIT DE GLORIA'**

Saint-Julien 2019

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot,
Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot



Gloria is fast becoming one of the most exciting insider wines of the entire Bordeaux region, and that rare species of a non-classified St-Julien.

Esprit de Gloria Saint-Julien is a second wine from Chateau Gloria; a wine made from the same vineyards as a chateau's "first wine." It's also made by the same winemaker and in the same cellars and barrels. Usually, a 'second wine' comes from younger vines that will eventually create the Chateau's greatest wine. That's the case with the Esprit de Gloria. It's made from the youngest vines, but still reflects the typicity of the Saint-Julien appellation and the spirit of Chateau Gloria.

Dark cherries and plums explode in the glass, and the wine has bold flavors of plum, cocoa, spice, tobacco, and leather. Beautiful, fruity finish. Give it time to open, at least an hour.

Burgundy makes you think of silly things; Bordeaux makes you talk about them, and Champagne makes you do them.

- Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin

\$88



DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 'LE PETIT DUCRU'

Saint-Julien 2019

Cépages:

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon

Of all the smaller Bordeaux wines from Bruno Borie, Petit Ducru is a selection of fruit derived from only St-Julien vineyards. A nod also to the history of the estate, specifically to one of the former owners, Bertrand Ducru (1770-1829), a brilliant and worldly merchant from the Bearn region of France, situated along the flanks of the western Pyrenees mountains. Powerful and well established, he bought the property in 1797 (16 Vendémiaire, year 6) and added his surname to that of the site, which then became "Ducru-Beaucaillou".

The 2019 Le Petit Ducru de Ducru-Beaucaillou is plush, creamy and open-knit, all of which give it considerable immediacy, not to mention tons of charm. Succulent dark cherry, plum, mocha and licorice lend nuance in this racy, Merlot-based blend. The Petit Ducru is a new wine meant to be the third selection from the château.

\$117



DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 'CROIX DE BEAUCAILLOU'

Saint-Julien 2011

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot.

The second wine of this great château is the 2019 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou, which is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot that was raised in 60% new barrels. It fits into the lineup beautifully and sits nicely between the Le Petit Ducru and the *Grand Vin*.

Perched on an exceptional site with incomparable views over the Gironde estuary, in the center of a hundred-year-old park, Ducru-Beaucaillou is a majestic, Victorian-style castle, which has become one of the great symbols of the Médoc. Unusual for Bordeaux, it is built directly above the barrel cellars, enveloping its owners, who have lived here for over sixty years.

Today, the estate is managed by the company Jean Eugène Borie SA, which is owned by Mrs Borie, her daughter Sabine Coiffe and her son Bruno-Eugène, CEO since 2003, the third generation of the Borie family to head the estate.

Deep purple-hued, with full-bodied aromas and flavors of pure cassis, crushed stone, graphite, lead pencil, and smoked tobacco, it has building yet fine tannins, flawless balance, and a great finish. It shows the more regal, classy, elegant, yet still concentrated style of this vintage perfectly.

\$130

LEOVILLE LAS CASES*Saint-Julien Second Growth 1989***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot

Leoville Las Cases is the greatest wine of Saint Julien; its next door neighbor is the esteemed Chateau Latour! Chateau Leoville Las Cases has one of the longest histories in the Medoc. Along with the Medoc first growths, Leoville Barton, Chateau Montrose, Sociando Mallet, and a handful of other producers, Leoville Las Cases continues to make wine meant for very long-term cellaring. The final royal family to own the estate is where the chateau draws its name from, the Lascases family.

A tireless pursuit of excellence is deeply entrenched within the winemaking philosophy at Château Léoville Las Cases. It is no wonder this Saint-Julien estate is considered one of the original “Super Seconds!”

Chateau Leoville Las Cases is not a wine to drink on the young side. The wine is usually far too tannic, powerful and reserved during its youth.

1989 LEOVILLE LAS CASES \$850

A floral aspect curls out of the glass, with touches of roses and peonies, followed on the palate by bilberries and blackberries, with a cigar smoke and eucalyptus finish. It's still vigorous in its tannic structure, but it's soft and supple enough to enjoy today. This bottle was recorked by hand at the winery last year, with five people checking every single one of the 5,000 bottles remaining at the chateau.

2000 LEOVILLE LAS CASES \$925

It has a very intense and beautifully defined bouquet with mineral rich blackberry and bilberry scents, outstanding focus and harmony, and very well-integrated oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, impressive backbone and focus in situ. There is a touch of mint infusing the fruit here, superb tension with a touch of mulberry and Hoi Sin lingering on the finish that still feels backward and sinewy.

2010 LEOVILLE LAS CASES \$1525 1500ML (MAGNUM)

A hugely powerful wine, full of dark, brooding tannins. It's a wine for seriously long-term aging, a sculptural vision of classic Bordeaux structure with classy, ripe blackberry fruits. It has fresh acidity and an immense full-bodied character, cut through with mineral acidity. A great wine, with great potential.





CHÂTEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL
'PAGODES DE COS'

Saint-Estèphe 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot

We love Cos d'Estournel, and would drink it every night, if we could. But when that wine stretches beyond our budget, we are happy to reach for the Pagodes des Cos, the estate's second wine.

The grapes used in the second wine, Les Pagodes de Cos can from time to time, include fruit from Marbuzet, their other estate in St. Estèphe, as well as grapes from young vines and declassified wine intended for Cos d'Estournel.

The name of the second wine takes its name from its oriental facade is adorned with three pagoda turrets, all cast in a soft golden sandstone.

'PAGODES DE COS' 2014 \$159

The 2014 Les Pagodes de Cos is racy and voluptuous from the outset. Dark stone fruit, chocolate, menthol, licorice and dark spices run through this succulent, textured Saint-Estèphe. The interplay of dense flavors from the dehydration of fruit by warm days and anticyclonic winds resulted in an unusually opulent second wine

'PAGODES DE COS' 2016 \$175

The 2016 has a deep garnet-purple color and opens with notions of warm cassis, black cherries and smoked meats giving way to scents of charcoal, underbrush and cloves plus a waft of new leather.

'PAGODES DE COS' 2017 \$150

The 2016 has a deep garnet-purple color and opens with notions of warm cassis, black cherries and smoked meats giving way to scents of charcoal, underbrush and cloves plus a waft of new leather.

'PAGODES DE COS' 2019 \$175

Classic Saint-Estèphe on the nose with its pure black and blue fruits as well as notes of damp earth, sappy tobacco, cedar pencil, and graphite. This carries to a medium-bodied, elegant 2019 with impeccable balance, ultra-fine tannins, no hard edges, and a great finish.

CHÂTEAU MONTROSE

Saint-Estéphe Second Growth Grand Cru Classé
2006

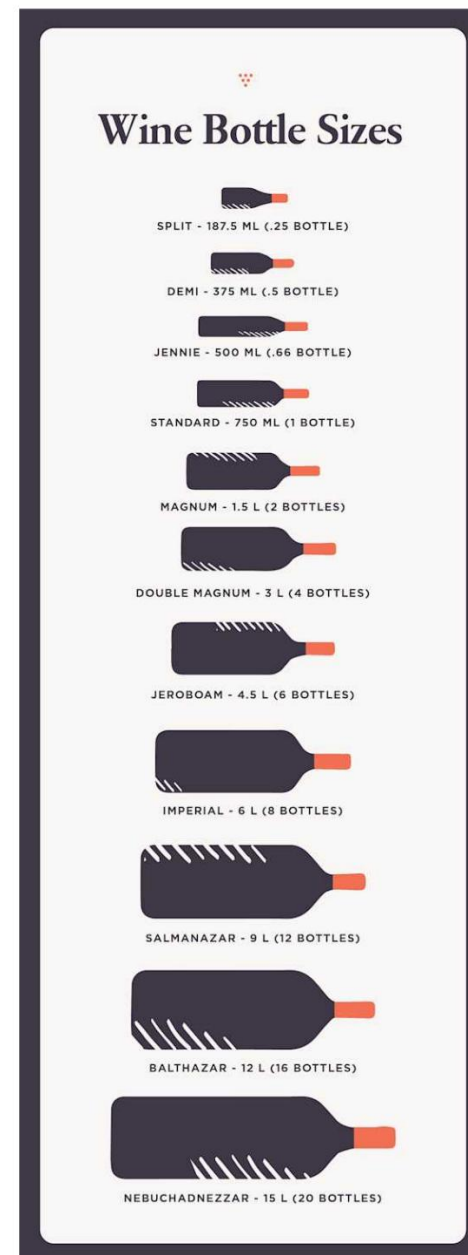
Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petite Verdot

Chateau Montrose is known today for its powerful, full-bodied Bordeaux wine. But that is not what the property was originally known for. In fact, before Bordeaux wine was produced at the estate, it earned fame for being a hunting area. That changed when Alexandre de Segur, who also owned numerous, other illustrious Bordeaux properties such as Chateau Mouton, Chateau Lafite, and Chateau Latour, gave the property to his son, Nicolas Alexandre.

The first vintage under new owner Martin Bouygues, who convinced Jean-Bernard Delmas to come out of retirement to produce this wine, the 2006 Montrose is an undeniable success. A blend of approximately two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon, one-third Merlot, and a tiny dollop of Petit Verdot, the most dramatic difference between the 2006, and wines made by the previous administration is that Jean Delmas produces wines with sweeter, silkier tannins, although analytically, they are as high as those found in the great Montrose vintages of the past. The 2006 is extraordinarily elegant and finesse-styled, but it exhibits stunningly concentrated, sweet blackberry and cassis fruit with hints of flowers and minerals.

\$670 1500ML (Magnum)



CHÂTEAU LA HAYE*Saint-Estèphe 2019***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petite Verdot

Back in the day, the property that would come to be known as Chateau La Haye, served King Henri II and Diane de Poitiers as their hunting lodge. Despite his marriage to Catherine de Medici, the lodge and surrounding hills served as a romantic getaway for Henri and Diane. The HD royal monogram is engraved at the entrance of the château as well as depicted on the wines' labels.

The Châteaux is one of the oldest in Saint-Estèphe and has remained within the same family for 370 years. Its soil is characterized by remarkable of landscapes and different colors of soil. Everywhere the ground is covered by quartz and stone, mixed with a gravel soil surface which gives the wine a special finesse.

A decade ago, after running in the Marathon du Médoc, Belgian Chris Cardon purchased the property and made the investments to optimize the quality of the wines without compromising their sense of place.

Aromas of sweet currants with nutmeg and cinnamon follow through to a medium body with very fine tannins that are refined and polished, giving the wine tension and focus. Its structure, still firm, is also juicy with blackberry fruits.

\$75**CHATEAU PEDESCLAUX
'FLEUR DE PEDESCLAUX'***Pauillac 2016***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot

Chateau Pedesclaux was created by its namesake, Pierre Urbain Pedesclaux in 1810 when he purchased vineyard land from another Pauillac estate, Grand Puy. The Pedesclaux family were already established in Bordeaux as Negotiants when they added winemakers to their resume.

In fact, Edmond Pedesclaux was one of the brokers that helped determine the original 1855 Classification of the Medoc. In 1883, the property was enlarged when the owner purchased vines from the Cruse family, who owned the neighboring estate of Chateau Pontet Canet at the time.

Pédesclaux's second wine, Fleur de Pédesclaux, is a captivating blend of ethereal and fresh elements. Brimming with intense, compelling, and savory fruit aromas, it consistently delivers beautifully balanced notes of white flowers, violets, and small red berries.

\$90

CHÂTEAU GRAND-PUY DUCASSE

Pauillac 2020

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot



The history of Chateau Grand Puy Ducasse dates back to the middle of the 18th century when Arnaud bought a small house next to the Gironde river. He obtained the land from Jacques de Segur, Lord of Lafite. Segur is one of the famous names in the early days of Bordeaux, as they owned much of the land that is devoted to the top chateaux in the Medoc.

That purchase by the river is important because it eventually became the location of the chateau. In fact, Chateau Grand Puy Ducasse has a unique distinction of being one of the few Bordeaux chateaux that are not located in their vineyards. The chateau, built in the 18th century is located close to the Gironde river.

The 2020 Château Grand-Puy Ducasse is a brilliant, powerful, age-worthy Pauillac that will reward bottle age. Blackcurrants, tobacco, cedar pencil, and chocolate are just some of its nuances, and this beauty hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a dense, mouth-filling texture, plenty of ripe tannins, and outstanding length. It has quintessential aromatics, structure, and density, and is beautifully done, as well as incredibly satisfying.

\$269

LEFT BANK VS. RIGHT BANK BORDEAUX WINES

In this wine list (and other discussions of wines from Bordeaux), you will see mention of 'Right Bank' and 'Left Bank.' But to what does this refer? The answer is that the Left Bank and Right Bank are two Bordeaux winemaking regions separated by an estuary and two rivers.

Bordeaux is divided by the Gironde Estuary, which splits into the Dordogne and Garonne rivers. When looking at a map of the region, the area to the north and right of the Gironde is the Right Bank and the areas below and to the left constitute the Left Bank.

River dissections aside, there are several important distinctions between the banks, most notably the dominance of specific red grape varieties, which thrive on different banks, primarily due to differences in the soils.

While **Left Bank** wines are usually blends, Cabernet Sauvignon is the dominant force here. Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc tend to play supporting roles. Wines typically have more tannin and a bigger overall structure than their Right Bank counterparts. Pauillac, in particular, has a reputation for producing powerful, muscular wines. The *terroir* is mostly flat with gravel topsoil and limestone underneath, although the composition can vary substantially from one vineyard to the next.

Right Bank wines are predominantly Merlot-based, with Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot used as blending components. The *terroir* is comprised of a limestone surface with less gravel and more clay.

The wines tend to be rich in fruit, softer in mouthfeel with less tannin and acid. While some top wines can be aged for many years, there are plenty of wines that are also enjoyable when young.

CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD*Pauillac First Growth Premier Grand Cru Classé 2022***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot



Château Lafite Rothschild is one of the most famous estates in the world, classified as a Premier Cru in 1855, and first among the great wines of the Médoc. The estate was purchased by Baron James de Rothschild in 1868 and is led today by Saskia de Rothschild. The wine's exceptional quality is a result of the rare harmony of nature for over a thousand seasons.

The 112-hectare estate is situated at the northern end of Pauillac, close to the border with St-Estèphe. The vineyard consists of three major areas: the hillsides around the Château, the adjacent Carruades plateau to the west and 4.5 hectares in neighboring Saint Estèphe (which is entitled to the Pauillac appellation).

The name Lafite comes from the Gascon dialect 'la hite', which means 'hillock'. This helps to explain the fantastic well-drained soils, which are composed of fine, deep gravel mixed with windblown sand over a tertiary limestone subsoil that contributes to creating their magical wines.

Their finest terroir is on slightly raised land known as the plateau, which is just south of the winery where the gravel is very deep and has excellent drainage. Where there are dips in the land, Merlot is typically planted and drainage channels have been installed. There are many variations of aspects and soils and consequently the winemakers try and vinify as many lots separately as possible.

The classic red Bordeaux varietals Cabernet-Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot are planted. The Grand Vin de Chateau Lafite-Rothschild typically comprises a higher proportion of Cabernet-Sauvignon than Merlot with a dash of Petit Verdot.

The 2022 is initially quite reticent, but after four or five minutes, it unfolds with scents of blackberry, cedar, graphite and a touch of inkwell. Like a few other wines in this vintage, the *mineralité* only reveals itself later. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins, the signature trait of a first-rate Lafite. It is adorned with unerring purity and elegance, very focused with a beguiling symmetry. Quintessentially Lafite Rothschild, this is as precise as a Swiss watch with just the right degree of salinity to keep the saliva flowing on the finish. Just a magnificent First Growth destined to give immense pleasure.

\$2250

CHÂTEAU PICHON LONGUEVILLE BARON

Pauillac Second Growth Grand Cru Classé 2005

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc

The 2005 Pichon-Longueville Baron is another concentrated, full-bodied 2005 that's starting to drink well!

Chateau Pichon Baron and Chateau Pichon Lalande started out life together. At their inception, they were originally part of the same Pauillac vineyard. The chateau and vineyard of Pichon Baron acquired its name like many properties of the day, through marriage. This happened when Therese, daughter of the founder, received the estate as a dowry when she married Jacques de Pichon Longueville, the first President of the Bordeaux Parliament. This began the creation of what we now know of as Chateau Pichon Longueville Baron.

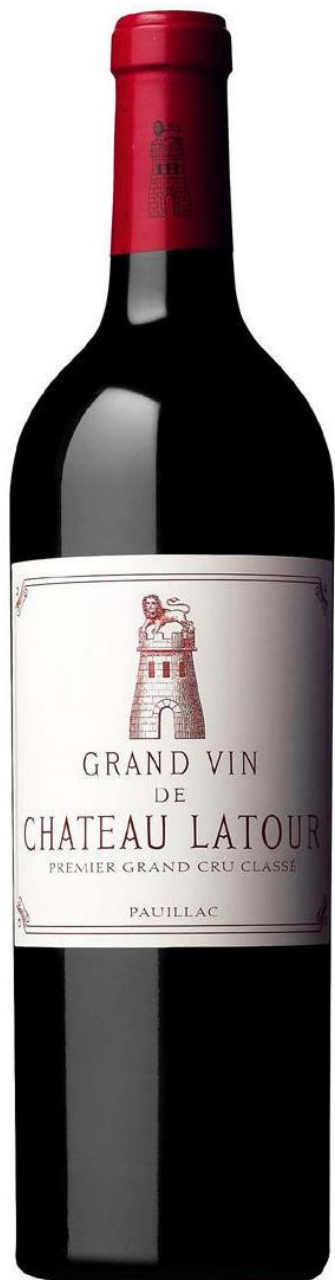
Chateau Pichon Baron as we know it today changed because of Baron Joseph de Pichon Longueville, who took over managing Pichon Baron when he was only 19 years old! When the Baron was 90, on the night of his death in 1850, he divided his Pauillac estate between his five children. Trying to be fair to everyone, his two sons received two-fifths of the vineyard and the wine-making facilities; his three daughters received the other three-fifths of the vineyards. The men were awarded what became Chateau Pichon Baron. The women were given what was to become Chateau Pichon Lalande.

Pichon Baron produces rich, full-bodied, spicy, concentrated, tannic, and elegant Bordeaux wines. You find a balance between power and refinement. The wines offer unique character and style. As they mature, they take the complexities of cassis, cedar, tobacco, wet earth and spice. In the top vintages the wines age and improve for decades. While prices have risen, so has the quality.

Weeks of sunshine preceded an entirely healthy harvest, leading to high expectations that have been fulfilled. This is still opaque red in color, the resplendent black-fruit nose accompanied by toasty oak, though still a bit reserved. Very rich and velvety, it is highly concentrated with lavish tannins. Broad-shouldered and chocolatey, it has moderate acidity and is now beginning to open up, though it remains imposing and a bit monumental. Very rich and velvety, textured and long.

\$700





CHÂTEAU LATOUR

Pauillac First Growth Premier Grand Cru Classé 1996, 2009

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot

The history of Château Latour can be traced back to 1378, the year in which court historian Jean Froissart wrote of a two-story tower called ‘La Tor de Sent-Maubert’ being captured by English soldiers during the Hundred Years War. A report in 1755 — 100 years before the 1855 Classification of Bordeaux — showed Latour was already recognized as a producer of some of the best wine in the region, listing it as one of only four properties whose wines fetched more than 900 livres for a tonneau (the others being Haut-Brion, Lafite and Cantenac).

The estate is located at the southern edge of Pauillac, bordering the St. Julien vineyards of Ch. Léoville Las Cases, and covers 78 hectares. Latour possesses some of the best soils in Bordeaux. Gently sloping, the gravelly surface provides exceptional drainage and consists of both large stones and small pebbles. Beneath this is a moist subsoil composed of marl, chalk and clay, which provides nourishment to the roots and encourages them to dig deeper, an important factor when considering that it is the oldest vines with the deepest roots that are often considered to produce the finest fruit.

Although Latour makes legendary wines in the best vintages, it is this estate’s consistent ability to turn out exceptional wines in vintages that are deemed to have been off-years that marks it out from its peers. Vintages such as 1963 and 1977 are excellent illustrations of this, the latter being an example of a cold vintage during which few producers were able to make good wine.

CHÂTEAU LATOUR 1996 \$2500

Chateau Latour is the most consistent of the ‘First Growth’ Bordeauxs, and their wines some of the most long-lived. The 1996, even with a quarter of a century of bottle age, is just hitting its sweet spot. Inky black even at 25 years old. A hugely impressive wine, with plenty of chewy tannins still in play, ripples of cassis, bilberry and blackberry fruits, set against olive paste, charcoal and eucalyptus. Things have softened around the edges no question, this is still full of life with decades ahead of it, but this is a great moment to start enjoying its promise.

CHÂTEAU LATOUR 2009 \$3200

This seems to come full circle, with a blazing iron note and mouthwatering acidity up front leading to intense, vibrant cassis, blackberry and cherry skin flavors that course along, followed by the same vivacious minerality that started things off. The tobacco, ganache and espresso notes seem almost superfluous right now, but they’ll join the fray in due time.

CHÂTEAU MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD

Pauillac First Growth Premier Grand Cru Classé 2016, 2017, 2019

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot

Château Mouton Rothschild, a luminary in the heart of Pauillac, has ascended to the pantheon of the world's most legendary wine estates. As one of the prestigious First Growths of Bordeaux, Mouton Rothschild's relentless pursuit of quality and trailblazing spirit is not only showcased in the caliber of every vintage but also etched onto every bottle, becoming an integral part of the château's identity.

The château's visionary approach, masterminded by Baron Philippe de Rothschild, transformed the industry with the introduction of estate bottling and the iconic artist label series. Each year, a celebrated artist creates an original design for the label, transforming every bottle into a treasured work of art. With its exceptional terroir of gravel-rich soils, Mouton Rothschild crafts wines of unrivaled depth and complexity, from the mythical 1945 vintage to contemporary masterpieces. As prized reflections of artistry inside and out, these extraordinary wines are some of the most highly sought-after collectibles in the world of fine wine.

CHÂTEAU MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD 2016 \$2000

Boasting a saturated purple color as well as an extraordinary bouquet of thick black fruits, lead pencil shavings, new saddle leather, and burning embers, with just a hint of its oak upbringing, this beauty hits the palate with a mammoth amount of fruit and texture yet stays fresh, pure, and light on its feet, with a thrilling sense of minerality as well as building tannins on the finish.

CHÂTEAU MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD 2017 \$1450

'A brick house Cabernet, featuring a thick sheath of warm ganache and smoldering tobacco over a core of well steeped black currant, black fig and blackberry compote flavors. Cuts a wide and deep trench as it moves along, with loamy, tannic grip for ballast. Retains a well-buried inner purity that should blossom as this mellows in the cellar.' – **Wine Spectator**

CHÂTEAU MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD 2019 \$1475

The 2019 Mouton Rothschild is the most dramatic of the Médoc first growths, soaring from the glass with aromas of cassis, blackberries and violets mingled with rich aromas of cedar, cigar wrapper, licorice, loamy soil and spices.



CHÂTEAU MARGAUX

Margaux 1er First Growth Grand Cru Classé 1996, 2005, 2009, 2010

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot



Chateau Margaux, a Premier Grand Cru Classé Bordeaux, is one of the most famous wines in the world. Best known with the name of Château de la Mothe Margaux in the 13th century, the estate was then a fortress, destroyed in 1801 by the owner, who built it back like we know it today, with its Ionic arcades, its outstanding stairs, and classical façade. Care has been lavished on the property by a line of owners with an abiding concern for the reputation of the estate. For more than five hundred years, season after season, generations of vineyard-workers, grape harvesters, cellar-workers, coopers and many other craftsmen have all played a part in making Chateau Margaux what it is today: a wine with an incomparable personality, reflected in the elegant Palladian building which adorns its label. In 1977, the estate was purchased by the late André Mentzelopoulos, and it is now run by his daughter, Corinne Mentzelopoulos.

CHÂTEAU MARGAUX 1996 \$2800

The palate is perfectly balanced with filigree tannin, perfect acidity, a wine where everything seems to be in its right place. Blackberry, crushed stone at the front of the mouth, just a touch of spice towards the finish that shows supreme control.

CHÂTEAU MARGAUX 2005 \$2300

An another level, the 2005 Château Margaux is as good as it gets, offering an incredible, full-bodied, layered style as well as the classic nuance, complexity, and elegance this Château is known for... its still youthful ruby/purple hue is followed by a kaleidoscope-like array of cassis, smoked currants, cedar pencil, spring flowers, and graphite.

CHÂTEAU MARGAUX 2009 \$2300

'This offers gorgeously caressing fruit, with steeped plum, blackberry and red currant notes, finely embroidered with accents of rooibos and black tea, tobacco leaf, alder and sandalwood. Delivers loads of fruit, with the structure already melded into the core of fruit—but that's the vintage style...' – Wine Spectator

CHÂTEAU MARGAUX 2010 \$2350

'Liquid velvet, with stunning length and a caressing mouthfeel, as layers of creamed plum, blackberry coulis and steeped black currant fruit glides along, seamlessly intertwined with black tea, mulled blood orange, incense and lilac...'

– Wine Spectator

CHÂTEAU D'ISSAN*Margaux Third Growth 2015***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot



Château d'Issan did not need the famous 1855 classification distinguishing it as a 3rd Grand Cru Classé to establish its reputation. This was already made back in the 12th century, when it was reported to have been served at the wedding of Eleanor of Aquitaine and Henri Plantagenet, future King of England on 18th May 1152.

The wine is made from the old vines in the Château d'Issan enclosure in the middle of the Margaux appellation. The soil here is mainly made up of surface gravel on top of a clay subsoil, which contributes to optimal ripeness and freshness in the vineyards.

The 2017 Chateau D'Issan offers more of everything, with a deep ruby/plum color and rocking notes of black raspberries, cassis, spring flowers, violets, loamy earth, and dried tobacco. Beautifully textured, elegant, and finesse-oriented, it has excellent tannins, medium to full body, and an outstanding finish. Based on a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot.

\$220**CHÂTEAU D'ISSAN
'BLASON D'ISSAN'***Margaux 2018***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot



This is the second wine from Chateau D'Issan.

Château d'Issan is in the heart of the Margaux appellation, a truly privileged location, which explains the outstanding quality of its wines. The mild weather, regulated by being close to the sea and the Gironde Estuary, provides ideal conditions for vine growth. The vines at Château d'Issan benefit from close, on-going care designed to produce perfectly ripe grapes. Everything is organized so that each individual plot can be tended independently in order to get the very best out of its fruit. The soil here is mainly made up of surface gravel on top of a clay subsoil.

Blackberry, blueberry, graphite, clove, tobacco and mahogany on the nose. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, fine-grained tannins. Very tight and refined with a mineral finish. Pretty finesse and focus

\$89

CHÂTEAU GISCOURS

Margaux Third Growth 2016

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot



Located on Bordeaux’s Left Bank, Château Giscours is a historic property in the Margaux appellation, with vines first planted in the 16th century. This superb Margaux 3rd Cru Classé is a true flagship of the Bordeaux region, with its distinctive neoclassical palace architecture, its park of rare species and its buildings, including the beautiful "Ferme Suzanne." Since 1995, Château Giscours has entered a new era in its history following its acquisition by the Albada Jelgersma family.

The Château Giscours vineyard covers 95 hectares of vines in production on 300 hectares in total. A real jewel in the crown of the Margaux appellation, the Château Giscours terroir stands out for its 3 outcroppings of deep Garonnaise gravel, which play a decisive role in the ripening cycle of the grapes.

Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Giscours gives up aromas of cassis, chocolate, earth, tar, pepper and hoisin with touches of flowers and a meaty nuance. The palate is medium to full-bodied, firm and grainy with a great core and a long finish.

\$185

CHÂTEAU ANGLUDET

Margaux 2011

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot



Chateau d’Angludet, is one of the oldest Bordeaux wine properties. In fact, Chateau d’Angludet can be traced all the way back to 1150! The name of the chateau means ‘angle of high land’.

After the majority of the Chateau d’Angludet vineyard was destroyed by the 1956 frost, the owners gave up on winemaking at their Medoc vineyard and replanted the vineyards with wheat and barley. The owner thought that type of agriculture would make him more money than growing grapes for making Bordeaux wine. He ended up selling Chateau d’Angludet in 1961 to Diana and Peter Sichel.

The Sichel family were already well-known Bordeaux negociants who own the firm Maison Sichel and also maintain a large ownership stake in Chateau Palmer.

While the 2011 was very tannic upon release, like many wines that vintage, the Angludet now exhibits a dark ruby/purple color as well as a sweet bouquet of licorice, spring flowers, black currants and cherries. With medium body, silky tannins, surprising stuffing and succulence, this seductive, lush, well-endowed Angludet is entering its drinking wondow.

\$180



CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION

Pessac-Leognan Premier Grand Cru Classé 2021

Cépages:

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc

Chateau Haut-Brion has one of the longest and most interesting histories of any Bordeaux vineyard. The property derives its name from an ancient Celtic term “Briga.” Loosely translated, this means a rise or mound in the land.

Historical archives show that Johanna Faure grew vines at Haut Mont near what we now know of as Haut-Brion as far back as September 6, 1426! The vines were planted to produce wine for a local chapel that was founded in Bordeaux by the Menuts Monks to remember the recently deceased Monk, Johan d’Artiguemale.

In 1521, Château Haut-Brion became the first Bordeaux vineyard to be named after its terroir, instead of the owner or the parish, making the estate the first luxury wine brand in the world.

This led Haut-Brion to earn the rare distinction of Premier Grand Cru Classé (Classified First Growth) in the 1855 classification, the only cru outside the Médoc to receive this prestigious title.

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States traveled to Bordeaux in 1787 as America’s French ambassador. Thomas Jefferson being quite familiar with the quality of wines from Bordeaux visited Chateau Haut Brion on May 25, 1787. After his visit, Jefferson wrote in his diary; “The soil of Haut-Brion, which I examined in great detail is made up of sand, in which there is near as much round gravel or small stones and very little loam like the soils of the Medoc.”

Scented flowers and red berries on the nose, lovely aromatics with green peppercorns, herbal blackcurrant leaf and floral scents. Rich and round for a 2021, high acidity gives the life-force but this has a great structure in the mouth. Quite imposing tannins cover the entire tongue and cheeks, and I love it. Grippy, focused, this is one of the more demonstrative 2021 wines in terms of texture and power, but still keeps precision and direction. Chalky grip, a mineral undertone and feeling of substance on the finish.

\$1475



CHÂTEAU PAPE CLÉMENT

Pessac-Léognan 2018

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc

Château Pape Clément is one of the oldest properties in Bordeaux. The vineyard was first planted in the 13th century by Bertrand de Goth the youngest son of a noble family from Bordeaux. He was the Archbishop of Bordeaux and became Pope in 1305 then took the name of Clément V. The estate can take pride in the production of wine in the same vineyards for over 7 centuries.

In the 1980s Bernard Magrez an entrepreneur passionate about wine took over the Château and built an international reputation for their wines.

This is the second label from Chateau Pape Clement; modern in style, with rich, lush textures and intense concentration of ripe fruit. This is drinking extremely well right now, fresh, lively, and very approachable.

Aged for 14 months in 40% new oak, the nose is inviting with plum, blackcurrant, dried herbs, and spice, followed by supple tannins, high acidity, and a long, generous finish.

\$300



CHÂTEAU PAPE CLÉMENT 'CLÉMENTIN DE PAPE CLÉMENT'

Pessac-Léognan 2018

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot

Since 1986, Clémentin de Pape Clement has been produced as the second wine from Château Pape Clément, allowing the winery to increase the quality of their Grand Vin.

In 2018, an excellent vintage, the Clémentin de Pape punches well above its weight, delivering a level of pleasure and complexity that belies its modest price point.

The 2018 Clémentin de Pape Clément is gorgeous. Gravel, smoke, tobacco, licorice, dark red cherry and menthol infuse this striking, layered second wine from Pape Clément. Aromatically expressive yet also quite dense and layered, the 2018 has plenty to recommend it, especially once the tannins settle down a bit.

\$120 750ml
\$70 375ml half bottle

**CHÂTEAU PAPE CLEMENT
'LA PRÉLAT DE PAPE CLEMENT'**

Graves 2018

Cépages:

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc

Château Pape Clément is one of the oldest estates in Bordeaux. The château takes its name from Pope Clement V who developed the wine-growing activity of the property in the 13th century. Château Pape Clément produces wines whose reputation has been established for more than seven centuries.

Le Prelat is a third wine from Chateau Pape Clement. It is aged for 14 months in a combination of new and one-year-old barrels.

Ripe berries on the nose, discreet spiciness, somehow closed character. On the palate well-structured with medium bodied character and length, appealing fruit.



\$40 375ml half bottle

CLOS MARSALETTE

Pessac-Léognan 2020

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc

Clos Marsalette is a very young winery, having been created in 2002 by Francis Boutemy. Francis Boutemy was already experienced in Bordeaux as he owned the neighboring estate of Chateau Haut Lagrange. Actually, it is fair to say that Francis Boutemy came from a wine family, as his grandfather, Jacques Guillemaud, was both a negociant and the owner of Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion, also located in Pessac Leognan.

Today, Clos Marsalette is also owned in part by Stephan von Neipperg and Didier Miqueu. Stephan von Neipperg is well-known for all his Bordeaux properties in St. Emilion. This includes Chateau Canon La Gaffeliere and La Mondotte.

The 2020 Clos Marsalette offers up rich aromas of dark berries, cherries, smoked meats and rich spices, followed by a medium to full-bodied, broad and fleshy palate that's supple and enveloping, with a generous core of fruit and a savory, carnal finish.



\$95

CHÂTEAU DE CRUZEAU*Pessac-Leognan 2022***Cépages:**

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Carménère

Since the 17th century, nature has been especially generous to Château de Cruzeau, whose superb gravel rises with perfect sun exposure were predestined for winegrowing. Today, the estate has nearly 100 hectares of vines. The wines of Château Cruzeau are widely recognized for their great finesse and elegance.

At Château de Cruzeau, the focus is on caring for the land and this exceptional terroir. André Lurton discovered it in 1973, after a storm had completely devastated a plot of young pines. He notices that the tree roots are covered in stones, indicating a rare gravelly terroir, and decides to take the estate under his wing. Today, the estate has become the testing ground for environmental experiments within the family vineyards.

The very elegant nose reveals all its richness of red fruits, ripe red currant, with a touch of spices and chocolate. On the palate, it is a well-balanced wine that offers a very nice structure, with well-coated tannins, tasty aromas of red fruits, freshness and a good length. Its ageing potential is high but it can be enjoyed now as an aperitif or with smoked duck breast, mushroom risotto or a cheese platter.

**\$75****CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR SAINT-BONNET***Médoc 2023***Cépages:**

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon

Nestled in the Médoc's Left Bank, Château Fleur Saint Bonnet draws from gravelly soils planted to Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, producing a wine that reflects classic Bordeaux structure and elegance while showing careful handling in both barrel and bottle aging.

The vines used to make La Fleur Saint-Bonnet were acquired in 2019 in the commune of Saint-Christoly-Médoc. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot vines, planted on a clay-limestone soil, produce fresh wines with fine tannins on this terroir.

Château La Fleur Saint Bonnet is a medium-bodied red wine with fresh black cherry, licorice and blueberry aromas, which carry onto the palate with intensity and finesse. The tannins are refined and the finish is long with toasty cedar complexity.

**\$39**

CHÂTEAU LA TOUR CARNET

Haut-Médoc Fourth Growth Grand Cru Classé
2018

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc,
Petite Verdot

Château La Tour Carnet goes back 800 years. Following a clutch of different owners the property remained with the Thibault de Carmaing family for 200 years, followed by Charles de Leutken. After two generations Leutken's grandson inherited in 1861, but was eventually faced with gradual decline which lasted many decades. In 1962, the Lipschitzs, followed by their daughter, by then Marie-Claire Pelegrin, launched the regeneration of the estate - and in 1999 the challenge was taken up and continued by present owner Bernard Magrez.

An excellent wine from proprietor Bernard Magrez, this blend of 57% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot exhibits a dense ruby/purple color in addition to a big, sweet nose of black cherries, black currants, graphite and smoky oak. Medium-bodied with excellent density and fruit, good acidity and silky tannins, this striking 2011 should drink well for 15 or more years.



\$120

CHÂTEAU CITRAN

Haut-Médoc 2015

Cépages:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot

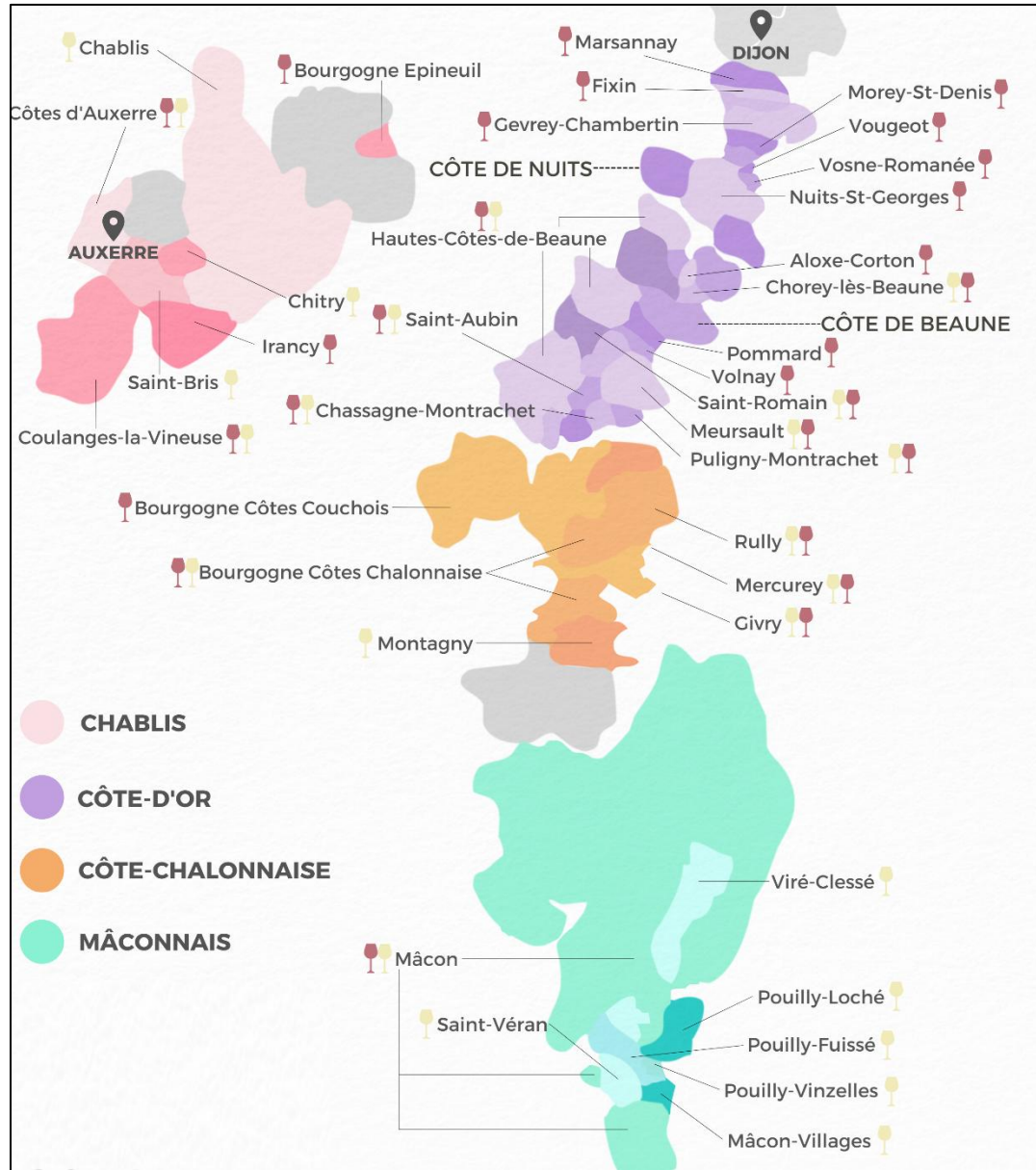
Every once in awhile, we are able to source older bottlings from estates in France. Of course, we are always careful to check the Provenance, but we have been able to bring in some lovely wines with some age by doing so. 2015 was an exceptional vintage in Bordeaux, and being able to offer it on our list makes us very happy indeed!

Chateau Citran is one of the larger Left Bank estates, with 105 hectares of vines with a terroir of sand, gravel, chalk and clay soils. Located in the far south of the Haut Medoc appellation, the vineyard is planted to 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7.5% Cabernet Franc and 2.5% Petit Verdot.

The 2015 Citran is medium garnet-purple in color with savory notes of chargrill and sautéed herbs over warm plums and blackberries notions. Medium-bodied with firm, chewy tannins, it's a little tart in the mouth with a grippy finish, but decanting or just giving the wine some time in the glass softens the wine considerably.



\$69

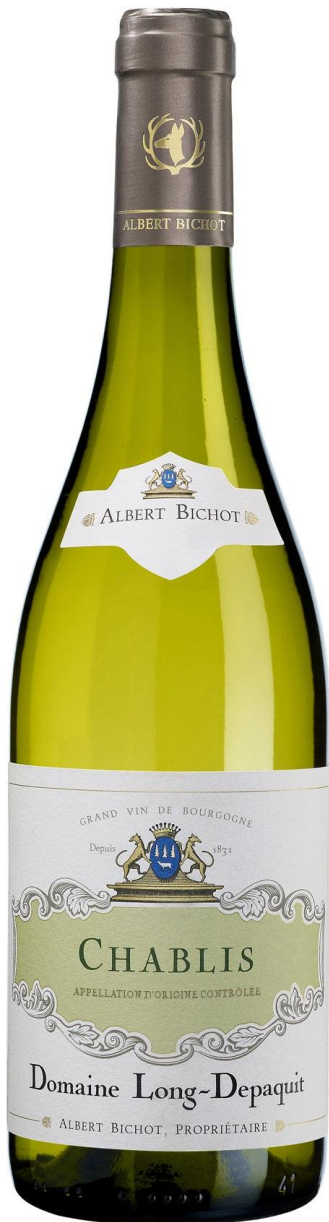


DOMAINE LONG-DEPAQUIT*Chablis 2023***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Our search for great white Burgundy at a reasonable price frequently presents a challenge. This is especially true of the 2001 vintage, a year which sadly only yielded wine in very small quantities. Domaine Albert-Bichot produced a lovely Chablis this vintage, and thankfully there was enough of it for us to add to the list.

This winery has been floating under the radar for a few years, but has emerged as a producer of some of the finest wines from Burgundy. We are grateful that they have been a hidden gem, as it has kept the prices lower than what many other top domains are charging!

This is surprisingly aromatic wine for a village-level Chablis, with plenty of fresh-lemon, white-peach and tarte-au-citron character. Cooler and crisper on the palate than the nose suggested, but that makes it very clean and refreshing. Good length, the finish nicely supported by a touch of tannin.

**\$60****PATRICK PIUZE***Chablis 'Plateau de la Cornasse' 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Patrick Piuze- a Montreal native- took the region by storm when he arrived over decade ago. He worked for Leflaive, Jean-Marc Brocard and Jean-Marie Guffens before starting his own label in 2008, and has very quickly come to be counted among the legendary names of the region. The guy is hella-good fun to hang out with... and while that may sound like an irrelevant detail, it is not: Piuze works with purchased fruit, and his great relationships with the growers of Chablis have allowed him access to choice parcels in all of the great sites.

As for technique, he is a maverick. While 90% of Chablis is machine-harvested, he harvests everything by hand, a paramount factor in the quality of his wines.

The Plateau de la Cornasse is one of 8 village-level Chablis that Patrick produces. It comes from a parcel in Beine on the west side of Chablis, located between Beauroy and Côte de Léchet.

The 2022 Chablis Plateau de la Cornasse has turned out nicely, exhibiting aromas of green apple, white flowers, toasted nuts and youthful reduction, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and satiny palate that segues into a penetrating, saline finish.

**\$80**

DOMAINE PATTES LOUP*Chablis 1er Cru 'Butteaux' 2017***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Domaine Pattes Loup is one of the most exciting estates to emerge from Chablis in recent years (Pattes Loup means 'wolf's paws'). Thomas Pico started his tiny estate in Courgis in 2005, just outside of Chablis, under the wing of his friends and fellow organic Chabliens, Alice and Olivier de Moor. He inherited excellent vineyards from his family, although the wines had truthfully been underperforming.

Motivated to take a qualitative leap in a new direction, and against the wishes of his father, he immediately began a program of strict yield control and a conversion to Organic Viticulture—a rarity in Chablis, and a feat of extreme diligence in this often inhospitable vine growing region.

This wine is precise, savory, and super food-friendly. Notes of lemon rind, chalky wet rocks, and briny sea salt ooze from the wine's razor-sharp palate.

We popped a bottle of this recently, and while it was lovely right out of the bottle, it gained weight and complexity over the next hour. This is in a lovely place right now!

\$140**PATRICK PIUZE***Chablis 1er Cru 'Les Sechets' 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Patrick Piuze arrived in Burgundy from Montreal Canada in 2000 to work the harvest with Olivier Leflaive. What started as a one month internship, turned into what has now become one of the more exciting Chablis producers in many years. After less than 3 weeks working with him, Olivier Leflaive recognized the talent the young Piuze had and offered him the opportunity of a lifetime by asking Patrick if he wanted to head up the new winery in Chablis he was building. For 4 years Patrick made the Chablis of Leflaive, then for 1 year he produced the Chablis at Verget, and finally he was winemaker at Jean-Marc Brocard for 3 years. With so much knowledge and experience in the appellation it was time for Patrick to go off on his own, which he did beginning with the 2008 vintage.

Les Sechets (sometimes written as Secher) is a sub-climat of Vaillons, located in a cooler part of the valley. However, Séchet is well regarded in its own right, and is often mentioned alongside Forets and Les Lys as being one of Chablis' most interesting sub-climats.

Pure and precise, the 2022 Chablis 1er Cru Séchet mingles aromas of green apple and white flowers with hints of toasted nuts and iodine. It's satiny and enveloping, with bright acids and a saline finish.

\$110

DOMAINE LONG-DEPAQUIT*Chablis Grand Cru 'Blanchots,' 2019***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Domaine Long-Depaquit is one of the largest in Chablis, with 62 hectares under vine. This becomes increasingly important as Burgundy faces weather change-related challenges, such as frosts which kill grapes. These frosts have become more frequent in the past decades, making securing white Burgundies somewhat of a challenge.

Pale in color, with hints of green to the hue, the wine opens with vibrant white fruits, and a touch of oak. The fruit is balanced and pure, but there is weight behind it, as well.

The Blanchots is ripe with citrus and crisp apple. Textured and mineral, it has a good balance between weight, spicy richness and intense fruitiness.

While Les Clos holds a very special place in our heart, the 2019 Blanchots is a wonderful counterpart to it, and matches it for complexity and sheer pleasure!

\$170**DOMAINE LONG-DEPAQUIT***Chablis Grand 'Les Clos,' 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

2022 was considered a wonderful, if warm, vintage in Burgundy. While we expected the vintage to produce stunning reds, it was perhaps the wines that surprised (and delighted) us the most, with brilliant acidity and perfect structure, giving the wines loads of tension and vibrancy.

Bichot's property in Chablis, Long-Depaquit, excelled in the vintage. Their Les Clos is, of course, always brilliant; expressive and powerful, with the full, luscious weight of the warm year behind it. 25% is raised in oak, of which only a tiny portion is new. This is a buttery, weighted, striking, and satisfying Les Clos, given exciting precision by the vintage's wonderful acidity.

Quietly powerful, with subtle fruit flavors, a full body (for Chablis) and layers of fruit, minerals and toast that build on the palate and linger in the finish. Grown on a south-facing slope in clay-based but stony soil. 30% was barrel-fermented, and it shows an opulent, rich expression underlain by a mineral, saline character.

\$280

DOMAINE LONG-DEPAQUIT*Chablis Grand Cru 'Bougros,' 2021***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Albert-Bichot owns the Domaine Long-Depaquit, and with it, some truly special vineyards.

Their plot in the Bougros *climat*, located in the westernmost part of the Grand Crus, benefits from the afternoon sun due to its south-western exposure.

The planting density of the vines is higher than the average of 8,000 vines/ha, which forces them to compete with one another and plunge their roots deeper down into the soil.

The calcareous clay soil, which contains a higher proportion of clay than the other Grand Crus, benefits from a considerable groundwater reserve that yields highly expressive wines that boast remarkable structure and impressive cellaring potential

Rich nose featuring aromas of ripe fruit along with slight toasted notes. Dense structure on the palate, but minerality - this is Chablis after all - always has the last word. The finish is long, silky and incredibly expressive.

\$175**DOMAINE LONG-DEPAQUIT***Chablis Grand Cru 'Vaudésir,' 2021***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

At the heart of the Grand Crus sector, the Vaudésirs valley is a textbook example of the geology and history of Chablis' vineyards and bears witness to the erosion that followed the last ice age.

Long-Depaquit's plot is located on abrupt slopes with full southern exposure, which gives the vines high levels of regular sunshine. Here, Kimmeridgian outcrops are very numerous, which is expressed in the wines particularly pronounced minerality.

This Grand Cru starts off with a welcoming nose redolent of citrus fruit and delicate floral (lily of the valley, chamomile) notes.

The palate expresses moderate and very pleasing acidity which makes this wine a typical representation of a Chablis Grand Cru: mineral and intense.

Absolutely perfect with our fish dishes!

\$185

LUCIEN LEMOINE*Chablis Grand Cru 'Les Preuses' 2018*

Cépage:
Chardonnay

The wines of Lucien Lemoine are a rarity; even more rare is the Grand Cru Chablis 'Les Presuses' (for example, Saouma made just **one barrel** of the 2015!). Mounir is constantly re-evaluating his sources for his wines, and this wine has not been offered to us for the past several years. Hopefully we can get more in the future!

Knockout aromas of lemon, licorice, menthol, white pepper and crushed rock. Powerful, bracing flavors of lemon, ginger and spices boast terrific energy and sappy penetration. This grand cru displays atypical density of material for Chablis--and even for vintage 2018 - but we're not complaining. The ginger, quinine and licorice flavors are joined by herbs and citrus oil on the very long, spectacularly perfumed finish.

Mounir Saouma notes that the wine received nearly three years of *élevage* (ageing) and is solid as a rock and built for a glorious evolution in bottle.

Decant this wine, and have this with seafood (especially Oysters if they are on the menu) and chicken dishes. The 2018 is just now starting to really hit its sweet spot out of magnum (since Magnums age and develop more slowly than wine in 'normal' 750ml bottles).

It's still a big wine, and decanting is still recommended.

What a wine!

\$790 1500ML Magnum





WILLIAM FEVRE

Chablis Grand Cru 'Bougros,' 2017, 2020

Cépage:

Chardonnay

Founded in the heart of the Chablis vineyard in the 19th century, this family-run Domaine is synonymous with excellence, authenticity and terroir. The history of Domaine William Fèvre dates back to 1957 when William Fèvre, a visionary with a passion for wine, purchased and revitalized the family Domaine. His relentless quest for quality and his love for the terroir of Chablis led him to acquire precious parcels of vines in the appellation's best climats. Today, Domaine owns nearly 78 hectares of vines, the majority of which are located in the prestigious premier and grand crus of Chablis.

What sets Domaine William Fevre apart is its deep commitment to the unique terroir of Chablis. The Chablis region is renowned for its Kimmeridgian soil, made up of limestone and marl rich in marine fossils. This terroir gives Chablis wines their distinctive character, marked by elegant minerality and aromatic purity. The vines are planted exclusively with the Chardonnay grape, which flourishes in this particular terroir to produce white wines of crystalline purity.

Grand crus, such as Les Clos, Bougros, Vaudésir and Les Preuses, are the jewels in the crown of William Fevre, producing wines of exceptional depth and complexity. They are distinguished by their concentration, elegance and ability to age magnificently.

WILLIAM FEVRE BOUGROS 2017 \$260

The 2017 Chablis Bougros Grand Cru is a dense, phenolic and powerful wine that captures the tiny yields of the vintage. Lemon confit, pear, white flowers, mint and lightly honeyed notes explode from the glass in a Chablis endowed with tremendous character as well as persistence. This is an especially ample, full-bodied edition of this wine.

WILLIAM FEVRE BOUGROS 2020 \$170

This is generally the richest, most fruit-driven grand cru bottling chez Fèvre, but the 2020 Chablis Grand Cru Bougros is a wine of particular distinction. Exhibiting aromas of peach, citrus blossom, bee pollen and oyster shell, it's a medium to full-bodied, satiny and layered wine that's ample but elegant, with racy acids and a long, saline finish. The 2020 vintage makes the first year of official organic conversion for 78-hectare Domaine William Fèvre, though it's actually the 15th year the estate has been practicing organic.

ALBERT BICHOT*Bourgogne blanc 2023***Cépage:**
Aligote

With Albéric Bichot at the helm since 1996, the house has focused its future on quality, minimal intervention winemaking and organic farming. The embodiment of this approach resulted in their 6 domains being fully organically certified since 2018, while receiving praise and awards on the quality of the wines.

Bourgogne Aligoté is an appellation produced throughout Burgundy though it is mostly found in the vineyards around Auxerre, the Côte Chalonnaise and the Hautes Côtes de Beaune and Nuits.

The nose reveals a dominance of floral aromas with hints of white flowers which evolve into mineral, fruity notes with a discreet almond note. Fresh and nervy, this wine is well-balanced with a refreshing and persistent finish. This wine is a fine accompaniment to simply prepared fish and seafood. Fans of white Burgundies owe it to themselves to try this wine!

**\$39****BENJAMIN LEROUX***Bourgogne blanc 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Each year we buy as much of the Bourgogne blanc and rouge from Benjamin Leroux as we can, and it is still never enough. Leroux has become one of the best known names in Burgundy, and his wines are always in high demand. In fact, this is the only place – restaurant or retail – to have this wine in Kansas City this vintage!

Tasting the 2020 vintage, it's no wonder why! The fruit for the Bourgogne blanc comes almost entirely from Meursault. The wine is aged in wood, but the barrels are old, neutral barrels of very large size, which lets the *terroir* of the wine shine through.

The Bourgogne Blanc is a textbook 2022: intense, balanced, cool for the vintage, and with delightful drinkability. 2022 as a vintage in Burgundy was fairly warm, but Leroux's vineyards are all in cooler microclimates.

The Bourgogne blanc shows melon, honey and pear notes, on a frame with medium acidity, and great mouthfeel. This is drinking superbly now!

**\$99**

PHILIPPE LE HARDI*Mercurey 2020***Cépage:**

Chardonnay

Domaine du Château Philippe le Hardi (formerly Château de Santenay) was once the majestic stately home of the first Duke of Burgundy. This historic estate is one of Burgundy's most prestigious producers with its colorful glazed roof tiles. Working in a very natural way, they farm their 200+ acres of vineyards throughout the Côte d'Or and Côte Chalonnaise. Their wines are distinctive and reflect the delicate complexities of each unique vineyard site.

For the last 20 years, the domain has been taking an environmentally-friendly approach to growing, proving itself to be a true pioneer in this respect.

Pale shiny gold. Very expressive on the nose with fresh, sharp aromas supported by floral notes, a superb but very mellow oak presence and a hint of fresh hazelnuts. The palate has a lovely structure and balance, with fresh floral aromas as well as hints of white peach and minerality. A wine of great precision.

\$65**WHAT IS TERROIR?
(TEHR-WAHR)**

Throughout these pages, the term *terroir* is oft-used. But what exactly is *terroir*?

Terroir is a French word, with no one-word English translation. Essentially, *terroir* is a word that refers to all of the unique physical characteristics of a particular vineyard (or even a parcel within a vineyard), and how all of those characteristics are expressed in the wines that come from that place.

Some examples; is the soil clay, which holds in water, or is it sand, or gravel that drains water well? Is the area cool, warm or hot? Does the temperature drop a lot at night? Does it get more sunshine in the morning or the afternoon? Is it rocky? Is it windy? Is it high elevation, which might be cooler and have poorer soils due to erosion, or does it sit on the base of a hill or in a valley? Very small differences can make a significant difference in the wines.

What *terroir* isn't: a wine flaw, such as 'Brett' (*shorthand for a yeast strain called Brettanomyces*), cork taint, oak barrel influence, when a winegrower picks the grapes, how long the wines are aged, etc. Anything that is a fault in winemaking, or anything that the winemaker does to the grapes or to the wine (whether good or bad) is not *terroir*.

But why does all this matter? Because wines should express their sense of place, the beauty of their particular region, slope or vineyard. There is beauty in the variations, and these subtleties make *all* the difference.



HERITIERS DU COMTE LAFON

Macon-Villages 2023

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Dominique Lafon has become a legend in the historic region of the Maconnais and wines like his Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon Saint Véran is one of the reasons. Along with winemaker Caroline Gon, the wines of Héritiers du Comte Lafon are certified organic and biodynamic showcasing the true flavor of both the fruit and *terrior*. This vintage of his Saint Véran is from 25 year old vines and made using only indigenous yeasts, this wine is of medium weight showing off a nice lemon-tinged acidity along with a nice satiny palate and a mineral finish. This wine is all at once dry with a little bit of complexity.

The 2022 Saint-Véran exhibits aromas of citrus oil, crisp green apple, almond paste and white flowers, followed by a medium to full-bodied, satiny and incisive palate, its charming core of fruit tempered by racy acids, and concluding with a mineral finish. A great balancing act between race and forward!

\$57



MARIE-PIERRE MANCIAT

Pouilly-Fuissé 'Les Petites Bruyeres' 2021

Cépage:
Chardonnay

A little denser and more unctuous than the Les Morizottes, with a touch more overt minerality reflective of the *terrior*, there's simply more going on here than most other comparable examples. Manciat seems to easily maintain an almost buttery texture while keeping it expressive and engaging. These are some of the best Chardonnay deals we have run across recently and they've definitely got style.

The 2021 Pouilly-Fuissé les Petites Bruyères comes from 30-year-old vines, fermented in both barrel and stainless steel where the wine matures for 11 months. It has a pretty bouquet with scents of lemon peel, freshly cut pear, nettle and limestone. The palate is fresh and vibrant with crisp acidity, fine tension with a tightly wound, minerally finish that suggests decanting will be required. This is an austere, but classy, Pouilly-Fuissé and I suspect it will age extremely well. Highly recommended.

\$55

SANGOUARD*Saint Véran 'Les Rochettes' 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Domaine Sangouard is a family-owned winery going back several generations and located in Leynes, a tiny town at the border of Beaujolais and Mâconnais. The domain owns 8.5 hectares (21 acres) of sloping vineyards, some on the limestones and clays of the Mâconnais, others on the crumbling granites of Beaujolais, most of them facing South.

A forthcoming nose makes this wine immediately appealing, with suggestions of pears, almonds, and something mossy dominating before these scents yield to lush ones suggesting butter and honeydew melon. Remarkably rich and full-bodied for a Saint-Véran—a real overachiever. Borders on the unctuous, but balanced by a strong shot of acidity that persists on an extended finish. Hard to resist if you like your wines rich and fruity—even a little decadent. That said, manages to be fruit-forward without being gauche. Delicious now but likely to develop further nuance.

**\$65****ALBERT BICHOT***Montagny 1^{er} 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

The Côte Chalonnaise village of Montagny is one of the last bastions of real white Burgundy value, and this rich and vibrant wine makes that point nicely.

This brilliant, limpid Montagny Premier Cru is golden in color and redolent of oak, vanilla and brioche. It is round and delectable on the palate with lovely vivacity and minerality. The finish is long and fragrant with flavors of almond and fresh and cooked apple.

The use of French oak barrels bring a toasty and nutty long finish. A wonderful bottle that will delight all lovers of sophisticated burgundy whites.

Enjoy this delicate wine with fine fish such as bream or sole, seafood or poultry.

**\$75**

ALVINA PERNOT*Saint-Romain 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Many Burgundy fans will be familiar with the name Paul Pernot. But where Paul Pernot remains a classic expression of white Burgundy, Alvina, one of Paul's grandchildren, makes wines with a more contemporary style, farming at higher altitudes and picking earlier than most. The resulting wines are bright and vibrant in the glass with, as many critics note, wonderful approachability in their youth.

It's the best of both worlds and you really can't go wrong no matter which way you decide to go on these. The Alvina Pernot Saint-Romain is one of the greatest values we've found all year.

10 barrels worth but 30% has been made in amphora. This comes from purchased fruit but will be the last year because there is not enough space in the winery!

The succinct bouquet opens gradually in the glass with lemon curd, lime and hints of white chocolate in the background.

Just seeing this bottle makes us happy.

\$110**CHATEAU GRIS***Nuits-Saint-Georges 'Les Terrasses' 2020***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Since 1831, The Bichot family has been at the forefront of Burgundy wines. Over the course of 6 generations, the house style has become more and more refined and distinct in elegance. With Albéric Bichot at the helm since 1996, the house has focused its future on quality, minimal intervention winemaking and organic farming. The embodiment of this approach resulted in their 6 domaines being fully organically certified since 2018, while receiving praise and awards on the quality of the wines.

The Chateau Gris castle was built in the 18th century in the middle of its walled vineyard. After the vines were destroyed by phylloxera, the roof of the castle was covered with grey slate whereas tiles are traditionally used in Burgundy. The people of Nuits-Saint-Georges therefore began to refer to it as Château Gris ("grey castle") and the name stuck.

A rare find of a white wine in Nuits St Georges, this Chardonnay delivers fresh, floral and mineral notes to an elegant texture from the top of the slope.

One of our house favorites!

\$190



DOMAINE DES COMTE LAFON

Meursault 2017

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Dominique Lafon is widely considered one of the finest winemakers in France, and the 2017 vintage is an excellent year for Domaine des Comtes Lafon, where and his team seems to have attained a new level of consistency. After the better part of two decades' experimentation and refinement, Lafon has found a mature aesthetic.

This is lovely, offering up appealing aromas of crisp peach, pear, lemon, white flowers and a touch of praline. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, satiny and layered, with excellent cut and tension that belies its seductively textural attack.

\$225

The Genius of Comte Lafon

Domaine des Comtes Lafon has the deepest and coldest cellars in Burgundy and they nurture some of the greatest dry white wines of Burgundy. Dominique Lafon is the leading producer in Meursault, producing wines of astonishing depth and complexity, yet supremely balanced as well. He is sometimes referred to, by those who know, as the greatest white wine producer in the world.

The domaine dates back to the building of the house and cellar at Clos de la Barre by the Boch family in 1869. However the real creator of the estate was Comte Jules Lafon who married Mademoiselle Marie Boch on St Vincent's day 1894, and was shrewd enough to purchase exceptionally well sited plots in the best vineyards of Meursault and Volnay, as well as a treasured piece of Le Montrachet acquired in 1919.

Café des Amis is pleased to have an allocation of these exceptional (and exceptionally rare) wines

DOMAINE DES COMTE LAFON

Meursault 2020

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Domaine des Comtes Lafon has been in the Lafon family since 1865. Dominique Lafon took over the domain in 1983. All of Lafon's vineyards are cultivated biodynamically and he is proud to own parcels in every Premier Cru in Meursault

The village Meursault is a blend of older vines (En La Barre, En Luraules, Les Crotots, Clos de la Baronne) and younger vines (1^{er} Cru Charmes, 1^{er} Cru Genevrières, Clos de la Barre).

Ripe and lush, with notes of hazelnut and butter enlivened by aromas of ripe apple and citrus; this wine is among the great classics of the Côte de Beaune.

\$250



DOMAINE DES COMTE LAFON

Meursault 'Clos de la Barre' Monopole 2019

Cépage:

Chardonnay

Domaine des Comtes Lafon has been in the Lafon family since 1865. Dominique Lafon took over the domain in 1983. All of his vineyards are cultivated biodynamically and he is proud to own every Premier Cru in Meursault.

The oldest vines in this 2.12ha Lafon monopole were planted in 1950. Although it was picked fairly late, the biodynamically-farmed vines managed to retain a vibrant acidity, with the aromas beginning with citrus peel and ripe pear, before revealing the spice and butter notes imparted by the cask ageing. On the palate, there is a marvelously juicy texture and a lingering finish.

DOMAINE DES COMTE LAFON MEURSAULT 'CLOS DE LA BARRE' MONOPOLE 2019 \$300

Although it was picked fairly late, the biodynamically-farmed vines managed to retain a vibrant acidity, with the aromas beginning with citrus peel and ripe pear, before revealing the spice and butter notes imparted by the cask ageing. On the palate, there is a marvellously juicy texture and a lingering finish that make this a wine to age.

DOMAINE DES COMTE LAFON MEURSAULT 'CLOS DE LA BARRE' MONOPOLE 2020 \$375

The 2020 vintage possesses a forward, opulent nose, with notes of citrus and smoke rounded out with riper elements and a bit of spice. The texture is structured and fresh, but there is no lack of density.

ALBERT-BICHOT*Meursault 2016***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

The first traces of the Bichot family date back to 1214. They settled in Burgundy in 1350, in their fief of Chateauneuf-en-Auxois. The family's coat of arms has not changed since nor has its symbol, a doe (*biche*).

Produced from one of this negociant's own vineyards, this wine is on the generous side of Meursault. Richness, fruitiness and touches of wood aging are balanced with the crisper, mineral texture that will let the wine age.

Generous and flattering, this wine reveals notes of crystallized lemon, almonds, white flowers and freshly-baked bread. The mouth is suave and velvety without heaviness, with hints of warm brioche and spices. Persistent and tasty, the finish mirrors the bouquet's aromas.

The nose is discreetly toasty followed by elegant floral notes on a backdrop of light plum and pear fruity aromas. The mouth is powerful, well-balanced and dense, with delicious brioche flavors. The finish is persistent and very aromatic.

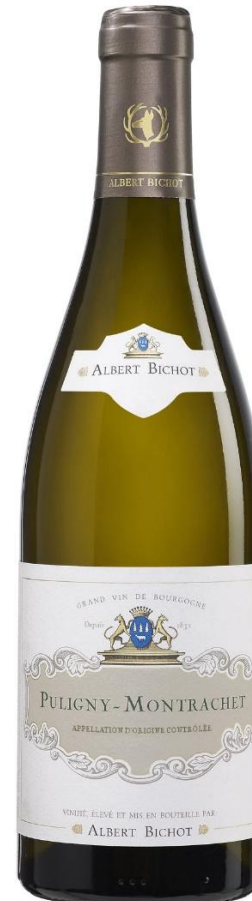
**\$120****ALBERT-BICHOT***Puligny-Montrachet 2016***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Located in central Burgundy in the southern portion of the Cote de Beaune, the Puligny-Montrachet appellation together with Meursault and Chassagne-Montrachet constitutes the prestigious 'Cote des Blancs.'

This wine is still young, with hints of richness behind its currently tight structure. It has plenty of acidity as well as ripe yellow and white stone-fruit flavors that are lifted by hints of spice from wood aging. This wine has plenty of the aristocratic character of a fine Puligny-Montrachet.

Puligny-Montrachet and its Premiers Crus are concentrated and well-bred. Their balance, aromatic complexity, and purified style demand delicate but rich food. They are equally at home with poultry in sauce or veal fried with mushrooms. Their great distinction elicits a grateful response from foie gras, and grilled or fried sea-fish. On the cheese-board, its natural allies are goat cheeses, Reblochon, or soft-centered cheeses like Brie.

This half bottle is the perfect way to start dinner, to enjoy with your meal, or to accompany a cheese tray at the end of the evening.

**\$85 375ml (half bottle)**

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE*Puligny-Montrachet 2019*

Cépage:
Chardonnay

The roots of the Leflaive family go back to 1717 when Claude Leflaive took up residence in Puligny-Montrachet, intent upon cultivating several acres of vineyards. The domaine, in its present form, was created by Joseph Leflaive between the years of 1910 and 1930. Today, the domain extends over 24 hectares (59.3 acres) in Puligny-Montrachet, of which 4.8 hectares (11.9 acres) are grands crus and 10.8 hectares (26.7 acres) are premiers crus, all growing one varietal: Chardonnay.

Domaine Leflaive is one of the pioneers of biodynamic viticulture in Burgundy. After increasing trials at the beginning of the 1990s, conversion has been total since 1996.

The preparations used in biodynamics allow the vine to reinforce its own immunity by respecting the natural balance of fauna and flora.

This distinctive white is highlighted by lime blossom and citronella, with a spine of vivid acidity providing definition and length. This converges on the precise, chalky finish. Drink now through 2027.

\$395**MOREY-COFFINET***Chassagne-Montrachet 'Les Houillères' 2020*

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Morey-Coffinet was founded in the late 1970s by Michel Morey (son of the late Marc Morey) and his wife Fabienne (from the Pillot clan).

Their son, Thibault, succeeded the couple, taking the helm of the estate in 2009. Thibault joined his father in a long lineage of winemakers in Chassagne-Montrachet with great gravitas in their family names such as Pillot, Morey, and Coffinet. He has earned the respect of his peers through his thoughtful and detailed approach. In 2014, he began to pursue biodynamic viticulture, and in 2015 gained certification.

A blend of vine ages, a good proportion from 1955. The *lieu-dit* Les Houillères is in the north of Chassagne, right on the border of Puligny-Montrachet and the wine does have an elegance and focus that reminds one of Puligny.

Mid lemon yellow. The nose has a little bit more reductive tension than the straight Chassagne, with fresh golden orchard fruit, a generous weight behind, ripe apples, good acidity nicely folded in and excellent length.

\$190

JEAN-CHARLES*Saint Aubin 1er Cru 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

The Fagot family has been located in the small village of Corpeau since 1860. Just outside Chassagne-Montrachet, it is located near some of the most prestigious vineyards in the Cote de Beaune, so it would be fair to say that wine is in the family's blood. Jean-Charles is part of the 5th generation of Fagots in the area and the third generation to own vineyard acreage in Chassagne-Montrachet. On his estate vineyards, Jean-Charles *employs lutte raisonnée*, a method of growing in which chemical intervention is employed only when necessary. The wines are vinified traditionally and naturally, utilizing oak *foudres* and 12-14 month long aging periods in the Fagot cellars.

This is a beautiful vintage for the cool, high-altitude vineyards of Saint-Romain, and Jean-Charles Fagot has produced a very attractive wine, full of character, with an expressive bouquet of musky peach, citrus zest, hazelnut and smoke. The palate reveals good cut, minerality and tension through the finish.

**\$110****ALVINA PERNOT***Meursault 1^{er} Cru 'La piece sous le Bois' 2020***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Ah, Meursault! One of our favorite regions in all of Burgundy for white wine. Meursault does the magic trick of being steely, yet fleshy, crisp, yet oily. And it ages oh-so-well.

With the vast experience and knowledge she gained from working on her grandfather's vineyards, Domaine Paul Pernot, for 3 years, Alvina Pernot has come into her own producing some of the finest wines of Burgundy. She is one of the rising stars of Burgundy, and we are thrilled to have her wines on our list.

The 2020 Meursault Le Pièce Sous Le Bois 1er Cru comes from a parcel owned by the Pernot family that was regrafted from red varieties in 2000. It has a finely-tuned nose with traces of grilled walnut and almond scents, needing a little encouragement from the glass, not a million miles away from a Genevrières in style. The palate is feisty, a bit of a wild child and there is nothing wrong with that. Good weight and plenty of spice towards the finish that gets the saliva flowering.

This and seafood... a match made in heaven!

**\$175**

LUCIEN LE MOINE

Nuits-St-Georges 1^{er} Cru 'Les Terres Blanches'
2020

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Lucien Le Moine is a haute-couture trader/farmer maison created by Mounir Saouma and Rotem Brakin, a Lebanese couple. After the husband spent some time in a monastery and a first attempt at the art of making wine, then embarked on enology studies, he created his structure in 1999 to offer wine from the finest terroirs. The name of the *maison* comes from the nickname that his friends gave him as a result of his education in the Cistercian cloister: "Le Moine", the Monk. Lucien was the name given to him by the monks. Today, he produces 38 different crus, ranging from village wines to grand crus. The vinification and *élevage* are very precise and well done, as delicately and naturally as possible.

It isn't for nothing that this wine carries the Nuits-Saint-Georges name. The terroir comes through strongly in this cuvée, marked by a pale color, a delicate aromatic bouquet, and a rich palate that is nevertheless underscored by a certain freshness. All of this in perfect harmony!

\$359



DOMAINE DES COMTES LAFON

Meursault 1^{er} Cru 'Charmes' 2020

Cépage:
Chardonnay

For those who love great Burgundy, this winery needs no introduction. However, for those who want to learn more about the region's great terroirs, tasting the wines of Domaine des Comtes Lafon is a true education. Sublimely silky and complex, the wines of Domaine des Comtes Lafon are a marvelous glimpse into the diversity of Burgundy's terroirs and the extent to which this legendary family honors them.

Les Charmes, situated in the Southern part of Meursault is one of the emblematic vineyards of the appellation, known for producing rich, powerful, and aromatic wines.

The 2020 Meursault 1er Cru Charmes is brilliant, offering up a complex bouquet of pear, crisp stone fruits, clear honey, baking spices, wheat toast and hazelnuts. Medium to full-bodied, deep and taut, it's extremely concentrated, with racy acids and an abundance of chalky structuring extract. This site has really excelled this year.

We don't have enough superlatives for this wine...it's everything that great Meursault should be.

\$540



DOMAINE CLOS DE LA CHAPELLE*Beaune 1^{er} Cru 'Les Reversees' 2015, 2020***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Kansas City Native Mark O'Connell is the sole remaining American to own vineyard land, or a Domaine in Burgundy, who actually makes wine (although other Americans own land there as an 'investment').

Beaune is a village that dates back to the Roman times and archaeological evidence supports the plantation of vines around the town at that time. Rich in premier cru designation, some 75% of the cultivation boasts this status.

This is one of 2 of Clos de la Chapelle's premier cru white wines (Pernand Vergelesses 1er cru Sous Fretille being the other) and comes from a vineyard that also produces excellent red premier cru wines. Mark owns a mere .25 hectares (about .6 of one acre) on vines that average 25 years of age.

**DOMAINE CLOS DE LA CHAPELLE BEAUNE 1^{ER} CRU 'LES REVERSEES' 2015 \$115**

A pale golden color overlays a fresh, white peach and stone fruit mid-palate. This is a refreshing wine, one suitable for lighter meat and poultry dishes, or just for savoring with friends.

DOMAINE CLOS DE LA CHAPELLE BEAUNE 1^{ER} CRU 'LES REVERSEES' 2020 \$125

Creamy, with toasty oak, peach and citrus flavors backed by a firm structure. Ends with a mouthwatering impression and light citrus bitterness. This is just starting to really open up and come into its own.

**“There are many ways to
the recognition of truth,
and Burgundy is one of them.”**

- Isak Dinesen

LA POUSSE D'OR

Puligny-Montrachet
'Le Cailleret' 1er Cru 2021

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Domaine de la Pousse d'Or has for decades been the collector's choice for expressive and memorable wines from Burgundy's most hallowed terroirs. This historic estate is one of the Burgundian elite, in a similar realm of such exclusive wineries like Romanée-Conti and Comte de Vogüé, with its strict selection and seamless winemaking. The history of Pousse d'Or in Volnay underscores its influence throughout the ages. In 1855, the winery was part of a larger domain that included such names as Romanée-Conti and Clos de Tart. Originally called La Bousse d'Or (Bousse, in old French, means earth; thus, "golden earth"), the Domaine changed owners a number of times until legend Gérard Potel took the reins. In 1997, Patrick Landanger purchased the winery and its vineyards.

Cailleret offers a depth of flavor and minerality that reminds of its neighbor, Montrachet. Aromas of crushed stones, quince, citrus oil and light baking spices alongside a mineral and precise palate with a silky texture, flavors of white peaches, more citrus and sea salt.

\$300

**LA POUSSE D'OR**

Puligny-Montrachet
'Chevalier-Montrachet' Grand Cru 2021

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Domaine de la Pousse d'Or is widely regarded as one of the top wineries in Burgundy, offering collectors expressive and unforgettable wines from the region's most coveted terroirs. Its illustrious past in Volnay is a testament to its enduring influence, having been a part of a larger domain with Romanée-Conti and Clos de Tart as far back as 1855. The estate was purchased by Patrick Landanger in 1997, and in the mid-2000s, he expanded the winery's portfolio by adding an impressive collection of Côte de Nuits vineyards from Domaine Moine-Hudelot. The estate is committed to sustainable viticulture and follows biodynamic principles, carefully tending to the vineyards without the use of herbicides or pesticides, while regularly plowing them.

Unquestionably one of the grandest white Burgundies, Chevalier-Montrachet sits just above Le Montrachet in the village of Puligny-Montrachet. Richly flavored, abundantly aromatic, infinitely long, and of course — very rare. This reminds us of croissants with fresh butter, dried fruits with honey, lime blossom, fresh peach.

\$1,500





DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

Puligny-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru 'Clavoillon' 2018, 2019

Cépage:

Chardonnay

Founded in 1717, Domaine Leflaive has long been one of the most highly regarded white wine producers in Burgundy. Under the stewardship of Anne-Claude Leflaive, the domain converted entirely to biodynamic farming practices in the 1990s. Distinguishing Leflaive beyond the impeccable pedigree of its vineyard sites and biodynamic practices, are the skill and care of its winemaking. The combination of these efforts has produced remarkable results, further elevating the standard for one of the world's greatest wines.

With ownership of over 85% of the Clavoillon *climat* and only one other family vinifying from this Premier Cru site, Domaine Leflaive controls the destiny of the name. Situated just north of Les Pucelles, this wine could have had an even better fate if the vineyard wasn't planted to Pinot Noir for hundreds of years before phylloxera impacted the region. It is only in the early 20th century that it was replanted, and this time with Chardonnay.

Of all the domain's wines, Leflaive's Clavoillon is arguably the cuvée that has benefited the most from biodynamic viticulture, as what was formerly a rather foursquare, blocky premier cru in the 1990s is now routinely more dynamic and lively.

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 1^{ER} CRU 'CLAVOILLON' 2018 \$425

The 2018 Puligny-Montrachet Clavoillon 1er Cru has a very perfumed bouquet with mirabelle, crushed pebble and a touch of sherbet blossoming from the nose. The well-balanced palate offers a touch of spice on the entry, good acidity, moderate depth and a suggestion of ginger toward the sappy finish.

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 1^{ER} CRU 'CLAVOILLON' 2019 \$450

An overtly floral suffused nose displays notes of pear compote, citrus confit and subtle spice wisps. There is excellent vibrancy to the attractively textured medium weight flavors that also exude a refreshing salinity on the citrusy, dry and notably more complex finish that is perceptibly firmer. This should age well.

LUCIEN LE MOINE

Puligny-Montrachet
Corton 'Les Fièvres' Grand Cru 2014

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Micro-négociant and *éleveur* extraordinaire Mounir Saouma describes 2014 as “a fantastic vintage for white wines in the old style, with low alcohol, high acidity and low pH. The wines are crisper than the fatter 2013s.” Saouma noted that the grape skins in 2014 were ripe even if they didn't show that quality early on. ‘But now you really feel the stony dry extract in the wines. The long time on the lees really extended the wines’ finishes. The 2014s show perfect typicity of vineyard and vintage.’

Les Fièvres (often labeled Clos des Fièvres) is a small vineyard of the Corton Grand Cru appellation in the Côte de Beaune district of Burgundy. It is one of a handful of such sites which produce Corton Blanc from Chardonnay as well as the more common Corton (from Pinot Noir).

The 2014 Corton Les Fièvres' has a precise bouquet with lemon peel, granite and smoky notes, almost Puligny-like in terms of its reserve. The palate is fresh and vibrant with good body, fine tension thanks to that keen line of acidity, with hints of orange peel towards the finish.



\$450

ALVINA PERNOT

Puligny-Montrachet
'Corton-Charlemagne' Grand Cru 2021

Cépage:
Chardonnay

This project was born of two children of Burgundy, Philippe Abadie and Alvina Pernot : two wine lovers who wanted to create their own wine; a wine reflecting their vision of Burgundian *terroir*. They decided to launch their own business, buying for the most part grapes from the family domain Paul Pernot & Ses Fils and trading grapes from Puligny-Montrachet Village or 1er Cru Les Folatières between other grapes from friends who were also grape growers.

Philippe Abadie has been a wine merchant for several years. He learnt to make wine with Burgundian winemakers and vinegrower friends. For Alvina's part, she is a graduate in business law, wine business and wine technology and has worked in the family domain for four years, where she learned to make wine thanks to her father and grandfather.

Notes of citrus oil, freshly baked bread, crisp Anjou pear, white flowers and orange oil fill the Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, a medium to full-bodied, textural and incisive wine with a fleshy mid-palate allied with promising cut and grip. It's gorgeous.



\$580



DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE CONTI

Puligny-Montrachet 'Corton-Charlemagne' Grand Cru 2022

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Domaine de la Romanée Conti is one of the world's greatest wineries.

The domain is believed to have its origins in the 13th century, when many of the vineyards were owned by a local monastery, the Abbey of Saint Vivant in Vosne. In 1760, the vineyards were the subject of a bidding war between Louis XV's mistress, Madame de Pompadour, and her bitter rival the king's cousin, Louis-François de Bourbon, Prince of Conti. The mistress's pockets were not as deep as those of the prince, who handed over 8,000 livres for the estate, appending his title to the best vineyard.

Its style is marked by a contrast of freshness against the opulence of Montrachet, providing a unique white experience from Bourgogne. Their four plots are located in the two *lieux-dits* Le Charlemagne in Aloxe-Corton and En Charlemagne in Pernand-Vergelesses. With one plot on top of the hill, one at the foot of the hill and the last two plots half-way through the slopes, the Domaine's Corton-Charlemagne will present a perfect picture of what this famous hill can offer.

Historically, Montrachet has been the only white wine produced, but in 2018 the domain began farming a 2.9-hectare parcel of Corton-Charlemagne, leased from legendary estate of Domaine Bonneau du Martray.

The 2022 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru is a creamy, exotic white. Apricot, lemon confit, slate, white flowers and chamomile lend a good bit of flair. Oily and dense, with terrific balance, the Charlemagne is quite the looker. It explodes on the back with a rush of citrus and mineral-laced inflections that leave a lasting impression.

\$3,500

CAPITAIN-GAGNEROT

Puligny-Montrachet
'Corton-Charlemagne' Grand Cru 2019

Cépage:
 Chardonnay

The Domaine Gagnerot was established in 1802. After the second world war, Roger Capitain maintained the estate and passed the stewardship to his two sons, Patrice and Michel in the 1980's. Now in the hands of the ninth generation, Pierre-Francois and Delphine carry the family tradition. Over the last two hundred plus years, the family has meticulously acquired parcels in the Cotes de Beaune and Cotes de Nuits and the resulting Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are beautiful expressions of elegance and purity. The estate is certified Biodynamic.

This wine comes from two distinct parcels: Pougets on the Ladoix-Serrigny side of the Corton hill and En-Charlemagne on the Pernard-Vergellesses side

White flowers notes, slightly honeyed. Smoky, spicy cinnamon and fruity (apricot, pineapple) notes are supported by a fine minerality.



\$350

ALVINA PERNOT

Puligny-Montrachet
'Batard-Montrachet' Grand Cru 2021

Cépage:
 Chardonnay

An exciting new arrival on the scene in the Côte de Beaune is Alvina Pernot, granddaughter of Paul Pernot of Domaine Paul Pernot and cousin of Philippe Pernot of Domaine Pernot Belicard. After working for three years at her grandfather's Domaine, Alvina and her husband set up a tiny Domaine and Maison in Puligny-Montrachet.

Within the Pernot holdings, Alvina and her husband favor earlier-picked fruit. This Batard-Montrachet is sourced from the family; only two barrels were made in total.

Alvina Pernot has produced a superb Bâtard. The terroir, which tends toward heaviness, seems well-suited to her style, which tends toward lean, racy wines. Here the combination gives the impression of ripe apple fruit with a suggestion of something more exotic; the texture on the palate reveals the density of the wine, with a rich, full body and flavors of butter and cream along with a mineral note. Pernot and her husband farm a half-hectare, and if this is any indication, they have particular success with this wine.



\$1,100



LUCIEN LE MOINE

Puligny-Montrachet
'Batard-Montrachet' Grand Cru 2019

Cépage:
Chardonnay

In two decades of work, Lucien Le Moine has become one of the most talked about Burgundy producers, making some of the most sought after wines from the region. The approach is extreme – two people, together doing everything by hand, working with a dazzling array of Burgundy's great terroirs.

If money were no object, this might be the wine that we drank every night. Sadly, even if that were the case, so little is made of this wine (just 1 barrel), it would not last us long! Thus is Mounir Saouma at his very best.

Bâtard-Montrachet borders Montrachet on the west, and is typically a fatter, more open and more exotic wine than Chevalier-Montrachet, with less grip and a more flowery, honeyed richness.

Wisps of secondary fermentation aromas are prominent enough to mask the nuance of what are clearly ripe fruit nuances. More appealing are the more intense and powerful bigger-bodied and tautly muscular flavors that terminate in a compact, austere and very serious finish that leaves no doubt that this is built-to-age.

\$1,800

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



Bâtard-Montrachet is an appellation in the Cote de Beaune granted for white wines. The appellation is limited to a single grand cru vineyard which is located between the communes of Puligny Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet, in the Cote D'Or escarpment. Bâtard-Montrachet is one of Montrachet's five great cru vineyards on the Cote de Beaune.

Bâtard-Montrachet is considered the best in the world when it comes to the expression of Chardonnay which is often backed by wine enthusiasts.

The name derives from the Medieval legend that the Lord of Puligny divided his land between his eldest son (le chevalier, the knight), his daughters (les pucelles, the maidens) and his illegitimate son (**le bâtard, the bastard**).

Chevalier, Bâtard and Les Pucelles became three different plots within the commune of Puligny-Montrachet.

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

Puligny-Montrachet 'Bienvenues-Batard-Montrachet' Grand Cru 2018

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Bâtard Montrachet is located at the point where villages of Puligny Montrachet and Chassagne Montrachet converge. It borders the Bienvenues Bâtard-Montrachet vineyard and is right below Montrachet. It is exposed to the sun from the east, and sits on a terroir composed of chalky soil. It is also the largest of the five Grands Crus.

Over time, this once uncultivated hill (Montrachet means 'barren mount' in French) has become a mythical place for lovers of great white wines.

Domaine Leflaive has been entirely a family domain since its creation. Brice de La Morandière, great grandson of the founder, Joseph Leflaive, represents the fourth generation at the head of the domain. In 2015, after an international career in industry, he succeeded Anne-Claude, pioneer in biodynamics. It is with the same philosophy of respect for the great terroirs, humility toward the forces of nature, and relentless pursuit of excellence in viticulture and in winemaking that the domain will continue to grow in the future.

The 2018 Bienvenue-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru has a terse, stoic, delineated bouquet with scents of wet limestone and sea spray, just a slight menthol note developing with aeration. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity. A very pretty, elegant Bienvenue that reveals hints of blood orange and sour lemon on the precise, persistent finish.

This is simply a gorgeous Bienvenue, and one of the finest wines on our list.

\$1,900





Guillaume opening one of only EIGHT 6-packs of Albert-Bichot Montrachet for the entire country.

ALBERT BICHOT

Puligny-Montrachet 'Montrachet' Grand Cru 2023

Cépage:
Chardonnay

Hallowed ground, Montrachet is a highly prized and much-lauded grand cru vineyard between the villages of Puligny- and Chassagne-Montrachet in the Côte de Beaune subregion of Burgundy's Côte d'Or. The vineyard is widely considered to be the world's best for Chardonnay (the only variety allowed for the title) and its wines are often considered the grape's ultimate expression.

Rich and structured, and exceedingly rare, the wines can be incredibly difficult to source. The 6 bottles that came to our modest restaurant were the only bottles for Missouri, and only 48 bottles came to the US!

(You will sometimes see Montrachet labeled as 'Le Montrachet'; the use of the 'Le' can be inconsistent across the wine industry. Usually, the definite article is used for the Chassagne-Montrachet section of the Grand Cru.)

Intense, complex nose featuring scents of white-fleshed fruit, dried fruit, nuts and spices complemented by delicate vanilla and toasted nuances. Very round and full bodied on the palate, Montrachet represents a harmonious alliance between richness, power and mineral structure. This is a grand, sophisticated wine that boasts remarkable length.

We would recommend decanting of this great wine.

\$3,000

BENJAMIN LEROUX*Bourgogne rouge 2022***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Every year we look forward to the Bourgogne rouge from Benjamin Leroux. Every year we sell out of it way too fast!

The 2022 vintage was an exceptional one; although initial concerns were that the weather was too warm, the wines have turned out to be well-balanced, thanks to a large crop, which spread all of the vine's energy out over many clusters. They are showing very forward in their youth, but will certainly still benefit with some more time.

Benjamin's Bourgogne comes from a blend of parcels from the Hautes-Côtes de Nuits, Santenay, Beaune, Ladoix, Savigny-lès-Beaune (and sometimes Fixin, depending on the vintage).

Super ripe and sappy, with dense concentrated raspberry, strawberry and boysenberry notes mixed with cassis and cherry, with clove and pepper notes beginning to emerge.

With value being an all-too-hard-to-find prospect in Burgundy anymore, the Leroux Bourgogne rouge offers a tremendous experience.

\$99**ALBERT BICHOT***'Origines' Bourgogne rouge 2022***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Finding value in Burgundy these days can be quite difficult, but the wines from Albert Bichot are quite often what we reach for first.

Bichot's 'Origines' cuvée is crafted from grapes hailing from a mosaic of plots that overlie calcareous clay soil, with varying exposure and altitude.

The diversity of these terroirs along with careful vinification and aging allow the Pinot Noir grape to produce an aromatic, fleshy, refined wine.

Fresh, fine nose featuring notes of black and red fruit notes of raspberry and blackcurrant. Fresh and fruity on the palate, this fleshy, supple wine is well balanced and boasts a pleasing fruity finish. Taste this wine with roasted or braised red and white meats, or medium cheeses.

\$14.00/glass**\$55/bottle**

DOMAINE FAIVELEY*Mercrey 'Vieilles Vignes' 2021***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Almost no one has deeper roots in the Cote Chalonnaise village of Mercrey than Domaine Faiveley. The family's holdings here go back centuries. Their multitude of single vineyard bottlings of Mercrey Rouge are some of the most coveted, long-lived examples from the appellation you will ever find. And if anyone is in a better position to make two different 'village' level cuvees of Mercrey Rouge, we've not heard of them.

The so-called 'regular' Mercrey is a lovely red with good concentration. But, they make a second cuvee consisting of just the older vines they farm within the village's confines. This Vieilles Vignes red is sort of a Reserve-level wine with not only the oldest vines but also the best exposures combined to make a more nuanced, complex wine with Mercrey's textbook depth, spiciness and concentration on display.

Not as austere and edgy as the Faiveley Mercreys of years past, the 2021 is the best example of this wine we've ever tasted- an aromatic, exceedingly charming Pinot Noir with all of the florality, muscularity, gentle rusticity and great fruit you could ask from the appellation.

\$89**SO, WHAT DOES 'VIEILLES VIGNES' MEAN ?**

'Vieilles Vignes' is the French translation for 'old vines.' The words 'Old Vines' are frequently can be passed around on labels to indicate that the grapes for the wine in question were harvested from old vines. To be clear from the outset: there are no official rules for what can be defined as old vines - only the Barossa Valley in Australia has a set of rules been established for what can be called 'old vines,' although South Africa has recently developed an Old Vines project for vines at least 35 years old While rare, there are vines in the world around 150 years of age.

In France, the term 'Vieilles Vignes' is often used on the label, but there is no definition of when producers can use this term. In some cases, the producer may consider 20-year-old vines as 'Vieilles Vignes', for other producers we talk about vines over 70 years old. It is a difficult concept to nail down, and recently we heard someone liken it to defining at what age a woman is 'old!'

While we have now defined what old vines are, it is important to understand what the words really mean. In general, the older a vine becomes, the less fruit it will be able to grow. However, the quality of the grapes the vine can still grow and ripen becomes increasingly good.

Better quality grapes sound like a no-brainer, but it is important to understand that these vines will allow for less wine to be made from them. Better quality, but less quantity.

Each winegrower has to decide for themselves when a vine is no longer producing enough fruit to be viable for winemaking anymore. For us as wine drinkers, we hope they will keep these vines around for a very long time.

LUCIEN LEMOINE

Vosne Romanée 'Aux Champs Perdrix' 2019

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Mounir from Lucien LeMoine typically produces only 1 barrel from this small vineyard, and it is incredibly sought-after by those 'in the know.' That has as much to do with Mounir's incredible skill at *elevage* as it does with this incredibly special vineyard.

You see, Les Champs Perdrix is located directly above La Tâche and is a vineyard with an enviable position in Vosne-Romanée.

2019 was a brilliant, classic vintage in the Cote d'Or, and this wine is definitely made for the long-haul.

This is somewhat restrained, at first, and almost as spicy with its cool, airy and pure aromas of plum, dark cherry and jasmine tea. There is excellent vibrancy to the utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess fine detail on the youthfully austere finale. This will continue to get better and better.

Decanting highly recommended.



\$400

BENJAMIN LEROUX

Vosne Romanée 2017

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Having created a name for himself as *régisseur* (general manager) of Domaine du Comte Armand in Pommard, Benjamin Leroux established, with English backing, a small négociant business based in Beaune since 2007.

Ben Leroux has produced a series of textbook wines in 2017, with clear differences between the terroirs and villages. This sees two-thirds whole-bunch fruit - the portion that comes from the Aux Ravioles *lieu-dit* close to the border with Nuits-St-Georges is destemmed - and is matured in one-third new oak. It's brimming with sappy, juicy red berry flavors and beguiling sweetness.

A lovely panoply of Vosne-style spice elements add breadth to the violet, red cherry and sandalwood-scented nose. The textured, caressing and velvety medium weight flavors possess a lovely richness that contrasts somewhat with the serious and firm finale.

This is a very fine villages-level wine from Leroux and well worth checking out.



\$175

FAIVELEY*Vosne-Romanée* 2021**Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Wine runs deep in the Faiveley family's blood, as they have been deeply rooted in Burgogne, its history, and its culture for almost two centuries now. Their values have remained unchanged over the last seven generations and are based on a deep attachment to the Bourgogne region, an instinctive passion for the terroirs, and an innate respect for man and his work.

Today they are one of the largest owners in Burgundy, with holdings spreading from the Côte de Nuits to the Côte Chalonnaise, featuring polished, collectible reds and whites with exceptionally high ratings.

A ruby-red color of beautiful intensity. The nose unveils light woody and fruity aromas. The attack is supple and fruity. Then, the wine reveals its fine and pleasant tannins, which give it remarkable balance and nice volume. This Vosne-Romanée is elegant and has good length on the palate.

\$212**FAIVELEY***Gevrey-Chambertin 'Vieilles Vignes'* 2021**Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

The Gevrey-Chambertin 'Vieilles Vignes' represents fruit of our meticulous selection from our plots (these old vines are over forty-five years old). The wine is seductive, with its exceptionally intense aromas, revealing notes of ripe red fruit sublimated by more animalistic nuances.

The ripe, plummy fruit character is a bit restrained on the nose but opens up on the palate with notes of earth, mineral, and smoke. The texture is classic for Gevrey in a cool year, with reasonably strict tannins and fresh acidity that lead to a persistent finish. This wine is a selection from the 35 parcels (10 hectares in all) that Faiveley owns in Gevrey.

Delightful aromas of ripe dark berries immediately entice the nose, while the palate exudes rich, powerful flavors. Lovely, lovely wine.

\$170

BENJAMIN LEROUX*Gevrey-Chambertin 2017***Cépage:**

Pinot Noir

Benjamin Leroux was very happy with his wines from 2017, describing it as the kind of vintage he would sign up for every year. He describes the reds as pretty, appealing and with body to support ageing, while highlighting the importance of lower-yielding old vines for serious ageing. He eloquently explains that there is no “black sheep” in 2017, that no village has underperformed.

The style of the vintage suggested to Ben that this year all his Gevrey should be in 228-litre barrels, having used a 3,500-litre *foudre* last year. He has also got his hands on some good quality old-vine fruit as well. Again, Ben has captured the succulence of the year but also found intensity. The Gevrey comes from four parcels, Les Seuvrées (below Charmes Chambertin) La Justice, Billard, and Le Forneau.

Delicate and dark fruited. An elegant restraint. Darkly scented on the palate, supple, suave texture, caressing and yet fresh.

\$175**ALBERT BICHOT***Gevrey-Chambertin 2019***Cépage:**

Pinot Noir

At the time of writing the current wine list, many producers have released their 2023 Burgundies into the market. This particular wine was held back by Albert Bichot so that it would be more mature when released to the market. We love it when wineries make the decision to do this; it means they wait longer before recouping their investment in making and ageing the wine, but that pays off in a wine that is ready to drink much sooner when it comes to us.

The vines grown in marl-based soil covered with scree and red silt from the plateau, which lend the wine their elegance and finesse while the marls that contain a high proportion of fossilized shells and clay, confer body and firmness.

Whiffs of nutmeg and musk lend savory nuances to fleshy black-plum and roasted-cherry flavors in this wine. Ripe and supple with soft, yielding tannins, the palate is muted by layers of earth and smoke, but they are starting to become more pronounced. With the additional age on this bottle, it is already drinking beautifully.

\$150



One could say Bruno Clair is a vigneron's vigneron. His wines are loved worldwide by those lucky enough to know them. But truly impressive is the respect he garners within Burgundy, where his fellow growers consider him one of the greatest of their ranks. They admire his attention to detail in the vineyard, his organic practices (even if he doesn't bother with certification), and the long hours he and his crews put in. We are very proud to offer these wines – please turn the page to discover more about Bruno Clair!

Bruno Clair, originally of Domaine Clair-Dau, has impressive and extensive real estate in one of the world's most celebrated wine regions. Twenty-three hectares of Premier Cru, Grand Cru, village wine, red, white and rosé; the vineyards stretch far and wide throughout the Côte de Nuits. Marsannay, his most northern property and the only Burgundian commune entitled to produce rosé, is where Bruno sources Pinot Noir for his rosé and Chardonnay for his white wine. The remainder of his vineyards run the length of Gevrey Chambertin (where most of his wines come from), Morey-Saint-Denis, Pernand-Vergelesses, Corton-Charlemagne, Aloxe-Corton, Chambolle-Musigny, Vosne-Romanée and Savigny-lès-Beaune, all situated in prime locations. Together, this collection acts as an intonation of Bruno's style, whilst maintaining diversity and clarity in terroir. Bruno Clair symbolizes structure and grace and is deemed to become one of Burgundy's true greats.

In the cellar, along with his longtime oenologist Philippe Brun (*they have been called "the Batman and Robin of Marsannay"*), Bruno produces wines that are loved for their purity of expression. They show no ego or even style, but just seem to be true to the essence of each individual vineyard.

BRUNO CLAIR

Marsannay 'Les Longeroies' 2018, 2019, 2021

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

A third-generation vigneron, Bruno Clair is the grandson of Joseph Clair, founder of the historic Domaine Clair-Dau. Bruno founded his Domaine from scratch with a vineyard in Marsannay, a rented plot in Fixin, the "En La Rue de Vergy" parcel in Morey-St. Denis and the Dominode vineyard in Savigny-les-Beaune. Over the past 33 years, Domaine Bruno Clair has grown to encompass holdings in Clos de Beze, Cazetiers, Clos St-Jacques, Vosne-Romanee, Clos du Fonteny, Chambolle-Musigny, Corton-Charlemagne, Pernand-Vergelesses, Aloxe-Corton and Gevrey-Chambertin Petite Chapelle.

Bruno does not use chemical fertilizers. Grapes are hand-harvested and selection is carried out primarily in the vineyards. Bruno firmly believes in a non-interventionist approach. Says Clair, 'we are here to accompany the wines in their voyage, not impose our will.'

Lovely and understated. When the weather turns bitterly cold, wines like these warm our hearts.

BRUNO CLAIR MARSANNAY 'LES LONGEROIES' 2018 \$120

This is a nice example of Marsannay. Lots of black and red berries, dusty earth, a nice animal/barnyard note on the nose. The palate is firm with the expected firm tannins, but overall well integrated and balanced.

BRUNO CLAIR MARSANNAY 'LES LONGEROIES' 2019 \$120

There is a lovely freshness to the cool and pure aromas of red currant, anise, violet and soft earth scents. The wonderfully sleek, intense and delineated middle weight flavors brim with minerality that also suffuses the youthfully austere and built-to-age finish.

BRUNO CLAIR MARSANNAY 'LES LONGEROIES' 2021 \$135

A discreet if perceptible application of wood surrounds the cool, pure and super-fresh aromas of various red berries, soft earth and an abundance of floral wisps. The sleek, intense and attractively textured flavors exude a subtle minerality on the moderately austere, dusty and more structured finale.





JOSEPH ROTY

Marsannay 2021

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

Joseph started the core of today's domain in the late 1960s with vines that came from his grandfather, vines that included Mazy (they spell like Rousseau), Griotte and Charmes-Chambertin grand crus.

Joseph was lost to this world in 2008, and although widow Roty still works behind the scenes, it is the sons of Joseph – Philippe and Pierre-Jean – the 11th generation at this family domain that do the heavy stuff while a 12th generation are playing in the yard. Philippe had anyway being working progressively more with his father since about 1990 – there is very little that has been changed.

A nose of smoky, grilled black fruits, very alluring, spiced with deep red and black fruits; on the palate mouth-watering black fruits, succulent yet still with a refreshing twist, spiced, intense, grilled with a distant note of new wood going to fine, mineral, intense finish with a hint of tar and a zip of energy. Delicious.

\$125



BENJAMIN LEROUX

Chambolle-Musigny 2017

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

This is a stunning, beautiful wine. Benjamin Leroux produced 13 barrels of this Chambolle-Musigny in 2017; three of them come from the Les Cras and Chatelots Premier Cru vineyards! Then there's a 1955 parcel of Les Véroilles, a site that's perhaps the highest villages vineyard in Chambolle, sitting on *terres blanches* above Bonnes Mares. Given that Leroux was unable to make any of this wine in 2016 due to frost, we are thrilled to see such a triumphant return!

Using 50% whole bunches and 20% new oak, Leroux has sculpted a seductive Chambolle that opens with a measure of controlled, fleshy flamboyance before segueing into something more suave, sappy and refreshing.

The nose is pretty and perfumed, with wild berry aromas. The palate is clean and energetic, with real intensity and purity. This is a focused, precise and mineral expression of Chambolle-Musigny.

\$185

BRUNO CLAIR

*Gevrey Chambertin 'Clos du Fonteny'
Monopole 1^{er} Cru 2020*

Cépage:
Pinot Noir



We've heard that this particular 1er Cru Gevrey-Chambertin has become Bruno's favorite over the years. It's easy when you try the wine to see why!

All the fruit comes from a Monopole (vineyard owned by one person/family) that has what the French call "white clay" which is actually light brown and full of tiny limestone pebbles. It's aged in oak for 18 months, 25% of which is new. The fruit is juicy, and generous with plenty of sensual layering of more savory notes but brings you right back to bright, come fetch me fruit.

The 2017 Gevrey-Chambertin Clos du Fonteny 1er Cru, which contains 40% whole bunch fruit, has a very detailed bouquet of crushed-stone-infused, minerally fruit; hints of incense and lavender emerge with time in the glass. The palate is fresh and vibrant right from the start, offering candied tart red fruit mixed with orange zest and citrus peel, wonderful definition and such vivacity on the finish that you will beg for another sip straight away.

\$327

BENJAMIN LEROUX

Nuits-Saint-Georges 'Les Allots' 2017

Cépage:
Pinot Noir



Maison Benjamin Leroux in Beaune was started in 2007 by Benjamin Leroux, one of the most admired young winemakers in Burgundy. Leroux became winemaker and manager at prestigious Domaine Comte Armand starting in 1999, when he was not yet 30, but he wanted his own label. With several investors he started his negociant business by taking over a section of the 19th century Jaboulet-Vercherre winery in Beaune. He owns and leases vineyards, and makes one monopole, Volnay Premier Cru Clos de les Caves. Since Leroux is often working with very small leased parcels, he makes several dozen wines, often ending up with a single barrel of less of particular cuvee!

While Les Allots is classed only as a village wine, many people feel it should be a 1er Cru. When tasting this wine from Leroux, we are inclined to agree!

Medium-light bodied, with bright strawberry and cranberry notes, with a beautiful undertone of spring flowers.

\$140

DOMAINE FAIVELEY

*Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er Cru
'Les Porêts-Saint-Georges' 2021*

Cépage:
Pinot Noir



The origins of the appellation's name are not entirely clear. It could be an ancient word for 'poiriers' (meaning pear tree). It is situated in the South of the village in the 'Les Porêts' climate and its rustic style is similar to that of the "Les Saint-Georges". In 1855 this area was stated to be one of the very best in Nuits. The family is very attached to these vines as they were the very first to be purchased by the Domaine in the 1830s.

Boasts generous ripe cherry, currant, sweet spice, wood smoke and underbrush aromas and flavors. Juicy and balanced, with a long, complex and spicy aftertaste. Farmed organically.

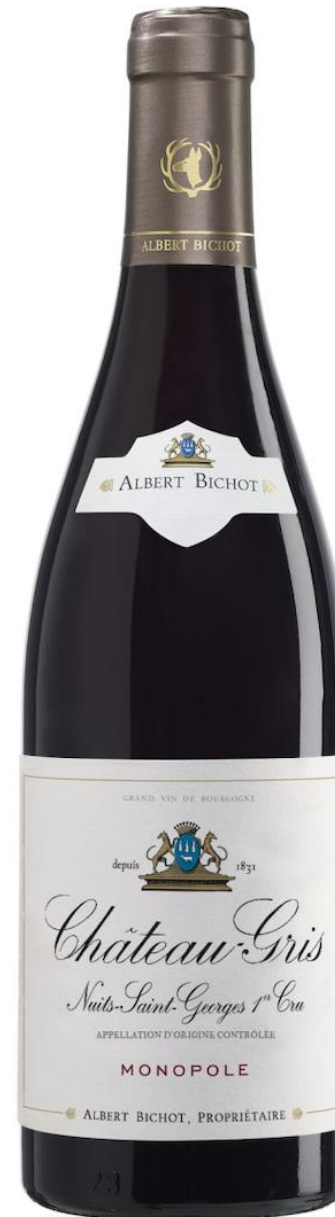
This shows the Grand Cru pedigree, were Nuits to ever be awarded one!

\$280

CHATEAU GRIS

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er Cru 2021

Cépage:
Pinot Noir



Built in the early 19th century, Château-Gris sits on a slope to the south-west of Nuits-Saint-Georges, at the heart of a 8.5 clos (walled vineyard). Back then, the locals named it as such because its roof is covered with grey (gris) slate whereas glazed tiles are more common in Burgundy and the name hasn't changed to the present day. Following a court decision in the 1920s, the name Château-Gris has taken precedence over the name "Les Crots", where the plot is located.

The vines are planted on terraces at altitudes of between 260 and 330 meters in order to cling to the slope of the hill. The plots down around the Château produce the red Nuits-Saint-Georges Premier Cru "Château-Gris."

The extremely elegant nose combines scents of red and black fruit (raspberry, strawberry, blackcurrant...) with subtle floral notes (rose, violet, peony...) and a delicate hint of oak. This wine is smooth on the palate and features rich, fleshy fruit flavors and structure owed to sophisticated tannins. A distinguished wine that offers a lovely sensation of freshness on the finish.

\$220

ALBERT BICHOT*Fixin 1^{er} Cru 'Clos de la Perriere' 2019*

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

In the Spring of 2021, we had an opportunity to taste barrel samples from Albert-Bichot of their much anticipated 2019 vintage wines. There were certain wines that we knew would be exceptional, but we had not had their Fixin before. This ended up being one of our favorite wines of the lineup!

There is no Grand Cru-ranked vineyard in Fixin yet, although thanks to its exceptional climate and its ideal exposure, it has already been compared to its neighbor, Chambertin!

The nose features notes of woodsmoke, fresh cream, black cherry and wild strawberries. The palate continues in this creamy vein, presenting dense, ripe cherry fruit on a finely textured palate pervaded by freshness. Ample and very fine, it offers silky tannins. Its mineral hints remind the characteristics of the soil it comes from. The natural maturity of the fruit is balanced by the freshness of this terroir of altitude. On the palate, the aromas are complex, with Morello cherry, licorice and juniper berry.

We have a feeling we are going to wish we had bought a *lot* more of this.

\$165**MARCHAND TAWSE***Morey-Saint-Denis 1^{er} Cru 'Les Millandes' 2021*

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

A bottle of Marchand-Tawse wine provides a window into the life and work of a defining figure in modern Burgundy winemaking. Originally from Quebec, Pascal Marchand settled in Burgundy in the 1980s. Upon completing his studies, Marchand became only the second non-Frenchman to ever be appointed as the head of a Burgundian estate when he was hired as the winemaker for Comte Armand's eponymous Pommard domain. Marchand took Clos des Epeneaux from relative obscurity to international prominence by implementing organic farming and modern winemaking techniques, all while retaining the wines' inherently rugged character. Marchand became an overnight sensation and veteran tasters will tell you without hesitation that the wines were a revelation at the time.

Situated just below grand cru Clos de la Roche, this premier cru 'Millandes' shows nobility. Well-constructed and dense, with macerated fruit and black cherry in the bouquet, it is rich, round and powerful with a precise, almost strict, finish that is balanced and elegant.

Graceful and feminine, this lovely premier cru unites aromas of mixed berries and soft fragrant flowers over a soft, supple palate. Complex, taut, energetic and restrained like a ballet dancer.

\$240

DOMAINE DU CLOS FRANTIN

Vosne Romanée 1^{er} Cru 'les Malconsorts'
2020

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Les Malconsorts is an exceptional Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru. Albert-Bichot was fortunate to be able to purchase Domaine du Clos Frantin, and thus they now own 1.75 ha (4.3 acres) of this jewel, which is located close to legendary vineyards (less than 400 meters from Romanée-Conti and less than 600 meters from Richebourg!).

The name "Malconsorts" suggests that this land must once have been at the origin of disputes between "mauvais consorts" (bad partners), from the Latin word CONSORS meaning "associate, partner". These litigants would have had a common interest in a case. The prefix "Mal-" would indicate that they conducted themselves inappropriately over land that they owned jointly.

The 2020 has an enticing aroma of defined red berries and gentle spice. The palate displayed the level of silkiness and quality of tannins you only find in the best sites of Vosne-Romanée. It is powerful but controlled, with a sumptuous depth. This is unquestionably one of the best Premier Cru wines in Vosne-Romanée!



\$575

VOSNE ROMANÉE – LEGENDARY TERROIR

Vosne-Romanée occupies a unique place in the world of Burgundy wines, commanding admiration for its remarkable ability to encapsulate the essence of Pinot Noir. While other Côte de Nuits villages like Chambolle-Musigny or Volnay might showcase finesse and others like Gevrey-Chambertin may exude raw power, Vosne-Romanée offers an unparalleled equilibrium. Its wines combine richness, structural depth, and an enduring complexity that makes them exceptionally long-lived and transformative with age.

Vosne-Romanée's reputation is deeply intertwined with its geography. As is typical in Burgundy, the greatest vineyards occupy the mid-slope of the Côte d'Or escarpment, with the grand cru sites forming a contiguous band above the village.

This includes legendary names like La Tâche, Romanée-Conti, Richebourg, Romanée-Saint-Vivant, and La Grande Rue. Each of these vineyards benefits from ideal soil composition, microclimatic nuances, and a historical legacy of meticulous viticulture.

Notably, Vosne-Romanée is home to eight grand crus. They are complemented by an impressive array of premier cru sites such as Les Suchots, Cros Parantoux, and Beaux Monts, which often rival the quality of grand crus when produced by top domains.

The appellation also includes village-level wines that, even at this level, uphold Vosne's reputation for elegance and precision. Few Burgundian communes exhibit such consistency across their classifications.

FRANCOIS LAMARCHE

*Vosne Romanée 'La Grande Rue'
Grand Cru Monopole 2014*

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Since 1797, on the prestigious terroirs of Vosné-Romanée and Vougeot, the vineyards have offered the Lamarche their precious fruit. From these terroirs, Domaine Francois Lamarche produces fourteen different wines, including la Grande Rue, a monopole of the Estate, one of the rare Grands Crus of Vosne-Romanée.

The Lamarche Estate, which now boasts a total surface area of nearly 28 acres, is a family firm, whose origin goes back several generations. All the wines have in common an elegance which combines exceptional balance and a delicate nose.

The palate is very well balanced with a keen line of acidity, nicely structured, perhaps just a little reticent right now, but maybe that means it will offer more once in bottle.

One has the sense of a La Grande Rue just biding its time. Decanting highly recommended.

\$900

**LUCIEN LEMOINE**

Grands Echezeaux Grand Cru 2019

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

The wine-growing village of Flagey-Échezeaux lies between Vougeot and Vosne-Romanée in the Côte de Nuits. The Échezeaux vineyards, for their part, divide the Clos de Vougeot vineyard from the Vosne-Romanée Premiers Crus vineyards.

Like the Clos de Vougeot (from which they are separated only by a wall), Grands-Échezeaux and Échezeaux were founded by the monks of the abbey of Cîteaux and date from the 12th and 13th centuries. Their name derives from *chesaux*, a word of Gallo-Roman origin meaning a group of dwellings, presumably referring to an ancient hamlet.

The Wine Spectator praised this wine, and it garnered a 94 point rating from them:

‘Black cherry and blackberry compote flavors hold court in this fruit-filled red, gaining complexity from graphite and chalk notes. Firm and sinewy on the finish, where the dense tannins reign. All the components are there, but this needs time. Best from 2023 through 2043.

What a magnificent wine.

\$1,500



DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE CONTI*Vosne Romanée 1er Cru 2020***Cépage:**

Pinot Noir

What a difference a year makes. After the decidedly exuberant 2020s, the 2021s from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti show another side of Burgundy, one marked by a highly challenging growing season that tested the mettle of growers. In many ways, difficult years make for the most interesting discussions because individual choices so deeply inform the wines.

Vosne-Romanée is the most prestigious appellation in Burgundy. Its 449 acres of vineyards are in and around the village of Vosne-Romanée and they include renowned Grand Cru vineyards which produce some of the world's most coveted – and costly – wines. The Grands Crus are Richebourg, La Romanée, Romanée-Conti, Romanée-Saint-Vivant and La Tâche.

This is a lovely entrance into the world of Domaine de la Romanée Conti. While this does not quite reach the absolute heights of DRC's Grand Crus (which are substantially more expensive), it actually eclipses the Grand Crus of many other producers!

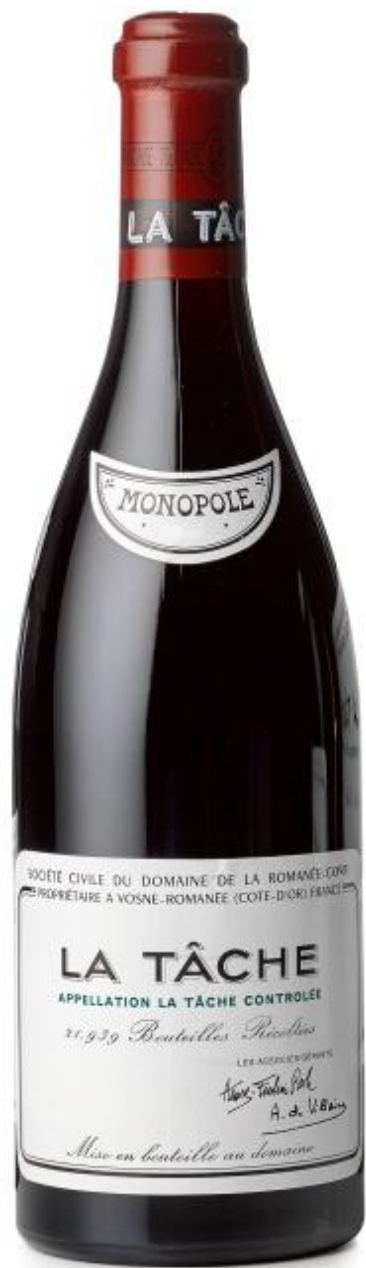
This shows a very appealing bouquet, a mélange of cranberry, wild strawberry and a touch of potpourri emerging with a few swirls of the glass...palate is medium-bodied with pleasing sapidity on the entry that dovetails into a juicy mid-palate. There's just a tang of black pepper on the back palate, easing off the accelerator towards the open-knit finish.

We would recommend decanting of this great wine.

\$1,000

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI*La Tâche Grand Cru 2011, 2021***Cépage:**

Pinot Noir



Just to the south of Romanée-Conti lies La Tâche, the largest of DRC's vineyards at 6.06 hectares, AND ITS SECOND *monopole* vineyard. Its distinct soil structure and slightly higher elevation result in a wine that is more robust but often equal to Romanée-Conti in terms of depth and complexity. In some vintages it is the RC's equal, with incredible length and wild display of complexity in its fruits and secondary characteristics, always with a mineral undertone to it. There is an enticing tension between rigor and elegance, with firm, structured tannins juxtaposing an ephemeral range of aromas.

Following the example of numerous Burgundy domains, La Tâche was originally a monastic domain. It was then owned by two different families, one of which was the Joly de Bévy who was dispossessed during the Revolution. Owned by Basire, then Liger-Belair, the La Tâche vineyards were added to the Domaine de La Romanée Conti in 1933. Well-looked after vines, strictly controlled yields and as late as possible harvest produce an aromatic and opulent wine. Even in challenging vintages, this wine is always exceptional.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI 'LA TACHE' 2011 \$5,400

The surprisingly open aromas of ripe black cherries and mulberry are complemented by hints of violets, licorice, and sweet Asian spices. The texture is also approachable, with impressive density given depth by firm tannic grip and bright acidity that draw the wine to a lingering finish.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI 'LA TACHE' 2021 \$5,600

La Tâche Grand Cru soars from the glass with a captivating and beautifully integrated bouquet of exotic spices, rose petals, raspberries, cherries and blood orange mingled with notions of cinnamon and coniferous forest floor. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, deep and multidimensional, with a deep and tightly coiled core that marks it out as the most muscular wine in the cellar, displaying considerable concentration and largely concealed structure.

We would highly recommend decanting of this great wine.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI*Richebourg Grand Cru 2011, 2013***Cépage:**

Pinot Noir

Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, often abbreviated DRC, is a legendary Burgundy estate known the world over as one of the greatest wine producers on the planet. The domain is believed to have its origins in the 13th century, when the vineyards were owned by the Abbey of Saint Vivant in Vosne. In 1760, the vineyards were the subject of a bidding war between Louis XV's mistress, Madame de Pompadour, and her bitter rival, the king's cousin, Louis-François de Bourbon, Prince of Conti. The mistress's pockets were not as deep as those of the prince, who won the bidding for the estate, appending his title to the best vineyard. Unfortunately for the prince, his reign at the domain was short-lived, as his lands were seized during the French Revolution. Nonetheless, this regal pedigree is felt, even today, in the sumptuous and evolved nature of the wines.

To the north of Romanée-Conti is Richebourg. Of DRC's non-monopoles, Richebourg is widely considered the greatest. DRC controls 3.5 hectares of the eight-hectare vineyard. It is similar to Romanée-Conti in terms of elevation and soil structure, but the wines are decidedly more robust — they are often described as rich, voluptuous and intense.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI RICHEBOURG 2011 \$4,400

A wine of depth, power and richness, the 2011 Richebourg brings together the intensity of the Grands-Échézeaux with floral overtones and tannins that resemble those of the Romanée St.-Vivant, making for a wonderfully complete Burgundy. Savory and floral notes meld into graphite, plum and violet notes, leading to a finish graced with substantial energy and polish.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI RICHEBOURG 2013 \$4,500

The 2013 Richebourg is full of surprises, starting with a much more refined expression of Pinot than is typically the case. Lifted and decidedly medium in body, today the Richebourg is all about detail, while the firm spine of tannin that is such a signature is much less in evidence.

We would highly recommend decanting of this great wine.



DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI

Romanée-St-Vivant Grand Cru 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

Domaine de la Romanee-Conti (DRC) is Burgundy's most famous estate, producing all grand cru wines from 25 hectares of vines. The wines are made in extremely limited quantities and generate some of the highest prices of any wines in the world. DRC produces the grands crus Romanee-Conti, La Tache, Richebourg, Romanee-Saint-Vivant, Grands Echezeaux, Echezeaux, and Montrachet, of which both Romanee Conti and La Tache are monopoles. Co-proprietor Aubert de Villaine has farmed the vineyards organically since 1986 and has adhered to traditional, natural winemaking practices.

Fermented with 90% whole clusters and aged in 20% new wood, it's paler than its stablemates, with refined red berry fruits, focused, mineral-edged acidity and a racy, chalky finish. Transparent winemaking from a site that often produces the domain's most elegant wine. It is very well balanced and pure, and feels structured, almost Richebourg-like, toward the persistent finish.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI ROMANÉE-ST-VIVANT 2018 \$4,000

The 2018 Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru has a detailed bouquet of dark cherries, blueberry and pressed iris, an undertow of sea spray and petrichor emerging with time. Less floral than previous vintages, it is nevertheless extremely well focused. The palate is medium-bodied and you are immediately struck by the harmony of this wine. Elegant and discreetly spiced toward the finish.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI ROMANÉE-ST-VIVANT 2019 \$5,000

Full-bodied, vibrant and perfumed, it's finer boned than the more muscular Grands-Échézeaux, with a bright spine of acidity and beautifully refined tannins, concluding with a long, penetrating finish. Striking for its purity and elegance.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI ROMANÉE-ST-VIVANT 2020 \$5,000

Full-bodied, layered and intense, with a beautifully pure, vibrant core of strikingly concentrated fruit, concluding with a long, resonant finish.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI ROMANÉE-ST-VIVANT 2021 \$5,000

The floral elements noticed in barrel are still pronounced, along with a brambly note from the whole cluster ferment and a bit more licorice spice than it showed earlier in its evolution.

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÉE-CONTI ROMANÉE-ST-VIVANT 2022 \$4,500

Scents of crushed iris flower commingle with predominantly red berry fruit, hints of peat and even camphor. It retains the veins of blue fruit that I observed from barrel. A light touch of white pepper emerges towards the multi-faceted finish. This is very alluring and sensual, showing wonderful persistence.

We would highly recommend decanting of this great wine, and any of these vintages.

BENJAMIN LEROUX*Clos-St-Denis Grand Cru 2016***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

This is one of the Côte d'Or's least tasted Grand Cru vineyards thanks to its small size and fragmented ownership – there are sixteen owners who mostly have tiny holdings.

For a number of years, Leroux has been making an outstanding example of this grand cru from a 50+ year old parcel of vines (planted in 1962) smack bang in the heart of the vineyard, in the original Clos Saint Denis *lieu-dit*. This 0.13 hectare parcel has always been managed organically, never having seen any herbicides or pesticides. As per last year, this was entirely destemmed and aged in 1/3 new barrels. Leroux always refers to this grand cru as '*mon chouchou*'. In other words, his favorite.

The 2016 Clos St Denis has an upfront, quite bold bouquet with vibrant red berry fruit, crushed strawberries, orange sorbet and a touch of earl grey. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin, well-judged acidity, fleshy and quite opulent towards the pure finish. This is gorgeous Clos Saint-Denis from Benjamin Leroux!

\$550**LUCIEN LEMOINE***Clos-St-Denis Grand Cru 2011***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

This is one of the smallest production wines that is produced at Lucien Le Moine, a wine of elegance and nuance that we prize over power.

It is truly remarkable what Mounir and his wife, Rotem, as a tiny 2-person operation have been able to accomplish since 1999, and we were pleased to find that we still had a few bottles of this wine in our cellar!

Sexy aromas of strawberry, mulch, gunpowder and dried rose accurately convey this grand cru's terroir. Then utterly silky yet sharply delineated on the palate, offering superb inner-mouth perfume to the flavors of strawberry and smoky minerals. Finishes smoky, saline and very long, spreading out on the palate to excite the taste buds. Already wonderfully expressive.

While not an inexpensive wine, the pleasure that this wine delivers rivals that of much more expensive bottles on the list. We'd still decant this one and enjoy it over the evening.

\$415

LA POUSSE D'OR

Clos de la Roche Grand Cru 2018

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

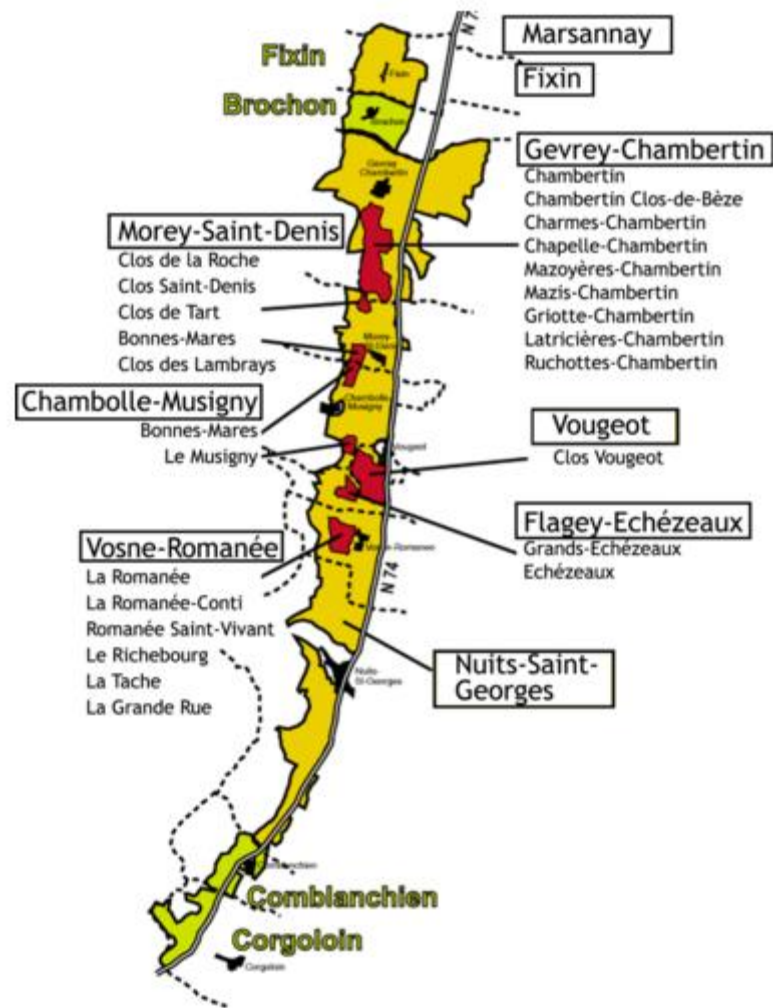
Arguably the finest, most prestigious Burgundy house in Volnay, Domaine de la Pousse d'Or has been in existence since the 1100s, when the Duchy of Burgundy held all the titles in the land. It was originally called Bousse d'Or or 'Golden Earth' in middle French, but over time the name evolved to its current iteration.

By the 19th century it had become part of a larger domain which also encompassed other reputable properties as Romanée-Conti and Clos de Tart. But over time the domain fell into disrepair, a shame considering the potential for such regal winemaking it possesses. It was eventually Gérard Potel who resurrected Domaine de la Pousse d'Or to its glory. In 1964 Potel acquired the domain through a marriage to the then owner's niece.

This has a similar fruit profile to the Pousse d'Or's Bonnes Mares bottling, but with more prominent earth elements along with a hint of the *sauvage*. The mouthfeel of the big-bodied flavors is quite simply gorgeous with excellent underlying tension, lovely delineation and subtle minerality, all wrapped in a youthfully austere finish.



\$960





ALBERT BICHOT

Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru 2018

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Albert Bichot is an important house in Burgundy, and they have vineyards in some of the finest parcels. There are very few estates in Burgundy that produce incredible quality wines in such a range as Bichot, from the 'Origines' we pour by the glass, to their Grand Crus!

Latricières-Chambertin is a Grand Cru vineyard in Gevrey-Chambertin, Burgundy, France, known for producing wines of structure and minerality from its thin, stony, and calcareous clay soils. It is located south of the famous Chambertin vineyard and is characterized by a cooler, windier climate compared to its neighbors.

Another tiny production wine from Albert Bichot that Café des Amis was able to procure! This is the only case that came to Missouri!

'Intensely aromatic, offering graphite-tinged currant, cherry, strawberry and earth flavors. Its texture is silky and the finish well-defined, even racy and long, echoing the fruit and mineral components. Best from 2022 through 2040. 80 cases made, 22 cases imported.' – *Wine Spectator*

\$399



DOMAINE DU CLOS FRANTIN

Chambertin Grand Cru 2018

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

The name Chambertin has been in use since the 13th century. History has it that a winegrower named Bertin planted the same variety of grapes in his field as his illustrious neighbor who owned the Clos de Bèze vineyard. The wines were perfect and the owner called his vineyard 'Le Champ de Bertin' (Bertin's Field), which later became 'Chambertin'.

Frantin's plot is located in the upper part of the *climat*, on a gentle slope where the soil contains a rather high proportion of marls. The grapes here ripen later in comparison to our estate's other plots. It is therefore among the last to be harvested.

The 2018 Chambertin Grand Cru was picked on September 7 and made with 50% whole bunch and 40% new oak. It has a very pure, generous bouquet with layers of red cherries, crushed strawberry and cranberry fruit and well-integrated oak. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins. Very lithe and fresh, leading to a delineated finish that ranks alongside some of the finest from this vintage. This is a superb Chambertin that will age with style.

\$900



In the late 1980s, Mounir Saouma's visit to a Trappist monastery in the Middle East led to a prolonged stay during which he worked in the monastery vineyards and first learned to make wine. He subsequently studied Viticulture and Oenology in Montpellier, followed by six years working in Burgundy, other areas of France, and California. During this time he became fascinated by traditional methods of viticulture, vinification, and aging. In 1999 he decided to push to the extreme all he had seen and experienced, and with his wife Rotem created a small cellar dedicated to the philosophy of making wines of purity and typicity. Lucien Le Moine in a decade of work has become one of the most talked about Burgundy producers, making some of the most sought-after wines from the region. The approach is extreme – two people, together doing everything by hand, working with a dazzling array of Burgundy's great terroirs.

The couple produces one to three barrels from each Cru. All wines are aged entirely on their lees. Gentle *batonnage* is done a few times a month, less or more depending on the vintage, and the wine is never racked during this process. The cellar is naturally humid and very cool, which pushes malolactic fermentations late into summer. The natural CO₂ produced during these long fermentations allows Mounir to use little SO₂ (it should be noted it is best to decant all Lucien Le Moine wines as they can have some residual CO₂). Once malolactic fermentation is complete, he and Rotem follow each barrel, tasting several times a month. Bottling is done by hand via gravity feed when the wine is ready, always after a full moon (when atmospheric pressure is favorable). No fining, filtration, or addition of sulfur takes place at bottling.

“Saouma likes to describe his cellar as a library of Burgundy's finest terroirs. That's as good a description as any for these uniformly outstanding, compelling wines.”

- **Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media**

LUCIEN LE MOINE*Chambertin Grand Cru 'Clos de Beze' 2015***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

A vineyard sitting between Mazis-Chambertin and Chambertin, Chambertin-Clos de Bèze is on the same limestone as Montrachet - you can almost think of it as a wine from Chassagne, a white wine with red color. It has almost an essence on the palate, it is supple, long, and without a lot of body or tannin. A sublime wine.

Discreet aromas of raspberry and flowers convey incredible purity and lift. Utterly seamless, perfumed, youthfully taut wine with palate-caressing red berry and crushed stone flavors. Offers a rare combination of fruit intensity and finesse. Perhaps most impressive today on the silky, slowly mounting finish, which features compelling sappy, salty persistence. The limestone soil gives this wine a quality that reminded one of Montrachet! This splendid Clos de Bèze really leaves the taste buds quivering.

Like the Nuits-St-Georges 'Les Vaucrains,' this is very much built-to-age, yet with a hearty decanting, it can be enjoyed on the younger side.

\$1,550**LUCIEN LE MOINE***Chambertin Grand Cru 'Clos de Beze' 2019***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Chambertin's Clos de Beze is considered one of the top two Grand Crus of Gevrey Chambertin, along with Chambertin itself. The Grands Crus are iconic Pinot Noir wines; powerful, virile, complex and intense.

The Clos de Bèze first appears in the history of the Côte de Nuits in the year 640 AD as a monastic property. In 1219 it passed to the canons of Langres, who retained ownership until the French Revolution (1789). The name Chambertin has been used since the 13th century and once shared imperial approval with Clos de Bèze - Napoleon would drink nothing else. Its boundaries have not changed since the Middle Ages. In recognition of their similarity, the 7 *climats* adjoining those of Chambertin and Clos de Bèze attach the name Chambertin to their own names (except in the case of Clos de Bèze where the name Chambertin comes first).

An overtly floral nose includes notes of rose petal, lavender, violet and plenty of spice on the elegant red and dark currant scents. The super-sleek and equally intense larger-scaled flavors also brim with minerality on the attractively textured, youthfully austere and gorgeously long finish. This is impeccably well-balanced and a wine that should also reward extended bottle aging.

\$1,430

LUCIEN LEMOINE*Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru 2014*Cépage:
Pinot Noir

***Mounir Saouma of Lucien LeMoine
and Guillaume Harriot of Café des Amis***

In two decades of work, Lucien Le Moine has become one of the most talked about Burgundy producers, making some of the most sought after wines from the region. The approach is extreme – two people, together doing everything by hand, working with a dazzling array of Burgundy’s great terroirs. In the late 1980s, Mounir Saouma’s visit to a Trappist monastery in the Middle East led to a prolonged stay during which he worked in the monastery vineyards and first learned to make wine. He subsequently studied Viticulture and Oenology in Montpellier, followed by six years working in Burgundy, other areas of France, and California. During this time, he became fascinated by traditional methods of viticulture, vinification, and aging. In 1999 he decided to push to the extreme all he had seen and experienced, and with his wife Rotem created a small cellar dedicated to the philosophy of making wines of purity and typicity.

Inviting aromas of raspberry, minerals, smoked meat and dried rose, along with a cool licorice note. Juicy, intense wine with excellent definition and lovely inner-mouth floral lift. Still a bit youthfully medicinal but already conveys an attractive texture and a harmony of elements. Finishes juicy, spicy and quite long, with suave, fine-grained tannins and a repeating suggestion of medicinal reserve. Saouma was not the only producer this fall who noted that Charmes-Chambertin has benefited substantially from global warming. “Not too long ago, Charmes typically had a greenness as well as underripe tannins,” he said.

**\$555**



DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru 2021

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

The origins of the appellation's name are not entirely clear. It could be an ancient word for 'poiriers' (meaning pear tree). It is situated in the South of the village in the 'Les Porêts' climate and its rustic style is similar to that of the "Les Saint-Georges". In 1855 this area was stated to be one of the very best in Nuits. The family is very attached to these vines as they were the very first to be purchased by the Domaine in the 1830s.

Boasts generous ripe cherry, currant, sweet spice, wood smoke and underbrush aromas and flavors. Juicy and balanced, with a long, complex and spicy aftertaste. Farmed organically.

This shows the Grand Cru pedigree, were Nuits to ever be awarded one!

\$795



LA POUSSE D'OR

Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru 2021

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Domaine de la Pousse d'Or for decades has been the connoisseur's choice for expressive wines from Burgundy's most hallowed terroirs. Not every estate can claim the king of France as a previous vineyard owner; fewer still can count six grand crus and three monopole vineyards under one roof.

Entrepreneur Patrick Landanger purchased Pousse d'Or in 1997, at a point when the estate seemed to have most of its glory days behind it. Patrick poured endless energy the estate, acquiring new vineyards as well as reinventing how the estate made its wines. Sadly Patrick Landanger passed away in 2023 after a long illness. His son, Benoît Landanger, now runs the estate—and is as much a talented, passionate visionary as was his father.

The Domaine de la Pousse d'Or Charmes-Chambertin 2021 captivates with its rich tapestry of red fruits and floral notes, enveloped in a silky texture that Burgundy enthusiasts adore. On the nose, it offers an alluring bouquet of ripe cherries and violets, while the palate is treated to layers of lush raspberry and subtle earthy undertones.

\$850

BRUNO CLAIR*Bonnes Mares Grand Cru 2018***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Bonnes Mares is a Grand Cru vineyard and appellation shared between the Chambolle Musigny and Morey-Saint Denis communes in the Côte de Nuits region. It's home to several prestigious Burgundian producers that craft richer and more robust Pinot Noir wines than its neighbor, Le Musigny.

Bruno Clair is now the only producer with vines on the Morey-St-Denis side of the Grand Cru, owning a total of 1.6ha. Picking started here as early as August 24th in 2018 and the result is apparent in the freshness and balance of wine. Made from a combination of red and white soils, it's a fine, floral, almost lacy expression of the terroir with added freshness and texture from 30% whole bunches and 40% new wood.

The 2018 Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru reveals red fruit, violet petals and a light oyster shell note, with fine delineation and superb focus. The palate is detailed and precise, just a faint touch of dark chocolate in the background with the mineral-driven finish delivering the sapidity to tempt you back for another sip.

Decanting highly recommended.

\$880**LA POUSSE D'OR***Bonnes Mares Grand Cru 2021***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Bonnes Mares, baby! Few bottles of wine get us quite as revved up as this one. Bonnes Mares mostly lies within Chambolle-Musigny, with a small 1.5-hectare (3.7 acre) plot in neighboring Morey-Saint-Denis.

Wines from Bonnes-Mares tend toward the rich and fleshy end of the Burgundy spectrum, with mouth-filling body. Wines more of clearly defined structure, full-bodied rather than flowery and at times a little wild.

The Pousse d'Or Bonnes Mares is made from vines on the Chambolle side. A broader freshness – more direct – a return to the more stony (wet stone) style of aromatic. Large in the mouth – impressively shaped – there's beautiful clarity to the red fruit flavor too – but it's the shape of this then the growing depth of flavor and energy as it heads to the finish – that sets this wine apart. Structural as Bonnes-Mares should be – but not a bit brutal!

\$1,200

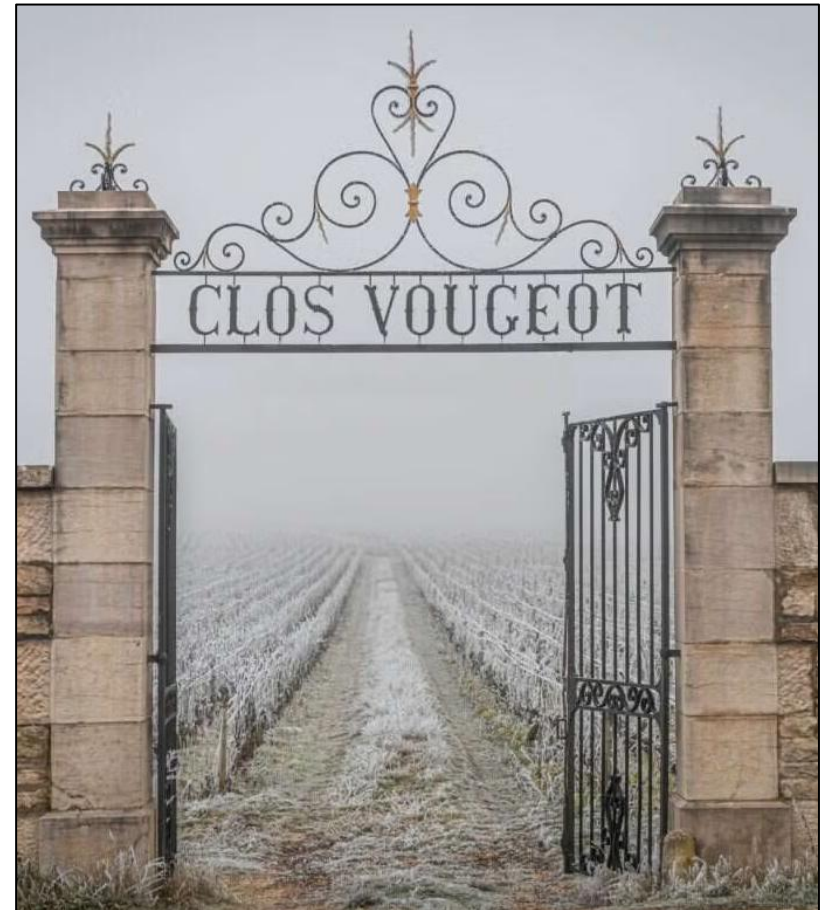
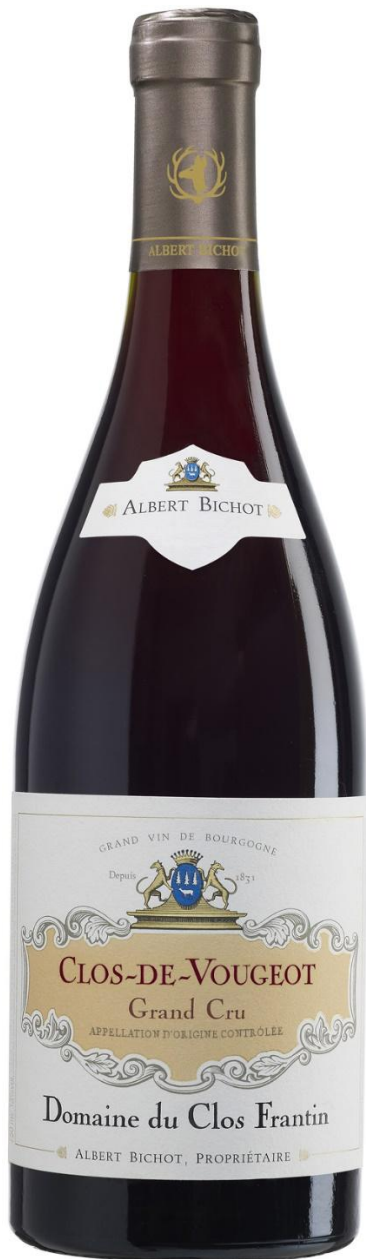
DOMAINE DU CLOS FRANTIN*Clos-de-Vougeot Grand Cru 2017***Cépage:**

Pinot Noir

With its 50-hectare (123.5 acre) walled vineyard, 80 owners, a terroir discovered 9 centuries ago by Cistercian monks, a renowned brotherhood of wine enthusiasts (Confrérie du Tastevin), Clos-de-Vougeot showcases everything that Burgundy is all about! But, let us not forget that Clos-de-Vougeot is first and foremost a highly unique terroir. Domaine du Clos Frantin's plots connect the bottom to the top of the Clos. This allows combining the fruitiness, which is very typical of the lower part of the vineyard, with the structure that is characteristic of the upper part.

An attractively layered and fresh nose merges aromas of red and dark berries with those of earth, leather and a whiff of spice. There is excellent verve to the equally fresh large-scaled flavors that also possess solid mid-palate density before terminating in a youthfully austere and sneaky long finish that is very firmly structured. Even so, the supporting tannins are finer than usual and overall, this is more refined than it typically is.

Decanting recommended.

\$480

DOMAINE DU CLOS FRANTIN*Richebourg Grand Cru 2019***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

We find ourselves more and more enchanted with the wines of Albert-Bichot (and the various domains that they own). The Domaine Clos du Frantin, a beautiful 18th century estate, is located in Nuits-Saint-Georges at the heart of the Côte de Nuits, home to the world's most rare and prestigious appellations where the Pinot Noir grape flourishes. The vines cover a surface area of 13,2 hectares, of which 3.9 are Premier and Grand Crus.

At the heart of the commune of Vosne-Romanée, 'Richebourg' is without a doubt one of the most reputed and sought-after Grand Crus in the Côte de Nuits. The appellation covers only 8 hectares (20 acres), with an annual production of merely 40,000 bottles. The hilliness of the nearby landscape formed by the Concoeur valley and the vines' proximity to the parent rock are also determining factors for the terroir's influence on this Grand Cru.

Albert-Bichot owns the Domaine du Clos Frantin, and many of their Bichot's greatest wines are produced here.

This is a complete knockout, and a special wine to savor with roasted red meats, mushrooms and mild cheeses, such as Comtes.

DOMAINE DU CLOS FRANTIN RICHEBOURG GRAND CRU 2019 \$2,500

A wonderfully elegant and very spicy nose also features plenty of floral character on the aromas that combines notes of exotic tea, sandalwood, dried orange peel, lilac, violet and red and dark currants. There is ample richness to the broad-shouldered, concentrated and intense flavors that exude a fine bead of minerality on the textured, powerful and superbly long finish.

DOMAINE DU CLOS FRANTIN RICHEBOURG GRAND CRU 2021 \$2,500

The 2021 Richebourg Grand Cru boasts elegant aromas of cocoa underpinned by a touch of smoke. The palate features lovely, supple tannins that provide pleasing depth, phenomenal fruity flavors and an exquisitely long finish reminiscent of cocoa.



DOMAINE DU PAVILLON*Meursault 2016***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Albert Bichot owns the iconic Domaine du Pavillon, located south of Pommard, in the Côte de Beaune. The vineyards, winery, cellar, and 18th-century manor are surrounded by a wall. The estate's **19,5 hectares** of vines include nearly 4 hectares of their monopole Pommard "Clos des Ursulines."

Just as at Domaine du Clos Frantin in Nuits-Saint-Georges, Albert Bichot practices organic viticulture with ongoing concern for the respect of the complex balances found in nature.

The winery was modernized in 2016, so that we could vinify more of the Côte de Beaune's single vineyards, in vats of varying sizes that are perfectly adapted to the single vineyard approach that is typical in Burgundy.

Fine, delicate nose featuring scents of red fruit (think cherries and raspberries) with hints of violets and roses that are enhanced by a slight hint of oak. Fleeshy, round and finely structured on the palate, the finish is silky and fragrant.



**WAIT, THERE'S A RED MEURSAULT?
I THOUGHT MEURSAULT WAS A WHITE WINE...**

One of our favorite wine buying strategies is to buy wines from great producers in lesser-known regions. And while Meursault is certainly well-known, it is chiefly known for its white wines, not its reds.

Known to offer a magical balance of smoothness and freshness, Meursault's quality is hard to rival. The village lies in the middle of Côte de Beaune, just south of Volnay. Meursault is said to mean "mouse's jump" because in the past the plots producing Pinot Noir and those producing Chardonnay were no more than a mouse's jump from one another. Today the village is almost exclusively Chardonnay. A tiny bit of Pinot Noir (only about 5% of the appellation is planted to Pinot Noir) is produced here with the best coming from Les Santenots on its northern side near Volnay. These wines care either carry the Volnay designation, or less commonly, simply be labeled as 'Meursault.'

Meursault has no Grand Crus, which further assists in keeping its price points modest. But while there are no Grands Crus, Meursault's numerous acclaimed Premiers Crus can compete with other top-notch Burgundies. This points to the fantastic *terroirs* in Meursault.

\$105



NICOLAS POTEL

Santenay 1^{er} Cru 'Clos Rousseau' 2017

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Nicolas Potel has chosen an old path for his wine making journey.

Only organic farming, indigenous yeast and the Biodynamic calendar to follow; Nicolas allows the wine to make itself. The result is naked, pure, and unabashedly Burgundian. His vision and this sight are a match made in heaven.

Clos Rousseau is one of the Cote d'Or's southernmost Premier Cru vineyards and are generally quite weighty, showing earthy, rustic characters of dried herbs and red fruit.

\$112



NICOLAS POTEL

Aloxe-Corton 1^{er} Cru 'Les Valozieres' 2015

Cépages:
Pinot Noir

The Aloxe-Corton appellation covers 119 ha on the territory of the town of Aloxe-Corton and 8.5 ha on that of Ladoix -Serrigny, at the beginning of the Côte de Beaune. Nearly half of the vineyard area is classified as Grand Cru and no less than 17 classified Premier Cru. There are two types: those located on the Pernand-Vergelesses side and for the one that interests us The Valozières bordering the Grands Crus from below.

From a parcel of 50-year plus vines. The scent is of sweet, ripe, red summer fruits. The palate is juicy and sensuous with a touch of toasty oak and mocha that fills out the fruit-filled flavors. Minerality is in evidence too and grippy tannins complete a vinous picture that promises well for the future. Bursting of berries with hints of salt, stone and chalk. Bitter cherry notes and carries a long lingering finish. A lovely wine from a brilliant vintage!

\$140

LA POUSSE D'OR*Volnay 1^{er} Cru 'En Caillerets' 2021***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Arguably the most prestigious Burgundy house in Volnay, Domaine de la Pousse d'Or has now been in existence since the 1100s, when the Duchy of Burgundy held all the titles in the land. It was originally called Bousse d'Or or 'Golden Earth' in middle French (the name is commemorated in their flagship wine Clos de la Bousse d'Or,) but over time the word evolved to its current iteration.

It was eventually Gérard Potel who resurrected Domaine de la Pousse d'Or to its glory. In 1964 Potel acquired the domain through a marriage to the then owner's niece. He unified the two properties in Volnay into one 17-hectare nucleus, where Pousse d'Or is headquartered today. With his untimely death in 1997 the domain passed into the hands of the Patrick Landanger, who's son now heads the domain, since Patrick's own death.

The super-sleek and almost painfully intense flavors are also very much built on a base of fine minerality while exhibiting excellent precision on the equally chiseled finale.

**\$250****DOMAINE DU PAVILLON***Volnay 1^{er} Cru 'Les Santenots' 2021***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Contrary to what the wine's name might suggest, the Premier Cru vineyard 'Les Santenots' is not located in Volnay, but in Meursault! Though the latter is particularly known for its great white wines, some terroirs, such as 'Les Santenots' are more adapted to the Pinot Noir grape, allowing it to express all of its finesse.

Several hypotheses exist concerning the origin of this Climat's name. 'Santenots' may have derived from the Latin word 'sentes' (brambles, thorny shrubs), or from 'sentu' (path) in reference to the paths that traversed the area to descend from Auxey-Duresses to the Roman roadway.

A nose of lusciously ripe fruit still carries hints of gunpowder and flint. The palate is concentrated, dense with silky but drying tannins, bundled around a core of pristine freshness. This is unusual but comes with beautifully contoured fruit. The finish is long, promising and beautiful.

**\$250**

DOMAINES DES COMTES LAFON*Volnay 2020***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Domaine des Comtes Lafon's history dates back to the mid-19th century. Since then, the estate has become one of the most celebrated names in all of Meursault and continues to put out some of the region's best quality wines. Comtes Lafon bottles are known for their power, texture, and undeniable balance. This 1er Cru Pinot from Volnay comes from Lafon's younger vines and is vinified with 10% whole clusters. Silky and aromatic, the wine shows rich flavors of red fruit, wood, oak spice, and purple flowers.

The 2020 Volnay Village comes from the younger vines in Santenots (all 1er Cru fruit).

Explosive cherry and blackberry fruit, with a supple, silky and round texture balanced by a lively freshness. This Volnay is a wine of tremendous energy and vigor, produced exclusively from the young vines of Santenots-du-Milieu, farmed organically. The exuberant fruit is destemmed and given a traditional fermentation with both punching down and pumping over before ageing in cask (one-third new). Pair with mushroom risottos and roasted veggies.

\$250**DOMAINES DES COMTES LAFON***Volnay 1^{er} Cru Santenots du Milieu 2015***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Domaine des Comtes Lafon has been in the Lafon family since 1865. Dominique Lafon took over the domaine in 1983. It is comprised of approximately 14 hectares situated in the communes of Volnay, Monthélie, Chassagne-Montrachet, and of course, Meursault, where the domain and its monopole vineyard Clos de la Barre are located.

The 2015 Santenots du Milieu from Comtes Lafon is another absolutely stellar young bottle of Volnay. The bouquet is pure, focused and utterly classic in its mix of black cherries, cassis, dark chocolate, gamebird, a complex base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke, cedar and a pungent top-note of violets. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with great transparency, fine-grained tannins, excellent acids and a very long, complex and perfectly balanced finish. Classic juice that may well rival wines from this vineyard such as the 1978, 1989, 1993 and 1999 here in the fullness of time.

\$375



DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Volnay 1^{er} Cru 'Frémiets' 2021

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

Wine runs deep in the Faiveley family's blood, as they have been deeply rooted in Bourgogne, its history, and its culture for almost two centuries now. Their values have remained unchanged over the last seven generations and are based on a deep attachment to the Bourgogne region, an instinctive passion for the terroirs, and an innate respect for man and his work. Today they are one of the largest owners in Burgundy, with holdings spreading from the Côte de Nuits to the Côte Chalonnaise, featuring polished, collectible reds and whites with exceptionally high ratings.

This remarkable 'vieilles vignes' parcel is situated halfway up the hillside, near the Pommard appellation, just above the Route des Grands Crus.

Dark ruby red in color with red fruit aromas and roasted, smoky notes on the nose. The palate is rich and oily with good structure and a perfect balance between finesse and strength. The silky tannins give this wine a harmonious mouthfeel.

\$240



LA POUSSE D'OR

*Volnay 1^{er} Cru 'Clos des 60 Ouvrées
Cuvée Amphora' 2021*

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

Entrepreneur Patrick Landanger purchased Pousse d'Or in 1997, at a point when the estate seemed to have most of its glory days behind it. Patrick poured endless energy (and a good amount of investment) into the estate, acquiring new vineyards as well as reinventing how the estate made its wines.

Sadly Patrick Landanger passed away in 2023 after a long illness. His son, Benoît Landanger, now runs the estate—and is as much a talented, passionate visionary as was his father. Pousse d'Or remains in very good hands. Indeed, this dynamic estate has never been content to rest on its historic laurels.

This is a glorious example of the punch and power of '60 Ouvrées,' aged entirely in terracotta amphorae. Here any oaky influence is replaced with even more velvety textures, more expressive aromas

The super-sleek and almost painfully intense flavors are also very much built on a base of fine minerality while exhibiting excellent precision on the equally chiseled finale.

\$260



Dom. Clos de la Chapelle is a new name of an old domaine, in the heart of the village of Volnay. Originally founded by Victor Boillot in 1865, the reputation of the Clos de la Chapelle dates back to the 19th century, with Louis Pasteur writing regularly to Boillot requesting bottles of this exceptional wine.

After nearly 150 years in the Boillot family, the domaine was purchased by Kansas City native Mark O'Connell, a life-long Burgundy lover, and one of very few Americans to own vineyard land in Burgundy. With the recent acquisition of 9 additional vineyards in the Côte de Beaune, the Domaine now comprises about 4 hectares, all designated 1er or Grand Cru. Mark's vision is to produce the best expression of terroir inherent in each tiny parcel.

DOMAINE CLOS DE LA CHAPELLE

Beaune 1^{er} Cru 'Champs Pimont' 2022

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

A cool, pure and attractively fresh nose features notes of red and black cherry along with hints of spice, earth and violet. There is very fine complexity to the more vibrant and mineral-driven flavors that display a saline hint on the admirably persistent finish.

Lovely stuff and worth enjoying over the course of an evening.

\$125

DOMAINE CLOS DE LA CHAPELLE

Corton-Rognet Grand Cru 2015

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

The 2015 Corton 'Rognet' from Clos de la Chapelle is outstanding, offering up great purity to go with the depth, power and aging potential of the very best 2015s. The very promising bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, roasted venison, dark chocolate, a superb base of soil, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with a rock-solid core, impressive transparency, firm, ripe tannins, excellent focus and grip and a very long, poised and youthfully complex finish.

\$225

DOMAINE CLOS DE LA CHAPELLE

Pommard 1^{er} Cru 'Grands Epenots' 2017

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

A very small parcel, Mark's 0.23 hectares have vines that are 25 years old and produce a crop with small berries and wines with strong structure. Deep ruby color with garnet hues, this is a wine a both finesse and power. Typical vintages can last for decades as the tannic structure and acidity provide exceptional aging potential.

\$180



DOMAINE CLOS DE LA CHAPELLE

Beaune 1^{er} Cru 'En Carelle' 2019

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Clos de la Chapelle is one of the most storied and celebrated vineyards in Burgundy and today comprises the crown jewel of the Domaine Clos de la Chapelle, a 4-hectare estate in the Côte-de-Beaune that is owned and managed by American Mark O'Connell.

Dr. Lavalley listed this vineyard in his 1855 classifications as a "Tête de Cuvée", meaning one of the best of the commune. Found in the small band of 1er Crus of Volnay, it benefits from well-drained, limestone-rich soil. Facing southeast allows the vines to benefit from the morning and early afternoon sunlight and makes this as well an early ripening parcel.

Black cherry and black currant flavors offer a dark fruit expression of Volnay, while white hints of violet, spice and mineral add detail. This is graceful and vibrant, delivering balance and a long aftertaste culminating with a toasty oak note.

This wine is getting better and better with time!

\$180

THE HIERARCHY OF BURGUNDY: VILLAGE, PREMIER CRU AND GRAND CRU

The classification structures in Burgundy differ fundamentally from those in Bordeaux. In Burgundy, there are 4 different classifications: District, Commune (or Village), Premier Cru (often abbreviated to '1er Cru') and Grand Cru. Typically, the higher up you go in the classification, the better quality the wine will be. And as you go up, the wines are almost always more expensive. The Café has invested heavily in Burgundy from a few great vintages, to ensure that we can offer our patrons delicious wines at all levels.

Burgundy's vineyard classification began in 1935 and completed in 1942. It's not consistent – some Villages have no premiers crus, while Montagny has a staggering 49! Overall, the classification is sound, although there is some blurring of the lines between village level and premier cru, and between premier cru and grand cru.

Bourgogne rouge and Bourgogne blanc are good examples of District wines.

Examples of Village wines include Meursault, Puligny Montrachet, Volnay and Gevrey Chambertin. The communal or village name may also be followed by the name of an individual vineyard.

There are only 33 grands crus. One anomaly is that neither Volnay nor Nuits-St-Georges has grands crus. That is because in the 1930s leading growers chose not to petition for them, for a range of reasons, including a reluctance to pay the higher taxes levied on grand cru wines.

It's hard to prove one site's superiority to another, as wine appreciation is subjective. But centuries of experience have enabled growers to determine a widely accepted hierarchy. With arguable exceptions such as Corton, grands crus have earned their reputation, although a mediocre producer is unlikely to deliver a great wine even from the most outstanding site.

BENJAMIN LEROUX*Pommard 1^{er} Cru 'Rugiens-Hauts' 2017***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Benjamin Leroux's third vintage of this wine shows finesse that comes from greater time working with a particular terroir. Benjamin speaks of his efforts to shift the styles of the Pommards from rustic and super tannic to more perfumed and supple, and the 2017 Rugiens-Hauts certainly demonstrates that he is capable of making such wines from here!

The 2017 Pommard Les Rugiens-Haut 1er Cru includes 50% whole bunch fruit this year, and Leroux uses indigenous yeast fermentations. It has a mineral-driven, sea-cave-scented bouquet that is racy and vivacious. The palate is medium-bodied with plump, pure black fruit, a pitch-perfect line of acidity and a rich, generous finish that is going to make a lot of people happy. Excellent.

Decanting recommended.

\$217**DOMAINE DU PAVILLON***Pommard-Rugiens 1^{er} Cru 2021***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Pommard is one of the most renowned villages in the Côte de Beaune and produces exclusively red wines. The reddish brown soil contains a high proportion of limestone from the piedmont and yields some of Burgundy's most tannic and robust wines. The 'Rugiens' Premier Cru *climat* lies south of the village. The red ('rouge') color of the soil may have given it its name.

The complex nose is redolent of intense aromas of red fruit (cherry, raspberry...) combined with well-integrated nuances of oak and smoke. On the palate, this dense, rich wine is balanced by a structure built on sophisticated tannins. A high-class Pommard that boasts remarkable length.

Taste this wine with roasted or stewed meats (beef, duck, pork, game), or with medium to mature cheeses.

Decanting recommended.

\$290



JOSEPH VOILLOT

1^{er} Cru 'Vieilles Vignes'
Pommard 2022

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

This venerable fifth-generation domain has holdings in the top vineyards of both Volnay and Pommard. Joseph Voillot's son-in-law, Jean Pierre Charlot, is now the managing director; he worked closely with Joseph from 1980 until Joseph's retirement in 1995.

Voillot's Vieilles Vignes was formerly from four parcels until one in Volnay grew too diseased and was sold; as of 2016 comes from three small old parcels. One is below the Volnay Villages designation; the other two are immediately across the border in Meursault Bourgogne territory. The wine is quite traditional, raised entirely in neutral barrels rather than tank.

Fresh and bright aromas include those of red and blue pinot fruit along with plenty of earth influence. There is good energy to the lighter weight flavors that conclude in a lightly rustic and austere finish that is sufficiently supple to allow for early drinkability but with just enough structure to repay 2 to 3 years of aging as well.

\$150



SIMON BIZE

Savigny-les-Beaune 1^{er} Cru
'Aux Vergelesses' 2017

Cépage:

Pinot Noir

This is always one of our favorite wines from Simon Bize. Aux Vergelesses is a steep slope of sandy marl soils with a fair bit of limestone, as well. The vines here are fairly old, having been planted progressively from 1939 to 1954. As with all of the wines from the Domaine, viticulture is Organic and Biodynamic. The wine is always bottled on a waning moon and a root day. How much this has to do with how delicious it is, we cannot say, but clearly Chisa Bize knows what she is doing!

The 2017 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru Les Vergelesses was 20% destemmed this year as Chisa Bize struggled to fit all the grapes in the fermentation tank! Offering up aromas of sweet berry fruit plums rose petals and spices it's medium to full-bodied ample and satiny with a fleshy mid-palate and attractive balance.

Delicious, and just the thing to have with pork or duck!

\$160



BENJAMIN LEROUX

*Savigny-les-Beaune 1^{er} Cru
'Les Hauts Jarrons' 2017*

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Although Les Hauts Jarrons is not one of the best known vineyards in the northern part of the Cote de Beaune, several highly renowned domains make Premier Cru wines here. And Leroux's wine here is our favorite!

The 1er Cru Haut Jarrons shows wonderful sophistication. Beautiful color here with great depth. Although the wine is a touch tight at the moment, with air the quality of tannins lifts, and once it has opened in the glass, this lengthens into a lovely wine, with a great play between acid and ripe tannins with lovely harmony.

The 2017 Savigny-lès-Beaune Aux Jarrons 1er Cru has a pure, attractive floral bouquet with touches of blue fruit tincturing the red. The medium-bodied palate delivers supple tannin and much more matière than the village cru. The finish is silky smooth and seductively juicy.

Plenty to enjoy here!

\$160



COLIN BAROLLET

*Savigny-les-Beaune 1^{er} Cru
'Aux Vergelesses' 2017*

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

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Delicious, and just the thing to have with pork or duck!

\$95



BENJAMIN LEROUX

Blagny 'La Piece Sous les Bois' 1^{er} Cru
2018

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Sitting astride the famous white wine villages of Meursault and Puligny, Blagny is a little-known, all-red village. A vineyard in Blagny's jurisdiction planted to white is labeled with the name of one of the better-known neighbors, with the choice of putting either the general "Blagny" or the specific vineyard on the label.

Blagny has often fallen behind its more popular neighbors, as vigneronns see more benefit to planting Chardonnay and letting the notoriety of these other appellations sell their wine. As a result, only 10% of the vineyards in the limits of Blagny village are actually planted to Pinot Noir. Benjamin Leroux is convinced of this terroir's qualitative potential for Pinot Noir as well as Chardonnay, acquiring more land here in 2017 in order to make more of this cuvée.

Deeper scents of redcurrant and dark cherry. Offers a lovely texture, and a distinct herbal quality from the whole cluster fermentation that Leroux uses.

\$135



NICOLAS POTEL

Corton Grand Cru 'Les Renardes' 2017

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Nicolas Potel decided to set up his own négociant business after the death of his father in 1996 and the subsequent sale of Domaine Pousse d'Or which his father had been managing.

The Nicolas Potel label became an excellent source of predominantly red wines, from Bourgogne Rouge to the Grands Crus of the Cote de Nuits. His hallmark has been to make wines which respect both their vineyard provenance and the style of the vintage while remaining attractively priced.

This has been a star selection in the cellar since the first vintage (2009). It is a beautiful wine: not too deep and dense with a little touch of oak and a fresh finish.

Very stylish, this is a lovely wine.

\$275



POUSSE D'OR

Morey-Saint-Denis Grand Cru
'Clos de la Roche' 2018

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

For decades Domaine de la Pousse d'Or has been the collector's choice for expressive and memorable wines from Burgundy's highest praised plots. This historic estate is one of the Burgundian elite because of its strict selection and seamless winemaking efforts of winemaker and owner Patrick Landanger. Parick sadly passed away in 2023, but his legacy lives on in his wines.

Clos de la Roche is one of four Grands Crus in the commune of Morey Saint Denis. It is situated in the north part of the commune facing east and is the largest of the Grands Crus in the commune, at 17 hectares.

The mouthfeel of the big-bodied flavors is quite simply gorgeous with excellent underlying tension, lovely delineation and subtle minerality, all wrapped in a youthfully austere finish that is shaped by firm but fine tannins. This is excellent though note well that it's going to need plenty of time to unwind.

Decanting this bottle is highly recommended.

\$866



POUSSE D'OR

Corton Grand Cru 'Clos du Roi' 2021

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

The Domaine de La Pousse d'Or is distinguished by its 7 grands crus, 11 premier crus, including 3 monopoles, in Côte de Beaune and Côte de Nuits. Offering you the purest expression of our exceptional terroirs has been the Domaine's obsession for centuries.

Domaine de la Pousse d'Or owns 1.45 hectares on this prestigious Grand Cru of the Côte de Beaune which spent some time in the Domaine Royal in the 15th century. The Pinot 30 to 40 years old flourish there on a clay-limestone terroir. The aging is done on lees in barrels, 30% new, for 18 months.

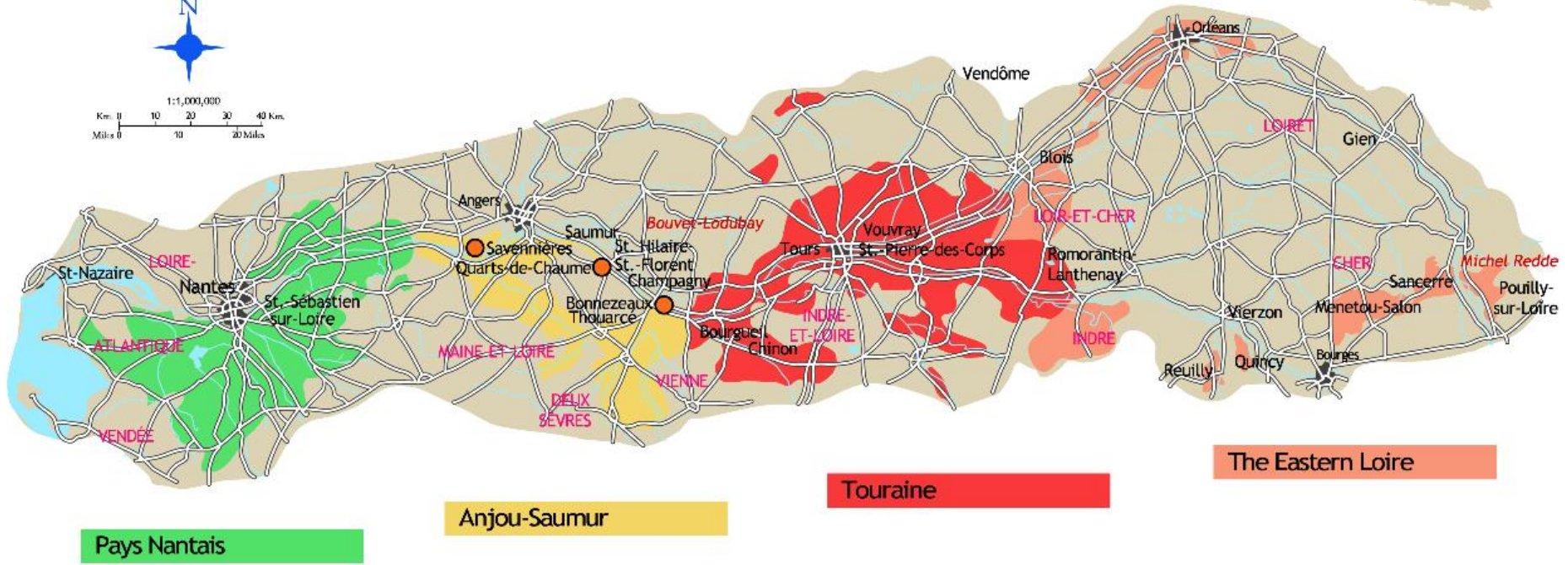
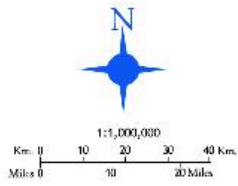
The opening expresses a very nice tertiary around the cigar box, vanilla from Madagascar and Russian leather. Very nice development in the glass with a precise varietal: morello cherry, white pepper, musk and licorice. On the palate, the suave material launches into the mouth with suppleness and great refinement of tannins.

A stunning Clos du Roi!

\$320

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Regions

The Loire Valley and Muscadet



DOMAINE DES BAUMARD

Savennières 'Clos du Papillon' 2016

Cépage:
Chenin Blanc



Domaine des Baumard produced some of the finest examples of Savennières, including the single-vineyard "Clos du Papillon" from a site along the Loire notable for the presence of soapstone in its slate soils. Jean Baumard and now his son Florent are universally regarded as the finest winemakers in the appellation. Their wines are among the most unique and rewarding in the world: honeyed, dry whites of unmatched concentration, perfume, and longevity.

Captivating with a lively quinine streak leading the way, followed by Jonagold apple, honeysuckle, green almond and plantain notes that race through the pure, mineral-driven finish. Intense, with enough in reserve to warrant cellaring.

This wine is approaching peak maturity now, and is perfect for dishes with fish and chicken.

\$99

DOMAINE DE VAUFUGET

Vouvray 2021

Cépage:
Chenin Blanc



The Vouvray vineyards are situated upstream from Tours in the North of the Loire Valley. The vine roots overhang the cellars built in the rock nearby, which are called "Caves Troglodytes." The caves are old quarries, dug into the limestone to build the castles and houses of the region. A constant temperature of 13C lets more than three million bottles ripen in the cool, dark tranquility.

The wine gives a sweet sensation with a dry finish on the palate. Pine and fennel notes lead the way, followed by modest apple and quince fruit. The finish features a lightly buttered edge. A concentration of rich flavors develops fruity aromas such as fresh grapes and ripe quinces with slight honey notes. Vouvray wines can be kept for many years.

\$12/glass

\$42



PAUL CHERRIER

Sancerre 2023

Cépage:

Sauvignon Blanc

Stéphane Cherrier, the Sauvignon master at the helm of Domaine Paul Cherrier, is part of a new generation of young winemakers who are changing the face of Sancerre.

Domaine Paul Cherrier is located in the tiny, picturesque village of Verdigny, just northwest of the town of Sancerre. Stéphane's hilltop parcels are planted on rocky Kimmeridgian limestone, that ancient ocean bed underpinning the Grand Cru vineyards of Chablis, the hillsides of the Pays d'Aube, and the (predominantly western) portion of Sancerre. This terroir produces wines of incredible length, purity, and minerality. The amount of clay in the soils varies by parcel and elevation, providing Stéphane with richer, fruitier Sauvignon Blanc and fruit that is more linear and mineral.

Light bodied and dry, with bright minerality and subdued notes of grapefruit and passionfruit, with high acid, round edges, and a long minerally finish.

\$60



LADOUCETTE

Pouilly Fumé 2020

Cépage:

Sauvignon Blanc

The largest and most famous Pouilly-Fumé vineyards have been in the hands of the Comte Lafond and Ladoucette families since 1787 when the Comte Lafond purchased the estate from the illegitimate daughter of the French king, Louis XV.

The estate is now owned by Baron Patrick de Ladoucette, a descendant of the Comte Lafond, and Pouilly Fumé has earned a reputation as one of the world's great white wines.

The 2022 vintage opens on aromas which remind of white flower, exotic fruits. There is a very beautiful complexity for a vintage where the end-of-season's sun brought a lot to the aromas. Excellent complexity that translates into great and elegant richness.

Nice attack, straight and bright, it takes place with elegance on fruity notes associated with a dense structure and a beautiful acidity which brings a great length in the end of the mouth. There are aromas of exotic fruits of litchi and mango.

\$85

ARNAUD LAMBERT*Saumur 'Clos de Midi' 2023***Cépage:**
Chenin Blanc

Founded by Arnaud Lambert in 2017, this namesake estate unites Lambert's certified organic Brézé and Saint Cyr en Bourg vineyards under one label.

The Brézé hill is considered one of the wine world's two finest sites for dry Chenin Blanc, the other being Savennières. Lambert's Clos du Midi – from a cool site near the top of the Brézé hill – casts a pale straw-gold hue from the glass and classic Saumur Blanc aromas of Anjou pears, dried apricots, chamomile, and perfumed yellow limestone. Brisk on the attack, the wine presents a mouthful of pear-driven Chenin fruit framed by smoky limestone minerals and nervy acidity. Pleasant notes of quince and honeycomb emerge on the wine's long pear and apricot-tinged finish followed by an electric acidic undercurrent and a dusting of lip-coating limestone minerals.

Pair the wine now and over the coming three years with freshwater fish preparations, aged chèvres, dishes featuring mushrooms, and game. This is grand cru dry Chenin for a song!

**\$49****THIBAUD BOUDIGNON***Savennieres 'Clos de la Hutte' 2018***Cépage:**
Chenin Blanc

From time to time, we taste a wine that stops us in our tracks. A wine that makes us pause to examine it more fully. A wine that reminds us why we love wine in the first place. The Clos de la Hutte exemplifies this.

Perhaps that should be no surprise; Thibaud Boudignon is already at the top of his game and is one of the most exciting winemakers in the Loire Valley. His wines are always special.

Clos de la Hutte is a remarkable vineyard; a former monastery that was planted in 2011 to Chenin Blanc. The soils are primarily schist, but there is also a lot of sand, with lends a fine, mineral-driven feminine characteristic to the wine.

This is an aromatic and intense wine loaded with flavors of wet stones, citrus rind, tart pear, schist, and gun flint. Sharp, clean, and insanely easy to drink.

Sunshine in a glass. We refer to this as 'the special wine.'

**\$149**



FAMILLE JOLY

Coulée de Serrant 2019

Cépage:
Chenin Blanc

Considered one of the greatest dry white wines in France, the Clos de la Coulée de Serrant has its own Appellation and is entirely owned by the Joly family. A remarkable expression of the land, this Chenin Blanc is produced from 7 hectares of vineyards aging 40 to 50 years-old. With steep slopes and southern exposure, the soil is composed of shale outcroppings (schist) interspersed with quartz. The site on which the vines are planted has remained under vine since 1130!

Unparalleled in intensity and complexity, the energy of the property is bottled in this iconic and limited offering that will develop for years to come.

By itself, this is a fascinating wine, but with food is where the Coulée de Serrant really shines – try it with roasted white meats, funky cheeses, fried foods, and braised dishes.

\$290



CLAUDE BRANGER

*Muscadet Sevre et Maine
'Terroir Les Gras Moutons' 2021*

Cépage:
Melon de Bourgogne

In the heart of the Muscadet Sèvre et Maine appellation stands the eponymous winery of Claude Branger. Claude's grandfather established the family winery during WWI, and from chaos was born beautiful wine.

Terroir Les Gras Moutons is Branger's top wine, made now from 18 acres of vines growing in a celebrated vineyard named the 'Fat Sheep', one that occupies the high and gently sloping ground. The rocky granite soil here is thin, between 6-14 inches deep, in a seam of amphibolite, a greenish metamorphic rock. The vines were planted between 1930 and 1986, and average more than 50 years old. The meager soil and the old vines give naturally low yields, averaging 45 hl/ha. The wine rests on its lees in underground tanks for twelve to fourteen months, and it is quite concentrated by Muscadet standards.

Ripe, round, and intensely mineral, this wine can age beautifully, developing aromas that are a cross between Riesling and Pinot Blanc.

\$45

PASCAL LAMBERT*Chinon 'Les Terrasses' 2021***Cépage:**

Cabernet Franc (Organic)

Vignerons since 1987, Lambert converted their property to organic in the early 2000s and certified organic by Ecocert in 2005. Beatrice and Pascal decided this was not enough. They moved into Biodynamics and, like many of their neighbors in the Loire, follow the dogma of Nicolas Joly. They use plant foliage between rows and add no sulfur to their wines. Les Terrasses, 100% Cabernet Franc, displays a wild musky nose, dense fruit, and the terroir of calcareous clay atop the region's famous *tuffeau* (a chalky limestone).

The Lamberts, both descended from a long line of winegrowers, have easily established themselves as top producers of Chinon, making honest, authentic wines that are reference points for the region. The wine shows ripe black fruit with notes of blueberries, minerality, and herbs.

This is classic Loire Valley Cabernet Franc.

**\$57****ARNAUD LAMBERT***Saumur 'Clos Mazurique' 2023***Cépage:**

Cabernet Franc

While soft-spoken and humble, Arnaud Lambert is helping to drive a revolutionary movement in the appellations of Saumur and Saumur-Champigny. The goal is to re-discover each individual terroir and its potential through organic viticulture and less-is-more, precise winemaking. This is particularly important considering 70% of the surface area in Brézé and Saint Cyr belongs to the cooperatives, where branding and blending prevail, and mass-produced *crémants* dominate.

Brézé is a unique site due to its relatively high elevation and eminently nuanced geological profile. The significant presence of *tuffeau*, (a porous, chalky limestone also used in the construction of much of the Loire's Renaissance architecture) results in finely mineral Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc.

Lighter-bodied, with graphite notes underscoring the crushed plum and blackberry flavors. Racy acidity gives this a lift midpalate, bringing out mouthwatering wild rose hints through the richly spiced finish.

**\$42**

BERTRAND GALBRUN*Bourgueil 'Amicale' 2021***Cépage:**

Cabernet Franc

Bourgueil, a sleepy commune situated on the right bank of the Loire River about midway between Angers and Tours, was granted AOC status legally in 1937, but red wine production dates back centuries. Here we see the mainstay grape, Cabernet Franc, produced in its apogee. Clay-limestone soils unique to this part of the Loire, called Tuff, feature lots of fine white calcareous content. Another soil commonly seen in Bourgueil, graves, is an alluvial gravel of small pebbles. The best wines render these soils purely, dustily, a quality that gives Loire reds their allure. Bertrand Galbrun is a young winemaker with a passion for clean, simply-spirited wine.

Bertrand's first cuvée comes from low yields (25-30hh) of biodynamically worked 30yo vines planted in Restigné (sand and gravel soils with limestone at depth). Fermentation is carried out by gentle infusion with just three or four pumping overs during two weeks, ageing for ten months in cement. This is a lovely *'vin de soif'* (*thirst quencher*), it has a clear mid-red color with cherry glints, and attractive red fruits on the palate.

**\$53****DOMAINE GUIBERTEAU***Saumur 2022***Cépage:**

Cabernet Franc

The domain of Romain Guiberteau encompasses 9.4 ha, 7 of which are located on some of the best land in Brézé, itself an area widely considered one of the most important terroirs in the Loire Valley. Romain took over his family's vineyards in 1996, converted to organic viticulture (certified in 2007), and has since garnered a rockstar reputation, producing chenin of remarkable intensity and complexity. Chenin occupies a bit more than half of the vineyards of the domain, with the remainder planted to cabernet franc, including a significant amount of old vines. Today, Romain's wines are among the most sought-after in Saumur, tightly allocated and poured in the best restaurants in France.

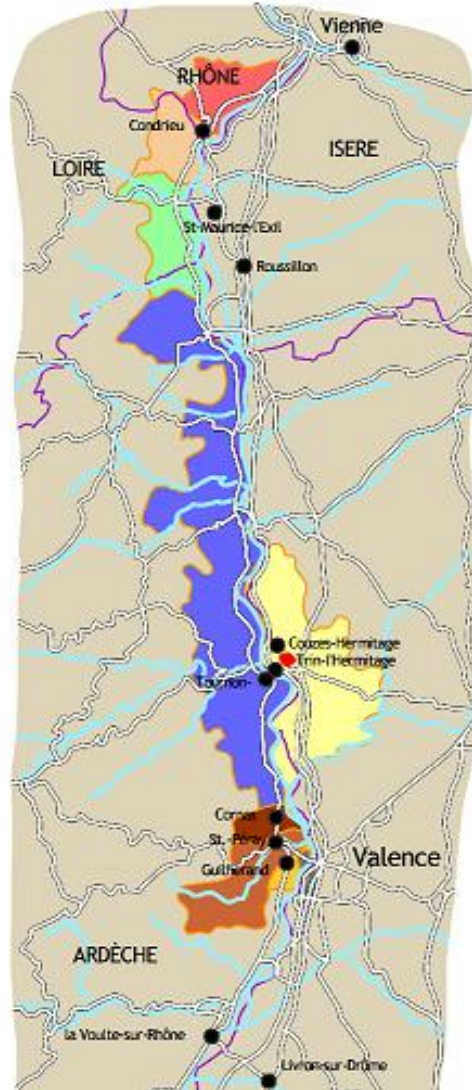
Precision and elegance are the calling cards of his winemaking, perfectly embodied in this cabernet franc. Succulent, savory, and smoky, this cuvée layers juicy red cherry and bright wild raspberry notes with lush crushed green herbs, roasted red bell pepper, and a generous dash of cracked black peppercorns on the finish. Absolutely luscious to drink now but will easily age for another 5 years.

We are so pleased to have this on our list!

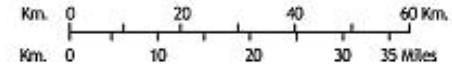
**\$75**

France
Selected
Viticultural
Regions

Northern Rhône



1:1,090,000



- Côte Rôtie
- Château Grillet
- Condrieu
- Condrieu / St-Joseph
- St-Joseph
- Hermitage
- Crozes-Hermitage
- Cornas
- St.-Péray
- Coteaux du Tricastin

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE 'CIRCA'*Saint-Joseph blanc 2022***Cépage:**
Roussanne

Wine growers in the northern Rhône since 1491, the Chave family (currently helmed by Gérard and son Jean-Louis) represents 16 generations of unbroken lineage committed to the production of some of the finest Syrah, Marsanne, and Roussanne on the planet.

The vineyards for Circa are located in Mauves on granitic slopes. This white St Joseph differs from the white Hermitage in that the soil of white Hermitage (clay and limestone) gives softness and suppleness to the wine whereas the granite soil expresses a wonderful minerality which perfectly accompanies food and gives an additional sense of vivacity.

Unusually for a Saint-Joseph blanc, this wine is based on a patch of very old-vines Roussanne, which gives the wine so much more character than most other white wines from this appellation! It offers tropical fruit, rose water and honeyed citrus characteristics in a medium-bodied, fresh, lively style.

A great white wine for cooler weather, this wine is, to our minds, one of the best values on the wine list.

**\$67**

E. GUIGAL*Hermitage 'Ex Voto' 2015***Cépages:**

Marsanne, Roussanne



Ex Voto is the top Hermitage produced by Guigal, although it is not produced every year. Rather, it is reserved for exceptional vintages only!

The *terroir* for the 2 vineyards from which the fruit for Ex Voto is sourced, is comprised of rocks, small stones, clay, sand and limestone soils. The vines are old, ranging in age from 50 to 90 years of age; the blend is 90% Marsanne and 10% Roussanne.

Highly perfumed scents of ripe pear, nectarine, lemon rind, honey and pungent flowers, with a smoky mineral overtone building steadily. Offers palate-staining orchard and pit fruit flavors that are complemented by suggestions of toasted nuts and vanilla. Weighty yet distinctly energetic as well, betraying no excess fat. Delivers emphatic mineral thrust and repeating florality on the strikingly long, penetrating finish, which leaves a suggestion of dried pear brandy behind.

\$475**M. CHAPOUTIER***Hermitage 'Chante Alouette' 2018***Cépage:**

Marsanne



Always an interesting wine. Made from 100% Marsanne hand-harvested from three different vineyards: Le Méal, has old fluvio-glacial alluvial deposit soil with numerous deposits; Les Murets with granitic soils and alluvial deposits again granitic, Chante-Alouette is set on loess soil with a fine layer of clay and limestone. Michel Chapoutier chooses not to use Roussanne, which is often blended with Marsanne, believing it to age too quickly. After pressing, the must is cold-settled for 48 hours. One third is vinified in big, 600-litre, wooden barrels which are regularly stirred, and the rest in vats.

The 2018 Hermitage Chante-Alouette Blanc just about always delivers incredible quality, and it sells for a fraction of the single vineyard releases. Classic Hermitage notes of buttered citrus, honeysuckle, acacia flowers, and spice all flow from this richer, beautifully textured, balanced Hermitage that has enough density and depth to keep for 10-15 years or more.

\$290



JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE

Hermitage 2018, 2019

Cépages:

Marsanne, Roussanne

Jean-Louis Chave, though more well known for his Hermitage rouge, fashions one of the greatest whites on planet earth. The base for Chave's heroic Hermitage blanc is the plot of century-old Marsanne vines in their Péléat *monopole*, which provides rich and intense fruit without heaviness. The usual final blend for the blanc is 80 to 85% Marsanne with 15 to 20% Roussanne.

Chave never releases a single-parcel Hermitage; the blend of *terroirs* is all-important, and blending is one of the greatest strengths of Jean-Louis!

One of the challenges when assembling the wine list, is that there are wines that we simply wish we could hold on to until they hit their absolute peak, before offering them – however, in the case of these Hermitage blancs from Chave, they will continue to get better and better for the next two decades! I guess we cannot wait *that* long.

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE HERMITAGE 2018 \$525

Gorgeous white flowers, honeysuckle, ripe quince, and toasted almond notes dominate the bouquet, and it has that rare mix of richness and opulence paired with incredible purity, freshness, and focus. It has a wealth of material yet also shows the vintage's more rounded, sexy style. Plan on drinking bottles on release and over the following 2-4 years or hold off for a decade.

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE HERMITAGE 2019 \$525

Another incredible white from this family is the 2019 Hermitage Blanc, a powerful, concentrated, and remarkably pure Hermitage that has laser-like focus as well as textbook Marsanne notes of quince, green almond, powdered rock, licorice, and spice. It's still tight, focused, and inward at present, yet it is reminiscent of the 2018 with its purity and rare mix of power and elegance.

Decanting highly recommended.

E. GUIGAL

Condrieu 'La Doriane' 2020

Cépage:
Viognier



In the Fall of 2022, Café des Amis added a lovely extension to the restaurant, a modern room where formerly there had been an outdoor patio. This was not an inexpensive project, and I swore to myself I would not buy any wine for a few months. And then I tasted this. So much for that!

With perhaps more 100-point professional ratings than any other producer in the world of wine, the impact and influence of the Guigal family across the Rhone Valley is incredulous. His wines have become the benchmarks for the Rhone appellation and over the past thirty years Guigal has become arguably the most lauded producer in the world.

This wine flirts with perfection, as well, with wine reviewer Jeb dunnock granting it a 99 point score, saying: 'Just about pure perfection and one of the finest Condrieu to pass my lips, the 2020 Condrieu La Doriane offers an insane bouquet of grilled pineapple, charcoal, crushed stone, acacia flowers, and white peach. It picks up an incredibly sense of salinity on the palate and is full-bodied, has blockbuster concentration, remarkable purity and focus, and a great finish. I like this beast/beauty today, but it will keep for a decade.'

Well said!

\$245

DOMAINE GEORGES VERNAY

'Chailles de l'Enfer,' Condrieu 2018

Cépage:
Viognier



One of the most iconic estates in the Northern Rhone, Christine Vernay took over the property some twenty years ago from her father (who saved the Condrieu appellation) and grandfather who created the estate. Now certified organic, they make some of the best wines the region has to offer. The 'Chailles de l'Enfer' is from the original center of the appellation.

The name translates to 'Hell's Terrace'; a fitting moniker for a vineyard that literally hangs on the edge of a precipice!

Powerful, mineral-accented orchard and pit fruits on the nose; a suave floral nuance builds as the wine stretches out. Sappy, penetrating and seamless in texture, offering vibrant tangerine, Anjou pear and white peach flavors and a sneaky hint of honeysuckle. Shows excellent focus and emphatic mineral cut on the finish, which lingers with outstanding tenacity.

\$262

VINCENT PARIS*Cornas 'Granit 60' 2021***Cépage:**
Syrah

On the chemin des Peyrouses, at the end of the village of Cornas, is the Domaine Vincent Paris. Several blends of plots make up his Cornas, whose name is inspired by the slope of the vines.

The Cornas Granit 60 comes from 3 parcels selected for their great quality: vines of 60 years of average age, cultivated on the granitic soils of the Ardèche, on slopes with an inclination reaching 60° (hence the name of the cuvée): where the vine grows slowly between the stones to give tiny yields.

The 2021 Cornas Granit 60 is more focused and tight, with both red and blue fruits, notes of iron, ground pepper, and violets, medium body, ripe tannins, and a good finish. There's less baby fat here, so the tannins feel more present, yet it has good concentration, and it will gain richness over the course of its *élevage*.

Decanting highly recommended.

\$115**VINCENT PARIS***Cornas 'La Geynale' 2021***Cépage:**
Syrah

This wine nearly did not make the wine list; not because it does not deserve a place here, but because we nearly took it to our personal cellars. But great wine was made for sharing, and such is the case here.

A gorgeous nose, fresh, precise and surprisingly aromatic for a Cornas. The smoky oak and peppery Syrah spice combine well. Not massive, this is actually quite lean and precise, but there's a great sense of energy and focus.

The tannins are intense, quite sharp and bony, but should round out in time. The acidity is really quite intense, this will always be a brisk, athletic Cornas, but should make some complex old bones. Fairly long finish. Whole-bunch fermented from 100-year-old vines.

Maybe we will still take this home. Order it before we change our minds...

\$130

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE

St-Joseph 'Offerus' 2022

Cépage:
Syrah

J.L. Chave is the Northern's Rhone superstar producer, widely recognized as the best in Hermitage, which itself is considered the finest appellation in Rhone. Both reds and whites are world-famous. While Côte-Rôtie and Cornas are reaching heights as well, Hermitage is still and always the king of Rhone. For reds, Syrah, one of world's most popular red grape varieties, finds its utmost expression here. Chave's Hermitage rouge is a wine of supreme polish, complexity and longevity, and will run you upwards of \$400/bottle. But he also makes a less expensive Syrah bottling called 'Offerus'.

Produced from purchased grapes grown on the hillsides behind the village of Mauves as well as from further north on the hillsides above Tournon and St.-Jean de Muzols, this St.-Joseph reveals copious aromas of licorice, bay leaf, bouquet garni, roasted meats, black cherries and raspberries. It possesses an attractive texture as well as lots of fleshy, fat flavors, and good acidity and freshness.

\$62



E. GUIGAL

St-Joseph 'Lieu Dit' 2020

Cépage:
Syrah

Guigal's Saint-Joseph Lieu Dit Rouge comes from the "Saint-Joseph" vineyard that gives the appellation its name. This site convinced the Guigals to work in Saint-Joseph and help to restore the historic perception of Saint-Joseph as an appellation of utmost quality.

Guigal owns the majority of this parcel; the vines here are from 20 to 75 years of age, planted on steep slopes of gneiss with streaks of granite. This is truly one of the finest sites in the Northern Rhone.

The 2019 Saint Joseph Lieu-Dit Saint Joseph has an almost flamboyant style in its sunny red and black fruits, spice, smoked game and flowery incense aromas and flavors. It's full-bodied, has sweet tannins, a round, sexy profile, and a great finish. Despite this power and intensity, the wine retains the elegance that the finest wines of St. Joseph are known for.

Spending an evening with this wine, enjoying it as it opens and unfolds is one the best things we can think of.

\$150





Jean-Louis Chave - The King in the North

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE: HERITAGE IN ST. JOSEPH

The Chave family have been making wine in the Northern Rhone Valley since 1481. First in Saint Joseph, and then adding parcels of Hermitage - the appellation with which they are nearly synonymous.

Jean-Louis Chave steers the domain, having taken over from his father the Gerard (one of just a few Chave men not named Jean-Louis in a very long line). Jean-Louis is fanatical about the farming in the vineyards, the preservation of the reputation of Hermitage and Saint Joseph, and the telling of their histories. Jean-Louis knows each parcel of the vineyards intimately and uses the grapes from each like instruments in an orchestra to bring about pure wine magic.

The "Domaine" Saint Joseph is a special wine for the Chaves. They have taken on the tasks of rebuilding many of the ancient terraces for this generations and many more to come - the winery has stonemason working full-time! The Chaves, while famous for Hermitage, got their start with Saint Joseph, and this wines is a testament to that passion.

The Chaves have a different approach to winegrowing than do many people in this country; theirs is a multi-generational approach. After work was completed on one of the old parcels, Jean-Louis was asked when fruit from this wine would start to go into their estate bottle. He surprised us when responding that it would not be within his time as winegrower for the family, but perhaps in his children's time...or more likely, their grandchildren's time. The vines simply would not be mature enough until that time.

DOMAINE JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE*St. Joseph 2020, 2021, 2022***Cépage:**

Syrah

While we always look forward to receiving our allocations of Chave's Hermitage bottlings, we may actually be even more excited about the St. Joseph wines. Jean-Louis has 'the touch' here, and it's no surprise, given that the family started out (a long, long time ago!) in St. Joseph, before becoming well-known for their famous (and much more expensive) Hermitage bottlings. This more modest price point is why the Domaine St. Joseph bottle lights up our eyes.

Wine growers in the northern Rhône since 1481, the Chave family represents 16 generations of unbroken lineage committed to the production of some of the finest Syrah on the planet. Jean Louis joined his father in 1992 after completing undergraduate studies at University of Connecticut and a degree in oenology at Davis. It was at that time that he completely replanted vineyards on the family's original estate in Saint-Joseph, which had been abandoned in the early 1900's when phylloxera hit the region.

The vines from the estate vineyard are the oldest vines in St. Joseph. These are blended with fruit from Chave's vines from Les Cotes (the most southerly site in Mauves), Pichonnier and Bachasson.

DOMAINE JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE ST. JOSEPH 2020 \$195

With aromas that range from violets to rose petals, garrigue and licorice, plus fruit notes from raspberries to blueberries and cassis, it should prove remarkably complex, backed by ample concentration and ripe, silky tannins.

DOMAINE JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE ST. JOSEPH 2021 \$192

Sporting a deep ruby/purple hue as well as brilliant aromatics of ripe darker fruits, meaty, bloody nuances, graphite, and ground pepper, with a beautiful floral character emerging with time in the glass, it's medium-bodied, has a seamless, elegant mouthfeel, no hard edges, and outstanding length.

DOMAINE JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE ST. JOSEPH 2022 \$199

The 2022 Saint-Joseph is medium-bodied and savory with delicate notes of red plum crushed violets licorice graphite and a hint of dried meat. Layers of black olive and white pepper add depth and complexity. Smooth tannins provide gentle structure leading to a persistent and elegant finish.



JEAN LOUIS CHAVE*Hermitage 'Farconnet' 2021***Cépage:**
Syrah

Chave Hermitage is one of those legendary wines. From exceptional vintages to off vintages, the wines of Jean-Louis Chave are highly sought after and truly exceptional, no matter the vintage. A few years ago, Jean-Louis developed a second Hermitage called Farconnet for the UK. The wine was based on young vines that he did not want to put into the domain bottling, even though the vines were 100% domain.

Now with the vines ageing and the production more stable, Jean-Louis is taking these young estate vines and producing the Hermitage 'Farconnet'; the wine is based on these younger vines of Domaine Chave as well as some great tiny old growers that he has been able to contract with. The result is a great drinking Hermitage that shows extremely well now and has the potential to age.

A dense, dark style, with notes of licorice root, fig paste and blackberry pâte de fruit forming the core, all coated in loamy tannins and rumbling through the tarry-edged finish. A great introduction to the legendary Chave Hermitage wines!

**\$150****CORNAS, HERMITAGE & CÔTE-RÔTIE: A PRIMER**

In contrast to Southern Rhone red wines, which tends to be blends based upon Grenache, the Northern Rhone valley is home to only one red wine grape, Syrah. Let's explore briefly the 3 most important growing regions of the Northern Rhone.

Côte-Rôtie or 'roasted slope' is one of the most important French appellations for Syrah (alongside Hermitage, St-Joseph and Cornas). The best wines offer up flavors of black raspberry, black currant, violet, and chocolate along with savory hints of olive, bacon fat, white pepper, and powerful charcoal smoke.

What defines the greatest wines from Côte-Rôtie is the vineyard's position on steep southern-facing slopes that protect from northern winds. In Cote-Rotie, producers are allowed to add up to 20% Viognier to their wines, although most do no more than 5%, if that.

The hill of **Hermitage** is famous for its emboldened Syrah wines that usually need at least a few years before you open them. This hill is a gentle slope, that stands in stark comparison to the steeply terraced vineyards of Cote-Rotie. When the wines are ready to drink, you'll be greeted with heady aromas and layered flavors blackberry, black currant, licorice, coffee, candied cherry, and smoke.

Cornas wines tend to be the darkest and burliest, the gutsiest and the meatiest, of the Northern Rhones. A good degree warmer than Côte Rôtie, and with steep slopes that allow the vines to suck up sunshine while enjoying shelter from the wind, Syrah ripens more easily here than anywhere else in the Northern Rhone. Thus, its vines ripen earliest, around a week before Hermitage, across the river.

In other words, Cornas is the closest thing that the Northern Rhone has to a "southern" French wine.

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE*'Hermitage' 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022***Cépage:**

Syrah



Hermitage is holy ground for Syrah. Even in this context, Chave has a magic touch with Syrah. No one renders the grape with such sophistication and depth.

The Chave family has been making wine on the slopes of the Northern Rhône for over 500 years and Hermitage Rouge is their flagship bottling. The Chave family holds parcels in Hermitage's finest vineyard sites (Les Bessards, Meal, l'Ermite, Peleat, and Les Beaumes), and Jean-Louis blends these with an unparalleled mastery.

Chave's 2014 Hermitage takes the textural allure and brightness of the vintage and endows it with a grandeur and structure that amazes. There's a remarkable depth of complexity with beautiful snap and finesse.

This starts strong, with warm ganache, steeped fig and crushed blackberry flavors, then gains steam, picking up smoldering charcoal, bay leaf and juniper accents as this drives and expands through the finish. Offers a long echo of graphite, with the fruit keeping pace. Very impressive for the vintage, and just now really starting to hit its stride!

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE HERMITAGE 2018 \$555

Powerful aromatics reminiscent of a classic, almost cooler year paired with massive richness, depth, and structure on the palate. Possibly coming closest to a hypothetical mix of the 2009 and 2010, this is a legendary Chave Hermitage in the making.

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE HERMITAGE 2020 \$575

There's intense dark fruit, suave floral and exotic spice character and a deep, energizing core of minerality, plus hints of olive, botanical herbs, licorice and smoked meat. But ultimately, it mainly focuses on powerful, vibrant fruit and floral qualities.

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE HERMITAGE 2021 \$550

Medium-bodied with finely grained tannins. It's very 2021, with freshness and brightness. Violets caress the palate and the pristine, lively finish with length and a touch of pepper.

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE HERMITAGE 2022 \$590

Broad and deep, bursting with aromas of smoke, licorice and dark wild berries mingled with delicate notes of fresh thyme and spices. Full-bodied, dense and powerful, layered and concentrated, it has a fleshy palate with a broad attack, racy mid-palate, velvety tannins and a mordant, somewhat firm finish.

E GUIGAL*'Ex Voto' Hermitage 2015***Cépage:**
Syrah

Guigal is the most famous name in the Rhone valley. They produce great wines from a myriad of appellations all over the Rhone valley. Their top Côte-Rôtie wines are the quality benchmark for the appellation. For the past 20 years, Guigal has presented Ex Voto to lay a claim that their top Hermitage wine is the benchmark wine for the Hermitage appellation as well.

Ex Voto is only produced in the best vintages of Hermitage, and the fruit comes from a mere 2.2 hectares spread between 4 of the greatest vineyards in the appellation.

Aged 36 months in new oak, the colossal 2015 Hermitage Ex Voto is up with the finest vintages of this cuvée to date and is certainly in the same ballpark as the 2009 and 2010. This deep, powerful, muscular Hermitage boasts a saturated purple color to go with its huge nose of crème de cassis, freshly crushed rocks, incense, charcoal, and spring flowers.

A powerhouse, the proverbial Iron Glove wrapped in velvet.

\$675**JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE***Crozes-Hermitage 'Silene' 2022***Cépage:**
Syrah

This is a fantastic value red from the formidable team at J.L. Chave. Masters of the Rhône (whose estate wines have prices to match) the 'J.L. Chave Selection' wines are *négociant* bottlings made from purchased grapes. In the case of the complex and powerful Silene, Syrah is sourced from hillside vineyards in the Larnage and Gervans villages. Though rare, these sites have beautiful gravel soils which yields a wine that balances the fruit-laden power of Syrah with the firm structure of wines grown on granite.

A good year for the Crozes appellation, which can at times let yields get out of control in good vintages, the 2022 Crozes-Hermitage Silene sports a vivid purple hue (it's not completely opaque) to go with a terrific perfume of blackberries, black raspberries, minty herbs, pepper, and spring flowers. It's medium-bodied, has a balanced, layered mouthfeel, ripe tannins, and outstanding length.

A great way to check out what the brilliant wines of the great Jean-Louis Chave are all about!

\$62



E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie 'Château d'Ampuis' 2012, 2016

Cépage:

Syrah

The Guigal family have spent 15 years restoring Château Ampuis, a historic property whose oldest sections date to the 11th century. The Chateau d'Ampuis has been the symbol of the town of Ampuis and the world-renowned Côte-Rôtie vineyard area for ten centuries.

Château d'Ampuis is made from 7 exceptional vineyards from both sides of Côte-Rôtie, the Côte Blonde and the Côte Brune. These are exceptional vineyards, and in fact every vineyard is adjoining one of the three Guigal single vineyard crus, La Mouline, La Landonne and La Turquie.

Guigal employs their own Master Cooper (a cooper is a barrel maker), and their barrels are made in a building that used to house a private army!

E. GUIGAL COTE ROTIE 'CHATEAU D'AMPUIS' 2012 \$575 1.5L Magnum

'This is lavishly toasted, with a frame of mocha, ganache and black tea notes, matched to a gorgeous core of raspberry pâte de fruit, blackberry puree and plum sauce flavors. Exhibits a long, alluring, polished feel through the finish.'

– *Wine Spectator*

E. GUIGAL COTE ROTIE 'CHATEAU D'AMPUIS' 2016 \$275

Mineral-tinged aromas of blackberry, cherry liqueur, licorice and violet, plus an exotic Indian spice nuance. At once weighty and energetic, offering sappy black and blue fruit flavors and hints of candied flowers, smoky minerals and spicecake.

Smoothly blends power and vivacity, finishing pure, spicy and long, with repeating spiciness and smooth tannins.

We would recommend decanting of Guigal's Chateau d'Ampuis, in either vintage.

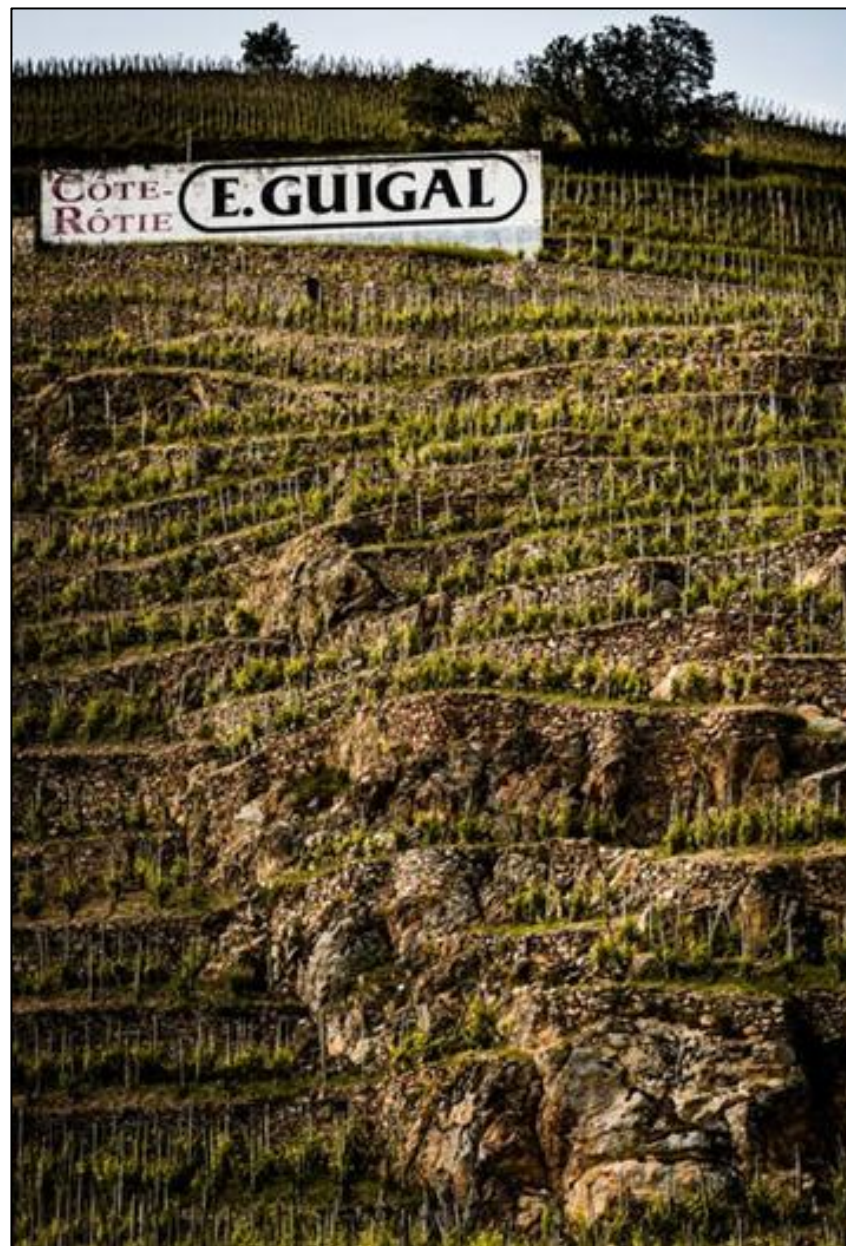
E. GUIGAL*Côte-Rôtie 'Brune et Blonde,' 2017***Cépages:**

Syrah, Viognier

Guigal is synonymous with the Côte-Rôtie area, for bringing this great wine region to prominence, and for owning three times as much land as next largest land-owner, vinifying 1/3 of the total appellation, and unquestionably holding the finest sites in this tiny, special area. The incredible Syrah from Côte Rôtie, has tremendous concentration, depth and finesse.

Côte-Rôtie is situated in the northernmost region of the Rhône Valley. The Syrah is planted on steep terraced hillsides that catch and focus the sun's heat, giving the region its reputation and name: "roasted slope." A small percentage of Viognier co-fermented with the Syrah, giving the wine more elegance and lightness. The soils of the Côte Brune are dark, containing more iron and some clay, and the paler Côte Blonde soils have more sand and limestone, and are the home of more Viognier plantings.

This is a terrific vintage of Brune et Blonde, a blend of fruit from the Côte Brune's schist soils and the Blonde's granite. The concentration gained in the warm, dry summer of 2017 is reflected in the wine's color, as dark purple as a Kalamata olive; the flavors are clenched in a fist of tannins and oak smoke.

\$175

E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie 'La Landonne' 2010, 2013, 2015

Cépage:

Syrah

One of three single-vineyard Cru Côte-Rôtie in the Guigal estate, La Landonne is a remarkable expression of terroir and one of the world's most coveted wines. And for good reason, as La Landonne is situated on one of the steepest vineyards of the Côte Brune, a 45 degree slope that remarkably requires harvesters to start picking from the bottom of the vineyard and work their way up, placing grape bunches in bins that are set on sleds and dragged up the hill. Along with its position at the northern end of the Côte Brune and the fact it is the last vineyard to ripen, La Landonne is the mirror of the feminine and voluptuous La Mouline: it is a wine of driving power, defined by its dark fruit and structure. Marcel Guigal assembled this vineyard over 10 years through parcel-by-parcel acquisitions from 17 growers. The vineyard was totally replanted in 1975, the year of Philippe Guigal's birth, and the first vintage was 1978.

When the opportunity arose to add older vintages (with perfect provenance) La Landonne, we jumped at the chance.

E. GUIGAL 'LA LANDONNE' COTE-ROTIE 2010 \$850

'Terrifically dense, with tightly coiled flavors of warm ganache, fig paste and blackberry confiture. Shows plenty of range as well, with well-embedded notes of bay leaf, chestnut, juniper, black tea and charcoal. This is intensely grippy through the lengthy, fine-grained finish. Should age marvelously and slowly.' - Wine Spectator

E. GUIGAL 'LA LANDONNE' COTE-ROTIE 2013 \$800

'A thunderhead of dark ganache and espresso notes slowly rolls through, while fig paste, melted licorice, warm plum and blackberry compote flavors follow. A massive beam of graphite drives the finish to a crescendo, with the fruit echoing.'

- Wine Spectator

E. GUIGAL 'LA LANDONNE' COTE-ROTIE 2015 \$900

A powerful, full-bodied, massively concentrated Côte Rôtie, it reveals a saturated purple color as well as an insane bouquet of smoked meats, graphite, liquid rocks, violets, and crème de cassis. It's tannic as all hell, yet deep and flawlessly balanced, with no hard edges and a huge finish.





E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie 'La Mouline' 2009, 2015

Cépage:
Syrah

'Guigal's phenomenal single-vineyard Côte-Rôties - the illustrious "La La's" – 'are other-worldly in nearly every vintage. **I have given these offerings more perfect scores than any other wines in the world,**' writes Robert Parker, founder of The Wine Advocate.

Super peppery, very, very concentrated and immaculately fragrant Côte-Rôtie here. There's plenty of oak in the mix, too. It shows entrancing brown-spice aromas across red plums and darker black fruits. The palate's layered, smooth and supple, pitching concentrated flavors against precise, dense and very powerful tannin. Finishes on a smooth edge as its softens slightly, leaving a trail of spiced-custard and dark-plum flavors.

This is truly an exceptional wine.

Decanting is recommended, as is sharing it with very close friends.

E. GUIGAL 'LA MOULINE' COTE-ROTIE 2009 \$850

Utterly perfect in every sense, the 2009 Côte-Rôtie la Mouline is a huge, opulent, incredibly sexy wine that literally causes my heart rate to jump 10 beats or more. Smoked meats, wild flowers, peach pit, smoke and layers of huge Syrah fruit give way to a full-bodied, concentrated, heavenly red that has a dense, thick mid-palate, sweet tannin, and a blockbuster finish.

E. GUIGAL 'LA MOULINE' COTE-ROTIE 2015 \$900

A decade on, La Mouline 2015 is just starting to show why it's one of the Rhône's most legendary bottlings. From 75-year-old vines on the Côte Blonde, this is 89% Syrah and 11% Viognier, co-fermented and aged 42 months in new oak. The vintage brings richness and velvet, but also structure. Dense black fruit, smoked herbs, florals, and spice layer in a wine of both power and lift. One of the most complete expressions of Côte-Rôtie—and still just entering its drinking window.

E. GUIGAL*Côte-Rôtie 'La Turquie' 2012***Cépage:**

Syrah

La Turquie is Guigal's most recent addition to the single-vineyard Cru Côte-Rôties (at least until the La Reynarde releases in 2026 as the 4th 'La La'), coming over as part of their purchase of the Vidal-Fleury firm in 1980. La Turquie had produced outstanding wines in the 19th and early 20th centuries, but had not been used for wine production for nearly 50 years.

The Guigals acquired the vineyard and re-planted it in 1980 and 1981, based on Etienne Guigal's memory of the quality of the wines it produced during his tenure at Vidal-Fleury. The first vintage was the magnificent 1985. In both position and style, it sits between La Mouline and La Landonne: the complex soils lend an exotic character to La Turquie, and its concentration and elegance exhibit the virility of the Côte Brune with the subtlety and femininity of the Côte Blonde.

Similar to the La Mouline with its forward, incredibly sexy style, the 2012 Côte-Rôtie La Turquie (there's 7% Viognier in the blend) offers a saturated purple color to go with meaty, smoky notes of cassis, cured meats, chocolate and roasted herbs. It's a big mouthful of a wine, with full-bodied richness and a stacked mid-palate, but it has a seamless, weightless texture, perfectly ripe tannin and a blockbuster finish.

Decanting is recommended, as is sharing it with very close friends.

\$850

DOMAINE GEORGES VERNAY*'Fleur du Mai' Collines Rhodaniennes 2021***Cépage:**
Syrah

The Collines Rhodaniennes is an area in France that is broadly the same as the Northern Rhone Valley. While all of the top appellations, such as Côte-Rôtie, Hermitage and St-Joseph are fairly small, vigneron here have much more access to excellent vineyards.

Christine Vernay is one of the greatest winemakers in the Northern Rhone, and perhaps all of France. She crafts lovely, high-toned wines from vineyards on the upper plateau above the slopes of Condrieu that are so steep, that were you tumble from the top of one, you might not survive the trip to the bottom!

Always a juicy, enjoyable Syrah, the Fleurs De Mai has lots of Northern Rhône character in its peppery red and black fruits, bouquet garni, and subtle gamey aromas and flavors.

**\$75**

The Southern Rhône



- Châteauneuf-du-Pape
- Gigondas
- Vacqueyras
- Tavel
- Lirac
- Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise
- Coteaux du Tricastin
- Côtes du Ventoux
- Clairette de Bellegarde
- Muscat de Lunel
- Côtes du Rhône/-Villages
- Côtes du Lubéron
- Costières de Nîmes
- Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence/
les Baux

MOUNIR SAOUMA*Cotes du Rhone blanc 'Inopia' 2015***Cépages:**

Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Marsanne,
Clairette, Bourbelenc, Viognier

The Saouma's purchased a desolate plot of land in Orange in 2011. A minimal intervention approach combined with the image of the original barren land inspired the name of the wine, 'Inopia', which translates to 'made from nothing' in Latin

Rotem & Mounir's whites are breathtaking. This village level wine is no exception, following the similar philosophy of exceptional terroir paired with high quality, low yielding fruit that remains undisturbed for an extended period of time after fermentation.

Intensely perfumed and vibrant nose of citrus, flowers and an almost salty note. Intensity of flavors and structure, with a beautifully balanced freshness. We'd never guess this was a Cotes du Rhone if we were blind tasted on it – the wines has such brilliant acidity!

Stunning and unique.

**\$75****E. GUIGAL CHATEAU DE NALYS***Chateauneuf du Pape 2022***Cépages:**

Grenache Blanc,
Clairette, Roussane

One of the most exciting estates today in Châteauneuf du Pape has to be Château de Nalys, which was purchased by the Guigal family in 2017, who installed the talented Ralph Garcin as director and head winemaker. To say the estate has seen a turnaround would be an understatement, and these latest releases are unquestionably up with the finest wines of the vintage. The estate is on the cusp of starting a huge renovation in the cellar, and the best is still to come.

Made from 40% each of Grenache Blanc and Roussanne and the rest Clairette, brought up all in wood, (2/3 *demi-muids* and 1/3 barrels, 5% new), the 2022 Châteauneuf Du Pape Grand Vin Blanc is one of – if not the – white of the vintage. White peach, citrus oil, green almonds, brioche, and toasty notes define the aromatics, and it's full-bodied, with a layered, concentrated yet focused mouthfeel, good acidity (pH 3.4), and a great finish. It's a stunning white from the south that I wish every reader could taste. It will evolve for 15 years or more.

**\$180**

THE MAGIC OF E. GUIGAL

Guigal wines exhibit a kind of light, a mix of purity and finesse that strikes the imagination of anyone who has the pleasure of taking a sip. The Guigal name and its timeless labels are recognizable among thousands and continue to please wine lovers, whatever the price range. Founded in 1946 by Étienne Guigal in Ampuis, in the heart of Côte-Rôtie, today, the estate is known as the Mecca of Syrah.

First and foremost, the Guigal family are winemakers, producing some of the finest wines on the planet. Of course, when we think of Côte-Rôtie, we think of the famous La-La-La (La Landonne, La Mouline and La Turque), but the Condrieu La Doriane, and more recently the Ermitage Ex-Voto red and white can now hold their heads high alongside the famous Côte-Rôtie wines.

The secrets to the brilliance of Guigal is perhaps no secret at all. They work some of the greatest vineyards in the Rhone, and for the wines that they make using purchased grapes, they taste tirelessly, sometimes hundreds of wines a day, before 8:30am! Their motto is *'Nul bien sans la peine'* – no good without pain.

The Guigals believe one of the key secrets to making exemplary wines is that they must be aged for extended periods. Their reds are aged up to three-and-a-half years before release, and even the Syrah that goes into their Cotes du Rhone bottling spends extended time in barrels. The barrels themselves are of the Guigal's own making, as they have found inconsistencies from even the best barrel producers. These barrels are destined for their Northern Rhone wines, while they use *foudres* built to exacting specifications for their Southern Rhone wines. The reality is that it is enormously expensive to hold onto 3 or 4 vintages of Chateauneuf-du-Pape or Côte-Rôtie, or even to hold onto Côtes du Rhône that is two or three vintages behind what other producers are releasing, but it is done for the quality of the wine, and so that consumers can enjoy the wines for drinking upon release.



E. GUIGAL

Côtes du Rhône 2023

Cépages:

Grenache Blanc, Grenache Gris,
Clairette, Roussanne

Guigal's Côtes du Rhône Blanc both sets and steps outside the standard for the appellation and showcases one of the great secrets of the Guigal family: their specialization in the great white Rhône varieties. While only 8% of the Rhône's production is white, a full 25% of Guigal's production is white and they are today the single largest producer of whites in the Rhône Valley.

Côtes du Rhones are generally dominated by Southern Rhône grapes, namely Grenache Blanc. Since 1991 the Guigals have searched for and worked with growers to encourage plantings of Viognier for their Côtes du Rhône, as they have a love story with this grape that was nearly extinct in the middle of the last century. They believe the Viognier adds critical freshness and aromatics to the other varieties. The wine is a blend of 60% Viognier, 15% Roussanne, 10% Marsanne, 8% Clairette, 5% Bourboulenc and 2% Grenache blanc.

Yellow gold, clear and brilliant. Freshness on the nose marked by the distinctive aromas of Viognier; white flowers, apricot, acacia and white peach. On the palate it is fruity with plenty of richness and body. A well-rounded wine with elegance, strength and balance.

\$12.50/glass

\$41/bottle



ETIENNE

'Essen' Lirac 2023

Cépages:

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre

California Pinot Noir specialist Adam Lee has taken a hard left turn here! After focusing on the iconic Burgundian varietal for nearly his entire career, Lee has set his sights on a different area of France: the Lirac region of Southern Rhône.

Lee, who cofounded Siduri Wines in the 1990s, went on to launch Clarice Wine Company and Beau Marchais, a California Pinot Noir project with the late Philippe Cambie — a renowned Rhône winemaker. Fueled by Cambie's passion for the Southern Rhône, Lee took a leap into Lirac. In 2023, he produced the first vintage for Etienne Winery, a label on a mission to elevate the region, which is often overlooked for its shiny next-door neighbor, Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

The inaugural release is a ripe, sexy, seamless effort offering terrific red, blue, and black fruits as well as classic Provençal notes of peppery garrigue, spice, and herbes de Provence. Medium to full-bodied, balanced and elegant, it has sweet tannins and a great finish.

\$78



DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Côte du Rhône 2022

Cépages:

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre

Founded in 1451, Domaine de la Solitude is now in its sixth century of operation. The Lançon family (proprietors since Solitude's inception) are the direct descendants of the Barberini family and came over to Avignon with the popes in 1450! Small wonder, then, that they are considered one of the most important families in the Southern Rhône.

From one of the oldest and first families of Châteauneuf du Pape, this Côte du Rhône is a classic blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre, this boasts a rich and spicy nose of garrigue, spicy dark berry, raspberry liqueur, and anise followed by a sumptuous and sturdy palate of spicy dark berries, rosemary, lavender, and thyme.

Round, supple, and fleshy on the palate, this is a pure joy to drink.

This is one of our new favorite additions!

\$12.00/glass

\$39



LES SANG DES CAILLOUX

Vacqueyras 2021

Cépage:
Grenache

One glimpse of Serge Férigoule’s barbell moustache might be enough for one to be completely enamored with the wines of Le Sang des Cailloux, although they also speak remarkably well for themselves. This domain’s name means “the blood of the stones,” and Serge Férigoule is most certainly the heart that links the two together. In 1974, Serge left winemaking school with a longing to return to the vineyards. He went to work for Monsieur Ricard’s family in 1979 to oversee the vineyards. Without anyone in his family to succeed him, Ricard decided to gamble by partnering with Serge in 1982.

In 1990, after Monsieur Ricard’s retirement, Serge launched Le Sang des Cailloux. Vacqueyras had just been awarded an A.O.C. that same year, a timely twist of fate that helped Serge’s wines to become as celebrated as they deserve to be.

\$75



E. GUIGAL

Gigondas 2021

Cépages:
Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah

The Guigal family may be the world’s greatest testament to a family-run winery with impeccably high standards, integrity and an uncompromising vision of the future. They continue to push the envelope of quality to greater and greater heights. Marcel Guigal learned it all from his father, Etienne, a legend in the Northern Rhone.

In the Southern Rhone, they buy only wine, and with a distinctive approach. Namely, they do not have a single contract. Marcel and Philippe taste relentlessly and start from scratch every year. In a given year, they will purchase only the top 1% of the wines they taste, and because of their longtime contacts, they have access to the best wines in the region; they select, in other words, 1% from the very finest wines in the Southern Rhone.

Ripe, with notes of mulling spices weaving around the core of steeped plum and macerated currant fruit. Hints of licorice snap, wood spice and black tea fill in on the fleshy finish.

\$74

APPELLATIONS AND THE NOTION OF *TERROIR*.

For many wine lovers, the vineyards of Chateauneuf du Pape conjures up images of vineyards dominated by large, smooth stones, called *galets rous*. These stones collect heat during the day, and radiate it back to the vines at night. But not all of Chateauneuf is like this.

In other parts of Chateauneuf, you will see few, or no stones; rather you will find vineyards made up primarily of sand. These disparate soils are part of what makes up the *terroir* of a region. But what does that mean?

Terrior is a French word with no one-word English translation; rather it refers to all the physical characteristics of a vineyard or area, and how those characteristics are expressed in the finished wine from there.

Here are a few examples...is the soil in a vineyard mostly clay? That retains water. Is it mostly gravel? That drains water very well, and will benefit a different grape than the clay. Is the area hot during the day, or moderate? Does the area get a lot of wind? Is it on a steep hill that gets more sunlight?

Small differences can make a big difference in the characteristic of a wine. Some of the greatest vineyards in Burgundy, for example, are separated merely by a low stone wall (called a 'clos'); the difference may be as simple as the angle of a vineyard allowing the grapes to get 10 more minutes of sunrise a day. The space between a Premier Cru Vineyard and a Grand Cru vineyard can be 15 feet in elevation!

Do these differences really matter? They absolutely do, and in many cases, the differences have been studied for hundreds of years.

Not all vineyards are created equal, and wines from the best of them tend to command more money.



DOMAINE LAFOND

Châteauneuf du Pape 2021

Cépages:

Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah

The Lafond family has a long history in the Southern Rhone Valley that dates all the way back to 1780. At first, the Lafond family settled in Tavel, before making the move to Chateauneuf du Pape.

In 2001, Pascal Lafond and his family were able to procure vineyards in the Etang, les Grandes Serres and les Pradel vineyards, and it is from here that their Chateauneuf hails. The winery makes only one Châteauneuf, eschewing the luxury cuvées that some other wineries use, fearing that doing so would make this wine less special than it is.

Powerful and well-constituted wine, a strong ruby color with a purple tinge. It gives a complex nose of cinnamon, cooked fruits and morello cherry. After a rich and firm attack, the mouth expresses vanilla and peppery aromas which persist to the finish, underlying the delicious black plum and raspberry notes in the wine. It's a supple and rich Chateauneuf with very good length in mouth.

A new addition to the list...and a welcome one!

\$95

CHATEAU DES TOURS*Côtes du Rhône 'Grande Reserve' 2014***Cépages:**

Grenache, Syrah



This very nearly did not make the wine list, as we wanted to take home the modest amount of this wine we got. But our parents told us that sharing is important, so here it is...

The Grande Reserve Côtes du Rhône is declassified Vacqueyras. 80% Grenache, 20% Syrah. These are made from fairly old wines, with the Grenache having been planted in 1955, and the Syrah planted between 1981-1996 on a sandy, west-facing vineyard. Grenache is aged in concrete vat and Syrah in used 600 L oak casks for 24-26 months.

The 2014 Côtes du Rhône Grande Reserve is magnificent. It seamlessly knits together elements of strawberry compote, crushed rose petal, tangerine peel, forest floor and hints of raspberry jam. Elegant to the core, this medium-bodied and de-classified Vacqueras outperforms most of the same-vintage wines of the appellation. Its delicate flavors linger gracefully, framing this seductive red with great finesse.

\$325

“How can you govern a country which has two hundred and forty-six varieties of cheese?”

— Charles de Gaulle

CHATEAU DE FONSALETTE*Côtes du Rhône* 2011, 2012**Cépages:**

Grenache, Cinsault, Syrah



Château de Fonsalette defies its appellation.

Just outside the Châteauneuf-de-Pape appellation, these first-class Côtes du Rhône are treated with the same care and respect as their neighbors.

Limited to just three wines, a blanc, a rouge and a 100% Syrah, these are some of the best and most in-demand wines in Côtes du Rhône, defying what can sometimes be seen as a humble appellation status.

Biodiversity is cherished at this 120-hectare estate, of which only 12 hectares are planted to vine. The rest of the land holds olive trees, woodlands, and other types of agriculture.

Emmanuel's wines, whether they are from Fonsalette, Rayas, or des Tours, all hold the same signature complexity, depth, and meaningful nature.

CHATEAU DE FONSALETTE COTES DU RHONE 2011 \$510

Spicy raspberry and cherry aromas are complicated by incense, lavender and pungent herbs. Pliant red fruit flavors are deepened by candied licorice and bitter chocolate, with bright acidity adding lift. The tightly focused, energetic, impressively persistent finish leaves tangy mineral and bitter cherry skin notes behind.

CHATEAU DE FONSALETTE COTES DU RHONE 2012 \$650

Smoky cherry, cassis and violet aromas pick up an exotic Asian spice nuance with aeration. Taut and sharply focused, offering bitter cherry and floral pastille flavors that show a subtly sweet character. Whatever tannins are in here are hidden right now. Distinctly elegant wine with no excess fat, strong finishing cut and impressive length.

CHATEAU RAYAS 'PIGNAN'

Châteauneuf du Pape 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Cépage:
Grenache

The spirit of Jacques Reynaud, the godfather of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, is always present at the storied estate of Château Rayas. When this legendary founder died suddenly in 1997, his wife asked their nephew, Emmanuel Reynaud, to take the reins at both Château Rayas and Château de Fonsalette. Already making wines at his father's Château des Tours, Emmanuel agreed.

Somewhat reclusive and to be found working his vineyards at most any time of day, every day, Emmanuel does not revel in the fame and notoriety that come with making such sought-after and acclaimed wines. Instead, he continues to quietly but successfully carry the mantle of his famous forebears, producing hauntingly aromatic wines.

Rayas is a secluded estate northeast of the village, not far from Courthézon. It is unusual because its 13 hectares of vines are north facing and contain none of the fabled round pebbles (*galets roulés*), and the vineyard is surrounded by forest.

CHATEAU RAYAS 'PIGNAN' CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE 2009 \$1000

An explosively perfumed bouquet displays red and dark berry preserves potpourri licorice and smoky minerals. Broad and fleshy offering deeply concentrated black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors and a strong note of floral pastilles.

CHATEAU RAYAS 'PIGNAN' CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE 2010 \$800

Extremely fresh on the palate, offering nervy redcurrant and raspberry flavors and a strong spicy underpinning. A zesty note of blood orange comes up with air and adds a tangy edge to the long, precise, floral-accented finish. A very sexy wine.

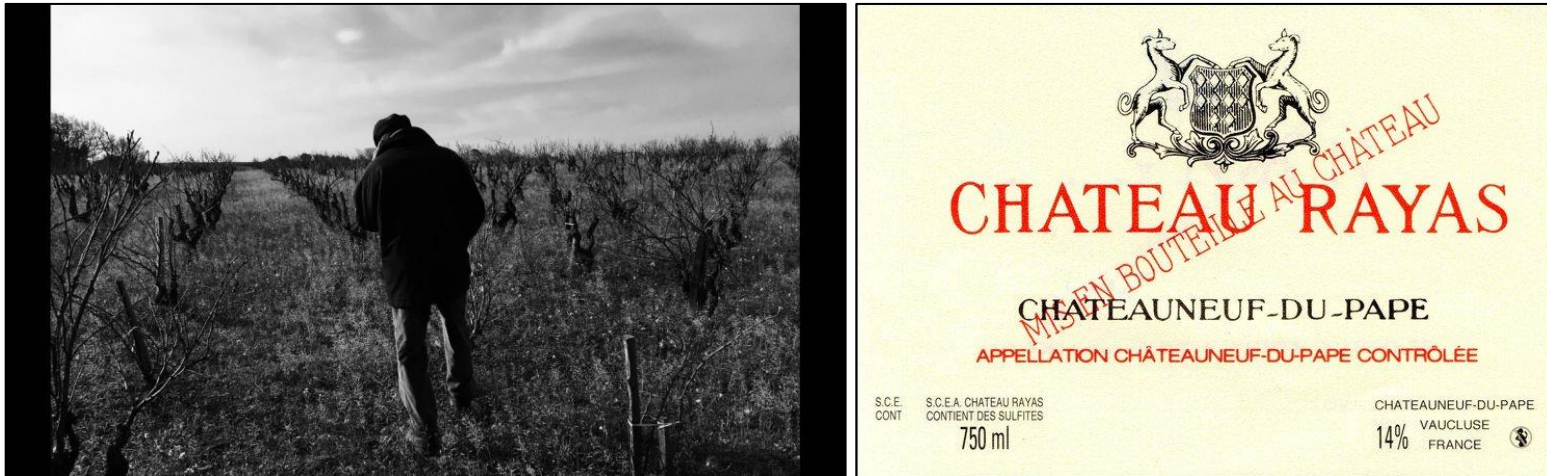
CHATEAU RAYAS 'PIGNAN' CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE 2011 \$550

Intense raspberry, potpourri and spice-cake scents gain depth with air and pick up a bright mineral nuance. Fleshy, seamless and concentrated, showing impressive clarity to its juicy red fruit flavors. Dusty tannings come on late and add shape to the strikingly long, energetic finish.

CHATEAU RAYAS 'PIGNAN' CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE 2012 \$6000

Sexy, high-pitched aromas of fresh red berries, lavender and Indian spices, plus a touch of olive. Sappy and precise, with very good lift and clarity to its black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors. Puts on weight with air and finished sappy, penetrating and very long, with slow-building tannins.





It can be said that in Chateauneuf du Pape there is Emmanuel Reynaud of Chateau Rayas, and then there is everyone else.

These wines, grown on almost pure sand soils, represent the greatest Grenache-based wines in the world. In a time, when everything is done in a laboratory, Reynaud's wines are almost heroically old-world, old school, traditional.

The newest barrel in the cellar was bought 25 or so years ago – and it was a used barrel then.

To taste the wines of Rayas is to taste Chambolle-Musigny that just happens to be grown in the Rhone valley, so fine are the textures on everything that he makes.

It is an honor to have his wines on the list; alas, they exist only in tiny quantities.

These are substantial, exotically rich wines that are quite literally unique.

We recommend decanting of the ethereal wines.

CHATEAU RAYAS*Châteauneuf du Pape 2009, 2010, 2012***Cépage:**

Grenache, Cinsault

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CHATEAU RAYAS CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE 2009 \$2700

An explosively perfumed bouquet displays red and dark berry preserves potpourri licorice and smoky minerals. Broad and fleshy offering deeply concentrated black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors and a strong note of floral pastilles.

CHATEAU RAYAS CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE 2010 \$1800

The 2010 knocks it out of the park with rosewater, kirsch, garrigue, tobacco, white pepper, melted licorice and a flicker of ivy. On the full-bodied palate, rich flavor concentration is masterfully balanced by vibrant freshness, resulting in a sensation of complete harmony. What's so striking about this Rayas is how it lays bare all its strength without flexing a single muscle.

CHATEAU RAYAS CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE 2012 \$1700

Prominent kirsch liqueur, forest floor, strawberry compote, dried meat, rosemary, pressed violets and sage are only some of the many aromas and flavors that jump out of the glass. Refined to the core, the athletic 2012 packs a laser-like focus and flawlessly integrates the elevated alcohol. This is a remarkably uplifting Rayas.



***The Genius in the fields...Emmanuel Reynaud,
owner and vigneron of Chateau Rayas
and Domaine des Tours***



Having firmly established themselves in Burgundy with their Lucien LeMoine wines, the Saouma's purchased a desolate plot of land in Orange in 2011. In 2012 Mounir Saouma bought a domain nearby. The Domain's vineyards had not been looked after for decades and was in fact not existing anymore. On the other hand there was an underground cellar, which was found usable by Mounir. This cellar is now used for ageing of the wines. The vinification takes place in a new cellar built above the underground cellar. The vineyards have been totally renovated and replanted.

CLOS SAOUMA

Châteauneuf du Pape 'Ariosa,' 2014

Cépage:
Grenache

Mounir Saouma's story in the Chateauneuf started with the sale of a small plot in Pignan, one of the most famous vineyard areas of Chateauneuf. Within this first vineyard acquisition, Mounir has one plot of 100% Grenache planted in the 1930s which yields naturally at a miniscule 1 ton per acre. From these vines he produces Arioso. Pignan's exposure brings freshness to the natural ripeness achieved in this area. The rocky and sandy soils of this original plot add elegance. When you start tasting you understand why some have compared his wines to the great Rayas wines of the 1980s

\$383

CLOS SAOUMA

Châteauneuf du Pape 'Omnia,' 2020

Cépages:
Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre

Mounir Saouma likes to describe Chateauneuf as a mosaic; its differences make for very different interpretations. Omnia, Latin for 'all,' is his attempt to encompass the entire region's terroir in one glass. The aging is as Mounir ages his Burgundies: extremely long, never racked, no fining, no filtration. It would be easy to say that we expected the experience running one of Burgundy's leading producers would show in Mounir's wines. But the actual results need to be tasted to be believe; they reveal a wine with beguiling fruit and savory richness, yet extraordinary finesse and detail.

\$220

DOMAINE DE SAJE*Châteauneuf du Pape 'Ruche' 2020***Cépages:**

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault

For many years, Jérôme Mathieu worked alongside his brother André at Domaine Mathieu, managing the estate passed down from their parents. In 2015, André's eldest son came of age, and the brothers amicably agreed to split the domain to have clear lines of inheritance. Jérôme, who lives in his grandfather's house in the center of the village, subsequently spent 2015-16 revamping his grandfather's old cellar to prepare to make wine under his own roof as of 2016. He created Saje and began to use this label with the 2013 vintage.

The Châteauneuf holdings are spread throughout the appellation. In the traditional manner, most are based on Grenache but are co-planted with many other varieties, adding up to all 13 permitted varietals.

Domaine de Saje's *foudre*-aged 2019 Châteauneuf du Pape is 80% Grenache, with the balance being a blend of 14 other permitted varieties (counting color mutations). It delivers attractive cherry fruit and savory notes of peppery spice on the nose, while the palate is medium to full-bodied, supple and silky in texture, with a long, peppery-cinnamon finish.

**\$99****DOMAINE DE BEAURENARD***Rasteau 2021***Cépages:**

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre

Domaine de Beurenard has been a family-run estate for eight generations. Today, brothers Daniel & Frédéric Coulon and Daniel's sons Victor and Antonin are dedicated to produce the most essential expressions of this historic region, long sought-after by discerning collectors and enthusiasts around the globe. There is an elegance to these wines that is both charming and seductive!

Winemaking has taken place in Rasteau since the first century, during the Roman expansion. While this area was first known for its fortified dessert wines, today it is most notable for its dry reds. The area was always considered one of the best of the Cotes du Rhone-Villages, and in 2010, the red wines earned their own appellation status, no longer needing to be labeled as 'Cotes du Rhone-Villages Rasteau,' but simply 'Rasteau.'

The Domaine de Beurenard Rasteau offers intense aromas of black fruit and blueberries, lifted by a touch of spice. The density and depth of the palate associate fruit and minerality with remarkable persistence.

**\$79**

CLOS DES PAPES*Châteauneuf du Pape* 2022**Cépages:**

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre



Clos des Papes is one of the great established names of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, aptly named since a parcel of the land there is nearby the pope's castle and has been surrounded by walls (clos). The family has been living in the village for centuries and were among the people who created the appellation for the village, the first in France to do so.

Paul Avril does not make any luxury wines beyond the already incredible Châteauneuf blanc and rouge, believing that any special cuvées would diminish their 2 wines.

Despite a hailstorm that destroyed approximately one-third of the crop this year, Paul-Vincent Avril managed to produce a wine with the same grape proportions as in previous years, thanks to his vineyard's diverse and fragmented nature. So, the 2022 Châteauneuf du Pape from Clos des Papes reveals a delicate, aromatic bouquet of peony, gooseberry, lilac, flowers and cherries mingled with delicate notes of fennel and menthol. Medium to full-bodied, sappy and layered, it's perfectly textured with velvety, delicate tannins enhanced by bright acids and a long, ethereal finish. Although the Mourvèdre is slightly dominant at this stage, this wine is unquestionably poised for great aging potential.

\$270*The great Paul-Vincent Avril in his winery*

WHAT DOES VIN DE PAYS D'OC ACTUALLY MEAN?

Vin de pays is a French term meaning "country wine." Vins de pays is a step in the French wine classification that is above the table wine (*Vin de table*) classification, but below Appellation d'origine contrôlée (AOC).

Unlike table wines, which are only indicated as being from France, Vin de pays carries a more specific geographic designation of origin, the producers have to submit the wine for analysis and tasting, and the wines have to be made from certain varieties or blends. Regulations regarding varieties and labelling practices are typically more lenient than the regulations for AOC wines.

First demarcated in 1987 as Vin de Pays d'Oc, the vast scale of the vineyards is striking. Covering four departments (Aude, Gard, Hérault and Pyrénées-Orientales), the region reaches from the Mediterranean coastline to the mountainous slopes of the Pyrenees and the Massif Central. The region's size, along with its varied geology and climate, means there is quite a bit of variety here.

One of the main benefits is the official guarantee of quality for consumers: the IGP Pays d'Oc classification has strict and precise specifications. Coupled with the low prices for which wines from this region typically sell, there is tremendous value here.

Unusually, all bottles destined to be labelled IGP Pays d'Oc are approved by blind tastings conducted by a range of wine professionals – an approach which would be considered unduly radical in Bordeaux or Burgundy.

The focus here is on labelling wines with the varietal(s) listed, which makes navigating them somewhat easier!



VIGNOBLES FERRANDIERE

Southwestern France Pays d'Oc 2023

Cépage:

Chardonnay

Between the Corbières and Minervois, 12 miles from Carcassonne and 25 from the Mediterranean, lies the Ferrandière Estate. It dwells on the site of ancient wetlands amidst the hills and mountains of the Languedoc, cut off from the sea during the uplift that raised the Pyrenees. This brackish lake, with its unpleasant and unhealthy climate, was drained under Louis XIV and the end of the 17th century, and the land was steadily reclaimed and planted during the French Second Empire. The Domaine de la Ferrandière was owned and farmed by the Gau family for more than 100 years until they sold the estate to Jean-Claude Mas of Domaines Paul Mas in 2013.

The Ferrandiere shows a pale yellow color with green highlights. Nose: very fruity unoaked Chardonnay clean and crisp. Palate: pear and passionfruit flavors and a well-rounded buttery finish.

\$9/glass \$33/bottle



DOMAINE LE ROC

'La Folle Noir d'Ambat' Fronton 2022

Cépage:
Negrette

Since the Middle Ages, Fronton, just north of Toulouse, has been the home of the Negrette grape, which is nearly exclusive to the area. The region encompasses 2,300 hectares of vines dominated by dry heat and rocky soils and the landscape is marked by hills and valleys. The banks of the Tarn and Garonne rivers have particularly poor gravel soils. Vines grown in this area are forced to struggle and dig deeper for nutrients to establish a stronger root system. This gives the grapes very distinct flavors, and they are commonly characterized as having notes of violets and licorice. It is here that, since 1974, the Ribes family has been dedicated to producing wines with personality and character.

Folle Noire basically translates to the 'crazy black lady' (in this case, a reference to the Negrette grape)! You really should try this wine - you will find La Folle Noire d'Ambat is a ripe, succulent, exotically fruit wine that makes for delicious, easy drinking anytime.

\$12.00/glass

\$39/bottle

FIN DE FOLIE

Côtes de Catalanes 2018

Cépages:
Grenache, Carignan



At the northern limit of the Roussillon lies the tiny AOC of Maury. It is defined by its rugged, desert-like terrain and black schist soils. Maury possesses a spectacular, eerie beauty and harsh environment that make it unsuited to agriculture – other than the old vines of Grenache and Carignan that grow here. demand for those has been in decline,

David Shiverick, the owner of Shiverick Imports, one of our favorite US importers, had an opportunity to buy vines to produce dry wines under the Vin de Pays des Côtes Catalanes regional distinction. Thus was Fin de Folie born. David partnered with Richard Case, the winemaker responsible for Pertuisane, among others, who has specialized in making wine in this difficult terrain for years.

The age of the vines and ruggedness of the land make machine harvesting impossible. The vineyards are farmed organically and by hand. Work in the cellar is very minimalist with aging in *demi-muid* and no fining or filtration.

\$90



COSSE ET MAISONNEUVE

'Cahors 'Solis' 2021

Cépage:
Malbec

Domaine Cosse et Maisonneuve is the result of the combination of two talented oenologists and winemakers: Matthieu Cosse and Catherine Maisonneuve. Matthieu (winemaker) is a graduate of the Institute of Enology in Bordeaux, and Catherine (oenologist) holds a BTS viticulture and oenology in Blanquefort.

15 years ago, they took over a 5 hectare estate in Prayssac, a short distance from Cahors, planted with old vines of Malbec and set out to make wines that are the antithesis of the rustic image of Cahors.

They farm their vineyards biodynamically and plan to become certified by Demeter. Everything they do in the vineyard is done with the aim of attaining balanced soils which produce the best ripening conditions for the grapes in order to make harmonious, aromatically complex and precise wines.

This bottle is a sleek, elegant red with fruit forward notes of blackberry, plum and strawberry. Subtle notes of nutmeg, cedar and oak lingers through the long, dry finish. Pairs well with red meat, mature and hard cheese.

\$39



MAS DE CHEVALIERE

Pays d'Oc 2023

Cépage:
Cabernet Sauvignon

Michel Laroche, a Chablisien, was one of the pioneers in the resurgence of quality winemaking in the South of France in the early 1980s. He is committed to making great wine in the Languedoc. In 1995, Michel acquired Mas La Chevaliere, a state-of-the-art winery located in a strategic spot in the middle of the vast Languedoc region and has crafted this excellent value priced Cabernet Sauvignon.

The wines from Mas La Chevaliere express a pureness that defy their modest appellation (the 'Pays d'Oc appellation covers roughly the same area as the Languedoc-Roussillon wine region – one of the largest winegrowing areas in France).

This Cabernet Sauvignon is smooth and easy to drink, full bodied with medium acidity and medium to high tannins. The flavor profile leads with fruit (blackcurrant, blackberry jam, plum, black cherry) followed by earth, leather, slate, nutmeg, black tea, and oak notes. Perfect with richer dishes on the menu!

\$10.00/glass \$34/bottle







FRESCOBALDI CASTELGIOCONDO

Brunello di Montalcino 2020

Cépage:
Sangiovese

Located in Montalcino, Tenuta CastelGiocondo has been in the Frescobaldi family since its purchase in 1989. Vittorio Frescobaldi began working as the estate's agronomist in 1973, though the history of this ancient stronghold stretches back to the 12th century, when it was built to defend the road from Siena to the sea. The estate has always been a true pioneer in Montalcino and one of the few wineries to produce Sangiovese since the early 1800s; a document attests to a tasting of the 1834 vintage in 1878!

CastelGiocondo means 'lovable castle,' and the label shows a fresco painted by Simone Martini depicting a historic attack on the Montemassi castle in 1323. Tenuta CastelGiocondo is a standard-bearer of the appellation and its wines are all about power and longevity.

The 2020 Brunello Di Montalcino is warming with ripe fruit on the nose, including tarry notes of baked black cherries, pine sap, polished leather, and toasted oak spice. While it's full-bodied, it keeps a snappy lift of crunchy acidity, with a rich coating texture and notes of dark chocolate-covered orange on the finish.

\$162



SIRO PACENTI

Brunello di Montalcino 'Vecchie Vigne' 2019

Cépage:
Sangiovese

The Siro Pacenti winery, founded by Siro Pacenti in 1970, began with a modest estate of Brunello vines in the Canalicchio district, located north and east of Montalcino. Over the years, the estate has expanded to include 15 hectares of Sangiovese Grosso. In 1988, Siro's son, Giancarlo, took over the winery after completing his studies in Bordeaux. He initiated significant investments in modern winery equipment and cellar hygiene, enhancing the quality of their wine production.

Siro Pacenti Vecchie Vigne Brunello di Montalcino DOCG is crafted from the oldest sections of the Pelagrilli and Piancornello vineyards, featuring vines aged 40-60 years. Located in Montalcino, Tuscany, at elevations of 200-380 meters, the vineyards have sandy soils with clay at Pelagrilli and mineral-rich, pebbly soils at Piancornello.

Black cherries, lavender, black mushrooms, lead pencil and violets on the nose. Full-bodied with a powerful and polished tannin structure that follows through to the very end. Pure, silky texture. Fascinating aftertaste of ripe fruit, yet it's fresh and tense. Some orange peel, too. Glorious at the end. So well crafted and pointed.

\$285

CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA*Chianti Classico 'Riserva' 2020***Cépage:**
Sangiovese

Castello di Volpaia is located in an 11th century village that bears the same name. It sits on a hilltop just north of the town of Radda, 2,024 feet above sea level in the heart of the Chianti Classico region. Volpaia benefits from some of the highest altitude vineyards of the area, delivering certified organic wines of finesse and elegance with a terroir approach.

The Volpaia Chianti Classico Riserva features the della Volpaia family coat of arms. Lorenzo della Volpaia (1446-1572), an architect, mathematician and clockmaker, founded a Florentine dynasty of clockmakers. As clockmaker, Lorenzo gained fame and honor with the construction of the *Orologio dei Pianeti* (Planetary Clock). Lorenzo also built the clock at the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. He was a friend of Leonardo da Vinci and took part in the discussion on the placements of Michelangelo's David.

The nose opens to ripe and polished aromas of toasted cedar, cherry lozenge, menthol, and spiced orange peel. Medium-bodied, it offers ripe tannins that fold into a more mineral texture, with mouthwatering stony earth and a rather long, clean finish.

\$113**GAJA CA'MARCANDA***'Promis' Toscana IGT 2023***Cépage:**
Merlot, Syrah, Petit Verdot

Ca'Marcanda, Gaja's estate in Bolgheri was born in 1996 propelled by Angelo Gaja's ambition to challenge himself with Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot. The search for the best terroir was possible thanks to the latest land zoning maps which pointed out the specific vine growing suitability of clayey-calcareous soils at the foot of the Metalliferous Hills. These are firm clayey soils, therefore fresh and suitable for water and mineral preservation, which slow down ripening and result in fresh and acidic wines.

Eventually, the only land in that area not planted with vines was identified, and after several meetings with the previous owners, the negotiations successfully closed. For this reason, the name Ca'Marcanda derives from a Piedmontese dialect expression which can be translated as the 'The House of Endless Negotiations'.

The 2023 Promis is fruit-driven, with raspberry, black currant, and blueberry. Pink peppercorns and licorice notes come forward on the nose. This wine is medium bodied with round tannins and refreshing acidity. It opens with aromatic herbs, followed by blackberry and black cherry ending with a savory hint of olive.

\$137



ORNELLAIA

Bolgheri 2022

Cépage:

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot

Tenuta dell'Ornellaia is one of Italy's most prestigious wineries, and has earned an outstanding reputation in the wine world over the past few decades. Started as a Tuscan wine with a *vino di tavola* appellation because of the use Cabernet Sauvignon, it is now one of the leading Super Tuscans.

In 1981, Marchese Lodovico Antinori (brother of Piero Antinori, the founder of Tignanello) breathed new life into Tenuta dell' Ornellaia, an estate whose potential had been ignored for decades. With the help of Andre Tchelistcheff, the famous agronomist, Antinori planted the first French vines in Bolgheri, which lies in the heart of Tuscany's coastal region, Maremma. The estate yields some of the finest Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc in Tuscany. In 2002, Marchesi de' Frescobaldi and Robert Mondavi became owners of Tenuta dell'Ornellaia, which is now owned exclusively by Marchesi de' Frescobaldi.

Ornellaia has established itself among the iconic wine estates in Italy (and beyond). The estate is dedicated to producing charming and opulent wines, full of Mediterranean character and finesse, reflecting the estate's unique terroir in Bolgheri on the Tuscan coast. The combination of Bolgheri's unique soils and growing conditions, and what can only be characterized as a total obsession with excellence, result in the world-class wines from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Sauvignon Blanc that so many wine lovers across the world have come to cherish.

Dark red-toned fruit, mocha, new leather, licorice and spice all take shape in a mid-weight, pliant Ornellaia that is quite alluring, even in the early going. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 10% Petit Verdot, unusual for the elevated presence of Petit Verdot, which did better than Franc in 2022. The higher percentage of Petit Verdot comes through in the wine's dark-leaning personality and also in the quality of tannins.

\$424

ORNELLAIA**'LE VOLTE DELL'ORNELLAIA***Toscana IGT 2023***Cépage:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petite Verdot

Ornellaia has established itself among the iconic wine estates in Italy. The estate is dedicated to producing opulent wines, full of Mediterranean character and finesse, reflecting the estate's unique terroir in Bolgheri on the Tuscan coast, resulting in world-class wines from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot that so many wine lovers across the world have come to cherish.

Le Volte is the third wine of Ornellaia.

Le Volte dell'Ornellaia combines a Mediterranean expression of generosity with structure and complexity, reflecting the philosophy of Ornellaia. It represents the first step into the Ornellaia family, and is an ideal wine for everyday enjoyment.

The 2023 Le Volte dell'Ornellaia is a total delight. Fresh, aromatic and vibrant, Ornellaia's Sangiovese-based blend delivers the goods in an affordable package. A burst of bright, red-toned fruit opens first, followed by scents of tobacco, cedar and dried herbs. This classy, polished red is very nicely done. There's a bit more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend these days, and it works quite well.

\$75**TENUTA DI TRINORO***'Campo di Camagi' Toscana IGT 2021***Cépage:**

Cabernet Franc

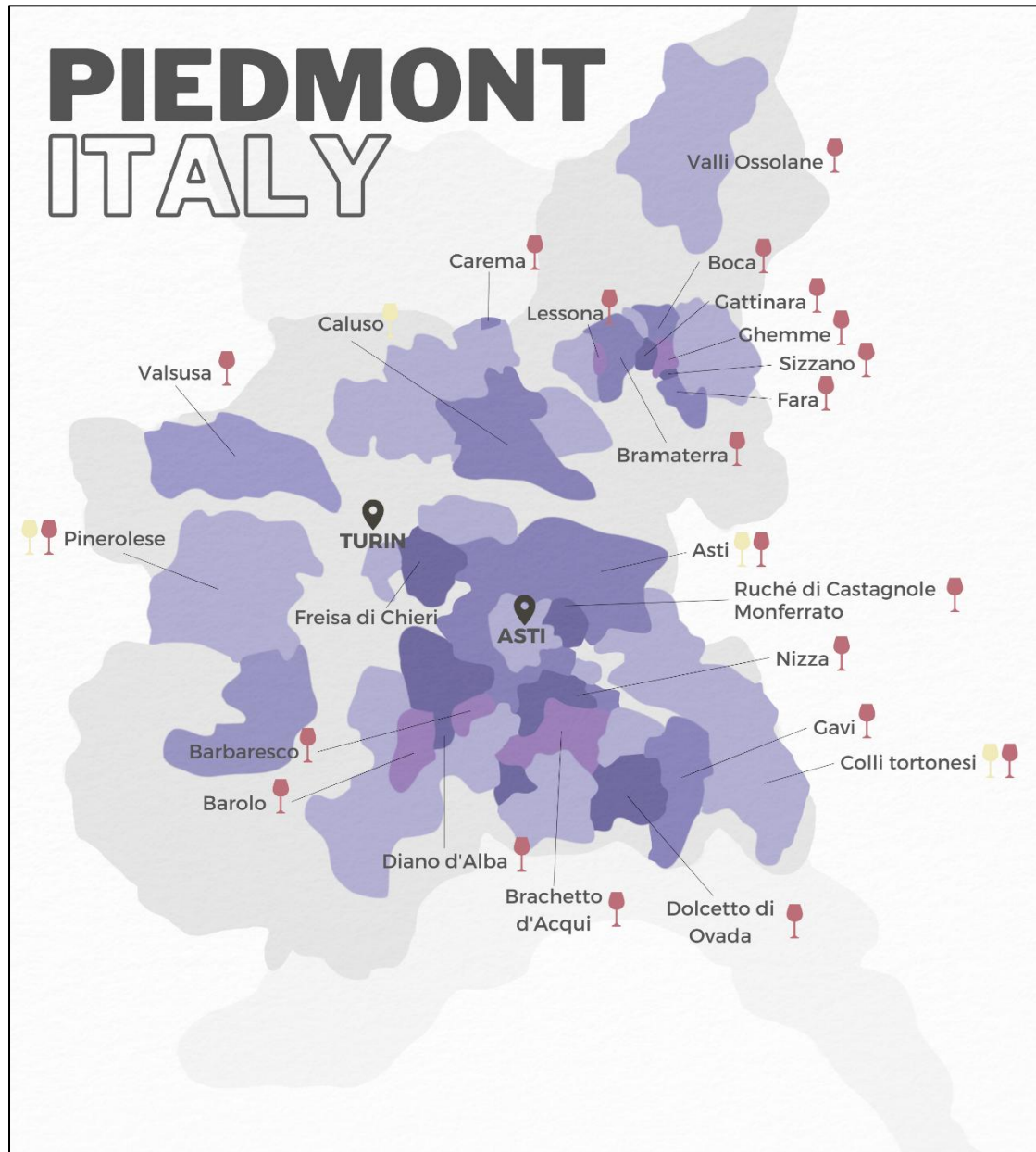
Nestled within the tranquil, secluded corners of southeastern Tuscany, Tenuta di Trinoro is a master of crafting opulent, long-aging red wines, showcasing a harmonious blend of Bordeaux varietals. This estate is a hidden gem, perched in viticultural solitude within the Orcia Valley, close to Sarteano, where the soul of Tuscany converges with the essence of Umbria and Lazio.

Andrea Franchetti, the visionary founder, purchased the estate during the 1980s, and in the early 1990s, he planted the first vines. In order to learn the winemaking trade, he went to Bordeaux and learned from some of the great cult producers of the right bank.

Amidst vast expanses of cobalt-blue clay, select plots were deemed fit for viticulture. These patches were meticulously cleared by hand and then cultivated using cuttings sourced from some of Bordeaux's most esteemed vineyards.

Espresso, dried cherry, cinnamon, blood orange, dried herbs and chocolate soar out of the glass. Brisk acids and beams of supporting tannin frame it all together beautifully. Thin quartz and limestone soils on clay in this parcel seem to exalt aromatic intensity.

\$258



GAJA*'Dagromis' Barolo 2021***Cépage:**
Nebbiolo

Gaja 'Dagromis' Barolo is an elegant and expressive red wine from the prestigious Gaja estate, crafted from Nebbiolo grapes sourced from select vineyards in two of Barolo's most renowned communes: La Morra and Serralunga d'Alba. The wine is named in honor of the Gromis family, who previously owned the vineyards that Gaja now cultivates, symbolizing the continuity and respect for the rich winemaking traditions of the Barolo region.

Dagromis embodies the classic characteristics of Nebbiolo, offering a balance of power, finesse, and aging potential.

On the nose, the 2021 Dagromis presents a complex bouquet of red cherries, dark plums, and wild berries, intertwined with notes of dried roses, licorice, and earthy undertones. Subtle hints of spice, tobacco, and a touch of tar add depth to the aromatic profile. The palate is full-bodied yet refined, with firm, velvety tannins and bright acidity that support flavors of ripe red fruit, herbs, and a touch of minerality. The wine finishes long and polished, showcasing the structured elegance that defines great Barolo.

\$295**PAOLO SCAVINO***'Bric del Fiasc' Barolo 2021***Cépage:**
Nebbiolo

Experience the unparalleled elegance and complexity of Paolo Scavino wines, crafted by a family with deep-rooted passion and dedication to the land. Founded in 1921, this historic Barolo winery has been guided by four generations of the Scavino family, who prioritize the unique expression of each terroir and respect for their territory. Explore their exquisite range, crafted from local grapes Dolcetto, Barbera, and Nebbiolo.

Paolo Scavino's Bric del Fiasc Barolo 2021 is a bold and commanding expression of this historic Castiglione Falletto cru, known for its depth and structure. The nose is intense and layered, revealing dark cherry, black plum, and dried rose, intertwined with notes of licorice, graphite, and sweet spice. The palate is powerful yet refined, offering rich dark fruit, iron-laced minerality, and firm, finely grained tannins, all carried by vibrant acidity. A long, resonant finish lingers with hints of cedar, balsamic, and tobacco. A profound, cellar-worthy Barolo built for long-term aging, perfect for braised meats and truffle-infused dishes.

\$237



PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO

'Torre' Barbaresco 2021

Cépage:
Nebbiolo

The Produttori del Barbaresco is a co-op, but an unusual one in that they produce wine from only one grape, and one region; Nebbiolo in Piedmont's famous Barbaresco region.

The Produttori was founded in the crushing poverty of the 1950s, when the parish priest organized 19 struggling growers to make wine communally. With time, the Produttori grew to about sixty members—owning the lion's share of the greatest vineyards.

Even today, many of Barbaresco's best growers are members, occupying the greatest sites and pooling their fruit. In lesser years, only one wine is made, but in great vintages, ten magical Barbarescos can be made: this often astonishing flagship Barbaresco plus nine single-*cru* Riservas.

An intriguing wine with aromas of potpourri, dried cherries and candied orange zest. Smoky and juicy on the palate, with firm, dusty yet ripe tannins, a full body and a long, savory finish. Drinkable now, but it has great potential for the long haul.

\$115



PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO

'Paje' Riserva Barbaresco 2020

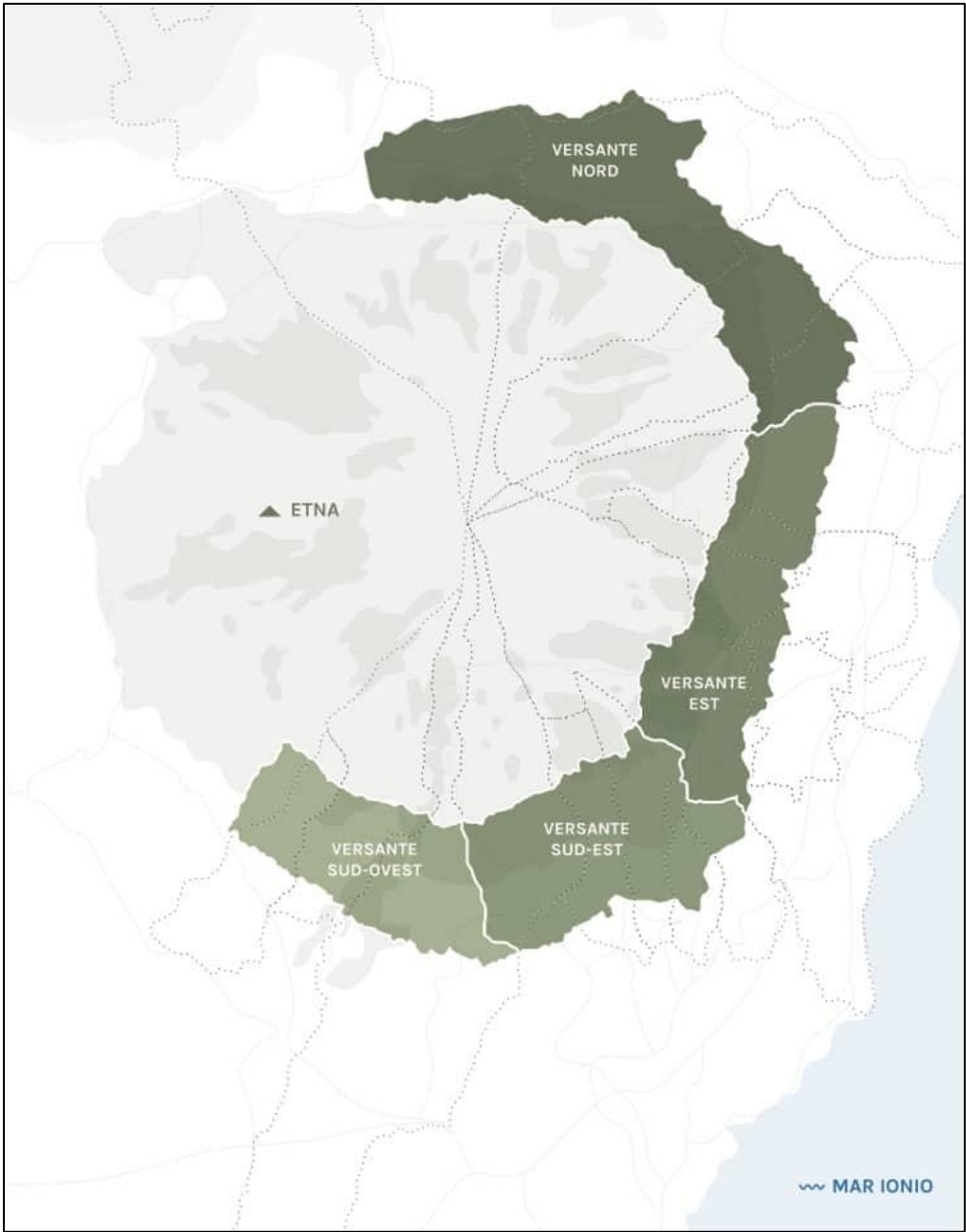
Cépage:
Nebbiolo

The Produttori makes 9 Cru Riserva wines in exceptional vintages (in years when one Cru is not deemed good enough for a Riserva wines, NO Crus are made).

The Paje vineyard is a small bowl facing South/West and it lies between the village itself and the famous Asili vineyard. However Pajè is slightly lower in altitude and the vineyard is more open to the Tanaro River influence resulting in a cooler microclimate. The soil is limestone with high calcium level. In result the wine combines elegance and complexity with intense tannins and it is never shy in acidity. The latter makes Pajè somehow sharper and brighter in its first years, with lovely youthful fruit and flowery notes, almost minty in cooler vintages.

The 2020 Barbaresco Riserva Paje' pours a deeper red hue and is polished on the nose with aromas of black cherries, candied berries, polished leather, sweet herbs, and balsamic herbs. Usually, this site has a brighter, more floral character, but here it has a bit more richness, with an outstanding balance of savoriness, velvety textured tannins, and dark, stony underpinnings seamlessly weaving together through the long finish.

\$195





BENANTI

'Contrada Dafara Galluzzo' Etna Rosso 2020

Cépage:

Nerello Mascalese

Winemaking in the Benanti family can be traced back to the late 1800s in Viagrande. This deep-rooted passion for wine is what led Giuseppe Benanti to establish the namesake winery in 1988. Located on Mount Etna, 'an island within the island' of Sicily, the Benanti family produces wines using 100% native grapes – Carricante, Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio.

The Contrada (Contrada is the name for the local historical vineyard areas) Dafara Galluzzo, in the village of Rovittello (Castiglione di Sicilia), on the northern slope of Mount Etna, particularly suited for Nerello Mascalese.

Dusty florals combine with black raspberries and clove as the 2020 Etna Rosso Contrada Dafara Galluzzo smolders up from the glass. This is soothingly soft and supple on the palate, based on the purity of the fruit. Mineral underpinnings add tactile grip. It finishes perfumed and structured, with edgy tannins that pinch at the cheeks as strawberry and balsam herbs nuances resonate.

\$139



PASSOPISCIARO

'Contrada C' Etna Rosso 2020

Cépage:

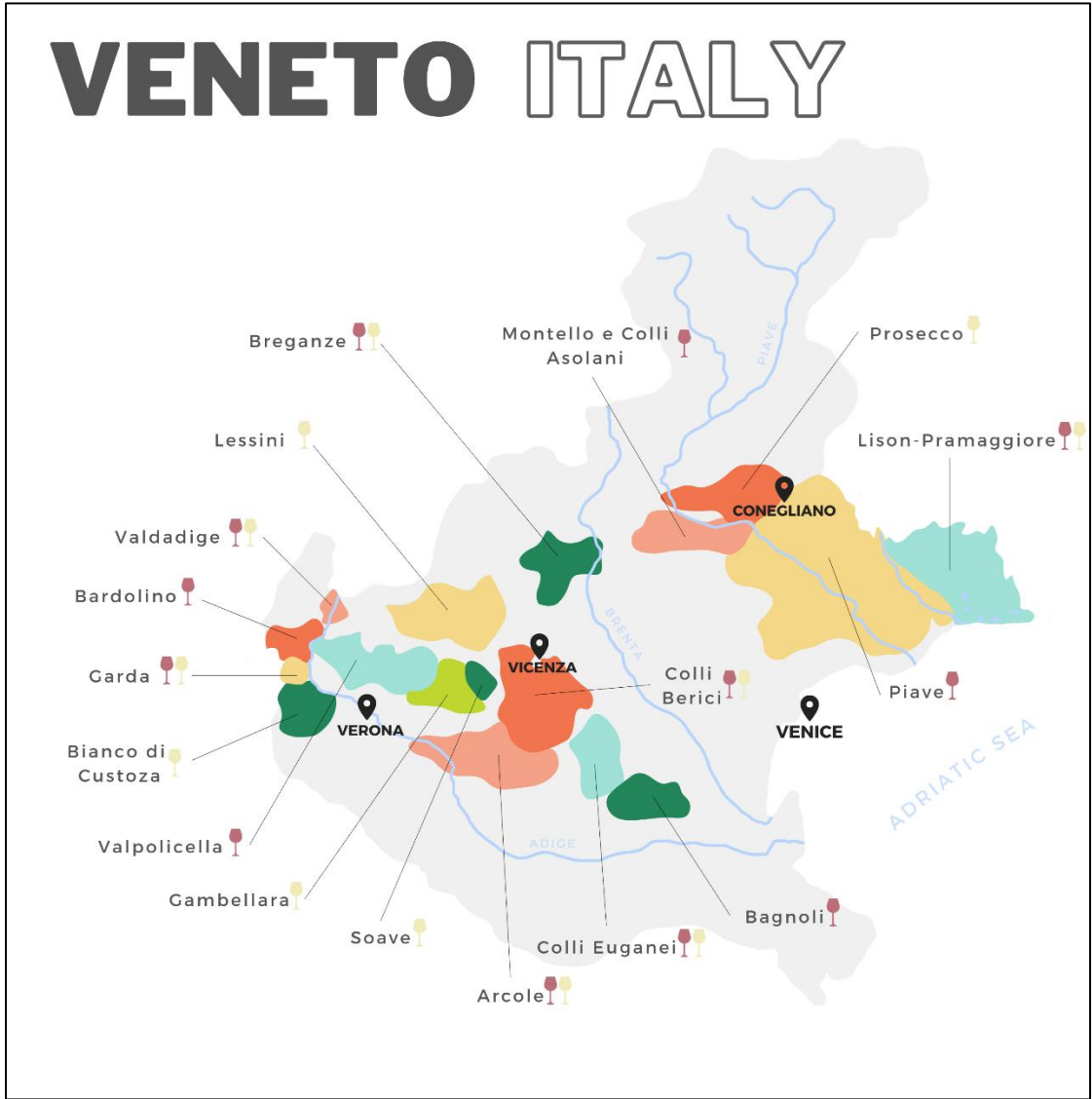
Nerello Mascalese

After a decade of experience making wine at Tenuta di Trinoro, in 2000 Andrea Franchetti dedicated himself to a new project on the northern slopes of Mount Etna near the town of Passopisciario in the district of Castiglione di Sicilia. Franchetti lovingly restored the long-forgotten terraces adorned with age-old vines. At about 1,000 meters above sea level, he meticulously replanted vines in the mineral-rich volcanic soil.

Passopisciario includes 9 different wines, with 6 showcasing Nerello Mascalese. Recognizing the varied characteristics of Nerello from the different *contrade*, Franchetti decided in 2008 to bottle his top sites separately. These wines—Contrada C, Contrada P, Contrada G, Contrada S, and Contrada R—are harvested from vineyards at various elevations and on distinct lava flows of different ages and makeup.

Layered red fruit meets spiced woods with hints of caramelized plum, cherry, and cranberry. Firm tannins and a touch of violets on the palette. Austere now, but promising. A youthful, vivid Etna with intense red berry sweetness, perfect for Barolo enthusiasts.

\$174



TOMMASI*'Ripasso' Valpolicella 2021***Cépage:**

Corvino, Rondinella, Corvinone



Tommasi has proudly presided over Italy's Veneto region for over 120 years, with wines that are both renowned for their superior quality and consistently regarded as reference points for their respective appellations.

Established in 1902, the Tommasi estate was a driving force behind the development of the wine industry in the Veneto and continues to work tirelessly to promote the unique characteristics of the region's grape varieties. Tommasi is now run by the fourth generation of the family — six siblings and cousins currently share responsibilities at the winery.

This wine is vinified in stainless steel for about nine days, then passed through the warm Amarone grape skins, in the typical "Ripasso" method, for about 12 days. This process, only employed in particular years, imparts a rich character and personality to the wine.

Subtle black cherry, boysenberry, pekoe tea leaf and dried thyme are structured by tangy acidity and supple tannins, with aromatic ground spices and tea rose notes on the finish.

Delicious.

\$52**TOMMASI***Amarone della Valpolicella 2020***Cépage:**

Corvina, Corvinone, Rondinella, Oseleta



Founded in 1902, Tommasi has become a reference point of Italian enology in the world. Today Tommasi continues to be a family-owned winery, now in its fourth generation.

The heart of the winery is the big cellar in the center of Valpolicella Classico. From the first vineyard, Tommasi winery has constantly increased its production and today owns about 100 hectares of vineyards located in some of the best areas for the production of Valpolicella grapes.

Tommasi's Amarone is a benchmark for the traditional style of this iconic wine, emphasizing elegance, balance, and earthy complexity over sheer weight. Grapes from top plots in the Valpolicella Classica zone are dried naturally until February, concentrating their flavors. Tommasi's dedication to quality has made them a global ambassador for Amarone.

The nose reveals a tempting range of cherries and flavors of fig pie with accents of thyme, pomegranate and espresso. In the mouth it is full-bodied with good acidity, which accentuates and perpetuates the flavors. The entire tasting is enhanced with a very pleasant tannic texture, that fades towards a spicy finish of excellent persistence.

\$149

DAL FORNO ROMANO*Valpolicella 2019***Cépages:**

Corvina, Corvinone, Rondinella, Coratina, Oseleta

The Dal Forno family has been making wine since 1983. Established by Romano dal Forno, the winery is now run by his son Marco, with his father Romano always by his side as a guide. Located in Val D'Illasi, the estate has 34 hectares of vineyards, each planted with traditional indigenous varieties.

Made from hand-selected grapes, this wine undergoes a unique drying process, similar to (but not as long as) Amarone, which intensifies its flavors. The result is a wine with rich, ripe fruit aromas, complex spices, and a touch of balsamic notes. What makes this wine unique is its innovative approach to the Valpolicella tradition, offering a balance of intensity, elegance, and aging potential.

A super-intense and perfumed wine with aromas of vibrant plums, restrained blood oranges, sweet spices, cloves, coconut, gardenias, milk and fresh mint. Full-bodied and smooth, with velvety, elegant tannins, great density and long, refreshing and balancing acidity. Sleek finish of graphite and licorice. Despite its concentration and dry extract, it shows lightness on the palate.

This is one of the greatest wines of the region!

\$290**THE MANY FACETS OF VALPOLICELLA**

Valpolicella is a wine region east of Lake Garda that has produced some of Italy's most famous reds. The Valpolicella region has been producing prestigious wines in Italy since the time of Ancient Greece. There are several different styles of wines made here. Here is a brief guide to help explain the differences.

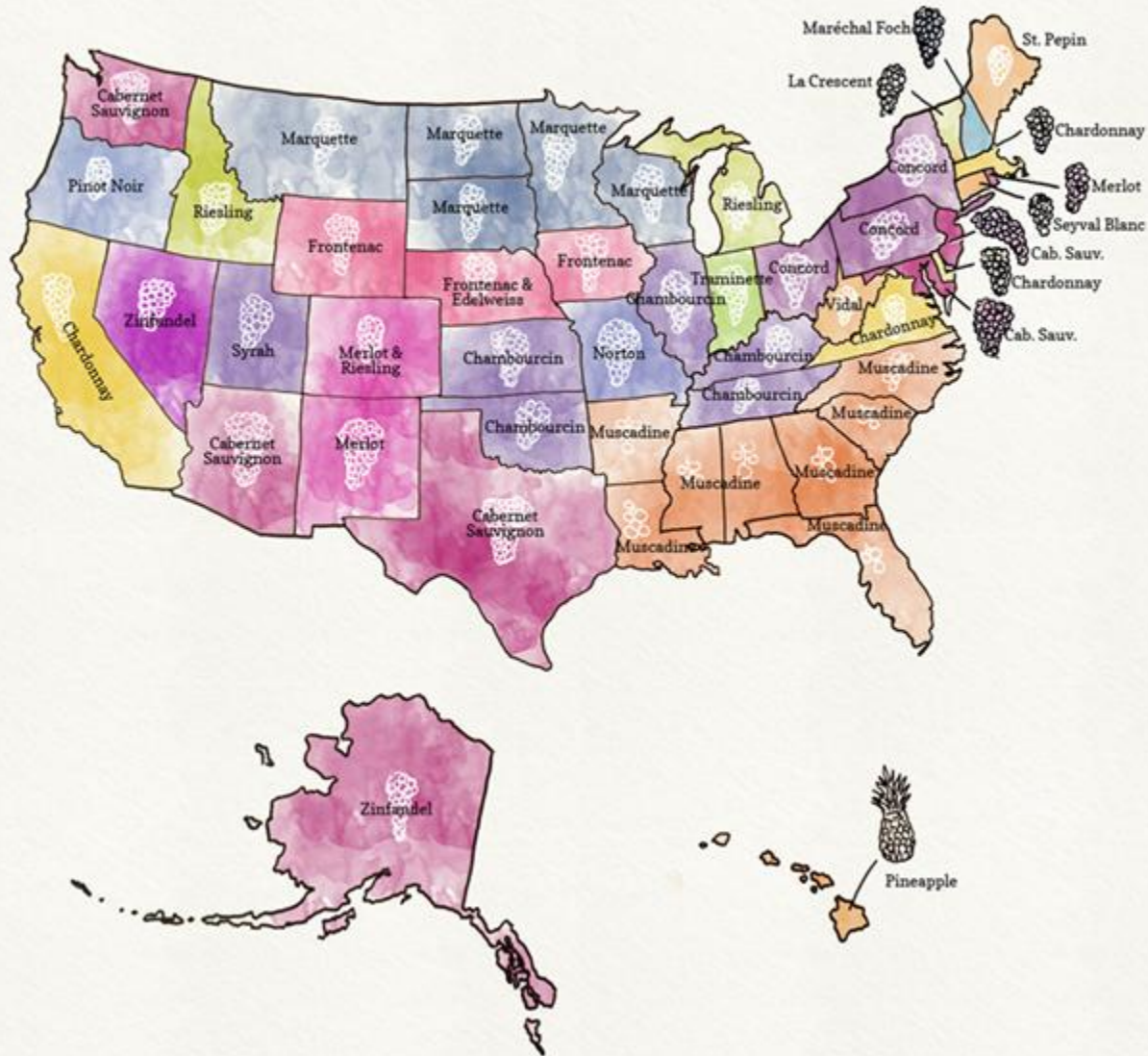
Valpolicella – The most widely recognized style, and the basis for which all other styles of Valpolicella are formed. The wines are light and fruity, and make great quaffing wines. Valpolicella wines typically have bright aromas and sour cherry flavors.

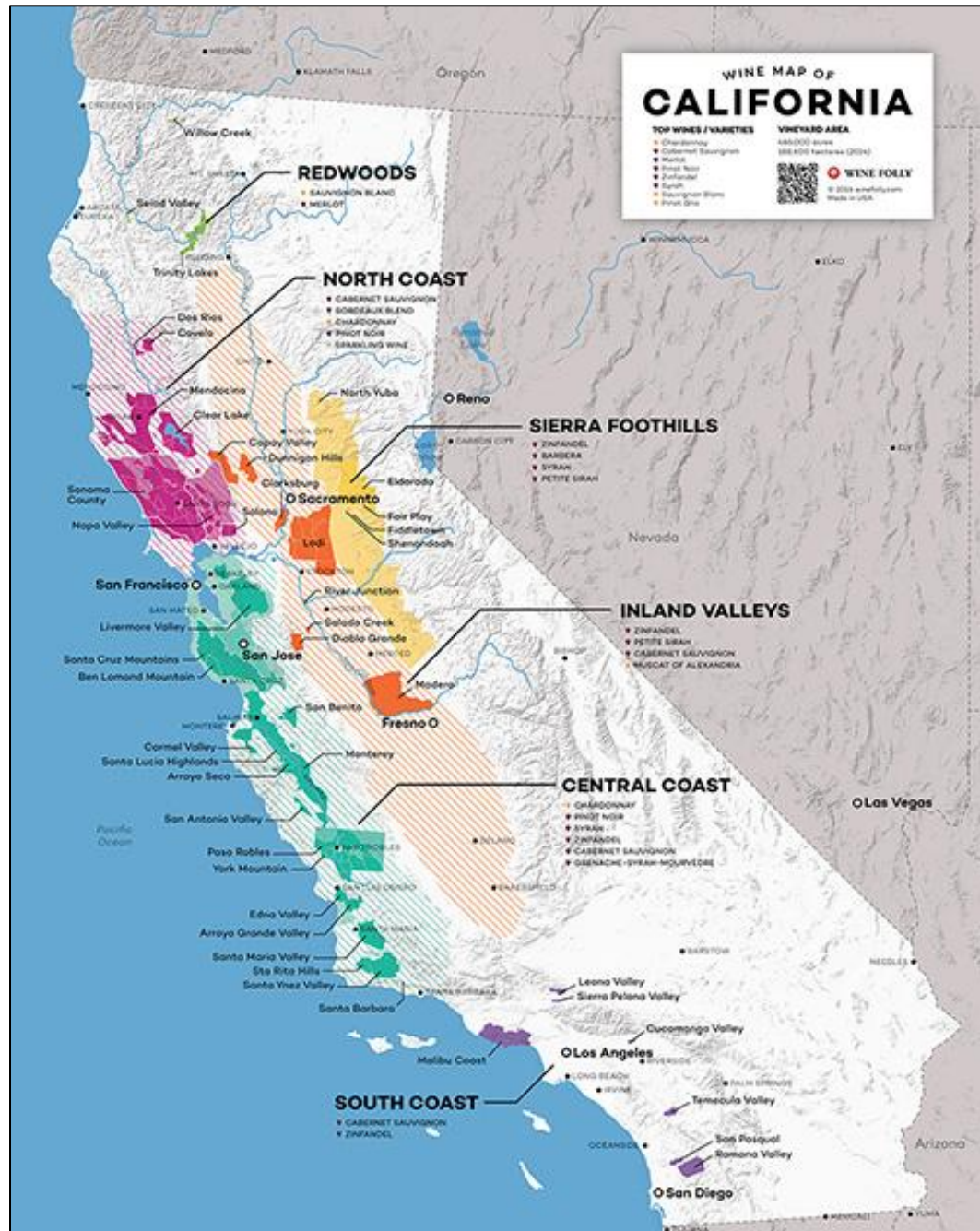
Ripasso – Ripasso literally means 're-passed.' The wines gain added flavor by starting with the Valpolicella wine, then adds a second fermentation that using the pomace - the leftover grape skins that remain after the grapes are pressed from a pressing of Amarone. By doing this second fermentation, this style of wine has raisin-like notes that give it a fuller, richer flavor. The result is a sort of 'baby Amarone.'

Amarone – 'Amarone' translates to 'big bitter' but that name is somewhat deceptive. This style has concentrated flavors of dark fruit and raisins. This is achieved by drying the grapes on mats or hanging them from rafters for extended periods (up to several months) after harvest. Known as the *appassimento* process, the dried fruit concentrates the flavors and sugars, and the result is a wine with big flavor and higher alcohol levels. These are fantastic cold weather wines, and are perfect pairings for heartier winter cuisines.

Recioto – These are exceedingly rare to find. This is a dessert wine made from dried grapes. The method is similar to the process for used for Amarone, however this fruit is dried for up to 200 days! Just like in an Amarone, this further concentrates the flavors and sugars. The dried grapes are then used to produce this wine but the fermentation is halted before all of the sugar is converted to alcohol. This results in a very sweet wine that still retains its natural acidity.

50 STATES OF WINE





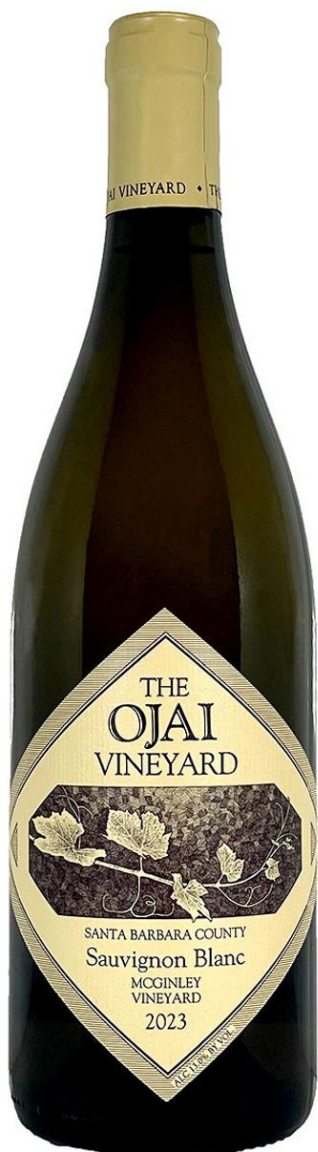
OJAI*McGinley Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley 2023***Cépage:**

Sauvignon Blanc

Owner/Winemaker Adam Tolmach is one of California's true greats. Although he is nearly a hermit, his wines are enjoyed globally.

Adam graduated from UC Davis in California with a wine-making degree, yet instead of seeking a winemaking job, he established a roadside stand selling corn and melons! Although satisfying to sell from his farm in Ojai, ultimately it was not a financially successful Endeavor. Undeterred, Adam returned to his winemaking roots, taking a job at Zaca Mes winery, where he met Jim Clendenen. The 2 went on to co-found Au Bon Climat together. Ultimately, Adam left to pursue his own winery, Ojai.

The aromatics are intense with citrus blossoms, fresh mint, kiwi, and lemon. There's great depth of fruit without compromising the flowery and herbal qualities. A burst of minerals and acidity segues into a delicate oiliness with flavors of pear, white peach, and fig. Then the wine steps on the gas with tangy yuzu, bringing nervous tension into a finish that is flecked with savory herbs and fine mineral grit.

**\$69****SPOTTSWOODE***Napa Valley 2024***Cépage:**

Sauvignon Blanc

Since 1972, Spottswoode Winery has been recognized as one of Napa Valley's benchmark cabernet producers, regularly referred to as an original "First Growth" estate from the region. Each vintage represents a true journey through time, capturing the essence of each growing season and showcasing the evolution of pure winemaking expertise. With a spot on the legendary Mayacamas Mountains, Spottswoode wine remains a treasured bottle for Napa lovers.

Situated on the western edge of St. Helena, Spottswoode's 46-acre vineyard benefits from the ideal Napa Valley terroir. The alluvial clay loam is exceptional for the mountain-grown Cabernet Sauvignon, with bits of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Sauvignon Blanc littered across the land. Organic farming is used on each terroir.

Expressive and exuberant, this wine stands out with its mouthwatering appeal. Inviting peach, white florals, and orange peel unfold immediately, with a sense of yellow pear flavors on the mid palate leading to a long finish. Succulent and juicy.

**\$107**

DIATOM*Santa Barbara* 2023**Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Diatom is a label dedicated to only Chardonnay from winemaker Greg Brewer. Greg is a huge believer in the *terroir* of Santa Barbara, and sought out vineyard sites with diatomaceous earth, to give the kind of mineral backbone typically found in wines from Chablis. Greg initially achieved renown by being partners in the Brewer-Clifton winery, and has been named 'Winemaker of the Year' by Wine Enthusiast magazine.

Diatom is motivated by the pursuit of subtraction and refinement. It is the polishing of a grain of rice until one has reached its ultimate inner core. No malolactic fermentation, no oak barrels. The essence of Santa Barbara Chardonnay.

This stunning wine leaps out of the glass, with concentrated flavors of white peach, quince and pineapple, plus floral accents of orange blossoms and lemon curd. Finishes with mouthwatering acidity, a note of crunchy sea salt minerality and a whiff of lemon verbena.

\$46**STAGLIN 'SALUS'***'Benchlands' Napa Valley* 2023**Cépage:**
Chardonnay

The Staglin Family Vineyard has a 130 year heritage of viticulture and a rich social history based on an extraordinary procession of owners through multiple generations.

In 1963 the parcel sold to the Sullivan family with marriage ties to the de Latour family who owned Beaulieu Vineyards (BV). Under the watchful eye of Andre Tchelistcheff the prune orchard on the property was removed and new vines were planted for BV's exclusive Georges de Latour Private Reserve label!

In 1985, the Staglin family purchased this historic estate on the Rutherford Bench, and has continued the legacy of this incredible place.

The Staglin Family Vineyard's Salus label produces Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay wines, named after the Roman goddess of health and well-being, with 100% of the profits donated to mental health research and research initiatives.

On the palate, this mouthwatering Chardonnay bursts with zest of Meyer lemon, crunchy starfruit, and Canary melon. As they recede, a subtle spiced honeycomb emerges and carries through the lengthy, bright finish.

\$84

CHATEAU MONTELENA*Napa Valley 2022***Cépage:**

Chardonnay



Our intent at Café des Amis has always been to focus on the best producers from each region. While in previous list we featured solely French wines, for this edition we have added some of the finest wineries of America as well.

No such list would be complete without Chateau Montelena, who literally helped put the United States on the world's wine map in 1976, during the 'Judgement of Paris.' This was a blind wine tasting held in Paris to celebrate the United State's 200th anniversary, and it pitted California wines against the best that France had to offer. French judges tasted the wines blind, and when the results were revealed, it turned out that a Napa Cabernet had bested the fines Bordeaux wines, and Chateau Montelena's 1973 Chardonnay had beaten the top white Burgundies entered in the competition. Not bad for only the second vintage they had ever made of their Chardonnay, and a wine that was initially planted to help the winery make money while they waited for their Cabernets to be ready to go to market!

And thus, the wine from California attained instant respect on the world stage.

Chateau Montelena's Chardonnay has never changed in approach or style. The wines eschew malolactic fermentation, which can often make California wines have a heavy, flabby characteristic. They were also one of the first California wineries to mature their Chardonnay in barrel, a frequent practice in Burgundy, but scoffed at my many in California at the time. This is never an overtly oak-ey or buttery style of Chardonnay, and the wines age with surprising grace.

There's tremendous purity on the nose of this wine. At the same time, it's also quite intense. Peach, apricot and kiwi drive an abundance of ripeness, which cascades into fresh cut flowers, orange blossom and cantaloupe. The citrus really comes to life here as mandarin, Meyer lemon and finally lemon verbena. While green apple, which is typically quite pronounced in Montelena wines, is somewhat overshadowed by the opulence of other flavors, expect it to become more prominent over time. However, there's certainly plenty to look forward to with notes of graham cracker, cinnamon and toast lingering beneath the surface. The finish initially leans into d'Anjou pear with some additional baking spice.

We would recommend decanting of this legendary Chardonnay.

\$162

RAMEY*'Ritchie Vineyard' Russian River Valley 2014, 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

The first impression one gets upon meeting David Ramey is that he is professorial – and that is spot on, as David can rightly be called the Professor of California Chardonnay, a winemaker who has published academic papers, pushed boundaries in the cellar and pursued the classic Burgundian techniques that are the benchmarks for Chardonnay around the world. His influence on California Chardonnay cannot be overstated.

David began his winemaking career with a Masters Degree in winemaking from California's illustrious UC Davis program, before going on to work for such luminaries as Chalk Hill, Matanzas Creek, Rudd and Dominus. Along the way, he always looked to both modern science as well as how wines had been made, particularly in Burgundy, in the past, combining the best of both to create wines that used less skin contact, barrel fermentation, *battonage* (a fancy word for stirring the yeasts in the wine used for fermentation) and whole-cluster fermentation.

While David also makes beautiful Cabernets and Syrahs, it is still Chardonnay for which he is most well-known, and Chardonnay accounts for about 60% of his entire production, ranging from 2 appellation wines (Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley) to the single vineyard wines that we feel most accentuate his personal approach to winemaking.

The iconic Ritchie Vineyard is known as one of the best Chardonnay vineyards in California that produces 'Grand Cru' quality wines. Planted in 1972 to Musque and old Wente clones of Chardonnay by the famed Kent Ritchie, this rolling hillside vineyard is located in the southern end of the Middle Reach Neighborhood at Eastside and Trenton-Healdsburg roads. The Vineyard benefits from thick morning fog from the Russian River and warm afternoon sun that produces low yielding, small highly concentrated berries that create wine with focus, intensity, complexity, and freshness acidity.

It is a pleasure to offer not just the current release, but the 2014 Chardonnay, which is fully mature and absolutely gorgeous!

RAMEY RITCHIE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY 2014 \$197

This wine shows high-toned floral notes around full-bodied richness and flavors of crème brûlée and anise. A salty accent begs for attention as a kick of citrus finishes with grace and freshness.

RAMEY RITCHIE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY 2022 \$188

A generous, abundant, gorgeous wine that's saturated with ripe peach, pear and floral aromas, then rich, creamy flavors that carry a floral touch. Acidity, richness and balance in one package.



**AUBERT***Carneros 2022***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Aubert Wines was founded by Mark and Teresa Aubert with the first vintage in 2000 focusing exclusively on Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Mark's star has been on the rise ever since he arrived in the winemaking scene, and his wines are now some of the most sought-after from California.

In 1989 he was hired by winemaker Helen Turley to work at Peter Michael Winery in Knights Valley of neighboring Sonoma County. By age 28 he was their head winemaker. In 1989 he joined Colgin and then consulted for others including Sloan, Bryant Family and Futo Estate. 2009 was the last year he consulted; he has since focused entirely on Aubert Wines.

On the palate, sweet bosc pear and crystallized ginger mingle with savory, soil-driven chrysanthemum, narcissus, and orange blossom florals. The palate unfurls in waves of orchard fruits and lemongrass, with a flinty minerality and acid backbone culminating in a long, pure finish. The complex, savory profile of this wine will continue to morph and expand well beyond a decade in the cellar, promising many years of excitement to come.

\$155**AUBERT***'CIX' Estate, Sonoma Coast 2023***Cépage:**
Chardonnay

Napa Valley native and respected vintner Mark Aubert has become a leading figure in California expression of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The small, yet highly-acclaimed estate has earned a reputation for their exquisite single vineyard expressions of these styles, cultivating a cult-like following since its inception.

CIX is the second estate vineyard that Mark and Teresa developed. The "CIX" (109) name comes from the vineyard map parcel number. CIX Estate shares its eastern fence line with their Lauren Estate, but has a different soil geology: very white soil that looks like sea salt.

The 2023 CIX is a beguilingly complex expression of site. Densely packed with aromas of apricot, persimmon, honey, and opal apple, the wine also conveys an underlying terroir of cool white ash, reminiscent of fresh rainfall among the vines. The palate is rich and enveloping, with flavors of apple galette and alpine herbs, finishing with undeniable gras and balance.

\$265

SIXTO*Washington State* 2015**Cépage:**
Chardonnay

In 2012, Charles Smith took a sharp turn from making Syrah, and started the Sixto label, named for folk singer Sixto Rodriguez. Charles was inspired by the documentary about Sixto called 'Searching for Sugarman' to create something from what was previously lost; in this case, cool-climate, high-elevation Chardonnay vineyards in Eastern Washington.

Under the Sixto label, Charles makes three single-vineyard Chardonnays. This cuvee is a blend of all three vineyards, and the wine is called 'uncovered' because there is no new oak to cover up the fruit and the *sense of place* of this Chardonnay.

The 2015 Chardonnay Uncovered is brought up in a mix of concrete and puncheons before spending 18 months in older French oak barrels. Buttered pineapple, white flowers, brioche, and some seriously ripe fruit emerge from the glass, and it's medium to full-bodied, beautifully concentrated and textured, with a terrific depth of fruit. It's impressive and showed even more freshness and purity with time in the glass.

**\$69****AU BON CLIMAT***'Hildegard' Santa Maria Valley* 2019**Cépages:**
Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Aligote

Born in 742, it was Emperor Charlemagne who commanded the planting of Pinot Noir in the famous Le Corton vineyard. Charlemagne adored the precious red wine of Le Corton, and drank some every day.

From time to time, he would spill some wine onto his flowing white beard. The resulting red stains annoyed his wife to such an extent that she demanded that he stop drinking wine.

Thus, Charlemagne demanded that part of the hill of Corton be replanted with white grapes, and the famous white wine vineyard now known as Corton-Charlemagne came to be. With white wine in hand, Charlemagne was able to drink his beloved wine again, white beard, and all!

Hildegard is Au Bon Climat's homage to Charlemagne's wife, celebrating the white grapes that were planted in Le Corton before Chardonnay became ubiquitous.

This is always a favorite wine from the late Jim Clendenen—a blend of Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc and Aligote that honors this historic tale. It's also delicious, starting with aromas of toast, wet rocks, lemon and butter. The citrus-driven yet buttered palate shows yuzu and elegant pastry flavors.

**\$89**

WEGELER*Mosel-Saar-Ruwer 2013***Cépage:**
Riesling

Weingüter Wegeler is a family-run business founded in 1882. The fourth generation of the Wegeler family continues the long tradition. Weingüter Wegeler has two winery sites on the Rhine and Mosel rivers, all of which focus on Riesling.

Julius Wegeler was a wine merchant and sparkling wine producer at Deinhard before he also established himself as a winemaker. The decision to produce wine must be seen from the perspective of a merchant and trader, based on the trading practices of the time: The quality of a wine was inextricably linked to its origin and its maturity. Young wine in today's sense was usually left on the lees for at least two winters, while outstanding vintages were kept for much longer. To make great wine, Wegeler needed not only capital, but also foresight, cool storage space and the most precious commodity of all...time.

Sourced from a jaw-dropping lineup of *Grosse Lage* (Grand Cru) sites in the golden heart of the Middle Mosel, now over a decade old, this bottle is well on its way to apotheosis. It boasts incredible complexity: A mesmerizing nose leads to a palate of exotic flavors and knife-edge balance. We can't get enough of it.

\$67**IDDA***Mt. Etna, Italy 2022***Cépage:**
Carricante

One of the most breathtaking sites for viticulture in the world, Mount Etna is also one of the most active volcanoes in the world. IDDA is a joint venture between Angelo Gaja and Alberto Graci on Mount Etna that started in 2016. The Graci family is a prominent winemaker in the region. The vineyards are located on the southern slope of the volcano, with a wide range of altitudes, exposures and soil types.

'IDDA' means "she" in the Sicilian dialect, which is the term local residents use to refer to the Etna volcano.

Sourced from vines in Biancavilla, on Etna's southwest slope between 700-800m, and in Belpasso, on the southern slope between 600-700m, IDDA Bianco is vinified and aged in a combination of stainless steel and 10hl barrels, it has a fine, smoky, flinty nose with wafts of peach, mango and white flowers. In the mouth it's intense and vertical, with juicy sapidity and great acidity defining its edges. Subtly textured and zingy, there's peach, citrus peel, honey, lime juice and white flowers to be found, ending with a gentle stoniness.

\$150

MORET-BREALYNN*Santa Lucia Highlands 2024***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Morét Brealynn is a California born Mexican-American who started in hospitality at the tasting rooms of Silver Oak Cellars and Twomey. She then took a marketing position at Kosta Browne where she organized all winemaker and principal involvement in national and local events. Eventually, Moret transitioned into making her own wine, beginning with the 2021 vintage.

As one of California's few female, Hispanic, millennial winemakers, Morét's journey is just beginning. In addition to crafting her own wines, she co-produces the highly acclaimed Dial Tone and Busy Signal Wines and consults alongside Adam Lee for notable wineries.

Morét also serves on the Board as Programs Director for Wine Women, a nonprofit organization that creates programs, events, and creative opportunities to promote women in their wine industry careers.

A light shade of magenta in the glass, this offers hibiscus, cherry and juicy berry aromas on the nose. There's ample texture to the palate, where cranberry, pomegranate and more hibiscus flavors arise.

**\$59****EBERLE***'Vineyard Selection' Paso Robles 2022***Cépage:**
Cabernet Sauvignon

It's safe to say that without Gary Eberle, the Paso Robles appellation in California would not exist.

Affectionately known as the 'Godfather' of the Paso Robles wine region, Eberle's contributions to the California and U.S. wine trade are significant. Eberle was the first to place the Paso Robles AVA designation on the Eberle Winery Cabernet Sauvignon label and he subsequently co-founded the distinctive Paso Robles terroir as an American Viticulture Area (AVA) in 1983.

The grapes for Eberle's 'Vineyard Selection' Cabernet Sauvignon are sourced from several vineyards throughout the Paso Robles AVA including their Estate vineyard. These vineyards showcase the diversity and quality of the Paso Robles terroir.

This classic Paso Cab still shines, offering fresh aromas of blackberry, loam, graphite, purple flower and woodspice on the nose. The palate snaps with fresh lilac flavors, staying high-toned and floral into the finish.

**\$59**



MINER

Napa Valley 2019

Cépage:
Cabernet Sauvignon

Miner is a dynamic family-owned winery tucked along the eastern hills of the Oakville appellation in the heart of Napa Valley. Founded in 1998 by Dave and Emily Miner, Miner Family Winery crafts reserve-style wines by sourcing fruit from Napa Valley and other specially selected California vineyards.

Under Dave Miner's ownership, and with the expertise of winemaker Michelle Shafir, Miner Family Winery has become synonymous with artisanal blends and sustainable practices.

The Napa Valley appellation Cabernet Sauvignon shows impressive depth, richness and refinement on the palate. Generous black fruit flavors are accented by hints of dried herb, mocha and cedar against a backdrop of plush tannins. The bold flavors or an aged sirloin or roast rack of lamb pair well with this quintessential Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon.

\$78



CATERWAUL

Napa Valley 2023

Cépage:
Cabernet Sauvignon

Caterwaul is a joint project between two friends, Matthew Harding and Thomas Rivers- Brown. Matthew is one of the top grape growers in California, and Thomas is one of the most sought-after winemakers in California, with a plethora of perfect 100-point scores for his wines.

While Thomas gets most of the headlines for the Caterwaul wines, Matthew is equally important – as a long-time grower and consulting in Napa Valley, he knows where all the best vineyards are, and has the contacts to get fruit from them.

The duo has created another crowd-pleaser with loads of fruit layered amongst more serious notes of heavy oak and spices. Sourced from numerous vineyards around the Napa Valley. Dense purple color, full bodied and rich with baking spices and polished tannins. A wine critic's darling with all of the chewy fruit-driven flavors which are balanced by just enough cocoa powder and silky textured tannins.

\$123

MERRYVALE*Napa Valley 2021***Cépage:**

Cabernet Sauvignon



The first vintage of Merryvale was 1983, a Cabernet Sauvignon based blend, called Sunny St. Helena, at the time. The estate was founded by Bill Harlan and several real estate partners. Founding winemaker Bob Levy would go on to form what would become one of the valley's most prominent long term winemaking relationships with Bill Harlan for Harlan Estate, BOND, Promontory and The Napa Reserve.

By 1986, Bill Harlan and his partners purchased the old Sunny St. Helena winery and grounds. (Several of the first Harlan Estate wines were produced at Merryvale.) By 1991 the winery changed its name from Sunny St. Helena to Merryvale Vineyards. The current owners, the Schlatter family, became partners in 1991 and by 1996 became the sole owners of Merryvale.

This elegant and compact wine has gorgeous savory notes of tobacco and wild sage woven through layers of black cherry, blackberry, and spiced plum. Medium- to full-bodied, it is exceptionally pure and precise, with polished, superfine tannins that lay a firm and compact foundation. Beautifully balanced, this Cabernet is easy to enjoy thanks to the integrity and refinement of its tannin structure.

\$141**MATTHIASSEN***Napa Valley 2022***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Merlot



Steve Matthiasson refers to himself alternately as a hippie, or a punk-rock farmer. What is evident when talking to Steve, walking the vineyards with him seeing his grapes, and especially in tasting his wines, is that the man is a genius. Or a wizard.

The Napa Cabernet bottling is all from fruit that Steve farms around the valley. As great a winemaker he is, Steve is mostly sought out as a vineyard consultant, especially amongst wineries who are interested in organic and sustainable viticulture. Not surprising that Steve is the Hot Ticket in this regard, giving that he literally wrote the book on sustainable agriculture in California.

Despite coming from a very warm year, the Matthiasson never feels hot or overblown. Not surprising as it clocks in at only 13% alcohol, yet is perfectly ripe and balanced, and it stays true to its character, showcasing beautifully pure black cherry and blue fruit aromatics, with a cooling menthol note coiled energy. Framed by crisp, crunchy tannins and gorgeous, lacy acidity, to an impressively long finish of violets and fragrant bay laurel. Precise and focused.

\$185

RIVERS-MARIE*Napa Valley 2022***Cépage:**

Cabernet Sauvignon



Rivers-Marie is owned and operated by husband and wife, winemaker Thomas Brown and Genevieve Welsh. The name comes from combining both of their middle names. For years, the wines have been primarily sold through their allocation list with very limited domestic distribution, and, as such, availability of these wines is very limited.

This bottling has consisted of new sites, declassified barrels from single vineyard wines and vineyards that fell out of contract along the way. It's a diverse mix but the common thread is there has always been a minimum of 4 sub-AVAs represented in every edition of the Napa Valley Cabernet, giving a broad geographic view into the vintage as a whole.

Rich, heady and explosive, the 2022 offers up an exotic mélange of ripe red/purplish fruit, rose petal, lavender, mint, spice and sweet oak. The purity of the flavors is just remarkable. Thomas Rivers Brown makes wine for a number of elite projects in Napa Valley. The straight Napa Valley Cabernet captures the essence of his style at an affordable price. It's a jewel of a wine.

\$231**SPOTTSWOODE***'Estate' Napa Valley 2022***Cépage:**

Cabernet Sauvignon



Since 1972, Spottswode Winery has been recognized as one of Napa Valley's benchmark cabernet producers, regularly referred to as an original "First Growth" estate from the region. Each vintage represents a true journey through time, capturing the essence of each growing season and showcasing the evolution of pure winemaking expertise. With a spot on the legendary Mayacamas Mountains, Spottswode wine remains a treasured bottle for Napa lovers.

Situated on the western edge of St. Helena, Spottswode's 46-acre vineyard benefits from the ideal Napa Valley terroir. The alluvial clay loam is exceptional for the mountain-grown Cabernet Sauvignon, with bits of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Sauvignon Blanc littered across the land. Organic farming is used on each terroir.

Attractive red berry fruit is laced with leather and sandalwood, nuanced by perfumed rose petals and cedar spice. It is medium-bodied on the palate and features lithe tannins that grip the finish with building intensity. A wine of brightness and energy, with savory layers adding depth and complexity.

\$520

CHATEAU MONTELENA*Estate Cabernet Napa Valley 2010, 2011, 2014, 2019, 2021***Cépages:**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot

Chateau Montelena's tradition of excellence started in 1882 when California State Senator and San Francisco entrepreneur Alfred Tubbs founded the winery and set out to make world-class wines. In 1972, James Barrett, a real estate attorney from Los Angeles, purchased the property with the intent to revitalize Chateau Montelena.

After James' passing in 2013, his son Bo Barrett assumed leadership and the family-owned winery has remained true to its philosophy to "make the best. Period."

While Chateau Montelena's Chardonnay might be what put them on the world stage in the 'Judgement of Paris' in 1976, the Estate Cabernet has always been the focus for the winery. In fact, their Chardonnay was only planted to supplement the winery's income while they waited for their Cabernets to be mature enough to send to market.

**CHATEAU MONTELENA ESTATE CABERNET NAPA VALLEY 2010 \$469**

The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate offers up glimpses of crushed blackberry, red plums and wild blueberries notes with touches of pencil shavings, dried Mediterranean herbs and forest floor.

CHÂTEAU MONTELENA ESTATE CABERNET NAPA VALLEY 2011 \$469

The 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate is gracious and impeccable in its balance. Dark cherry, plum, lavender, cloves and licorice are all very nicely layered.

CHÂTEAU MONTELENA ESTATE CABERNET NAPA VALLEY 2014 \$469

It offers a beautiful, elegant, yet concentrated style in its crème de cassis, licorice, tobacco leaf, graphite and mineral aromatics.

CHÂTEAU MONTELENA ESTATE CABERNET NAPA VALLEY 2019 \$379

Fresh and lively with savory dill and bay leaf notes and a tremendous chalky texture that envelopes a core of bright, concentrated berries. Perfectly tart blackberries, smoky clove, and white pepper provide brightness and spice.

CHÂTEAU MONTELENA ESTATE CABERNET NAPA VALLEY 2021 \$379

The 2021 vintage, marked by ideal growing conditions, yields a Cabernet with vibrant aromas of black currant, cedar, and subtle floral notes. On the palate, concentrated dark fruit flavors are balanced by fine tannins and a lingering finish.



PEAY

West Sonoma Coast 2023

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Brothers Nick and Andy Peay, as well as winemaker Vanessa Wong, own Peay Vineyards. Their vineyard is one of the most special places in the country; a rolling plot just a few miles from the ocean that benefits from the cooling winds off of the Pacific.

This is a marginal climate, and the biggest problem the Peays have is getting enough fruit ripe to be a viable winery. A Napa Producer might proudly tell you they limit their harvest to 3 to 4 tons of fruit per acre; Peay Vineyard produces only a fraction of that much wine - there are typically less than 1,500 cases a year made of this wine.

But what a wonderful wine this is! This West Sonoma Coast bottling might be their 'entry level' Pinot Noir, but the fruit is all from their estate, using 100% free-run juice.

Bold, racy and punchy, with terrific energy, the 2023 is a delight. Red/purplish fruit, lavender, rose petal, mint and orange peel are all front and center. Clean mineral notes frame the long, nuanced finish.

\$129



CLARICE WINE CO

'Rosella's Vineyard' Santa Lucia Highlands 2023

Cépage:
Pinot Noir

Adam Lee goes from strength to strength. He and Dianna Novy founded the Siduri winery in 1994, and he became known as one of the top Pinot Noir producers in California. After selling Siduri to the Jackson Wine Company, he started the Clarice Wine Co.

Instead of looking at individual blocks and clones of Pinot Noir, Adam began to look at the vineyard as one complete entity. This made the most sense with properties such as Garys' Vineyard and Rosella's Vineyard with which he had considerable familiarity and where the vines had matured. Adam purchases grapes from selected areas of both vineyards by the acre rather than by the ton. This allows him to work with Gary and Mark to determine farming and yield preferences.

Floral and pretty on the nose, the 2023 Pinot Noir Rosella's Vineyard is a beautiful wine, with a strength of grippy tannin that will unfurl well over time. Purple plum, gravelly wet stone, and even a hint of sea spray give it an intriguing mid-palate of medium-bodied richness and girth, finishing with abundant freshness and grace.

\$179

KOSTA-BROWNE*Sonoma Coast 2023***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Kosta Browne is one of California's premier boutique wineries, best known for its Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir. The small winery was founded in 1997 by partners Dan Kosta and Michael Browne, whose business savvy and perseverance catapulted Kosta Browne into national recognition. With a Wine Spectator 'Wine of the Year' award under its belt and new vineyard acquisitions in Burgundy, Sta. Rita Hills, Russian River Valley, and more, Kosta Browne Winery is an estate that wine enthusiasts have been keen on collecting.

The Sonoma Coast appellation bottling is Kosta-Browne's calling card, and is comprised of fruit from Gap's Crown, Marshall, Pratt-Sexton, Crane Canyon, Thorn Ridge and Pepperwood – all top-flight vineyards within the Sonoma Coast.

Floral and cedar notes weave through layers of wild blueberry and crushed red plum, with a subtle hint of eucalyptus. The palate unfolds with black currant and raspberry, framed by refined structure, while hints of black tea and cinnamon add depth to a graceful, lingering finish.

\$235**OJAI***Santa Barbara County 2016***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Adam Tolmach graduated with a winemaking degree from UC Davis in California in 1976, and did what any young man would do with a winemaking degree... he opened a roadside fruit stand on his grandfather's property. Realizing that this was unlikely to be a financially successful endeavor, he put his degree to work at Zaca Mesa winery, where he met Jim Clendenen. A few years later, the duo co-founded Au Bon Climat. Adam had also started his own project, Ojai, in 1983.

The Santa Barbara bottling is made from lots of Pinot from Kick On Vineyard, Bien Nacido Vineyard, Puerta del Mar Vineyard and Solomon Hills Vineyard. These are some of the top sites with which Adam works, making this wine a tremendous value.

The 2016 Pinot Noir from The Ojai Vineyard reveals aromas of plums, raspberries, potpourri and sweet spices. On the palate, it's supple, open-knit and medium-bodied, with mouthwatering acids and melting tannins behind its generous core of fruit.

\$99

AU BON CLIMAT*'Knox Alexander' Santa Maria 2016, 2017***Cépage:**

Pinot Noir

Jim Clendenen, the co-founder of Au Bon Climat, was most of the most influential winemakers in California, and helped train the next several generations of vigneron in the Santa Barbara area. While he sadly passed away a few years ago, his influence is still felt today, in terms of winemakers producing wines of lower alcohol, that are meant to work with food and to age well. Jim's style never changed, even when fashions did, and his wines are revered around the globe.

Our personal favorite wines from this estate are Jim's 'Blue Label' wines, which carry significant names on the front label. In this case, Knox Alexander is named for Jim's son, and it is made from the best lots that Au Bon Climat harvests each year from Bien Nacido vineyard and Jim's own estate vineyard, Le Bon Climat.

These are structured, age-worthy wines that we bought on release, and are putting them on the wine list now that they are ready to drink. They will still benefit from being decanted.

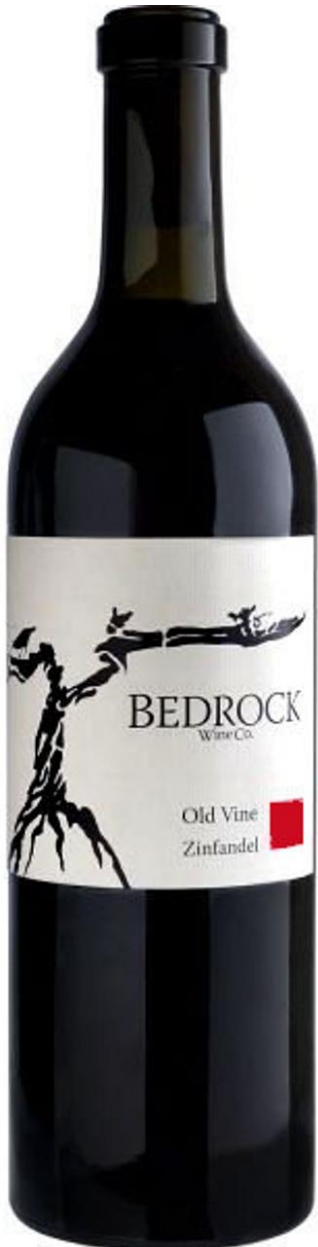
AU BON CLIMAT 'KNOX ALEXANDER' 2016 \$99

Powerful, rich and also quite tannic, the 2016 is going to need at least a few years in bottle to fully come together. Even in the early going, though, it is very clearly a special wine with tremendous promise.

AU BON CLIMAT 'KNOX ALEXANDER' 2017 \$99

Another complex, meaty, savory Pinot Noir in the lineup, it offers loads of spiced cherry and redcurrant fruits as well as brambly herbs, underbrush, cured meats, and leather-like aromas and flavors.



BEDROCK*Sonoma County 2023***Cépage:**
Pinot Noir

Morgan Twain-Peterson is a winemaker's winemaker. His winery makes its home on the Bedrock vineyard, planted in 1888. Morgan has literally made wine since he was 6 years old. He and his father used to bottle his wine and sold it to local restaurants under the name 'Vino Bambino Pinot.'

It helps when your father is the inimitable Joel Peterson, who was the founder of the Ravenswood winery, one of California's most important Zinfandel producers!

As always, Morgan does not call this Zinfandel 'Old Vines' for nothing; the average age of the vines with this release is over 80 years, hailing from dry-farmed, head-pruned vines from the Bedrock vineyard, as well as Sodini Ranch on Limerick Lane in Healdsburg, Teldeschi Ranch in Dry Creek, and Evangelho Vineyard in Contra Costa County.

The nose opens to bright peppery spice, fresh cut flowers, and black raspberries, with deeper notes of fresh sanguine earth coming through. The palate is full-bodied yet restrained, with a detailed structure and length with a mountainous feel.

\$51**ONCE & FUTURE***'Oakley Road' Contra Costa County 2021***Cépage:**
Zinfandel

Joel Peterson is the Godfather of Zinfandel in California. At one point, the winery he founded, Ravenswood, produced about a third of all Zin that people were drinking! Wanting to get make back to making smaller lots of wine, Joel sold Ravenswood, waited until his non-compete expired, then dusted off his trustworthy old Redwood tanks, purchased the Bedrock vineyard (where his son Morgan takes the name of his winery), and started up the Once & Future winery.

While Joel was ahead of most of his peers in terms of Zinfandel, it was actually his son Morgan, as well as Teagan Passalacqua of Sandlands & Turley, who showed the way in Contra Costa County. Joel was impressed enough with their wines that he headed down to the Oakley Road vineyard, planted in several dozen meters of sand, and began to make wine from this incredibly special place.

An elegant, lovely wine, the mouthfeel is very nicely balanced and almost silky smooth. The flavor profile is a tasty red plum and herbal tea blend with notes of spice and black cherry. We also detected hints of orange zest and anise. The finish is dry and its dusty tannins build-up and linger for quite some time.

\$61

K VINTNERS*'Motor City Kitty' Yakima Valley 2021***Cépage:**
Syrah

In the space of just over 20 years, Charles Smith has gone from producing a few barrels of Syrah in his garage and selling them out of the back of his van, to being an icon in Washington State, and he is now one of the largest producers there. When this wine was created, Charles was only making three wines and had to figure out what to call this particular Syrah. So, Charles, how did the name come about?

'Considering I only made single vineyard Syrah, like I still do, I didn't know what to write on the barrel,' he laughed. "Well, resting on one of the barrels was my cat, a tabby. She had an 'M' on her forehead, so I'd named her Motor City Kitty 'cause she was such a rock & roll cat. I wrote her name on that barrel so I wouldn't forget which one it was, and thus the wine was named for my very Detroit tabby cat, MCK.'

The aromas leap out of the glass. Wet earth, tapenade, green peppercorns, volcanic ash and tea leaves. Hints of orange peel. It's electric on the palate, so savory, so earthy and so minerally, with stemmy and tea-like tannins. The freshness and energy are astounding, and the finish just keeps going.

\$86**ALBAN***'Reva' Edna Valley 2019***Cépage:**
Syrah

When you look at the Rhone Rangers of California the godfather in most people's opinion is none other than John Alban. John is the owner, winemaker, and viticulturist at Alban Vineyards, established in 1986. He has been a key leader in the American Rhône movement, introducing Roussanne and Grenache Noir to California.

The grapes that go into Reva (97-100% Syrah with the balance Viognier) are from neutral sandy soils and portions of ranch that are chalky and quite alkaline. This combination makes for a wine with dark color, concentrated flavors of black fruits, fennel, and graphite. Perhaps the most distinguishing note of Reva is a unique iodine and oyster shell aromatic that is unlike anything in Alban's other Syrahs.

Unabashedly powerful yet visceral and alluring, John Alban's Syrah is a benchmark expression of the sun-drenched intensity of the maritime Edna Valley in San Luis Obispo. Smoky, spicy swirls of raspberry preserve, leather and sweet tobacco meld into a palate that's profoundly ripe yet lively and fresh, struck by layers of dusty graphite, ore and iodine.

\$253

CHATEAU GUIRAUD 'PETIT GUIRAUD'

Sauternes 2020

Cépages:

Semillon, Muscadelle, Sauvignon Blanc



Throughout its history, Chateau Guiraud has always been proud of its independence and has always followed its own path. This domain, with its 128 hectares situated exclusively around the village of Sauternes and its unique combination of grape varieties, is one of the rare properties in France to have created its own conservatory of vine stock varieties.

The accessibility of everyday luxury is Petit Guiraud's greatest quality. Vinified with the estate's Grand Vin, this second wine of Chateau Guiraud is produced on dedicated plots and comes from vine plants grown in the estate's conservatory. Partially aged in barrels, it stands out for its freshness and drinkability.

After an initial fresh, lemony nose, notes of dried apricot and pink grapefruit develop and pink grapefruit develop. The palate is airy, delicate and very zesty, inviting you to take a second sip. This wine is pure indulgence for totally uninhibited drinking.

\$10.00/2oz pour
\$60/bottle

QUINTA DOS PESOS

Carcavelos 1991

Cépages:

Arinto, Gallega Dourado, Ratinho



Carcavelos (pronounced 'cahr-kuh-VAY-lohsh') is a *Vinho Generoso*, a style of fortified wine similar to Tawny Port. But, to us, it is much more interesting.

Carcavelos is a region in Portugal, just outside of Lisbon, that almost ceased to be; until recently, there was only one winery left, and the entire appellation is just 25 hectares! In fact, the Quinto dos Pesos winery itself long ago ceased to be, when it's founder, Manoel de Belosa suddenly passed away. Manoel had purchased the property in 1963, then spent twenty years reinvigorating the vineyards. In 2005, after releasing just a few vintages, the winery closed its doors. Until recently its barrels remained untouched, not even topped off.

This wine is a piece of history, a 30 year old bottle of magic that reminds us of an aged Tawny Port, with the acidity and citrus notes from a Madiera. Caramel, hazelnut, chocolate, plum and raspberry notes flow throughout.

Try this before it is all gone... forever.

\$16.00/2oz pour

CHATEAU GUIRAUD*Sauternes Premier Grand Cru Classé 2009, 2015***Cépages:**

Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc

As the neighbor to Château d'Yquem, Château Guiraud Premier Cru epitomizes Sauternes greatness at a very modest price. Very few other First Growths from Sauternes and Barsac come close to offering this much value.

Originally known as La Maison Noble du Bayle, the estate earned its name, and its fame, when it was owned by the Guiraud family in 1766. At the time of the 1855 Classification, the wines were sold under the name of Chateau Bayle.

The true modern era for the estate started in 2006 when Chateau Guiraud was purchased by a partnership formed by Robert Peugeot and three well-known Bordeaux winemakers and chateau owners, Olivier Bernard of Domaine de Chevalier, Stephan Von Neipperg who owns numerous St. Emilion properties including Canon La Gaffeliere, La Mondotte and Clos de l'Oratoire and Xavier Planty.

At Guiraud, history and tradition are seamlessly integrated with modern approaches to viticulture and winemaking. In the 1990s, co-owner and manager Xavier Planty began applying organic and biodynamic practices in the vineyard. Later, the estate would become the first classified growth in Bordeaux to be certified organic.

CHATEAU GUIRAUD SAUTERNES 2009 \$150

The 2009 Guiraud has a complex, precocious bouquet with honeysuckle and jasmine notes, hints of dried honey and white peach. It is tightly wound but very precise. The palate is pure and tense in the mouth – great precision here once again with superbly integrated oak and a lovely, seductive, very viscous botrytis-laden finish. Opulent, hedonistic...just wow.

This was Wine Spectator's #5 wine in the 2012 Top 100 list. And it is just getting better.

CHATEAU GUIRAUD SAUTERNES 2015 \$85/375ML HALF BOTTLE

Lots of baking spices, with lemon meringue and baked apple notes. Full-bodied, with cream, vanilla and powerful aromas of tropical fruit and honey. Long, viscous, and balanced in terms of sweetness.



DOMAINE DES BAUMARD*Quarts de Chaume 1967***Cépage:**
Chenin Blanc

Domaine des Baumard's Quarts de Chaume is renowned the world over as the greatest example of this small, 110 acre vineyard (of which Baumard owns 15 acres) acknowledged as the "Grand Cru" of the Loire Valley. The sweet wines from this subregion of what is known as the Coteaux de Layon are from vineyards planted along the Layon river. The perfectly exposed vineyards allow the Chenin Blanc grape to ripen perfectly in most years, often enriched by the development of botrytis. Always long-lived, in great vintages this wine can be almost immortal, improving for decades.

This bottle of 1967 Quarts de Chaume was recorked in 2002. It offers a singular bouquet of caramelized citrus, white truffle, browned sugar and honey. Deep, ripe, unctuous and powerful, yet with vibrant acidity, it's an incredible dessert wine.

This is a rare and incredible bottling, and we were pleased to be able to source a few bottles of it for the restaurant!

\$400**CHATEAU D'YQUEM***Sauternes 2009***Cépages:**
Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc

Chateau d'Yquem, a name that resonates with connoisseurs and collectors alike, holds the prestigious status of Premier Cru Superieur in the Sauternes appellation of Bordeaux, France. This exclusive classification places it in a league of its own, alongside the finest wines in the world. Among its fellow Premier Cru Superieur estates, Chateau d'Yquem stands as a beacon of excellence, unrivaled in its commitment to producing liquid gold. This great 2009 vintage received a perfect 100 point score from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:

"The 2009 Chateau d'Yquem is one showstopper of a wine and perhaps it is only in a vertical that you realize this is up there among the legendary wines of the past – the 2001 included. It has a wonderful nose that expresses the Semillon component majestically: heady aromas of lemon curd, nectarine, jasmine and honeysuckle that all gain momentum in the glass. The oak is supremely well-integrated. The palate is extremely well-balanced with an unctuous entry. You are immediately knocked sideways by the palpable weight and volume in the mouth, which is almost "bulbous," with layer upon layer of heavily botrytized fruit. It builds to a spicy finish with hints of marzipan and pralines in the background that lend it an untrammled sense of exoticism.

\$750 375ml half bottle