

T H E
W I N E R Y

May Tasting 08.05.19

SPARKLING

Walter's Royal Riesling Sekt Brut NV, Walter (Mosel/Germany) 19.99

Gerrit Walter was an intern with us in the summer of 2009 and went back home to help with the harvest before heading back to Geisenheim, the top Wine Uni in the country. His entry-level Riesling trocken is a long-time staple at The Winery - our "gateway" dry Riesling. Here is his mouth-filling Sekt - 100% Riesling from the perilously steep, slate vineyards of the small village of Briedel between Pünderich and Zell. Why's it called Royal? "It was my Dad's idea, pretty much from when they started making Sekt 20 years ago. No reason - just a whim!"

WHITE

Hahnenschrittchen Riesling Spätlese trocken 2017, Steffens-Kess (Mosel/Germany) BIO 18.99

Full name: Burger Hahnenschrittchen Riesling Spätlese trocken 2017

Harald is friend and neighbour of Thorsten Melsheimer in the village of Reil on the Mosel. "I'm the one who filled out the forms and got Thorsten to sign up for Bio" he says. The Hahnenschrittchen (*roosters' little steps*) is from vines in Burg, on the opposite bank to Reil, which is generally more sun-favoured. He makes his wines in a leaner, nervier style with all the whiff of slate that we love from the Mosel. "I want to make a wine that when you finish one bottle you want to open another...and another".

One time we visited Harald at the end of February and the then recent high water was a topic along the valley. "It was high this year, but not as high as 1993 when I put my boat in the cellar and gave rides to my kids and their friends. I was in waders in the freezing water. Brrrr. They still talk about it!"



Saint-Véran 2017, Thierry Drouin (Burgundy/France) 19.99

If you find yourself on the Autoroute driving south towards Lyon and you look right as you pass Macon, you will spot two magnificent cliff-shaped rocks; the Roche de Vergisson and the Roche de Solutré. It is difficult not to be impressed by their primal presence. La Roche de Solutré is a protected, pre-historic site used by human civilisations from 35,000-10,000 BC. Pre-historic humans used the rock for hunting, driving herds of wild horses over the edge of the cliff. Lovely. Its profile was raised in the 1980s by France's then President, Francois Mitterand, who would make an annual ritual ascent to the summit.

Less than 2km away, as the crow (or pterodactyl) flies, is La Roche de Vergisson, a rock with a friendlier history. Between the two is an amphitheatre-like bowl which cradles the vineyards of Pouilly-Fuissé. Slap bang in the middle of the bowl with a view of both rocks is the Drouin family's home and winery. Thierry Drouin and his son Charles split the workload.

This wine comes from a pure south-facing slope with a 45% gradient. It gets hot: the vineyard is called La Côte Rôtie (the roasted slope) - not to be confused with the famous Rhône red that carries the same name. It is the first vineyard to be harvested each year. The wine spends 7 months on its fine lees in mainly used oak barrels. The Drouins always use oak very carefully - it never dominates. The wine's aroma is evocative of hazelnuts, honey and lemon meringue. Saint-Véran is the wine they make in the smallest volume and, when we visited, we were so taken with the latest vintage that we ordered 75% of the entire crop.

La Grande Ourse Blanc 2017, Pascal Chalon (Rhône/France) BIODYNAMIC 20.99

It is twelve years since we stumbled across Pascal Chalon making biodynamic Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages in his granny's garage not far from Châteauneuf-du-Pape. We clambered around, amongst the tools and apples, squeezed ourselves around her beaten-up Renault and, as soon as we had tasted his original two red wines, 'La Petite Ourse' and 'La Grande Ourse', were quick to back the van up and load everything he had.

Here's Pascal's new wine - a broad, nutty, oily white made from 75% Grenache Blanc, 15% Roussanne, 10% Bourboulenc with the tiniest splash of Ugni Blanc and using wild yeasts.

T H E
W I N E R Y

RED

Ruber Spätburgunder 2015, Nelles (Ahr/Germany)

19.99

Spätburgunder = Pinot Noir.

The tiny Ahr valley near Bonn is one of the northernmost winemaking regions of Europe. Romans planted vines here. Locals claim that the sheltered valley has an almost Mediterranean micro-climate. We wouldn't go quite that far, but there is little doubt that some of Germany's finest Pinot Noir comes from here. Philip Nelles and his father Thomas name their top wine 'B52' and ferment their wines in traditional, huge, old oak Fuders. Founded in 1479, the Nelles family has been making wine for generations and own some of the best vineyard sites for red wine in Germany. 'Ruber' is from the steep-sloped Landskrone vineyard in Heimersheim, clearly visible from the Nelles' house and winery. 'Ruber' is always supple and velvety - bursting with layers of smoke, autumn leaves and forest fruits with good acidity and remarkably soft, almost slippery, tannins. How can they make Pinot Noir this good, this far north.

La Petite Ourse 2016, Pascal Chalon (Rhône/France) BIODYNAMIC

17.99

Pascal names his wines after constellations: 'La Petite Ourse', 'La Grande Ourse' and 'Ursa Major'. 'Petite Ourse' is always very fragrant and pure with an adult, gently dark undertow. It's a blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah from vines caressed (some might say ravaged) by the Mistral wind. We love its deep richness and herbal flavours, evocative of the lavender and thyme-laden local landscape.

Biodynamism - is a now well-established organic system using the lunar calendar, based on the teachings of Rudolf Steiner. It captures the imagination with its strange-sounding rituals, such as dynamising rainwater or burying cow horns filled with cow manure through the winter to bring the soil alive, and its widespread use of yarrow, nettle and dandelion.

Laderas de Sedella Ánfora 2014, Sedella (Malaga/Spain) NATURAL

22.99

And now for something completely different. A Mediterranean red wine from the hills above Malaga. It's made by Lauren Rosillo, an oenologue who consults for several big Bodegas in the better known regions around north and central Spain. We met through Nacho Leon, who makes Demencia, Pyjama and Taruguin - long term fixtures in our Spanish range.

This is Lauren's solo project on a much smaller scale and made in a more "Natural" vein. He makes a skin contact-style white and two reds; the big, dense Sedella and this newer bottling made from old bush vines planted in 1940 with native grape varieties Romé tinta, Garnacha tinta, Jaén tinta and loose strains of other local varieties. They are then vinified in clay, oak and amphorae to produce this impressive, multi-layered and, given how far south its origin is, surprisingly cool red.



OLIVE OIL

Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Heredad Pangua Sodupe (Rioja/Spain)

500ml - 13.99

In addition to making Rioja in red and white, Roberto Pangua also bottles his own olive oil.

LUNAR CALENDAR OBSERVERS - today is a **Flower Day**.

Our **following tasting** at The Winery is scheduled for **Tuesday 4th June**.

New arrivals -The latest Provençal Rosé from the base of the Mont Sainte-Victoire by Gaëlle Maclou's Domaine Mauvan. From Champagne: Vautrain-Paulet and Saint-Chamant (including some different Cuvées - Carte Or, Carte Crème & magnums of Cuvée Royale). From Burgundy: Paul Pernot & Guillemot. Pascal Chalon Petite & Grande Ourse from the Rhône.

From Germany; Adeneuer from the Ahr valley, Lubentiushof from the Mosel, Reiner Flick's Rosé.

From Piedmont: Barolo aplenty from Gianfranco Alessandria, Osvaldo Viberti and Pugnane. Schola Sarmenti from Puglia.

Join us for our Monthly Tastings

The Winery, 4 Clifton Road, London W9

www.thewineryuk.com

mailinglist@thewineryuk.com

020 7286 6475

info@thewineryuk.com