

T H E  
W I N E R Y

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## July Tasting

03.07.19

### SPARKLING

**Zum Krug Riesling Sekt Brut 2017, Josef Laufer (Rheingau/Germany) 13.99**

Hotel Zum Krug, in Hattenheim, is a magical place: the embodiment of the Rheingau, a region thick with castles, convents and vineyards. Reminiscent of a gingerbread house, it's the sort of place that takes you back to mediaeval Germany with its atmospheric twists and turns from a wooden interior straight out of a fantasy grotto from ancient legend. Josef Laufer and his son Josef Laufer Junior, owners and fonts of local knowledge, always give us a warm welcome and we start with a glass of their brilliant dry Sekt made from top class Rheingau fruit just outside the village - a wake-up call to the senses.

### WHITE

**Côtes de Provence Blanc 2018, Domaine de Mauvan (Provence/France) 15.99**

We were looking for another Rosé in Provence in the wilting 40C heat of summer 2012. Much of our shortlisting work was done in the (thankfully) cool Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire Vinothèque in the town of Trets. Our clear winner was Mauvan. 30 minutes later, with the stunning, long, ridge-like Mont Sainte-Victoire as backdrop, we were tasting the full range. Gaëlle Maclou's grandfather started the Domaine in the 1950s. It was mixed farming; mainly cereal, fruit and a few vines. Gaëlle, a qualified Oenologist, took over the Domaine 25 years ago, stripped out the cereal production and has concentrated on wine ever since. Gaëlle Maclou and Martin Massot, her long-term boyfriend and co-worker, do everything. The wines are terrific. They make two levels of Rosé, three wonderfully herbal reds and this refreshing, fragrant, gently oily white from 100% Rolle, otherwise known as Vermentino.



**Chablis Vieilles Vignes 2017, Mosnier (Burgundy/France) 22.99**

In 2007 Stéphanie Mosnier gave up her job in logistics in Lyon to come home and take over her father Sylvain's winery when he retired. Her husband, Christophe, who until recently worked with a dynamite company, is a keen gastronome and was happy to support the move. Stéphanie makes top-class Chablis – tightly-wound, concentrated and crystal clear, a wonderful balance of fruit and fresh acidity. She makes Petit Chablis, Chablis, Chablis Vieilles Vignes and two 1er Crus, Beauroy and Côte de Lechet. This is Stéphanie's intense Vieilles Vignes bottling made from 50 year-old vines.

**Riesling 'R' trocken 2017, Zimmerling (Sachsen/Germany) 500ml 26.99**

Sachsen (Saxony) is Germany's easternmost wine-growing region and one of its smallest, with vineyards clustered to the northwest and east of Dresden. The region has tended to produce mouth-puckeringly sharp whites. Klaus Zimmerling has re-written the script with a combination of tiny yields (20hl/ha), organic viticulture and perilously late harvesting. Klaus lives and works in the eastern outskirts of Dresden with his wife, Małgorzata Chodakowska, a successful sculptress. Her sculpture features on the label and changes each year. Without doubt, Klaus is the finest winemaker in Saxony.

Klaus and Małgorzata met hiking in the Polish Alps 30 years ago. Klaus, originally from Leipzig, gave up his engineering job and they moved in together in 1992. They started with 1.5 hectares across the small road below their house and over time have bought another 3 hectares up the hill at their rear. The vineyard is Pillnitzer Königlicher Weinberg. He makes Riesling, Grauburgunder (Pinot Gris/Grigio), Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc/Bianco), Kerner (a crossing from 1929 by August Herold of Trollinger, the red grape, with Riesling), Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir, which he vinifies as a still white wine and a zero dosage Sekt), Gewürztraminer, Traminer and Muskateller. His wines are striking; dense and concentrated.

His Riesling 'R' comes from the first parcel he planted and always produces tiny berries, always golden, with a ripeness of 100-104 Oechsle (which, if you chose not to vinify it out dry, would give you an unctuous Auslese. Quite tropical in the nose, broad and expressive in the mouth. Even a hint of lime jelly.

**RED****Ahrweiler Spätburgunder 2017, Adeneuer (Ahr/Germany)****18.99**

German Pinot? Yes, please! Spätburgunder is German for Pinot Noir. The tiny Ahr valley near Bonn is one of the most northernmost winemaking regions of Europe. Romans planted vines here. Locals say 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.

The Adeneuer family has been making wine for 500 years in the spa town of Ahrweiler and in 1984 brothers Marc and Frank took over from their aunt. Unfortunately, 1984 was the worst vintage since records began and they almost gave up, but fortunately, they persevered. Year in, year out, they manage to deliver delicious, velvety Pinot Noir, whatever the climate throws at them.

The Ahrweiler Spätburgunder is a blend from multiple parcels above the mediaeval walled town of Ahrweiler, aged in big old casks called *Fuder*. Silky, sappy and pleasantly autumnal.

**Château La Fleur Poitou 2016 (Bordeaux/France)****16.99**

Bordeaux still relies heavily on an archaic merchant system. Families can own multiple properties, form alliances, have their own merchant arm selling wines from their own estates and those of others. It can sometimes be a little fuzzy about who owns what.

We have long bought from the de Lavaux family who own several Châteaux on the Merlot-heavy Right Bank in various appellations centred around Saint-Émilion. Château Martinet, Clos du Vieux Plateau Certan, La Renaissance, Bellevue, Tour Canon, Fort Pontus and so on.

They co-own a merchant company (*Négociant*) called Horeau-Beylot with the de Coninck family, with whom they shared a grandmother. Founded in 1740, Horeau-Beylot is one of the oldest merchant houses in Bordeaux.

Château La Fleur Poitou has long been one of our favourites from our regular 30-bottle tastings at Horeau-Beylot overlooking the river Dordogne in Libourne. La Fleur Poitou, owned by the highly-regarded Pomerol estate Certan de May, is from Lussac-Saint-Émilion - one of the satellite appellations of Saint-Émilion, which shares a similar geology with its more famous neighbour.

A blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon - the higher proportion of Cabernet Franc balances the soft, supple Merlot with an extra sense of structure and purpose.

**Côtes de Provence Rouge Vieilles Vignes 2015, Domaine de Mauvan (Provence/France)****17.99**

Gaëlle Maclou's Rosé is a perennial Winery favourite: our top-selling Rosé whenever the sun shines. Her vineyards are in a beautiful, striking setting just east of Trets close to the base of the stunning Mont Sainte-Victoire – part mountain, part ridge, much painted by Paul Cézanne.

This is one of her 'other' wines, one of her reds – a deep, lush bottling of 70% Grenache and 30% Carignan from old vines planted in 1953 and 1956. Herbal, warm and spicy.

**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 **Wednesday 21st August**.

**New arrivals** from Germany: Mature vintages from JB Becker and Schloss Schönborn. The latest Spätburgunders from Becker-Landgraf, Reiner Flick's latest Victoriaberg & more of his Nonnberg Riesling Sekt, Klaus Zimmerling & Zum Krug. More of Lubentiusshof's brilliant 2010 (only one more hit left). From Bordeaux: Chateau Martinet, La Fleur Poitou, La Tour Cordouan, Laujac, Tour Canon, La Croix-de-St-Georges 1999 (halves and magnums only – coming to an end, unfortunately). More Provençal Rosé from Mauvan.

Join us for our **Monthly Tastings**

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