

T H E
W I N E R Y

August Tasting

29.08.19

SPARKLING

Prosecco Millesimato Brut 2017, Bosco del Merlo (Veneto/Italy) ORGANIC 16.99

Carlo and Milly Paladin have been making organic wines under their Bosco del Merlo label for many years and their Prosecco Frizzante has been a staple at The Winery for almost 20 years. They have a spread of vines over the flat plains at Annone Veneto north-east of Venice, the Alps visible in the background. It's an area rich with Roman history - the old Roman road, the via Postumia runs right by the estate.

The Prosecco grapes are from Conegliano, 35 kms away, an area considered to be "*Prosecco Central*". This is their vintage bottling, a fairly recent addition to their ever-increasing line-up.

WHITE

AL Sauvignon Blanc 2018, Wrath (California/USA) SUSTAINABLE 375ml CAN 9.99

Do our eyes deceive us? Wine, in a can? Whatever next? Wine in a box?

Following our visit late last year, our latest shipment from California has finally arrived, including more excellent Pinot Noirs from Wrath and this bright, melony Sauvignon Blanc in a can.

Wrath is near Soledad in a wide valley 40 miles southeast of Monterey.

This Sauvignon Blanc comes from grapes grown on their own estate, the San Saba vineyard. The AVA (USA's Appellation system) is Monterey County. That said, their estate is just below the ridge that is Santa Lucia Highlands, separated only by a road.



Bürgstadter Silvaner trocken 2018, Josef Walter (Franken/Germany) 17.99

Franken (*Franconia*) is 1, 2 or 3 hours drive east of Frankfurt (depending on which part you are heading for and how fast you drive).

Franconians are very proud of their geology. The region is something of a volcanic playground.

250 million years ago, the bright sandstone rock Franken now sits on was on the equator and 100 million years later, as the continental plates shifted northwards and outwards, became the predecessor of the Mediterranean, accumulating fossil-heavy chalk. These layers fan outwards, exposing their seven different geologies to widely scattered pockets of the Franken vineyards. Geology is a prime component in *terroir* – the expression of the soil, of the place, that finds its way into wine.

Christoph Walter's vines are all in the Burgstädter Centgrafenberg vineyard. His wines age beautifully and, although the 2004/2007/2010 have long since disappeared from their winelist, he and his wife Daniela always seem to be able to dig some out for us. Although we have been buying Christoph & Daniela Walter's Spätburgunders (particularly the mature ones) for several years, we have also been increasingly taken by the Silvaner – Franken's best known white wine.

Bright, with yellow fruits and greengages, dry and beautifully balanced.

Riesling trocken 2018, Scholtes (Mosel/Germany) 16.99

Michael Scholtes' dry Rieslings were the standout discovery for us at a Generation Riesling tasting in Berlin in April. Vibrant and fizzing with slatey minerality, a visit was a priority on our next trip to the Mosel. Based in Detzem, west along the river from Trittenheim, Leiwen and Klüsserath, this is a relatively undiscovered section of the river – not least as Detzem is in a cul-de-sac with no through road.

After leaving school, Michael studied technical viticulture in Bad Kreuznach before starting in his family's winery in 2014. The family has 11 hectares, with 4 on the steep slate slopes.

This "entry-level" dry Riesling with barely 2.5 gms of residual sugar comes from vines in the Würzgarten (*Spice Garden*) vineyard on sandy, pebbly soil.

If you like this, you can also try "vom steilen Berg" (*from the steep hill*) and Pölicher Held (*Pölich Hero*), which is seriously intense and fleshy.

T H E

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RED

Château La Tour Cordouan 2015 (Médoc/Bordeaux/France)

16.99

It was our local Art-dealer friend Charles Asprey who pointed Vanessa Dubosq (born Cruse) of Château Laujac towards us.

You forget how big the Left Bank is until you head for Bégadan to visit Laujac – it's way beyond Pauillac and Saint-Estèphe, and 75kms from the centre of Bordeaux. When you finally arrive, you find that Laujac is a fascinating group of buildings - a château & farmstead with homes originally built for workers and sprawling land holdings with 61 hectares of vines, 400 hectares of forest and pastures for livestock. The château was built in 1810 in the classical style commissioned by M de Villemot, who had made his fortune furnishing guns and supplies to Napoleon.

The Cruse family were wine merchants from Denmark. In 1852 Vanessa's Great-Grandfather Hermann Cruse was keen to buy a Château and it came down to a choice between Laujac in the northern Medoc and Cos d'Estournel in Saint-Estèphe. At the time, Laujac was held to be similar in quality to some Pauillac estates. Nowadays the hierarchy may be different. Doh!

Vanessa trained as an architect and met her husband René Dubosq in New York, while he was working for IBM. She started selling Laujac in the States before they both moved back to France to run the estate.

La Tour Cordouan, named after the island lighthouse close to the entrance of the Gironde estuary, is Laujac's junior bottling, a 50/50 blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot from young vines grown on gravelly soil with a hint of clay and raised in oak for 6 months. Silky and very stylish.

Pyjama 2017, Demencia (Bierzo/Spain) NATURAL

17.99

It's Pyjama Time! Don't be alarmed - Pyjama is a red wine made by Nacho León. Nacho started making Demencia, one of Bierzo's very finest reds, in 2006 in the corner of a friend's cellar on the Pilgrim's Trail to Santiago de Compostela in lush, hilly Bierzo, northwest Spain.

Mencia is the name of the grape; an old, indigenous variety being brought back to life by young winemakers in this corner of Spain. When we visited Nacho first, he showed us pretty much every one of his twenty-five tiny parcels of beautiful, gnarly, old vines in villages outside Ponferrada. In 2011 he added a new bottling – Pyjama - also Mencia from the same vineyards as Demencia, but using his younger vines which are only (!) 50 years old. It's a selection from vines on sandy soil, fermented with wild yeasts in larger tanks before being moved into used barrels for ageing. The results: a sumptuous red with saturated, brambly fruit with ripeness and freshness.



Pinot Noir 'Swan/828' 2016, Wrath (California/USA) SUSTAINABLE

35.99

We stumbled across one of Wrath's impressive Pinot Noirs as we overnighted in San Luis Obispo on our way from LA to San Francisco five years ago. Although their winery is on the edge of the Santa Lucia Highlands, 40 miles southeast of Monterey, they also have a conveniently located tasting room in Carmel. Michael Thomas, an Archaeologist from Texas, got the food and wine bug during excavations in Italy and bought the San Saba vineyard with his mother Barbara in 2007.

Wrath make a wide range in white and red (Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Falanghina, Syrah & Grenache), but it is fair to say that their specialism is Pinot Noir.

The clonal selections feature on some of their Pinot Noir labels. We fell in love with their elegant, stylish Swan/828. Swan refers to the old Joseph Swan clone from Russian River, 828 is a clone that, as legend has it, arrived in a winemaker's suitcase from Burgundy.

The richer single-vineyard selections come from the Tondré Grapefield, Boekenoogen and their own San Saba vineyards.

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 **Fruit Day**.

Our following tasting at The Winery is scheduled for **Monday, 23rd September**.

Join us for our **Monthly Tastings**

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