

T H E

W I N E R Y

October Tasting *Fulham* 06.10.22

sparkling

Riesling Sekt Brut NV, Walter (Mosel/Germany)

19.99

Gerrit Walter's excellent dry Mosel Riesling has been a fixture on The Winery shelves for over a decade. For many, it has been their introduction to the magic of dry Riesling. Benchmark, crisp, racy Mosel Riesling, packed with minerals drawn from perilously steep, slate vineyards overlooking the river in the village of Briedel between Pünderich and Zell.

Gerrit 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. Here is his generous, mouth-filling Sekt - 100% Riesling. Ripe, opulent: the perfect opener for an evening.

white

Pfaffenberg Riesling Kabinett trocken 2011, Schloss Schönborn (Rheingau/Germany)

15.99

Given the slight hiatus on our 'socials', you may not be aware that we have spent the last two weeks in Germany. After 4.5 hours at German Customs in the Rheingau, on Friday afternoon - in extra time - we managed to clear 360 bottles of mature Riesling and Spätburgunder from Schloss Schönborn.

Schloss Schönborn was one of the grand old estates of the Rheingau, tracing its vineyard ownership back to 1349. Although Paul Graf von Schönborn and his family have another wine estate, a castle and agricultural land in Franken, we were somewhat disappointed that, at the end of 2020, the Graf decided to sell their Rheingau estate (with the exception of their large cellar) and rent out all their top-notch vineyards from one end of the Rheingau to the other (Rüdesheim to Hochheim) and everything between (Winkel, Hattenheim and Erbach). Many of you know that we have been visiting with increasing frequency to plunder their deep cellar of mature vintages and we will continue to do so until all the old stock has gone. The Graf's son Alexander opened the cellar for us a month ago and we picked out a selection going back to 2003. Tonight we are showing the excellent 2011 Hattenheimer Pfaffenberg Riesling Kabinett trocken from the vineyard in front of the winery, overlooking the Rhine. It's a clear example of how beautifully Rheingau Riesling can age.



Nonnberg Riesling trocken 2020, Flick (Rheingau/Germany) ORGANIC/VEGAN

19.99

Reiner Flick and his family live in a renovated 13th-century mill in the village of Wicker. It is part of the east end of the Rheingau next to Hochheim where the River Main meets the Rhine and from whose slopes you can watch the planes on final approach to Frankfurt airport. Wine has been in the Flick family since 1775. Reiner is well-known at The Winery as the maker of Victoriaberg, Queen Victoria's favourite wine. He also has other vineyards around Wicker and Hochheim.

The entire Wickerer Nonnberg belongs to Reiner. Nonnberg (*Nun's hill*) is on the hill at the edge of the village and overlooks his home and winery. There's a sandstone statue of a nun in one corner, the original Abbess of the monastery which owned the vineyard in the late 1200s. Reiner has worked hard with the chalky, clay soil and has introduced mixed flowers, grasses and herbs between the rows of vines. His Nonnberg always produces impressive Riesling with explosive minerals, depth and concentration.

Bessiu Nasco 2020, Audarya (Sardinia/Italy)

27.99

During four days of extensive and thorough research in Cagliari four years ago, Audarya surfaced as our favourite Vermentino producer. Our former colleague Serena Costa's Sardinian friend Gianluca Putzolu recommended we go to Cucina.Eat and ask for Giuseppe Carrus. That was our first night and it turned out to be an excellent recommendation. Giuseppe gave us a vinous tour of Sardinia and orientation was completed in one sitting. Audarya appeared (and shone) in the line-up. We tried many a Vermentino over the following days and a trip to Oyster, Filippo Mundula's restaurant/wine bar in Cagliari, cemented Audarya as our favourite. Four years later, we finally have Vermentino aplenty.

Sardinia's best-known white is Vermentino but there are other, more obscure local grape varieties. Our recently arrived shipment from Audarya also contains an elegant white called Bessiu, made from Nasco, an ancient variety that was almost wiped out by Phylloxera at the turn of the previous century.

*red***Burgogne Pinot Noir 2021, Denis Père et Fils (Burgundy/France)****21.99**

They don't make much and, following a run of small harvests caused by 'weather events', we are lucky to get any – so why are we opening Valérie and Christophe Denis' Burgogne Pinot Noir? Frankly, no idea, other than we fancied a Burgundy.

The village of Pernand-Vergelesses nestles behind the hill of Corton, just north of Beaune. In the 26 years of our custodianship of The Winery, we spent the first ten looking for good Pernand-Vergelesses before we found what we were looking for: a small family Domaine run by Christophe Denis and his wife Valérie. They make a spread of Pernands in red and white at Village and 1er Cru level, Burgogne Blanc and Rouge, some Savigny-lès-Beaune, Aloxe-Corton, Chorey-lès-Beaune, Corton Grand Cru and (occasionally) Crémant de Bourgogne. Burgundy is the spiritual home of Pinot Noir. Fickle and difficult to grow, it thrives in the marginal, cold climate of this corner of France, south of Dijon and fascinates wine geeks as it ages. Christophe and Valérie's reds are pure, elegant Pinot fruit, mercifully free from any dominance of new oak. Some gentle, autumnal notes in the background. Good freshness. Denis' wines are firm favourites with everyone at The Winery, as scarce as they are elegant and silky.

Irpinia Rosso Ischa Piana 2017, Salvatore Molettieri (Campania/Italy)**17.99**

We have a bit of a thing for Taurasi, the so-called "Barolo of The South". The grape is Aglianico and here, in the volcanic hills, Aglianico is untamed, tannic and often grand.

The Molettieri family has been making wine for four generations in Montemarano, in the southern part of the zone. In 1983, instead of selling grapes to Mastroberardino (who was widely credited with bringing Taurasi onto the world stage), Salvatore Molettieri decided to make his own wine.

Salvatore, now 68, is joined by his four sons Giovanni, Giuseppe, Luigi, Paolo and their families. Giovanni, who studied Oenology, plays a leading role. Salvatore and his wife Angela had hoped to have a daughter but their doctor told them they might need 12 children before getting a girl. They called it a day at four.

Molettieri's Irpinia Rosso comes from a single vineyard, Ischa Piana, planted in 1994 and is predominantly Aglianico with a splash Cabernet Sauvignon. The combination produces a rich, round, southern red.

**Saint-Joseph La Sybarite 2019, Aurélien Chatagnier (Rhône/France)****32.99**

We stumbled upon Aurélien Chatagnier's wines a decade ago in Ampuis, the small town at the base of the Côte-Rôtie. Aurélien says he was "bad at school". When he was 16, his mother said he should probably knock it on the head and get a job. He went to work for a couple of famous winegrowers, Jamet and François Villard. He loved it – and especially enjoyed working in the vines. In 2002, after a gentle, encouraging nudge from Villard, he set up on his own, starting with just a single hectare. Although he now has 7.5 hectares, he still doesn't make much and it took over two years to claw some bottles from his grip.

Aurélien's cellar is up on a plateau above the broad Rhône valley in a remote, draughty, lawless part of the elongated St Joseph zone. Back in March 2016, thieves broke into his remote winery and made off with most of his wine, including cases earmarked for us. Alarmingly, this is a frequent occurrence in the region.

In terms of red wines, the northern Rhône – from Côte Rôtie to Cornas - is all about Syrah. Depending on the winemaking style, Syrah can evoke violets or, in contrast, wild animal notes and grilled meats. Regardless of style, it is usually a powerful, structured wine with great aging potential.

Like all Aurélien's wines, his Saint-Joseph is silky, deep, modern, without being overly oaky. A beautiful example of pure northern Rhône Syrah.

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

Our **following tasting**, which will be at **The Winery Maida Vale**, will be on **Thursday 20th October**.

Incoming – Mosel; **Clemens Busch** biodynamic Rieslings; dry Gewürztraminer from **Tobias Treis**. Spain; **Alvides** Ribera del Duero; Verdejo by **Reina de Castilla** Rueda. Bordeaux; more **Château Larmevaille** Entre-Deux-Mers and our third hit of **Château Bonnange**. Nelly and David M are heading down to the south of France next week to pick-up our favourite Bandol from **Château Vannières**. The trees that line the approaching road make it impossible for a lorry to get through - think Sleeping Beauty. We'll also be stopping in the Rhône and Burgundy.

Join us for our **Monthly Tastings**

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