

T H E

W I N E R Y

June Tasting *Fulham* 14.06.23

sparkling

Cava Brut Classic, Bolet (Penedès/Spain) ORGANIC/VEGAN

16.99

Cava has been on our wish-list for more than a decade, so our Cava Quest was first priority when we landed in Barcelona a few weeks ago. To our taste we find some Cavas rather hard and metallic. Not so with Xavier Bolet's bottlings which are broader, deeper, more complex. The blend in his classic Cava is 50% Macabeo (*aka Viura*, the grape of white Rioja), 40% Xarel-lo, 10% Parellada. It has been aged for 15 months. Gently fruity nose, bright, well-made and balanced. Not remotely hard or metallic. Lovely core of fruit and a clear finish. If you like this, you'll also enjoy the Reserva and Gran Reserva, with their added depth and long aging.

white

Côtes de Provence Blanc 2022, 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 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.



Riesling trocken 2022, Becker-Landgraf (Rheinhessen/Germany) ORGANIC

15.99

We picked up from Becker-Landgraf in Rheinhessen last week. In addition to making our top-selling Spätburgunder (*aka Pinot Noir*) for the past 14 years, Johannes Landgraf and Julia Becker also make a classy Grauburgunder (*aka Pinot Gris/Pinot Grigio*) and vibrant, limey dry Riesling.

A Rheinhessen wine-grower threw a party early in the 2000s, hoping his daughter would catch Johannes Landgraf's eye. Unfortunately, it didn't quite go according to plan and Johannes made a bee-line for another winery's daughter, Julia Becker. So, in 2004, Becker-Landgraf was born and the couple embarked on their plan to make top-class, cool-climate, dry Riesling and silky Pinot Noir slap bang in the rural centre of the region. Johannes and Julia are fixated on quality, starting in the vineyards with specialist pruning and foliage techniques. They work with their soil tirelessly to encourage natural, living humus. No irrigation or artificial fertilisers are used. As a result, the roots of the vines grow deeper underground to seek water and nutrients which also gives their vines strength to withstand any climate extremes. Their attention to detail finds its way into the bottle and, finally, your glass.

Back to the Riesling. Lime blossom, limey entry, lime jelly, fresh limey finish. Yes, this is a zingy, bright, mouth-filling (did we say limey?) dry Riesling.

Ricón Blanco Albariño 2021, Adegas do Ricón (Galicia/Spain) LOW INTERVENTION

18.99

Having started in Barcelona and taken in Cava country, Rioja, Ribera del Duero and Bierzo all in blazing sunshine and parched landscapes, our final stop was in moist green Galicia with Albariño on our mind. In the morning we found an excellent Rías Baixas (coming in Autumn). With our friend Nacho's help (that's Nacho León of Demencia, Pyjama & Taruguin fame) we found ourselves in the afternoon opposite the Portuguese border on the north bank of the Minho river in the pouring rain. "You know I don't have the D.O?" said Adrian Ricón. (D.O. = Denominación de origen: the official geographical recognition). That doesn't bother us at all - it's the quality of the wine that matters. And the quality of his organic Blanco (85% Albariño with 5% each of Loureira, Treixadura and Godello) was superb. See if you agree.

red

Rheingau Pinot Noir 2019, Chat Sauvage (Rheingau/Germany) 29.99

Last week, we scooped up some stylish Pinot Noirs from Verena Schöttle at Chat Sauvage in the Rheingau. The Chat Sauvage story began in 2000 with Günter Schulz from Hamburg, who made his fortune in the construction trade and developed a bit of a Burgundy habit. An expensive DRC type habit (Domaine de la Romanee Conti, the most sought-after Burgundy there is). Given that DRC wasn't for sale and given that he didn't want to leave Germany, he set up young winemaker Michel Stadter with some excellent old vines and a brief for uncompromising quality. Verena Schöttle took over in 2016 and now has equal billing with Herr Schulz, who is advancing in age. The wines have savoury smoky flavours, evocative of autumn leaves and dark red fruits. This is at the lighter end of the spectrum – with a ball of pure Pinot fruit and good freshness.

Mileto Rioja Reserva 2014, Bodegas Alvia (Rioja/Spain) 21.99

After completing our Cava Quest we headed to La Rioja. We stopped in Ventosa in the Rioja Alta at Bodegas Alvia. The Pilgrims' Trail passes in front of the Bodega - marker 593km, to be precise. Alfredo Bernaldez's family has been making wine for 100 years and bottling themselves since 2006. Alfredo showed us several of his beautiful vineyards, many with seriously old vines (60-118 years old). With so many old vines, harvesting is always by hand. Old vines = intense juice.

It was the Crianza that brought us here. We stayed for the Reserva and Gran Reserva. Tonight we are introducing the Reserva: 85% Tempranillo and 15% Mazuelo. 18 months in oak, mainly American (as is traditional in Rioja). Rich, saturated dark fruits, smooth and powerful.

Notarpanaro 2015, Cosimo Taurino (Puglia/Italy) 25.99

Drum roll and trumpets....we are delighted to announce the arrival of some classical yet succulent reds from Puglia. We had been looking for a new Puglian for three or four years and visited Cosimo Taurino's stand at Vinitaly in April. Cosimo Taurino is a legendary name in Italian wine. In 1970 he was the first grower to make serious, (at that time) modern red wines in the region. He put Salento (the southern tip of Puglia, the heel of Italy) on the map. Taurino's Notarpanaro became the benchmark. The wine was named after the estate that Taurino bought in 1956, previously owned by the Notare (*Notary*), surname Panaro. 100% Negroamaro, 6 months in used barrels.

Cosimo died in 1999 since when his daughter Rosanna and her husband Dr Fernando Antonio Bello have continued to carry the flame. Current vintage of Notarpanaro, Kompa and Salice Salento is 2015. Mature, deep, (now) old school – we love them and hope you will too.



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

Our **following tasting**, which will be at **The Winery Maida Vale**, is slated for **Wednesday 26th July**.

Just arrived – many featured tonight. **Spain** – **Cavas Bolet** from Penedes, **Rioja Alvia**, **Adega do Ricón** Albariño from Galicia.

Italy - **La Colombina** from Montalcino, Tuscany. **Cosimo Taurino** from Puglia. **Mimmo Paone** from Sicily.

Germany – from the Rheingau: **Flick** (of Victoriaberg fame) and **Chat Sauvage** Pinots, **Becker-Landgraf** makers of our top-selling Spätburgunder.

France – **Mauvan** (mainly Rosé) from Provence, **Pascal Chalon** (La Grande Ourse) from the Rhône Valley, **Raimbault** Sancerre, **Bordeaux** by **Château Lavagnac**, **Picampeau**, **Clos de Menuts**, **Larmevaille**. Very scarce **Burgundy** by **Lafarge** and **Mugnier**, even scarcer **Champagne** by **Marie-Noëlle Ledru**.

Join us for our **Monthly Tastings**
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