

T H E
W I N E R Y

July Tasting *Maida Vale* 26.07.23

sparkling

Cava Gran Reserva Brut Nature, Bolet (Penedès/Spain) ORGANIC/VEGAN 24.99

Cava has been on our wish-list for more than a decade, so our Cava Quest was the first priority when we landed in Barcelona last month. 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 Cavas is 50% Xarel-lo, 40% Macabeo (aka Viura, the grape of white Rioja) and 10% Parellada. This Gran Reserva was a Reserva from the 2014 vintage, selected and aged as Gran Reserva and bottled as a Brut Nature with no added sugar (*dosage*). It's a bold, complex Cava. Honeysuckle, lanolin, nuts and flowers crowd the nose. There's a wonderful sense of aged fruit, structure and depth in the mouth. The finish is long and yeasty.

white

Riesling trocken 2022, Scholtes (Mosel/Germany) 14.99

Vibrant and fizzing with slatey minerality, Michael Scholtes' dry Rieslings were the standout discovery for us at a tasting in Berlin in 2019. Based in Detzem, between Trier and Trittenheim, this is a relatively undiscovered section of the river – not least as Detzem is in a cul-de-sac with no through road. Michael trained as an engineer before switching to wine and starting in his family's winery in 2014. Brimming with youthful energy and ambition, Michael has been working tirelessly and snapping up parcels in the Pölicher Held plus some seriously steep rows in Thörnicher Ritsch - his 'pin-up' vineyard. His father was less enthusiastic, given the vertiginous gradient. Yields were down 30% in 2022 owing to lack of water in the hot, dry summer. This 'entry-level' dry Riesling with barely 3 gms of residual sugar comes from vines in the Würzgarten (*Spice Garden*) vineyard on sandy, pebbly soil.



Falkenberg Riesling Kabinett trocken 2021, Reuscher-Haart (Mosel/Germany) 16.99

It was a bottle at Die Mosel, the super wine bar in Traben-Trarbach that brought us to Reuscher-Haart in Piesport. Mario Schwang is the latest generation and can trace his history back through 1919, when his great grandmother (a Haart – one of many in the village) married his great grandfather (a Reuscher) and further, all the way back to 1337. Today's wines are dry & spicy, an electrifying helter-skelter Riesling ride from Piesport's legendary vineyards including Domherr – the heart of Goldtröpfchen. The Piesporter Falkenberg (Falcon Hill) Riesling Kabinett trocken is the epitome of Mosel Riesling: wet slate, purity, elegance, open and expressive.

La Grande Ourse Blanc 2021, Pascal Chalon (Rhône/France) BIODYNAMIC 21.99

It is sixteen years since we stumbled across Pascal Chalon making biodynamic Côtes-du-Rhône Villages in his granny's garage not far from Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Well-known at The Winery for his big, fragrant, constellation-themed reds, Pascal's range has expanded over the past 15 years to include a couple of equally big white wines. La Grande Ourse Blanc is a broad, nutty, oily, powerful white made from 45% Grenache Blanc, 45% Roussanne and 10% Bourboulenc. Fermented using wild yeasts, then aged in parts: oak barrels, inox and a new egg-shaped cement tank. The vines are young, from an abandoned vineyard that Pascal replanted four years ago. Young and vigorous.

red

Rosso di Montalcino 2019, La Colombina (Tuscany/Italy) 22.99

Strangely, although we visited Fabrizio Pecciarini and his father Alamiro in early 2016 and have shipped their wines frequently ever since, we have no recollection of how we found their wine in the first place! Fabrizio has a voice so low (not volume but frequency) it is almost outside the audible range of modern telephony.

Alamiro started as an electrical engineer in Florence. An early adopter of microchips, he made the first self-service petrol pump. Then, after a stint in a brick-making company, he bought an agricultural supply shop in Montalcino. This morphed into winemaking supplies – tanks and barrels and so on. In parallel, Anna Maria (Fabrizio’s mother) and her side of the family had concentrated on olive oil until 1984, when there was a terrible frost which decimated their olive groves. Although that was the moment when Alamiro and Anna Maria decided to get into viticulture, it took them until 1997 to bottle their own wines as La Colombina. The family now has 5 hectares of vines around Castelnuovo dell’Abate in the southeastern part of the Brunello di Montalcino zone. The wines are delicious. Supple and sumptuous.

Right place right time, we were lucky to see Fabrizio in April and managed to grab a chunk of this silky Rosso di Montalcino 2019 that he had held back to compensate for recent short vintages.

Salice Salento Riserva 2015, Cosimo Taurino (Puglia/Italy) 20.99

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. 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. The Salice Salento Riserva is 90% Negroamaro with 10% Malvasia Nera and spent 6-8 months in old barrels. Mature, deep and brambly. Old school – we love these wines and hope you will too.



‘S’ Côtes-du-Rhône Villages 2021, Pascal Chalon (Rhône/France) BIODYNAMIC 19.99

To recap, we discovered Pascal Chalon in 2007 when he was making his wines in his granny’s garage not far from Châteauneuf-du-Pape and we had to clamber over apples and a dusty old Renault to get to his five barrels. As soon as we had tasted his entire range of two wines, ‘La Petite Ourse’ and ‘La Grande Ourse’, we were quick to back the van up and load the last cases he had. Since then, Pascal has built his own, larger winery and extended his range to include a wider range of reds and a couple of whites.

‘S’ is one his newest bottlings, from parcels planted in the village of Visan in 1974. Why ‘S’? Most southern Rhône wines are Grenache and Syrah blends and heavy on the Grenache. This one is the reverse: very heavy on the Syrah. Pascal’s wines are always pure, biodynamic Rhône heaven. Fragrant and gutsy. Deep richness and herbal flavours, evocative of the lavender and thyme-laden local landscape ravaged by the penetrating Mistral wind.

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

Our following tasting will be at **The Winery Fulham** on **Tuesday 8th August 2023**.

Join us for our **Monthly Tastings**
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