

T H E
W I N E R Y

March Tasting *Maida Vale* 18.03.24

sparkling

Prosecco Rosé Brut 2021, Bosco del Merlo (Veneto/Italy) ORGANIC 15.99

Although sparkling Rosé has been made alongside Prosecco for centuries, it could only be called Rose Spumante. After years of concerted lobbying by producers, the term *Prosecco Rosé* finally became legal in late 2020. To qualify, it must be from the nine provinces in Veneto and Friuli and made from Glera (a synonym for the Prosecco grape) with 10-15% Pinot Noir.

Carlo and Milly Paladin have been making organic wines under their Bosco del Merlo label for many years including The Winery's top performing, favourite Prosecco for two decades. They have a spread of vines over the flat plains at Annone Veneto northeast of Venice, with 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.

white

Mâcon-Davayé 'Les Belouzes' 2022, Cheveau (Burgundy/France) IN CONVERSION 21.99

In southern Burgundy, near Mâcon, the primal presence of the two jagged rock faces of Vergisson and Solutré dominate the skyline above the tiny village of Pouilly, the village that time forgot. When we first visited 25 years ago, the whole Cheveau family, from grandparents to grandchildren, gathered in the doorway to watch the hot-shot wine merchants from London taste their wines. At that time, Nicolas Cheveau made Mâcon, St-Véran and Pouilly-Fuissé. Joined by his wife Aurélie, much has changed since then. There's a swanky new-ish, much more accessible winery on the approach to the village. There are also multiple new bottlings; three Mâcon, one Bourgogne Blanc, one St-Véran, no fewer than eight separate Pouilly-Fuissé bottlings (five of them 1er Cru) three red and one white Beaujolais. 'Les Belouzes' is a one hectare vineyard where Davayé meets Pouilly. Younger Chardonnay vines, aged in tank on its lees. No oak. Round, vibrant and punching above its weight.

In conversion? The organic conversion takes three years - they will be fully organic from the 2024 vintage onwards.



Vom Muschelkalk Riesling trocken 2022, Borell Diehl (Pfalz/Germany) VEGAN 15.99

Immediately south of Rheinhessen, the Pfalz (aka Palatinate) is sheltered by the forests of the northern Vosges on its western flank. The region is warm and fertile. Fruit and vegetables grow easily here – as do vines. Growers tend to have a very wide range of varieties to satisfy as many visitors' palates as possible. We are fixated on dry Riesling, so, as long as they have some to offer, that'll get us through the door!

We met Daniel Nett, who has a guesthouse in the outskirts of Neustadt an der Weinstrasse in the Pfalz, when he came to a Winery tasting with Johannes Landgraf of Becker-Landgraf. When the call to visit the Pfalz again after a decade became impossible to ignore, it was obvious we would have to base ourselves at Daniel's. He told us we should check out Borell Diehl. Good call.

The Borell Diehl family have multiple dry Riesling bottlings from different soils; a zesty entry-level in litre bottles, Schiefer (slate) and vom Bundsandstein (*from the colourful sandstone*) and Muschelkalk (limestone, thick with fossil deposits). Lemon zest and mint in the nose, good weight and body.

Riesling trocken 2022, Becker-Landgraf (Rheinhessen/Germany) ORGANIC 16.99

Johannes Landgraf and Julia Becker have provided our top-selling Spätburgunder (German for Pinot Noir) for 15 years. A Rheinhessen grower threw a party early in the millenium, 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 they 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 by quality. 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.

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

red

Spätburgunder 2021, Borell Diehl (Pfalz/Germany) VEGAN 16.99

The Deutsche Weinstrasse (*the German Wine Road*) runs the length of the Pfalz wine region for 85kms, passing through dainty villages to the French border in the Vosges. One of the daintiest villages is Hainfeld and here you find Borell-Diehl. Their oldest building dates from 1619. There is a stunning new tasting room in their courtyard. Annette Borell and Thomas Diehl married in 1990, since when they have grown their vineyard holdings from 5 to 32 hectares. Their son Georg looks after the winemaking and vineyards. He did internships around Germany (Rebholz in the Pfalz and van Volxem in the Saar) and New Zealand. Their Spätburgunder, made in used barrels to avoid oaky aromas and flavours, is gently autumnal, supple with good intensity and length.

Pyjama 2021, Demencia (Bierzo/Spain) ORGANIC/LOW INTERVENTION 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.



Taruguín 2019 (Ribera del Duero/Spain) ORGANIC/LOW INTERVENTION 21.99

Nacho León, our winemaking friend in northern Spain, was driving back from Barcelona to Bierzo (where he lives and makes Demencia and Pyjama on the Pilgrims' Trail) and had taken some back roads through the villages near Soria at the east end of Ribera del Duero. What's the story Nacho?

"I was really surprised to see some very old vines and decided to take a walk through them. It was marvellous and exciting because I knew this area lots of years ago. A close friend from my childhood has family there and I used to spend some weekends with him and his friends.

I was thinking about the wines that I tasted in Barcelona and was looking for another profile of Ribera del Duero wine - more altitude, more fruity sensations, more acidity. Maybe vines like these could help us?

I told my friend Julio and we began working on the idea of making a different type of wine from his parent's land. We chose some vineyards in the area and, thanks to his family, were able to start work right away."

Taruguin is made from Tempranillo (known as Tinta del País locally) with a splash of Albillo, a white varietal.

"We took the grapes in a van and brought them here (to Bierzo) where I can work easier. 9 months in French barrels and the result - a pretty wine that sold out in 3 weeks!"

Pretty might imply that it is light and fruity whereas we would describe it as bold and wild, rich and powerful, fleshy and deep.

When we visited Nacho last April, he showed us his wonderful old vineyards and the compact Taruguín winery at the edge of San Esteban de Gormaz. He says the area has 11 months of invierno (winter) and 1 month of inferno each year. We were there in April and it seemed pretty hot to us!

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

We have a couple more dates for the calendar. Firstly, what we fondly call a **FLASH TASTING** at **The Winery Maida Vale** on Saturday afternoon **23rd March from 15.00-18.00h**. **Anne-Sophie Dubois** will be with us showing three of her beautiful Beaujolais Cru Fleurie bottlings: Les Cocottes, L'Alchimiste and Les Labourons.

Our following, full tasting will be at **The Winery Fulham** on **Wednesday 24th April**.

Join us for our Monthly Tastings
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