

T H E W I N E R Y

September Tasting *Maida Vale* 16.09.25

about us

A wine shop for over 100 years, sited in a former Victorian pharmacy in Clifton Road, we import our entire range of wines and champagnes ourselves from small growers in our specialist regions around France, Italy, Spain and California. We are also well-known for our wide selection of New Wave dry wines from Germany - the largest range in the UK. In 2020 we opened a second branch in Fulham.

sparkling

Champagne Brut Nature, Amyot (Champagne/France) SUSTAINABLE

36.99

Champagne is vast. The northern sections fan out from Épernay; north across the chalky Montagne de Reims towards the city of Reims, west along the Marne Valley towards Paris, then due southwards, the Chardonnay slopes called the Côte des Blancs. Continue south and you find the Aube, also known as the Côte des Bar. Here, off the beaten track, the tiny village of Loches-sur-Ource is the very rural home of Champagne Amyot. Their entry-level champagne Carte Or (*gold label*) has been our biggest selling item in The Winery for the past 29 years.

Super dry Champagne is “*super chic*” in France these days and the Amyot family recently introduced a Brut Nature into their selection. 100% Pinot Noir, from their Kimmeridgian clay-limestone soil formed 150 million years ago in the Late Jurassic Period. Current release is a blend of 85% 2017 and 15% 2015. Despite its dryness (3g/l dosage), it is not harsh. Crisp and racy, yes, but broad and balanced.



white

Desconcierto Rías Baixas Albariño 2023, Cambados Urban Winery (Galicia/Spain)

24.99

When we were last in Spain, it was extremely hot and dry everywhere we went. Until, that is, we arrived in Galicia. There's a reason why it's so green there: it rains frequently, some might say constantly. We went to visit Antonio Galiñanes of CUW, Cambados Urban Winery, the heart of Rías Baixas on the Atlantic coast, the spiritual home of Albariño. Antonio showed us his small parcels of vines, all very close to water. One directly on the sea front, another directly on the Río Umiá estuary. He currently has just 2.2 hectares (tiny!) with another 0.7 plot on the way. The first vintage of his wine, Desconcierto Rías Baixas, was 2015. The 2023 has zesty notes and a whisper of sea air.

Château de Callac Graves Blanc 2022 (Bordeaux/France)

18.99

The Graves appellation begins at the southeastern edge of the city of Bordeaux and tracks the left bank of the river Gironde. It is the birthplace of *Claret* in the Middle Ages. Named after its gravelly soil, Graves benefitted from good natural drainage and predated the drainage of the Médoc by the Dutch in the mid 1600s. Château de Callac dates back to 1773 and is very close to the sweet wine appellations of Barsac and Sauternes. **Fun fact:** We were asked to supply halves of this wine (albeit a previous vintage) for the pre-show VIP dinners for Kate Bush's residency at Hammersmith Apollo a few years ago.

A blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Complex. Ripe melon, seawater, lemon zest and lime jelly.

Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett Riesling trocken 2023, Paulinshof (Mosel/Germany)

22.99

The Paulinshof is a former monastery of the Church of St Paulin in Trier. The first known documented reference to the monastery was from 936 AD. Vineyards were also mentioned. Since then, the Paulinshof has been continuously associated with winemaking. It passed into private hands during the secularisation under Napoleon in 1802. The Jüngling family bought the winery and 2 hectares of vines in the 1960s, since when the estate has grown to 6.5 hectares. Oliver and Carina Jüngling are the current incumbents. Their most famous vineyards are in the legendary Brauneberger Juffer. Their wines are classic Mosel: light, airy, steely and focused. Super animating, tingling freshness with texture and body. A thrilling ride!

red

Gau-Odernheimer Spätburgunder 2022, Becker-Landgraf (Rheinhessen/Germany) ORGANIC 21.99

Spätburgunder is German for Pinot Noir. This is our biggest selling Pinot Noir for a decade and a half. Inevitably we sell out from time to time and there is a palpable relief when the latest shipment arrives. Consider us all palpably relieved again!

A Rheinhessen grower threw a party early last decade, 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 outgrew the basement below their house, where they would scuttle around with bended heads, checking their gleaming tanks and a handful of barrels. Space was so tight that, when we first rocked-up at their door during the 2009 harvest, they were pressing and fermenting their harvest in a tent. Their spacious new cellar (with plenty of headroom) has been built and was finished just days before the 2015 harvest began.

This fabulous, autumnal, silky, smoky Spätburgunder comes from old parcels of vines planted by Julia's Great Grandfather on the Petersberg, the only hill for miles around, just outside the rural village of Gau-Odernheim.

Hébrard Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Harmonie 2011 (Bordeaux/France)

23.99

This bottle of Bordeaux represents something of a taboo to us. The idea of a Bordeaux Negociant/Wine Merchant (in this case Hébrard) creating an own label version of a relatively well-known Château in Saint-Émilion (Sansonnet) is something we might usually take a dim view of. Problem was that this Cuvée Harmonie 2011 was so good we had to get over ourselves.

60% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. 18 months in oak. Lush, mature, silky and very drinkable. We just couldn't bring ourselves to write Château Harmonie....



Cannonau Riserva 2019, Alberto Loi (Sardinia/Italy)

29.99

We had been looking out for Alberto Loi's Cannonau on our research trip to Sardinia and spotted a bottle of the top-of-the-range Riserva shortly before stepping onto the plane home. It is exactly what we want from Sardinia's finest red wine. It's Old School – traditional, dense, bold, with layer upon layer of rich texture.

The province of Ogliastra, the thinly populated eastern part of Sardinia, was badly hit by Phylloxera in the early 1900s. A group of Cannonau growers emerged in the commune of Jerzu, including Giovanni Loi and his son Alberto. Alberto set up his own winery at the end of the 1940s, a time when many co-operatives were also establishing themselves in the area. Alberto's children and grandchildren now run the winery.

It has long been believed that Grenache (aka *Cannonau* in Sardinia) came from Aragon in northern Spain and was brought to Sardinia when the Aragonese passed through in the 1300s. Some Italian researchers have recently uncovered evidence that suggests that Cannonau may have originated in Sardinia. Another live topic is the fact that many Sardinians live to 90 or even 100 years old and that Cannonau, rich in antioxidants (proanthocyanins, procyanins and polyphenols), may have a large part to play. It may be 14.5% but the antioxidants seem to more than counteract the effect!

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

Our next tasting will be on **Thursday 16th October** at **The Winery Fulham**.

Just arrived - from Germany, Becker-Landgraf, Pfirmann, Martin Müllen, Paulinshof, Matteredne & Schmitt, Deutschherrenhof. **Imminent** Gerrit Walter. **Coming soon-ish** Pascal Chalon (La Grande Ourse), Maurice Charleux Maranges. Tuscany, Piedmont....

Join us for our Monthly Tastings

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