

# T H E W I N E R Y

---

## October Tasting *Fulham* 16.10.25

### *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 directly 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*

#### **Royal Riesling Sekt Brut, Walter (Mosel/Germany)**

**20.99**

The Mosel is a stunningly beautiful, slate-sided valley that loops from Luxembourg through Trier up to Koblenz where it joins the Rhine. The vineyards are punishingly steep, dangerous and time-consuming to work. But the results are definitely worth it. Germany is Riesling's spiritual home.

Gerrit Walter was an intern at The Winery in the summer of 2009 and his excellent dry Mosel Riesling has become a fixture on The Winery shelves for 15 years. It is our top-selling dry Riesling and one of our top-selling whites regardless of origin. For many, it has been their introduction to the magic of dry Riesling. Here is his generous, mouth-filling Sekt. Ripe and opulent: the perfect opener for an evening.



### *white*

#### **Ursa Major Blanc 2022, Pascal Chalon La Grande Ourse (Rhône/France) BIODYNAMIC**

**33.99**

In 2007 we came across a young man not far from Châteauneuf-du-Pape called Pascal Chalon, making biodynamic Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages in his Granny's garage. *Biodynamic = the extreme end of organic, ruled by the lunar calendar.* We clambered around said garage, among the tools and apples, squeezing by her beaten-up Renault and, as soon as we had tasted his two wines, 'La Petite Ourse' and 'La Grande Ourse', were quick to back the van up and load the last 9 cases he had.

Well-known at The Winery for his big, fragrant, constellation-themed reds, Pascal's range has expanded over the past 18 years to include a couple of equally big white wines. Pascal's Ursa Major Blanc is 80% Grenache Gris and 20% Grenache Blanc aged in demi-muid (large 600 litre oak barrels) and, intriguingly, a porcelain jar. Grenache Gris and Grenache Blanc can often make big, heavy and flabby wines but this is unexpectedly elegant and slender. White fruits, nuts, a hint of smoke. Mouth-filling with a touch of salinity.

#### **Kröver Letterlay Riesling Spätlese trocken 2022, Martin Müllen (Mosel/Germany)**

**27.99**

Martin Müllen and his son Jonas make thrilling dry Riesling in the Jugendstil (Art Deco) town of Traben-Trarbach in a very traditional style and remain the only winery on the Mosel who still vinify their entire range of Rieslings in large old wooden barrels rather than stainless steel. Having worked for decades in extremely cramped conditions in their tiny cellar below their house in the centre of Traben, in 2021 they moved into a larger old cellar in Trarbach on the other side of the river. Their beautiful label is taken from a vineyard map of the Mosel from 1897, originally made for tax purposes, which subsequently helped to inform the classification and hierarchy of the vineyards along the Mosel. With the single vineyard wines the location is highlighted in gold and GPS coordinates are provided.

Martin and Jonas' dry Rieslings have an ethereal, jewel-like quality and shimmering beauty.

#### **EX Sauvignon Blanc 2023 Wrath (California/USA) SUSTAINABLE**

**24.99**

We stumbled upon one of Wrath's impressive Pinot Noirs as we overnighted in San Luis Obispo on our way from LA to San Francisco. Wrath is based on the edge of the Santa Lucia Highlands, 40 miles southeast of Monterey. Michael Thomas, an Archaeologist and Director of Study of Ancient Italy at the University of Texas in Austin, got the food and wine bug during excavations in Italy, and bought the San Saba vineyard with his mother Barbara in 2007.

*continued*

*white – Wrath Sauvignon Blanc continued*

Although the Wrath speciality is Pinot Noir, they have a wide range of varieties. In whites they have Chardonnay (obvs for California), Falanghina (less obvs) and this tropical-meets-ripe-melon Sauvignon Blanc - EX (*from/out of*) the San Saba vineyard which surrounds the winery. The vines are the aromatic Musque clone from New Zealand. The wine is assembled from two different lots. The first is picked early to provide freshness. The second is picked later, when the grapes are very ripe, adding roundness and tropical notes.

*red***Château Lanbersac Vieilles Vignes 2016 (Bordeaux/France)****22.99**

Mediaeval Saint-Émilion feels like a town but has the population of a village. Until summer, when it is filled to bursting with wine-loving tourists. It is the magnetic centre of Bordeaux region's Right Bank, which tracks the north shore of the Dordogne, from Castillon at the east end (at the western edge of Bergerac), west through Saint-Émilion, Pomerol, Fronsac and beyond. Beyond where the Dordogne flows into the Gironde estuary, along the north bank through the Cotes de Bourg and as far as the mediaeval fortress town of Blaye. The area around Saint-Émilion is home to many prestigious and expensive Châteaux. There are four villages just beyond the Saint-Émilion appellation called the Saint-Émilion Satellites. Similar soil, slightly cooler climate, many old vines and increasingly well-regarded.

In addition to continuing her family's tradition of making sparkling wine (a rarity in Bordeaux), Céline Lannoye and her mother Françoise own Châteaux, including Château Lanbersac in Puisseguin Saint-Émilion and Château Ambe Tour Pourret in Saint-Émilion.

Sumptuous 100% Merlot from 55 year-old vines. Rich dark fruits. Very silky. Maturing nicely.

**Ribera del Duero Crianza 2021, Viña Sastre (Ribera del Duero/Spain)****33.99**

We were in northern Spain two years ago. After another hard day's tasting, we were in Vino Tinto restaurant in Valladolid in Ribera del Duero. We had almost finished a bottle of the benchmark Pesquera Crianza when we were joined by Jorge Herreras (we met through Bodegas Alvides who we have worked with for over twenty years).

"We need another bottle of red. Do you see anything interesting on the list?"

"Do you know Viña Sastre?"

"Not yet."

So along came the Viña Sastre whose entry-level Joven Roble showed impressively up against the fancier Pesquera.

Tonight we are showing the Crianza, up a level. 60 year-old vines, without mineral fertilisers, herbicides or insecticides, all bunches selected and harvested by hand. Wild yeast fermentation. A muscular wine with saturated fruit, beautifully balanced with great aging potential.

**EX Syrah 2021 Wrath (California/USA) SUSTAINABLE****29.99**

When we visited Wrath last October, it was no surprise that we loved their Pinot Noirs but we were also taken with 'Destruction Level' (an archaeological term) - an impressive blend of Grenache and Syrah - and this EX Syrah. At Wrath they are geeky about their clones - the provenance of their vines. So much so that they credit their Pinot clones on some of their labels. And the Syrah clones? 46% clone 174, 20% Noir and 34% 877. OK, none the wiser. But the addition of 20% whole clusters (that's the entire bunch of grapes complete with stems) during fermentation definitely has an impact. It's a revival of a technique that was widely used in Burgundy and the Rhône that all but disappeared in the search for juicy, fruit-driven wines in the 1990s. In these current hotter vintages, it can add some structure and some darker notes. Blueberries, brambles and spice. A grown-up twist of peppercorns and grilled meat.

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

Our next tasting will be at **The Winery Maida Vale** on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Join us for our Monthly Tastings**

**The Winery, 4 Clifton Road, London W9**

**[www.thewineryuk.com](http://www.thewineryuk.com)**

**[mailinglist@thewineryuk.com](mailto:mailinglist@thewineryuk.com)**

**The Winery, 797 Fulham Road SW6 5HD**

**[info@thewineryuk.com](mailto:info@thewineryuk.com)**

