

T H E

W I N E R Y

June Tasting 03.06.14

We are delighted to be joined tonight, all the way from Annone Veneto in the plains northeast of Venice, by Milly and Carlo Paladin, makers of The Winery's favourite Prosecco. We are showing three of their wines tonight; their Bosco del Merlo Prosecco, Pinot Grigio and the Lison Juti - a wine previously known as Tocai Friulano. Carlo and Milly, along with Carlo's brother and sister, are constantly adding new wines to their ever-expanding portfolio. We often have their delicious Malbec (Malbec), Sauvignon Blanc, Traminer and a fascinating sparkling red called Raboso Fiore, which went down very well at our dinner at Parlour recently. Not content with expanding their range of wines locally, they also bought an estate in Tuscany, in the heart of the Chianti Classico region. They have converted part of it into a luxury hotel. They have also bought an estate in Valdobbiadene, the most highly-regarded zone for sparkling wine in Italy.

SPARKLING

Prosecco NV, Bosco del Merlo (Veneto/Italy) ORGANIC 12.99

Carlo and Milly Paladin have been making organic wines under their Bosco del Merlo label for many years. They have a spread of vines over the flat plains at Annone Veneto north-east of Venice, 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. This, their Prosecco in a frizzante style, is crisp, lean and fresh.

WHITE

Pinot Grigio 2012, Bosco del Merlo (Veneto/Italy) ORGANIC 14.99

Pinot Grigio, best known from northern Italy, is also known as Pinot Gris in France and the New World, and as Grauburgunder in Germany and Austria. Pinot Grigio is one of the few white grapes to have a pink flesh. Although the natural colour is usually filtered away, some still have a pinkish tinge.

Lison Juti 2012, Bosco del Merlo (Veneto/Italy) ORGANIC 14.99

Some may remember our Hungarian colleague Kristian Kielmayer and how worked-up he used to get that the Italians called their delicious white wine from Friuli in the north-eastern corner of the country "Tocai Friulano". How dare they use the word Tocai?! They are trying to piggy-back on the reputation of Hungary's famous dessert wine, Tokaji! Never mind that Tocai Friulano is dry - or that the Hungarians had used the name for almost a century. Under enormous pressure from the Hungarians, the European Wine Police forced the Italians to drop the word Tocai in 2007. Whatever it says on the label, it has a beautiful honeysuckle nose and a creamy, rich texture. Milly and Carlo went further and decided to call the wine something completely different - Lison Juti. Lison is the area. What's Juti? We'll have to ask them tonight.

Riesling trocken 2013, Riffel (Rheinhessen/Germany) ORGANIC 13.99

One of the winners of the UK German Top 50 - Erik and Carolin Riffel's Riesling trocken has always been a winner on our shelves.

Bingen is on a massive corner on the Rhine, opposite Rüdesheim. It is at the north-western edge of the region where four wine-growing regions meet. Rheinhessen, Nahe, Mittelrhein and the Rheingau. Carolin and Erik Riffel have vines in the full south-facing Bingen Scharlachberg vineyard. Millions of years ago the Rhine looped below it, which may explain why their wines have an element of Rheingau opulence. The Riffels make electric, dry, modern Riesling which express the steep, quartz-infused, fossil-laden slate it is grown on and the very late October harvesting which extracts maximum ripeness. They are fully organic and, when we visited at the end of March, Erik was telling us about their aim to become biodynamic (the extreme end of organic viticulture where decisions are aligned with the Lunar Calendar). He showed us the Camomile and Yarrow which are used to make infusions to spray in the vineyard in homeopathic concentrations. How can such small concentrations have any effect? Somewhat incredulously, he says, they seem to work.



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RED

Spätburgunder Ruber 2011, Nelles (Ahr/Germany)

18.99

Another of the newly announced UK German Top 50. Ruber 2010 was raved-about by Jancis Robinson late last year. The tiny Ahr valley near Bonn is one of the northernmost winemaking regions of Europe. Romans planted vines here. Locals say the sheltered valley has an almost Mediterranean micro-climate. We wouldn't go quite that far, but there is little doubt that some of Germany's finest Pinot Noir comes from here. Thomas Nelles is the winemaker who names his top wine "B52" and ferments his wines in the traditional, huge, old oak Fuders. Founded in 1479, the Nelles family has been making wine for generations and own some of the best vineyard sites for red wine in Germany. "Ruber" is from the steep-sloped Landskrone vineyard in Heimersheim, clearly visible from Thomas's house. The wines are supple and velvety, and this Pinot is bursting with layers of smoke and cherry fruit with good acidity and remarkably soft tannins. How can they make Pinot Noir this good, this far north?

Rioja Crianza 2009, Longrande (La Rioja/Spain)

11.99

It's a pleasure to have Isabel Fernandez's Longrande back in the shop. Her 2008 Crianza flew and this, her 2009, is possibly even better. Fiery Isabel has been making the wine in her small family Bodega in the Rioja Alta for almost three decades - since she was 25. She goes to great lengths to keep the whole process as natural as possible; treading the whole bunches by foot (she's bought and abandoned three modern presses, but always ends up treading the grapes), using gravity to avoid pumping, never filtering. She even hermetically seals her subterranean barrel room with masking tape and determines the bottling date biodynamically, according to the cycles of the moon. Her wines are fascinating - often boldly perfumed, with a beautiful purity of fruit and surprising body and structure.

Cuvée Classique 2011, Domaine de Mauvan (Provence/France)

13.99

We were looking for another Rosé in Provence in the wilting 40C heat of summer. 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 with Martin Massot, Gaëlle Maclou's long-term boyfriend and co-worker. Gaëlle'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 22 years ago, stripped out the cereal production and has concentrated on wine ever since. The wines are terrific. A refreshing white, two levels of Rosé and three reds. Classique is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. All their reds age beautifully.



OLIVE OIL

Il Mercante di Delizie Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Paladin (Veneto/Italy)

1 litre - 17.99

Extra Virgin Olive Oil from the Paladin family in Annone Veneto.

LUNAR CALENDAR OBSERVERS – today is a Fruit Day.

There will be **more than one event** in **July** as we will be taking part in the **31 Days Of Riesling**. In addition to our usual monthly tasting (all Riesling on this occasion) provisionally **slated for 1st July**, feel free to lobby for the format of another event. Should it be a Riesling Wine Course Module in the back room at Kandoo (our favourite local Persian restaurant), or a Riesling Dinner? Or a second tasting at the shop? We will be bringing back another vanful from Germany halfway through the month. In addition to these two events, David has been asked to present a **German Riesling Tasting at The Remedy Wine Bar** in Cleveland Street W1 on **Saturday 26th July** from 15.00-17.00h.

Just arrived – Schola Sarmanti (Puglia), Boscarelli (Montepulciano), La Colombina (Montalcino), Casteggio (Lombardy), Longrande (Rioja), a vanful of the German Top 50 and Horeau-Beylot (Bordeaux) – including the 1999 La Croix-de-Saint-Georges that simply can't stay on the shelves.

Join us for our Monthly Tastings

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