

T H E
W I N E R Y

August Tasting 20.08.14

SPARKLING

Prosecco Millesimato Brut 2013, Bosco del Merlo (Veneto/Italy) ORGANIC 15.99

We are excited to be premiering a brand new vintage Prosecco. Carlo and Milly Paladin have been making organic wines under their Bosco del Merlo label for many years and their Prosecco Frizzante has been a Winery staple for over a decade. When Milly and Carlo visited us in June, they brought a bottle of their new vintage Prosecco Spumante in a distinctive, beautiful, dumpy bottle. One sip and we simply had to add it to our latest shipment.

The grapes are from Prosecco central, Conegliano, 35 kms away from their family winery in Annone Veneto north-east of Venice and equidistant from their new-ish estate in Valdobbiadene further into the foothills of the Alps.

WHITE

Reuilly "Les Lignis" 2012, Valéry Renaudat (Loire/France) 14.99

We had a Sauvignon Blanc emergency a few weeks ago which involved jumping in the van and barreling down to the Loire to fill-up with Valéry Renaudat's Reuilly and Quincy. Emergency over.

Sauvignon Blanc's spiritual home is the eastern end of Loire Valley, which one can forget is less than an hour from Chablis. It thrives on the chalky soil of Sancerre and Pouilly-sur-Loire (home of Pouilly-Fumé). He may seem shy and retiring but 40 year-old Valéry Renaudat has a fiery past. In 1999, when he was 25, he had a massive blow-out with his father, bought a few of his own vines and built his own cellar in Reuilly. Over the last 15 years he has grown his vineyards from 2.5 to 22 hectares, 2/3 in Reuilly, 1/3 in Quincy. With the passage of time he has made-up with his father and stored his wine at his Dad's place while his new cellar was being built. He has now moved into his shiny new "chai"(cellar) at the entrance to the village and, although he is surrounded by sparkling new stainless steel tanks, he has still hung onto a couple of his lucky old fibreglass tanks that he started with. Like the nearby village of Sancerre, Reuilly is overwhelmingly about zingy, grassy Sauvignon Blancs. We find Valéry's Sauvignon Blancs have a core of chalky minerality that keeps them fresh and lean, zizzy, zesty and evocative of running spring water, lime blossom and freshly cut grass.



Riesling Spätlese trocken 2013, Asbach-Kretschmar (Rheingau/Germany) ORGANIC 14.99

Full name: *Rüdesheimer Berg Roseneck Riesling Spätlese trocken 2013*

Rüdesheim is on the western edge of the south-facing Rheingau, where the Rhine then makes a sharp turn north. There's a statue of Germania (not unlike Britannia) at the top of the hill, the car ferry from Bingen below. A cable car crosses the vines. We had long been searching for a great Rüdesheim Riesling and it was a BIO-vintner on another river, Rudi Trossen from the Mosel, who gave us the tip.

Anglophiles Peter and Tania Kreuzberger lovingly tend their small organic parcels of vines in picturesque Rüdesheim, Hattenheim, Hallgarten and Winkel. This wine is benchmark Rheingau; opulent, oily, almost unctuous Baroque perfume emerges as the wine warms up. Classical structure with weight and power.

Côtes-du-Rhône Blanc 2011, Pascal Chalon (Rhône/France) BIODYNAMIC 16.99

It is almost a decade since we stumbled across Pascal Chalon making biodynamic Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages in his Granny's garage not far from Châteauneuf-du-Pape. We clambered around, amongst the tools and apples, squeezed ourselves around her beaten-up Renault and, as soon as we had tasted his original two wines, "La Petite Ourse" and "La Grande Ourse", were quick to back the van up and load everything he had. We love the deep richness and herbal flavours of his reds, evocative of the lavender and thyme-laden local landscape. Here's Pascal's new wine – a nutty, oily white with no name, made from Grenache Blanc with the tiniest splash of Ugni Blanc and using wild yeasts.

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RED

"Vom Kalkstein" Spätburgunder 2010, Fritz Ekkehard Huff (Rheinhessen/Germany) 14.99

Spätburgunder (that's German for Pinot Noir) by the young and very talented Christine Huff in the outskirts of Nierstein.

We had been on the lookout for a great Nierstein ever since our beloved St Antony winery changed hands in 2005. A dinner at the excellent Schloss Sörngenloch restaurant deep in the Rheinhessen countryside ended in intense conversation with the owner, Thomas. Nierstein? Try this Fritz Ekkehard Huff. Yum. When we phoned shortly afterwards, the daughter Christine said, "that's amazing, I only dropped a single sample bottle off at Sörngenloch!" Fate. Christine is fresh out of Geisenheim, the top German wine college and making bright, minerally dry Riesling from the iron-rich red cliffs overlooking the Rhine at Nierstein. There have been developments over the past two years. Jeremy Bird, a New Zealander, came to the Huffs to do a harvest in 2009. One thing led to another and he never left - Christine and Jeremy got married last summer.

When we visited recently, we couldn't resist this smoky Spätburgunder grown on chalky soil (*Kalkstein*) on the ridge above the cliffs south of Nierstein.

Château Malfard "Cuvée La Chapelle" 2012 (Bordeaux/France) ORGANIC 13.99

Bordeaux still relies heavily on a system of merchants. Families can own multiple properties, form alliances, have their own merchant arm selling wines from their own estates and those of others. It is sometimes a little fuzzy who owns what. Château Malfard is a good example. We frequently buy from the de Lavaux family who co-own several Châteaux on the Merlot-heavy Right Bank in various appellations centred around St Emilion. Château Martinet, Clos du Vieux Plateau Certan, La Renaissance, Bellevue, Clos des Galevesses and so on. They co-own a merchant company called Horeau-Beylot and offer this delicious organic Bordeaux Supérieur by Château Malfard - 70% Merlot with 20% Cab Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc. Dig a little deeper and we find that Malfard was owned by the Beylot family until 1872. Makes sense. The Beylot and de Lavaux families converged over the next 140 years.

We also buy from the Rivière family in Saint-Emilion who own Clos des Menuts, Château Picampau and Château Lavagnac among others. Turns out they bought Malfard in 1993. How come they don't sell the wines themselves? A question we will ask the Rivières when they visit us in a fortnight's time!



Vinsobres Cuvée Claude Vallot 2012, Domaine Coriançon (Rhône/France) BIODYNAMIC 16.99

To finish, a big, deep, biodynamic red by the bushy moustachioed Francois Vallot. François is a fourth-generation wine-maker and owns one of the smallest, oldest wineries in the Côtes-du-Rhône, an area where much of the wine is bottled by the big co-operatives. Since the 2007 vintage he has been fully biodynamic. Biodynamism is the extreme end of organic viticulture, where many decisions are synchronised with the lunar calendar. His winery is in Vinsobres, one of the named Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages, like Gigondas, Vacqueyras, Cairanne, all satellites of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It's a beautiful, warm, windswept setting with the jagged Dentelles de Montmirail and Mont Ventoux as a backdrop. His Grenache and Syrah vines are twisted and ravaged by the Mistral wind. This is one level up from his benchmark Vinsobres.

OLIVE OIL

Il Mercante di Delizie Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Paladin (Veneto/Italy) 500ml - 13.99

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

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

The date of our **next monthly tasting** is still slightly in flux. It will be at **The Winery** on **either the 15th OR 17th September** from 17.00-21.00h. Please keep an eye on our tastings page for updates or look out for our email invitation closer to the time.

Join us for our Monthly Tastings

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