

T H E
W I N E R Y

April Tasting **29.04.15**
featuring Philip Nelles

Tonight is Pinot night! German Pinot, to be precise. We are excited to be joined by **Philip Nelles** from the Ahr valley near Bonn and whose Spätburgunders (*Spätburgunder* = *Pinot Noir*) have been perennial favourites on our shelves for the best part of a decade.

SPARKLING

Prosecco NV, Bosco del Merlo (Veneto/Italy) ORGANIC **13.99**

It's back! You asked for it (and kept asking for it) and here it is! The Winery's top performing, favourite Prosecco for over a decade. 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 northeast 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 Prosecco is made in a *frizzante*, lower pressure style, under a normal cork. Gently floral in the nose, crisp, lean and fresh.



WHITE

Alte Reben Riesling trocken 2012, Nelles (Ahr/Germany) **20.99**

The Ahr valley specializes in Pinot Noir and, if white wine is called for, they usually produce a Blanc de Noirs – a white wine made with the free-run juice of Pinot Noir. There are however a few small pockets of Riesling. Here is Philip's dry Riesling from vines that are over 40 years old. We are down to our last few bottles - apologies if we run out.

Chateau de Callac Graves Prestige Blanc 2013 (Bordeaux/France) HALVES **375ml 9.99**

You may be surprised to see a half bottle in tonight's line-up. We were asked to arrange a special bottling in halves with screwcaps for Kate Bush's concert run at Hammersmith last autumn. They were to be served at the VIP dinners before each concert. Kate and her people chose a couple of Bordeaux and the Rivière brothers bottled this nutty, grassy Graves white specially for us. Graves starts at the southeastern edge of the city of Bordeaux and is equally well-known for its whites as its reds. Chateau Callac's Prestige is an elegant blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon.

Traminer delle Venezie 2014, Paladin (Veneto/Italy) **13.99**

The Paladin family is constantly adding new wines to an ever-expanding portfolio. We often have their delicious Malbec (Malbec), Sauvignon Blanc and a fascinating sparkling red called Raboso Fiore. Here's something new. Traminer (Gewürztraminer) is rarely seen in this eastern part of the Veneto and Carlo Paladin's experiment to grow it in the clay soils northeast of Venice has definitely been a success. Impressive, spicy, aromatic Traminer.

The Paladins never seem to let the grass grow below their feet and have also been snapping up estates in other regions. They bought Castello Bonomi in Franciacorta (widely held to be the best area for sparkling wine in Italy) and a Tuscan estate – Castelvechi in Radda, in the Chianti Classico Zone near Siena.

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RED

Schieferboden Spätburgunder 2011, Nelles (Ahr/Germany) 14.99

Smoky, velvety, Pinot Noir from Germany. (*N.B. Spätburgunder = Pinot Noir*). 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. Philip and his father Thomas name their top wine "B52" and ferment their 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. Schieferboden (*Slate Soil*) is a brand new addition to their range, a pre-selection from Ruber, the next one up their ladder of quality.

Ruber Spätburgunder 2012, Nelles (Ahr/Germany) 17.99

"Ruber" is from the steep-sloped Landskrone vineyard in Heimersheim, clearly visible from the Nelles' house and winery. Ruber is always supple and velvety - bursting with layers of smoke, autumn leaves and forest fruits with good acidity and remarkably soft, almost slippery, tannins. How can they make Pinot Noir this good, this far north?

Pinot Noir 2011, Nelles (Ahr/Germany) 19.99

Why is this bottling called Pinot Noir and the others Spätburgunder when they are the same grape? Good question. This is a parcel of vines from the Burgundy clone number 777 which produces smaller grapes. All their other vines are from German clones. Glad you asked? And the wine? Seems to have even more weight and darker fruit. If you think you can handle more, check out the "1 Ahr" and the "B" Series Spätburgunders. "B52" is their highly-prized top wine – nothing to do with bombers; it was the number of their best barrel. A stroke of marketing genius perhaps?



OLIVE OIL

Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Il Mercante di Delizie (Veneto/Italy) 500ml - 11.99

Olive Oil has become scarcer over the past 6 months. Last year's harvest in Italy was very very small, but the quality is excellent. Here is the Paladin's latest Extra Virgin Olive Oil. Peppery, liquid gold!

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

Diary date - our **following tasting** is scheduled for **Thursday 21st May**, here at The Winery.

Just arrived – From Jumilla, near Murcia, southeast **Spain**; Silvano Garcia's Monastrell (Spanish for Mourvèdre) and some of his unctuous dessert wines. **Germany** – Nelles (!), Becker, Flick, Bischel, Zum Krug, Schloss Vaux and introducing Josef Walter Spätburgunder from Franken. From **Bergerac**; another batch from Chateau Malleveille, including the Montravel that struggles to stay on the shelves. **Champagne** – Godmé plus homeopathic quantities from Marie-Noëlle Ledru. **Burgundy** is getting scarcer thanks to a string of short vintages, so we had to scramble the Winery van for emergency pick-ups from Michel Lafarge & Paul Pernot. **Italy** – another hit from Cantina di Casteggio and from **Piedmont**, Barbera & Barolo from Osvaldo Viberti, Pugnane & Palladino. Sorry, all the Dolcetto has already gone! Just in from the Rhone – long time Winery favourite Coriançon and Saint-Siffrein who make Châteauneuf-du-Pape in both colours and a delicious Côtes-du-Rhône Villages.

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