

T H E

# W I N E R Y

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## Clifton Road Christmas Trees & Lights Tasting 30.11.17

Strictly speaking, this is our December Tasting, which has been moved forward a week to synchronise with a visit from the Mayor of Westminster, who will be performing the “Festive Lights Switch On” outside Boots from 17.45-18.00h. Some of our neighbours will be staying open a bit later and running Christmas-themed events. Do drop in to visit Raoul’s, Sheepdrove, Village Vet and Yvonne Martin Beauty Clinic (around the corner in Clarendon Terrace).

### SPARKLING

#### **Pinot Nero Metodo Classico Brut NV, Cantina di Casteggio (Lombardy/Italy)**

14.99

The little-known region of Oltrepó Pavese is a bump on the plain 60kms south of Milan. There is one major player in town. It's fair to say Cantina di Casteggio is bigger than any other winery we work with – much bigger. A Co-op with 350 members and a massive facility, part run-down *fascista*-style, part Space Age. In 2008, the Cantina di Casteggio was bought (although euphemistically described as a “fusion”) by the Cantina di Bronis in the town of Broni just 12kms to its east. Quality has gone from strength to strength. Their dynamic boss, Livio Cagnoni has been driving big projects through and, when we visited recently, we saw their shiny new, extensive, state-of-the-art facility in Broni. The combined group now has 900 members spread across 28 villages, 90% of them in the hills (where the quality is finer).

Try as we might, we just couldn't resist the wines. The Cantina is very switched-on and started a "quality project" with their best 50 growers, bringing in high-profile consultant Riccardo Cotarella. This 100% Pinot Noir is a true *Methodo Champenoise*, fermented and aged for 18 months in bottle.



### WHITE

#### **Montravel 2014, Chateau de la Malleveille (SW France)**

12.99

It is this fascinatingly oily, aromatic, dry white wine that repeatedly brings us to a hill in the Bergerac, a short drive east of Saint-Émilion and Castillon in Bordeaux.

While it is often a battle to calm Thierry Bernardinis' oversize and very vocal Alsatian guard dog, the tasting that follows is always a joy. Each wine in the line-up (Montravel, Bergerac in white and three reds at different levels) is packed with character, thoroughly enjoyable and punching well above its weight. We also have their first red open tonight.

#### **Mâcon-Solentré-Pouilly “Sur le Mont” 2015, Cheveau (Burgundy/France)**

17.99

In southern Burgundy, near Mâcon, the primal presence of the two jagged rock faces of Vergisson and Solentré dominate the skyline above the tiny village of Pouilly, the village that time forgot. When we first visited 16 years ago, the whole Cheveau family, from Grandparents to Grandchildren, gathered in the doorway to watch the hot-shot wine merchants from London taste their wines. At that time, Nicolas Cheveau made Mâcon, St-Véran and Pouilly-Fuissé. Much has changed since then. When we visited recently Nicolas (now 40) proudly showed us the brand spanking new, much more accessible winery on the approach to the village. There are also several new bottlings. Four Mâcon, one Bourgogne Blanc, one St-Véran and no fewer than four separate Pouilly-Fuissé selections. “Sur Le Mont” is from higher vineyards above the village, from 40 year-old Chardonnay vines and aged in tank. No oak.

#### **Riesling “Classic” 2008, Querbach (Rheingau/Germany)**

16.99

We are excited to be showing a new discovery from the Rheingau. Peter Querbach was a long-time member of the VDP (the Premier League of German growers). He eventually found the rules too restrictive and handed his membership back: a big step – like a chef handing back Michelin stars. So, the Rheingau Bad Boy is now free to do what he pleases. And what he pleases pleases us. Peter likes to age his Rieslings. The dry Classic 2008 is straw yellow, smooth, enveloping, mature.

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**RED**

**Spätburgunder “vom Kalkstein” 2012, Huff**

**17.99**

It was a random sample bottle left at the excellent Schloss Sörgenloch restaurant deep in the Rheinhessen back in 2011 that brought us to Christine Huff's door. Fate. Christine was fresh out of Geisenheim, the top German wine college and was already making bright, minerally, dry Riesling from the red cliffs around Nierstein.

She has had a busy decade; increasingly taking control of the winery; meeting and marrying Kiwi Jeremy Bird (who came to help with the 2009 harvest and never left); having two babies; working tirelessly in the vines and cellar.

The town of Nierstein overlooks the Rhine on the strip between Mainz and Worms and historically has always been considered to be in the very top bracket in the hierarchy of Rheinhessen's vineyards.

Christine and her family, in common with many growers in the region, make a wide range of wines beyond Riesling including; Sylvaner, Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc), Grauburgunder (Pinot Grigio) and Scheurebe. They also make this smoky, velvety Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir), which is grown on limestone (Kalkstein) in the Paterberg vineyard on the ridge above the cliffs south of Nierstein. Chocolate, black cherries, bracken, autumn.

**Bergerac Rouge 2014, Chateau de la Mallevieille (Southwest France)**

**11.99**

Thierry Bernardinis' Bergerac Rouge is a blend of 60% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc. It may be a Bordeaux blend but, despite the proximity to its famous neighbour, it's quite different. Proper red wine with a hint of lead pencil in the nose, wonderfully balanced between salty savouriness and ripe saturated fruit.



**Rioja Crianza 2014, Heredad Pangua Sodupe (La Rioja/Spain)**

**13.99**

Our latest encounter with cigar-chomping, Che Guevara look-alike Roberto Pangua and his family almost killed us. After a full tasting at his Bodega in San Asensio in the Rioja Alta, the entire contents of the local butcher's shop were brought in and grilled over vine cuttings in the corner of the tasting room. We were subsequently four hours late for our following meeting and all we really wanted to do at that point was lie down. You only live once – and it almost ended there and then!

Roberto has 20 hectares around San Asensio and neighbouring Briones in the Rioja Alta. His family has worked the vines for as long as anyone can remember, always selling to the larger Bodegas. It was finally time to go it alone, so he started his own Bodega in 1998.

This is his Rioja Crianza, 100% Tempranillo, the very happy medium between the young Joven wine and the Reserva, evocative of forest fruit, tobacco, vanilla and herbs.

**OLIVE OIL**

**Extra Virgin Olive Oil “La Villa”, Melchiorri (Umbria/Italy)**

**1000ml - 22.99**

One of our new Olive Oils. Served in the Vatican and, supposedly, “The Pope's Favourite”.

**LUNAR CALENDAR OBSERVERS** – today is **Leaf transitioning to a Fruit Day**.

**Our next tasting** here at The Winery will be on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. Another date for your diary – **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**, featuring Marc Adeneuer and his silky Ahr Spätburgunders.

**Just arrived** – Cheveau & Paul Pernot (Burgundy), **introducing** Aurélien Chatagnier (Rhône), Amyot Champagne, Flick (Rheingau), Mallevieille & Haut-Pécharmant (Bergerac), lots of Bordeaux, Bosco del Merlo (Veneto), Terre a Mano (Tuscany), Casteggio (Lombardy), more Germany (Becker-Landgraf, Huff, Adeneuer, Zum Krug, JB Becker, Querbach).

**Arriving soon** - more Bordeaux, more Burgundy, more Champagne, Single Cask Whiskies, Port.

**Join us for our Monthly Tastings**  
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