

T H E

W I N E R Y

May Tasting

14.05.18

SPARKLING

Walter's Royal Riesling Sekt Brut NV, Walter (Briedel/Mosel)

19.99

Gerrit Walter was an intern with us in the summer of 2009 and went back home to help with the harvest before heading back to Geisenheim, the top Wine Uni in the country. His basic Riesling trocken is a long-time staple at The Winery - our "gateway" dry Riesling. We are trying two of his "other" wines tonight; a silky Pinot Noir and this mouth-filling Sekt - 100% Riesling from the perilously steep, slate vineyards of the small village of Briedel between Pünderich and Zell. Why's it called Royal? "It was my Dad's idea, pretty much from when they started making Sekt 20 years ago. No reason - just a whim!"

WHITE

Côtes-de-Provence Blanc 2017, Domaine de Mauvan (Provence/France)

14.99

We were looking for another Rosé in Provence in the wilting 40C heat of summer 2012. 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. They make two levels of Rosé, three wonderfully herbal reds and this refreshing, fragrant, gently oily white from 100% Rolle, otherwise known as Vermentino.



Reiler Goldlay Riesling trocken 2016, Steffens-Kess (Mosel/Germany) BIO

15.99

We visited and picked-up from Harald Steffens-Kess last week. Harald is friend and neighbour of Thorsten Melsheimer in the village of Reil on the Mosel. "I'm the one who filled out the forms and got Thorsten to sign up for Bio" he says. The Goldlay is a vineyard on the opposite bank to Reil and generally more sun-favoured than those on the village side. He makes his wines in a leaner, nervier style with all the whiff of slate that we love from the Mosel. "I want to make a wine that when you finish one bottle you want to open another...and another".

One time we visited Harald at the end of on February and the then recent high water was a topic along the valley. "It was high this year, but not as high as 1993 when I put my boat in the cellar and gave my kids and their friends rides. I was in waders in the freezing water. Brrrr. They still talk about it."

Sancerre 2016, Roger & Didier Raimbault (Loire/France)

21.99

Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé, at the eastern end of the Loire valley, are the neighbouring spiritual homes of Sauvignon Blanc. Sancerre is on the Left Bank of the river, Pouilly-sur-Loire on the Right. Sancerre sits on a chalk formation that runs north through Chablis and Champagne up to the white cliffs of Dover to the North Downs in Surrey, England.

Raimbaults have made wine here since the 1600s and today there are multiple Raimbaults dotted around the various wine-growing villages to the east of the town of Sancerre.

Didier and Isabelle Raimbault live in the hamlet of Chaudenay between Verdigny and Sury-en-Vaux. Didier's father Roger had built up the vineyards from 2 hectares in 1960 to 7.5 in 1995. Didier took over in 1996 and thanks, in part, to an uncle who was retiring and wanted to dispose of 6.5 hectares, has built up the family holdings to 18 hectares on two different types of soil; Caillottes (gravel and marl) and Terres Blanches (chalk).

They make three excellent Sancerre whites from their two soil types. This, their basic Sancerre is a blend of the two soils. Early bottlings are 70/30 Caillottes/Terres Blanches, later ones 50/50. Both bottlings are direct and expressive, lean and clear. This is from the later bottling. Classic, classy Sancerre.

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RED

Spätburgunder 2015, Walter (Mosel/Germany) 14.99

Like many along the Mosel valley, although 95% of his wine is Riesling, Gerrit also makes a small amount of Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir). Gerrit has always been very interested in Pinot Noir and was particularly keen to taste as much red Burgundy as possible while he interned with us in 2009. He was so obsessed with Pinot that he asked for a new French oak barrel for his 19th birthday (10 years ago). It is fair to say that the wine he made with it back then was a, er, “touch” too oaky. 10 years on he has been making this silky, smoky Spätburgunder in big old 1,000 and 2,000 litre barrels with no discernible oak flavour.

Rioja Crianza 2015, Heredad Pangua Sodupe (La Rioja/Spain) 14.99

Our last 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.

Côtes de Provence Rouge Vieilles Vignes 2015, Domaine de Mauvan (Provence/France) 16.99

Year-in year-out Gaëlle Maclou’s Rosé is a Winery favourite: our top-selling Rosé whenever the sun shines. The vineyard is in a beautiful, striking setting just east of Trets close to the stunning Mont Sainte-Victoire – part mountain, part ridge, much painted by Paul Cézanne.

This is one of her “other” wines, one of her reds – a deep, lush bottling of 80% Grenache and 20% Carignan from old vines planted in 1953 and 1956. Herbal, warm and spicy.



OLIVE OIL

Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Heredad Pangua Sodupe (Rioja/Spain) 500ml - 13.99

In addition to making Rioja in red and white, Roberto Pangua also bottles his own olive oil.

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

Our **next tasting** at The Winery will be on **Monday 11th June**.

If you are agonizing over what to drink while watching Harry and Meghan’s Wedding and happen to be near The Winery from **18.00h** on **Friday 18th May**, you may be lucky enough to get a taste of our favourite English Sparkling Wine, **Court Garden NV Brut**, from Ditchling, East Sussex, between Haywards Heath and Brighton. Lisa Harvey of Court Garden will be pouring.

Just arrived – a vanload from Germany: Ahr Spätburgunders by Thomas & Philip Nelles, Riesling from Clemens Busch, Harald Steffens-Kess, JB Becker. Zum Krug Sekt and, drum roll.... an amazing Gin, distilled in small batches single-handedly by Franz von Stauffenberg. Rioja by Longrande and Sodupe. Sancerre from Didier & Isabelle Raimbault.

Arriving this week – from Campania; Salvatore Molettieri whites and reds (including Taurasi: the Barolo of the South). From Piedmont; Scarpa – more of the 2000 Dolcetto and the 1998 Barbera d’Asti PLUS another oddity, 2006 Freisa.

Join us for our Monthly Tastings
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