

THE LANDAU

London is the wine capital of the World, and when the Langham was built in 1865, English merchants were already shipping and bottling wines from Europe's finest estates.

My brief in creating this list was to develop a snapshot of 21st Century fine wine production, but I also wanted to capture the traditions of the London Wine Market. Working with John Atkinson MW, has allowed us to draw upon the more studied aspects of wine appreciation, whilst acknowledging the fact that the vine has journeyed way beyond the confines of its old European home.

Uniquely, we have also invited winemakers to write dedications and create collections within the list. We are delighted that growers like California's Paul Draper, and Jean-Louis Chave in Hermitage have opened up their cellars so generously to us, and we hope their words will encourage some adventurous drinking choices.

Zack Saghir
Head Sommelier

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WINE BY THE GLASS

Champagne

Laurent-Perrier NV
Billecart-Salmon NV Rosé

Glass 175ml

£15.00
£24.00

White

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|------|--------|
| Saumur Blanc | Les Vignerons de Saumur, Loire, France | 2008 | £7.25 |
| Basa Blanco | Telmo Rodriguez, Rueda, Spain | 2008 | £7.50 |
| Chardonnay | Pitchfork, McLaren Vale, Australia | 2008 | £8.00 |
| Sauvignon Blanc | Isabel Estate, New Zealand | 2009 | £9.50 |
| Riesling | Domaine Zind Humbrecht | 2006 | £12.00 |
| Chablis | Domaine de la Boissonneuse, France | 2008 | £11.00 |
| Sequillo Blanc | Swartland, South Africa | 2008 | £12.00 |

Red

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------|--------|
| Hegarty-Chamans | Cuvée 2, Minervois, France | 2008 | £7.50 |
| Chianti Classico | Castello di Bossi, Toscana | 2006 | £11.00 |
| Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre | Twins, Maverick, Barrosa, Australia | 2006 | £11.50 |
| Brouilly | Vieilles Vignes, Lapalu, Beaujolais, France | 2008 | £12.00 |
| Pinot Noir | Dog Point, Marlborough, New Zealand | 2007 | £12.75 |
| Lytton Springs | Ridge Vineyards, Sonoma, California | 2005 | £14.00 |
| Château Pavail de Luze | Margaux, Bordeaux, France | 2005 | £16.50 |

Rosé

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Tavel | La Forcadière, Domaine Maby, France | 2008 | £10.00 |
|-------|-------------------------------------|------|--------|

Dessert

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------|--------|
| MR Moscatel | Telmo Rodriguez, Malaga, Spain | 2008 | £9.00 |
| Château de Cérons | Cérons, Bordeaux | 1998 | £12.50 |

Fortified

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------|--------|
| Late Bottled Vintage | Quinta de la Rosa, Port | 2003 | £9.00 |
| Fonseca | Vintage Port | 1985 | £25.00 |

CHAMPAGNE AND SPARKLING

The chalky hills of Champagne mark the northerly limit of French viticulture. The vineyards face north, south and east across open plains, the flat line of the horizon adding to the sense of climatic exposure that peaks during the run-in to vintage.

Spread around the eaves of the French *L'Hexagon*, Champagne is a roomy appellation, and the loose ties of provenance become further weakened by blending wines from different villages and different years. Originally, Dom Perignon saw blending as a pragmatic solution to the uneven fortunes of vintages, but what he didn't anticipate was the energy of combination that the practice would unleash within the wine. Fine Champagne is far more than the sum of its parts, and the firm, crystalline constitution of the finished wines show little semblance to the stark and pallid base wines from which the cellar master structures the blend.

CHAMPAGNE AND SPARKLING

| | | | Bottle | Half |
|------------------------|--|--|---------|--------|
| Non-Vintage | | | | |
| 100 | Laurent-Perrier Brut NV | | £75.00 | |
| 101 | Billecart-Salmon NV | | £85.00 | £42.00 |
| 102 | Louis Roederer Brut NV | | £85.00 | |
| 103 | Veuve Clicquot Brut NV | | £90.00 | |
| 104 | Bollinger Brut NV | | £110.00 | |
| 105 | Krug Grande Cuvée NV | | £330.00 | |
| Blanc de Blancs | | | | |
| 120 | Ruinart Blanc de Blancs | | £120.00 | |
| Rosé | | | | |
| 131 | Laurent-Perrier Rosé NV | | £130.00 | |
| 130 | Billecart-Salmon Rosé NV | | £130.00 | £65.00 |
| 132 | Cristal Rosé | 1989 | £790.00 | |
| Vintage | | | | |
| 140 | Laurent-Perrier | 1997 | £120.00 | |
| 141 | Billecart-Salmon, Nicolas Francois Billecart | 1998 | £170.00 | |
| 146 | Louis Roederer | 1996 | £215.00 | |
| 161 | Pol Roger 'Churchill' | 1995 | £320.00 | |
| 163 | Dom Perignon | 2000 | £325.00 | |
| 165 | Cristal | 2000 | £525.00 | |
| 162 | Billecart-Salmon, Le Clos St Hilaire | 1996 | £730.00 | |
| Sparkling | | | | |
| 190 | Prosecco NV | Cipriano, Veneto, Italy | £38.00 | |
| 193 | Shiraz, The Black Queen | Peter Lehmann, Barossa Valley, South Australia | 1999 | £54.00 |
| 191 | Pelorus NV | Cloudy Bay, Marlborough, New Zealand | £57.00 | |
| 192 | Blanc de Blancs | Nyetimber, West Sussex, England | 2000 | £75.00 |

BURGUNDY

Two-Thousand years ago, when the Romans had a stab at globalisation, they took their vines and viticulture with them. Once in Burgundy, the invasion passed-up the chance to improvise with any local vines, hence cultivation of the local Pinot Noir did not start until after the Empire's collapse. A peculiarly French logic therefore has it that while the Romans brought viticulture to France, it was France's destiny to bring fine wine, via Pinot Noir, to the world.

Over the centuries, Burgundy yielded to a gentle empiricism that saw its vineyards partitioned, a few hectares at a time, according to the quality and style of the wine they produced. Thus, the top white wine appellations of 1er Cru "Les Pucelles" and Grand Cru "Le Montrachet" lie along the most sheltered parts of Puligny's slope, whilst the red Grand Crus of La Tâche, Richebourg and Romanée Conti are planted behind the village of Vosne Romanée on a thin layer of gravelly hill wash. And so it goes on. Enthusiasts might find the pixel-like grid of vineyards and appellations edifying, but for the majority of drinkers, this deeply encrypted system has only acted as a deterrent.

Adding to this confusion is Pinot Noir itself; notoriously difficult to grow, it gives another layer of inscrutability to red Burgundy, a kind of mystery within a mystery. If the vintage is either too hot or too cold, then Pinot struggles to intensify its flavours or soften its hard edges. Encouragingly, the weather over the last two decades has been pretty kind to the Burgundians, allowing them to fashion wines we can all easily enjoy, though not necessarily always understand.

BURGUNDY

White

| | | | Bottle |
|-----|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 200 | Sauvignon de St Bris | Vieilles Vignes, Domaine des Temps Perdus | 2007 £33.00 |
| 201 | Chablis | Domaine de la Boissonneuse, Julien Brocard | 2008 £39.00 |
| 202 | Bourgogne Blanc | Domaine Michelot | 2006 £53.00 |
| 203 | Pouilly-Fuissé | La Roche, Bret Bros | 2007 £64.00 |
| 204 | Meursault | En la Barre, François Jobard | 2006 £85.00 |
| 207 | Nuits St Georges 1er Cru | Terres Blanches, Patrice & Michèle Rion | 2005 £104.00 |
| 208 | Chablis 1er Cru | Montmains, William Fevre | 2006 £104.00 |
| 205 | Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru | Domaine Marc Morey | 2004 £110.00 |
| 206 | Puligny-Montrachet | Vieilles Vignes, Les Charmeuses, Nicolas Potel | 2005 £115.00 |
| 237 | Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru | Domaine Michel Juillot | 2004 £240.00 |
| 209 | Le Montrachet Grand Cru | Jacques Prieur | 1998 £510.00 |

Red

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 400 | Bourgogne Pinot Noir | René Monnier | 2007 £32.00 |
| 401 | Côte Chalonaise | La Digione, Aubert de Villaine | 2006 £45.00 |
| 416 | Cote de Beaune Village | Maison Champy | 2005 £48.00 |
| 417 | Savigny les Beaune | Domaine Philippe Girard | 2004 £53.00 |
| 402 | Mercurey 1er Cru | Champs-Martin, Bruno Lorenzon | 2005 £61.00 |
| 403 | Beaune 1er Cru | Les Teurons, Albert Morot | 2004 £75.00 |
| 404 | Vosne-Romanée | René Engel | 2004 £95.00 |
| 405 | Chambolle Musigny 1 Cru | Les Charmes, Ghislaine Barthod | 2004 £145.00 |
| 406 | Nuits St. George | Domaine Henri Gouges | 2002 £205.00 |
| 408 | Clos Vougeot Grand Cru | Robert Arnoux | 1983 £350.00 |
| 407 | Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru | Charmes-Chambertin, Rousseau | 2005 £380.00 |
| 412 | Grands Echezaux Grand Cru | Dom Mongeard Mugneret | 1990 £500.00 |
| 411 | Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru | Domaine Romanée Conti | 1999 £650.00 |

Beaujolais

| | | | |
|-----|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 413 | Morgon | Côte de Py, Jean-Marc Burgaud | 2007 £37.00 |
| 414 | Fleurie | La Roilette, Bernard Metrat | 2008 £39.00 |
| 421 | Brouilly | "Vieilles Vignes", Jean Claude Lapalu | 2008 £45.00 |

THE LOIRE

The River Loire and its tributaries string together a diverse mix of vines and vineyards. At the mouth of the river, east of Paimboeuf, sea and land infiltrate each other's element in the curling creeks and salt marshes that bound the western perimeter of the Muscadet appellation. The eponymous grape variety is a super-abundant source of skinny white wine that seems far from ordinary when paired with the local moules, oysters and sunshine.

The Muscadet landscape is tamely flat, and the rectilinear pattern of vineyard rows rigorously repeats as the vines track east towards Anjou. Across the meadowy regions of Touraine and Anjou the vineyards become more sporadic, the best appellations perching on the hard bluffs of limestone, tufa, schist and slate that rise above the river. Chenin and Sauvignon Blanc are the preferred white grape varieties here, and the weight and succulence of Vouvray and Savennières provides a soothing counterpoint to palate-pinching Muscadet. Gamay, Pineau d'Aunis and Pinot Noir guest in a few of the region's red wine cuvées, but this is really the home ground of Cabernet Franc, tanker-loads of which sluice through Parisian wine bars. The French capital's besottedness with spindly Loire red wine is hard to fathom, but fortunately for us, diligent work at Frédéric Mabileau and Clos des Cordeliers has lifted some St Emilion-like smoothness from the Cabernet Franc genome.

The most evocative of the Loire's appellations *our* side of the Channel are Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé. A little Pinot Noir has found its way into these vineyards, delicately reemerging as rosé, but their reputation is largely built on mineral, blackcurrant-scented Sauvignon Blanc. Despite competition from New Zealand, Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé have maintained their varietal prominence, principally because the growers are still prepared to sacrifice a little flavour in order to boost Sauvignon's tactile thrill.

THE LOIRE

White

| | | | | Bottle | Half |
|-----|-----------------------|------------------------------|------|---------------|-------------|
| 210 | Saumur Blanc | Les Vignerons de Saumur | 2008 | £29.00 | £17.00 |
| 211 | Sauvignon de Touraine | Jean-Christophe Mandard | 2008 | £30.00 | |
| 216 | Sauvignon Blanc | Levin | 2006 | £33.00 | |
| 212 | Pouilly-Fumé | Les Loges, Jean-Claude Guyot | 2008 | £40.00 | |
| 213 | Sancerre | André Vatan | 2008 | £41.00 | £21.00 |
| 214 | Vouvray | Le Mont Sec, Domaine Huët | 1995 | £56.00 | |
| 238 | Sancerre | Chavignol, Francois Cotat | 2007 | £92.00 | |
| 215 | Coulée de Serrant | Savennieres, Nicolas Joly | 2004 | £130.00 | |

Red

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--|------|--------|--|
| 418 | Cabernet Sauvignon | Anjou, Frédéric Mabileau | 2007 | £36.00 | |
| 419 | Coteaux du Loir | Rouges Gorge, Domaine de la Bellivière | 2004 | £37.00 | |
| 443 | Bourgeuil | Racines, Frédéric Mabileau | 2005 | £42.00 | |
| 420 | Chinon | Les Chênes Verts, Charles Joguet | 2002 | £58.00 | |

Rosé

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------------|------|--------|--|
| 601 | Menetou-Salon | Jean-Jacques Tellier | 2008 | £38.00 | |
|-----|---------------|----------------------|------|--------|--|

Dessert

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|--|------|--------|--|
| 615 | Coteaux du Layon | Moelleux, Cuveé des Lys, Château la Tomaze | 1990 | £72.00 | |
|-----|------------------|--|------|--------|--|

BORDEAUX AND THE SOUTHWEST

The Bordeaux region in southwest France is dominated by two red grape varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, a symbiotic pairing that comes together in Claret.

Lying within the Bordeaux appellation is the Haut Médoc, a forty kilometre-long rib of sand and gravel whose geology has scarcely evolved beyond that of the beaches and dunes deposited on the nearby Atlantic coastline. It is the most written about and studied wine region in the world, and each year the Borderlais spin their accounts of the vintage, the thinly coded pronouncements urging us to buy.

Throughout the Haut Médoc and the more southerly appellation of Graves, Cabernet Sauvignon is the dominant grape, bolstering blends with its bittersweet mix of blackcurrants and brackish cranberries. In the best years, when the fruit is ripe and its tannins properly soluble, the 1st Growths of Latour, Margaux, Haut-Brion, Mouton-Rothschild, and Lafite reach an imperishable level of perfection.

The Haut Médoc is a fenland of drainage dykes, tidal inlets and shingle banks, but at Bourg the Gironde Estuary divides into the Garonne and Dordogne rivers, which then head further inland. Thirty kilometres along the course of the Dordogne are the appellations of St. Emilion and Pomerol, where the balance of planting shifts towards Merlot. St. Emilion has a real mish-mash of soils and Cabernet assumes a subordinate role; but in Pomerol, clay and Merlot hold full sway. The aggrandisement of Pomerol's wines is relatively recent, and its châteaux, though surrounded by some of the most valuable vineyards in the world, have none of the Médoc's architectural swagger. Here, Merlot, reaches its zenith, tempting us with its sweet blurring of fruit, spice and earth.

The last element of Bordeaux's sophisticated flavour-trap is Sauternes, and its neighbouring appellation of Barsac. Picked when the shades and mists of autumn are closing-in, the shrivelled berries of Semillon, Sauvignon and Muscadelle patiently ferment into golden wines that are irresistibly sweet, honeyed and delicious.

BORDEAUX AND THE SOUTHWEST

White

| | | | | Bottle | Half |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------|---------------|-------------|
| 220 | Château le Chec | Graves | 2007 | £34.00 | |
| 221 | L' Esprit de Chevalier | Pessac-Léognan, Graves | 2007 | £46.00 | |
| 222 | Domaine de Chevalier Grand Cru Classé | Pessac-Léognan, Graves | 2001 | £140.00 | |

Red

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------|------|----------|--------|
| 425 | Château la Croix des Moines | Lalande de Pomerol | 2005 | £35.00 | £19.00 |
| 426 | Château Beau Site Cru Bourgeois | St Estèphe | 2002 | £49.00 | £26.00 |
| 424 | Château Paveil de Luze Cru Bourgeois | Margaux | 2005 | £65.00 | |
| 428 | Château Batailley Grand Cru Classé | Pauillac | 2003 | £80.00 | |
| 427 | Château La Lagune 3me Cru | Haut Médoc | 1996 | £120.00 | |
| 430 | Château Leoville Barton Grand Cru Classé | St.Julien | 2001 | £165.00 | |
| 429 | Château Malartic-Lagravière | Pessac-Léognan | 2000 | £185.00 | |
| 431 | Pavillon Rouge de Château Margaux | Margaux | 2004 | £185.00 | |
| 432 | Vieux Château Certan | Pomerol | 2004 | £195.00 | |
| 433 | Château Pape Clément | Pessac-Léognan, Graves | 1990 | £270.00 | |
| 449 | Château Cos d'Estournel 2me Cru | St Estèphe | 2000 | £350.00 | |
| 438 | Château Cheval Blanc 1er Grand Cru Classé | St Emilion | 1985 | £750.00 | |
| 437 | Château Margaux 1er Cru | Margaux | 1986 | £1100.00 | |
| 441 | Château Latour | Pauillac | 1990 | £1600.00 | |
| 439 | Château Latour 1er Cru (Magnum) | Pauillac | 1990 | £3250.00 | |
| 440 | Pétrus | Pomerol | 1982 | £6500.00 | |

Dessert

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|------|---------|--------|
| 616 | Château de Cérons | Cérons, Bordeaux | 1998 | £49.00 | £26.00 |
| 618 | Château d'Yquem | Sauternes | 1988 | £760.00 | |
| 619 | Jurançon | Clos Thou, Henri Laplace | 2005 | | £30.00 |

BORDEAUX

FRANÇOIS MITJAVILE

The role of the vigneron is to hold a mirror up to nature. Each day brings something new, and over the season the vine gathers a memory of sunshine, humidity and warmth. Every year is profoundly different, and my role is to recover this memory and to articulate these differences. I never think of myself as a winemaker; winemaking is about domination. It is sometimes harder to let yourself be steered by nature, rather than resist it.

François Mitjavile

Red

| | | | Bottle |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 451 | Château Roc de Cambes | Côtes de Bourg | 2002 £82.00 |
| 450 | Château de la Rivière | Fronsac | 2004 £89.00 |
| 452 | Château Roc de Cambes | Côtes de Bourg | 1996 £95.00 |
| 453 | Château le Tertre Rotebœuf | St Emilion Grand Cru Classé | 2002 £250.00 |
| 455 | Château le Tertre Rotebœuf | St Emilion Grand Cru Classé | 1995 £260.00 |
| 454 | Château le Tertre Rotebœuf | St Emilion Grand Cru Classé | 1998 £285.00 |

RHÔNE AND MIDI

The vineyards of the Northern Rhône barely stray from the river's course, and the two principal appellations, Côte Rôtie and Hermitage, are situated where the swerve of the flow brings a warming southerly exposure to the steep valley sides. Syrah is the dominant grape variety, and the parallel rows of vines impose their own geometry on the rugged landscape of granite and limestone. Côte Rôtie is the more flattering of the two wines to drink when young, whilst the wines of Hermitage have exceptional staying power, with great vintages seemingly as immortal as the rocks on which they are grown.

Travel south down the Rhône, and the climatic mood changes rapidly as you pass south of Valence. The Midi is the destination that comes to mind when most of us imagine France: sunshine, shutters, peeling render and houses crammed tight for shade. All the regional appellations share in the dazzling light, but the range and quality of wine is vast, varying from modestly pitched Vin du Pays through to generous and more serious world-beating blends.

RHÔNE AND MIDI

White

| | | | | Bottle | Half |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------|---------------|-------------|
| 225 | Sauvignon Blanc | Les Fumées Blanches, Lurton | 2008 | £30.00 | |
| | | Vin de Pays d'Oc | | | |
| 226 | Roussanne | Domaine La Croix Gratiot | 2009 | £36.00 | |
| 227 | Mas de Daumas Gassac | Vin de Pays de l'Hérault | 2006 | £54.00 | |
| 228 | Châteauneuf-du-Pape | Clos des Papes | 2003 | £64.00 | |
| 231 | Condrieu | Maison Chapoutier | 2004 | £75.00 | |
| 229 | Crozes-Hermitage (Magnum) | Alain Graillot | 1998 | £110.00 | |
| 230 | Château Grillet | Neyret-Gachet | 2004 | £130.00 | |

Red

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|---------|--------|
| 460 | Hegarty-Chamans | Cuvée 2, Minervois | 2008 | £29.00 | |
| 473 | Monty's | Vin de Pays des Côtes Catalanes | 2007 | £34.00 | |
| 461 | Côtes-du-Rhône | Domaine St Gayan | 2006 | £35.00 | £17.50 |
| 462 | Gigondas | Grand Montmirail | 2005 | £43.00 | |
| 463 | Domaine Richeaume | Tradition, Côtes de Provence | 2005 | £44.00 | |
| 464 | Crozes-Hermitage | Alain Graillot | 2006 | £52.00 | £29.00 |
| 465 | Châteauneuf-du-Pape | Le Vieux Donjon | 2004 | £86.00 | |
| 466 | Mas de Daumas Gassac | Vin de Pays de l'Hérault | 2005 | £85.00 | |
| 469 | Mas Jullien | Coteaux du Languedoc | 1999 | £120.00 | |
| 467 | Cornas | Auguste Clape | 1998 | £123.00 | |
| 468 | Domaine de la Grange des Perès | Vin de Pays de l'Hérault | 2000 | £180.00 | |
| 470 | Domaine de Trévallon (Magnum) | Vin du Pays Bouches du Rhône | 1995 | £263.00 | |
| 472 | Côte Rôtie (Magnum) | Jasmin | 1998 | £285.00 | |
| 471 | Côte Rôtie | La Turque, Etienne Guigal | 1998 | £810.00 | |

Rosé

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------|---------------|------|--------|--|
| 602 | Tavel | La Forcadière | 2008 | £38.00 | |
|-----|-------|---------------|------|--------|--|

Our family have been making wine at Hermitage since 1481. We are privileged to have vine holdings in ten different climats, which gives us a broad palette of fruit to blend and work with.

Each year we make a rigorous selection of barrels before settling on the final blend for our Hermitage Rouge and Blanc. When the right conditions prevail we supplement our production of Hermitage with tiny quantities of our Cuvée Cathelin and Vin de Paille. All too often these wines vanish into the cellars of collectors, so it is gratifying for us to see them offered *à table* on The Landau list.

Amitiés

Jean-Louis and Erin Chave

White

| | | | | Bottle | Half |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|------|---------------|-------------|
| 235 | Hermitage Blanc | J.L Chave | 1993 | £232.00 | |
| 234 | Hermitage Blanc | J.L Chave | 1992 | £300.00 | |
| 236 | Hermitage Blanc | J.L Chave | 1998 | £320.00 | |

Red

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------|------|----------|--|
| 478 | St Joseph | J.L Chave | 2006 | £80.00 | |
| 480 | Hermitage Rouge | J.L Chave | 1985 | £245.00 | |
| 479 | Hermitage Rouge | J.L Chave | 1998 | £260.00 | |
| 481 | Hermitage Rouge (Magnum) | J.L Chave | 1996 | £585.00 | |
| 482 | Hermitage Rouge Cuvée Cathelin | J.L Chave | 1995 | £1175.00 | |
| 483 | Hermitage Rouge Cuvée Cathelin | J.L Chave | 1998 | £1450.00 | |

Dessert

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|------|--|---------|
| 620 | Hermitage, Vin de Paille | J.L Chave | 1996 | | £465.00 |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|------|--|---------|

Catalan culture is fiercely independent, but its viticulture was traditionally centred on the co-operative movement. When we started in 1985 with 5 hectares of inherited vines, the fruit was all sent to the Calce Co-operative. Today, with 45 hectares in and around Calce, we bottle our entire production.

Without belonging to any specific organisation, we choose to work our vineyards biodynamically, treating with plant based 'tisanes' and respecting lunar influences. We believe in picking early to capture the freshness and energy of our fruit, and not waiting to maximise potential alcohol.

In 2001, we discovered a commune high up in the Agly valley, called Saint Martin de Fenouillet. At up to 600m of above sea level, and with a soil of decomposed granite overlain with limestone, this seemed an ideal spot to craft wines of finesse and elegance. The varieties are even more diverse than at Calce, with the addition of Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin in white and Cabernet Sauvignon in red. We were immediately surprised and gratified by the concentration and freshness of the white, and by the structure and the minerality of the red. Le Soula was born.

Gérard and Ghislaine Gauby

White

| | | | | Bottle | Half |
|-----|----------|---------------------------------|------|---------------|-------------|
| 240 | Le Soula | Vin de Pays des Côtes Catalanes | 2005 | £49.00 | |
| 241 | Le Soula | Vin de Pays des Côtes Catalanes | 2001 | £53.00 | |

Red

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|---------|--|
| 488 | Côtes de Roussillon Villages | Vieilles Vignes, Domaine Gauby | 2004 | £43.00 | |
| 489 | Le Soula (Magnum) | Vin de Pays des Côtes Catalanes | 2003 | £150.00 | |
| 490 | Côtes de Roussillon Villages (Magnum) | Muntada, Domaine Gauby | 2001 | £200.00 | |

Dessert

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------------------|------|--|--------|
| 625 | Vin Doux Naturel Rivesaltes | Caricia, Domaine Gauby | 2005 | | £58.00 |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------------------|------|--|--------|

ALSACE

Rather like those wish-fulfilling Carlsberg *ads*, winter in Alsace offers a snowman's vision of vineyard utopia: the land is hard with frost and the hills are crested with snow. Through July and August, however, this alpine backdrop suddenly looks surreal; for two months, daytime temperatures soar, and the chlorophyll sizzles. But just as dramatically as it arrives, so the summer hurriedly departs. By late September, the first frosts have felt their way into the vineyards, and overnight the leaves turn, from their margins inwards, a papery-brown. During harvest, a thick mulch of leaf litter covers the ground.

For the vine, summer is a time of accumulation, and autumn a time of consolidation. Once the grapes have changed colour, their skins become more porous, and hot weather can all too easily evaporate flavours and aromas from the grapes. Fortunately, the early onset of the Alsacien autumn seals-in the rapidly hoarded sugars and savours of summer, and provides both Gewürztraminer and Pinot Gris with a rich and distinctive ambrosial element.

ALSACE

White

| | | | | Bottle |
|-----|----------------|---|------|---------------|
| 245 | Pinot Blanc | Paul Blanck | 2006 | £32.00 |
| 246 | Pinot Gris | Rieffel | 2005 | £36.00 |
| 247 | Riesling | Domaine Zind Humbrecht | 2006 | £52.00 |
| 248 | Pinot Gris | Rotleibel, Vendanges Tardives, Rolly Gassmann | 1996 | £64.00 |
| 251 | Gewurztraminer | St. Hippolyte, Marcel Deiss | 2006 | £70.00 |
| 250 | Riesling | Clos St Hune, Trimbach | 2003 | £220.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|------------|--------------------------|------|--------|
| 423 | Pinot Noir | Burlenberg, Marcel Deiss | 2002 | £72.00 |
|-----|------------|--------------------------|------|--------|

GERMANY

Traditionally, viticulture in the Mosel Valley provided a perilous level of subsistence for man and vine alike. The steeply inclined vineyards loomed impressively above the river, but the toil that fastened these vines to the hillsides sapped every last joule of effort from the growers. In rain-jinxed years that yield little or no crop, the perennial graft of pruning and tying-in felt more like the labour of Sisyphus than the bucolic labour of love it was reckoned to be.

As with the rest of Europe, Germany's vineyards have heated-up significantly over recent decades, and the harvest has moved forward in the year. Vintage is now more likely to coincide with the soft warmth of late summer than with the first frosts of autumn. The tongue-knacking Germanic names may not have changed, but the extra degrees of summer heat have plumped-up Riesling, so that it now offers a broad and easy exit for drinkers looking to escape the enveloping tide of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

GERMANY

White

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|------|--------|
| 255 | Riesling Kabinett | Graacher-Himmelreich, Weingut Willi Schaefer, Mosel | 2005 | £47.00 |
| 256 | Pinot Gris | Georg Breuer, Rheingau | 2005 | £50.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------------|------|---------|
| 494 | Spätburgunder | "S" Goldkapsel, Meyer Nakel, Ahr | 2001 | £135.00 |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------------|------|---------|

Dessert

| | | | | |
|-----|------------------|--|------|---------|
| 626 | Riesling Auslese | Schloss Johannisberg, Rosalack, Rheingau | 2002 | £154.00 |
|-----|------------------|--|------|---------|

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Austria and Hungary seem cursed to be in a perpetual state of wine revival. Our confidence in wine seems to fade as we edge east into Europe, yet both countries offer something unique in terms of grape varieties and style, and, to my mind, perfectly fuse the current trends for drinking less, and drinking better.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

White

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---|------|--------|
| 259 | Santorini | Domaine Hatzidakis, Greece | 2007 | £32.00 |
| 258 | Grüner Veltliner | Weingut Rudolf Rabl, Spiegel, Austria | 2008 | £36.00 |
| 260 | Riesling Kabinett | Ried Pfaffenburg, Emmerich Knoll, Austria | 2005 | £46.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------------------------|------|--------|
| 497 | Blaufränkisch | Eiseberg, Uwe Schifer, Austria | 2008 | £34.00 |
|-----|---------------|--------------------------------|------|--------|

ITALY

Viewed through delicatessens and markets, Italy seems the most generously provisioned country in the world, offering raw, cooked and cured versions of nearly everything it grows and rears. Wine's position on this crowded table is less clear. Only twenty years ago, Chianti bottles came wrapped in woven straw "fiascos"; the empty bottles made good lamp stands and improvised as candelabras, but the quality reminded you that the straw hat was the headgear of the beach donkey, and not the thoroughbred horse.

Tuscany's revival was down to the shared vision of winemakers like Giachomo Tachis, and Franco Bernabei. Tachis combined Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon in Bordeaux-style barrels to make the Super Tuscan "Tignanello", whereas Bernabei set himself the unenviable task of re-establishing the reputation of Chianti Classico. Mercifully, the scrawny, old-style Chiantis of the 1970s have wasted away, to be replaced by better-nourished wines from estates like Fontodi, Bossi and Isole e Olena.

In Barolo and Barbaresco, wine production was also liberated from bucolic ritual. Traditionally, the red wines of Piedmont sat in barrel indefinitely, and even though the venerable vintages looked good on labels, the wines themselves invariably tasted harsh and strained. Returning from Bordeaux in the 1970s, Angelo Gaja set about reviving his family's Piedmont estate along French lines; accordingly, all fermentations and maturations would be tightly controlled, and generic recipes were to be broken down into their constituent parts, the best wines being sold under single-vineyard designations. The Gaja's trio of vintages, 88, 89 and 90 became legend, and by the mid-1990's, Piedmont's borders had been decisively drawn onto the global fine wine map.

At the start of the 21st Century, Italy is a thoroughly modern winemaking nation; growers have taken on and beaten the bureaucrats who had wanted to put a permanent lock-on innovation, revealing a land brimming in flavour from top to bottom.

ITALY

White

| | | | | Bottle |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------|------|---------------|
| 263 | Trebbiano d'Abruzzo | Fattoria Nicodemi | 2006 | £33.00 |
| 264 | Gavi di Tassarolo | La Zerba, Terrarossa | 2008 | £40.00 |
| 265 | Pinot Grigio | La di Motte, Piave | 2008 | £38.00 |
| 266 | Soave Classico | Inama, Verona | 2008 | £39.00 |
| 267 | Colli Tortonesi Timorasso | Derthona, Massa | 2007 | £45.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------------------|------|---------|
| 500 | Terredora | Aglianico IGT, Campania | 2007 | £35.00 |
| 501 | Valpolicella | Ca Fiui, Corte Sant'Alda | 2008 | £37.00 |
| 503 | Dogliani | Siri d'Jermu, Pecchenino | 2006 | £47.00 |
| 502 | Chianti Classico | Castello di Bossi, Toscana | 2006 | £48.00 |
| 504 | Montepulciano d'Abruzzo | Binomio, Spoltore | 2005 | £79.00 |
| 505 | Barolo | Monprivato, Mascarello | 2003 | £120.00 |
| 506 | Corbaia | Castello di Bossi, Toscana | 2003 | £125.00 |
| 507 | Tignanello | Antinori, Toscana | 1999 | £240.00 |
| 509 | Barbaresco | Angelo Gaja, Piemonte | 2001 | £360.00 |
| 508 | Sassicaia | Tenuta San Guido, Toscana | 2006 | £420.00 |

Rosé

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|------------------|------|--------|
| 604 | Bardolino Chiaretto | Giovanna Tantini | 2008 | £35.00 |
|-----|---------------------|------------------|------|--------|

Dessert

| | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-------------------|------|--------|
| 629 | Moscato d'Asti | Boroli | 2006 | £35.00 |
| 630 | Valpolicella Recioto | Allegrini, Verona | 2004 | £72.00 |

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

The scale and infrastructure of the Spanish wine industry always emphasised supply over demand. The annual influx of tourists soaked up some of the surplus, but Spain's most dependable wine customers were always its own distilleries. Thus, any grower responding to the international call for improved quality had to confront both a backward winemaking culture, and the widely-held prejudice that Rioja's border formed a boundary over which serious drinkers should not stray.

One criticism levelled at modern winemaking is that it diminishes individuality, yet in Spain it has done the very opposite. The latest generation of white wines from Rueda, Galicia and Navarra are readily distinguishable from each other, whilst the reds from the emerging Priorato appellation draw something unique and elemental out of the sun-blasted rocks of Catalonia. Other regions like Ribera del Duero, and the robustly named "Toro", are also flourishing, though nowadays our curiosity for brands such as Pingus and Pesus is most likely to be prompted by their ambitious pricing.

Just as Rioja dominates Spain, so Portugal has also struggled to shed its one-wine-nation status. Port's antique-y style evolves slowly from the dense mass of sugar and alcohol, but impatient and more adventurous drinkers can find a tapered, delicate version of its character in the light red wines of the Douro.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

White

| | | | | Bottle |
|-----|----------|--------------------------------|------|---------------|
| 270 | Rioja | Ondarre Blanco | 2008 | £29.00 |
| 271 | Nerola | Torres, Catalunya | 2006 | £32.00 |
| 272 | Albariño | Serra Da Estrella, Rias Baixas | 2008 | £35.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------|---------|
| 512 | Quinta do Passadouro | Vinho Tinto, Douro | 2006 | £37.00 |
| 513 | Rioja | Reserva Lorinon, Bodegas Breton | 2004 | £43.00 |
| 514 | Tempranillo-Cabernet (Magnum) | Enate, Somontano | 2002 | £80.00 |
| 516 | Priorat | Dits del Terra, Sadia Family | 2002 | £125.00 |
| 517 | Vinha da Ponte | Quinta do Crasto, Douro | 2004 | £130.00 |
| 519 | Valbuena | Vega Sicilia, Ribera del Duero | 2002 | £187.00 |
| 518 | Rioja Gran Reserva | Castillo Ygay, Marqués de Murietta | 1978 | £210.00 |

Like The Langham, the Compañia de Viños de Telmo Rodriguez has its roots in the nineteenth century. Many regions that flourished a century ago have become forgotten, and I made it my mission to find and restore the reputations of these vineyards.

After my training at Bordeaux University, Cos d'Estournel and Gérard Chave, I went home to run the family's Rioja estate, Remelluri. In 1994, I left Remelluri to seek out these ancient vineyards, and a decade on I now have projects across Spain. In all of these regions my team and I are producing wines that reflect their location, terroir and tradition.

Telmo Rodriguez

White

| | | | | Bottle |
|-----|-------------|------------|------|---------------|
| 275 | Basa Blanco | Rueda | 2008 | £29.00 |
| 276 | Gaba do Xil | Valdeorras | 2005 | £30.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------|------|--------|
| 523 | Viña 105 | Cigales | 2006 | £35.00 |
| 524 | Pago la Jara | Toro | 2005 | £69.00 |
| 525 | Altos de Lanzaga | Rioja | 2005 | £96.00 |

Dessert

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| 634 | MR Moscatel (50cl) | Malaga | 2008 | £34.00 |
| 635 | Molino Real (50cl) | Mountain Wine, Malaga | 2004 | £58.00 |

NORTH AMERICA

Time was when the world divided-up between those who believed California to be Grape-Heaven-on-Earth, and those who saw it as a state of bootleggers, ripping-off European blends and names to satisfy their own ends. Conveniently, this divide was easy to draw: it was the North Atlantic. On the Eastern side of the of "The Pond" were the châteaux and gently accumulated riches of the Bordelais, while stacked-up on the western shore were the aggressively made fiscal fortunes and brick cities of the US of America.

in 1976, an Englishman, Steven Spurrier, proposed a sporting end to this rivalry, and under his supervision a blind-tasting was staged in Paris, where California's best were pitted against Bordeaux's finest. "Quelle horreur" First place went to Stag's Leap Vineyard. One-nil, California. "Our wines were too young", Team France muttered, after all, when it came to Cabernet/Merlot blends they *had* spent the past few hundred years defining the vernacular. "Repeat the tasting in twenty years time and the result would be reversed", they insisted, confident that Claret's brilliance would, like integalactic starlight, eventually shine out from the darkness. So, in 2006, the tasting panels reconvened, and this time Ridge "Monte Bello" 1971 won. Two-nil... Silence.

Whether heaven or haven, somewhere between L.A. and Seattle on America's West coast exists the perfect environment for every grape variety that has ever been grown, vinified or bottled. The viticultural map of the Pacific States is getting ever more detailed, and we (and that includes the French) should take Americans seriously when they tell us "You ain't seen nothing yet."

NORTH AMERICA

White

| | | | | Bottle | Half |
|-----|-----------------|--|------|--------|------|
| 277 | Sauvignon Blanc | Paul Dolan, Mendocino, California | 2006 | £34.00 | |
| 280 | Albariño | Ca del Solo, Bonny Doon, California | 2006 | £45.00 | |
| 279 | Chardonnay | Au Bon Climat, Santa Barbara, California | 2007 | £46.00 | |
| 281 | Chardonnay | Domaine Drouhin, Willamette Valley, Oregon | 2006 | £50.00 | |
| 278 | Pinot Blanc | Elk Cove, Yamhill, Oregon | 2005 | £54.00 | |
| 282 | Riesling | Eroica, Château St Michelle and Dr Loosen, Washington State | 2006 | £56.00 | |
| 283 | Chardonnay | David Ramey, Russian River, California | 2005 | £74.00 | |

Red

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---|------|---------|--|
| 530 | Merlot | Avila, Santa Barbara County, California | 2004 | £35.00 | |
| 531 | Zinfandel | Peachy Canyon, Paso Robles, California | 2005 | £42.00 | |
| 532 | Syrah | Qupé, Central Coast, California | 2004 | £45.00 | |
| 533 | Pinot Noir | Mount Jefferson, Cristom, Willamette Valley, Oregon | 2006 | £58.00 | |
| 534 | Merlot | Frog's Leap, Napa Valley, California | 2006 | £73.00 | |
| 536 | Pinot Noir | Knox Alexander, Au Bon Climat, Santa Barbara, California | 2002 | £80.00 | |
| 537 | Petite Sirah | Hayne, Turley, Napa Valley, California | 2003 | £194.00 | |
| 538 | Cabernet Sauvignon | Stag's Leap, Napa Valley, California | 2005 | £155.00 | |

Dessert

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------------|------|--|--------|
| 636 | Vidal Ice Wine | Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada | 2003 | | £77.00 |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------------|------|--|--------|

NORTH AMERICA

RIDGE VINEYARDS, SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS, CALIFORNIA

In 1865 the Langham, the first of Europe's great luxury hotels, was opened in London. Its tradition of quality in décor, style and service are evident today in its commitment to excellence.

In 1885 the Monte Bello Winery was built and its vineyards planted high on the slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains overlooking San Francisco. Re-opened in 1959 by the Ridge founders, this cool location with its mature vines and limestone soils has produced forty-five vintages of the most distinctive, complex Cabernet and Chardonnay in California.

After a quarter-century's experience with the quality of its Zinfandel grapes, Lytton Springs became a part of Ridge in 1991. Forty vintages of Geyserville Zinfandel attest to yet another stunning combination of location and varietal.

Though born in the early sixties to the post prohibition world of California wine technology, Ridge turned back to the 19th century approach of minimal intervention and wine growing rather than winemaking. Great wines begin with the earth, with the distinctive character imparted by the site. The naturally occurring yeast transforms the grapes into wine. Man's role is to guide that natural process, keeping the child, the young wine, on the straight and narrow. There is no recipe, only careful attention and sensitivity.

Paul Draper

NORTH AMERICA**RIDGE VINEYARDS, SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS, CALIFORNIA**

White

| | | | | |
|-----|------------|-----------------|------|-------------------------|
| 286 | Chardonnay | Ridge Vineyards | 2005 | Bottle £70.00 |
|-----|------------|-----------------|------|-------------------------|

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------|------|---------|
| 543 | Cabernet Sauvignon | Ridge Vineyards | 2003 | £53.00 |
| 545 | Lytton Springs | Ridge Vineyards | 2005 | £57.00 |
| 544 | Petite Sirah, York Creek | Ridge Vineyards | 1999 | £68.00 |
| 546 | Geyserville | Ridge Vineyards | 2006 | £69.00 |
| 547 | Monte Bello | Ridge Vineyards | 2000 | £240.00 |
| 548 | Monte Bello | Ridge Vineyards | 1996 | £255.00 |
| 551 | Monte Bello | Ridge Vineyards | 1997 | £280.00 |
| 549 | Monte Bello (Magnum) | Ridge Vineyards | 2001 | £330.00 |
| 550 | Monte Bello | Ridge Vineyards | 1981 | £480.00 |

SOUTH AMERICA

The Andes run the length of South America, their immense mineral mass intruding into the weightless realm of clouds and sky. To the west of the Cordillera stretches Chile, 3000 miles north to south, like a solid line of longitude, its vineyards crammed on the fertile plains between the mountains and the Pacific. Argentina's vineyards lie in the foothills to the east of the Andes, and in Salta Province their elevation is measured in miles rather than feet or metres. The dizzying altitude provides some relief from the heat of summer, but more importantly, the Andes are the source of the water without which the vines would die.

Both countries have tried to claim a vine variety for themselves, and while Argentina has planted its flag in fields of Malbec, the Chileans have taken-in Carmenère as if it were one of their own. In truth, both vines originated in Southwest France.

The two wine styles are very different. The ultraviolet pours through Argentina's thin mountain air, and after season-long exposure to the light, Malbec stains everything it touches. Following a day's tasting in Mendoza my teeth were stained, but I left Argentina with the thought that if the colour purple did have a taste, then surely it would taste of Malbec.

Chile has a reputation for reliability rather than creativity, and Carmenère on its own is no real guarantee of consistent character or unique style. The best advice is to follow winemakers, particularly those like Alvaro Espinoza and Byron Kosuge, who have successfully nurtured and maintained their vision of hand-crafted winemaking within an otherwise corporate-leaning industry.

SOUTH AMERICA

White

| | | | | Bottle |
|-----|--------------------|---|------|---------------|
| 290 | Chardonnay Reserve | La Playa, Limari Valley, Chile | 2008 | £32.00 |
| 291 | Chardonnay | Catena, Mendoza, Argentina | 2007 | £40.00 |
| 292 | Sauvignon Blanc | Garuma, Viña Leyda, Leyda Valley, Chile | 2006 | £41.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---|------|--------|
| 554 | Merlot Reserve | Viña Leyda, Leyda Valley, Chile | 2006 | £33.00 |
| 555 | Cabernet Sauvignon | Don Cristobal, Mendoza, Argentina | 2006 | £35.00 |
| 559 | Malbec Reserve | Sophenia, Mendoza, Argentina | 2008 | £44.00 |
| 558 | Unus | Mendel, Mendoza, Argentina | 2004 | £62.00 |
| 557 | Syrah | Bayo Oscuro, Kingston Family Vineyards, Casablanca Valley, Chile | 2004 | £68.00 |

It is no coincidence that Chile's first "garage" wine, Antiyal, was also Chile's first biodynamic one.

My winemaking experiences in Bordeaux (at Château Margaux) and with the Fetzers in California taught me that you often achieve more by doing less.

In other words, allowing the vines to express themselves by farming them as naturally as possible; even if this means the vines look scruffy because weeds and wild flowers have been allowed to grow to provide habitat for the beneficial insects who are much more efficient at pest control than any man-made pesticide.

This kind of viticulture is in tune with the biodynamic philosophy I picked up during my time in California, in which sprays based on herbs, minerals and manure, and composts infused with six medicinal herbs are used to revitalise the vines and the soil they grow in.

Alvaro Espinoza

SOUTH AMERICA**ALVARO ESPINOZA, CHILE**

White

242 Chardonnay

Novas, Casablanca Valley

2008

Bottle

£32.00

Red

560 Chono

Maipo Valley

2003

Bottle

£32.00

561 Novas

Colchagua Valley

2006

£35.00

562 Coyam

Colchagua Valley

2005

£38.00

563 Antiyal

Maipo Valley

2005

£52.00

AUSTRALIA

It was inevitable that the “Big Red Land” would one day produce matching *big red wines*, and for a time size proved to be everything. In the 80s and 90s, deeply-hued Shiraz and Cabernet were the norm, served-up either on their own, or as a thumping two-handed blend. Similarly, Chardonnay and Semillon, whether apart or together, overflowed with energy, delivering their hit of fruit and alcohol smoothly and efficiently.

Australia prided itself on simplicity. Varietal labelling and blends that blurred regional boundaries just didn't make the same demands on drinkers as had Europe's unpronounceable appellations and historic classifications. But just as man nurtures the vine, so the vine nurtures a deep-curiosity amongst those that tend to it: a restlessness to find out what can be spun from one's own particular stretch of dirt. The desire that drove Burgundy's monks to divide and frame their vineyards hectare-by-hectare, is the same involuting force that is currently breaking Australia up into sub-regions like Coonawarra, Yarra and Beechworth.

Within the current crop of wines, the premium end of the market seems finally to have come of age; even Barossa Shiraz has revealed a lighter side. Much of the improvement has come out of an understanding that Chardonnay, just like Pinot Noir, is too fragile a vehicle for the traditional warm viticultural heartlands, and the move to cooler areas has unleashed a new and exciting wave of quality.

AUSTRALIA

White

| | | | | Bottle |
|-----|--------------------------|--|------|---------------|
| 296 | Gewürztraminer | The Salvation, Magpie Estate, Barossa Valley | 2007 | £29.00 |
| 223 | Chardonnay | Pitchfork, McLaren Vale | 2008 | £30.00 |
| 224 | Riesling/Viognier | The Mullet, Pikes, Polish Hill | 2007 | £30.00 |
| 295 | Riesling | Rolf Binder Highness, Eden Valley | 2007 | £32.00 |
| 297 | Unoaked Chardonnay | Rockbare, McLaren Vale | 2006 | £32.00 |
| 298 | Chardonnay | Vasse Felix, Adams Road, Margaret River | 2007 | £36.00 |
| 299 | Viognier | Shelmerdine, Heathcote, Victoria | 2008 | £33.00 |
| 300 | Riesling | Museum Release, Pewsey Vale, Eden Valley | 2000 | £43.00 |
| 301 | Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon | Mangan, Cullen, Margaret River | 2006 | £48.00 |
| 302 | Semillon | Vat 1, Tyrells, Hunter Valley | 2002 | £54.00 |
| 303 | Chardonnay | Picaddilly, Grossett, Adelaide Hills | 2005 | £60.00 |
| 304 | Chardonnay | Giaconda, Beechworth, Victoria | 2005 | £170.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--|------|---------|
| 566 | Shiraz-Grenache | The Schnell, Magpie Estate, Barossa Valley | 2007 | £32.00 |
| 568 | Pinot Noir | South, Pirie, Tasmania | 2007 | £35.00 |
| 567 | Dolcetto-Lagrein | Heartland Estate, Langhorne Creek | 2006 | £36.00 |
| 422 | Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvedre | Maverick Twins, Barossa Valley | 2006 | £42.00 |
| 571 | Cabernet Sauvignon | Majella, Coonawarra | 2004 | £46.00 |
| 572 | Pinot Noir | Woori Yallock, Mac Forbes, Yarra Valley | 2005 | £58.00 |
| 573 | Shiraz | Mount Edelstone, Henschke, Adelaide Hills | 2004 | £138.00 |
| 574 | Shiraz (Magnum) | Georgia's Paddock, Jasper Hill, Victoria | 2004 | £192.00 |
| 575 | Shiraz-Viognier | Run-Rig, Torbreck, Barossa Valley | 2003 | £273.00 |

AUSTRALIA

TWO HANDS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

We were delighted to respond to the Langham's call to put together a unique offering of Two Hands wines. Our mission, when we established Two Hands in 1999, was to show the diversity of Australian Shiraz by highlighting regional characteristics, so the idea of a collection had instant appeal.

Working with a three-tier classification system, with strict quality parameters, the very best barrels are selected for the Flagship Range, followed by the Garden Series, then the Picture Series labels.

Michael Twelftree, Owner

AUSTRALIA**TWO HANDS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

White

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 308 | Riesling | The Wolf, Two Hands, Clare Valley | 2006 | Bottle £43.00 |
|-----|----------|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------------|

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---|------|---------|
| 577 | Shiraz | Angel's Share, Two Hands, McLaren Vale | 2008 | £49.00 |
| 578 | Shiraz-Grenache | Brave Faces, Two Hands, Barossa Valley | 2004 | £49.00 |
| 579 | Shiraz | Bella's Garden, Two Hands, Barossa Valley | 2005 | £94.00 |
| 580 | Grenache | Aerope, Two Hands, Barossa Valley | 2005 | £127.00 |
| 582 | Shiraz | Ares, Two Hands, Barossa Valley | 2005 | £194.00 |
| 581 | Cabernet Sauvignon | Aphrodite, Two Hands, Barossa Valley | 2004 | £198.00 |

NEW ZEALAND

For such a small and ocean-bound country, New Zealand offers a remarkable diversity of climates. The top of the North Island is sub-tropical, with barely a winter to sneeze at, whilst the South Island contains the luminous-skyed vale of Marlborough, and the desert-like Otago.

Sauvignon Blanc has fronted New Zealand's rise through the international ranks of wine producers. The variety's easy domination was inevitable in a country that, judging by its legions of rugby players and sheep, loves specialisation, but with plantings of Syrah, Pinot and Cabernet on the increase the future certainly looks more bountiful than the past. The Marlborough region typifies this new pioneering spirit, and aided by its extra bright sun it has established itself as one of the World's most versatile viticultural environments.

NEW ZEALAND

White

| | | | | Bottle |
|-----|-----------------|------------------------------|------|---------------|
| 318 | Riesling | Forrest Estate, Marlborough | 2004 | £30.00 |
| 319 | Viogner | Yealands Estate, Marlborough | 2008 | £32.00 |
| 320 | Sauvignon Blanc | Isabel Estate, Marlborough | 2009 | £40.00 |
| 321 | Pinot Gris | Astrolabe, Marlborough | 2008 | £40.00 |
| 322 | Chardonnay | Neudorf, Nelson | 2005 | £42.00 |
| 323 | Gewürztraminer | Rippon, Central Otago | 2006 | £45.00 |
| 324 | Chardonnay | Felton Road, Central Otago | 2006 | £52.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------------------|------|--------|
| 583 | Pinot Noir | Peregrine, Central Otago | 2008 | £48.00 |
| 584 | Pinot Noir | Dog Point, Marlborough | 2007 | £52.00 |
| 585 | Syrah | Bridge Pa Louis, Hawkes Bay | 2004 | £62.00 |
| 586 | Cabernet-Merlot | Coleraine, Te Mata, Hawkes Bay | 2005 | £78.00 |

NEW ZEALAND

MARTINBOROUGH VINEYARD

In 1978 a report was published that analysed which areas in New Zealand were best suited for the production of high quality wines from classical grape varieties. The report concluded that the closest New Zealand climatic analog to Burgundy was to be found in the small rain-shadow centred on the township of Martinborough in the south east of the North Island. One of the authors of the report, my brother, Dr Derek Milne, was so convinced of the validity of their conclusions that, together with a group of four other enthusiasts, we bought 16 acres in the zone and started Martinborough Vineyard.

Martinborough Vineyard wines are classic, sensual and elegant with lovely finesse and texture. Our Marie Zelig Reserve Pinot Noir represents the very finest of what we can do.

We're very proud to be associated with another great pioneer and landmark in the Langham, the first Grand Hotel in England.

Duncan Milne, Founder

NEW ZEALAND**MARTINBOROUGH VINEYARD**

White

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------|--------|
| 329 | Riesling | Jackson Block, Martinborough Vineyard | 2006 | £34.00 |
| 328 | Sauvignon Blanc | Martinborough Vineyard | 2008 | £37.00 |
| 330 | Chardonnay | Martinborough Vineyard | 2003 | £48.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------|---------|
| 587 | Pinot Noir | Te Tera, Martinborough Vineyard | 2008 | £39.00 |
| 588 | Pinot Noir | Martinborough Vineyard | 2006 | £61.00 |
| 590 | Pinot Noir | Marie Zelig, Martinborough Vineyard | 2003 | £185.00 |
| 589 | Pinot Noir (Magnum) | Martinborough Vineyard | 2000 | £193.00 |

SOUTH AFRICA

At the Cape of Good Hope, the World flashes a little of its primitive beauty, as the elements of water and earth face-up to one another. The collision of warm African air with the cool Atlantic Ocean has created a unique flora, and through the spring Nature casts off every veil of her inhibition, smothering the hillsides of daisies and lilies with flamboyantly tinted blooms

The country's wine industry has struggled to harmonise with the natural splendour of this backdrop. Isolation under apartheid hindered development, and when the trade embargo was eventually lifted the majority of producers seemed impervious to the demands of a changed market place. The white wines still offered great value, but a strange yeasty depth consistently blotted-out the more fragile traits of varietal character in the reds.

A decade on, and comparisons between South Africa and other countries are now looking increasingly favourable. White wines, led by Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin, offer the kind of clear varietal expression that we have come to associate with New Zealand, while reds combine potency with volume.

Perhaps the Cape is just too picturesque for there ever to be an even-handed pairing with its wines, but after decades of turmoil, the South African Industry does, at long last, have a happy ending in sight.

SOUTH AFRICA

White

| | | | | Bottle |
|-----|-----------------|---|------|---------------|
| 333 | Sauvignon Blanc | Quando, Robertson | 2008 | £30.00 |
| 334 | Roulette Blanc | Lammershoek, Swartland | 2006 | £30.00 |
| 335 | Chenin Blanc | Tierhoek, Piekenierskloof | 2004 | £34.00 |
| 336 | Chardonnay | Quoin Rock, Cape Aguhlas Vineyards, Western Cape | 2002 | £36.00 |
| 232 | Sequillo Blanc | Eben Sadie, Swartland | 2008 | £42.00 |
| 337 | Palladius | Eben Sadie, Swartland | 2006 | £62.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------------------------|------|--------|
| 594 | TMV Viktoria | Tulbagh Mountain Vineyards | 2004 | £31.00 |
| 595 | Troika | Chamonix, Franschoek | 2005 | £32.00 |
| 596 | Syrah | The Foundry, Stellenbosch | 2005 | £49.00 |
| 597 | Syrah | Columella, Eben Sadie, Swartland | 2006 | £63.00 |

DESSERT AND FORTIFIED

Nowadays, the baggy-sailed barges that tack around the mouth of the Douro are just for show, but once they ferried all the newly fortified wines from the *lagares* and vineyards of the Upper Douro, one hundred-fifty kilometres downstream to the lodges of Vila Nova de Gaia.

Inland, the breeze that pushes the barges across Oporto's harbour fades, and once you reach the *lagares* of the Upper Douro, nearly all traces of Atlantic influence are lost. At the height of summer, the sky, like an upturned blue bowl, pours all its heat and light into the vineyards, forcing the vines into a parched submission that leaves their berries black and thick-skinned. Feet are still state-of-the-art technology for the traditional port houses when it comes to crushing the harvested fruit, human skin and bone having more elasticity than steel; but the squeamish should find comfort in the fact that the brandy that fortifies the grape must also sterilises the wine, leaving it strongly alcoholic, but sweetly flavoured.

Port has a sluggish chemistry. Wood-matured LBVs can take a decade or so to emerge from the barrel's original dark morass of grape must and alcohol, while vintage wines might need thirty years in bottle to find a similar configuration of palate-pleasing molecules. This all makes Port scary primordial stuff for those not in the habit of cellaring wines.

Through the summer, Jerez's chalky soils have an eye-piercing brilliance, and the vineyards shimmer in the haze of reflected heat and light. Chalk's ability to ration water and impart its own mineral-tang to wine is as vital to the producers of Sherry as it is those of Champagne, so despite marking the southern and northern limits of European viticulture, each region keeps to the same terroir-driven faith.

Port's prominence harks back to a period when England either traded with its neighbours, or tried to fight them. Today, both Australia and California have developed their own versions of LBV and tawny-styles, and these should appeal to those who want a touch of sophistication, but would sooner skip all the gory history.

DESSERT AND FORTIFIED

Dessert

| | | | | Bottle | Half |
|-----|--|---|------|---------|---------|
| 634 | MR Moscatel (50cl) | Telmo Rodriguez, Malaga, Spain | 2008 | £34.00 | |
| 629 | Moscato d'Asti | Boroli, Italy | 2006 | £35.00 | |
| 616 | Château de Cérons | Cérons, Bordeaux | 1998 | £49.00 | £26.00 |
| 619 | Jurançon | Clos Thou, Henri Laplace | 2005 | | £30.00 |
| 635 | Molino Real (50cl) | Mountain Wine, Telmo Rodriguez, Malaga, Spain | 2004 | £58.00 | |
| 625 | Vin Doux Naturel Rivesaltes | Caricia, Domaine Gauby | 2005 | | £58.00 |
| 615 | Coteaux du Layon | Moelleux, Cuveé des Lys, Château la Tomaze | 1990 | £72.00 | |
| 630 | Valpolicella Recioto | Allegrini, Verona | 2004 | £72.00 | |
| 636 | Vidal Ice Wine | Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada | 2003 | | £77.00 |
| 628 | Royal Tokaji, Aszú 6 Puttonyos, (50cl) | Royal Tokaji Zrt, Hungary | 2000 | | £79.00 |
| 617 | Chateau Rieussec | 1er Grand Cru Classé, Sauternes, Bordeaux | 2003 | £137.00 | |
| 626 | Riesling Auslese | Schloss Johannisberg, Rosalack, Rheingau, Germany | 2000 | £154.00 | |
| 620 | Hermitage, Vin de Paille | J.L Chave | 1996 | | £465.00 |
| 618 | Château d'Yquem | Sauternes, Bordeaux | 1988 | £760.00 | |

Fortified

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------|---------|--------|
| 680 | Starboard Batch 88 | Quady, California | | £32.00 | |
| 684 | Oloroso | Emperatriz Eugenia, Lustau, Jerez | | £46.00 | |
| 683 | Late Bottled Vintage | Quinta de la Rosa, Port | 2003 | £49.00 | |
| 681 | Puerto Fino | Lustau, Jerez | | £49.00 | £28.00 |
| 687 | Croft | Port | 1977 | £190.00 | |
| 688 | Fonseca | Vintage Port | 1985 | £240.00 | |

HALF BOTTLES

Champagne

| | | | | Half |
|-----|--------------------------|--|--|--------|
| 650 | Billecart-Salmon NV | | | £42.00 |
| 651 | Billecart-Salmon Rosé NV | | | £65.00 |

White

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--|------|--------|
| 655 | Saumur Blanc | Les Vignerons de Saumur, Loire, France | 2008 | £17.00 |
| 656 | Sancerre | André Vatan | 2008 | £21.00 |
| 657 | Pouilly Fuissé | Domaine Auvigue | 2007 | £32.00 |
| 658 | Puligny Montrachet | Domanine Jean Pascal | 2007 | £55.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------------------|------|--------|
| 660 | Côtes-du-Rhône | Domaine St Gayan | 2005 | £17.50 |
| 661 | Château la Croix des Moines | Lalande de Pomerol | 2003 | £19.00 |
| 662 | Crozes-Hermitage | Alain Graillot | 2007 | £27.00 |
| 664 | Savigny les Beaune | Domaine du Prieuré | 2006 | £28.00 |
| 659 | Château Beau-Site | St Estèphe | 2004 | £26.00 |

Rosé

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|------------|------|--------|
| 667 | Lirac | La Fermade | 2007 | £20.00 |
|-----|-------|------------|------|--------|

Dessert

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 670 | Château Cérons | Cérons, France | 1996 | £26.00 |
| 619 | Jurançon | Clos Thou, Henri Laplace | 2005 | £30.00 |
| 625 | Vin Doux Naturel Rivesaltes | Caricia, Domaine Gauby | 2005 | £58.00 |
| 636 | Vidal Ice Wine | Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada | 2003 | £77.00 |
| 620 | Hermitage, Vin de Paille | J.L Chave | 1996 | £465.00 |

Fortified

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------|--|--------|
| 675 | Puerto Fino | Lustau, Sherry | | £28.00 |
|-----|-------------|----------------|--|--------|

MAGNUMS

Champagne

| | | | Magnums |
|-----|---------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 170 | Jacquart Brut Mosaïque NV | | £110.00 |
| 173 | Jacquart et Fils NV | Blanc de Blancs | £120.00 |
| 171 | Laurent-Perrier NV | | £150.00 |
| 172 | Pol Roger NV | Extra Cuvée de Réserve | £150.00 |
| 180 | Veuve Clicquot Brut NV | | £180.00 |
| 176 | Louis Roederer NV | | £200.00 |
| 175 | Billecart-Salmon Rosé NV | | £240.00 |
| 174 | Laurent-Perrier Rosé NV | | £260.00 |
| 179 | Dom Pérignon | 2002 | £560.00 |
| 177 | Krug Grand Cuvée NV | | £630.00 |
| 178 | Cristal | 1990 | £1200.00 |

White

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------|------|---------|
| 219 | Pouilly-Fumé | Les Loges, Jean-Claude Guyot | 2006 | £78.00 |
| 229 | Crozes-Hermitage | Alain Graillot | 1998 | £110.00 |
| 218 | Pouilly-Fuissé | La Croix | 1999 | £120.00 |
| 217 | Chablis Grand Cru | Le Clos, Gérard Duplessis | 2001 | £310.00 |
| 233 | Chablis Grand Cru | Les Blanchots, Domaine Laroche | 1995 | £300.00 |

Red

| | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--|------|---------|
| 514 | Tempranillo-Cabernet | Enate, Somontano | 2002 | £80.00 |
| 489 | Le Soula | Vin de Pays des Côtes Catalanes | 2003 | £150.00 |
| 574 | Shiraz | Georgia's Paddock, Jasper Hill, Victoria | 2001 | £192.00 |
| 589 | Pinot Noir | Martinborough Vineyard | 2000 | £193.00 |
| 490 | Côtes de Roussillon Villages | Muntada, Domaine Gauby | 2001 | £200.00 |
| 470 | Domaine de Trévallon | Vin du Pays Bouches du Rhône | 1995 | £263.00 |
| 472 | Côte Rôtie | Jasmin | 1998 | £285.00 |
| 549 | Monte Bello | Ridge Vineyards | 2001 | £330.00 |
| 409 | Pommard 1er Cru | Les Rugiens, Domaine de Montille | 1993 | £495.00 |
| 481 | Hermitage Rouge | J.L Chave | 1996 | £585.00 |