

WINE Talk: October 2016

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 65

Since the last newsletter we have travelled to Melbourne and Geelong to conduct wine tastings and also to Sydney to attend the high-energy Mental Notes event which, this year, was held at the Paddington Town Hall – an excellent venue for an event of this type. We also joined with a number of our other colleagues from this event to hold a trade tasting at The Bentley Bar and Restaurant on the Monday following Mental Notes.

We are now gearing up for the other two major events on the natural wine calendar – Rootstock in Sydney and Soul For Wine in Melbourne. We are delighted that both Tony and Philippe Bornard will be attending Rootstock this year. To celebrate their visit we will be holding two very special events. The first will be a late lunch in Hobart at Franklin Restaurant and the second will be a dinner at the wonderful Bar Brosé in Sydney which will be cooked by Analeise Gregory as described below.

And now to the special packs. We have a rather long story on the Côte de Beaune and a 6 pack of wines selected from that region of Burgundy. We have a special dozen comprised of wines that include very rare grape varieties that we like to seek out from the hidden corners of France. There is a pack of wines from our winemaker of the month, namely Domaine les Grandes Vignes from the Loire Valley. We also have a sparkling pack and another of our very popular One Pack Only pack. This month we have also created a pack from some very special wines that we have in our archive of wines we want to try to see how they are progressing over a longer time. We decided to release one pack of 6 wines from our special collection this month. But there is only one!

We look forward to catching up with many of you at Rootstock in November.

For a full list of wines currently in stock and their prices see:

<http://www.livingwines.com.au/Catalogue/Catalogue.htm>

There is a link to our order form for these packs and any other wines at the end of this newsletter. But there's no need to use the order form. Just send us an email listing the wines and/or packs you would like to order if that suits you better. We'll confirm the price by return email before processing your order.

More about Rootstock 2016!



In our August newsletter we announced that Rootstock is on again this year at the end of November (the 26th and 27th to be precise). This event sees winemakers arrive from all over the world to show their wines and to take part in discussions of interest to the natural wine community.

We have high hopes that Tony Bornard who crafts intense, elegant wines in the Jura will come to the event to represent his own wines and those of his father, Philippe Bornard.

The Rootstock festival has the following aim:

Rootstock Sydney wants to encourage:

Purity, balance, character, complexity and uniqueness in the wines we drink.

Awareness of these wines through accessibility and advocacy of the wine and the producer's philosophies and practices.

Discussion and communication between like-minded producers.

Sustainability over modern commercial agricultural practices.

Transparency and clarity of the ingredients in wine and practices in winemaking. All wines at Rootstock Sydney will have few additions | treatments and these must be transparent to the consumer, but in the broader industry we also wish to see that all wines are required to be clearly labelled with their additions and treatments.

Winemaking and wine-growing of the world, encouraging internationalism with this movement, while maintaining the expressions of terroir and preservation of local winemaking characteristics.

For more information go to the Rootstock Web site:

<http://www.rootstocksydney.com/>

Soulfor Wine



The Soulfor Wine event that everyone enjoyed so much last year will be on again in December this year so make sure you make a note in your diaries.

This year the event will be held in Melbourne again on Sunday 4th December. Remember that this event is a celebration of wines that are made from grapes that have been farmed organically and where the wine has not been fined or filtered and there have been no additives used in the winemaking process including no sulphites.

We will be showcasing some of our suppliers once again so we look forward to catching up with you.

We will provide you with more details closer to the event.

Tony and Philippe Bornard coming to Rootstock!



We are delighted that both Tony Bornard and his father, Philippe will be coming to Rootstock this year. To celebrate the presence of these talented Jura producers we have arranged two special events which we describe below.



Philippe and Tony Bornard

Philippe Bornard's family has lived in the tiny village of Pupillin, in the heart of the French Jura just outside the larger town of Arbois, for generations. His imposing stone house sits at the top of the village, above a cellar which dates back to the 16th century.



Philippe's house in Pupillin

He inherited his vines from his father and, like him sold his grapes to the local fruitière (cooperative) where he worked for many years. But, with encouragement

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

from Pierre Overnoy, one of the icons of the natural wine movement, he decided, from 2005 to make his own wine.

He has 10 hectares of land but only 7 hectares are planted with vines. He works with all the classic Jura grapes – Ploussard, Trousseau, Pinot Noir, Savagnin, Chardonnay and Melon Queue Rouge. The latter is a red-stemmed variant of Chardonnay which the French regulatory authorities don't recognise as a different variety, but Jura winemakers such as Phillippe and Tony Bornard firmly believe is.

Philippe Bornard's wines cover two appellations. The first is the broader Côtes du Jura but most are from the tiny Arbois Pupillin appellation, a sub-appellation of the Arbois AOC which only applies to grapes grown in the commune of Pupillin. It covers only 300 hectares and is separately recognised because of its unique complex marl and clay soils. It is especially well-regarded for Ploussard, with a sign at the entry to the village proudly declaring itself "Capitale Mondiale du Ploussard" (the world capital of Ploussard).



The sign at the entrance to Pupillin

Philippe Bornard makes many different wines, including most of the classic Jura styles such as the famous Vin Jaune. Although blending is allowed in the appellation,

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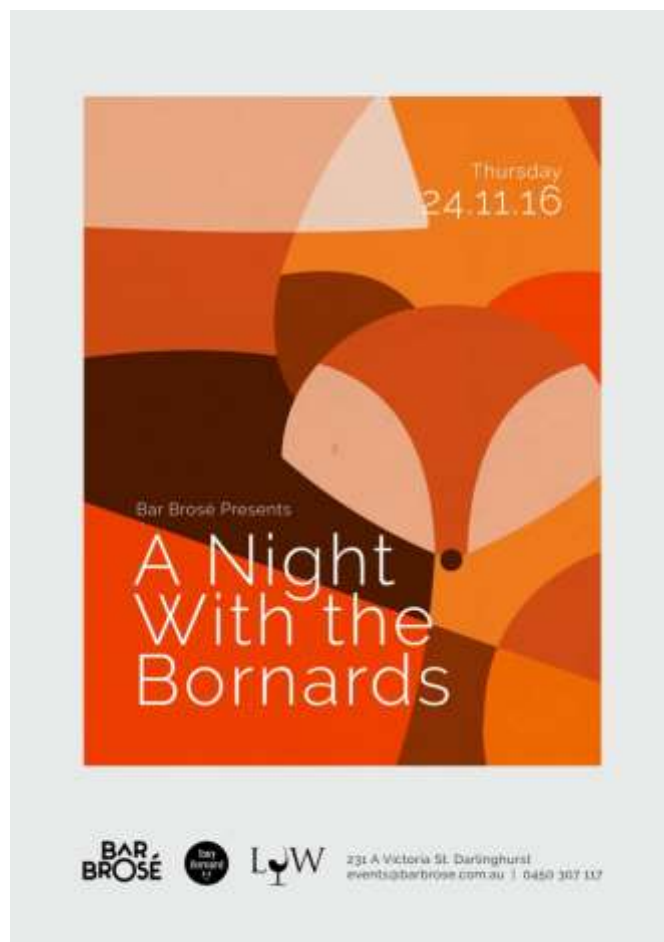
his preference is to make single variety wines and, where he has the same grape growing in different parcels, he prefers to release each as separate wines. So, for example, he has two Chardonnay wines Les Gaudrettes and Blanc de la Rouge, each from different vineyards.

He also makes some non-traditional wines, including three very rare pétillant-naturel (pet-nat) wines. This year Australia is receiving only 12 magnums of Ça va Bien, his pet-nat made with Savagnin.

Now Philippe's son Tony, who works for his father, has also started making his own wines, having rented a small parcels in Pupillin. We placed an order with him early in 2015 which was the first order placed for his wines. His wines always sell very quickly as they are stunningly pure examples of the best of the Jura.

So, there are going to be two events, one at Bar Brosé in Sydney and one at Franklin Restaurant in Hobart – these are described below.

Bar Brosé dinner 24th November 2016



We have teamed up with Sydney's award-winning Bar Brosé for a dinner with both Philippe Bornard and Tony Bornard. We have arranged for an interesting selection of the wines of both Philippe and Tony to be matched to the clever cooking of chef Analiese Gregory.

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

The dinner will be held on the evening of 24th November. So those of you who have enjoyed these amazing wines over the past years, here is your chance to meet them both in person and to enjoy the wines and the food as well.

For bookings or further information email:

events@barbrose.com.au

We look forward to seeing you there!

Franklin Restaurant hosts Tony and Philippe Bornard

There will also be a special lunch at Franklin Restaurant in Hobart cooked by chef David Moyle on Sunday 20th November at 2pm. We have lined up some very interesting wines for this event and David will prepare dishes that match the wines, so book early so that you don't miss out.

To reserve a place at this special lunch send an email to:

bookings@franklinhobart.com.au

Featured winemaker: Domaine les Grandes Vignes

Pack 1 in this edition of Wine Talk is made up of wines from wines exclusively from Domaine les Grandes Vignes who maintain their vineyards just south of the city of Angers in the Loire Valley near the village of Thouarcé at La Roche Aubry which is in the heartland of the Anjou appellation where Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Franc and Grolleau (Noir and Gris) are the main grape varieties allowed. Their vineyard nearby lie on the flat plains where gravel, clay and limestone intermingles with schist to provide minerality in the wines.

The family has lived in this area since the 1600s so they can lay claim to understanding the weather and the soils in some depth!

The Vaillant family tend their vines biodynamically which is a big ask for an estate that covers 55 hectares! However sheep and goats graze on the grass growing between the vines, helping to fertilise the soil as they go. The ploughing is done with horses and all the grapes are picked by hand. They are certified organic by AB and biodynamic by Demeter.

The employ a range of biodynamic practices including spraying the various preparations as well as tisanes of herbs and other plant-based concoctions. Spraying and ploughing occurs at particular times in the lunar cycle. There is emerging a lot of scientific evidence to support such practices which farmers all over the world have known about for millennia.

There is also much scientific work that has been done on the health of soils over the past twenty years that confirms that we should be nourishing the soils not abusing them with pesticides and herbicides that damage the fragile biota in the soils that do so much to prepare the vital essential elements for the plants.

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

Our many visits to our producers confirm this strongly-held belief that we have about the beneficial nature of organic and biodynamic practices and none more so than our visit to the Vaillant family estate.



Goats running through the vineyard during our recent visit

Jean-François Vaillant is as careful about his work in the cellar as he is about the vineyards. He knows that he needs good, strong grapes to produce his no-sulphur wines.

As we have said above, in the vineyard they take great care to protect the soil, so very careful ploughing, encouragement of cover crops with a variety of plants including herbs, restricted pruning, using animals for to reduce weed pressure and to fertilise the soils are practices that lead to healthy soils and hence to healthy grapes.



Ground cover in the vineyards

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

In the winery they allow the grapes to ferment naturally and the wine to mature without any additions and many of their wines (particularly the reds) have no sulphur added.



Healthy soil and healthy Chenin Blanc grapes

We also visited their terraced vineyard to the north-east of Thouarcé which gives sweeping views over the surrounding villages and vineyards.



Terraced vineyards

See the description of their wines in Pack 1 below.

Pack 1: Winemaker of the month 6 pack



Our winemaker for this month is Jean-François Vaillant of Domaine les Grandes Vignes who makes wines in the Anjou and related appellations in the Loire Valley.

We have put together six of his wines to allow you to sample the range of wines produced by this talented winemaker.

Domaine les Grandes Vignes Bulles Nature Rosé – This a totally natural sparkling wine (the word 'nature' can only appear on a wine label in France if the wine adheres to the strictest conditions) made using the Methode Ancestrale with only one fermentation in the bottle. The grapes have never been sprayed, the wine hasn't been fined or filtered and the fermentation was with natural yeasts. The soil here is clay and gravel with some shale. The grapes are sourced from two vineyards, La Butte at Faveraye-Machelles which was planted in 2008 and la Noue at the nearby village of Thouarcé. The grape varieties used in this wine are Groslot Noir and Groslot Gris.

Domaine les Grandes Vignes Pineau de la Loire 2014 – This white, still wine is made from 100% Chenin Blanc which also goes by the name of Pineau de la Loire locally. The vines grow on flat vineyards in clay and gravel soils with some shale providing additional minerality. We have been lucky enough to walk through this vineyard to inspect the incredibly healthy grapes and to see the care with which the vines have been managed. The biodynamic approach to vineyard management really shines through in the Domaine Les Grandes Vignes vineyards.

Domaine Les Grandes Vignes Groslot Rouge 2014 – This red wine is made from one of the most interesting grape varieties in the Anjou region, namely Grolleau Noir. It is very savoury, very pure and has great length. The vineyard is very healthy with clay and sand soils supplemented by lots of fossil shells that add minerality to the soil. The healthy soils are also a result of the biodynamic methods used to tend the vines and the soil here. This is a very "smashable" wine.

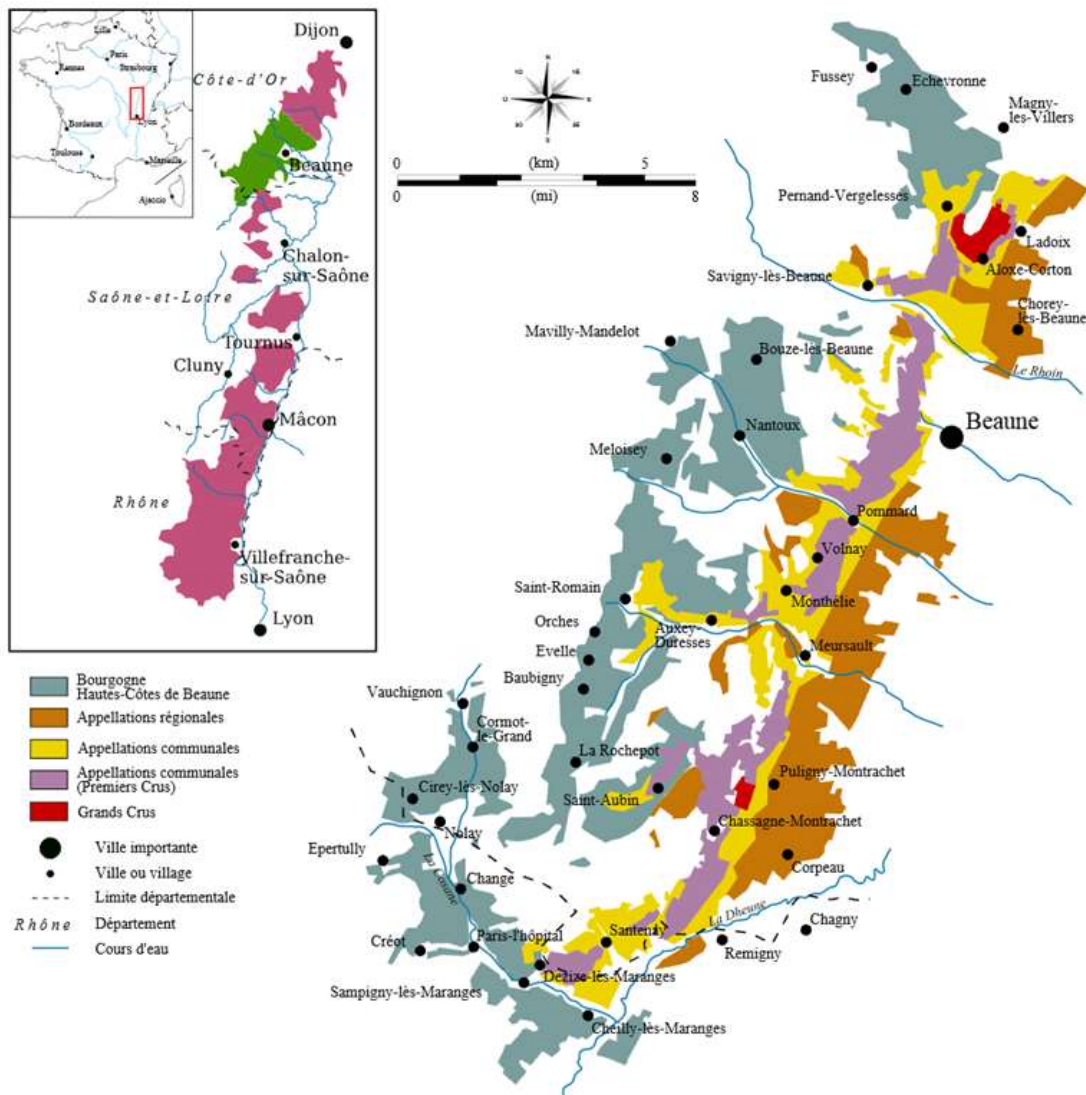
Domaine Les Grandes Vignes Groslot Rosé 2014 – This is a slightly sweet rosé made from the Grolleau (Groslot) grape variety that is nurtured in the western sector of the Loire Valley. It matches perfectly with berry desserts, ice cream and even charcuterie. This wine has no added sulphites.

Domaine les Grandes Vignes Anjou Rouge l'Aubiniae 2013 – This is an entry level red wine for Domaine les Grandes Vignes, however it shows all the great characteristics of the Cabernet Franc grape variety. The vines are around 20 years old and the soils are derived from schist and clay. This wine underwent a short maceration on skins before being transferred to oak barrels that were three years old to ferment and mature. The wine was bottled without filtering or fining and without any added sulphur. The nose gives hints of red fruits, there is a lovely mouth-feel which finishes with fine tannins. Very low alcohol at 11%.

Domaine les Grandes Vignes Anjou Villages Les Cocainelles 2013 – This is a red wine of great provenance. The Cabernet Franc vines grow on soils made from decomposed grey and black schist mixed with decaying marine fossils. It is classified as an Anjou Villages wine made from vines that are over 25 years old which makes it stand out among the crowd in this region. The wine was naturally fermented and underwent remontage (pumping the wine over the cap). It was bottled without fining and without filtration. This is a smooth, silky wine with a great mouth-feel. No sulphur has been added at any stage.

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles of wine is \$242 but the pack price is \$205.70 including freight, a discount of 15%.

Pack 2: The Côte de Beaune 6 pack



Map courtesy of Wikipedia

The Côte de Beaune is an important part of the Côte d'Or which defines the best wine growing district of Burgundy. The Côte d'Or is a limestone ridge that sweeps from just below Dijon, down past the central city of Beaune and then onwards through Meursault and finishes up just south of Santenay. Just to be clear, this famous ridge (or slope) also gives its name to the local administrative area called a département.

The wine growing areas that cling to this slope are called the Côte de Nuits in the north and the Côte de Beaune in the south. The Côte de Nuits is famous for the amazing red wines produced in areas such as La Romanée, Gevrey-Chambertin, Chambolle-Musigny, La Tâche, Richebourg and many more.

But while many concentrate on these expensive and exquisite wines there is also another world awaiting the eager Burgundy seeker in the southern area.

The Côte de Beaune begins just north of the villages of Pernand-Vergelesses and Ladoix, then passes down through the city of Beaune, then through Pommard and Volnay on to Monthelie and Meursault then to Puligny-Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet and down to Santenay.

There are some 15 appellations lying on the slope and some of the most interesting and affordable Burgundy wines are produced in these appellations. Having said that there are also the amazing Grand Cru areas in Puligny-Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet where the wines attract very high prices.

Pernand-Vergelesses

Pernand-Vergelesses was established in 1936 and includes 11 Premier Cru climats. It lies very close to the famous Corton-Charlemagne appellation which is between the Savigny-les-Beaune and Pernand-Vergelesses appellations.

Pernand-Vergelesses is in the north-west corner of La Côte de Beaune and covers some 228 hectares and the majority of the wine produced here is red. There are five designated premier cru areas within the appellation for red wine and 12 for white wine.

Thus in the Le Plantes des Champs et Combottes climat and the Les Quartiers climat, for example, only white wines are produced whereas in the En Caradeaux and Les Fichots climats on the other side of the village, both red and white wines are produced.

This appellation actually permits white wines made from 100% Pinot Blanc or 100% Chardonnay. The red wines can have up to 15% white wine in them from Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc or Pinot Gris.

We have included in the 6 pack described below a bottle of the Fanny Sabre Pernand Vergelesses which is a white wine of considerable complexity and elegance.

Ladoix

This appellation was first created in 1937 and permits both red and white wines. The rules for both whites and reds are the same as for Pernand-Vergelesses. For a wine to bear the Ladoix appellation the grapes have to be grown, vinified and matured in the commune of Ladoix-Serrigny which lies a few kilometres north-east of Beaune.

Aloxe-Corton

Aloxe-Corton produces some of the finest red wines of the area from the Pinot Noir grape. It is located in the northern part of the Cote de Beaune on the famous Corton hill. There are 13 Premier Cru sites with the appellation. The appellation extends over 117 hectares and produces over 400 hectolitres of red wine and 80 hectolitres of white wine.

Savigny-lès-Beaune

Savigny-les-Beaune lies just to the north west of the city of Beaune. Elegant red wines made from Pinot Noir and delicious white wines made from Chardonnay are found here. The appellation was established on 31st July 1937.

The appellation only covers the commune of Savigny-les-Beaune and lies in a wedge between the N74 and the A6 - although some small areas are found on the south side of the A6.

The main grape varieties are Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, however the white wines can also contain Pinot Blanc with no limit set on the percentage used. Red wines must contain Pinot Noir but can contain some Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc or Pinot Gris.

Chorey-lès-Beaune

A wine appellation where both white and red wines can be produced in an area that covers some 133 hectares around the village of Chorey-les-Beaune with its population of only around 500 people. The village is wedged between the northern boundary of Beaune and the village of Aloxe-Corton. Almost 5000 hectolitres of red wine are produced here and only 320 hectolitres of white wine. This appellation has neither a Grand Cru or a Premier Cru area within it.

Beaune

This appellation which covers just the commune of Beaune was created in 1936 and permits both red and white wine. It is an excellent area for wine production as reflected in the fact that there are over 40 premiere cru “climats” in the commune. White wines can be made from either Pinot Blanc or Chardonnay and can include up to 10% of Pinot Gris. Red wines are made from Pinot Noir with up to 15% of white grapes permitted.

Côte de Beaune

Côte de Beaune was promulgated in 1937. The appellation is confined to the area around the city of Beaune. There is also a Beaune appellation which is slightly broader. This appellation allows both still red wines and still white wines.

There is a total of 22 hectares devoted to the production of red wine and 12.5 hectares devoted to white wines. As with the Beaune appellation white wines can be made from either Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc blended with small amounts of Pinot Gris. Red wines must be made from Pinot Noir but they can be blended with small quantities of the permitted white grapes of the appellation.

Pommard

The pretty village of Pommard lies just to the south of Beaune. The appellation was created in 1936 and permits only red wines due to the unique character of the soils in this commune which are iron-rich oolitic limestone and dolomitic limestones. The iron leaching out of the oolites gives the soil the characteristic red colour that Pommard is famous for. These iron-rich soils are perfect for the production of red wine which is the reason that only red wines are permitted to bear the Pommard appellation on the label.

The appellation extends only through some 318 hectares in the commune of Pommard but there are some 28 named places (lieu dits) that can be used on the wine label to identify the particular area within the commune where the grapes are grown. There are 27 climats that are classed as Premier Cru.

We have included in the 6 pack a bottle of Derain Pommard Les Petits Noizons.

Volnay

Volnay includes 30 Premier Cru climats in the communes of Meursault and Volnay just south of the city of Beaune. It was elevated to AOC status in September 1937. The production of red wines only is permitted in this appellation.

The red wines are produced from Pinot Noir with the optional addition of small quantities of Chardonnay, Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc. The wines of Volnay are highly prized for their elegance and lighter colour and beautiful aromas derived from the oolitic limestone that dominates the steep slopes of this appellation.

Monthélie

Monthelie is a wine appellation that includes 16 Premier Cru climats in the commune of Monthelie just a few kilometres south of Beaune. The appellation was established in 1937 and permits the production of both still red and still white wines.

Red wines dominate here with 106 hectares dedicated to red grapes and just 13 hectares given over to the production of white grapes.

The reds are somewhat similar to neighbouring Volnay with elegant tannic structure and a velvet mouth feel. The nutty, citrus white wines are highly prized for their elegance and structure and for their similarity to neighbouring Meursault wines. They also have the ability to age gracefully. The reds are made from Pinot Noir with the optional addition of a little Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris. White wines can be made from either Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc.

We have included in the 6 pack described below a bottle of Fanny Sabre Monthélie Rouge and a Julien Altaber Monthelie Premier Cru Sur La Velle.

Auxey-Duresses

First established in 1937 this appellation permits both red and white wines provided they are made from grapes grown in the commune of Auxey-Duresses and the wine is made in a winery located in the same commune.

Auxey-Duresses was designated as a Premier Cru for red wine in November 1981. It covers an area of 134 hectares and produces nearly 4000 hectolitres of red wine and 2000 litres of white wine.

The label must show the name of the appellation and this can be followed by Premier Cru and if applicable the name of one of the designated 'climats' where the vines grow. The climats are: Bas des Duresses, Climat du Val, Clos du Val, La Chapelle, Les Bréterins, Les Duresses, Les Ecussaux, Les Grands Champs and Reugne.

Saint-Romain

Saint-Romain lies a few kilometres south west of Pommard. Both red and white still wines are permitted here and the vines thrive on the mix of marl and limestone on the high slopes. The appellation was proclaimed in October 1947.

The red wines are made from Pinot Noir with small quantities of Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris being permitted as well. The white wines are made from Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc.

Meursault

Meursault straddles the N74 a few kilometres south of the city of Beaune. It is confined to the commune of Meursault. Both still white and still red wines are permitted here.

The appellation was first proclaimed in 1937 and has become particularly famous for the bold white wines made from Chardonnay that are produced here.

White wines can be made from either Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc but very few producers use the second grape. Red wines are made from Pinot Noir with the optional addition of small quantities of Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris.

Approximately 98% of the wines produced in Meursault are made from Chardonnay. There are 17 climats for white wine and 2 for red wine that are classified as Premier Cru.

Puligny-Montrachet

Puligny-Montrachet is a wine appellation which was established in 1937. The production of both still red and still white wines is permitted although white wines dominate the production.

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

The vineyards closest to the village of Puligny-Montrachet take the village level appellation, but as you move west towards the hameau of Blagny many of the plots are rated as Premier Cru. Close to Blagny the terroir particularly suits the production of the red wines.

Reds are made from Pinot Noir supplemented by optional small additions of white grapes and white wines are normally produced from Chardonnay which thrives here, but Pinot Blanc is also permitted.

We have included in the 6 pack described below a bottle of the Julien Altaber Puligny Montrachet Les Reuchaux.

Chassagne-Montrachet

Chassagne-Montrachet is a wine appellation covering the communes of Chassagne-Montrachet and Remigny which lie a few kilometres south of Beaune straddling the border of the department of Cote-d'Or and Saone-et-Loire. Both still red wines and still white wines can be produced here. White wines can be made from either Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc. Red wines are made from Pinot Noir with small amounts of Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris also being permitted.

There are a number of important white Grands Crus, shared by the villages of Chassagne-Montrachet and Puligny-Montrachet, namely Le Montrachet and Bâtard-Montrachet Grands Crus (both also with vineyards in Chassagne-Montrachet), Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet and Chevalier-Montrachet. The famous Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru is situated wholly within Chassagne-Montrachet.

Saint Aubin

The Saint Aubin appellation was first established in 1937 and permits the production of both red and white wines in that commune. The commune lies south of Meursault and quite close to the famous appellations of Puligny Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet. The very good terroir here allows it to boast 29 Premiere Cru sites across the commune. The rules for white wines here are slightly different to other nearby appellations in that in Saint Aubin whites can be made from either Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc but without the addition of any Pinot Gris.

We have included in this 6 pack a bottle of Derain St-Aubin Le Ban.

Santenay

Santenay is a very old appellation having been created in 1936 and both red wines and white wines are permitted. The wines must be made within the communes of Santenay or Remigny even though the latter is not in the department of Côte d'Or – it is in Saône-et-Loire. Whites can be made from either Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc and reds from Pinot Noir with up to 15% of the three white wines added. There are twelve climats in Santenay classified as Premeir Cru.

Maranges

This relative newcomer was created in 1989 and covers the wines produced in the communes of Cheilly-lès-Maranges, Dezize-lès-Maranges and Sampigny-lès-Maranges. The wines can be either red or white with Chardonnay being the only grape permitted for whites. The reds are permitted to contain up to 15% of Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris. There are 9 Premier Cru climats in Maranges.

Blagny

Blagny is a wine appellation on the Côte de Beaune and is sometimes called Blagny Côte de Beaune. It is unusual because Blagny is not a commune in its own right – rather it is a mere hameau and the two communes covered by this appellation are Meursault and Puligny-Montrachet. The appellation was first created in July, 1937 and only red wines made from Pinot Noir with optional additions of Chardonnay, Pinot Gris or Pinot Blanc are permitted. Some areas within the 4.6 hectares of Blagny are designated as Premier Cru. There are 7 climats within this area that are classified as Premier Cru for red wines. White wines produced in this area are classified as either Meursault Premier Cru or Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru.

The wines we have chosen to represent this diverse area are:

Domaine Derain Pommard Les Petits Noizons Rouge 2011 – This beautiful wine comes from the Les Petits Noizons *climat* which lies just slightly north of the village of Pommard close to the Route d'Ivry.

Domaine Derain St-Aubin Le Ban Rouge 2013 – The Le Ban vineyard is above the village of Saint-Aubin facing towards the south-east. Dominique owns 1.15 hectares of this vineyard and he regards it as an excellent site for Pinot Noir.

Domaine Fanny Sabre Pernand Vergelesses Blanc 2014 – This lovely wine comes from the Pernand Vergelesses appellation in the northern-most part of the Côte de Beaune. It is made from 100% Chardonnay grapes.

Domaine Fanny Sabre Monthélie Rouge 2013 – This wine is produced from Pinot Noir grapes sourced from vineyards near the village of Monthélie, which in turn, lies close to the famous village of Volnay and shares the great terroir of that village.

Sextant - Julien Altaber Monthélie 1er Cru Sur La Velle Rouge 2014 – The Sur La Velle *climat* lies quite close to the centre of the Monthélie village and quite close to the outskirts of the village of Volnay so it benefits from the incredible soils found in this area. It is 100% Pinot Noir.

Sextant - Julien Altaber Puligny-Montrachet Les Reuchaux Blanc 2014 – Les Reuchaux, which is where the grapes for this delicious wines come from, lies just to the east of the village of Puligny-Montrachet. It is 100% Chardonnay.

The RRP for 6 bottles of wine in Pack 2 is \$525 but the pack price is \$446.25 including freight, a discount of 15%.

Pack 3: Sparkling wine 6 pack



It's now time to get serious about sparkling wines with summer rapidly approaching. We have put together 6 bottles of sparkling wine that represent a complete cross-section of styles from a classic Champagne through to a slightly sweet sparkling red wine that is perfect with desserts based on strawberries.

Hervé Villémade Vin de Table Bulle Blanche 2014 – This smashable wine from the Loire Valley is made in the Pétillant Naturel style using a single fermentation. It is made from 50% Menu Pineau, a rare Loire valley grape variety as well as Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay. It has a marked purity of flavour, along with a very, very fine bead and a fresh, lively mouthfeel and great depth of flavour with citrus and herbal notes. The finish is quite long and will leave you wanting another glass...and another.

Les Capriades Vin de France Piège à Filles Blanc 2014 – The Piège à Filles Blanc Pétillant Naturel is a blend of organic Chardonnay, Menu Pineau, Meslier and Sauvignon Blanc grapes. The wine is made without any dosage (the addition of sugar) and also without the addition of any sulphur. It is possible to detect a tiny bit of residual sugar but it is at a level that makes the drink even more alluring.

Domaine Vincent Carême Vouvray l'Ancestrale 2014 – The l'Ancestrale is another natural sparkling wine made in the pétillant style. The fermentation starts in tank and the wine is then bottled while still fermenting and finishes in the bottle without the addition of any sugar and using only the natural yeasts. Despite this there is a tiny amount of residual sugar which gives the wine a pleasant balance due to the lingering acidity. This is an incredibly elegant wine that displays a distinct minerality and a very fine bead. There are no sulphites added to this wine at any stage in the winemaking process.

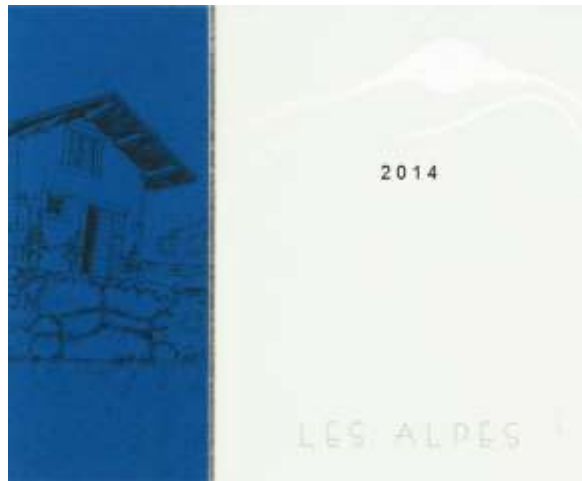
Terres Dorées Crémant de Bourgogne Charme JPB Blanc de Blancs – Crémants are sparkling wines made outside the Champagne region of France but in the same style as a Champagne. Jean-Paul Brun has produced a particularly fine example of the genre being made from Chardonnay. The Crémant has a fine bead, yeasty aromas and a long, dry savoury finish. This is a great substitute for Champagne.

Champagne Piillot Côte des Bar Cuvee de Reserve Brut NV – When we first tasted this elegant Champagne we remarked on its beautiful light golden colour, the citrus aromas, the silky freshness on the palate and very good length. The base wine is made from Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier providing additional richness. It was disgorged in July 2016. Further complexity is gained from using base wine from two different vintages to make the champagne. This is an ideal aperitif and represent amazing value.

Terres Dorées FRV 100 2014 – This Gamay-based sparkling wine made in the pétillant naturel style is very low in alcohol at only 7.5%. The low-alcohol, however, does not detract from its interesting flavour of berry fruits and minerals coming from the granitic soils. It is made using the single-ferment Méthode Ancestrale in the style adopted in the nearby Bugey-Cerdon appellation where their vins mousseux are also made primarily from Gamay. When you pour this lightly petillant wine into the glass you immediately notice the pink hue which is the result of the short time that the red skins have been in contact with the grape juice. It is a perfect aperitif or dessert wine. It is perfect summer sipping sitting in the garden or looking over the sea. It also teams beautifully with berry desserts such as strawberry soup.

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles of sparkling wine in Pack 3 is \$275 but the pack price is \$233.75 including freight, a discount of 15%.

Pack 4: Wines made from obscure grapes 20% discount 12 pack



For this month's 20% discount dozen pack we have chosen a dozen wines made in part or whole from obscure grapes from France. The aim of this pack is to show that even though the grapes may be obscure it doesn't mean that interesting or even great wines can't be made from those grape varieties. A case in point is the Les Alpes from Dominique Belluard. This elegant white wine is made from the Gringet grape variety of which there is only around 22 hectares of vines in the Savoie region of France and Dominique has most of them. Or we could point to Pineau d'Aunis which is capable of producing long-lasting, beautiful red wines, especially in the hands of Jean-Pierre Robinot.

Each of the wines we have chosen includes at least one very rare variety for you to contemplate. It includes sparklings, whites and reds.

Hervé Villemade Vin de Table Bulle Blanche 2014 – This is a beautiful pétillant naturel sparkling wine from Hervé Villemade. The bottles are presented simply with attractive labels and crown-seal closures (just like a beer bottle). These are ideal summer quaffing wines. This one is made from the very rare local grape called Menu Pineau along with some Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay for added complexity. It has a marked purity of flavour, along with a very, very fine bead and a fresh, lively mouthfeel and great depth of flavour with citrus and herbal notes. The finish is quite long and will leave you wanting another glass...and another.

Les Capriades Vin de France BCF 2014 – The BCF is a fascinating version of pétillant naturel wine produced by Pascal and Moses. This cuvée is made entirely of teinturier grapes (those that have red skin and red juice). For this wine they sourced three very rare grape varieties, namely Gamay de Bouze, Gamay de Chaudenay and Gamay Fréaux (this is where the name BCF comes from). The wine is made with equal quantities of each variety. This is a truly lovely sparkling wine made using the "Methode Ancestrale" where the fermentation begins in a tank and then the wine is bottled before fermentation is complete. The result is a beautiful, red sparkling wine which has a lingering, slight bitterness at the end which is nicely balanced by some residual sugar. It also has a crown seal.

Mylène Bru Vin de Table Lady Chasselas Blanc 2014 – This wine is made from the Chasselas grape variety which is more commonly associated with Switzerland, hundreds of kilometres to the east. It is rare to find this variety in the Languedoc. The plot where Mylène has her Chasselas vines is a site of amazing beauty. There is a long view over the short-cropped vines to the mountains beyond. The vines are at least 50 years old and face East North East. Chasselas is almost unknown in this region so this is a very rare wine, but one of some delicacy and with a really lovely mouth-feel. The clay and limestone soils give the wine a persistent minerality that is very appealing. The finish is quite dry.

Dominique Andiran Vin de France Chut! 2014 – Chut! is an intriguing wine because it is made from a very rare grape variety that makes a beautiful wine with subtle aromas and a long finish. The grape variety is Sauvignon Rose which is so named because the skin has a soft pink colour. It is thought to be a mutation of Sauvignon Blanc that probably occurred hundreds of years ago in the Loire Valley. The grapes are a deep pink in colour and produce a wine with a pink hue which is not a rosé but rather a white wine. This is a very pleasant drink with a lot going on. Think herbs and flower petals and a lovely streak of minerality.

Le Temps de Cerises Vin de France La Peur du Rouge 2015 – Axel Prüfer can definitely be described as a low interventionist winemaker. This incredibly complex wine has a very interesting array of exciting grape varieties. It is 40% Chardonnay from Axel's vineyards, 40% Clairette from Emile Heredia's vineyards, 10% of the very rare Terret Blanc from a neighbour, and 10% Picpoul. The wine is packed with minerality and has a richness derived from the Clairette (this is a slightly obscure grape variety only found in the southern areas of France). Only a wine made from perfect fruit grown without sprays, irrigation and artificial fertilisers and absolutely no additions including no added sulphites could possibly taste like this.

Domaine Belluard Vin de Savoie Blanc Gringet Les Alpes 2014 – This beautiful white wine is made from 100% Gringet, a rare, obscure, traditional, indigenous grape of the Savoie region. Although this grape is sometimes said to be a variant of Savagnin that thrives in the nearby Jura, it has been clearly demonstrated through DNA analysis that there is no relationship between the grapes. Gringet is commonly used to make sparkling wines in this area but the Belluards also craft fine, elegant white wines such as this from this grape that thrives in the calcareous glacial moraines that line this valley. The wine is fermented with indigenous yeasts and only a tiny amount of sulphur is used.

Nicolas Carmarans IGP Aveyron Mauvais Temps Rouge 2014 – Mauvais Temps contains one of the most obscure grape varieties in the world. This light, but complex red wine from the Aveyron in central France is lively, exciting and delicious, leaving you wanting more! The wine comprises three grape varieties, namely the incredibly rare Negret de Banhars (40%), Fer Servadou (known locally as Mansois, 50%) and 10% Cabernet Franc. The grapes undergo semi-carbonic maceration in 15 hectolitre conical tanks for 20 days and the juice is then transferred to old barriques for 12 months. The vineyard is very steep with narrow terraces covered with native herbs in a stunning valley near the village of Campouriez.

Jean-Pierre Robinot Vin de France Lumière des Sens 2013 – Pineau d'Aunis is a native grape of the area around the city of Tours in the Loire Valley. While it is little known outside this area, it is a grape variety that can be used to create exciting red wines of great complexity and interest. This lovely Pineau d'Aunis comes from vines that flourish in soils of red clay, quartz and limestone in the Jasnieres appellation even though Robinot has not applied for appellation status. There is no sulphur added at any time during the winemaking process and the vines are certified organic by Ecocert.

Le Raisin à Plume (Jacques Fevrier) Vin de France A bout 2014 – We have a very limited number of bottles of this wine due to the fact that the grape from which it is made is somewhat rare. The grape is called Abouriou and it is known for making red wines in the Muscadet area. The vines that Jacques owns are 25 years old and thrive in very old schist soils. Jacques understands Abouriou and the wine he makes is quite delicious. It underwent whole bunch maceration for 15 days after which the juice was transferred to old wooden barrels where it matured for 8 months. It was bottled without filtering and without the addition of any sulphites. The wine exhibits fine tannins and a fullness in the mouth which belies its 11.5% alcohol level.

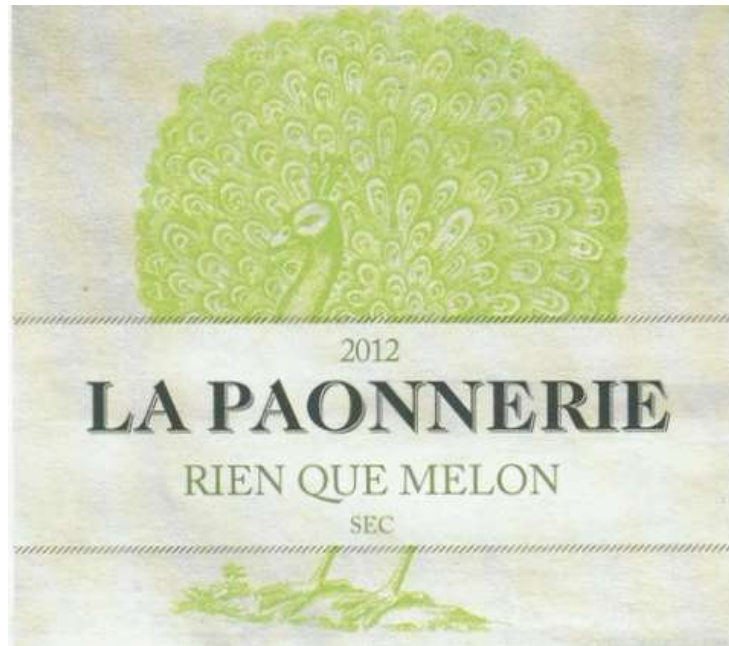
Causse Marines Gaillac Peyrouzelles 2013 – Peyrouzelles is a red wine blended mainly from Braucon, Duras and Syrah but there is added interest from three very obscure grapes from the local region. Patrice Lescarret also says that this wine has a 'bit of everything' (un peu de tout) including the rare Alicante (a grape with very dark red flesh), the very rare Prunelart (also a dark-coloured grape) and Jurancon! These are all traditional grape varieties of the Gaillac region that Patrice and Virginie are reviving. The wine is dark and brooding, reminding Australians of their native bigger wines but is also light and elegant on the palate. It is a wine that marries well with lots of dishes without overpowering them.

Domaine de la Cadette Bourgogne l'Ermitage Rouge 2014 – This wine is made primarily from Pinot Noir (80%), but it also has 20% of the rare César grape. This wine is therefore quite a rarity because of the inclusion of a grape variety that is rarely spoken about in Burgundy. César is permitted only in the communes in the Yonne department in northern Burgundy and very little wine from this area makes its way to Australia. However this wine definitely benefits from the inclusion of this spicy grape variety. The vines grow on a very steep south-facing slope, in the rural district of Vézelay in a vineyard called l'Ermitage after which the wine is named. This is a beautiful, savoury Burgundy with a lingering finish and with a hint of the exotic from the use of the César.

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendéens Cuvee Le Poiré 2010 – This is an intriguing wine made from an intriguing grape (100% Negrette) which is very rare in this part of France. The colour is deep red and the flavour has hints of cherries and plums and a lingering, intense spiciness. One reviewer referred to it as 'brooding and primary'. It is a great, full-flavoured, intense wine. We think it is like a Pinot Noir on steroids!

The RRP for this selection of 12 bottles of wine is \$554 but the pack price is \$443.20 (a 20% discount) including freight.

Pack 5: One Pack Only 6 pack



Please remember that there is only one pack and the first person to order it gets it!
We have made a similar offer twice before and the pack was snapped up each time within a few minutes of the newsletter being sent out.

Champagne Piillot Champagne Côte des Bar Cuvée Champs Rayés Brut Nature 2010 – We have now moved on to the 2011 of this excellent Champagne but there is still one lonely bottle sitting in the warehouse. The Champs Rayés cuvee comes from an area known as Noé les Mallets where Roland has two plots of vines "Champs Rayés" and "Derrière le Bois" planted entirely to massale selection Chardonnay and both of which have clay, marl and limestone soils. The resulting Champagne is a fine, elegant and rich wine of incredible finesse. By the way, the Champs Rayés vineyard gets its name (striped field) from the two different types of marl rocks found in this area. Notice that this Champagne bears the term Brut Nature on the label. This can only appear on wines that have had no sugar added at any time during the maturation of the wine. The wine has neither been fined nor filtered.

Domaine la Paonnerie Muscadet Coteaux de Loire Rien que Melon 2012 – The Rien que Melon is aptly named as there is nothing in the bottle except for juice from Melon de Bourgogne grapes picked from vines that are about thirty years old. There are no additions to this juice - not even any sulphur. It is a delightful wine that expresses the terroir from the vineyard which is on the banks of the Loire River about halfway between Angers and Nantes in the beautiful Loire Valley. The vineyards are at the eastern end of the Muscadet region and Jacques allows the wine to go through malolactic fermentation which is unusual in Muscadet and more like what happens in the neighbouring Anjou appellation. The grapes are crushed with a little time for skin contact and then transferred to tanks to ferment and mature for about six months before bottling.

Domaine Moss Vin de France Rosemonde Rosé 2015 – The Rosemonde is a delicious rosé made from Grolleau Gris (the main component) and a little Cabernet Franc. There are two separate parcels of 30 year old Grolleau Gris vines which grow in soils made of clay, gravel and schist (the schist is quite weathered and sits over a bedrock of schist). The grapes were hand-picked in early October and were lightly pressed and allowed to ferment naturally. The resulting wine was bottled in April 2016. The colour of the wine is a deep pink with an orange hue. This is the last bottle from this shipment, however there will be another shipment of the same vintage later this year.

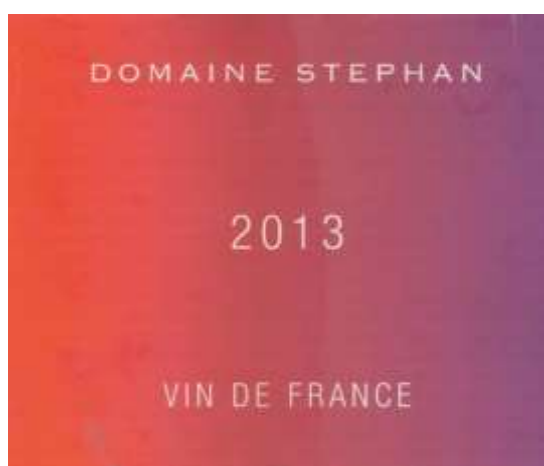
Terres Dorées Beaujolais Rosé d'Folie 2015 – This is the quintessential Jean-Paul Brun wine! And once again there is a stunning label and attractive bottle to enhance the experience. The Rosé d'Folie is a light pinkish-orange tinted wine that gives raspberry on the palate, an appealing freshness and a nice lingering finish. It is perfect for spring and summer sipping, but as we always say of rosé wines, there is absolutely no reason why they can't be sipped all year round. This wine was fermented in tanks and has seen no wood at any time, therefore it remains fresh and vibrant and perfect for easy drinking. There has been no carbonic maceration as Jean-Paul prefers Burgundian methods of wine making.

Bainbridge and Cathcart Vin de France Rouge aux Levres 2013 – This wine is made from the red Grolleau Noir (aka Groslot Noir) grape that is only found at this end of the Loire Valley and rarely seen as a single varietal. The very old vines thrive in red clay and schist soils. The grapes underwent three weeks of whole bunch semi-carbonic maceration (the juice is not drained so both carbonic and alcoholic fermentation occur). Toby does not like to add carbon dioxide so uses a double lidded system in the tank to trap the ambient gas. The wine shows very fresh berry aromas and flavours, soft tannins and lots of juicy goodness. It tastes very fresh. The wine has a little carbon dioxide in it as a preservative so you might detect a bit of 'fizz' at the beginning when the glass is first poured. The vines are very old (at least 85 years and some possibly over 100 years old) giving rise to a beautifully structured wine which exhibits considerable charm.

Causse Marines Gaillac Peyrouzelles 2014 – We received a small shipment of the 2014 release which has now all sold out except for 1 bottle. Peyrouzelles is a red wine blended mainly from Brauacol, Duras and Syrah but there is added interest from three very obscure grapes from the local region. Patrice Lescarret also says that this wine has a 'bit of everything' (un peu de tout) including the rare Alicante (a grape with very dark red flesh), the very rare Prunelart (also a dark-coloured grape) and Jurancon! These are all traditional grape varieties of the Gaillac region that Patrice and Virginie are reviving. The wine is dark and brooding, reminding Australians of their native bigger wines. The Peyrouzelles is big, dark and brooding but also light and elegant on the palate. It is a wine that marries well with lots of dishes without overpowering them.

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles of wine is \$232 but the pack price is **\$185.60 including freight, a discount of 20%.**

Pack 6: From the Archives 6 Pack



This is not technically a single bottle pack, it's more a "looking through our squirrelled away boxes pack and working out what we should be willing to part with" pack. These are all wines that have not been on our list for some time, and in one case never, that we may have pre-emptively removed or put in the "Sue and Roger" column which now needs a little culling. Maybe it's a recognition that we're aging and can't drink everything so should be sharing some of these wines. However, it's definitely a one-off opportunity. **There is only one pack available.**

De Moor Saint-Bris 2010 – It's only an accident that we still have this wine. The De Moor wines are allocated in advance and we somehow got this wrong and ended up with a few spare bottles. Now we're letting one go. Saint-Bris is a relatively new, small appellation in northern Burgundy, for wines from the specified region, including around the commune of Chitry where the De Moors' vineyard is, made from Sauvignon Blanc or Sauvignon Gris. Chitry is only 15 minutes drive from Chablis to its east and 1 and a half hours north-east of Sancerre. It shares the same Kimmeridgian soils, rich in limestone, that also extend into Champagne. The De Moor's Saint-Bris is a highly regarded example of the appellation and should have aged beautifully. It was probably never originally offered for sale.

Jean-Pierre Robinot Les Vignes de l'Ange Vin Nocturne 2011- From our first shipment of Jean-Pierre Robinot's wines, Nocturne is Pineau d'Aunis made with some of his oldest vines (not the oldest – they're kept for Camille). Even so, they are over 80 years old. On the palate, Pineau d'Aunis, a grape that's virtually only found in a small area of the Loire Valley, is characterised by a slight herbal bitterness and in Robinot's hands its perfume is deep and complex. It's a wine for lovers of Amaro and other slightly bitter flavours.

Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Blanc Mondeuse 2013 – This is a wine we have never released on our retail site because there was too little to make it realistic. We receive miniscule quantities which go to a small number of restaurants. Dominique Belluard is widely regarded as one of the Savoie's best producers, most widely known for his vineyards of Gringet, a grape only found in this region. However, he has a small plot of Mondeuse and in recent years we have received a very small allocation.

Derain St-Aubin Le Ban 2009 – We're keeping some of this wine from the excellent 2009 vintage but have decided to release one bottle for this unique pack. Dominique Derain's wines from the Le Ban vineyard within the Saint-Aubin appellation age well so, while you could drink this now, thanks to the underlying acidity, which was very evident in a bottle of 2014 we opened recently, it would reward further aging.

Jean-Michel Stephan Plain de Condrieu Vin de France 2013 – We're looking forward to Jean-Michel Stephan's recently-released 2014 vintage of his unique Côte-Rôtie arriving this November. In the meantime, this wine, which we officially sold out early last year, is a 100% Syrah from vines planted on the Plain de Condrieu literally on the banks of the Rhone. It's only 11.5%, and vinified using Carbonic Maceration, to create a fresh and lively wine that can be drunk now.

Mosse Initials BB 2011 This Chenin Blanc from famed Loire Valley vigneron René Mosse is from his oldest vines within his Les Bonnes Blanches and Marie Besnard vineyards. The soil in both vineyards is clay on schist, although Les Bonnes Blanches also has small round, white pebbles, which give the vineyard its name. The wine had 12 months in 228 litre oak barrels prior to bottling but it will reward many more years of cellaring.

These wines are for sale at their original prices less a 10% 6 pack discount making them a bargain as well as a rare opportunity.

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$352 but the pack price is \$316.80 including freight.

Grape variety: Abouriou

It is generally agreed that the Abouriou grape variety is named after the Occitan word for early (aboriu) because it is an early ripening variety. The vines are known for their vigour, their high yields and their resistance to disease.

Abouriou is most commonly found in the south-west of France and particularly in the Côtes du Marmandais appellation where it is one of the nominated grape varieties. However, it also is found further north in Muscadet where small areas of the vines can be found. It is not, however, an approved variety for Muscadet as only white wines gain appellation status there.

Abouriou produces dark wines that are low in acid and high in tannins. However, if conditions are favourable the wines can be immensely appealing as is often the case in the western Loire.

There is some doubt over the parentage of this variety. A paper published in 2013¹ suggests that it is related to the south-west France grape variety Magdeleine Noire des Charentes, however it is not possible to tell whether Abouriou is the child or the parent of this variety.

The vines have pointed leaves with the characteristic five lobes as shown in the photo below.



Photo courtesy of Vitis International Variety Catalogue

The bunches are tight with very dark coloured grapes as shown below.

¹ LACOMBE, T.; BOURSIQUOT, J.M.; LAUCOU, V.; Di VECCHI-STARAZ, M.; PEROS, J.P.; THIS, P. (2013) Large-scale parentage analysis in an extended set of grapevine cultivars (*Vitis vinifera* L.) *Theoretical Applied Genetics* 126 (2) 401-414



Photo courtesy of Vitis International Variety Catalogue

We have two winemakers who grow this variety. Marc Pesnot in Muscadet has a plot of Abouriou as does Jacques Fevrier from Coteaux d’Ancenis. We have included a bottle of his 100% Abouriou in the 12 pack of obscure grape varieties this month.

How to order

You can order any of these packs by sending us an email to wine@livingwines.com.au

Or for other wines you can use our order form or just describe the wines in an email.

http://www.livingwines.com.au/Catalogue/Order_Form_Current.pdf

WARNING

Under the *Liquor Licensing Act 1990* it is an offence:

for liquor to be delivered to a person under the age of 18 years.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units

for a person under the age of 18 years to purchase liquor.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units