

WINE Talk: May 2019

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 84

Welcome to edition 84 of the Wine Talk newsletter! This is a short newsletter by our normal standards because we have been incredibly busy with the two recent shipments we have received. We have been overwhelmed with the response and putting in long hours to ensure that all the orders have been fulfilled. Thank you all very much to the people who ordered the wines. We hope you are enjoying them – some of them are very rare and it's great to have them in Australia.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and remember that all past newsletters are available to read on our Living Wines Web site.

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. If you're not personally known to us or haven't already, please also provide your date of birth so we stay legal (a requirement of Tasmanian legislation.)

Alice and Olivier de Moor Season is here



One of the highlights of our year is "De Moor season" when Alice and Olivier de Moor's wines arrive. That pleasure was tempered last year when we received the 2016 wines because that year, after very severe frosts, they produced virtually no wine from their own grapes and our allocation of course was severely cut. Things were slightly better for them in 2017. We can remember talking to Alice when we saw her early in 2018 and her saying that after 2016, the 30% losses they had in 2017 seemed like a good outcome!

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

Even so, in 2017 in some vineyards the harvest was 50% or less and in the case of the Chablis plots Bel-Air and Clardys the losses were so great they did not produce the Bel-Air and Clardys cuvée. What grapes they could harvest are part of Chablis L'Humeur du Temps. Fortunately, though, their main plots of Aligoté and Sauvignon Blanc (the later around Saint-Bris) had a normal harvest.

Living in the village of Courgis near Chablis, Alice and Olivier own small plots in Chablis, Chitry and the little known Saint Bris appellation. Both of them share the viticulture and winemaking as they work together to craft these stunning wines.

All the grapes are picked by hand and only natural yeasts are used to ferment the wines which for the most part are matured in Austrian foudres or oak barrels that are typically one to four years old to ensure that the oak flavours do not dominate the fruit.

On our website, the wines labelled De Moor come from their own grapes and those labelled Le Vendangeur Masqué (the Masked Harvester) are wines they make from grapes they buy (harvesting the grapes themselves and vinifying them in their cellar in Courgis). (This year, though, is a slight exception to the rule because a little part of Caravan contains some of their own aligoté.) Since we started working with them in 2011 we have always received some Vendangeur Masqué cuvées. Initially these were Chablis and Bourgogne Blanc, so purchased grapes from their own region, but in recent years, as the weather has become more vicious, they have looked further afield to supplement their precarious harvest. When spring frost or summer hail destroys most of their own harvest it does the same to the locally-sourced Vendangeur Masqué grapes as well.

Since the difficult harvest of 2013 they have bought grapes from the south of France, always from friends who work in the same way as they do. They've used the same approach – harvest the grapes themselves and bring them back to Courgis to make the wine. It's a sort of insurance policy and while we're sure they much prefer making wine from grapes from their own vineyards we've had some beautiful Vendangeur Masqué wines as well. They cannot make a disappointing wine. The way they work seems always to amplify whatever minerality is in the grapes, wherever they come from. They always retain acidity and age beautifully.

The 2017 Le Vendangeur Masqué Caravan we have received in this shipment is sourced even more widely. There is some Clairette from the Drôme, Chardonnay from l'Ardèche, Pinot Blanc and a little Riesling from Alsace, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Gris from Brionnais (Saône et Loire), and some of the De Moors' own Aligoté.

And, for the first year, we have two cuvées of Premier Cru Chablis, the first time they have worked with premier cru plots. The wines are from Vaux de Vey and Mont de Milieu. The de Moors have bought the vines in Vaux de Vey, and this 2017 vintage is the first one since it was converted to organic. They rent in Mont de Milieu on a long term basis. They are responsible for all the vineyard work as well in return for which they receive most of the harvest. The vines are over 80 years old and were already farmed organically before they took responsibility for them.

While we don't have enough Chablis to advertise it generally we have ensured everyone who requested some in advance following our last newsletter will receive a bottle of one of the Chablis cuvées but we're delighted that we're able to take off the SOLD OUT message of at least some of the wines on their page on our website, including their own Aligoté and Chitry. If you would like to order some wines we'd recommend getting in quickly though.

And the news from the De Moors regarding the 2018 vintage is much better (fortunately) so it's not too early to put in requests for next year's de Moor season. We're hopeful of a small increase in our allocations so it's a good time to ask.

NEW ARRIVALS!

This shipment contains wines from Alice and Olivier de Moor, Dominique Belluard, Champagne Piillot, Domaine Milan, Domaine Derain and Sextant (Julien Altaber), Jean-Pierre Robinot, the Mosse family and Domaine de la Garrelière. It substantially replenishes our depleted portfolio.

There are a lot! We've highlighted a few things here, included a full list at the end of this newsletter and have updated the information on our website with most of the new wines. We're still working on that.

De Moor – Burgundy

We have some **Bourgogne Aligoté**, small quantities of **Bourgogne Chitry, Sans Bruit** (Sauvignon Blanc), and **Le Vendangeur Masqué AOC Bourgogne Blanc** and a good supply of **Le Vendangeur Masqué Caravan**, which is made from Clairette, Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, and Sauvignon Gris they have bought from friends, some from the south and some from Alsace, and some of their own Aligoté. All these are 2017 vintage.

Milan - Provence

Most of the Domaine Milan wines are in very small quantities but we do have a good supply of the **Nouveau 2018**, which is a delicious wine designed to be drunk now (100% Mourvedre). There is also a good supply of **Brut Nature Rosé 2017**, a sparkling rosé made with Grenache, Mourvedre, and Alicante. It's not a pet-nat – it's Méthode Traditionelle, but without added sulphites or dosage. Everything else is very limited, including **Luna & Gaïa**, our first orange wine from Milan. It's a blend of Rolle (mainly), Chardonnay, Roussanne, and Muscat à Petit Grain.

Dominique Belluard - Savoie

Thanks to a difficult 2017 we don't have all the usual cuvées from Dominique. The biggest absence is Pur Jus, which he didn't make. But that has allowed us to stock up on **Les Alpes** and **Le Feu**, both of which we should have for some time. There is also a good supply of **Les Perles du Mont-Blanc 2015**, one of our favourite sparkling wines.

Mosse - Loire

We usually get a couple of shipments from the Mosses each year and maybe this year there will be three. This one is predominantly **Moussamoussettes 2018**, this year a blend of Pineau d'Aunis and Grolleau Noir and maybe more drinkable than ever and **Chenin 2017** (what used to be Anjou Blanc). We're very pleased with the pricing for these wines. We also have very limited numbers of the 2017 single vineyard cuvées including **Le Rouchéfer**, and **Les Bonnes Blanches**. And there is a special cuvée, **Marie-Besnard**, from 2015, which spent two years in barrel before bottling and then almost another two years in bottle. It's one of the Bs that is usually in Initials BB (the other is Bonnes Blanches) but they thought it sufficiently special to keep it separate in 2015. "It's not a wine for young people" according to René. That's more what **Nostramo** is, made with 100% Carignan with grapes Sylvestre Mosse harvested in Corbières. It had a short 1 week maceration and is very juicy but not a driving wine.

Jean-Pierre Robinot - Loire

We have nine new cuvées of Jean-Pierre's wines, including just-disgorged **2018 Fêtebulles**, his Chenin Blanc pet-nat and 2017 Le Regard, a lovely light Pineau d'Aunis designed to be drunk young. We also have, more for keeping, **Lumière des Sens** and **Nocturne** 2017, also both made with Pineau d'Aunis. There is a reasonable amount of **Bistrologie**, the Chenin Blanc made from the younger vines, and also two vintages of **Iris** (2016 and 2017) and some **Charmes 2017**. They are all very limited.

Domaine de la Garrelière - Loire

The bulk of this shipment is everybody's happy Gamay **Gamay Sans Tra La La 2018**, which we were lucky to get because it sold out so quickly. We also have some 2018 **Rosé de la Cabane**, which is 100% Cabernet Franc, a quite serious pet-nat **Milliard d'Etoiles 2017** (Chenin Blanc and direct press Cabernet Franc) and some **Cendrillon 2017**, which is made from their oldest Sauvignon Blanc vines.

Domaine Derain and Sextant (Julien Altaber) - Burgundy

As always when we have wine from Julien Altaber (including now Domaine Derain, Dominique Derain's former domaine which Julien and his partner Carole have bought) there are the classics and the wild and often unfamiliar ones. Most are from the 2017 vintage. You'll find Julien's classic-ish 2017 **Bourgogne Blanc**, **Bourgogne Rouge** and **Bourgogne Aligoté** as well as limited amounts of his **Côtes de Nuits Monthélie 1er Cru Sur la Velle**.

You'll find Derain's 2017 **Bourgogne Le Ban**, **Bourgogne La Combe**, **Saint-Aubin 1er Cru En Remilly**, and **Gevrey-Chambertin En Vosne**. The latter are definitely wines for cellaring. We also have the very fresh **Allez Goutons Blanc** and **Rouge** from the 2018 vintage.

But then there are a whole host of more experimental wines to discover (all from 2017) including **Skin Bull**, macerated Aligoté made as a pet-nat and **Po à Po** which is a still macerated Aligoté (it used to be called Skin Contact), **MaMaMia**, which is macerated Pinot Gris, and **Clin d'Oeil 2017**, which is macerated Viognier with some direct press Gamay. **Ecume** is a pet-nat which is a blend of Aligoté and Gamay and **Métisse** is the fresh and juicy Gamay we receive each year. But the most unexpected wine is the **Derain Las Nubes 2018**, a Pinot Noir made by Dominique in Chile! It's very light, almost rosé like to taste, not surprising as it's a combination of a maceration of whole grapes, some destemmed and some whole bunch, with some run-off juice (saignée) allowed initially to ferment separately but then, added to finish its fermentation, with the juice after the macerated grapes were pressed.

Causse Marines - Gaillac

We're very, very happy that Patrice and Virginie decided to make **Graine de Folie** (a sweet wine made with Mauzac) again in 2018 after indicating a couple of years ago that they were going to give it up. It's not too sweet and in a 50cl bottle. We have **Peyrouzelles 2018** and **Les Greilles 2017** but also two new wines, in very limited quantities, **Sy Rose 2017**, which is a rosé made by macerating Mauzac Rose and **Oranginal**, a pet-nat which is macerated Mauzac Rose with some Mauzac. We've been waiting for this since 2014, when Patrice first tried an Italian sparkling orange wine in Hobart and decided to make some.

Champagne Piollot - Champagne

Finally, there is the welcome return of the **Piollot Reserve Champagne**, a blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. It's a blend of the 2015 and 2016 vintage and the bottles were disgorged late last year. (There are also a few magnums disgorged in February this year.) We also have limited quantities of some special vintage cuvées, all of which are Non Dosage - **Come des Tallants 2015** (Pinot Noir disgorged last November), **Colas Robin 2014** (Pinot Blanc disgorged last July) and **Champs Rayés 2012** (Chardonnay disgorged in December 2017)

Make your own order

Note: At the end of this newsletter we have provided a list of the available wines from the current shipment. If you would like to make up your own six pack or 12 pack we will provide our normal 10% discount and free shipping to places across Australia serviced by Fastway.

Note that some of the wines are very limited in quantity, but email your request and we will try our best to accommodate you.

Requests to: wine@livingwines.com.au

WHAT'S NEXT – l'Octavin

Our next shipment due in July will have some wines from **l'Octavin**. There will be some of Alice Bouvot's Jura wines made with grapes from her own vineyards which are all located around Arbois and some of her négociant wines, made from grapes she sources from around France, but always after close consultation with the growers, and she always picks the grapes herself, creating a truly extraordinary workload for herself during the harvest. For more information about individual wines check out our next newsletter in June. As always if you are especially interested in Alice's wines please let us know so we can make sure you have some warning about their arrival.

Pack 1: Alice and Olivier de Moor special 6 Pack



We are delighted to offer this special pack of de Moor wines that have just arrived in Australia. We rarely get the opportunity to offer their wines due to the terrible seasons they have been experiencing lately. However, there are a restricted number of these packs on offer and it is first in first served. Note that Le Vendangeur Masqué is their négoce company that is used when they have bought grapes from other.

Alice and Olivier de Moor AOC Bourgogne Aligoté 2017 (2 bottles) – Aligoté is the second white grape of Burgundy and wine made from this grape is popular locally but not seen much outside of France. In the right hands it can be a wonderful wine and this one certainly is. We've long been fans of this grape and this wine has been receiving accolades on both sides of the Atlantic. There is an added bonus this year because there were not enough grapes available to make their top ranked Plantation 1902 Aligoté so the grapes went into this wine as well.

Alice and Olivier de Moor AOC Bourgogne Chitry 2017 – Chitry is a white wine appellation that lies adjacent to the Chablis appellation and shares with it the wonderful limestone terroir. Those in the know snap up this wine as it has all the characteristics of a Chablis but at a lower price. It is a pure Chardonnay and is classified as a Burgundy Village wine (the village being Chitry). The harvest was down by 50% this year due to the frosts.

Alice and Olivier de Moor Sans Bruit 2017 – The de Moors have a vineyard within the Saint Bris boundaries and make this richly-textured Sauvignon Blanc that is highly regarded by aficionados of this grape variety. It is a very rare wine and highly sought after. It is also an oddity because the Saint Bris appellation is within the Burgundy boundaries, yet Sauvignon Blanc is the recognised grape variety. This year it does not carry the appellation on the label so the word Bruit has been used instead of Bris – Bruit means they made a noise when saying the word so you can't tell where it came from.

Le Vendangeur Masqué Caravan 2017 (2 bottles) – This wine is made from purchased grapes but, as with everything they make, it is a sensational wine. They have sourced a variety of grapes from around France including Clairette from the Drôme, Riesling and Pinot Blanc from Alsace, Aligoté from their own vineyards, Chardonnay from the Ardeche and Sauvignon Gris from just north of Roanne!

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$289 but the pack price is only \$245.65 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 2: Welcome to Australia! Brand New arrivals 6 Pack



We have just unpacked a container with many delightful wines (80 different cuvées in fact) and we have chosen 6 wines that have never been released in Australia before for your enjoyment. We have quite an eclectic group of wines for you. For example, the Derain Las Nubes is a Pinot Noir made by the irrepressible Dominique Derain in Chile. There is also a sparkling orange wine made by the Causse Marines team following a trip to Tasmania where we introduced them to the sparkling orange wine called Vej from Emilia Romagna. Patrice and Virginie became entranced with this wine and were determined to return to Gaillac and create their own version of this style – and hence Orignal was born.

Henri Milan Haru Rouge 2018 – This new cuvée from the Milan family is a delightful, light red wine made from Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache. The Cabernet Sauvignon (75%) was picked from a vineyard that was planted in the 1970s and underwent carbonic maceration to enhance the drinkability. The Grenache 25% underwent classic whole bunch maceration just for 4-5 days to prevent excess extraction. This treatment has resulted in very light tannins and a light colour for a red wine, but it is extremely tasty and can be served slightly chilled.

Mosse Nostromo 2017 – This is also a new cuvée – this time from the Mosse family in the Loire Valley and made entirely from the Carignan grape variety. The grapes were hand-picked and then underwent carbonic maceration to ensure the wine was light and fruit-driven. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation in barrels (fûts) and was left to mature for nine months prior to bottling.

Domaine Derain Las Nubes 2018 – Dominique Derain has been making wine in Burgundy for almost thirty years. He has recently handed over much of the work to Julien Altaber and Carole Schwab from Sextant. This has freed him up to engage in other projects. Through a Parisian friend he met up with a Chilean vigneron called Julio Denoso who asked him if he would be interested in making some of his wines in Chile. Dominique agreed and he travelled to the vineyard in the Casablanca region where the vineyards benefit from proximity to the ocean and

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

also an altitude of 350 metres. The technique Dominique used to vinify the hand-harvested grapes was quite complex involving drawing off some of the juice quite early in the maceration. The juice fermented in steel tanks and was bottled without fining or filtration. The final wine is a very light red that is eminently smashable!

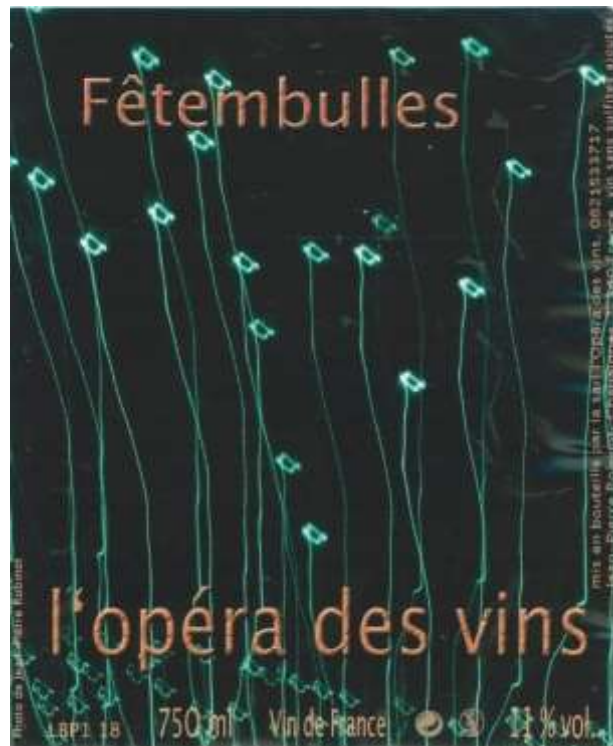
Sextant - Julien Altaber MaMaMia 2017 – We really like wines that are made from macerated Pinot Gris and this one is no exception. The skin of the Pinot Gris grape variety is flecked with red/pink spots which, when the skin is left in contact with the juice, gives up the colour to the juice. Julien Altaber transfers the juice to old wooden barrels to mature prior to bottling. This wine can accompany just about any type of food including spicy dishes.

Causse Marines Oranginal 2017 – As we have mentioned in the introduction to this pack, this is a sparkling orange wine made by the Causse Marines team following a trip to Tasmania where we introduced them to the sparkling orange wine called Vej from Emilia Romagna. Patrice and Virginie became entranced with this wine and were determined to return to Gaillac and create their own version of this style – and hence Oranginal was born. It is made from a blend of sweet juice from pressing the must of Mauzac Blanc and Mauzac Rose that had been macerated for three weeks. The wine was then bottled and the fermentation kicked in from the sugar in the must.

Causse Marines Sy Rose 2017 – This beautiful rosé also contains juice from Mauzac Rose grapes which were macerated for three weeks and then added to the juice from some of their amazing Syrah grapes to result in a beautiful wine of exceptional quality.

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$296 but the pack price is only \$251.60 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 3: Newly arrived sparkling wine 6 Pack



Domaine Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Ayse Brut Les Perles du Mont-Blanc 2015 – We are delighted to see this old favourite back in the country. Les Perles du Mont Blanc is a white sparkling wine made from the very, very rare Gringet grape variety that is a native grape of the Savoie region. It is an elegant wine of considerable complexity, made by one of the incredibly talented Dominique Belluard.

Domaine Mosse Moussamousettes 2018 – This year the cult pet nat Moussamousettes is mainly Pineau d’Aunis with the remainder from the local Grolleau Noir variety. The juice of the Pineau d’Aunis was fermented in a large underground tank and the Grolleau in a barrel and bottled when it had reached 15 grams of residual sugar. It then kept fermenting in the bottle until most of the sugar was gone. The result is a perfect example of a pet nat that we look forward to drinking all year round.

Jean-Pierre Robinot Fetembulles 2018 – This lovely Petillant Naturel wine is made from 100% Chenin Blanc. The grapes are sourced from vineyards in the Jasnieres appellation but they do not seek endorsement from the appellation committee, preferring to label the wine as Vin de France. This wine is very delicious and has minerality, salinity, freshness and complexity to enhance your drinking pleasure!

Domaine de la Garrelière Milliard d'Etoiles 2017 – This pétillant naturel is a blend of Cabernet Franc and Chenin Blanc made as a pet-nat (but a complex one). The juice was pressed and then fermented in a tank then cooled a little to slow the fermentation. It was bottled between 20 - 25 grams per litre of residual sugar where it kept fermenting to produce the bubbles. It was aged for a year and a half on lees and riddled by hand for a month then disgorged in February of this year. It has no added sulphites. The names translates as a “billion stars”.

Sextant - Julien Altaber Écume 2017 – This is a Vin Mousseux made in the same style as a Pet Nat which we have written about many times before. The wine is made from a mix of Pinot Noir with a small amount of Aligoté. What he has come up with is a bright, juicy, lively wine with a lovely mouth-feel and lingering flavour. It is very smashable.

Champagne Piillot Père et Fils Cuvée de Réserve – When we first tasted this elegant Champagne we remarked on its beautiful light golden colour, the citrus aromas and 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. Further complexity is gained from using base wine from two different vintages to make the wine. This is an ideal aperitif and represent amazing value.

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$323 but the pack price is only \$274.55 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 4: Defying winter – Light reds and white 6 Pack



Last month we had a pack of red wines for you to settle in to winter and this month we have the Domaine Saint Nicolas red pack to add to your collection of winter reds. However, we still find ourselves turning to light reds and white wines even in the coldest months of the year. So we have assembled a pack of mostly new arrivals that are perfect for a winter's eve near the fireside.

Domaine Mosse Moussamoussettes 2018 – This year the cult pet nat Moussamoussettes is mainly Pineau d'Aunis with the remainder from the local Grolleau Noir variety. The juice of the Pineau d'Aunis was fermented in a large underground tank and the Grolleau in a barrel and bottled when it had reached 15 grams of residual sugar. It then kept fermenting in the bottle until most of the sugar was gone. The result is a perfect example of a pet nat that we look forward to drinking all year round.

Domaine Milan Nouveau 2018 – Although it doesn't appear in the name it does on the label – this is another organic wine from the Milan team which has no added sulphur. This wine is 100% Mourvèdre which was fermented in two separate tanks. One underwent carbonic maceration and the other was fermented traditionally. They were then blended together prior to bottling. This is a bright, light, lively wine that is drinking very nicely at the moment. It is a delicious wine.

Domaine Milan Ma Terre Rosé 2018 – The Ma Terre Rosé is a light but very tasty rosé wine that has been made from Syrah and Cinsault. It was macerated on skins for approximately three days to develop the colour and the flavour without getting too much extraction. There is only a tiny amount of this wine available.

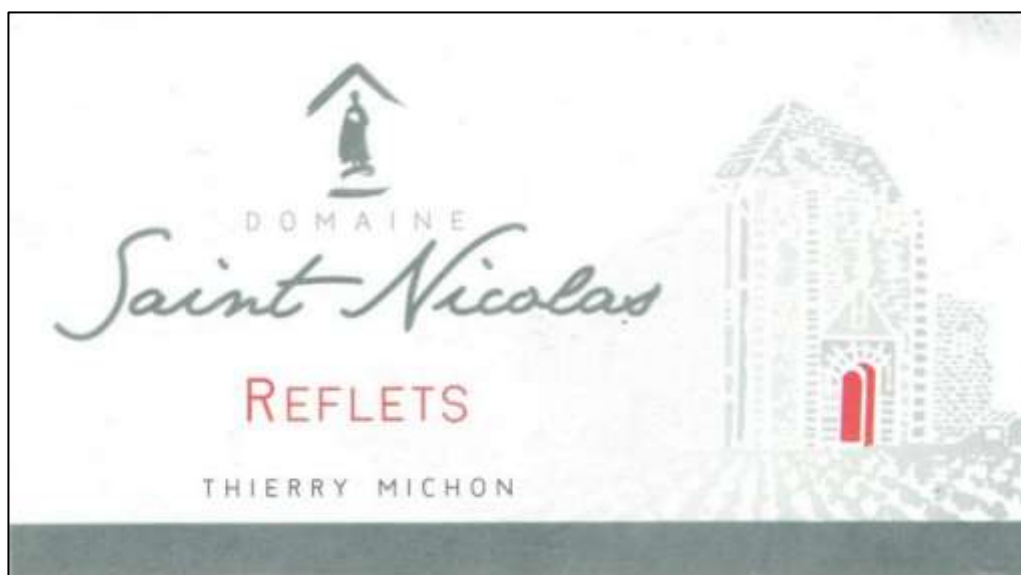
Domaine de la Garrelière Le Rosé de la Cabane 2018 – In the past this cuvée has been a blend of Cabernet Franc and Gamay, but this year they decided to make it just from Cabernet Franc and we are delighted with the results. The grapes were pressed slowly to extract some colour from the skins, but only enough to make it clearly identifiable as a rosé. It was fermented in a concrete tank and then bottled with the addition of a tiny amount of sulphites. You can really taste the fruit in this very appealing wine!

Domaine Derain Allez Goutons Blanc 2018 – The Allez Goutons is a beautiful white wine made from Aligoté, one of our favourite white wine grapes. This wine is made by Julien Altaber (Julien and Carole from Sextant have now taken over the production of the Dominique Derain's wines) as an early drinking style to be consumed within a couple of years of being made. If you are a fan of this grape variety then you will love this wine. Despite the fact that it is a drink-now style it has incredible complexity and very good length.

Opi d'Aqui Les Cliquets 2016 – This wine has been made from 100% Grenache Noir which came from a small plot (0.8 hectares) near the town of Vendémian which lies approximately 16 kilometres south-east of Clermont-l'Hérault. The soils here are clay over limestone. The process was started using whole bunch, cold carbonic maceration for 3 weeks. It was then aged in stainless steel tanks for 6 months. It was bottled without fining or the addition of sulphites to preserve its freshness. It is a red wine, but very light in colour. It almost looks like a rosé in the glass, but it has more weight in the mouth. We love this wine!

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$249 but the pack price is only \$211.65 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 5 – Domaine Saint Nicolas - red 6 pack 15% discount



One of the suppliers we have been working with the longest is the irrepressible Thierry Michon from Domaine Saint Nicolas in the western Loire Valley below the city of Nantes. His vineyards are very close to the Atlantic Ocean and this gives his wines a characteristic salinity in addition to the minerality derived from the schist soils that outcrop in his vineyards.

He also loves Pinot Noir having trained in Burgundy before returning to take over his family vineyards. He also was mentored in the early days by the leading biodynamics expert Nicolas Joly.

Today Thierry and his sons farm around 37 hectares using biodynamics to inform all their actions in the vineyard. The wines are certified organic by Ecocert and biodynamic by Demeter.

We have put together an eclectic selection of Thierry's wines which include some young and fresh wines and some with some age to show that natural wines are capable of aging gracefully.

Domaine Saint Nicolas Reflets Rouge 2017 (2 bottles) – This is Thierry Michon's "workhorse wine" made entirely from his beloved Pinot Noir vines. The vines thrive on a south-east facing slope overlooking the Atlantic Ocean where the soil is schist-derived clay mixed with quartz pebbles. It was matured in large wooden foudre for almost a year before bottling with very little sulphur to retain the freshness. It is an elegant wine with good structure. It has not been filtered at our request and we are very happy with the results. This is a smooth and delicious wine that will go very well with a wide range of foods.

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendéens Cabaret Rouge 2013 (2 bottles) – This is a wine that is typical of the Loire region. It is made from pure Cabernet Franc that has been aged in barriques for a year. This is a particularly good example of a Loire Cabernet Franc. It is a great food wine which is drinking very nicely now. In all the wine tastings that we have carried out in Australia this has been regarded as a beautiful expression of the Cabernet Franc grape.

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendéens Cuvee Jacques Rouge 2012 – This silky cuvee is named after Thierry's grandfather and is a blend of Pinot Noir (90%) and Cabernet Franc (10%). It was aged in barriques for 18 months prior to bottling. The Pinot Noir comes from vines between 20 and 30 years old, planted on schist soil. The Cabernet Franc vines are between 15 and 25 years

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

old on clay soil. The vineyards have been cultivated with biodynamic practices since 1995. The grapes are hand-picked and completely destemmed. The maceration was in a wooden tank for 10-12 days with pigeage. This wine has only recently been released because Thierry likes them to gain some age in the bottle prior to distribution.

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendéens Cuvee Le Poiré 2010 – This is an intriguing wine made from an intriguing grape (100% Negrette). The vineyard from which this wine is made faces south and the soil is schist-derived clay sitting on schist and granite. The wine was matured for 18 months in old barrels. 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.

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$281 but the pack price is only \$238.85 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 6: Recently Arrived Aligoté 6 Pack



This is a pack for the true Aligoté believers! It is comprised of wines from three passionate winemakers who truly believe in the Aligoté grape variety. It is also a very varied pack with two very pure Bourgogne Aligoté appellation wines that would shine in any company, a sparkling Aligoté pet nat from the talented Julien Altaber, along with a skin contact wine called Po à Po and the return of the very popular Derain Allez Goutons.

Alice and Olivier de Moor AOC Bourgogne Aligoté 2017 – Aligoté is the second white grape of Burgundy and wine made from this grape is popular locally but not seen much outside of France. In the right hands it can be a wonderful wine and this one certainly is. We've long been fans of this grape and this wine has been receiving accolades on both sides of the Atlantic. There is an added bonus this year because there were not enough grapes available to make their top ranked Plantation 1902 Aligoté so the grapes went into this wine as well.

Domaine Derain Allez Goutons Blanc 2018 – The Allez Goutons is a beautiful white wine made from Aligoté, one of our favourite white wine grapes. This wine is made by Julien Altaber (Julien and Carole from Sextant have now taken over the production of the Domaine Derain wines) as an early drinking style to be consumed within a couple of years of being made. If you are a fan of this grape variety then you will love this wine. Despite the fact that it is a drink-now style it has incredible complexity and very good length.

Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Aligoté 2018 – This is a beautiful wine with great complexity, depth and beautiful structure. The minerality and the complexity creeps up on you slowly. It has a lovely streak of acidity, lots of white fruit nuances, generous mouthfeel, lots going on at the end of the palate and amazing texture as well. It is not only the winemaking in this case but also the terroir because Fanny's late father used up some of his precious land in Pommard to plant the Aligoté vines!

Sextant - Julien Altaber Écume 2017 – The Écume is a pet nat made in a similar way to the Skin Bull above but the Aligoté was not macerated. It was blended with 50% Gamay to produce a beautiful pink sparkling wine that has a lovely texture and lingering flavour.

Sextant - Julien Altaber Bourgogne Aligoté 2017 – Julien Altaber has bought an old (60-70 years old) vineyard in the village of Puligny-Montrachet on alluvial limestone soils as well as a small parcel in the La Combe lieu dit in Saint Aubin which is actually a specific clone of the grape variety called Aligoté Doré. This is a very, very good example of an Aligoté with a nice backbone of acidity that allows it to be used with a wide range of foods. It is lip-smackingly delicious.

Sextant - Julien Altaber Po à Po 2017 – This wine is made from the wonderful Aligoté grape variety from a north-facing vineyard in excellent terroir near the famous village of Pommard. The grapes (50% destemmed and 50% whole bunches) were crushed and then, instead of the juice being run off, it was left in contact with the skins for a nine day period allowing the anthocyanins and other polyphenols in the skins and pips to leach into the juice. The presence of the anthocyanins from the skins turns the wine a light orange colour and some of the other polyphenols extracted during the maceration give the wine a lovely rounded mouth feel.

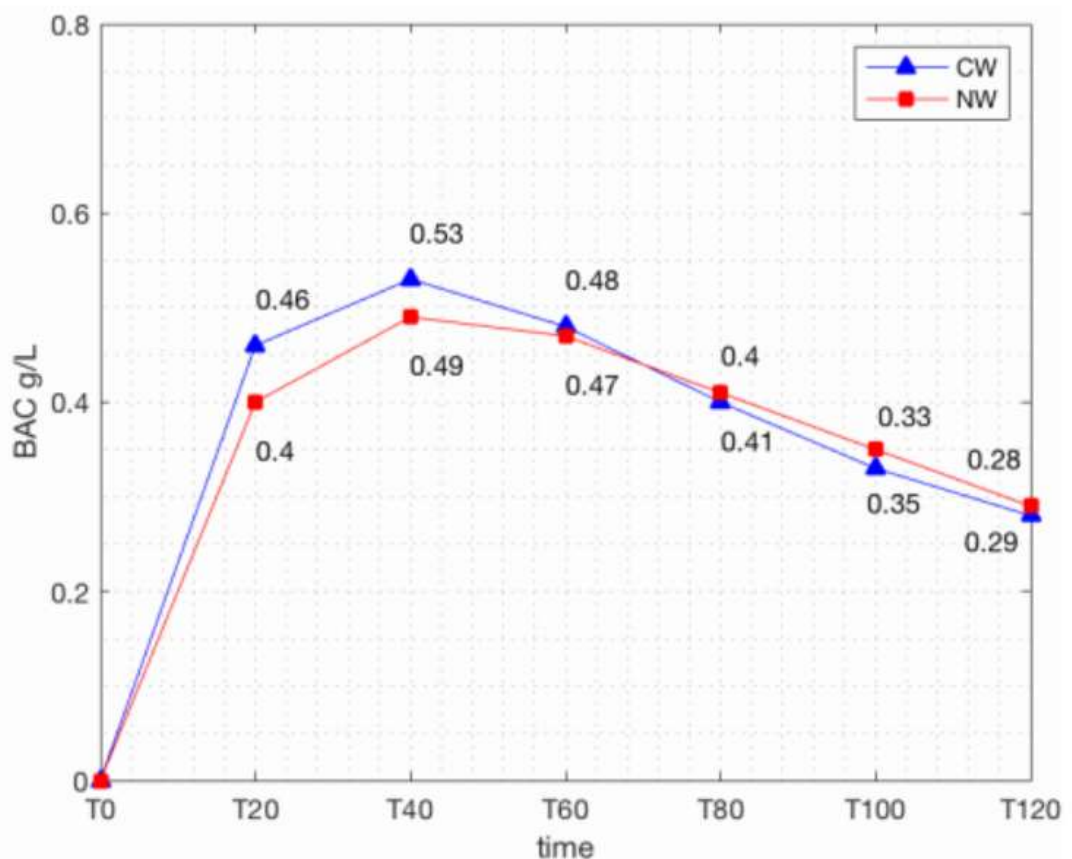
The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$302 but the pack price is only \$256.70 including freight to most Australian cities.

Positive effects of natural wine

We have for a long time been sure that natural wines have less of a negative effect on our bodies. For example, since starting this business over ten years ago we have rarely suffered from hangovers.

It was therefore with great interest that that we read an article entitled “*Vive la Difference! The Effects of Natural and Conventional Wines on Blood Alcohol Concentrations: A Randomized, Triple-Blind, Controlled Study*”.¹ We had found the paper through a link posted by Dave Brooks on Facebook.

The graph below from that paper shows the effects of natural wine (NW) versus conventional wine (CW) on blood alcohol concentration. The graph might look a bit complicated and scary, however if you read on you will find that there is a simple explanation which adds weight to our long-standing contention that natural wines do less damage than conventional wines.



The study was undertaken in a clinical nutrition unit in Torino in Italy with student volunteers from the Polytechnic University of Torino who were carefully screened to eliminate other variables such as body mass.

The approach was to compare the evolution of the blood alcohol concentration of healthy male subjects after their consumption of 24 grams of alcohol from a natural wine (the natural wine

¹¹¹ Federico Francesco Ferrero et al (2019) *Vive la Difference! The Effects of Natural and Conventional Wines on Blood Alcohol Concentrations: A Randomized, Triple-Blind, Controlled Study*

used was cultivated without pesticides and agrochemicals, fermented with wild yeasts, was unfiltered, and with no fining) and after their consumption of the same amount of a conventional wine, one week apart and under the same experimental conditions.

The wines were chosen very carefully to ensure that most of the variables were the same and the only differences were the lack of chemical treatments in the vineyard and the lack of additives such as yeasts, fining agents and other additives in the winemaking process. Over three hundred wines were analysed and the ones chosen used the same grape from the same area and the same terroir and were of a similar alcohol level and sugar level.

One of the big differences between the natural wine and the conventional wine was the amount of sulphur in each. The natural wine had .02 grams per litre of sulphites and the conventional wine had 115 grams per litre. There were no pesticide residues found in the natural wine but there were residues in the conventional wine.

The subjects were administered samples of the same quantity of a natural wine and a conventional wine one week apart, and their blood alcohol concentration was measured at regular intervals for two hours after their oral ingestion of the wine using a professional blood alcohol reader.

For science nerds the experiment was conducted using triple blind procedures. For example, the type of wine administered was not known by the subjects of the test, the persons administering the wines nor the persons who assessed the outcomes.

And now to the graph above and the results. After ingesting the wine the subjects were measured for blood alcohol content after 20 minutes then 40 minutes and so on. If you look at the horizontal axis of the graph you will see T0, T20 up to T120 – these are the 20 minute intervals. The vertical axis shows the blood alcohol reading for those times.

So, you can see that the blood alcohol reading at T0 is zero for both conventional and natural wine because they hadn't drunk anything at that stage. Twenty minutes after drinking the wine the natural wine reading (the red line) was 0.40 grams per litre of alcohol whereas the conventional wine reading (the blue line) was 0.46 which is statistically a highly significant difference.

The next interesting result is that at forty minutes after drinking the wine the amount of alcohol had continued to rise and the conventional wine result was, by this time, over the limit whereas the natural wine result was just below the limit of 0.50 grams per litre.

We will finish by quoting the authors in their findings from the study.

“The study shows that with the same quantity and conditions of intake, natural wine has lower pharmacokinetic and metabolic effects than conventional wine, which can be assumed due to the different agronomic and oenological practices with which they are produced. It can therefore be hypothesized that the consumption of natural wine may have a different impact on human health from that of conventional wine.”

Grape varieties: Roussanne

If you ask people to name some white wine grapes then they invariably will mention Chardonnay and Riesling – they might even mention some of the trendy white varieties such as Albarino or Gruner Veltliner, but Roussanne, one of the most noble of the Rhone white varieties, rarely gets a run. Yet some of the finest whites from Chateauneuf-du-Pape are based partly on this grape. It can also be used in red wines from there as well in the same way as Viognier is used in the Northern Rhone to round out the powerful Syrah-based wines.

Roussanne is also teamed with Marsanne to create the powerful and elegant white wines from Hermitage in the Northern Rhone.

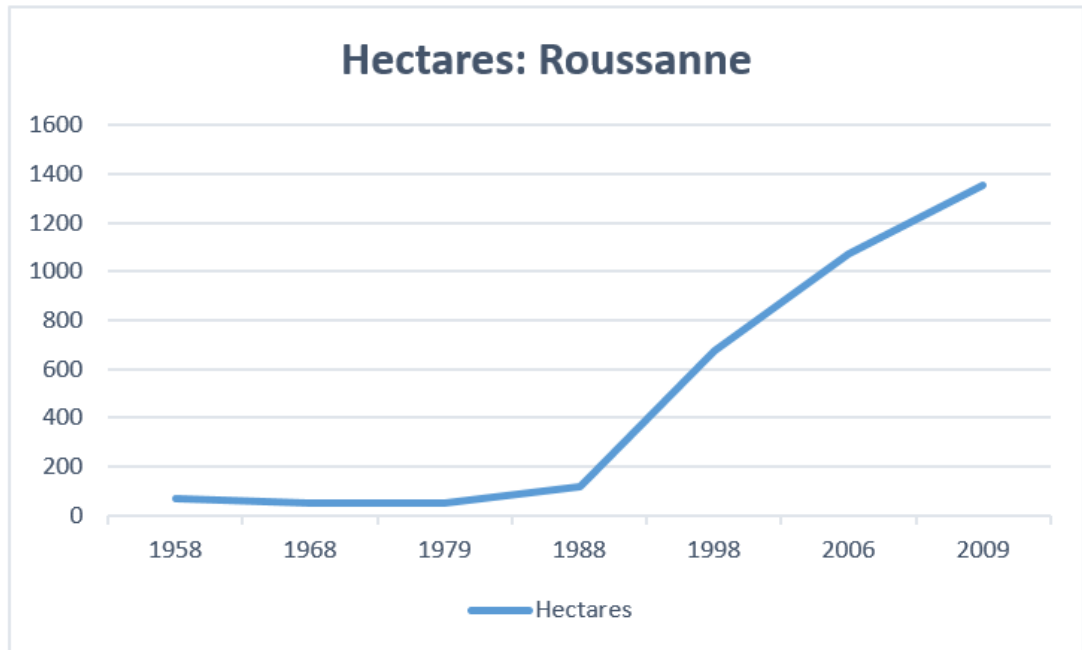
We decided to write about it after two recent experiences. We paid one of our regular visits to Domaine Milan in St Remy de Provence in April this year for a tasting of their current vintages. One of the most memorable wines in the lineup was their top white wine, the incredible Le Carrée, which is made from 100% Roussanne picked from the best vines in their estate. This is a very serious wine and it was showing beautifully!

We are also fortunate to import the delicious wines of Samuel Boulay from the rugged Ardeche region. He makes a stunning wine from a blend of Viognier and Roussanne. We tried one of these while compiling this newsletter and were delighted with how it slowly opened up in the glass to reveal its secrets.

Roussanne is thought to be native to the Rhone area and plantings of this grape can be seen throughout the plains on both sides of the Rhone and on the slopes of Mont Ventoux. It is also found throughout Provence and the Languedoc-Roussillon region.

It is a slow-ripening grape that exhibits a pleasing acidity and benefits from some old oak treatment. It adds complexity, aromas and longevity to wines.

As can be seen in the following graph, as opposed to many of the native grapes of France, instead of being pulled out to be replaced by “international” varieties, Roussanne has increased in popularity. In the 1950s and 1960s it was largely confined to the Rhone, but it has since spread through Provence and into the Languedoc due to its ability to provide power and elegance to blended wines as well as being used more and more for single variety wines.



The leaf of the Roussanne grape variety is very distinctive with five clearly defined lobes as shown below.

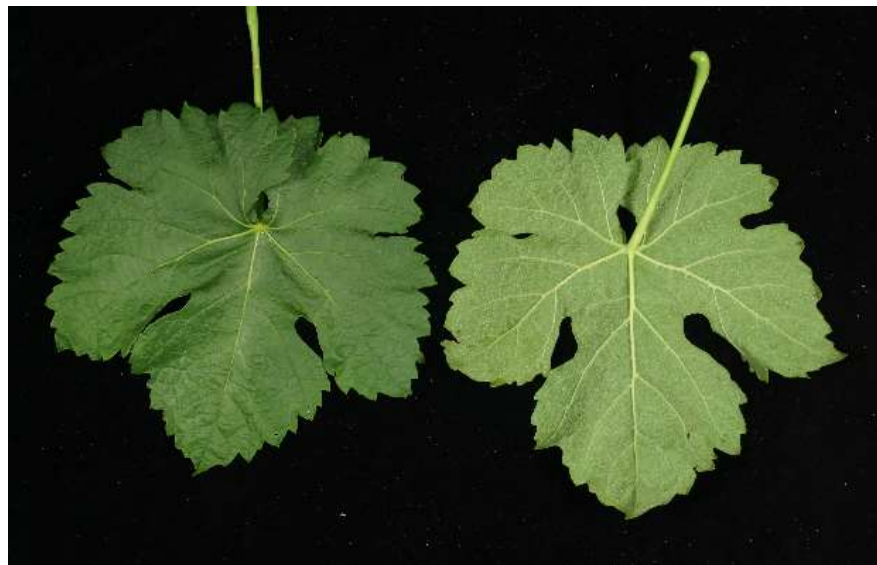


Photo Courtesy of Vitis International Variety Catalogue

The grape bunches are tightly packed which opens them to disease pressure during wet periods as shown below.



Photo Courtesy of Vitis International Variety Catalogue

New Arrivals List

Newly arrived wines	Price
Henri Milan Nouveau 2018	\$42
Henri Milan Brut Nature Rosé 2017	\$53
Henri Milan Luna & Gaïa 2017	\$62
Henri Milan Le Grand Blanc 2015	\$67
Henri Milan Brut Nature Blanc 2017	\$71
Henri Milan Le Jardin 2014	\$121
Henri Milan Le Carrée 2015	\$143
Henri Milan Le Vallon 2014	\$44
Henri Milan Haru Rouge 2018	\$42
Henri Milan Ma Terre Rosé 2018	\$44
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Ayse Brut Les Perles du Mont-Blanc 2015	\$53
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Ayse Brut Zéro Mont-Blanc 2015	\$76
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Blanc Les Alpes 2017	\$67
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Blanc Le Feu 2017	\$89
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Rouge Mondeuse 2017	\$80
Mosse AOC Savennieres Arena 2017	\$73
Mosse Chenin 2017	\$45
Mosse Le Rouchefer 2017	\$65
Mosse Les Bonnes Blanches 2017	\$72
Mosse Initials BB 2017	\$94
Mosse Marie-Besnard 2015	\$121
Mosse Moussamoussettes 2018	\$45
Mosse Nostromo 2017	\$40
De Moor AOC Bourgogne Aligoté 2017	\$42
De Moor AOC Bourgogne Chitry 2017	\$59
De Moor Sans Bruit 2017	\$62
Le Vendangeur Masqué AOC Bourgogne Blanc 2017	\$59
Le Vendangeur Masqué Caravan 2017	\$42
Jean-Pierre Robinot Fêtembulles 2018	\$51
Jean-Pierre Robinot l'As des Années Folles 2018	\$67
Jean-Pierre Robinot Bistrologie 2017	\$64

Jean-Pierre Robinot Charme 2017	\$74
Jean-Pierre Robinot Iris 2016	\$96
Jean-Pierre Robinot Iris 2017	\$96
Jean-Pierre Robinot Le Regard 2017	\$73
Jean-Pierre Robinot Lumière des Sens 2017	\$73
Jean-Pierre Robinot Nocturne 2017	\$93
Domaine de la Garrelière AOP Touraine Cendrillon 2017	\$36
Domaine de la Garrelière Marquis de C 2015	\$46
Domaine de la Garrelière Milliard d'Etoiles 2017	\$49
Domaine de la Garrelière Gamay Sans Tra La La 2018	\$36
Domaine de la Garrelière Le Rosé de la Cabane 2018	\$29
Derain Bourgogne La Combe 2017	\$69
Derain Gevrey-Chambertin En Vosne 2017	\$166
Derain St-Aubin Le Ban 2017	\$86
Derain St-Aubin 1er Cru En Remilly 2017	\$131
Derain Allez Goutons Blanc 2018	\$49
Derain Allez Goutons Rouge 2018	\$51
Derain Las Nubes 2018	\$56
Sextant - Julien Altaber Métisse 2017	\$38
Sextant - Julien Altaber Skin Bull 2017	\$47
Sextant - Julien Altaber Écume 2017	\$47
Sextant - Julien Altaber Bourgogne Rouge 2017	\$62
Sextant - Julien Altaber Bourgogne Blanc 2017	\$61
Sextant - Julien Altaber Bourgogne Aligoté 2017	\$47
Sextant - Julien Altaber Côtes de Nuits Village 2017	\$71
Sextant - Julien Altaber Monthélie 1er Cru Sur la Velle 2017	\$96
Sextant - Julien Altaber Clin d'Oeil 2017	\$58
Sextant - Julien Altaber MaMaMia 2017	\$60
Sextant - Julien Altaber Po à Po 2017	\$67
Causse Marines Oranginal 2017	\$49
Causse Marines Sy Rose 2017	\$49
Causse Marines AOC Gaillac Les Greilles 2017	\$36
Causse Marines AOC Gaillac Peyrouzelles 2018	\$34
Causse Marines Graine de Folie 2018 50cl	\$42

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

Champagne Piollot Père et Fils Come des Tallants	\$91
Champagne Piollot Père et Fils Colas Robin	\$94
Champagne Piollot Père et Fils Champs Rayés	\$101
Champagne Piollot Père et Fils Cuvée de Réserve Magnum	\$139
Champagne Piollot Père et Fils Cuvée de Réserve	\$78

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

Because of the above penalties we are now required by the Tasmanian Government to collect your date of birth in order from you to order via the Internet. We apologise for this imposition. In the past we have been able to accept a declaration that you are over 18.