

## WINE Talk: March 2020

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 89

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.)**

### News from Living Wines in these difficult times

We write this newsletter with heavy hearts. The community we work with, so many of whom are our friends, people with businesses they have made their lives, everyone is shattered and shellshocked trying to understand what has happened in the last two weeks and its implications.

It's tempting to lash out – there is much blame to lay - but that is not helpful just now. That will have to wait and then, some time in the future, perhaps from this colossal disaster we may have a chance to rebuild with a better society.

Here's hoping because if there isn't a rebalancing - more fairness, more education, more kindness, less spin, a willingness not to deny science and much more - then things will go back to 'business as usual' and we will be no more ready the next time this happens.

We are trying to navigate our way through this crisis as best we can. We are almost socially isolated, keeping a respectable distance when we go outside, no hugs or handshakes (despite the fact we all need hugs at the moment!) but keeping our spirits up thanks to the wonderful Tasmanian producers from whom we buy our vegetables and fruit, the occasional delicious takeaway being prepared in our favourite restaurants and, of course plenty of wine. We have reactivated old skills, including how to make coffee, and, who knows, there might eventually be some time for reading and, if things get really desperate, dusting off jigsaw puzzles.

In the meantime we are still selling wine, albeit with some limitations. There are three ways to order our wine at the moment, which we have described in more detail below:

- Direct from us, with one shipping day a week (see summary below). We have a number of special packs in this newsletter and, for the worst of reasons, have also added a number of wines to our website which had been allocated to restaurants who have cancelled their orders if you want to make up your own order.

## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

- With a request for us to hold the wine for you until the crisis has passed (not useful if you're looking for quarantine wines but fine if you are buying some of our special new wines, which we have just been released more widely, with the intent to cellar them).
- From a shop we sell to which offers online delivery, or which is close by, if you are still going out to shop (see a shortlist below).

## Shipping directly to you from us

Out of respect for the instructions to stay at home and restrict movement if possible, we have decided to only ship wine one day a week, on Mondays. It will limit our interactions as far as possible without us shutting down altogether, although eventually that may be necessary, either temporarily as a result of a need to self-isolate because of exposure or as a result of a national shutdown of all non-essential movement (yes we know wine is essential but in the event of a catastrophe it may be hard to convince the authorities of that, especially if the decision-maker has never drunk natural wine).

We are only using one method of shipping – Fastway – because we feel better able to manage the risk that way. For us, it involves very limited interactions and we are well set up in our warehouse to work with strict hygiene rules. We will also not be asking couriers to receive a signature to minimise the risk to you and to the person making the delivery.

We have publicly released a number of wines which we normally allocate in advance and so are not normally available via our website. These are wines which any of our customers can always buy, but for which we normally need an advance request so that we can allocate them up front.

From the Jura, there are a number of wines from Domaine Bornard (now run by Philippe Bornard's son Tony), Domaine des Cavarodes, Bruyère / Houillon, l'Octavin, Greiner, Eric Thill, and Domaine de la Loue and we also have some de Moor wines (no de Moor Chablis yet – that will come later in the year) but Bourgogne Aligoté, Bourgogne Chitry, and some Chablis from their négoce label Le Vendangeur Masqué. The numbers are very limited but if you are interested take a look.

## Pre-purchase and store your wine with us

We often store wine for customers who accumulate an order over time, adding single bottles of new arrivals so they don't miss out but spreading out the purchase period. We have expat customers who buy during the year and then take their order when they return home for an annual holiday and even overseas customers who accumulate orders and then take them when they visit.

Provided the wines you want aren't for your quarantine stockpile we can hold an order for you until there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We are setting up a slightly more sophisticated arrangement on our next visit to our warehouse so that in the event of a personal catastrophe, the ownership and contact details for any pre-purchased wines are clearly identified for whoever has to clean up what we leave behind!

Hopefully that is an excessive precaution but we are a two person operation and it's at moments like this you realise the importance of some sort of continuity plan (it's usually only the sort of thing we might think about if we are sitting together on a plane during excessive turbulence).

## Buy from a local shop or online wine delivery service

With bottle shops still open, it is in everyone's interest to support the small independent bottle shops which you probably already frequent regularly. It's not going to be the same environment obviously – no tastings, no handshakes, no kisses – but there will still be plenty of passion and energy, and the possibility perhaps of a moment that feels normal.

We have published a list below of the wineshops where we have sold wines from our recent shipment. These include many of the wines which were only sold on allocation. If you are looking for a specific wine let us know and we'll tell you where we sent it. Some of these are bricks and mortar shops, some are online only, and some are a combination of both. Most offer some sort of delivery if you are staying at home.

And with all restaurants and cafés closed as of last Monday, we ask you, if you can, to particularly support the local restaurants and cafés in your community who are offering take away options as a way of keeping their businesses on life support.

The restaurants we work with are filled with exceptional people, they cook with produce from local organic growers, who are also suffering with their market disappearing overnight just at a time of peak autumn harvests. Many are offering a delivery service so if you are self-isolating they are a perfect source of healthy, delicious food. We'll try to feature as many as we can on our @foodtourist Instagram account.

Remember these are just a list of shops that have received wines from the recent shipment. Contact us if you would like information about more locations.

## Locations where you may be able to buy some of our wines

There are no contact details here – a quick google should find them but if you need help let us know. And apologies if we have missed someone, especially restaurants in the middle of reinventing themselves as wine shops!

### HOBART

**Lucinda** and **Tom McHugo's** are two of our biggest customers in Hobart and are well-known for their hoarding. They have opened up their cellars so there are some amazing options. **Willing Bros** has a smaller selection, nothing from the recent list, but often buried treasures. These three venues are all reinventing their businesses and would be grateful for any support. The Hobart arm of **Blackhearts and Sparrows Bottleshop** also has some wines.

### MELBOURNE

**Act of Wine** (two shops), **Blackhearts and Sparrows** (several shops), **Cult of the Vine**, **Mr West**, **Punchin Bottles**, **Old Palm Liquor** and **Samuel Pepys**. **France Soir** has an online wine shop.

**DAYLESFORD**

**Wine and the Country**

**SYDNEY**

**George Hotel, P&V Merchants, Winona and Five Way Cellars. Moreish Wines, not wasted, and DRNKS** are online wine shops.

**BYRON BAY**

Spare a special thought for **Luna Wine Store**, which only opened this month! They do have some of our wines though.

**PERTH and FREMANTLE**

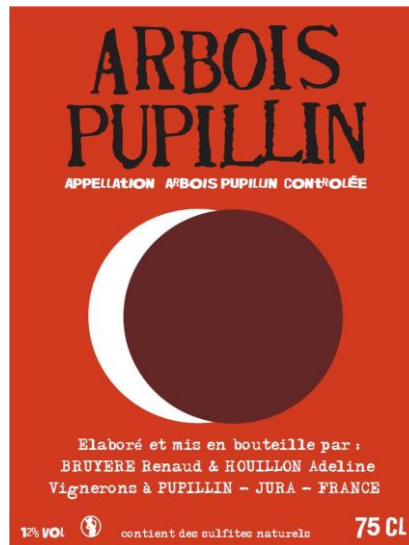
**Wines of While** has a huge back catalogue of our wines and there is a huge order in transit so get in early if you want to pick the best. It should arrive late this week or early next week. And **Wise Child** and **Besk**.

### **This Month's Packs**

When we sent out an email in February with the list of the new wines we said there would be a surprise in the next newsletter. That was that we had set aside one box of hard to get wines, some only on allocation, to be offered as a newsletter pack. How wrong we were! With what has happened and the reservations that have been cancelled we have been able to come up with a number of special packs, all of which are very limited.

If you are ordering please specify the pack number and description to avoid any errors.

## Pack 1: The Original Surprise 6 Pack - 10% discount



What an amazing pack. We think this is the first time we have been able to include a Bruyère/Houillon wine in one of our packs! And for it to be accompanied by the delicious Savagnin from our new producer Catherine Hannoun from Domaine de la Loue, a De Moor Chitry and on and on. There are four very hard to find Jura wines, one made by a Jura producer from grapes from the Languedoc and one from Burgundy.

**Renaud Bruyère and Adeline Houillon Arbois Pupillin Ploussard 2017** – An amazing wine made from grapes from Renaud and Adeline’s Pupillin vineyard. This Ploussard really shines! Words like purity and finesse always spring to mind when we drink this wine.

**Domaine de la Loue Savagnin 2017** – This is a pure Savagnin made from a plot of land called Sous Roche near the village of Pupillin close to Arbois. The vines are now thirteen years old and grow in grey marl clays which are on a slope that faces east south-east. The grapes were harvested by hand in September 2017, direct pressed and then underwent natural fermentation in stainless steel tanks. After fermentation was complete, two-thirds of the juice was transferred to old 220 litre barrels. The juice was transferred back to the stainless steel tank one month before bottling (August 28, 2019). The wine was not fined or filtered and no sulphur was added. It is a beautiful wine!

**De Moor AOC Bourgogne Chitry 2018** – 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 2018 was a particular good vintage in Chitry even though the season was fairly difficult. The De Moor wines are rare and absolutely delicious. They are so sought-after that we rarely get the opportunity to offer them.

**I'Octavin Grenabar 2017** – The incredibly energetic Alice drives around France sourcing grapes from some of the very best organic and biodynamic producers, in this case Remi Pujol from the Languedoc. She was able to buy both Grenache and Carignan. When we visited her in 2018 the final blending had not been carried out but she had macerated the whole bunch Grenache for two weeks and the Carignan was direct pressed. She fermented them together in a steel tank – the fermentation was quite slow, but the final result is a beautiful wine of character and charm.

**Domaine des Cavarodes AOP Côtes du Jura Trousseau Les Lumachelles 2018** – This wine was made from grapes picked from the Les Lumachelles vineyard. This vibrant and delicious red wine is made from the Trousseau grape variety which is thought to be native to the Jura but which can now be found in Spain and Australia under the name of Bastardo. It was bottled without being fined or filtered and no sulphites were added at any stage. This is a light, delicate red which has elegance and very good structure.

**Philippe Bornard Triffaut Le Ginglet 2018** – This light, lively, red wine made from the Trousseau grape is as easy to drink as the Le Ginglet tag suggests. However, this is not to say that it is a simple wine – there is quite a lot happening in the glass. You can discern the influence of the limestone and marl soils in this wine and there is a hint of spice on the finish making it perfect as a food wine. This is a delightful example of what can be achieved with this delicate grape variety. Just a note about the Triffaut in the name of this wine. For the first time this wine has been classified as a Vin de France rather than the normal Arbois Pupillin appellation. Normally they put the grape variety on the label but this is not allowed under the rules for Vin de France. However Triffaut is a riff on an ancient name in the Jura for the Trousseau grape variety.

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$404 but the pack price is only \$370.40 including freight to most Australian cities. VERY LIMITED.**

## Pack 2: l'Octavin 6 Pack – 10% discount



We are delighted to be able to offer one pack of Alice's stunning wines, three from the Jura and three from grapes bought from other organic producers and then made into wine in her winery in Arbois.

**l'Octavin Pamina 2016** – This wine is 100% Chardonnay made from biodynamic grapes sourced from 40 year old vines in the «La Mailloche» vineyard which lies quite close to the town of Arbois in the Jura. The name comes from the lovers Pamina and Tamino in Mozart's rationalist enlightenment opera The Magic Flute. The wine is matured in old oak barrels for 18 months prior to bottling. There is a pleasant level of oxidative quality (from the time it has spent in old wooden barrels) in this beautifully balanced wine that displays hazelnuts and sherry aromas alongside a zing of citrus and vibrant minerality.

**l'Octavin P'tit Poussot** – This delicious wine is made from Chardonnay grapes sourced from a plot Alice has in the "en Poussot" vineyard near Arbois which sees clay derived from limestone as the soil which sustains the vines. Alice picked the grapes by hand, direct pressed them and the juice went into old barrels to ferment with natural yeasts. The wine was kept in barrel for nearly a year to mature and develop. The resultant wine is complex and profound with a strong streak of minerality.

**l'Octavin Dorabella 2015** – This wine is made from Poulsard grapes from fifty year old vines sourced from the «En Curon» vineyard. The wine is named after one of the sisters from the opera Cosi Fan Tutte. We particularly like the mouth-feel of this wine with its generous texture and lovely acidity backed by very subtle tannins. This is a result of 6 weeks of maceration of whole bunches. As you would expect from a wine made from the Poulsard grape there are lovely notes of strawberries and cherries, but there is also a lingering herbal note that reminds us of marjoram or oregano. There is also some beautiful spices and pronounced minerality shining through. It is fresh, juicy and light – just what you expect a good Jura red wine to be.

**I'Octavin Le Roi des Cepages 2017** – The Le Roi de Cépages is a wine that has had nothing added during the winemaking process. No yeasts, no fining, no filtering and no sulphites added at any time. It is called Roi de Cépages because this wine is made from Riesling from the Brand domaine sourced from 50 year old vines on granitic soils in Alsace and hand picked by Alice. She brought the grapes back to the Jura and macerated the whole bunches for 15 days before maturing in tanks. This is a delicious wine!

**I'Octavin Clé à Molette 2017** – This wine was made from certified organic grapes that Alice picked from the vineyards of Domaine Trichon in the Bugey area which lies between Beaujolais and the Jura. She returned to the Jura with the grapes and direct pressed them before leaving them to ferment and mature in tank before bottling in May 2018. The wine is made from 100% Molette, a white grape variety found in the region to the west and south of the Jura extending into the Savoie. Molette is a child of the Gouais Blanc grape variety (the same as many varieties including Chardonnay) and another as yet unknown variety. This is a bright, fresh and lively wine that makes a very nice aperitif.

**I'Octavin Cariboum 2017** – The Cariboum is another example of Alice making a red wine and then lightening it with carefully selected white wines to produce a light, fresh and very drinkable wine that demonstrates complexity and drinkability at the same time. For this wine she has mainly used Carignan grapes (88%) picked from the clever Remi Poujol in the Languedoc. She macerated the whole bunches of Carignan for twenty days before pressing. In April 2018 she combined the Carignan juice with Muscat (4%), Viognier (4%) and Molette (4%) before bottling the wine in June. This is another very smashable wine that has length and has depth. Delicious!

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$420 but the pack price is only \$378 including freight to most Australian cities. VERY LIMITED.**



### Pack 3: - Bornard 6 pack - 10% discount



This pack is made up entirely of the rare Bornard wines from the Jura. The domaine has now been handed over to Tony as Philippe has gone into a well-deserved retirement. As anybody who has tried the amazing Chardo Gai which has been made by Tony for some years now, they will know that he is a very talented winemaker. You can see on the Les Gaudrettes label above that Tony is now taking the reins, so “bottled at the property by Tony Bornard”.

**Philippe Bornard Triffaut Le Ginglet 2018 (3 bottles)** – This light, lively, red wine made from the Trousseau grape is as easy to drink as the Le Ginglet tag suggests. However, this is not to say that it is a simple wine – there is quite a lot happening in the glass. You can discern the influence of the limestone and marl soils in this wine and there is a hint of spice on the finish making it perfect as a food wine. This is a delightful example of what can be achieved with this delicate grape variety. Just a note about the Triffaut in the name of this wine. For the first time this wine has been classified as a Vin de France rather than the normal Arbois Pupillin appellation. Normally they put the grape variety on the label but this is not allowed under the rules for Vin de France. However Triffaut is an ancient name in the Jura for the Trousseau grape variety.

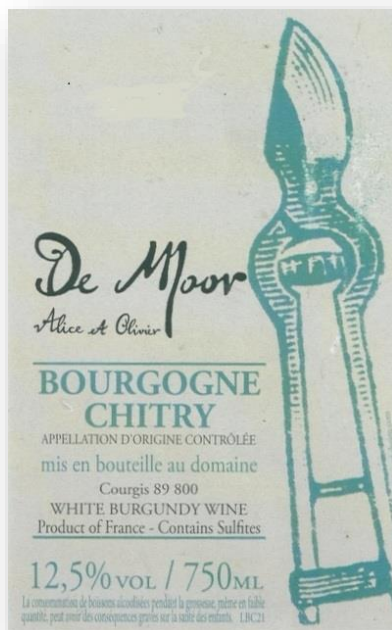
**Philippe Bornard Côtes du Jura Chardonnay Les Gaudrettes 2018** – Les Gaudrettes was a stand-out at our most recent tasting in the Bornard’s cellar. It is a fresh-tasting Chardonnay of some complexity and with a beautiful mouth-feel. It exhibits the same characteristics as their other wines on the finish – long and lingering. The different varieties of marl that are found in the Les Gaudrettes vineyard provide a complex minerality to wines made from grapes grown in this location. This is the first bottling (the French word tirage is used to cover many activities but in this case it refers to “drawing” the wine from the tank) of this 2018 wine.

**Philippe Bornard Savagnin Ça Va Bien** – “Things are going well” when you are drinking a bottle of the Bornard Ça Va Bien which is a lovely white sparkling wine made in the Petillant Naturel style made from the Savagnin grape. The wine completes its fermentation in the bottle and no sugar is added. Nor is it disgorged so you will find some residual yeast remaining in the bottle. It is very low in alcohol at around 10%. The Bornards are master of pet nats. They make them with a deft hand and it is wonderful to see this wine back in Australia.

**Philippe Bornard Chardonnay En Go-guette 2018** – The Bornard En Go-guette is a white sparkling wine made in the Petillant Naturel style from Chardonnay. It’s a cuvée we receive very rarely because they only make it in the best vintages when they have enough grapes. The wine completes its fermentation in the bottle and no sugar is added. Nor is it disgorged so you will find some residual yeast remaining in the bottle. It is very low in alcohol at around 10%. This is a beautifully made wine that works perfectly as an aperitif and also as a matching to a range of foods.

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$352 but the pack price is only \$316.80 including freight to most Australian cities. VERY LIMITED.**

## Pack 4: Alice and Olivier de Moor 6 pack - 10% discount



The De Moor wines have been insanely popular in Australia during the entire time we have been importing them. They always sell out within days of arriving in this country. Because of cancelled orders we have been able to keep back a few bottles to create this “once off” pack of 6 white wines.

**De Moor AOC Bourgogne Aligoté 2018** – The 2018 vintage was a good one for Alice and Olivier – unbelievably they even sold some grapes, an about turn for them. Aligoté is the second white grape of Burgundy and wine made from this grape is popular locally but not seen so 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.

**De Moor AOC Bourgogne Chitry 2018 - 3 bottles** – 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 2018 was a particular good vintage in Chitry even though the season was fairly difficult in Chitry.

**Le Vendangeur Masqué AOC Chablis 2018 - 2 bottles** – Le Vendangeur Masqué is the De Moor négoce business which they use when they buy grapes from other organic producers. Sometimes it’s to make up the short fall in bad years but they always buy from this same grower and make this cuvée. This is a Chablis (hence 100% Chardonnay). It is a stunning wine showing all the minerality and sophistication that you expect from wines made from this region.

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$330 but the pack price is only \$297 including freight to most Australian cities. VERY LIMITED**

## Pack 5: Last Bottle Pack – 20% discount



Just a moment of “life as normal”. This is one of our classic last bottle packs with a 20% discount. From 1er cru Burgundy to daily drinking bargains.

**Remember there is only one of these packs available so the first person to buy it, gets it!**

**Montanet-Thoden Bourgogne Rouge Garance 2017** – This red burgundy is a very good example of a red wine from the Vezelay region. The end result is influenced by the fossilised limestone soils that are found here – giving the wines a lively minerality. Remember that this vineyard is just to the south of Chablis and shares some of the famous limestone from that region. The grapes for this wine are hand picked from the small plots of vines, destemmed, fermented with native yeasts and matured in old oak barrels. A little sulphur is added to the bottle to maintain the freshness of the wine.

**Jean Ginglinger Muscat 2017** – This complex and charming wine is made from three varieties of Muscat that thrive on calcareous soils. The varieties are Muscat Ottonel, Muscat d’Alsace Rose and Muscat d’Alsace. Muscat Ottonel was created in 1852 by crossing Chasselas with Muscat. It is particularly suited to the Alsace region. Muscat d’Alsace Rose is a pink variety of Muscat which is quite rare, but Jean is lucky enough to have a small plot of this variety. Muscat d’Alsace is the local name for Muscat à Petit Grains which is widely planted in the Languedoc and Roussillon and probably came originally from Greece via Italy. This wine is a stunner. If you haven’t tried a complex Muscat then this is one that you will find to be a beautiful companion to a wide range of foods.

**Causse Marines AOC Gaillac Les Greilles 2017** – Les Greilles is a classy white wine blended from local Gaillac grapes Mauzac and Loin-de-l’Oeil with a little old vine Muscadelle. We perhaps do not give this wine full praise. To us it an amazing wine of great complexity and with nuances that make it a perfect wine to match with a very wide range of foods. The grapes come from a number of low-yielding parcels in the stunning vineyards with the maximum yield being a low 35 hectolitres per hectare. The low yield leads to increased fruit intensity that shines through in this wine. Patrice is a dedicated winemaker who makes incredibly delicious wine using traditional grape varieties from this delightful terroir.

**Le Raisin à Plume (Jacques Février) Les Petites Mains 2015** – This wine from Jacques Février is made from the Gamay grape variety. This is a lighter wine as it was only given two days of skin contact and was bottled after a few months in the tank. Jacques calls it a “red wine in a frame of white”. We look on this as a winter rosé and would serve it slightly chilled. It has a beautiful, lingering flavour and the characteristic minerality and tension found in Jacques’ wines still exists in this wine despite the short maceration.

**Derain St-Aubin Premier Cru Blanc Les Murgers des Dents de Chien 2013** – This one is a real treat! It is a site-specific Premier Cru from the Les Murgers des Dents de Chien lieu dit which lies between 320 and 370 metres above sea level and overlooks the vineyards of Chevalier Montrachet and Le Montrachet and borders the Le Champ Gain lieu dit which is one of the Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru sites. Les Murgers is widely regarded as the best site in Saint-Aubin for white wines. The soil here is very thin and the vines must struggle to gain a foothold among the limestone rocks. But this struggle produces what many claim are the best wines from Saint-Aubin. The name is made up from two aspects of this vineyard. Murgers are small walls built from the rocks that were removed from the site to plant the vines. And Dents de Chien translates as dog’s teeth which refers to the white (calcareous) triangular rocks found in the vineyard. This beautiful wine is 100% Chardonnay.

**Henri Milan Papillon Blanc Sans Soufre Ajouté 2014** – The 2014 vintage of this no-added sulphites cuvée is a particularly fine example of this blended wine. This vintage sees Grenache Blanc, Rolle (the local name for Vermentino), Roussanne, Chardonnay and Muscat à Petit Grains used in the blend. The wine was kept on lees in old barriques for 5 months. This is a beautiful wine that will continue to change character and improve well into the future. No filtration or fining has been applied to this wine. This is a great wine for people who have developed a reaction to sulphur.

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$340 but the pack price is only \$272 including freight to most Australian cities.**

## Pack 6: Alsace 6 pack – 10% discount



One sad thing about the current situation is that we hardly had a chance to introduce our first shipment of Jean-Marc Dreyer's cult wines and a new shipment from Jean Ginglinger. A few years ago we could never have imagined how important wines from Alsace would be in our portfolio. Now we are smitten. Time will tell when we can share these wines more widely – they will rest happily until we are allowed out. In the meantime we've picked a few treats from the new arrivals from both winemakers.

This pack paints a big picture – a Pinot Noir/Pinot Gris blend from both wine makers (Stein and Pink Pong), oxidative Pinot Gris from Dreyer (WEG), macerated Auxerrois from Dreyer, and then easy drinking Pinot Blanc and Pinot Noir from Ginglinger. Two winemakers, one region, and a host of styles of wines!

**Jean Ginglinger Vin d'Alsace Pinot Blanc Glou Glou 2018** – This wine is a pure, tense, energetic Pinot Blanc that is a great expression of this grape variety which is widely planted in the Alsace as well as in Champagne, Lorraine and Burgundy where it is valued for the minerality and acidity that it provides. This Pinot Blanc is very food friendly and can be matched to a wide variety of dishes. Jean has added the words Glou-Glou this year as he thinks it is particularly drinkable!

**Jean Ginglinger Stein 2018** – This is a particularly interesting wine as it is made from 80% Pinot Gris that has been macerated and then 20% Pinot Noir to produce a light, ethereal wine that is very drinkable.

**Jean Ginglinger Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir 2018** – This is a beautiful, elegant Pinot Noir that is well worth trying. If you haven't tried a Pinot Noir from the Alsace region then you should do yourself a favour because they are often very good and quite often exemplary.

**Jean-Marc Dreyer AOC Alsace Pinot Gris Weg 2017** – The Weg is made from direct press Pinot Gris grapes. The grapes were harvested by hand, pressed and then transferred to 600 litre demi moudid barrels. A veil of yeast protected the juice from excessive oxidation, however Jean-Marc did not top the demi moudids up during this time. The resulting wine has pleasant oxidative notes.

**Jean-Marc Dreyer AOC Alsace Auxerrois Origin 2018** – All of Jean-Marc's 2018 Origin wines have undergone 10 days of maceration. This cuvee is made from 100% Auxerrois and is a beautiful wine made from this descendant of Chardonnay which means that it is also a descendant of Pinot Noir. It is thought to have originated somewhere in the North-East corner of France, namely either Lorraine or Alsace. The wine was aged in a barrique for 11 months. It's well suited to most savoury foods.

## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

**Jean-Marc Dreyer AOC Alsace Pink Pong 2018** – Pink Pong is a stunning maceration of Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir is the same vein as the Stein from Jean Ginglinger mentioned above. Jean-Marc owns many parcels of vines around the village of Rosheim and the grapes for this wine were picked from several of the plots. The grapes were macerated separately for 20 days after pressing and then brought together in a fibreglass tank for fermentation and aging.

**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 7: New arrivals sale 6 pack – 10% discount



We've picked a selection from our new arrivals and turned them into a 20% discount sale pack. It's a good mix – a pet-nat from Toby Bainbridge, possibly the world's most delicious Colombard (Vain de Rû), and four red wines, one from the Loire (Mosse), one from Provence (Milan) and two from the Languedoc – from Axel Pruffer (Le Temps des Cerises) and his good friend Wim Wagemans (Le Bouc à Trois Pattes).

**Toby Bainbridge Brit Pop 2018** – Julie and Toby Bainbridge in 2018 produced a pet nat called Brit Pop that we immediately fell in love with. It was bottled with only 7 grams of residual sugar which is quite low. Some of our producers bottle at 30 grams. The downside of higher sugar, however, is that more carbon dioxide will be produced and therefore there is a greater risk of the bottle exploding. This wine is made from 100% Grolleau Noir, a grape variety that is popular in the Anjou area.

**Mosse Le Gros 2018** – The Le Gros is a soft, energetic, elegant, well-structured and eminently drinkable red wine that exhibits considerable charm and character. This is a perfect wine for drinking right now in a park or at a barbeque. It's a light red, made from 50% Grolleau Noir, 20% Gamay with 10 days of carbonic maceration and 30% direct press Grolleau Gris. This directly-pressed juice makes it extraordinarily fresh, perfectly suited to chilling and only 12%. The grapes for Le Gros are all from the estate, grown on clay, shale and schist.

**Henri Milan Reynard Rebels 17+18** – This delightful cuvée is made from purchased grapes from a friend who tends his vines biodynamically. Their friend had always sold to the local co-op and was paid the same price as others got for their inferior non-organic grapes. When the Milan family asked if they could buy his Merlot and Carignan Mr Reynard rebelled and said yes. The 2017 vintage produced a very intense, full bodied wine which is not a style that the Milan family want to promote. However, the 2018 was much lighter and delicate so they decided to blend the two – and, just like the Three Bears, the result was just right!



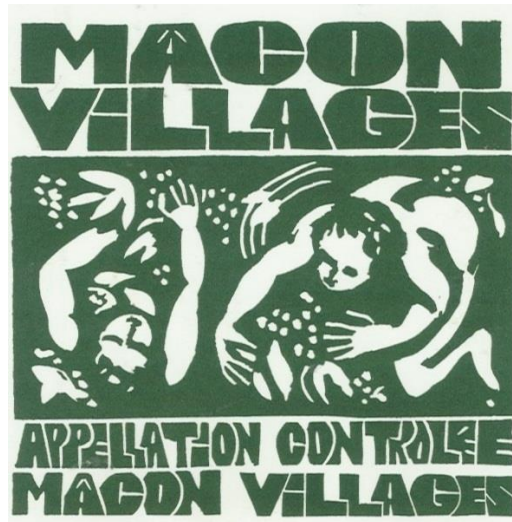
**Dominique Andiran Vain de Rû 8102** – Dominique Andiran makes a beautiful, white wine called Vain de Rû that is a delight to drink as an aperitif or match with food. He uses the local Colombard grape (a descendant of Gouais Blanc and Chenin Blanc) for this wine and it works perfectly. The grapes are grown on clay that is rich with limestone rocks which give this wine its vibrant minerality. Further complexity was given to this wine through slightly extended maceration (a little over twenty hours) which has resulted in a richer flavour and more interesting texture without over-extraction of the polyphenols from the skins. The juice was then transferred to fibreglass tanks. The wine displays an appealing freshness with hints of acacia and grapefruit. So easy for drinking by itself or with oysters, seafood or chicken or a wide range of vegetable dishes.

**Le Temps des Cerises à oïli oïli oïlà 2018** – Due to the mildew and other problems in his vineyards, particularly with grenache, Axel Prüfer decided not to make his traditional cuvées in 2018 because they would not be typical enough. Cinsault was his saviour and he made three different wines from it, each from a different pass through the vineyards. This was the second pass and it had 10 days of carbonic maceration. It is one a light, fresh wine made entirely from Cinsault that was matured in tanks. It is low in alcohol (between 10% and 11%) and can be served chilled like a rosé. It is perfect for drinking all year round. We have absolutely no idea where the name came from, but we will ask him next time we see him (he is not good with emails)!

**Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Un Coup de Kuq 2018** – The Coup de Kuq is another light red wine with this one also being predominately Syrah but with the remainder being the less well-known Alicante Bouschet. Alicante Bouschet inherited the teinturier characteristic from one grandparent and hence has red juice. Now Wim who thinks differently to everyone else wanted to make a light red wine, so he chose two grape varieties known for making massive reds! The Alicante was picked earlier than the Syrah and was vinified separately, gently crushed and kept aside. The Syrah was picked later and vinified with carbonic maceration. After being crushed and the juice run off, the Alicante was added. The result is exactly what Wim wanted – a delicious, fresh crunchy red wine.

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$218 but the pack price is only \$174.40 including freight to most Australian cities.**

## Pack 8: La Soeur Cadette special pack – 10% discount



We have worked with the Montanet family in the north of Burgundy for most of the time we have been in business, so long that now a new generation is in charge. These are wines made by Valentin, Catherine and Jean Montanet's son. It's a lovely mix – three whites and three reds, and coincidentally three wines from the estate and three from their négoce operation, a white from Macon and two Beaujolais. The name on the label varies depending on the vineyard that the wine comes from or if the wines were purchased from other organic growers. Hence there is La Cadette, Montanet-Thoden and La Soeur Cadette.

Lots of juicy things here.

**Montanet-Thoden Vézelay Galerne 2018** – This is a lively 100% Chardonnay packed with white flowers and impressive minerality backed by a bracing acidity and beautiful, rounded flavour. The grapes are hand-picked and then pressed very gently. It was fermented in stainless steel using wild yeasts to provide added complexity.

**La Cadette Vézelay La Châtelaine 2018** – La Châtelaine is one of La Cadette's best cuvées made from the only permitted white grape variety in the newly upgraded Vézelay appellation, Chardonnay. The appellation was previously Bourgogne Vézelay but was promoted to Vézelay due to the superior quality of the white wines in this region. The wine comes from grapes from the vineyards on the pretty south-facing slopes of the Vézelay hills. The grapes are harvested by hand and then fermented naturally in stainless steel tanks. This is a beautifully-textured wine, showing that white wines of considerable elegance can be produced in this region.

**La Soeur Cadette Chénas 2017** – Over the past few years following a disastrous harvest in the north of Burgundy where the Cadette vineyards are situated, Valentin decided to purchase grapes from the south to tide them over. He located an organic grower who sold his grapes to the local coop so he offered him a better deal. These grapes come from the Chénas region, one of the 10 cru areas of Beaujolais. This is a perfect example of this appellation for all of you who love the Gamay grape at the top of its game.

**La Soeur Cadette Juliéna 2017** – As with the Chéna described above this is also a wine released under their négoce label La Soeur Cadette because the grapes were purchased not grown on the estate. Juliéna is also a cru region of Beaujolais and is a beautiful expression of that region. A great wine.

**La Cadette Bourgogne Rouge L'Ermitage 2018** – This wine is made primarily from Pinot Noir (80%), but it also has 20% of the rare César grape that is permitted in the Yonne region of Burgundy. This grape has been grown in this area since Roman times (hence the name). César is permitted only in the communes in the Yonne department and very little wine from this area makes its way to Australia. However, the 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 plot 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 grape.

**La Soeur Cadette Mâcon Villages 2018** – This is another négoce wine because Valentin bought the grapes from the Mâcon region in the southern part of Burgundy proper. Valentin sees a long future working with this grower. Mâcon is famous for the delicious Chardonnay-based wines that are produced here. This one is no exception and the name indicates that the grapes were grown in vineyards that can use the elevated Mâcon Villages appellation.

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$283 but the pack price is only \$240.55 including freight to most Australian cities.**

## Towards a definition of natural wine

Almost every article about natural wines that we read has somewhere within the text a statement such as “there is no agreement about what constitutes a natural wine”. This is somewhat strange since we believe that there is quite good agreement throughout the various bodies such as France’s Vins Naturels and S.A.I.N.S, the international Raw Fair association and many others who run the very popular salons throughout the world such as the Dive Bouteille and Renaissance des Appellations (which has over 200 members in 13 countries), the certifying bodies for organic and biodynamic agriculture such as Ecocert, Qualité France, Demeter, biodivin, Nature et Progrès and many more.

They each have their own focus with, for example, the allowable quantity of sulphites varying reasonably widely and with the S.A.I.N.S members not allowing any added sulphites at any time. But most organisations do specify a maximum level that is well below that used by “conventional” winemakers.

However, there are many things that every organisation does agree on, such as the fact that the wine MUST be made from grapes that have not been subjected to systemic sprays, in other words the grapes MUST have been grown using organic or biodynamic techniques. The wine MUST be fermented using only the yeasts from the vineyard. The wine MUST NOT be subjected to “brutal and traumatic techniques” such as reverse osmosis, tangential filtration, flash pasteurisation or thermovinification.

We were therefore interested to read recently about efforts by a group in France that includes one of our suppliers Jacques Carroget called the “Syndicat de défense du vin nature”. They have been working with the French Ministry of Agriculture, the DGCCRF (Direction Générale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes) which in English is the General Directorate for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control and France’s powerful National Institute of Origin and Quality (INAO) that controls the rules for every wine appellation in that country to develop a branding system that will provide consumers with a branding system that will provide comfort that a wine has been produced in accordance with the rules associated with natural wine production.



They are working towards acceptance of the label “vin méthode nature” and an associated logo that can have one of two descriptors. These will be ‘with no added sulphites’ (for sulphite concentrations below 10 milligrams per litre) and the second ‘less than 30 milligrams per litre of added sulphites’ to define an upper limit to the level of sulphites used. If the 30 milligrams per litre is exceeded then the winemaker would be denied the use of the logo.

And in breaking news the magazine Terre de Vins on the 10 March 2020 has published an article entitled “La dénomination “Vin méthode nature” est née”

which in English states “The name “Vin méthode nature” is born”. The article also mentions the agreement of the DGCCRF mentioned above that if a winemaker uses the logo without adhering

## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

to the charter then they are committing fraud. So, there is now Government backing in France that protects natural wine!

It also means that there is protection for the Charter of the Syndicat de défense du vin nature which, in summary, requires the following:

- The grapes must be 100% organic and certified by either Nature & Progrès or the European Agriculture Biologique certification (which includes Ecocert);
- The grapes must be manually harvested;
- The wine must be fermented naturally;
- There must be no additions which means no fining or adding something like megapurple, for example;
- No “brutal” techniques such as those mentioned above;
- No sulphites added before or during fermentation;
- If sulphites are added before bottling the level must be below 30 milligrams per litre and a different logo used.

The article mentions that 50 winemakers have already joined the association and they expect 500 to join soon.

Let’s hope that this idea spreads to other countries including Australia.

## Catherine Hannoun – a new Jura producer

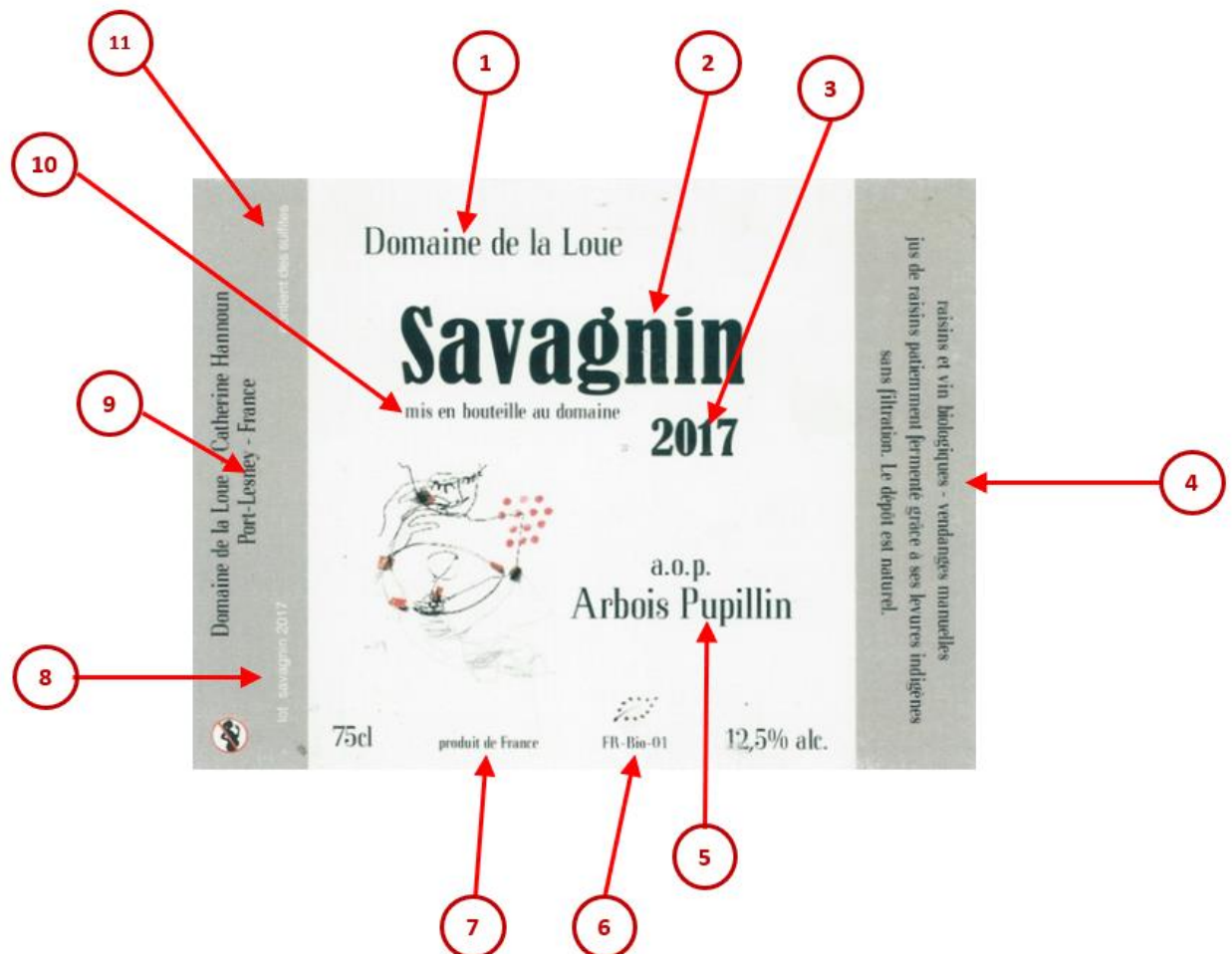
### Exploring her wine label

Catherine Hannoun, one of our newest producers, became intrigued with winemaking when working as a producer on Nossiter's famous film about the wine industry called *Mondovino*. She moved to the Jura in 2009 and began making wine after converting some vineyards to organic.

Her domaine is called Domaine de la Loue (named after the river that forms the boundary of the Jura proper) and she produces excellent Jura wines from plots near Pupillin and Marnoz. Her Savagnin, from a plot near Pupillin is a real revelation. It is complex, pure and delicious!

Because a few of our newsletter readers have asked for more information to help them understand French wine labels, we thought her cheerful Savagnin label might be a good place to start. There are some labels explained in very early editions of the newsletter, but it never hurts to repeat the same idea with different labels.

First to the label:



Because this wine has appellation status (see point 5) the rules for the labels can be dictated by the appellation authorities. In some areas the winemakers are given relative freedom, but in

others such as Burgundy, Champagne and Bordeaux the authorities are much stricter even down to the level of dictating font sizes!

We will now explain each of the numbered points.

1. The name of the domaine (the business that Catherine operates) is Domaine de la Loue. It is named after the river Loue that rises just north of the town of Portalier then runs through the Jura and on some of its journey forms the Jura's border.
2. The largest font on the label makes it very clear that this wine is made from the revered Savagnin grape variety. It is common in the Jura and in Alsace to the north to put the grape variety on the label, but as you travel west to Burgundy it is not permitted in most of the appellations for that region.
3. This points to the vintage year, the year that the grapes were picked. Notice that this wine has been maturing for about 2 years as it was released in November last year.
4. This is some text that explains how the wine was made:

raisins et vin biologiques (organic grapes and wine)– vendanges manuelles (picked by hand)  
jus de raisins (grape juice) patiemment fermenté (patiently fermented) grâce à ses levures  
indigènes (thanks to the indigenous (natural) yeasts)  
sans filtration (without filtration). Le dépôt est naturel (the deposit is natural).

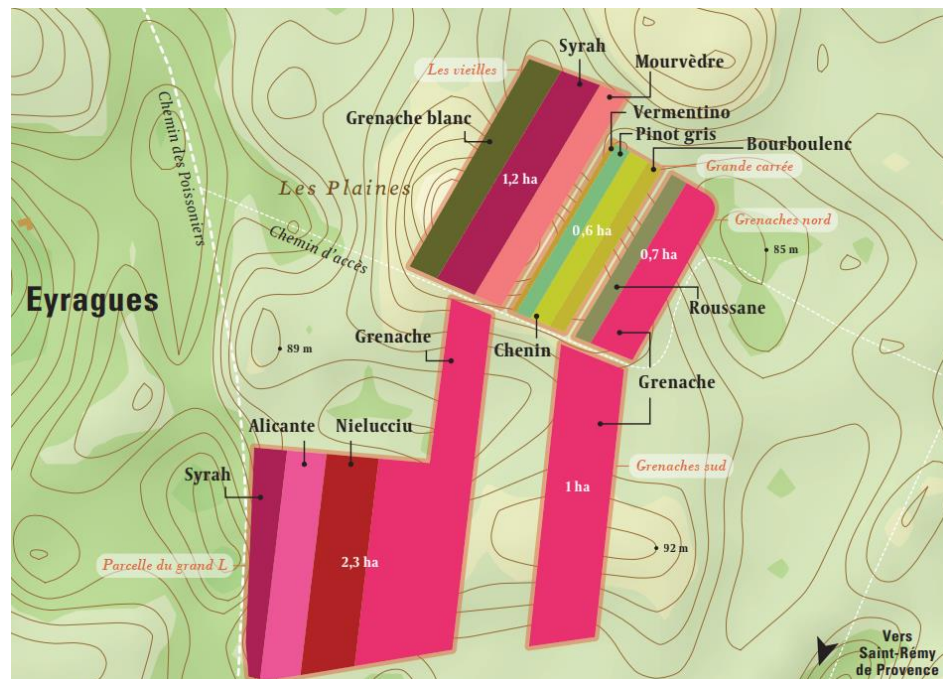
5. Arbois Pupillin AoP is the appellation. Pupillin is a small village largely comprised of some of the best winemakers in the Jura (think Overnoy, Bruyère- Houillon and Bornard). This lies within the broader Arbois appellation, but only wine made from grapes picked within the borders of Pupillin can use this appellation. AoP (Appellation d'Origine Protégée) which stands for Protected Designation of Origin is a European wide quality system for food and wine that stand aside the older AoC (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée system) that has been used in France for decades.
6. FR-BIO-01 tells us that this domaine has been certified organic by Ecocert France. Each certifying authority has their own number – for example if FR-BIO-07 then the certification would have come from Agrocert.
7. Produit de France says that this is a product of France.
8. Lot Savagnin 2017 is called the lot number that is used to uniquely identify each cuvée from a producer. Since Catherine only produced one Savagnin in 2017 this uniquely identifies this wine.
9. Port-Lesney is a pleasant village north-west of Arbois and quite close to Salins-les-Bains which is a well-known spa resort.
10. Mis en bouteille au domaine literally means bottled at the domaine or bottled on the estate.
11. Contient des sulphites means that the wine contains sulphites. Many winemakers put this on their bottles even though they have never added any sulphites because they can be produced in small quantities during the fermentation process.

## Grape variety: Niellucciu/Sangiovese

This month's choice for a grape variety might seem a bit strange. Why would we have chosen an Italian variety called Niellucciu in Corsica and Sangiovese in Italy?

It all came about because of a disaster of a season in the Eyragues vineyard owned by our Provence supplier, Domaine Milan. In 2018 they had very low yields from this vineyard (it was badly hit with mildew) and they decided to make just the one cuvée (the wonderful Domaine Milan Brut Rosé 2018) made from all of the grapes that they harvested in the Eyragues vineyard.

If you look at the map of this vineyard shown below, you will see that there are many different grape varieties planted here.



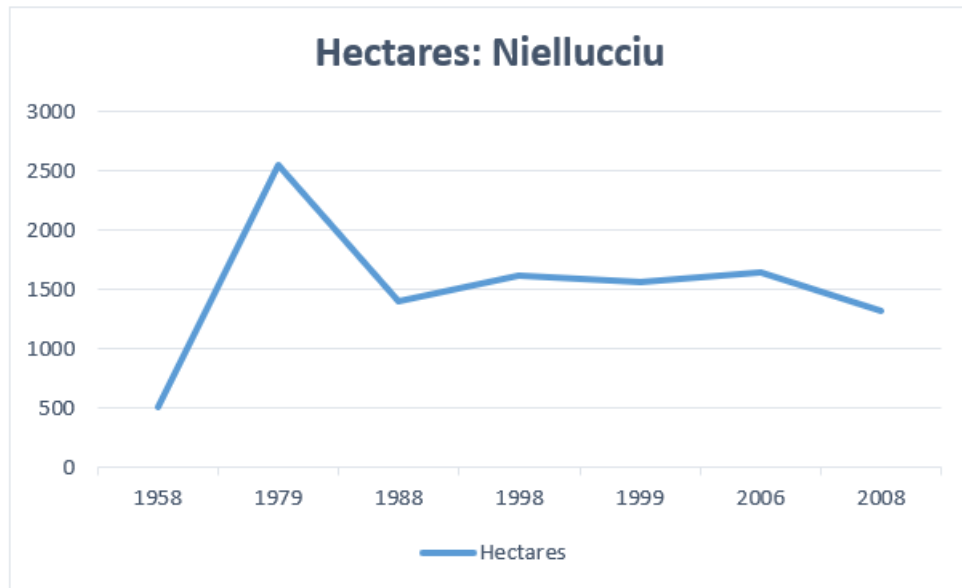
As you can see, the grapes in this wine include Syrah, Alicante, Niellucciu, Grenache Noir, Grenache Blanc, Mourvèdre, Vermentino, Pinot Gris, Bourboulenc and Roussanne.

You can also see in the bottom right corner an arrow pointing south towards (vers) Saint-Rémy de Provence which is where the Milan's live in a beautiful area in the suburbs with their houses surrounded by their vineyards.

Why do they have Niellucciu planted? Well, they have a number of varieties that are not normally found in this region simply because the ever-curious Henri loves to experiment. He has planted Merlot because he wants to make a wine like Pétrus from Bordeaux (hence the 100 Merlot called Le Jardin with the iconic labels). He has also planted some Savagnin in front of his house because he is intrigued by Vin Jaune from the Jura. And Niellucciu and Vermentino point to Corsica and some of the sought-after wines from that beautiful island.

So, where did Niellucciu/Sangiovese come from? In a paper published in 2004 by genetic researcher José Vouillamoz and his colleague Stella Grando, they reported that the ancestors of Sangiovese are most likely the Tuscan grape Ciliegliolo and almost extinct southern Italian grape Calabrese Montenuovo.





The graph above shows that this grape variety reached its peak in 1979 then levelled off for around twenty-five years and has started to decline again.

The leaf of the Niellucciu/Sangiovese grape variety is divided into five individual lobes as shown below. The lower lobe is usually the most prominent.



Photo Courtesy of Vitis International Variety Catalogue

The grape bunches are quite loose with the grapes not too tightly packed which allows air to circulate through the bunches and hence reducing disease pressure as shown below.



Photo Courtesy of Vitis International Variety Catalogue

## **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.