

WINE Talk: October 2020

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 93

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:

<https://livingwines.com.au/shop/>

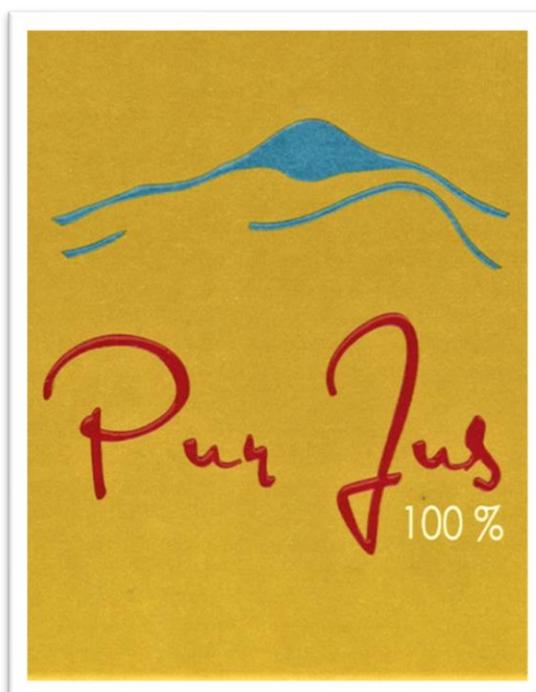
There is a link to our order form for these packs and any other wines at the end of this newsletter. But there's no need to use the order form. Just send us an email listing the wines and/or packs you would like to order if that suits you better. Or we are always happy to put together a selection for you if you give us a rough idea of the type of wines you like and a budget. We confirm orders by return email before processing them.

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.)

New Releases

We have just released wines from **Domaine Belluard**, **Domaine Geschickt**, **Julie and Ivo (Les Cigales dans la Fourmilière)**, and our second shipment from our new Jura producer **Domaine de la Loue**, and later this month will release new wines from **Hervé Villemade**.

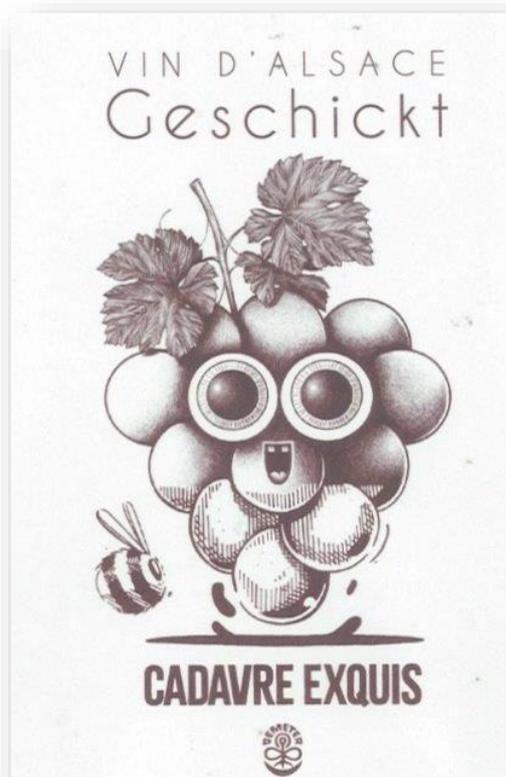
Domaine Belluard



Stocks are very limited of all the still wines from **Domaine Belluard's** 2018 vintage. It was a difficult year and Dominique did not make Le Feu or his Gringet Pur-Jus but we will have Les Alpes and, for the first time in many years, a small amount of Grand-Jorasses, which is made from Altesse. We also have a small quantity of a new Pur-Jus cuvée made from macerated Altesse. There is a tiny amount of Mondeuse and Mont Blanc Brut-Zéro 2016. And there is plenty of Les Perles de Mont Blanc Brut, also from the 2016 vintage, and one of our favourite sparkling wines. Because of the limited quantity there are bottle limits for most of these wines.

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Ayse Brut Les Perles du Mont-Blanc 2016	\$60	Sparkling	Gringet
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Ayse Brut Zéro Mont-Blanc 2016 3 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$81	Sparkling	Gringet
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Blanc Les Alpes 2018 1 BOTTLE LIMIT	\$69	White	Gringet
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Blanc Grand Jorasses 2018 1 BOTTLE LIMIT	\$77	White	Altesse
Belluard Roussette de Savoie AOP Blanc Altesse 100% Pur Jus 2018 2 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$81	Orange	Altesse
Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Rouge Mondeuse 2018 1 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$95	Red	Mondeuse

Domaine Geschickt



From **Geschickt** we have a good supply of 2019 Phenix, 2017 Pino, and both sparkling wines – the Obi pet-nat and more of the 2016 Crémant d’Alsace Double-Zero which we have had before. It is a great-value sparkling wine – perfect for stocking up now for Christmas and New Year.

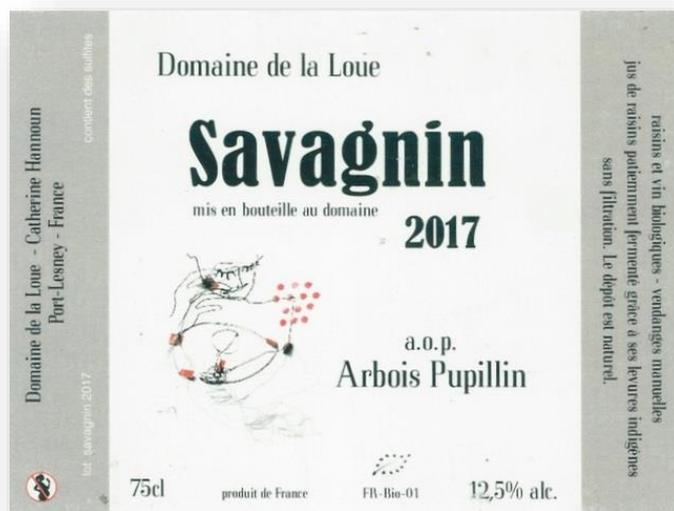
We have a small number of bottles of a new cuvée Cadavre Exquis. It is a solera, which at the time of this bottling contained four years of vintages (2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018) of Pinot Gris Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois, Pinot Noir (basically the wine which is in Pino). The solera is in an old 26 hectolitre foudre, which is continuing to be added to. This was the first extraction, made prior to topping it up with the 2019 vintage. It’s a silky and complex wine which, although technically white, drinks more like an orange wine.

We also have a small number of Grand Cru wines from Kaefferkopf, the hill just beyond their village of Ammerschwihr, which is the spiritual home of this domaine. It is granite on the upper slopes and chalk and sandstone lower down. We have a 100% Riesling, a macerated Gewurztraminer, and a wine which is blend of 60% Gewurztraminer, 30% Riesling and 10% Pinot Gris.

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Phenix 2019	\$52	Orange	Pinot Gris
Geschickt Pet'Nat 2019 (Obi Wine)	\$49	Sparkling	Auxerrois, Muscat, Riesling

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Geschickt Crémant d'Alsace Double Zero 2016	\$45	Sparkling	Chardonnay, Auxerrois
Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Pino 2017	\$48	White	Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois, Pinot Noir
Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Riesling 2017	\$40	White	Riesling
Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Cadavre Exquis Release 2018 2 BOTTLE LIMIT	\$90	White	Solera of Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois, Pinot Noir
Geschickt Alsace Grand Cru Riesling Kaefferkopf 2016	\$62	White	Riesling
Geschickt Alsace Grand Cru Gewurztraminer Kaefferkopf 2018	\$72	Orange	Gewurztraminer
Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir 2018	\$49	Red	Pinot Noir
Geschickt Alsace Grand Cru Kaefferkopf 2016	\$62	White	Gewurztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Gris

Domaine de la Loue



When we made our first order from Jura vigneronne Catherine Hannoun’s **Domaine de la Loue**. Catherine only had two cuvées, an Arbois Pupillin Savagnin and La Brute, a Pinot Noir. It’s exciting to have a much bigger range this time.

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As well as more of the 2017 Savagnin we have the 2018 vintage of the same wine. We have two sparkling wines – a pet-nat rosé (it's light pink in a clear bottle and 9% alcohol – a winning combination!) and a La Bulle Bleue, made in the same way as Champagne (2 fermentations) with Chardonnay. From the 2016 harvest it spent 2 years in barrel before being bottled for its second fermentation in July 2019. It was disgorged in December 2019.

We also have still Chardonnay Cuvée called Le Blanc from the 2018 vintage and Le Rouge from the same vintage, which is mainly Trousseau. Assembled from three different parcels from the communes of Marnoz, Aiglepierre, and Buffard, it had seven weeks of maceration in what Catherine describes as a 'mille feuille' (40 cm layers of destemmed then whole bunch grapes repeated to the top of a stainless steel tank. It's 95% Trousseau and the remaining 5% includes Ploussard, Trousseau à la Dame and Chardonnay). It was aged in stainless steel and, at the end of the 2019 harvest a little Savagnin juice from that vintage was added. The wine was bottled in February this year. We also have a tiny quantity of Vin de Liqueur, made with Savagnin from Pupillin and her own marc.

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Domaine de la Loue La Bulle Bleue 2016	\$60	Sparkling	Chardonnay
Domaine de la Loue Vin de Liqueur 2016 1 BOTTLE LIMIT	\$90	Liqueur	Savagnin
Domaine de la Loue Arbois Pupillin AOP Savagnin 2017 3 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$70	White	Savagnin
Domaine de la Loue Arbois Pupillin AOP Savagnin 2018 3 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$72	White	Savagnin
Domaine de la Loue Le Blanc 2018 3 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$58	White	Chardonnay
Domaine de la Loue Le Rouge 2018 3 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$53	Red	Trousseau (mainly)
Domaine de la Loue PetNat Rosé 2018	\$67	Sparkling	Pinot Noir

Les Cigales dans La Fourmilière



Finally, there will be a small quantity of wines from **Julie and Ivo**. We began working with Ivo Ferreira's l'Escarpolette wines some years ago. Julie Brosselein's wines came later when they became life partners. The name l'Escarpolette has been retired and they now work together as Les Cigales dans la Fourmilière. But while they work as a team, on the back of each label the person who grew the grapes and is responsible for the wine is identified. Some say 'Julie' and some say 'Ivo' and Marée Basse says 'Julie and Ivo'.

We have Le Blanc 2018 and Celeste 2018, both macerated white cuvées from Ivo's vines. Maree Basse 2018 is a delicious light red which they saved for us in the face of great pressure from local buyers. It is made from Julie's Grenache Blanc and Ivo's Grenache Noir. There is a tiny quantity of 2017 Mata Hari, Julie's macerated Grenache Blanc and On Verra La Mer, a fresh and juicy Cinsault.

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière Le Blanc 2018	\$57	Orange	Grenache Blanc, Muscat à Petits Grains
Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière On Verra La Mer 2018	\$42	Red	Cinsault
Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière On Verra La Mer 2018 Magnum	\$81	Red	Cinsault
Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière Celeste 2018 3 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$79	Orange	Muscat à Petits Grains
Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière Marée Basse 2018	\$35	Light red	Grenache Noir, Grenache Blanc
Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière Mata Hari 2017 3 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$67	Orange	Grenache Blanc

Forthcoming Releases

Hervé Villemade

We'll be releasing some Hervé Villemade wines in a week or two, possibly before the next newsletter so if you are interested in getting advance information or making a reservation let us know so you don't miss out. There are a couple of cuvées which are limited so they may be sold by the time we next send a newsletter.

We possibly have the biggest collection of wines from Hervé we have ever had. Most exciting for us is two vintages of his wonderful Romorantin, Cour-Cheverny Les Acacias, which has been rarely made in recent years. As well as the 2017 vintage there is a small supply of 2009 Les Acacias which Hervé had held back and just released. Supplies of both will be limited, especially 2009.

This year there are two Bovins – in the very useful 1 litre bottles. There's a 100% Gamay and a white which is predominantly Sauvignon Blanc with a small percentage of all the other white wines from the domaine (the finishing of the pressing). Both are very good value, as are the two Domaine cuvées Cheverny Rouge (60% Pinot Noir and 40% Gamay) and Cheverny Blanc (70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Chardonnay). There's some 2019 Sauvignon Blanc, a small quantity of Cheverny Rouge Les Ardilles 2018 (85% Pinot Noir and 15% Gamay), a fresh red from the 2019 vintage called Grolleauis (a blend of Grolleau Noir and Pineau d'Aunis), a 2019 Rosé and a new release of the 2015 Bulles Blanche, a complex pet-nat made of Menu Pineau, Chenin Blanc, and Chardonnay, which was disgorged in June 2020.

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Hervé Villemade Sauvignon 2019	\$38	White	Sauvignon Blanc
Hervé Villemade Bovin Blanc 2019	\$42	White	Sauvignon Blanc (mainly)
Hervé Villemade Cheverny Blanc Domaine 2018	\$41	White	Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay
Hervé Villemade Cour-Cheverny Les Acacias 2017 2 BOTTLES LIMIT	\$70	White	Romarantin
Hervé Villemade Cour-Cheverny Les Acacias 2009 1 BOTTLE LIMIT	\$105	White	Romarantin
Hervé Villemade Cheverny Rouge Domaine 2019	\$42	Red	Pinot Noir, Gamay
Hervé Villemade Cheverny Rouge Les Ardilles 2018	\$59	Red	Pinot Noir, Gamay
Hervé Villemade Grolleauis 2019	\$41	Red	Grolleau Noir, Pineau d'Aunis
Hervé Villemade Bovin 2019	\$42	Red	Gamay
Hervé Villemade Rosé 2019	\$35	Rosé	Pineau d'Aunis, Gamay, Côt

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Hervé Villemade Bulles Blanc 15	\$54	Sparkling	Menu Pineau, Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay

Domaine Bornard

We have perhaps our largest order ever from the Bornards arriving late in November which hopefully will have enough wine to ensure everyone can have some, if not every cuvée.

While our Philippe Bornard “fox” wines and Tony Bornard “heart” wines are now under the one umbrella of Domaine Bornard, for the most part Tony is keeping the different labels separate because each cuvée comes from quite different parcels of land and will develop its own history.

The vines Tony owned before the two domaines were merged will continue to use the labels his sister Charlene designed and the wines from the traditional Bornard plots, made until recently by Philippe, will continue to be orange foxes. (And it’s fair to say that although retired Philippe is still an almost constant presence in the vineyards and cellar although he does enjoy the freedom to be able to “take off” on adventures.)

There is an exception for the 2017 vintage when the frost was so severe and the crop so limited that virtually everything of the same variety was put into one cuvée in order to make enough of each wine. We won’t be surprised if something similar happens with the equally devastated 2019 vintage.

In the meantime the Ploussard from 2018 is arriving in promising quantities – we ‘ll have a new cuvée Vivre d’amour et de Plouplou 2018 which is a Tony Bornard label and Tony’s Le Vin de Ploussard.

We have a third and final shipment of the wonderful Phillipe Bornard Triffaut Le Ginglet 2018 and some 2016 Savagnin Les Chassagnes for the first time. We have both of Tony’s Pinot Noir cuvées – Le Pinot Noir and Le Pinotcambulle and a new cuvées from him Le Gentil Blanc, which is Savagnin. There are small amounts of Philippe Bornard Vin Jaune and, for the first time in many years, a new release of L’Ivresse de Noé. Also in small quantities, Chardonnay and Ploussard from the 2017 vintage bottled with a unique label designed by Charlene but based on an old family label called Au fil des Générations, which celebrates this family’s long history of winemaking.

Carlito – Charles Dagand

We’ve also spirited a small number of wines from Charles Dagand, who was once half of l’Octavin before he and his partner Alice Bouvot separated. (If you look closely at the l’Octavin wine back labels, the estate wines Alice makes have the name EARL Les Vins d’ABCD – she is the AB and Charles is the CD).

All the wines we are receiving are from the 2018 vintage and its likely to be our last shipment for a while because he lost all his 2019 crop due to the frosts. There are three cuvées. Presque Blanc is a direct pressed Pinot Noir although with a little added red juice to make a light red.

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Charpindo is 95% Chardonnay and 5% Pinot Noir (5%) and essentially a white wine. Wouj is a Pinot Noir, 75% destemmed by hand and 25% whole bunch on top, which had a long maceration (it was pressed in June 2019). All will be available in very limited quantities, possibly only to those who express interest in advance.

Mosse

This was an emergency order when all the Bisou, Moussamousettes and Vermouth which arrived recently sold out in two days. There will be more of each of those plus some new wines, including two white cuvées. La Jute is 50% Chenin Blanc and 50% Chardonnay made from grapes harvested from the Mosse estate. The other is Goldeneye, which is 70% Loin de l'oeil and 30% Grüner Veltliner. The appellation “Vin de la communauté européenne” (wine from the European community) hints this is not going to be normal for us. The Loin de l'oeil is sourced from several vineyards in Gaillac but the Grüner Veltliner is from Christoph Heiss's Kamptal vineyards (Malinga) in Austria. There will also be some Mosse Cabernet-Franc 2018. What seems like a life time ago but is about 10 years ago it was a Mosse red (then Anjou rouge, still in the appellation) which we bought in, of all places, Provence, which led us to contact René and Agnès Mosse in the first place so this recent iteration of the same wine is very important to us.

La Soeur Cadette

The wines of La Soeur Cadette from the north of Burgundy are always so welcome. They are one of the producers we have worked with from the earliest days of our business. We wait each year for our annual allocation Melon de Bourgogne and this shipment will have the 2019 vintage. As well, we will have the 2019 Vézalay les Saulniers (the first shipment of wine from this wonderful vineyard since its appellation was upgraded to village level), and the 2018 Montanet-Thoden Garance. In addition to these estate wines we will have from the négoce wines some 2018 Mâcon Village Blanc and 2018 Juliènas.

Pack 1: Mixed Geschickt New Arrivals Pack (15% Discount)



We've just received a shipment of wines from Domaine Geschickt, one of Alsace's premier biodynamic estates. The 12 hectares of vineyards, surrounding the village of Ammerschwihr, have been certified biodynamic since 1998, but the family has been growing grapes and making wines for many generations.

Steeped in, and respectful of their history but always keen to experiment Fred Geschickt, his nephew Arnaud and Arnaud's wife Aurelie make a dazzling array of wines and the mixed 6 pack of our new arrivals reflects that breadth and diversity.

It includes two sparkling wines - a more traditional Crémant d'Alsace but made with no sulphites and no added sugar (hence its double Zero name) and a much less traditional pet-nat, the Obi wine.

Phenix is made with macerated Pinot Gris so, technically what is often called an 'orange wine' but the colour from the skins of the Pinot Gris gives it a quite startling pink colour.

The just-released 2017 Riesling has beguiling liveliness and freshness that defy its age. Pino 2016 is a compelling blend of Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois, and direct press Pinot Noir. And, to complete this varied pack, there's also a bottle of Pinot Noir, the classic red grape from this region.

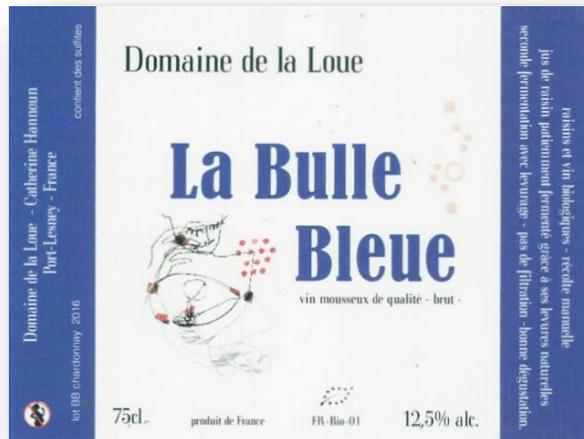
- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Phenix 2019
- Geschickt Pet'Nat 2019
- Geschickt Crémant d'Alsace Double Zero 2016
- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Pino 2016

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- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Riesling 2017
- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir 2018

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

Pack 2: New Bubbles Pack (15% discount)



It's spring, heading into summer. Daylight saving has begun in many parts of Australia. Even in Melbourne it's possible to picnic in a park with a friend (we are so pleased to see at least a small step back towards life and hope there will have been many more before our next newsletter). And it's heading towards holiday season where, even if it doesn't feel much like a season of celebration, we will still be able to toast having survived 2020. And hopefully wearing our politics on our sleeves there will be a need for sparkling wine to toast the end of the current US presidency. For whatever the reason there is a big need for sparkling wines and we have stocked up.

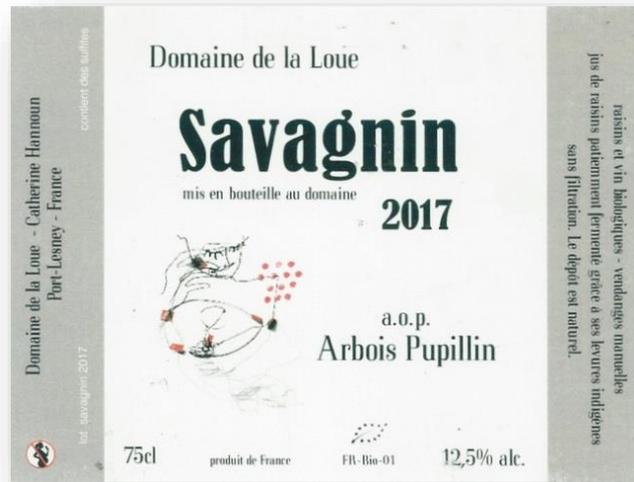
We have our much beloved Belluard Les Perles du Mont-Blanc, a wine which for many years was poured for months at a time at Garagistes and then Franklin in Tasmania, so is well known to Hobart drinkers. We have a delicious white pet'nat from Alsace (Geschickt) made with Auxerrois, Muscat, and Riesling and a rosé pet'nat, which is 100% Pinot Noir from the Jura (Domaine de la Loue).

The pack rounds out with two bottles of Geschickt Crémant d'Alsace Double Zero 2016 and a bottle of Domaine de la Loue La Bulle Bleue 2016. Like Les Perles, the bubbles are produced with a second fermentation and neither have added sulphites or added sugar.

- Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Ayse Brut Les Perles du Mont-Blanc 2016
- Geschickt Crémant d'Alsace Double Zero 2016 (2 bottles)
- Geschickt Pet'Nat 2019
- Domaine de la Loue PetNat Rosé 2018
- Domaine de la Loue La Bulle Bleue 2016

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$326 but the pack price is only \$277.10 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 3: Premium New Arrivals - LIMITED (3 packs ONLY) - 15% discount



There are lots of fun things in our new shipment – light reds for chilling and quaffing and plenty of pet-nats – but there are some more complex wines, all of which can be cellared.

This pack also includes two vintages of Domaine de la Loue’s Jura Arbois Pupillin Savagnin, on the basis there are many people out there, like us, who enjoy looking at the same wine thorough in different vintages. The vines were 13 years old in 2017 and 14 years in 2018 and are, as the appellation indicates, in the commune of Pupillin, the tiny village just outside Arbois where some of the Jura’s rarest wines come from. The soil is grey marl with a south-eastern exposure. The vinification is similar but not identical. In 2017 the directly-pressed grapes were fermented in a stainless steel tank. 2/3 was transferred to 220 litre barrels (into pièces to be specific – the French have a lot of “barrel” words) and one 1/3 remained in tank. The two components were then reassembled into tank again one month prior to bottling. It was bottled at the end of August, 2019.

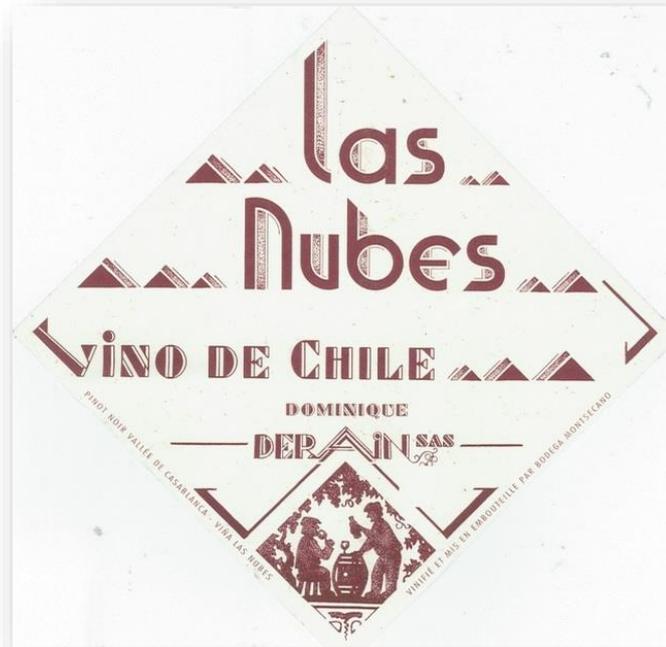
In 2018 Catherine Hannoun used a similar method but only 1/2 was transferred into wood, this time into demi-muids, which are 600 litre barrels. After reassembling for one month it was bottled mid-February 2020 (i.e. fewer months of aging).

ONLY THREE PACKS ARE AVAILABLE AND ONLY DURING THIS MONTH, AFTER WHICH IF NOT SOLD THEY WILL RETURN TO GENERAL STOCK.

- Domaine de la Loue Arbois Pupillin Savagnin 2018
- Domaine de la Loue Arbois Pupillin Savagnin 2017
- Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Blanc Les Alpes 2018
- Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Rouge Mondeuse 2018
- Geschickt Alsace Grand Cru Kaefferkopf 2016
- Geschickt Alsace Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Riesling 2016

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$430 but the pack price is only \$365.50 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 4: Last bottle pack (20% Discount)



The one thing these wines have in common is that we only have one bottle left. They are predominantly red except for the Montanet-Thoden Vézelay Galerne, which is Chardonnay from one of Burgundy's newest appellations (in the far north, close to Chablis).

This pack also has a special oddity – our only Chilean wine, which is a Pinot Noir made by Dominique Derain, who we have worked with for many years. After selling his Saint-Aubin domaine to Julien Altaber and officially retiring, even though he still spends lots of time in the Derain cellar and vineyards, he's had more time to travel and this wine is one of the consequences. Following an invitation from the owner of a Chilean estate to help make their wine, as is not unusual, he took a proportion of the grapes to make his own wine and Las Nubes is the result.

- Montanet-Thoden Vézelay Galerne 2018 (Chardonnay)
- Henri Milan Reynard Rebels 17+18 (Merlot, Carignan)
- Derain Las Nubes 2018 (Pinot Noir)
- Le Temps des Cerises Un Pas de Côté 2014 (Grenache)
- Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière Rue de la Peste 2015 (Julie Brosselin)
- Le Raisin à Plume (Jacques Février) A Bout 2015 (Abouriou)

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$273 but the pack price is only \$218.40 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 5: October Mainly Red Sale Pack (30% discount - limited)



Our sale pack is also mainly red this month, although it is a little bit pink. With a 30% discount it's also very good value.

Below is a summary of the four reds and two rosés. There is, of course, more information about each of them on our website.

Domaine Saint Nicolas Cuvée Jacques 2012	Loire	Red	Pinot Noir
Le Temps Retrouvé Mourvèdre 2014	Roussillon	Red	Mourvèdre
Mylène Bru Moulins de Mon Coeur 2014	Languedoc	Red	Cinsault, Carignan, Syrah
Jolly Ferriol Syrahre 2015	Roussillon	Red	Syrah
Domaine Saint Nicolas Reflets Rosé 2017	Loire	Rosé	Pinot Noir, Grolleau Gris, Gamay
Causse Marines Sy Rose 2018	Gaillac	Rosé	Syrah, Mauzac Rose

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$296 but the pack price is only \$207.20 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 6: Orange wines pack (15% discount)



These days there is nothing novel about orange wines. Wine made by macerating white grapes has found a place on every interesting wine list. And there's a good reason for that. As a category orange wines may be the most food friendly of all. We've always said that if we're eating a meal with several courses and for some reason will only drink a single bottle then an orange wine is most likely to match most of the dishes. Orange wines are one of the greatest discoveries of our wine drinking life.

What is novel though is for us to have enough orange wines at one time to be able to offer a full six pack. It's taken a while but now many of the winemakers we have worked with for some time have begun to make orange wines plus the Alsace producers we've begun to work with recently all embrace orange wines (it was one of the attractions) and we're the lucky beneficiaries.

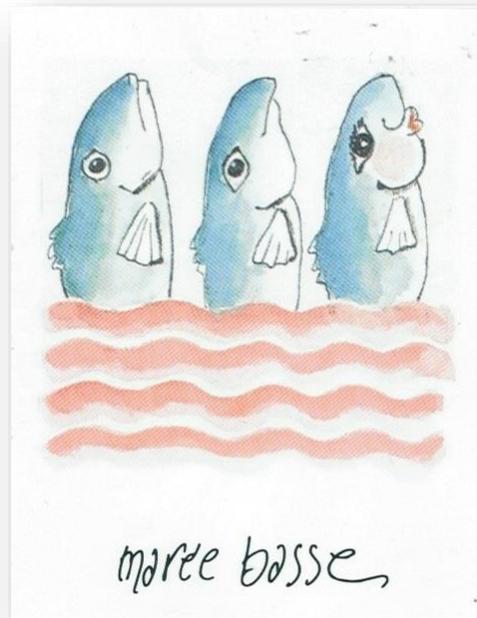
This a broad collection. The Causse Marines is from Gaillac and made with Mauzac. There are two quite different wines from our new Geschickt shipment – a complex Gewurztraminer from their hallowed vines on the Kaefferkopf which demands food and drinking slowly and its opposite, a juicy, quaffable Pinot Gris called Phenix which is a wonderfully thirst quenching and looks more pink than orange.

Julie Brosselin's (Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière) Mata Hari, made from Grenache Blanc, sits somewhere between them in terms of intensity. The final wine from Domaine Les Grandes Vignes is an extraordinary, complex Loire Valley Chenin Blanc which was macerated in an amphora prior to pressing. It's another food-required wine to do it justice.

- Causse Marines Zacm'Orange 2018
- Jean-Marc Dreyer AOC Alsace Auxerrois Origin 2018
- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Gewurztraminer Grand Cru Kaefferkopf 2018
- Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière Mata Hari 2016
- Domaine Les Grandes Vignes Et Ce Terra Amphore Blanc 2014
- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Phenix 2019

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$392 but the pack price is only \$333.20 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 7: What We're Drinking Pack (15% Discount)



'What we're drinking' is always one of our favourite packs – a snapshot of some of the wines (and this time a cider) we're particularly enjoying at the moment.

Most are suited to uncomplicated drinking. Even the 2017 Riesling from Geschickt has a lovely lemon freshness about it. But the Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Grand Cru Kaefferkopf 2016, which is a blend of 60% Gewurztraminer, 30% Riesling and 10% Pinot Gris really should enjoy a meal. It's a complex white wine, not too intense, but its length is best appreciated with a dish which matches the length – braised pork or lamb, grilled whole fish, and even a little spice.

- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Phenix 2019 (macerated Pinot Gris)
- Domaine de la Loue Le Blanc 2018 (Chardonnay)
- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Riesling 2017
- Julien Fremont Brut Nature 2018 (Cider)
- Les Cigales dans La Fourmilière Marée Basse 2018 (Grenache Noir and Grenache Blanc)
- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Grand Cru Kaefferkopf 2016 (Gewurztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Gris)

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$282 but the pack price is only \$239.70 including freight to most Australian cities.

Grape variety: Altesse



The Altesse or Roussette grape is a premium variety found in the Savoie area of Eastern France and is responsible for the luscious white wines that are produced there. It also has two appellations that include the name, Roussette de Savoie and Roussette du Bugey. In Roussette de Savoie the grape is known locally as Altesse.

The tiny (57 hectares) AOC appellation of Seyssel which was created in 1998 also uses Roussette exclusively for dry white wines.

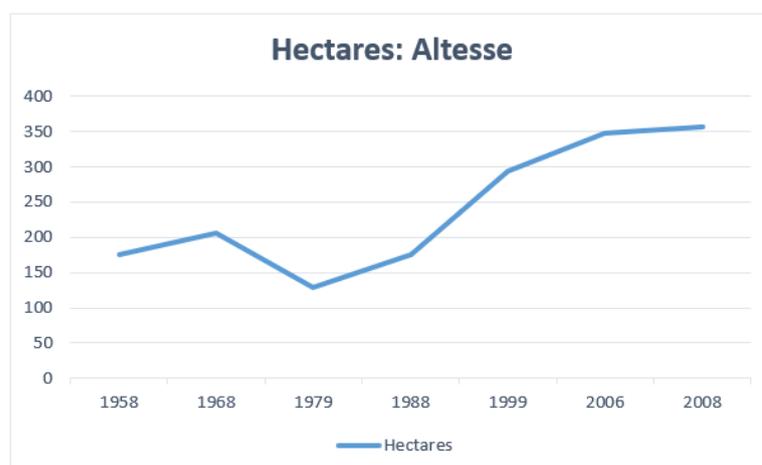
Roussette makes highly perfumed wines with good acidity which leads to longevity - the best wines will last for decades.

It is possible that this is a similar grape to the Hungarian Furmint, however the Vitis International Variety Catalogue says that it is a native of France and, in particular, the Savoie.

We have two wines made from this grape. The first is the delightful Domaine Belluard Vin de Savoie Blanc Altesse Grandes Jorasses 2017. The vineyard from which this wine is made lies at an altitude of 450 metres above sea level. The grapes are hand-harvested and fermented naturally. The alcohol level is 12%. It is named after the Grandes Jorasses mountain - one of the highest peaks in the Alps.

The second is a macerated version that has had no added sulphites (see the back label above. This is a very serious wine and one that we just love!.

As the graph below shows, in recent years the area planted to Altesse has slowly increased but the overall area is still quite low at less than 400 hectares.



WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

The vine leaves are quite distinctive with their angular shapes and the pronounced frontal lobe as shown in the photo below:



Photo courtesy Vitis International Variety Catalogue (VIVC)

The grapes are classic white in colour and form into slightly loose bunches as shown.



Photo courtesy Vitis International Variety Catalogue (VIVC)

Notice the colour in the skins of these white grapes. This is why the macerated version of the Altesse that Dominique has released this year for the first time has such a gorgeous colour.

Appealing Headlines

“Older people and alcohol: How a wee tippie can keep the mind sharp” was guaranteed clickbait for us, given our advancing ages, especially when it came in an email from the New Daily, an online only Australian newspaper with stories we trust.

The article describes the findings from a University of Georgia study which tested the cognitive function of 19,000 middle to older-age adults over a period of about 10 years. The results shows that overall, “those who consumed between 10 and 14 drinks a week – making them low to moderate drinkers – outperformed their heavy drinking and abstinent peers”. They also had slower rates of cognitive decline across time. Interestingly this difference was most notable in a vocabulary test. If you’d like to read the article its online [here](#).

Loire Valley Spritz



A back garden post on [Instagram](#) recently to share our delight at making a spritz from the new Mosse Vermouth and Les Capriades Piège à Filles Blanc received a positive response. It’s not just us who thought our “Loire Valley Spritz” was a good move. To quote a friend’s feedback “The spice of the vermouth matched with the sweetness of the Capriades is a match made in heaven”. We can’t come up with a better description. We still have a few cases of the Les Capriades Piège à Filles Blanc 2018 available plus we have more vermouth on the way if you want to try this for yourself later in the year.

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.