

WINE Talk: December 2020

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 94

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.) You must of course be over 18 years of age to order.

An Apology

We apologise for the lateness of this newsletter, it will make it difficult for wines you order to arrive in time for Christmas. If you would like to order something and don't need it for Christmas, we are happy to hold your wines until after Christmas so that they delivery will not face the risk of delay. (It's also possible to hold orders until cooler weather if you would like to. This delay has partly been caused by our latest shipment of wine arriving late from France and partly due to Roger's ill health that he is currently dealing with.

A note about Domaine Bornard

Big changes have occurred in the Bornard domaine over the past couple of years. Philippe has retired and his talented son Tony has taken over the entire operation with little fuss and with few observable differences for outsiders.



This means that you will see a transition in some of the wine labels over the coming vintages.

For example, you might see Tony's name on the label instead of Philippe's depending on the vintage.

The "les Gaudrettes" label displayed here clearly says that the wine was bottled (mis en bouteille) at the domaine (property) by Tony.

You will also see that the location of the property is also given (postcode France 39600 which is the code covering the entire Arbois area, but the bottling was carried out in the village of Pupillin). We have explored some of

these issues about labelling in slightly more depth in a later story in this newsletter where we answer questions we have been asked about things to do with the wine industry.

Tony is a meticulous operator both in the vineyard and in the winery. He has a very clear vision about what he wants to achieve and how he is going to achieve it.

The winery and many of the vineyards are in the quaint commune of Pupillin which is a few minutes' drive from Arbois, not too far from the Swiss border. This tiny village of winemakers is the historic home to both sides of Philippe's family and is still Philippe's home.

The Bornard winery is under Philippe's wonderful ancient stone house which dominates the higher part of the village where you enter from the direction of Arbois. Tony has already started planning a new winery on the other side of the village and eventually the winemaking operation will move there from his father's house.

We are looking forward to watching the evolution of the domaine. (Having said all that, although Philippe is officially retired, he still spends plenty of time in the vineyards). He's much fonder of tractors than Tony and if you're in Pupillin on the verge of lunchtime you're highly likely to see Philippe on the tractor returning home for lunch.

The wines cover two appellations. The first is the broader Côtes du Jura appellation and then most of the wines are from the tiny Arbois Pupillin appellation which only applies to grapes grown within the commune of Pupillin. Having said that, all of the Bornard parcels within Côtes du Jura are virtually the same distance from Pupillin as the others, and all within a few minutes drive of each other. You will notice that in this appellation it is permitted to name the grape variety on the label – which is unusual for France.

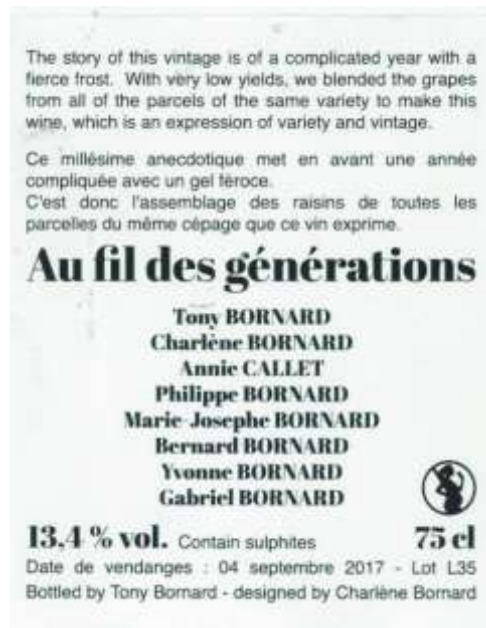


However, Tony will be gradually taking most of the wines out of these appellations in the coming years to provide him with more freedom with the winemaking.

As an aside, in 2017 the weather was very unkind in the Jura and the harvest was minimal. It turned out that there were insufficient grapes to make separate cuvées for the normal Philippe Bornard and Tony Bornard Ploussards and Chardonnay, so all of the grapes were combined into one new cuvée called Au Fil des Générations with a

label that has been created using an old family label for inspiration. This work has been done by Tony's equally talented sister who works in Lyon as a designer/artist.

On the back label it lists the generations of Bornard family members who have contributed to the family's wine history, starting with the youngest generation Tony and Charlène, then Philippe and his former wife Annie, then Philippe's parents Marie Josephe (affectionally known as Ma Jo, who still lives in Pupillin) and her late husband Bernard, and finishing with Philippe's grandparents Yvonne and Gabriel.



The label above, with a left facing orange fox, is the Chardonnay. There is an equivalent label, with a right-facing pink fox, for the Ploussard. Anyone who asked in advance about these special wines was able to obtain a bottle and we have sold some to good wine shops so keep your eyes peeled. They will be arriving in coming weeks.

New Releases

Since our last newsletter we have released the Hervé Villemade wines which we described and gave pricing for in that newsletter and have also released new wines from Domaine Bornard, the Cadette family of wines (La Cadette, Montanet-Thoden and La Soeur Cadette), Charles Dagand (Carlito) and the Mosse family.

As we foreshadowed in the last email some of these wines were allocated. Everyone who requested wine in advance of the allocation process has been or will be offered wine (we're still working through the offers) and it means that some wines we mentioned as arriving soon are not in the lists below of available new wines.

That includes most of the Bornard wines, some of the Cadette wines, and all of the Carlito. There will be small quantities of these wines at good bottle shops, so even if you didn't put in an advance request with us there will still be opportunities to buy.

Depending on how the shipping timings in December go and the weather we may not send some of those orders until the new year.

In the meantime here is what we have released. And, as we said earlier, if you would like some of these wines but don't want them before Christmas we'd encourage you to order now but ship in the new year when the transit will be quicker and, if you wait long enough, the weather will be cooler.

Domaine Bornard



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.

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Most of the wines we have available are all from the vineyards Tony bought when he returned to the Jura some years ago. We have two cuvées of Pinot Noir and one cuvée of Ploussard available.

In terms of palate weight and drinking windows for the Pinot Noir cuvées, Le Pinot Noir, which is from vines next to the famous Pupillin sign (above) you see from the N83 as you drive from Poligny to Arbois, is a wine for aging, and has substantial depth. It was aged in old wooden barrels.

Le Pinot Ctambule (which you could sort of translate as a play on the notion of people who only come out at night for drinking) is lighter, with less extraction, and meant for early drinking. It's from a parcel within Les Gaudrettes which had been leased to another vigneron. It was returned to the family several years ago and Tony returned it to organic viticulture. In 2017 it was still in conversion.

The Ploussard cuvée is Le Vin de Ploussard which is also from vines near the Pupillin sign.

Here are the wines and the prices.

Domaine Bornard Le Pinot Noir 2017 LIMIT 1 BOTTLE	\$67
Domaine Bornard Le Pinot Ctambule 2017 LIMIT 1 BOTTLE	\$49
Domaine Bornard Le Vin de Ploussard 2018 LIMIT 1 BOTTLE	\$63

There are a few extra cuvées available in Pack 1, wines we set aside for newsletter readers. There are also a few bottles of the 2011 vintage of Domaine Bornard L'Ivresse de Noé. It's late-picked Savagnin in 500ml bottles and could be a good plum pudding wine. Ask if you are interested – it's not officially on the list! Again, it would be a single bottle only.

The Cadette family



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These are the wines of La Cadette (vines owned by Catherine and Jean Montanet), La Soeur Cadette (négoce wines made with purchased grapes, although some of the grapes for the Melon are from their vines) and Montanet-Thoden (which is owned by Catherine Montanet and a friend Tom Thoden).

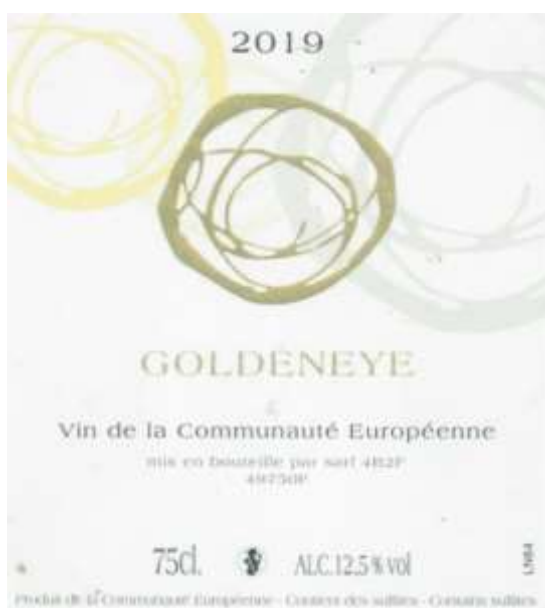
This shipment has the 2019 vintage La Cadette Vézelay Les Saulniers, one of the most popular wines at the more “classic” end of our portfolio. All the wines from this family are fermented naturally and have small additions of sulphites and the white wines are lightly filtered through Kimmeridgian earth.

We also have La Soeur Cadette Melon 2019, made with Melon de Bourgogne which, in spite of its name, is a very rare grape in Burgundy, the region from where it originally came.

We had some other cuvées in smaller quantities which we mentioned in October’s newsletter but these are sold out as a result of people who requested in advance.

La Cadette Vézelay Les Saulniers 2019	\$54
La Soeur Cadette Melon 2019	\$46

Domaine Mosse



Most of the wines in this shipment are replenishments of wines which came and went very quickly in September. They are the 2019 Moussamoussettes pet-nat, 2019 Bisou (a light red made with many of the grapes you find in the Loire (Grolleau Noir, Grolleau Gris, Pineau d'Aunis, Cot, Gamay, and Cabernet Franc), and the Vermouth which is based on Mosse Chenin Blanc. The botanicals include citrus and Sichuan pepper, which explain the name Agrumes and Seichuan.

There are two new cuvées. La Joute is a 50/50 blend of Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay from the Mosse’s vines, aged in old barrels for 10 months, and Goldeneye is a very light, refreshing wine, with notes of peaches, that’s perfect for summer drinking. It’s a négoce wines made with 70%

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Loin de l'Oeil from Gaillac and 30% Grüner Veltliner from Kampal in Austria. Its appellation is Vin de la Communauté Européenne. We also have a small amount of 2018 Cabernet-Franc.

Mosse Vermouth Agrumes and Seichuan	\$74
Mosse Goldeneye 2019	\$39
Mosse Moussamoussettes 2019	\$49
Mosse La Joute 2019	\$58
Mosse Cabernet Franc 2018	\$50
Mosse Bisou 2019	\$44

Pack 1: Bornard New Arrivals Pack (15% Discount) Only 3 packs available



The wines from Domaine Bornard rarely get listed because the pre-orders normally exceed the available wines. For this shipment Tony was kind enough to increase our allocation so we have been able to set aside a small number of wines to make up three packs of Bornard wines.

You will have seen from the article above that all the wines have been made by Tony for the past couple of years and the wines we have chosen for you represent a range of the Bornard offerings. Some are “fox” wines and some are labelled as Tony’s wines but they are all made by Tony.

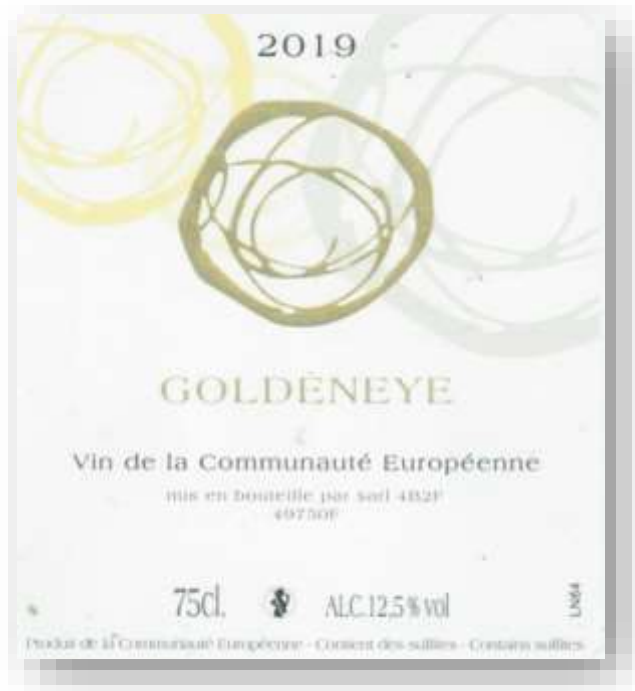
There are three wines made from Pinot Noir so that you can compare the vintages and the winemaking – the Le Pinot Noir was made in a single 400 litre barrel and is slightly “bigger” than the two Pinot Ctambules.

The Le Ginglet is made from Trousseau (Triffaut is an old name in the region for this grape) and the last two are light reds made from Ploussard.

- Domaine Bornard Le Pinot Noir 2017
- Domaine Bornard Le Pinot Ctambule 2017
- Domaine Bornard Le Pinot Ctambule 2018
- Domaine Bornard Triffaut Le Ginglet 2018
- Domaine Bornard Vivre d'Amour et de Plouplou 2018
- Domaine Bornard Le Vin de Ploussard 2018

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$353 but the pack price is only \$300.05 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 2: Mosse New Arrivals Pack (15% discount)



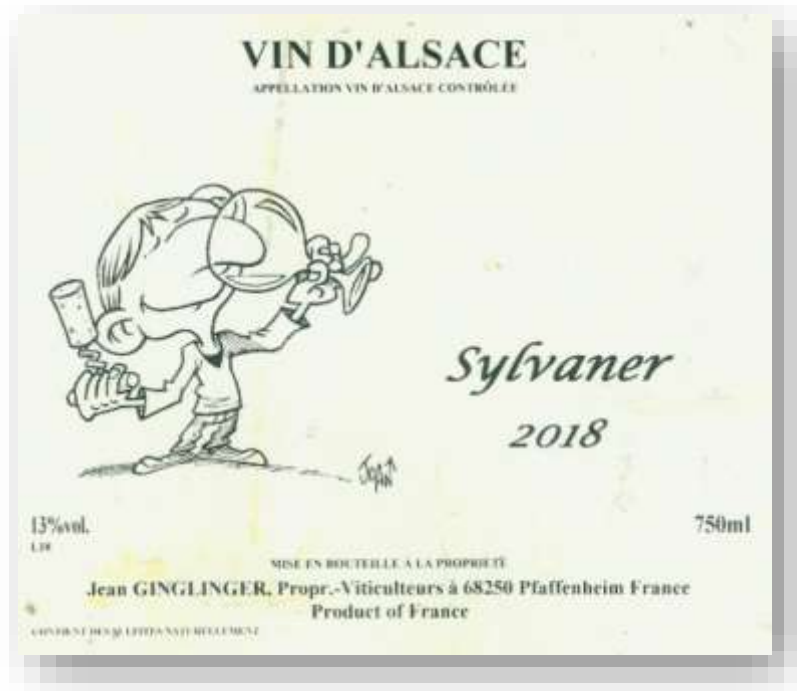
We are delighted to be able to offer a pack of recently arrived Mosse wines. These wines have become so popular that there is rarely enough to go around because they sell so quickly. Hopefully this time we have enough for at least some of the cuvées to be available for a while..

We have a bottle of the delightful Goldeneye which is a white wine made from grapes sourced from South West France (Loin de l’Oeil) and Austria (Grüner Veltliner), a bottle of the famous pet nat Moussamoussettes, a bottle of the new La Joute which is made from estate grapes Chardonnay and Chenin Blanc, a bottle of the excellent Cabernet Franc and the Bisou which is a light red and finally a bottle of the excellent Vermouth that has a base of the Mosse Chenin Blanc spiced with citrus and Sichuan peppercorns.

- Mosse Goldeneye 2019
- Mosse Moussamoussettes 2019
- Mosse La Joute 2019
- Mosse Cabernet Franc 2018
- Mosse Bisou 2019
- Mosse Vermouth Agrumes and Seichuan

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$314 but the pack price is only \$266.90 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 3: Nearly Last Bottle Packs - LIMITED (2 packs ONLY) - 25% off



We have only two packs of these wines that range widely in style. We have two high end wines namely the pure Shiraz (Syrah) from Jolly Ferriol and the fabulous Chenin Blanc from the Mosse's Bonne Blanche vineyard. From Domaine Ginglinger in Alsace we have a delicious Sylvaner, another white from the other end of France, namely a Picpoule from Opi d'Aqui that is perfect for drinking with oysters and a very rare white Ondenc from Causse Marines. Finally we have a lovely no sulphites Gamay from Paonnerie to round out the selection.

- Domaine Jolly Ferriol Syrahe 2015
- Domaine Ginglinger Vin d'Alsace Sylvaner 2018
- Opi d'Aqui Vin de France Poupoule 2018
- Domaine Mosse Vin de France Bonne Blanche 2017
- Causse Marines Vin de France Dencon 2014
- Domaine Paonnerie Vin de France Gamay Simplement 2015

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$301 but the pack price is only \$225.75 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 4: Mixed Dozen Pack (20% Discount) 2 Bottles Each



This summer dozen is made up of 2 bottles of each of six wines. The first is a lovely sparkling wine from the talented Geschickt team in Alsace that has zero sulphites and zero dosage (added sugar) and is a blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Auxerrois and Riesling.

The Sy Rose from Causse Marines is a blend of the Mauzac Rose grape variety (a grape with pink flecks on the skin) and Shiraz which combine to create a beautiful Rosé wine.

Jean-Marc Dreyer is a talented wine maker from Alsace who loves to macerate his white wines and this Auxerrois is no exception. Auxerrois is a descendent of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir that is only found in the North East corner of France.

Domaine de la Loue's Le Rouge is a wine that is a blend of Trousseau (95%) picked in the Buffard commune of the Jura as well as a little Ploussard, Trousseau à la Dame and Chardonnay.

The Bisou from the Mosse family is a lovely light, summer red that is perfect drunk slightly chilled.

And finally the long time favourite from Hervé Villemade, Cheverny Blanc is made from Sauvignon Blanc blended with 30% Chardonnay to produce an eminently drinkable white wine.

- Geschickt Crémant d'Alsace Double Zero 2016
- Causse Marines Vin de France Sy Rose 2018
- Jean-Marc Dreyer AOC Alsace Auxerrois Origin 2018
- Domaine de la Loue Le Rouge 2018
- Mosse Vin de France Bisou 2019
- Hervé Villemade Cheverny Blanc Domaine 2018

The RRP for this selection of 12 wines is \$566 but the pack price is only \$452.80 including freight to the most Australian cities.

Pack 5: What We're Drinking Pack (15% discount)



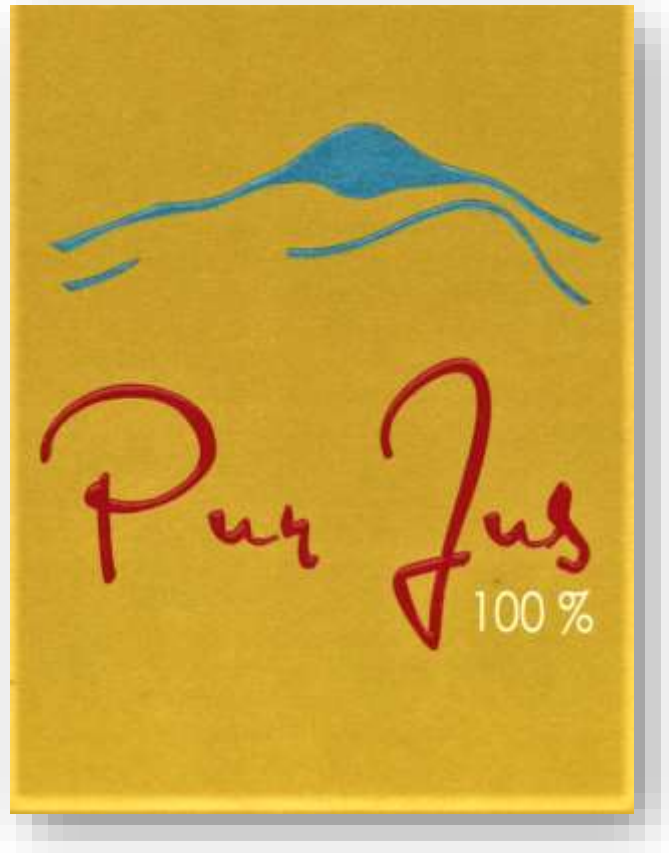
The six wines in this pack consist of bottles that we have been enjoying recently. The Bisou is a light red that we have been enjoying chilled, the Melon is an old favourite from the north of Burgundy made from the Melon de Bourgogne grape variety which is quite rare in that region.

Massale is a smashable light red made from the three Grenache varieties, namely Grenache Noir, Grenache Gris and Grenache Blanc. Then we have a pink pet nat from the Jura from the talented Catherine Hannoun made from Pinot Noir and an exciting wine from the Geschickt team in Alsace called Pino which is made from four Pinot varieties, namely Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Auxerrois. Finally we have the Mata Hari from talented duo Ivo and Julie from the Languedoc which is a macerated Grenache Blanc of considerable elegance!

- Domaine Mosse Vin de France Bisou 2019
- La Soeur Cadette Vin de France Melon 2019
- Opi d'Aqui Vin de France Massale 2018
- Domaine de la Loue PetNat Rosé 2018
- Domaine Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Pino 2017
- Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière Vin de France Mata Hari 2016

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$338 but the pack price is only \$287.30 including freight to most Australian cities.

Pack 6: Rare and Desirable pack - 10% discount (Only 2 packs available)



There are only two of this pack available due to the rarity of the wines. We have been able to set aside two bottles of each of the wines listed below to make up two packs of these very hard to find wines. Some are from our public list and some we have taken from our personal collection.

The first is from the Roussette de Savoie appellation which sees the Altesse grape variety featuring in Dominique's Pur Jus cuvée this year rather than the normal Gringet. It is a superb wine that has had no sulphites added at any stage. Next is a Grand Cru from Alsace that is a delicious Riesling from the magic soils of the Kaefferkopf vineyard.

We are delighted to be able to offer two of Alice Bouvot's delicious wines, one from her own Jura grapes and one from purchased grapes. The Dorabella is a light and ethereal Ploussard from her En Curon vineyard on the outskirts of Arbois and the Ganache is a light and fresh beauty made from 100% Grenache made from grapes grown near Caromb in Provence.

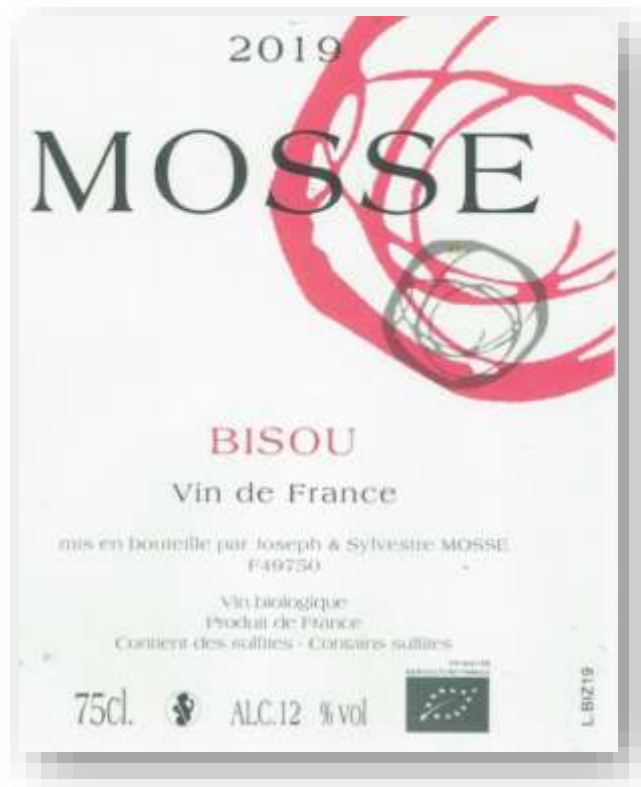
We have also included a bottle of Jean-Pierre Robinot's delicious pet nat made from Chenin Blanc and Pineau d'Aunis and a bottle of the very rare and quirky wine from Wim Wagemans in the Languedoc who makes light red wines by turning winemaking on its head. Here he has made a white wine by directly pressing Syrah and then adding to it some juice from Muscat de Hambourg which had macerated for about a week to produce light red juice. The result is a delicious summer wine of interesting complexity.

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- Domaine Belluard Roussette de Savoie AOP Blanc Altesse 100% Pur Jus 2018
- Geschickt Alsace Grand Cru Riesling Kaefferkopf 2016
- l'Octavin Dorabella 2018
- l'Octavin Ganache 2018
- Jean-Pierre Robinot Années Folles 2018
- Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Miss Piggy Blues 2018

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$394 but the pack price is only **\$354.60 including freight to most Australian cities.**

Pack 7: Summer Emergency Pack – (15% Discount)



There are just two wines in this pack with three bottles of each on offer. We have chosen these as they are perfect for your summer drinking arsenal. Many of you will already be familiar with the famous Moussamousettes, that delightful pet nat that is a perfect pink colour from the Pineau d'Aunis and Grolleau Noir (and a tiny bit of Cabernet Franc).

This is the second shipment we have received of Bisou. The first sold out so quickly that we immediately ordered more! It is made from Grolleau Noir, Grolleau Gris, Pineau d'Aunis, Côt (the local name for Malbec), Gamay and Cabernet Franc. All of the grapes were sourced from the Mosse's own vines. It is light, it has complexity from the grape varieties used and is totally delicious.

We recommend that you drink the Bisou slightly chilled.

- Mosse Moussamousettes 2019 (3 bottles)
- Mosse Bisou 2019 (3 bottles)

The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$279 but the pack price is only \$237.15 including freight to most Australian cities.

Grape variety: Pineau d'Aunis

Pineau d'Aunis is one of those grape varieties that some people decry but others are passionately devoted to, including us. Our considered opinion is that there are absolutely no inferior grape varieties – there are just inferior wine makers. There is always a winemaker who can make a great wine regardless of the grape used.

And so it is with the obscure Pineau d'Aunis. First we will explore where the name came from. The first thing you notice is that the Pineau sounds very much like Pinot, however it is not related directly to the better known red grape. However, there is a similarity and that might explain why the names have similar derivations.

If you have a look at the photo below you will notice the similarity between the shape of the bunches of grapes and a pine cone.



Photo courtesy of www.vinsdeloire.fr

Pinot Noir bunches have a similar shape so the word for pine in French 'pin' is included in both names. But what about the d'Aunis? Well it is thought that the vines were brought very early to the Loire Valley by salt traders who traded along the Atlantic seaboard and sailed up the Loire as early as the 9th Century. One of the areas where it was planted was just east of Saumur in the commune of Dampierre in the grounds of the Prieuré d'Aunis.

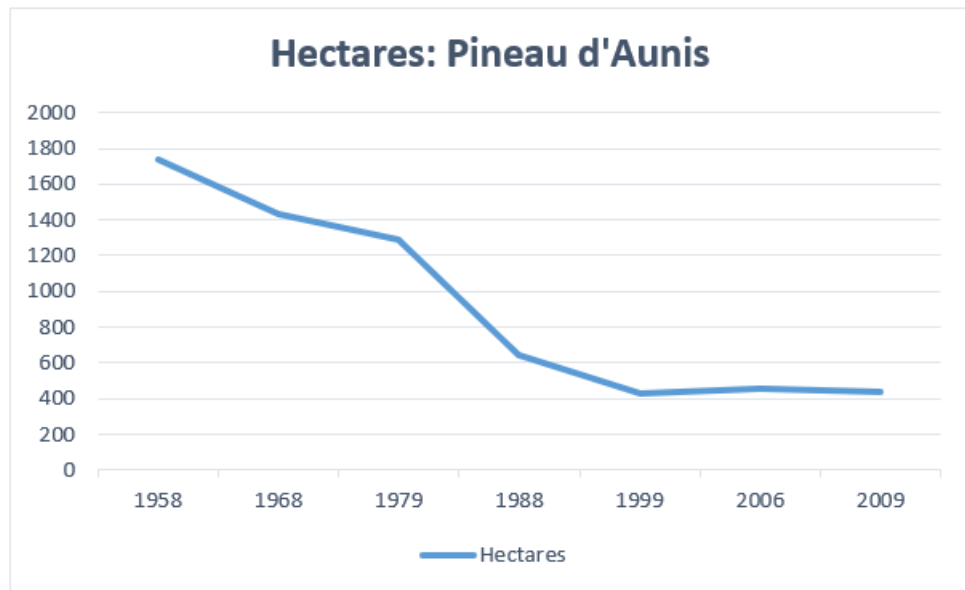
There are a number of vineyards around Saumur, in the Coteaux du Vendômois and in the Touraine that possibly pre-date phylloxera however in the 1950s and 1960s there was a rush to rip out traditional vines and replace them with the Cabernets to tap into international markets.

Luckily there were some who knew that this grape had an affinity for the terroir of the Loire and the only problem was overcropping. It gradually began to be restored to its rightful place even though the vines did not always get planted on the best slopes as these had traditionally been reserved for the revered Chenin Blanc.

More recently, growers such as Puzelat and Domaine Bellivière have led the revival of the grape variety and have been producing some amazing wines with it. The famous red wines of Jean-Pierre Robinot are all made from Pineau d'Aunis just north of the city of Tours.

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It is interesting to see the way the area planted has decreased over the decades and then stabilised. We suspect that more recent figures would show an increase in the area given over to this grape as many of our producers are planting this grape variety to tap into the increasing popularity of Pineau d'Aunis.



Answers to questions we have been asked recently

We are commonly asked questions about vineyard techniques or winemaking terms that our customers don't understand. Often the questions are asked in an apologetic tone as if the person should know the answer.

Well that is not true as there is a very broad range of knowledge required to be a vine worker or a wine maker and some of the language used in these areas can be quite arcane. And when it gets to some sommeliers and wine judges then their language often seems designed to obscure rather than clarify.

Never feel reticent about asking a wine-related question, we are always happy to answer if it is a topic we know something about.

What does Direct Press mean?

We have been asked a few times lately about the term "direct press" and what types of wine making this applies to.

The simplest answer is as follows.

Direct press refers to placing newly picked grapes in a device that has been designed for pressing grapes which then applies pressure to the grapes so that the juice is extracted and transferred to a storage vessel of some kind.

Notice that this description of direct press does not distinguish between red or white or grey or rose grapes. If these grapes are pressed quickly then usually white juice will be produced and the subsequent wine will be white in colour.

We mention this because some of the most famous white wines in the world are produced from red grapes! Think of the many white Champagnes that are produced from Pinot Noir grapes which are normally labelled as "Blanc de Noir" meaning white from red. These have been quickly pressed so that no colouring from the skins leach into the juice.

This technique relies on the fact that red grapes almost always have white juice except for a few cases called teinturier grapes where the flesh and the juice is red (Gamay de Bouze and Alicante Bouschet are examples). The colour of most red grapes is entirely in the skins. Therefore, if you crush non-teinturier red grapes carefully and immediately run the juice off from the skins, then the juice will be clear.

Some examples of white wines made from direct press red grapes that are in our portfolio (not necessarily in stock, so check the livingwines.com.au website) are:

- Champagne Piollot Come des Tallants (made from 100% Pinot Noir)
- Marie Courtin Champagne Resonance (made from 100% Pinot Noir)
- Les Cigales dans la Fourmilière La Petite Pépée 2017 (made from 100% Grenache Noir)

Of course, it is simpler with white wines made from white grapes, the majority of them are direct pressed and the white juice run off from the skins immediately so that the juice remains clear.

If barrels are topped up, what happens to the barrel where the topping up wine comes from?

We were recently asked about the process of topping up barrels. The question was “if a barrel needs topping up, what happens to the barrel that they take the wine from?”. This is an eminently reasonable question.

Barrels in France can range from 224 litres to 400 litres. We will concentrate on these, as larger wooden vessels, called foudres and many other names may confuse the issue.

First of all we should answer the question “why do barrels need to be topped up?”. The answer is that barrels, especially those that have been used a few times, are porous and the wine inside can evaporate over time. This means that the level of wine in the barrel drops somewhat and air (containing oxygen) is sitting over the wine and can begin an oxidation process.

Topping the barrel up removes the air from the barrel and thus protects the wine from oxidation, if that is what the winemaker wants. Other times the wine is deliberately not topped up, allowing it to develop oxidative characters. The most famous are the Jura’s cultish Vin Jaunes made with Savagnin. But even in the Jura where you can find many oxidative white wines, not just Vin Jaune, many winemakers also produce wines that are topped up. The process of topping up is called ouillé and in the Jura it is often put on the label, particularly with wines made from Savagnin, to make it clear that the wine is not oxidative.



You can see on the label above that the fabulous Les Chassagnes from the Bornard family which is made from Savagnin has been topped up due to the presence of the word ouillé on the label.

This doesn’t answer the question of where does the wine for topping up come from? We will make another small deviation to consider how much extra wine is needed. One of our winemakers in the Jura tops up many of his white wines and needs about 500 litres each year to top up his 6 to 8 barrels of a particular cuvée!

This is a calculation that each winemaker does for each cuvée. And finally, the answer to the question.

When the barrels are being filled, some wine is held back and stored in a steel or fibreglass tank with a flexible lid. This is a lid that sits on top of the wine in the tank and is sealed by inflating a rubber tube that surrounds the lid. When a barrel needs to be topped up, some wine is

decanted from the tank via a tap at the bottom and then poured into the barrel. The lid of the tank from which the wine has been extracted is then lowered onto the remaining wine and the tube inflated to seal it again.

Are there any rules for Vin de France wines or can the winemaker do whatever they like?

There are fewer rules for Vin de France wines than for wines that display a specific appellation on the label such as Arbois or Vouvray or Cheverny or Sancerre or Burgundy.

Some people in Australia are surprised to hear that the appellation authorities can control many aspects of both the way in which the grapes are grown through to how the wine is made. They can specify how many vines can be grown per hectare and how far apart the vines must be spaced, for example. They often specify how the vines must be pruned. They can even specify when the grapes can be harvested and when the subsequent wine can be bottled to name just a few of the controls exerted.

One of our producers was once inspected by the appellation authorities and the inspection went well until they were asked to produce their “sulphur book” where they were required to document each application of sulphur to the grapes or the subsequent wine. They explained that they never used sulphur at any time in making their wine. This didn’t matter! It was a requirement that they have a sulphur book so they were issued with a fine and a requirement to pay for another inspection.

When the authorities carried out the next inspection all went well. When they were asked to present their sulphur book, they handed over a book marked “sulphur book” (in French of course) which was totally blank because they never add sulphur. The authorities ticked the requirement as having been fulfilled (ie they had a sulphur book) and they passed the inspection!

So, what about Vin de France? The rules are much less stringent for how the grapes are grown and how the wines are made, however there are issues with what can appear on the label.

The problem occurs with what cannot be put on the label which varies with each of the local appellation authorities. We will provide a couple of examples from the Jura where they are sometimes quite strict about what can and cannot appear.

Take, for example, the following label that we used earlier in the newsletter to illustrate how Tony Bornard is now running the Bornard estate.



You can see that this wine is in the Côtes du Jura appellation. Tony has put on the label the town and region where the wine has come from. The postcode is for the Arbois region (39600) and the town of Pupillin is where the wine was made. You can also see that it is permitted to display the grape variety (something that most appellations do not permit). He is even permitted to display the fact that this is the first bottling of the wine (1^{er} tirage 2018).

Now let's have a look at one of his Vin de France wines.



In this case we have an old favourite, namely Le Ginglet, that Tony has taken out of the appellation, and now labels it as Vin de France. The first thing you may notice is that the town, Pupillin, where the wine is made is no longer permitted on the label. However, he is permitted

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to display the postcode for Pupillin, 39446. The reason is that Pupillin is a reserved word for one of the appellations, namely Arbois Pupillin.

Another problem is that for Vin de France he is not permitted to display the grape variety, so he has cheekily used a very old name for Trousseau in the area namely Triffaut!

These are just some of the constraints for the Vin de France label.

France: The beginning of the end of Glyphosate products

A statement issued by the French regulator ANSES (l'Agence Nationale de Sécurité Sanitaire de l'Alimentation, de l'Environnement et du Travail) on the 9th October 2020 has started the process of eliminating glyphosate products from agriculture and forestry in that country as of 2021.

Glyphosate is one of the most widely used herbicides (weed killers) in use in the world and is commonly used in conjunction with plants that are specifically genetically modified to be resistant to this dangerous chemical. One of the glyphosate products often seen on shelves in Australia is Roundup.

This move in France follows a specific request from France's president Emmanuel Macron.

To be specific the ban will cover vineyards, orchards, field crops and forestry each of which sectors are heavy users of the product.

There are some exceptions such as in areas where it is too steep to use a tractor to plough the weeds, but overall the proposed ban is fairly comprehensive.

Tasmanian Licence No: 58292

WARNING

Under the Liquor Licensing Act 1990 it is an offence:

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

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units (\$3,440 as at, July 2020)

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

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units (\$1,720 as at, July 2020)

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