

## WINE Talk: July 2021

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 99

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.**

## The New Arrivals

A lot of wine has arrived recently, including some we released last month and some we are releasing with this newsletter.

### The old new arrivals



We have to begin with an apology. Some wines come and largely gone since our last newsletter including Dominique Belluard's wines, which are sold out, and most of Julien Fremont's new ciders and Jean-Marc Dreyer's Alsace wines. In an ideal world we would have written about them in June but unfortunately but that didn't happen. We are sorry if you missed out on something you were keen to buy. Remember, if there is a wine you are particularly interested in, keep an eye on the section in our newsletter which describes what's coming next and email us with your request. We will try to make sure, especially in a situation like what just happened, that you do not miss out.

We still have small quantities of some of the wines which arrived in June, including a little of each cuvée of Les Capriades (seen in all their array of different colours in the photo above) and some of Jean-Marc Dreyer's wines as well as a reasonable amount of Julien Fremont's Silex cider

## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

and Domaine de la Cadette Vézelay La Châtelaine 2018, both which we were able to buy a good quantity of. Everything else is very limited.

These are the new wines from that shipment which are still available. There is less than a case of anything we have noted is limited.

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Les Capriades Pet Sec 2017 - limited	\$58	Sparkling	Chardonnay, Menu Pineau, Chenin Blanc
Les Capriades Piège à ... Rosé 2019	\$49	Sparkling	Côt, Cabernet Franc, Gamay
Les Capriades Poire 2019	\$58	Pear Cider	Carési , Crasseaux, Poire de Loup
Les Capriades Le Bulle Rouge 2019 – limited	\$49	Sparkling	Gamay de Bouze, Gamay de Chaudenay, Gamay Fréaux
Les Capriades Pet Sec 2019 - limited	\$54	Sparkling	Menu Pineau, Chardonnay
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Stratos 2019 - limited	\$53	Orange	Riesling, Auxerrois, Sylvaner
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Sylvaner Origin 2019	\$53	Orange	Sylvaner
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Auxerrois Origin 2019	\$53	Orange	Auxerrois
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Riesling Origin 2019 - limited	\$55	Orange	Riesling
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir Elios 2019 - limited	\$51	Red	Pinot Noir
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir Anigma 2019 - limited	\$58	Red	Pinot Noir
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Sylvaner Sigggi 2017 - limited	\$49	Oxidative White	Sylvaner
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Pinot Gris WEG 2018 - limited	\$51	Oxidative White	Pinot Gris
La Cadette Vézelay La Châtelaine 2018	\$53	White	Chardonnay

## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Julien Fremont Silex Cidre 2019	\$35	Apple Cider	Many varieties
Julien Fremont Calvados 500ml - limited	\$112	Spirits	Many varieties

There is a small number of a pack available which features some of these wines and otherwise sold out wines from this June shipment.

## The new new arrivals (Domaine Mosse and Domaine de la Garrelière)



They are here –wines so many people wait eagerly for every year, especially the Mosse Moussamoussettes, shown in all its glory in this photo when the Tasmanian sun briefly came out, and the Domaine de la Garrelière Gamay Sans Tra La La (which literally means Gamay Without Fuss). These are both from the 2020 vintage, as are all the wines in the photo. We are

## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

very excited about 2020 – so many good reports from vigneronns and, already, some delicious wines arrived.

Because we invite people who are particularly interested to contact us in advance, some of the wines we mentioned were coming from Mosse and Garrelière are sold out, but we still have lots of good things. Below is a summary of each wine with pricing and there is more information on the relevant producer pages on our website.

Wine	Price	Type	Variety
Mosse Moussamoussettes 2020	\$43	Sparkling	Grolleau Noir, Cabernet Franc, Pineau d'Aunis
Mosse Magic of Juju 2020	\$45	White	Chenin Blanc, Loin de l'Oeil
Mosse Bangarang 2020	\$41	Red	Pineau d'Aunis, Cabernet Franc
Domaine de la Garrelière AOC Touraine Cendrillon 2019	\$43	White	Sauvignon Blanc
Domaine de la Garrelière AOC Touraine Le Ptit Chnin 2020	\$39	White	Chenin Blanc
Domaine de la Garrelière Marquis de C 2018 - limited	\$53	White	Chardonnay
Domaine de la Garrelière Milliard d'Etoiles - limited	\$55	Sparkling	Cabernet Franc, Chenin
Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Le Rosé de la Cabane 2020	\$34	Rosé	Cabernet Franc
Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Gamay Sans Tra La La 2020	\$43	Red	Gamay

We've also put together some good value packs using most of these wines.

## What's Coming Soon

We received a lot of new wines recently and will be releasing them in stages so it's a more manageable process. These are the wines we will be releasing soon.

From the recent arrivals we are next intending to release more wines from the Loire, including from **Julie and Toby Bainbridge**.

Two cuvées are familiar names from when we used to import their wines as Bainbridge and Cathcart, although the grapes are from different vineyards. Rouge Aux Lèvres is 100% Groslot Noir, made using semi-carbonic maceration and is only 10.5%. it's a good chilled picnic wine – not too complicated or powerful. Les Jongleurs is 100% Chenin Blanc. It was fermented and aged in fibreglass and the result is also a light, very fresh and easy drinking wine. It has been lightly filtered.



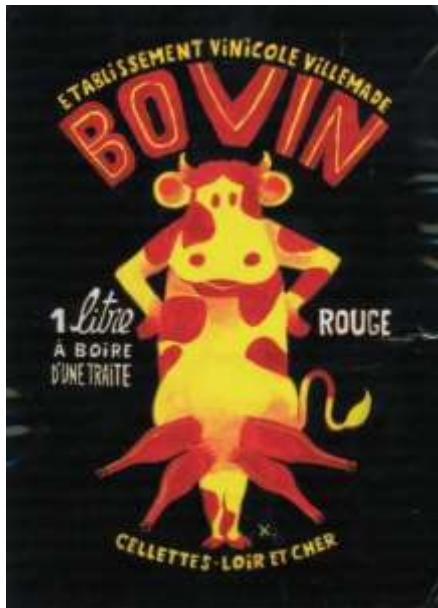
The final wine, called Girl on Fire, is Julie's first single-handed project. It is a slightly pétillant rosé made with 100% Cabernet Franc, but using a complex and unusual process. A part of the base wine was frozen after the grapes were pressed. The rest of the juice was fermented naturally.

Then, after winter, and a week before bottling, the frozen juice was thawed and added back to the juice, which kicked off further fermentation.

The wine is apparently officially still, because it has only 3 bars of pressure, but it drinks as a gently sparkling wine. It has aromas of white peach – we so wish it was Bellini season to use this as the mixer.

The wine was released to coincide with International Women's day and in collaboration with Lisanne Van Son, whose wines are soon to be available In Australia from Vivant Selections, 1€ of each bottle sold was donated to Solidarite Femmes, an association that helps women who are victims of violence.





We're also releasing the new wines we have received from **Hervé Villemade**, which will include the 2020 Bovin Blanc (mainly Sauvignon Blanc but with the "fin de presse" of other white varieties as well) and Bovin Rouge (100% Gamay). These are 1 litre bottles and will be well-priced. It is a vintage he is very excited about, believing it's a much more traditional expression of the Loire.

Some of the shipment's highlights include both the 2018 and (in very limited quantities) the 2010 vintage of Cour-Cheverny Les Acacias, which is 100% Romorantin. There's more about Romorantin in another section of this newsletter. We also have, for the first time in many years, La Bodice, the Cheverny Blanc Hervé makes from older vines (getting to 40 years of age). A blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Chardonnay, the 2019 vintage

was aged partly in old barrels and partly in amphora. It's a complex wine, perfect with spicy flavoured dishes. There is also a tiny quantity of the 2019 vintage of Les Ardilles, a blend of 85% Pinot Noir and 15% Gamay. This is for keeping not drinking now. For drinking now, as well as the Bovin wines there are two 2019 whites (Sauvignon, which is 100% Sauvignon Blanc, and Cheverny Blanc Domaine, which is a blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Chardonnay) and Cheverny Rouge Domaine 2020 which is 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Gamay.



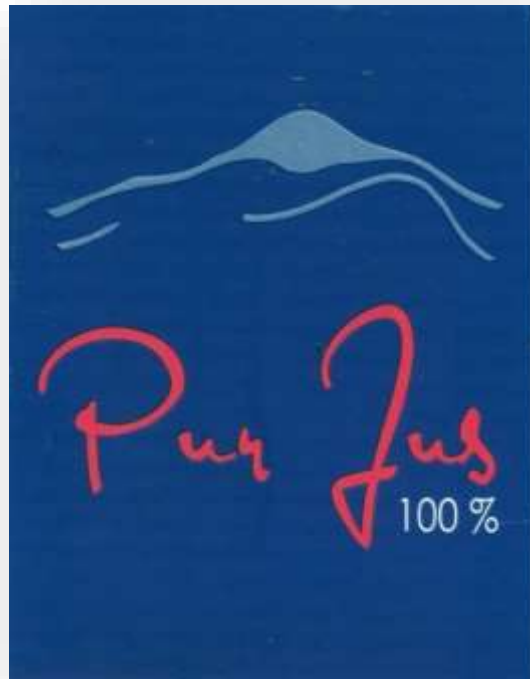
Also in this next release will be our top up delivery of wines from Fanny Sabre. It's mainly more of the delightful 2019 Bourgogne Aligoté, for which advance orders have severely depleted the availability, and a little more 2018 Bourgogne Rouge. Reservation requests are especially recommended for the Aligoté. The other repeats are very limited – some Saint-Romain Blanc 2018, Pommard 2018, Volnay 2018, and Beaune Premier Cru Rouge Les Chouacheux 2017.

There will be ordering limits on all of these. There are also two new wines, including Cuvée Camille, a Blanc de Noir sparkling wine, which we have for the first time and the most recent vintage (2020) of Sainte-Marie-La-Blanche Cuvée Anatole Rouge.

We imagine that it will not be until after the next newsletter is published that we will release our shipment from the south of France which has wines from Mataburro and vinegar from La Guinelle. We talked about them in some detail in May's newsletter and will include more news in the next one once we have had a chance to look at them all. We'll save our other release from the south of France until then too – some new wines from Julie Brosselin and Ivo Ferreira (**Les Cigales Dans La Fourmilière**). It's predominantly their jointly-made "drink first, ask later" 2020 Marée Basse and Ivo's 2020 Escarpolette Le Blanc, macerated Grenache Blanc, Muscat à Petit Grain, and Chardonnay, with smaller quantities of other wines including another jointly-made cuvée La Polonaise, a blend of Muscat à Petit Grain and Chardonnay.

## Pack 1: “Not So New” New Arrivals Pack (15% Discount)

4 packs only



We missed a newsletter in June, which means that these new arrival wines we set aside for the newsletter have been superseded by another shipment. Hence we’re calling this pack the “Not so New” New Arrivals pack.

It includes a bottle of Dominique Belluard’s thrilling Gringet made with no added sulphites called Pur Jus, which is now otherwise sold out.

There are two beautiful macerated wines from Jean-Marc Dreyer (the single origin Sylvaner and Stratos, which is a blend of Riesling, Auxerrois, and Sylvaner). These wines are also made with no added sulphites.

There are two types of bubbles - Les Capriades Piège à ... Rosé 2019, from the master Loire Valley maker of pet-nat Pascal Potaire (he and his business partner Moses Gadouche only produce pet-nats) and Julien Fremont’s thirst-quenching Le Poiré cider, which is about to sell out.

Finally, there is a white Burgundy from La Cadette. The appellation Vézelay is very new, and only available for white wines. That’s because the area is quite close to Chablis and has some of the same Kimmeridgian limestone.

- La Cadette Vézelay La Châtelaine 2018
- Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Stratos 2019
- Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Sylvaner Origin 2019

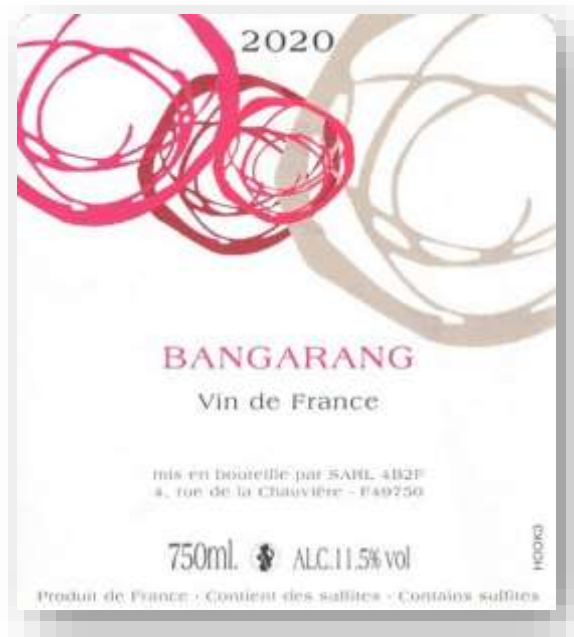


## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

- Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Blanc 100% Pur Jus 2019
- Les Capriades Piège à ... Rosé 2019
- Julien Fremont Le Poiré Cidre 2020

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$318 but the pack price is only \$270.30 including freight to most Australian cities.**

**Pack 2 - New Mosse Arrivals Pack (15% Discount)**



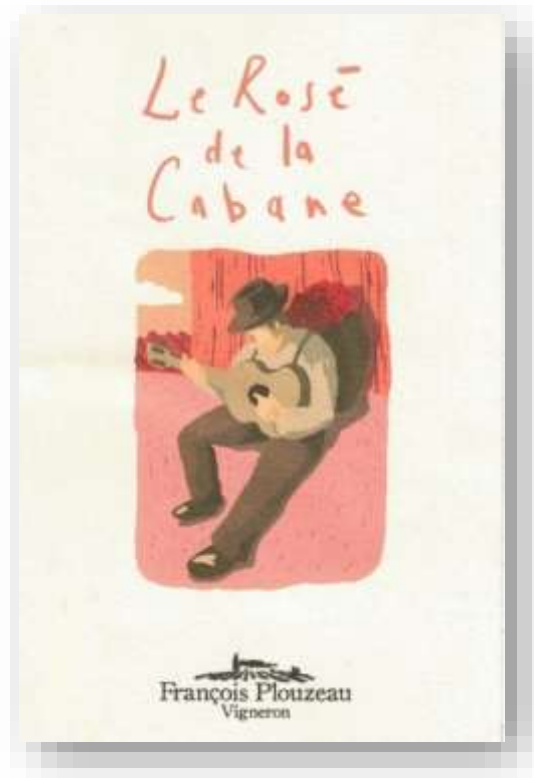
If you are looking for a way to make lockdown more bearable we can't think of a better solution than these wonderful new wines from Joseph and Sylvestre Mosse. 2020 (fortunately, given what happened this year with frost) was a good vintage in the Loire and we have a good supply of these wines at the moment.

We're hoping there will be no limits on availability of this pack. It's also some of the best value packs of wine we have had recently. It's two bottles each of the glorious rosé pet-nat Moussamoussettes (this year a blend of Grolleau Noir, Cabernet Franc, and Pineau d'Aunis), Magic of Juju (a white wine made with Chenin Blanc and Loin d'Oeil) and Bangarang (a light red somewhere between a red and rosé and best served chilled).

- Mosse Moussamoussettes 2020 (2 bottles)
- Mosse Magic of Juju 2020 (2 bottles)
- Mosse Bangarang 2020 (2 bottles)

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$258 but the pack price is only \$219.30 including freight to most Australian cities.**

**Pack 3 - New Arrivals Value Pack - 15% discount**



This pack is a mix of the less expensive wines from our new arrivals from Domaine Mosse and Domaine de la Garrelière. We realise our prices are gradually increasing. This is inevitable unfortunately as the cost of most of our expenses – the wines, shipping, and storage costs - continue to rise (fortunately so far, while steep, at least the cost of the taxes is remaining constant – but just applied to a higher base).

So, while we wouldn't go so far to say these are everyday drinking prices it's as close as we can get these days! They are also all delicious drinking right now and a good mix with two bottles of a white wine (Le P'tit Ch'nin), a bottle of a rosé (the Domaine de la Garrelière Le Rosé de la Cabane, which is Cabernet Franc), two bottles of red (Garrelière's easy drinking Gamay Sans Tra La La, which literally translates as Gamay without fuss) and the Mosse Bangarang which sits somewhere between a red and a rosé.

- Mosse Bangarang 2020 (1 bottle)
- Domaine de la Garrelière AOC Touraine Le Ptit Chnin 2020 (2 bottles)
- Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Gamay Sans Tra La La 2020 (2 bottles)
- Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Le Rosé de la Cabane 2020 (1 bottle)

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$239 but the pack price is only \$203.15 including freight to most Australian cities.**

Pack 4 - Sparkling Pack – (15% Discount)



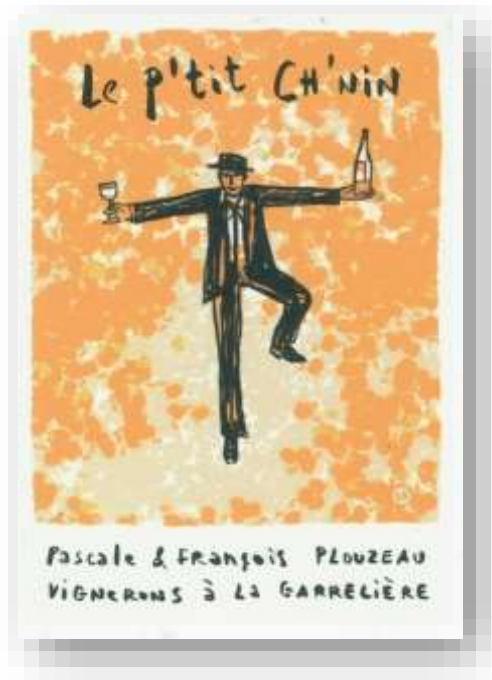
This pack consists of some well-known cuvées (we are talking about the ever-popular Moussamoussettes), some incredibly interesting sparklers (the Garrelière Milliard d’Etoile which is made from Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc to produce a dry, elegant wine and the Bulle Blanche from Villemade made from the rare Menu Pineau supplemented by some Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay to produce a moreish white bubbly with intense flavour).

These are supplemented by two elegant wines, one of which has arrived for the first time. The Les Capriades Pet Sec is the pet nat that Moses and Pascal are making to show that a pet nat can be just as sophisticated and pleasurable as a Champagne. And speaking of Champagne we have a new arrival from Roland Piillot that we are very excited about. The Cuvée Chevre, from the 2014 vintage, is a very interesting wine made from the three main grapes varieties in Roland’s vineyards, namely Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. This wine has been on lees from a long time and was only disgorged a few months ago!

- Mosse Moussamoussettes 2020 (2 bottles)
- Les Capriades Pet Sec 2019
- Villemade Vin de Table Bulle Blanche 2015
- Piillot Champagne Côte des Bar Cuvée Chevre 2014
- Domaine de la Garrelière Milliard d’Etoiles NV

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$357 but the pack price is only \$303.45 including freight to most Australian cities.**

**Pack 5 - Domaine de la Garrelière Pack – (15% Discount)**



This pack consists entirely of wines from our long-running supplier from the Touraine (in the central Loire Valley) which lies below the city of Tours. Domaine de la Garrelière produces amazing wines that are fresh, lively and made with passion and care.

There are three white wines (Cendrillon made from 100% Sauvignon Blanc, Le P'tit Ch'nin made from 100% Chenin Blanc and the sophisticated Marquis de C which is unusual for this region being made from 100% Chardonnay). The Milliard d'Etoiles is a sparkling wine and then there is a Rosé made from Cabernet Franc and the ever-popular Gamay Sans Tra La La which has only recently arrived in Australia.

- Domaine de la Garrelière AOC Touraine Cendrillon 2019
- Domaine de la Garrelière AOC Touraine Le P'tit Ch'nin 2020
- Domaine de la Garrelière Marquis de C 2018
- Domaine de la Garrelière Milliard d'Etoiles NV
- Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Le Rosé de la Cabane 2020
- Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Gamay Sans Tra La La 2020

The pack is very limited because we have very little Milliard d'Etoiles and even less Marquis de C so it may not be available for long.

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$267 but the pack price is only \$226.95 including freight to most Australian cities.**

## Pack 6: Alsace Pack – (15% Discount)



**An old barrel containing the Siggi juice**

It's one of the most exciting wine regions in the world, with so many grape varieties to work with and a deep history of biodynamic viticulture. But the bottles are a nightmare for us to ship in mixed packs because, thanks to their length, they fit in so few box types. We ship all our wines in reused boxes, mostly our own but occasionally (if they are very good boxes we can't resist or we are "deep in the weeds" as happens sometimes when we get wine in boxes which are unsuitable for reshipping) they are boxes we have scrounged from restaurant friends. As an aside, some people may say it's a fetish but for us, finding a really good box that fits many types of bottles is a moment of joy. We have even been known to fly home with very good empty boxes in our checked in luggage, so light they confuse the baggage check in machine and the people doing the checking in. But all that's an aside. We have some beautiful Alsace wines at the moment and have been hoarding Geschickt 6 pack boxes ready to be able to offer this pack.

There are two Pinot Noirs – the Geschickt is quite powerful, a wine for winter braises, and the Dreyer Elios is as light as our empty boxes. Although it's red, it's easily a wine you can drink without food as an apero and a perfect outdoor dining picnic wine if you're in warmer climes than we are at the moment. There are two single origin macerated wines from Jean-Marc Dreyer, one made with Auxerrois and the other Riesling (some of the last few bottles of the



## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

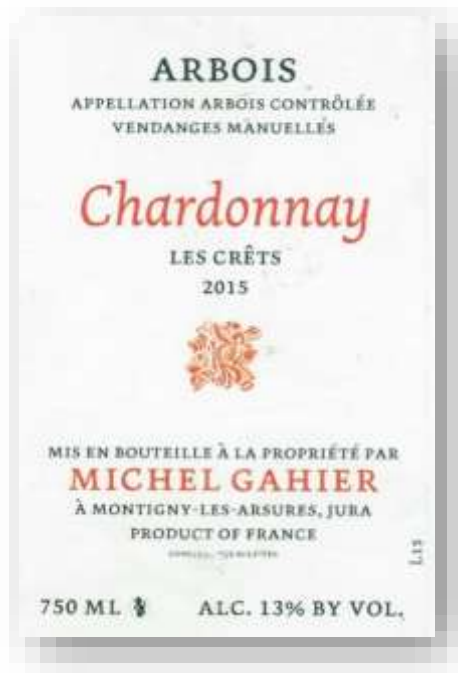
Riesling we have) and Sigg, which is a uniquely delicious and surprisingly complicated oxidative Sylvaner made in the style of many Jura whites. It was aged in the foudre you can see in the photo at the top of this pack but not topped up.

- Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Auxerrois Origin 2019
- Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir 2018
- Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Riesling Origin 2019
- Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Sylvaner Sigg 2017
- Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir Elios 2019

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$306 but the pack price is only \$260.10 including freight to most Australian cities.**

**Pack 7: First Rummage Pack - Approximately 19% Discount - 1 Pack Only**

One person can only buy either Pack 7 OR Pack 8 but not both.



We've had another rummage in some boxes we haven't looked at for a while and have put together two packs. They are both a totally random mixture, linked only by the fact they are no longer available on our website. Some are our normal 15% discount but a few have a bigger discount, either because they were shipped just before last year's lockdowns and returned because the venue was closed so were "in the wild" for a while or because we are not absolutely sure of the vintage. It's a classic Living Wines lucky dip.

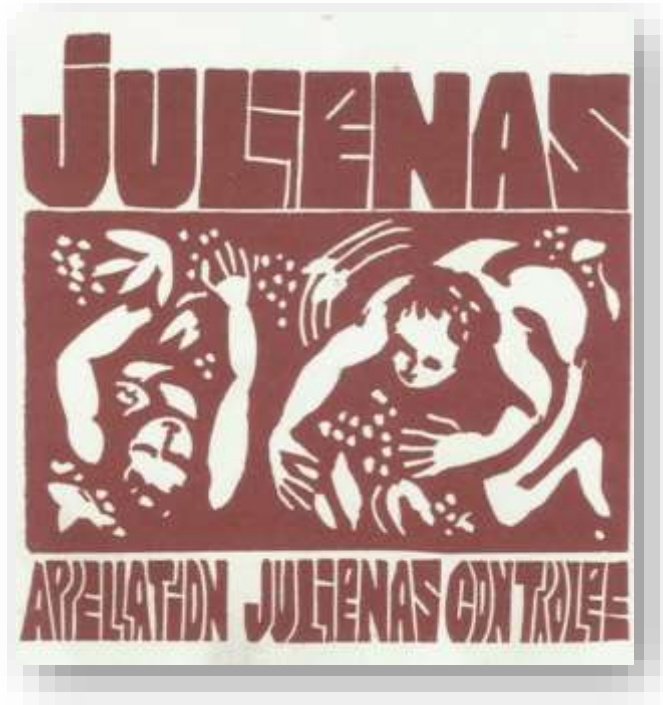
Pack 7 has two sparkling wines (a J-P Brun Crémant de Bourgogne, possibly from the 2013 vintage, and a bottle of 2019 Vincent Carême Fizzy Pink), two whites (Dominique Andiran Vain de Rû 8102, which is Colombard and is from the 2018 vintage, and Michel Gahier's Arbois Chardonnay Les Crêts 2015, which is topped up, but because of the old foudres and extended aging, is relatively oxidative) and two reds (La Soeur Cadette Juliéna 2017, which is a Cru Beaujolais and Axel Pruffer's Le Temps des Cerises Les Lendemain qui Chantent 2017, which is 100% Grenache Noir).

- Terres Dorées (Jean Paul Brun) Crémant de Bourgogne Charme
- La Soeur Cadette Juliéna 2017
- Michel Gahier Arbois Chardonnay Les Crêts 2015
- Le Temps des Cerises Les Lendemain qui Chantent 2017
- Dominique Andiran Vain de Rû 8102
- Vincent Carême Fizzy Pink 2019

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$281 but the pack price is only \$229.40 including freight to most Australian cities.**

**Pack 8: Second Rummage Pack - Approximately 20% Discount - 1 only**

One person can only buy either Pack 7 OR Pack 8 but not both.



This is the other result of the rummaging (see description of Pack 7 above). There is some overlap between this and Pack 7. This one has one bottle of sparkling (the Brun), two reds (the same Julié纳斯 and a bottle of the 2012 vintage of Fanny Sabre's Haute Côte de Beaune Rouge, and three whites (a bottle of Causse Marines 2013 Dencon, which is made from Ondenc, and the 2014 vintage of Domaine Saint Nicolas's Chenin Blanc Haut des Clous, grown on complex mix of schist, blue slate and quartz soil).

- Terres Dorées (Jean Paul Brun) Crémant de Bourgogne Charme
- La Soeur Cadette Julié纳斯 2017
- Causse Marines Dencon 2013
- Fanny Sabre Haute Côte de Beaune Rouge 2012
- Dominique Andiran Vain de Rû 8102
- Domaine Saint Nicolas Haut des Clous 2014

**The RRP for this selection of 6 wines is \$234 but the pack price is only \$189.45 including freight to most Australian cities.**

### Life in the soil

*We have held back the second of our two-part series of articles that looks at how soils are formed and how soils can provide an optimal environment for vines to thrive.*

*We have done this because it is a long article and this newsletter is already long enough! We will publish the article in the August special newsletter which will be number 100!!!*

### A Tribute to Dominique Belluard



We were, like so many others, devastated to hear of Dominique Belluard's death. It is still hard to realise we will never see him again at the Rue de Gringet, the unofficial name Dominique bequeathed to the road where his home and cellar are located, in sight of the majestic mountains which inspired the names of so many of his cuvées.



It is one more hard story to come to terms with as 2020 now stretches well into 2021. It has been harder because we had just received a pallet of wine from him and every day it has seemed we have been unpacking wine he had made and packed.

So close and yet so far away. It was comforting though to see the new vintage of his beautiful wines going to all parts of Australia, many to customers who have drunk them over many years, including some to people who previously were not customers of ours but had visited him and his vineyards.

Dominique was one of France's great vigneronns but he contributed much more than just his beautiful wines. His championing of Gringet, proving it was not, as had been thought, a local name for Savagnin but a variety in its own right, and of Savoie wines generally ensures his influence will always extend even further than Domaine Belluard's iconic wines like Le Feu and his sparkling masterpieces, all made with Gringet.



We have always been grateful for the happy coincidence that we were in Paris in November 2010 and that Michel Moulherat let us gate crash a private tasting of Savoie producers he had organised at La Cave de l'Insolite. It was a bar we gravitated to in that era and we just happened to try to call in for a glass of wine as the tasting was in full swing. Four days later we had placed our first order.

This photo is from the November 2010 tasting, the first wines of his we tasted:



Looking back, our customers must have loved them as much as we did because our first shipment arrived in January 2011 and we placed another order that same month. We also owed a lot to Katrina Birchmeier at Garagistes and later Rich Hargreave at momofuku seiōbo for pouring the wines and proselytising Dominique Belluard and Gringet with as much enthusiasm as we were, not so easy when we could all guarantee at that time that virtually no one in Australia would ever have tasted the variety.



## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

Dominique's death is inextricably linked with the difficulties and sadness which Covid-19 has imposed on all of us. But cocooned in Australia, even with the new and devastating current lockdowns, we don't think most of us have any idea just how hard the toll has been in countries where people had to put their lives on hold for many months at a time.

Many who lived through Melbourne's bleak winter lockdown last year will have a sense of how hard it has been, but the original consequences were felt for much longer in countries like France and Italy, where indoor dining and any sort of community activity was on hold for well over a year, health systems were pushed to their limits and the virus was much more rampant and pervasive.

This article in [Le Fooding](#), which is about the suicides of Dominique, Pascal Clairret, from Domaine de la Tournelle in Arbois, and Loire vigneron Olivier Lemasson (Les Vins Contés) is difficult reading (not least because it is in French) but is so worth persevering with to find some sense of the impact Covid, in the context of the catastrophic consequences of climate change – "a perfect storm", has had. It tells three very personal stories which have shocked and saddened so many people in the natural wine community across the globe.

His legacy is enormous. There are the wines, of course, many of which will not be drunk for years and the vineyards, like his beloved Le Feu, which he converted to biodynamics many years ago, giving so much of himself to improve the soils which so beautifully have expressed his work. And his extraordinary work over many years has helped to ensure the Savoie is now a region which is more widely known about and embraced. He achieved so much.



It has been such an honour to share Dominique's wines in Australia, and to follow and benefit from his continuing inventiveness, his constant search for perfection and his glorious winemaking. We are all lesser without him.

We're following convention and offering advice that if you, or someone you know, needs help, there is support available. In Australia services like [Lifeline](#) (tel 13 11 14) and [Beyond Blue](#) (tel 1300 22 4636) can provide such help.

## Answers to wine questions

Here we answer to questions we have been asked recently.

### Why do some people use the term “variety” when others use “varietal” when referring to grapes?

Exactly the same problem occurs in coffee culture where the two terms are used interchangeably and hence incorrectly.

This question really opens up a can of worms despite the fact that the answer is very simple.

However, to understand the difference we need to revisit formal English grammar. The difference is that the word *variety* is a noun and the word *varietal* is an adjective, with an adjective being used to qualify a noun.

For example, if we consider the phrase:

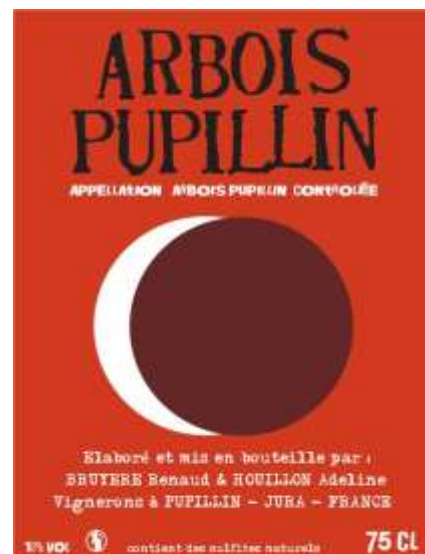
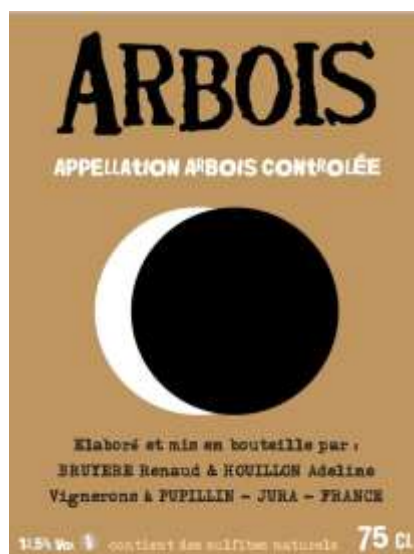
*The old house on the corner*

Then the word *house* is a noun because it refers to an object and the word *old* is an adjective because it “qualifies” or adds to our understanding of the house.

So, how should the word *varietal* be used? It should be used in a sentence such as the following:

*This wine from Hervé Villemade is made from the Romorantin grape variety. The varietal characteristics of Romorantin are discussed in another story in this newsletter.*

### What is the difference between Arbois and Arbois-Pupillin on a Jura label?



## WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

The answer is on the label although it is not entirely obvious. First, both Arbois and Pupillin are communes in France. Arbois is a medium-sized town and Pupillin is small village, just over three kilometres from Arbois. Even though Pupillin is a small village, with a population of approximately 250 people, it has its own marie (town hall) and its own local government.

The appellation system often chooses a specific commune to represent a number of communes that can produce wines with under a certain appellation. A very good example is the Cour-Cheverny appellation described in the next article about the Romorantin grape variety. If you scroll down, you will see that there are 11 communes from which you can make a Cour-Cheverny wine, provided you have used 100% Romorantin grapes.

The same rule applies to the use of Arbois, but it is slightly more complicated. There are twelve communes that have the right to put the appellation Arbois on the label. However, unless all the grapes have been specifically grown in the Pupillin commune then the appellation Arbois Pupillin cannot be used. Arbois Pupillin is, in effect, a sub-set of Arbois.

If some of the grapes come from Pupillin and others from a different commune then only the appellation Arbois can appear on the label. So grapes grown in Pupillin and can be Arbois Pupillin or Arbois, depending on whether they are all sourced from Pupillin or not.

As you can see from the table below, the town of Arbois has a larger population than Pupillin and also extends over a greater area.

	Arbois	Pupillin
Postcode	39600	39600
Area	45.42 Sq Km	6.61 Sq Km
Population	3314	241
Height (metres above sea level)	246 – 613	238 - 622

With reference to the wine labels above, the one on the left only refers to Arbois while the one on the right refers to both Arbois and Pupillin.

- Appellation Arbois Controlée
- Appellation Arbois Pupillin Controlée

This shows that Renaud and Adeline have used grapes from outside Pupillin for the one on the left, but all the grapes for the one on the right come from the area around Pupillin where they have a number of plots.

## Grape variety: Romorantin

Romorantin is a fascinating grape variety now found in the Loire Valley in the area east of the city of Tours near the town of Blois. Originally from Burgundy this variety was introduced into the Loire (sources are conflicting about who was responsible) and was planted near the village of Romorantin which has since grown into a larger town called Romorantin-Lanthenay.

From our research, we cannot find any other mention of it growing elsewhere in France or other countries.

It is likely that it was Francois 1<sup>st</sup> who had the idea of taking the vines to the Loire, but this contention needs further research to prove the veracity of the claim.

It wasn't, however, until 1993 that the appellation of Cour-Cheverny<sup>1</sup> was created specifically for the white Romorantin grape due to the quality of some of the wines being made in the area by around 20 different winemakers.

The appellation covers some 60 hectares within the 11 allowable communes listed below.

The communes that are permitted to use the Cour-Cheverny appellation are Cellettes, Cheverny, Chitenay, Cormeray, Cour-Cheverny, Huisseau-sur-Cosson, Montlivault, Mont-près-Chambord, Saint-Claude-de-Diray, Tour-en-Sologne and Vineuil.

Like many obscure grape varieties there are good wines and there are some terrible wines made from the grape.

We read in Victor Hugo's *Lucretia Borgia*<sup>2</sup> that *"if you have heard people's teeth chattering in terror at the mere mention of the notorious Borgia poison which is as white and scintillating as marble dust from Carrara and which, when put into wine, can change ordinary Romorantin wine into the finest Syracuse wine, then you will be careful not to touch the golden flagon."*

This shows that there was a perception in the 19th century that wine from Syracuse was of a higher quality than wines made in the area around the village of Romorantin.

Robert Parker<sup>3</sup> while generally being sceptical about the wines of the Cheverny and Touraine areas in general, pays some grudging respect to Romorantin by saying:

*"the one exception to ageworthiness is Cour-Cheverny, as the Romorantin grape has proven capable – both in dry and off-dry versions – of taking on a marvellous, if slightly oxidized, patina after several years and of aging interestingly for a decade or more."*

Romorantin has been confirmed as a child of Gouais Blanc which is a parent to so many different grape varieties and Pinot Teinturier.

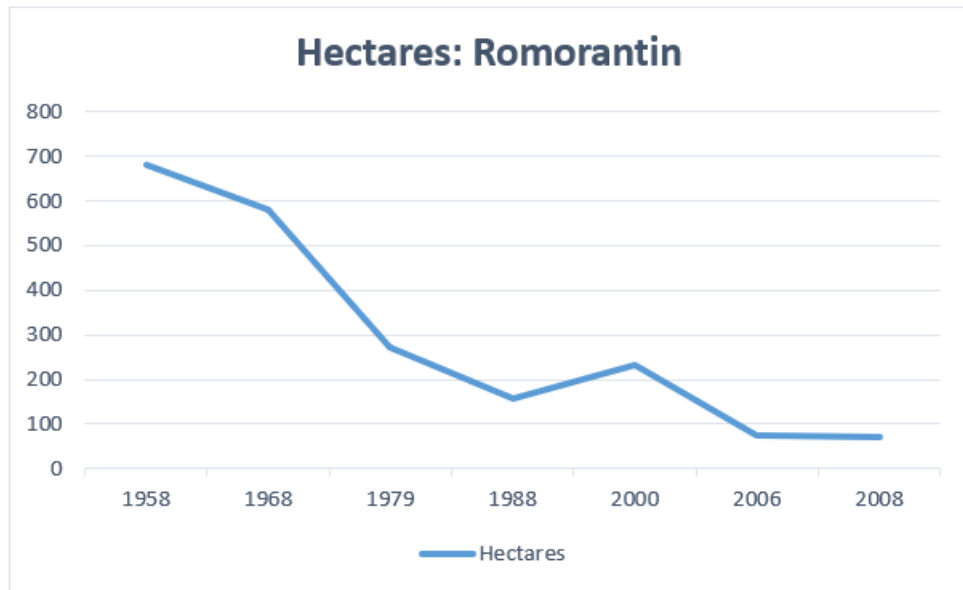
Since the 1950s the area planted to Romorantin has declined quite a bit from 680 hectares in 1958 to only 73 hectares in 2008., However, like many obscure, yet interesting grapes in France (Gringet, Fer Servadou, César and Abondance to name but a few) the significant number of French winemakers turning to natural wine production (over 3000 in our database of producers) is seeing a resurgence in the plantings of these interesting and delicious varieties.

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<sup>1</sup> Cour-Cheverny is a village about 20 kilometres north-west of Romorantin-Lanthenay

<sup>2</sup> Victor Hugo, *Lucretia Borgia Act Two: The Happy Couple*.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Parker, *Parker's Wine Buyer's Guide, 7th Edition*.



**The decline in area of Romorantin**

It is likely that we will see an uptick in the area planted because we have heard a number of reports of new plantings including at the famous Château de Chambord (which is currently outside the Cour-Cheverny appellation area).

The grapevines are hardy but are somewhat susceptible to disease. They have a slightly round leaf with minor serrations around the edge as can be seen from the photo below.



**The leaf of the Romorantin vine (Source Foodtourist.com)**

The grapes themselves are small and arranged in loose bunches. They take on some colour when ripe as can be seen from the photograph on the left below.





The bunches of the Romorantin grape (Source Foodtourist.com)

We find that the wines made from the Romorantin grape variety benefit from acquiring some oxidative quality, particularly those wines made from vineyards that have some age.

As the graph above shows, there are less than 75 hectares of Romorantin in the Cour-Cheverny appellation with about five of these belonging to Hervé Villemade who makes three different cuvées from this grape variety.

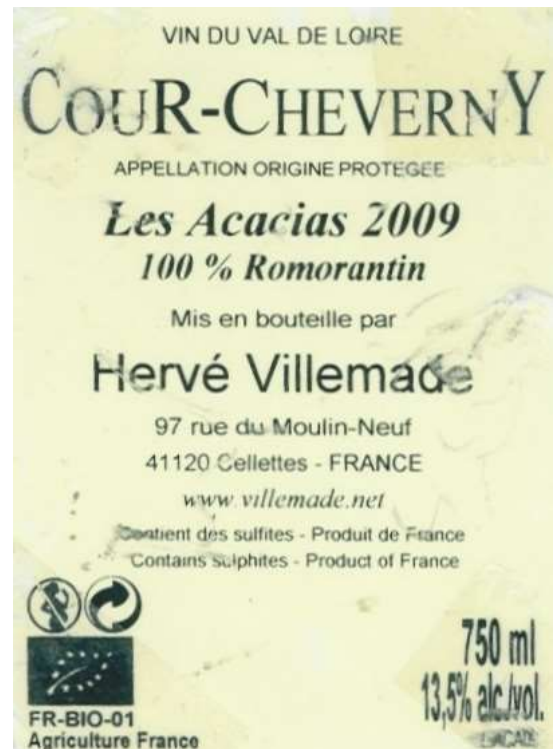


Hervé showing us his Romorantin vines (Source Foodtourist.com)

We will be releasing the 2010 and 2018 vintages of the Villemade Cour-Cheverny Romorantin wines early in August. These wines are incredibly delicious and carry oxidation beautifully.

Below we show both the front label for 2017 and the back label for 2009 his Romorantin wine as we don't have labels for the new ones yet.





The front label isn't very informative as it only contains the domaine name (Hervé Villemade), the name of the cuvée (Les Acacias) and the vintage (2017).

The back label is much more informative. The first line lets you know that this wine is from the Loire Valley. The second line, in the largest font, is the appellation name of Cour-Cheverny which is reinforced on the next line "Appellation Origine Protogee" which indicates that the appellation relates to an area of protected origin – in other words you can't put this on the label unless you conform to all the rules relating to the appellation. The remainder of the information relates to the name of the wine, the grape variety, the domaine information and the use of sulphites.

The bottom left shows that Hervé is certified by Ecocert (FR-BIO-01) and in the bottom right there is the bottle size, alcohol content and the all-important lot number (which we smudged getting the label off)!

The location of the Cour-Cheverny appellation is shown on the map below.



The location of the Cour-Cheverny appellation

## **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 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.