



Wine Talk: July 2009

The newsletter of Terroir Wines: Edition 6

Welcome to July edition of Wine Talk, Terroir Wines' newsletter. July is definitely all about France. July 14 is rapidly approaching and this cries out for French wine to celebrate the storming of the Bastille, an event that led to the August Decrees abolishing feudalism. And of course there is the armchair Le Tour de France – three weeks of following the tour through France's beautiful countryside, culminating in the next-to-final stage where the cyclists tackle the Giant of the South – Le Mont Ventoux.

Make sure that on the last Saturday night of the armchair Le Tour, you have your Côtes du Ventoux wines ready.

Terroir Wines' French specials for the Tour de France ...

Current specials for the onset of winter are ...

The **Ventoux Tour de France red 6-Pack**, which has 1 bottle each of these **Côtes du Ventoux** wines (see our website for details:

- Château Unang La Source 2006
- Château Unang St Gabriel 2007
- Château Unang Rouge 2006
- Domaine de Cascavel Le Cascavel 2005 organic red
- Domaine de Cascavel Les Amidyves 2004
- Carvinserail In Fine 2007

This pack is keenly priced at \$133.20 including freight (it is normally \$148 plus freight).

The **Ventoux Tour de France mixed white and red 6-Pack**, which has 1 bottle each of these **Côtes du Ventoux** wines:

- Château Unang Côtes du Ventoux La Source 2006
- Château Unang Blanc 2007
- Château Unang Cuvee Adeline 2006 white
- Château Unang St Gabriel 2007
- Domaine de Cascavel Le Cascavel 2005 organic red
- Chateau Unang Rosé 2007

This pack is priced at \$136.80 including freight (it is normally \$152 plus freight).

Tour de France climbs Mont Ventoux

Mont Ventoux is a massive mountain that lies north of Avignon and east of Orange in the Vaucluse region of France. It is known by locals as the Giant of the South because it dominates the entire region with its characteristic peak which is always white - sometimes from snow and at other times from the white limestone pebbles that carpet the summit.

The slopes of this massive mountain are home to sweeping fields of lavender and spelt, orchards of apricots and cherries and plantings of vineyards carpet the landscape. Villages

are dotted throughout the foothills including Caromb where we own a house with friends. Another is Bedoin a cycling town where many amateurs and professionals launch their bid to conquer the steep, twisting road that leads to the pinnacle of Mont Ventoux.

This year the last stage before the Tour de France heads for the relatively genteel Paris final day is a gruelling ascent of Ventoux.

We have trolled our picture library and extracted some shots of a drive we did to the summit in April of this year and some shots from the terrace of our house showing the white-clad pinnacle in the distance. This is the view we see every morning as we enjoy freshly-baked baguettes for breakfast and every evening as we relax with a glass of Ventoux wine on the terrace such as our Chateau Unang rosé .



Sun rising over cloud capped Mont Ventoux from Caromb in the early morning



Mont Ventoux from our terrace in Caromb



The final stretch to the summit with snow and limestone intermingled



Snow near the summit – even in April



The sign that the cyclists love to see!



Vines on the lower slopes of Mont Ventoux looking towards Bedoin

Read our Provence article in Gourmet Traveller magazine this month

The July edition of Gourmet Traveller magazine contains a story we have written about our favourite restaurants in Provence. If you are heading that way or if you have been there in the past you might like to read it to see which restaurants we have discovered in our many visits there.

PROVENCE ON A PLATE

For *GT* contributors and Francophiles Sue Dyson and Roger McShane, exploring the bistros and restaurants of Provence has been a work in progress for nearly 10 years. Here they open their little black book of favourite places.

Bon appétit.



Words Sue Dyson & Roger McShane Photography Christopher Wise

Grape variety: Mourvedre

Mourvedre is a red grape variety popular in southern France for making robust red wines with soft tannins. Perhaps the grape reaches its highest expression in the coastal Mediterranean region around the city of Bandol but it is also found widely in the southern Rhône especially in Chateauneuf-du-Pape where it is used widely and the Côtes du Ventoux appellation where it is blended with Grenache, Syrah and, sometimes, Carignan to produce elegant, interesting wines.

In addition to France it is widely grown in Spain where it is known as Monastrell, in California and in Australia where it is sometimes called by its Portuguese name of Mataro (due to its association with the making of port).

The grape produces wines that are big, somewhat feral and often with pronounced 'barnyard' aromas. However, their other characteristic is that can age beautifully as anyone who has tried an old Domaine Tempier Bandol or a Chateau Beaucastel Chateauneuf-du-Pape will testify (Bandol wines must comprise at least 50% Mourvedre and Beaucastel use about 70% Mourvedre in their big, powerful wines).

Now the good news is that you can experience the wonders of this grape in our **Chateau Unang La Source** which is a blend of Grenache, Syrah, Carignan and Mourvedre. This produces an elegant, refined, beautifully balanced wine with a lot of exciting things happening in the glass. Everyone who tries this wine seems to fall under its spell! And at \$31 it is a true bargain considering the quality of the wine.

Our next shipment will arrive in August!

In the last newsletter we explained that we have now sourced a number of wines from the Loire Valley and the Rhône. We can now report that they in their refrigerated container on the water heading for Australia.

We don't have pricing yet as the freight charges have not been finalised but they will be available in the next newsletter.

We have included a description of the vineyards again but we have also included the names of the specific wines we have ordered so you can see the range of individual offerings that will be available.

Domaine Saint Nicolas is a vineyard that lies very close to the Atlantic Ocean in the Vendée, just south of where the Loire spills into the Atlantic (not too far from the city of Nantes). Very few people know about the Fiefs Vendéens appellation or the wines produced here but winemaker Thierry Michon is becoming a cult figure in Paris and the United States for his precise winemaking skills and his vineyard practices, which are certified as biodynamic. His wines are on the wine list at the prestigious Le Grand Vefour in Paris, for example. He produces both red and white wines and we are particularly impressed with his Pinot Noir range. Brem is a sub-appellation within the broader Fiefs Vendeens appellation and it is here that Thierry has his vineyards.

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem Les Clous Blanc 2008

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem Reflets Rouge 2008

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem Cuvee Franc Blanc 2006

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem Le Haut des Clous Blanc 2006

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem Cuvee Maria Blanc 2005

Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem Cabaret Rouge 2006
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem Cuvee Jacques Rouge 2005
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem Le Poire Rouge 2005
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Brem La Grande Piece Rouge 2004

Domaine Stéphane Guion is a small estate in the Bourgueil appellation that lies between the cities of Tours and Angers. This is a red wine only appellation where the wines are based on either Cabernet Franc or Cabernet Sauvignon but local winemakers invariably favour Cabernet Franc. Stéphane's family was the first to adopt organic viticulture in this area and he only produces two wines – the Cuvée and the Prestige Cuvée. These wines will sell for a very reasonable price.

Domaine Stéphane Guion Bourgueil Cuvee Domaine
Domaine Stéphane Guion Bourgueil Cuvee Prestige

Domaine Mosse was one domaine that constantly appeared on the wines lists of natural wine bars and restaurants on a recent trip to Paris.

The first time we tried their natural Anjou Rouge the effect was startling. This is a wine that grabs you by the throat and says 'look at me!'. It is pure, it is made with precision and skill and it tastes absolutely wonderful. We are particularly excited about the Anjou Rouge 2007 which is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. This is a pure, thrilling wine that is fresh and lively on the palate and has a lingering finish. We are looking forward to the shipment which will include an Anjou Le Rouchefer 2007 Blanc and a rare Savenierres Arena 2007 (Savenierres is an appellation just south-west of the city of Angers where some wonderful wines are produced). We will also make available their lower priced, but not to be dismissed, Vin de Table.

Domaine Mosse Anjou Le Rouchefer Blanc 2007
Domaine Mosse Anjou Rouge 2007
Domaine Mosse Savennieres Arena 2007
Domaine Mosse Vin de Table Bois-Rouge 2007

Domaine de la Garrelière is another biodynamic estate just south of Tours run by Francois and Pascaline Plouzeau. Both Wine Spectator and Robert Parker in the United States have rated their wines highly. We love their Cendrillon (Cinderella) which is made from 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Chardonnay and their Touraine Gamay Sans Tra-La La.

Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Cendrillon 2008
Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Gamay Rouge 2008 (Gamay Sans Tra-La La)
Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Cuvee Cinabre 2007
Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Le Rouge 2007

Domaine du Moulin is where Hervé Villemade makes exceptional wines that can be found in many of the natural wine bars in Paris such as the wonderful Racines. We will be bringing in a wine that is intriguing because of its rarity. It is from the tiny appellation of Cour

Cheverny near Tours where the only permitted grape is Romorantin – a grape that was originally planted by the Romans in Burgundy. Hervé also makes some fine Sauvignon Blanc wines and red wines made from a blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay.

Domaine du Moulin Cour Cheverny Les Acacias Blanc 2006

Domaine du Moulin Cheverny Domaine Blanc 2008

Domaine du Moulin Cheverny Cuvee La Bodice Blanc 2007

Domaine du Moulin Cheverny Domaine Rouge 2008

Domaine du Moulin Cheverny Cuvee Les Ardilles Rouge 2007

Domaine Daniel Chotard produces classic Sancerre whites and reds in a beautiful area to the west of the village of Sancerre. We are particularly pleased with the elegant Cuvée Marie Henri but think you will also be surprised by the quality of red, which is a Pinot Noir.

Domaine Daniel Chotard Sancerre Blanc 2008

Domaine Daniel Chotard Sancerre Cuvee Marcel Henri 2007

Domaine Daniel Chotard Sancerre Rouge Cuvee 2006

Domaine Daniel Chotard Sancerre Rouge 2007

Domaine Catherine le Goeuil is in the southern Rhône near the village of Cairanne which lies not too far from Chateauneuf-du-Pape. Cairanne is a special village where the wine is considered to be of such high quality that growers can add the name of the village to the label. Catherine is a very thoughtful winemaker who produces only one cuvée called Cuvée Léa Felsch which is an elegant red wine of considerable complexity. We first tried this Cote du Rhône at Les Pupos wine bar in Paris and contacted Catherine the next day as we were so impressed with it.

Domaine Catherine le Goeuil Cotes du Rhône Villages Cairanne Cuvee Lea Felsch Rouge 2006

So August will be a busy month when the shipment arrives. More information about the individual wines is available on the Terroir Wines web site (www.terroirwines.com.au).

French Wine Labels Explained

We have looked at labels from the Ventoux and Morgon in past newsletters. This month we have a look at one from a special appellation called Cotes du Rhone Villages Cairanne which is part of the broader Cotes du Rhone appellation.

Most of the wine sold in this region is labeled as Cotes du Rhone. This means that the grapes come from somewhere in the broad area on either side of the Rhone and the grower has complied with yield requirements and any other rules that apply.

There is also a Cotes du Rhone Villages appellation where growers from about seventy six villages throughout the region can add the word Villages to the label indicating that it is likely to be of higher quality.

In addition, some villages have the right to include the name of the village on the label due to the recognized quality of the wines produced there. In the Department of Vaucluse there are the villages of Cairanne, Rasteau, Roaix, Sablet, Seguret, Valreas and Visan.

In Catherine Le Goeuil's label for her beautiful cuvee shown below you can see the name of the village proudly displayed near the top of the label. Cairanne lies north of

Chateauneuf-du-Pape and north-east of Orange on the plains that lie between the mighty Rhone river and the jagged mountains known as the Dentelles de Montmirail.



Order Form

Name:

Street:

Suburb: Postcode: State:

Telephone: Email:

Special - current newsletter selection	Price inc GST	Number	Sub-total
Ventoux Tour de France Red 6-Pack	\$133.20		
Ventoux Tour de France mixed White and Red 6-Pack	\$136.80		
Compose your own selection	Price per single bottle		
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux White 2007	\$20	LIMITED	
Chateau Unang Cuvee Adeline Côtes du Ventoux White 2006	\$30		
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux Rosé 2007	\$24		
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux Red 2006	\$21	LIMITED	
Chateau Unang La Source Côtes du Ventoux Red 2006	\$31		
Chateau Unang La Croix Côtes du Ventoux Red 2005	\$50		
Chateau Unang Carignan St Gabriel Red 2007	\$24		
Domaine de Cascavel Cuvee le Cascavel Côtes du Ventoux Red 2005	\$23	LIMITED	
Domaine de Cascavel les Amidyves Côtes du Ventoux Red 2004	\$32		
Caravinserrail In Fine Côtes du Ventoux White 2007	\$17	SOLD OUT	
Caravinserrail In Fine Côtes du Ventoux Red 2007	\$17	LIMITED	
Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône White 2006	\$25	LIMITED	
Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône Red 2006	\$19		
Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône Villages Valreas Red 2005	\$28		
Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône Villages Visan Red 2005	\$26		
St Jean du Barroux Oligocene Red 2004	\$55		
Jean Marc Burgaud Morgon Les Charmes 2007	\$36	LIMITED	
Jean Marc Burgaud Morgon Côte du Py Reserve 2007	\$42	LIMITED	
Jean Marc Burgaud Morgon Côte du Py 2007	\$40		
Jean Marc Burgaud Morgon Côte du Py James 2007	\$57	SOLD OUT	
Jean Marc Burgaud Bull'Go sparkling	\$ 38.00	LIMITED	
		Total	

Note: Please send your order to wine@terroirwines.com.au, post it to GPO Box 2160, Hobart, 7001, Tasmania or fax to 03 62247552. We will then contact you to discuss payment arrangements. You can pay by credit card, cheque or direct bank deposit. If you order wine in lots of 6 (they can be mixed) we will pay the freight charges anywhere in Australia. If freight costs apply, we'll contact you and let you know how much it will be is before processing your order.