

WINE Talk: January 2023

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 112

Welcome to newsletter 112, the first WINE Talk Newsletter for 2023. We hope you continue to enjoy reading them

Like our last newsletter in December, we have been able to put together 10 packs to offer in this January newsletter. There is information about summer shipping in the newsletter.

As well as the packs, the newsletter also has:

- News about wines that are arriving soon;
- Information about recent arrivals of which we still have stocks;
- A story about an excellent book by an American who lives in France who has written about his experiences with natural wine and natural wine producers throughout France and beyond.
- A story about wine capsules and their possible demise.
- A story about a radio program about the future of cork.
- A story about the Macabeu grape variety.

For a full list of wines currently in stock and their prices see:

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

There's an easy way to order our wines. Just send us an email listing the wines and/or packs you would like to order or even just a budget and your style and region preferences. We confirm a plan by return email before processing your order.

If you're not personally known to us or haven't already, please also provide your date of birth so we stay legal (a requirement of Tasmanian legislation). You must of course be over 18 years of age to order.

Shipping

At the moment many of you will know that for most of the interstate locations we ship to, because of the warm weather and the fact it takes at least a week, if not more, to ship to almost anywhere with Aramex at the moment, we are only shipping with Anonymous Wines, where the temperature is controlled.

This includes Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane/Gold Coast, Northern NSW, much of regional Victoria, and Adelaide. We subsidise the freight but have to add a small charge. The other downside of this decision is that, because they do not collect orders in Tasmania, we have to accumulate pallets of wine to ship to them. It makes our shipping very lumpy – with approximately two week gaps between the shipping of orders.

If you want to place an order and haven't been ordering this summer and need to know the cost for your region please contact us. We hope to ship a new pallet towards the end of next week. For Western Australia orders, which are handled differently, but also shipped refrigerated in the warm months, it will be next month at the earliest because we have just shipped a pallet.

New arrivals

We are adding a few new wines to our website this week. We've summarised them below. The prices which follow are single bottle prices. As usual if you order any of these wines as part of a 6 pack we discount them by 10% and offer subsidised or free freight, depending on the destination and/or shipping method.

Fanny Sabre

We have a small shipment of wines from Fanny Sabre. You will find a few in some of this month's packs but they are also available to order directly while we still have stocks.

These are the available wines, with maximum order limits (unfortunately very limited). We are not expecting some of these wines to be available for long. However, it's highly likely the aligoté will last a little longer. If it does, we'll remove the limit at the end of this coming week so if you would like more should they become available please let us know.

| Wine | Variety | Price | Maximum |
|--|---------------------|-------|---------|
| Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Blanc 2021 | Chardonnay | \$74 | 1 |
| Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Aligoté 2021 | Aligoté | \$69 | 2 |
| Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Rouge 2021 | Pinot Noir | \$78 | 1 |
| Fanny Sabre Mercurey Blanc 2020 | Chardonnay | \$112 | 1 |
| Fanny Sabre Beaune 1er Cru Les Chouacheux Rouge 2021 | Pinot Noir | \$165 | 1 |
| Fanny Sabre Volnay 1er Cru Santenots 2020 | Pinot Noir | \$206 | 1 |
| Fanny Sabre Morey-Saint-Denis 2008 | Pinot Noir | \$151 | 1 |
| Fanny Sabre l'Oranger de Pierre 2021 | Aligoté (macerated) | \$74 | 1 |

Le Temps des Cerises (Axel Prufer) and La Bouc à Trois Pattes (Wim Wagemans)

We're also releasing some wines from Languedoc vignerons and friends Axel Prufer (Le Temps des Cerises) and Wim Wagemans (La Bouc à Trois Pattes). We have just begun to put information about them on our website.

We always think of them together, which is why we've released them together. Axel introduced us to Wim over a couple of long lunches at Cave Saint Martin in Roquebrun, which as well as including Wim included some of Wim's wines. Our first two shipments from him were tiny, just a few cases on the same pallet as Axel's wines. In 2021 he had a good enough vintage for us to buy a whole pallet from him but we still asked him to take the pallet to Axel's so they travelled together. It feels only appropriate to release them together.

Axel's wines:

| Wine | Type | Variety | Price |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Le Temps des Cerises Avanti Popolo 2021 | Red | Carignan, Grenache | \$37 |
| Le Temps des Cerises Fou du Roi 2021 | Red | Carignan, Grenache, Cinsault | \$44 |
| Le Temps des Cerises La Capitulation Ne Pai Pas 2021 | Light Red | Cinsault | \$48 – maximum 1 bottle |
| Le Temps des Cerises Jalava 2021 | Light Red | Cinsault | \$51 |
| Le Temps des Cerises Les Lendemain Qui Chantent 2021 | Red | Grenache | \$69 |
| Le Temps des Cerises La Peur du Rouge 2021 | Macerated (Carbonic Maceration) | Chardonnay, Clairette | \$51 |
| Le Temps des Cerises La Peur du Rouge Pet-Nat 2021 | Sparkling (just) | Chardonnay, Clairette | \$60 |

Wim's wines

| Wine | Type | Variety | Price |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Perdu Dans Les Dunes 2021 | Macerated (Carbonic Maceration) | Clairette | \$44 |
| Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Miss Piggy Blues 2021 | Rosé | Muscat à Petits Grains Rose, Cinsault | \$44 |
| Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Un Coup de Kuq 2021 | Red | Syrah | \$44 |
| Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Vin de France 2021 | Red | Syrah | \$58 |
| Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Quel Âne de Course 2021 | Red | Carignan | \$44 |

| Wine | Type | Variety | Price |
|---|------|---|-------|
| Le Bouc à Trois Pattes French Press Shiraz 2021 (note: despite the name Shiraz is not the dominant grape!) | Red | Merlot (50%), Syrah, Muscat de Hambourg, Terret Bourret, Alicante Bouschet, Muscat à Petits Grains Blanc, Chardonnay, Grenache Gris | \$49 |

What's coming next

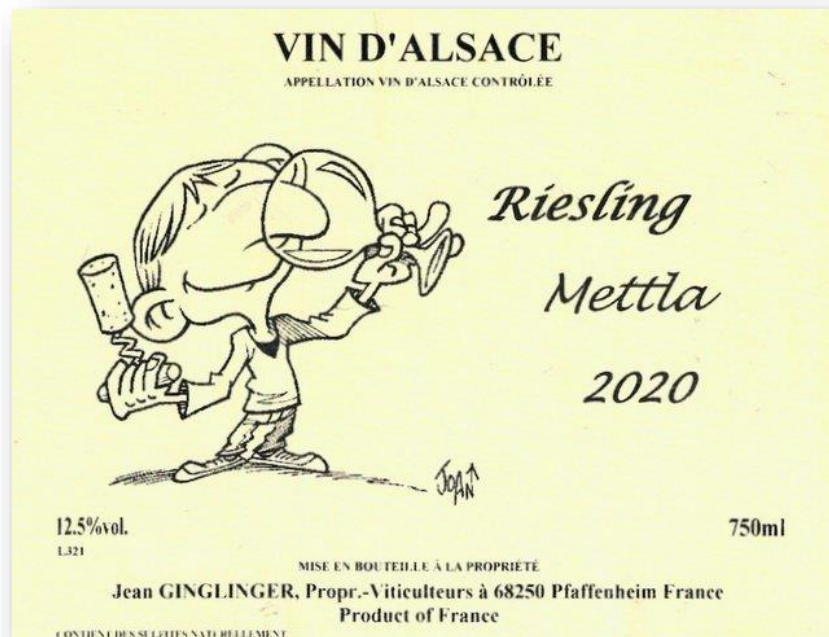
We have a big shipment (for us!) from the **Mosse family**. We're hoping to release these wines - Moussamoussettes 2021 (with no ordering limits), and in lesser quantities Bisou 2021, La Joute 2021, Overmars 2020, Cabernet Franc 2020, Chenin 2021, Bangarang Primeur 2022 and a small amount of a second shipment of Nova 2021 (the 218 day infusion of Chenin Blanc from the Bonnes Blanches vineyard which was so extraordinary). We also have a new red vermouth which we tasted when we were in France last year and were completely charmed by. These will be advertised but you are welcome to request advance information.

In the immediate future (days not weeks) we are still sending out offers for Bornard and Gahier so don't be concerned if you requested an allocation but haven't heard from us – we are working our way through the offers. After that we will be allocating some **Octavin** wines. It's not too late to request an Octavin allocation if you haven't already. The wines are unlikely to be offered until late February at the earliest.

The next releases after that are likely to be from Beaujolais vigneron **Michel Guignier** and **Domaine du Gringet**. Domaine du Gringet is the estate to emerge from the sale of Dominique Belluard's Domaine Belluard. We wrote a long story about it and the wines we will be releasing in [December 2022 newsletter](#). We are not sure yet if we will advertise or allocate these wines but please register your interest if you would like some.

Pack 1: New Arrivals Ginglinger Pack (15% discount)

Note: 2 packs available



This is a very desirable pack of interesting wines from Alsace from Jean Ginglinger. There are two packs available only and almost all of these wines are otherwise sold out! All of the wines except for the Pinot Noir are either white or macerated and the grape varieties are shown in the names below. The only exception is that the Mettla Riesling also has a touch of Sylvaner Rose in it as well as the dominant Riesling.

There are two bottles of the highly pluggable (Glou Glou) Pinot Blanc, then a bottle of the Riesling from the Mettla vineyard and a bottle of Pinot Gris. These are followed by a very interesting Gewürtztraminer from the Steinert vineyard where the juice has been kept on the skins for a few days to extract some colour into the wine. Finally, there is a bottle of excellent Pinot Noir, the Alsace's region's famous red grape!

- Jean Ginglinger Vin d'Alsace Pinot Blanc Glou Glou 2020 (**2 bottles**)
- Jean Ginglinger Vin d'Alsace Riesling Mettla 2020
- Jean Ginglinger Vin d'Alsace Pinot Gris 2021
- Jean Ginglinger Vin d'Alsace Gewurztraminer Maceration Steiner 2019
- Jean Ginglinger Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir 2021

The RRP for this selection of **6 bottles** is \$334 but the pack price is only **\$283.90**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

We encourage use of our Anonymous Wines shipping service to Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Gold Coast, and Byron Bay area during summer months.

Pack 2: 2 of each Cadette Pack (15% Discount)



This pack is comprised of the three wines that we received from the Cadette family recently. There are two wines from Vézelay AOC, both from the same vintage, both made from Chardonnay and made the same way, so an opportunity to look at the impact of vineyard variation. There is also a Julié纳斯 made from Gamay grapes from Beaujolais.

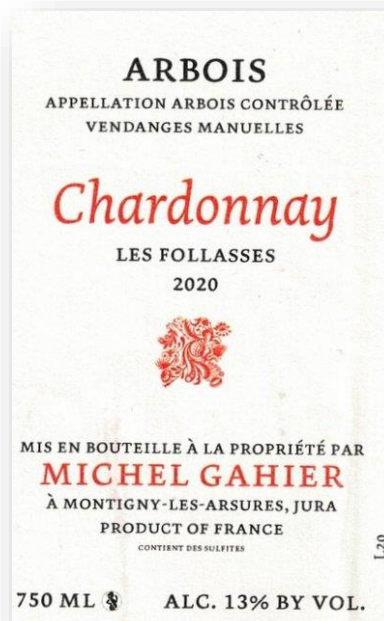
- La Cadette Vézelay La Châtelaine 2020 **(2 bottles)**
- Montanet-Thoden Vézelay Galerne 2020 **(2 bottles)**
- La Soeur Cadette Julié纳斯 2021 **(2 bottles)**

The RRP for this selection of **6 bottles** is \$344 but the pack price is only **\$292.40**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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Pack 3: Mainly New Arrivals Pack (Approx 12% discount)

Note: 2 packs only



This is a mixture of wines from many corners of France, all new or recent arrivals, including some not to be advertised. The first three are from Burgundy with the sought-after wines of the Cadette family (in this case one of their Montanet-Thoden offerings indicating that the grapes were sourced from one of Catherine's vineyards) and Fanny Sabre with her wonderful Aligoté from vines that her father planted in the rich soils of Pommard and a delicious Pinot Noir as well. It also includes the incredibly vibrant Les Follasses which is particularly energetic and lively this vintage, as well as two of Axel Prüfer's wines from the Languedoc – his long-running Avanti Popolo and his more recent Jalava. Both are red wines but Jalava veers more into light red territory.

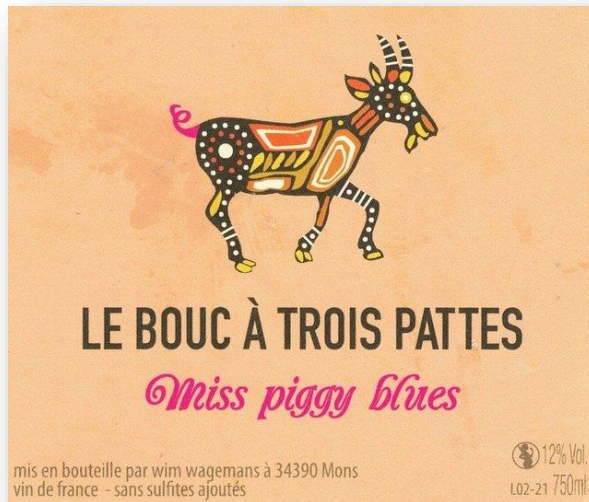
- Montanet-Thoden Vézelay Galerne 2020
- Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Aligoté 2021
- Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Rouge 2021
- Michel Gahier Arbois Chardonnay Les Follasses 2020
- Le Temps des Cerises Avanti Popolo 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises Jalava 2021

The RRP for this selection of **6** bottles is \$359 but the pack price is only **\$315.80**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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Pack 4: Languedoc Pack (15% Discount)

Note: 3 Packs Only



This pack comprises a mix of very exciting wines from an area of the Languedoc near the town of Bédarieux. (Axel Prüfer lives in Bédarieux, Wim Wagemans lives quite close by, and we pass Philippe Formentin from Opi d'Aqui on our way there). The three producers are imaginative, clever and have great plots.

Wim Wagemans from Le Bouc à Trois Pattes has a fascinating mind and is always thinking of new twists to his lovely, light creations. We have two of his masterpieces in this pack. We have been importing Axel Prüfer's wine for a long time now and he always creates wine of great charm and interest. The three wines we have included in this pack are no exception.

And finally, we have included another wine from this general area because Philippe is an exceptional winemaker who is always looking for innovative ways to get the best out of his grapes. L'Abricotier is 100% Grenache.

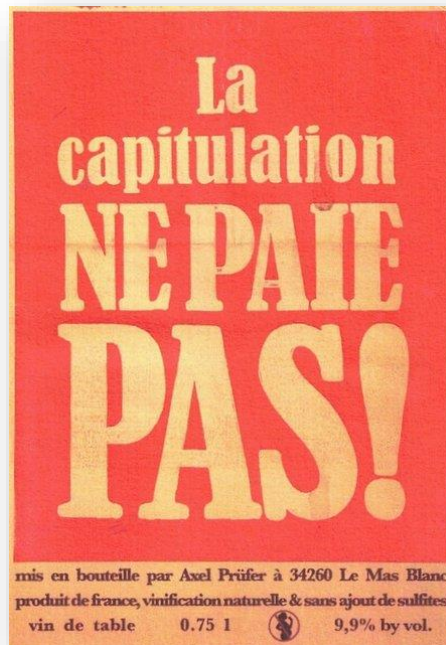
- Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Perdu Dans Les Dunes 2021
- Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Miss Piggy Blues 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises Avanti Popolo 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises Fou du Roi 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises La Peur du Rouge 2021
- Opi d'Aqui L'Abricotier 2019

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$270 but the pack price is only \$229.50. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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Pack 5: Les Temps des Cerises Pack (15% Discount)

Note: 1 pack only



It is rare that we can offer one each of Axel's new wines. We have managed this year, but there is only one! It includes the very rare La Capitulation Ne Pai Pas cuvée and the premium Lendemains Qui Chantent, 100% Grenache which perhaps we will have for the last time from this vineyard, as it is soon to be replanted due to the impact of the disease flavescente dorée which is becoming an increasing problem in France. There is also one bottle of the white Peur du Rouge and a bottle of Peur du Rouge Pet Nat which Axel makes occasionally. This one is a little more nat than pet with only gentle bubbles.

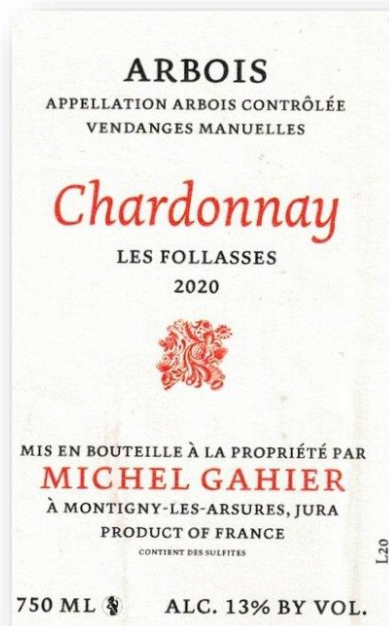
- Le Temps des Cerises Avanti Popolo 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises Fou du Roi 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises La Capitulation Ne Pai Pas 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises Les Lendemains Qui Chantent 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises La Peur du Rouge 2021
- Le Temps des Cerises La Peur du Rouge Pet-Nat 2021

The RRP for this selection of **6** bottles is \$309 but the pack price is only **\$262.65**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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Pack 6: Mainly Gahier Pack (Approx 12% Average Discount)

Note: 1 pack only



We are delighted to have received a new shipment of the ever-popular Gahier wines from the Jura. Michel is a thoughtful and meticulous winemaker who has some very prestigious plots for his vines close to the village of Montigny-les-Aures which is the area where Trousseau is favoured over Ploussard (the soil and climate is different to that found in Pupillin where Ploussard is generally planted) even though it is less than 15 kilometres away.

We have also included two fresh wines from the Milan family in Provence, both designed to be drunk young.

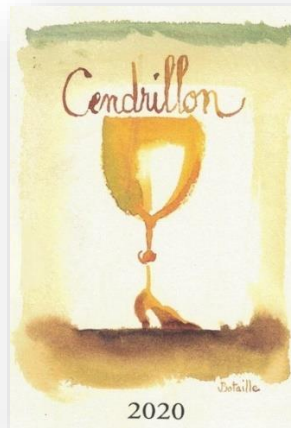
- Michel Gahier Arbois Chardonnay Les Follasses 2020
- Michel Gahier Arbois Chardonnay Les Crêts 2019
- Michel Gahier Arbois Trousseau Le Clousot 2020
- Michel Gahier Arbois Trousseau Le Vigne de Louis 2020
- Milan Haru Rosé 2021
- Milan Haru Rouge 2021

The RRP for this selection of **6 bottles** is \$377 but the pack price is only **\$334.80**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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Pack 7: Bornard and More (Approx 13% discount)

Note: 1 pack only



This pack comprises 5 interesting and delicious wines accompanied by one of our exciting wine vinegars from La Guinelle, which we also import.

The wines are one of our long-running white wines from Garrelière in the Loire Valley (100% Sauvignon Blanc and partly aged in old wood), two wines from Tony Bornard in the Jura (a 100% Pinot Noir from one of his plots in Pupillin in a lieux-dit called Feule and Les Chassagnes, which is a topped up Savagnin and one of the domaine's most famous wines). We then have two wines from Provence from the Milan family. One is a complex, gastronomic rosé, which was only made once, from Grenache and Syrah, to celebrate the birth of Theo and Natalie Milan's second son, Noah. It was aged in aged in a neutral oak foudre for 2 years. Unusually, and because of its inspiration both Theo and Natalie's names are on this bottle. The other is a fresh red called Haru (Spring) made from Syrah, Carignan and Grenache.

The vinegar is La Guinelle's most classic cuvée - Vinaigre de Banyuls, made with a natural wine from the Banyuls appellation.

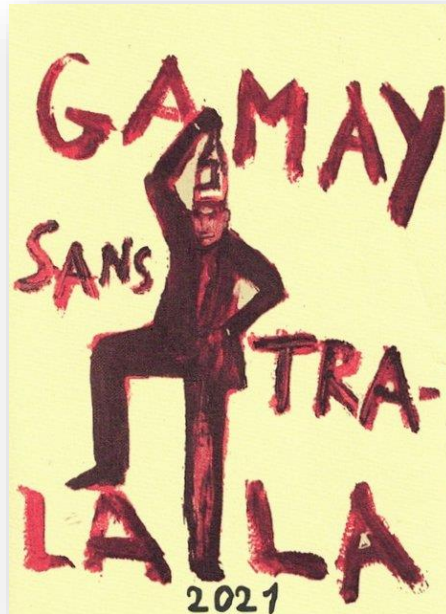
- Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Cendrillon 2020
- Domaine Bornard Pinot Noir Petit Feule 2018
- Domaine Bornard Savagnin Les Chassagnes 2020
- Milan Noah Rosé 2020
- Milan Haru Rouge 2021
- La Guinelle Vinaigre de Banyuls 50 cl

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$354 but the pack price is only \$309.00. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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Pack 8: Mixed Red (Almost 15% discount)

Note: 1 pack available



This pack, of which there is only 1 available, has some real gems from some of our best producers. There is a bottle of the beautifully-made red Burgundy from Fanny Sabre and a Beaujolais from Julié纳斯 made by the Montanet family.

We have also included a wonderful Trousseau made by Michel Gahier from grapes picked from his Le Clousot vineyard, which is close to his home in the village of Montigny-les-Arsures. There is also a Reynard Rebels made by the Milan family from purchased, biodynamic Merlot and Carignan. And finally, the ever-popular Domaine de la Garrelière Gamay Sans TraLaLa from the Touraine region in the Loire Valley (possibly appellationed for the last time, as the Plouzeau family, like many of our vignerons, move to Vin de France.

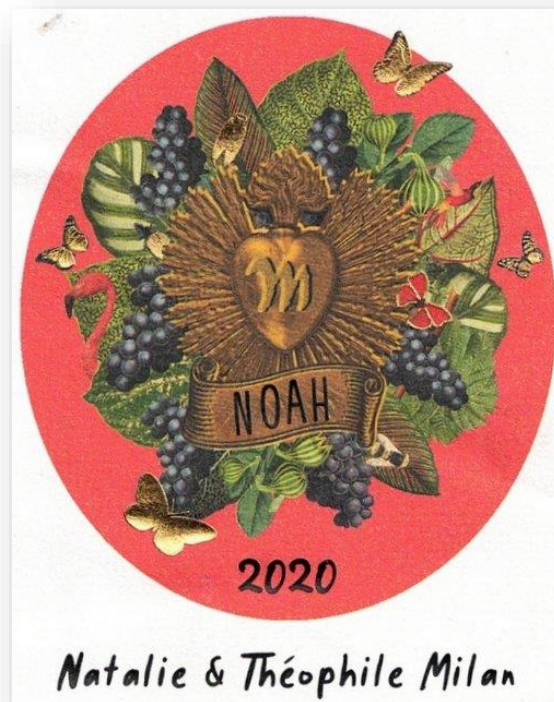
- Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Rouge 2021
- La Soeur Cadette Julié纳斯 2021
- Michel Gahier Arbois Trousseau Le Clousot 2020
- Milan Reynard Rebels 2021
- Opi d'Aqui L'Abricotier 2019
- Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Gamay Sans TraLaLa 2021

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$345 but the pack price is only \$296.05. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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Pack 9: Easing out of Summer Bargain Pink Pack (Almost 20% Discount)

Note: 6 packs available



This special pack is comprised of all the rosé wines we currently have available, which also includes one sparkling rosé from the Milan family in Provence. We have included 2 bottles of two of them.

Haru Rosé was created from Grenache, Syrah and Merlot from the Milan's own vineyards and is a very fresh expression of their winemaking as is the one-off Noah rosé which Natalie and Théo made together (see description in Pack 7). The other Milan wine is a Pet'Nat made from Grenache Noir, Muscat and Alicante picked from their vineyard near Eyragues.

The final wine is a lovely rosé from Julien Peyras made from Grenache and Syrah picked from his Languedoc vineyards and, as always, made without the addition of any sulphites.

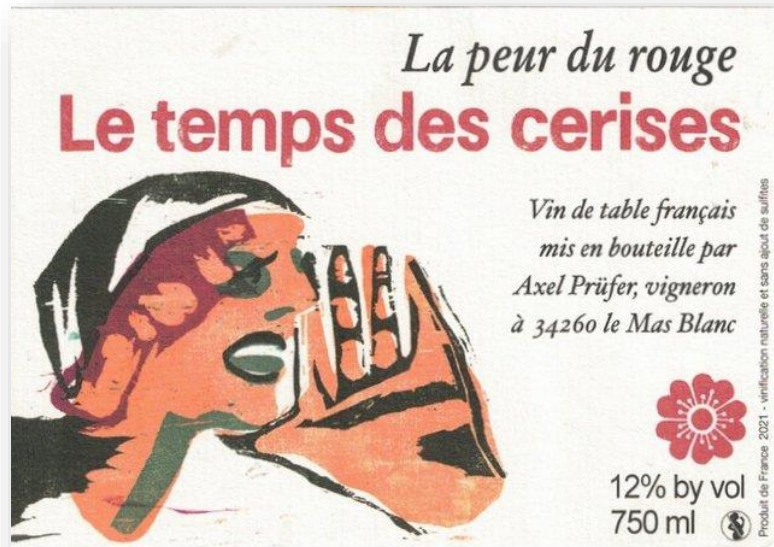
- Milan Haru Rosé 2021 **(2 bottles)**
- Milan Noah Rosé 2020
- Julien Peyras Rosé Bohême 2021 **(2 bottles)**
- Milan Pet'Nat Rosé 2021

The RRP for this selection of **6 bottles** is \$289 but the pack price is only **\$234.35**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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Pack 10: Mixed White Grapes Pack (15% Discount)

Note: 3 packs available



This pack gives you access to two bottles of the highly sought-after Fanny Sabre Aligoté made from grapes picked from vines that her father planted in the rich, red soils of Pommard which are famous as the basis for the wonderful Pinot Noir produced in this appellation. This wine shows that white grapevines thrive here as well.

We have also included two other white Burgundy wines from further north near Vézelay made by the Cadette family, both from Chardonnay which grows particularly well here. There is also a white from Axel Prüfer made from mainly Chardonnay with some Clairette added. The pack is rounded out with a bottle Sauvignon Blanc from the Garrelière family in Touraine.

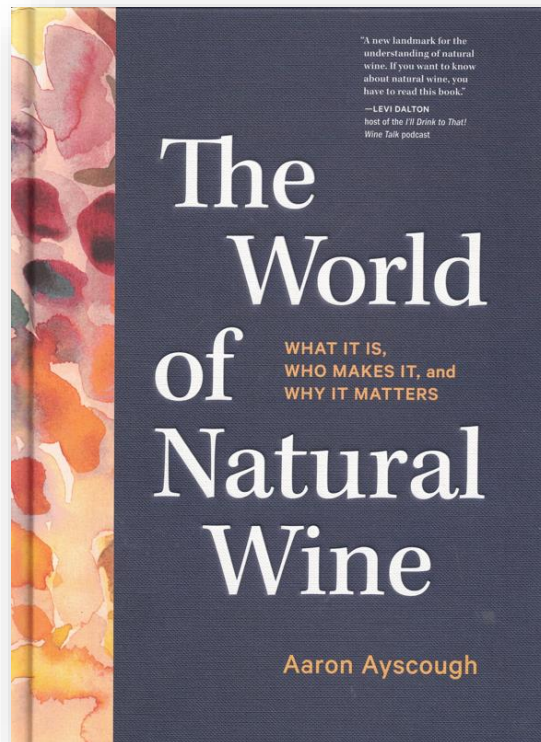
- Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Aligoté 2021 **(2 bottles)**
- La Cadette Vézelay La Châtelaine 2020
- Montanet-Thoden Vézelay Galerne 2020
- Le Temps des Cerises La Peur du Rouge 2021
- Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Blanc de la Mariée 2021

The RRP for this selection of **6 bottles** is \$363 but the pack price is only **\$308.55**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

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The World of Natural Wine by Aaron Ayscough



We were delighted to receive one of the most useful books on the natural wines of France that we have seen in a long time recently. It has been authored by long-term natural wine aficionado Aaron Ayscough who we have often seen at Salons and in bars such as Camille Fourmont's delightful La Buvette in the 11th in Paris. We have also been very impressed with his in-depth writing about the natural wines of the Beaujolais over the years.

Now he has produced an excellent summary of the state of natural wine in France and beyond (but particularly in France) in his book entitled *The World of Natural Wine*. By reading this book you will learn what natural wine is, who the main French players in the field are, what wines to look for, where to find them (bars such as La Buvette that we mention above and restaurants such as Le Chateaubriand) and who the emerging producers are.

We should also point out the importance of Chapter 1 which sets the background and development of the natural wine movement in France including the history of the "waves" in Paris during the 1980s and 1990s to early 2000s.

Everyone will benefit from reading the two chapters entitled "How grapes are Grown" and "How Natural Wine is Made" which, together cover over 60 pages of detailed text.

It is a substantial book covering over 400 pages of well-written text with most of it covering the regions of France (pages 125 to 344) and then a brief excursion into the rest of Europe and the Caucasus. Each French region is divided into a brief section about the physical aspects of the region, then the main wines to be aware of from that region, then a section covering each of the main producers (eg in Beaujolais there are sections for Breton, Chamonard, Lapierre, Foillard, Thévenet, Métras, Dutraive, Descombes, Lapalu, Ducroux, Guignier and Jambon). Then there

are descriptions of bars and restaurants where you can find the wines. Then there is a write-up of emerging talents for each of the regions – for Beaujolais he has chosen Balagny, Bertrand, Chapel, Cotton, Grottes, Dufaitre, Ravera and Thillardon.

He also has included other sections that might be specific to a region such as the salons held in that region (there are three pages for the salons of the Loire Valley, for example) or something that is specific to the winemaking of that region, for example. It is good to see that for the Jura he includes the wonderful Bistrot des Claquets which is the compulsory lunch time venue for the region's natural winemakers who arrive there at 12:00 on the dot to enjoy the rustic, robust food and extensive natural wine selection supervised by the owner, Rachel Gariglio.

We are also impressed by the coverage of less travelled places such as the Auvergne where Aaron has included descriptions of the wines of important vigneronns such as Beauger, Boujou, Gounan and Tricot. He has also included the three must-visit restaurants, Le Saint Eutrope and Le Quillosque in Clermont-Ferrand and our most visited hotel in France, the Auberge de Chassignolles which is about an hour south of Clermont-Ferrand in the remote hills. We try to experience the food and wine here every time we visit France. On one visit a few years ago we somehow managed to make our route intersect with Auberge de Chassignolles three times in a few weeks during a period of extended driving through much of France!

If you are heading to France this book is invaluable for working out where to eat and what to drink. For example, if you look at the chapter on Provence and Corsica you will find recommendations for bars and restaurants such as the Le Canon and La Part des Anges in Nice, Jeanne in Antibes, Les Buvards in Marseille and Le Gibolin in Arles. (Being great fans of Marseille we would probably add La Mercerie and their spin-off Livingston where orange is the colour of the wine!).

He has even caused us to vary our draft itinerary for our next trip to France as we thought one of our favourite restaurants had closed. Here we refer to La Tour Cassée in the tiny village of Valvignières in the Ardeche which is close to where one of our producers (Sylvain Bock) has his vineyards and winery. However, Aaron has held out the possibility that they may still open occasionally!

A note about wine capsules

We have been prompted to write a short note about wine capsules as they have suddenly become a topic of discussion in the natural wine world and beyond.

When we refer to wine capsules we are talking about the tin or aluminium or poly laminate top that is added to the bottle to protect the cork from damage, particularly from vermin.

Below we show four bottles with four different “protections” on the top of the bottles.



| | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Full metal capsule on a Masse Magic of Juju bottle. It covers the cork. | No capsule on a Mataburro Otium bottle. You can see the cork. | Wax protection over the top of the cork on a Derain Burgundy | A Crown Cap on Mito's Chalala cider |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|

The question that arises and the reason that it has become a topic of conversation is whether it is necessary in these days of super-clean warehouses and shipping containers. Do we need to put tin or aluminium through the high temperature processes necessary to manufacture the piece of metal or plastic that is used to cover the cork?

In fact, last year for the first time one of our suppliers specifically asked us if we would mind if he didn't use the capsules. He suggested that the capsule is now mainly for appearances and, because it was unnecessary, it would be good for the environment not to add the carbon cost from creating a metal covering to his carbon inputs. We agreed and so Michel Guignier's wines will come without capsules this time.

We think there is even more to this story though as a number of vigneron mentioned that ordering capsules has become more difficult with it taking many months to get them from the manufacturer. Like sourcing bottles, everything that used to be easy is now hard so this is one less complication to deal with.

Last year we also received wines from Mataburro and Le Temps des Cerises without capsules. With Axel Prufer's Le Temps des Cerises that has had the added bonus of easy verification of the vintage, which has always been on the top of the cork, but traditionally hidden:



And this Instagram post we've "borrowed" from Alice Bouvot makes clear we're about to get capsule free wines from Alice.



Liked by allyboolally and 849 others

octavin.alice.bouvot New packaging at Octavin...."A la générosité, ajoutez l' humilité et la discrétion.....".... utilité de la capsule? Nous avons tous un message à faire passer.....

Her caption partly translates as "usefulness of the capsule? We all have a message to pass along...".

And, by the way, the next article is about a radio program we listened to on the topic of cork production in Portugal!

The Future of Cork

We recently heard a fascinating discussion on Phillip Adam's wonderful radio program Late Night Live – yes, we still listen to radio programs and especially Phillip's wide ranging interviews that cover a myriad of topics in a sensitive and thoughtful way.

After listening to the 15 minute interview that he conducted recently with a freelance journalist called Alastair Leithead who now lives in Portugal on the topic of cork trees we thought that many of our readers would also be interested in the information discussed as it covers much about why corks are surviving and also contributing to carbon capture as well as providing for better protection for wine than alternatives such as glass stoppers or aluminium screw tops and other alternatives.

To find this program click on the following link:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/cork-comeback/101884830>

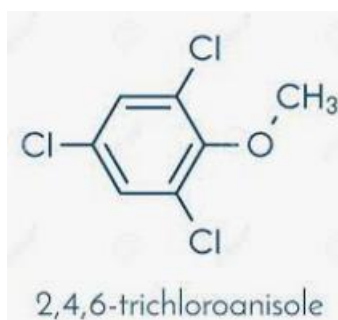
You will see the following picture appear. Click on the LISTEN button on the left side of the picture that is displayed and the program will commence.



Some points of interest raised during the interview were:

- There are 13 billion wine corks produced world wide each year.
- In 1209 a law was introduced in Portugal protecting trees (still in force today) where permission must be sought even for pruning of native trees.
- The oldest living oak (cork) tree in Portugal was planted in 1783.
- 73 tonnes of carbon is captured by 1 tonne of cork, making cork trees ideal for carbon capture.

- 1 tree in Portugal has produced 100,000 corks.
- Cork can only be harvested in Portugal every 9 years using a special curved axe which they use to remove the cork (bark) from the tree employing a special chop and twist motion to remove the bark.
- Alastair spoke of research into cork taint which may result in the ability to remove even the slightest element of taint using the same process that is used to extract caffeine to produce decaffeinated coffee.
- Cork taint is caused by 2,4,6-trichloroanisole which humans can detect in wine even if the amount present is equivalent to one drop in 100 swimming pools.



- Cork is also a very good insulator and fire retardant and is used in nose cones of rockets (that was a big surprise!).
- In Portugal cork must not be harvested until a tree reaches 25 years old and then only every 9 years following the initial harvest. The first two harvests are not considered high enough quality for premium wine stoppers, so it is not until the 43rd year that quality cork is harvested.

Grape variety: Macabeu

Macabeu (Macabeo) is a white grape found in the Catalan areas of France and Spain particularly in Rioja (where it is called Viura) and the Languedoc-Roussillon region.

It is also one of the blending grapes for the Spanish sparkling wine called Cava.

According to Jancis Robinson it is likely from DNA analysis that Macabeu may have as parents an obscure Andalusian grape variety called Hebén and another variety called Brustiano Faux.

Cyrus Redding in his book of 1860 entitled “French Wines and Vineyards; and the Way to Find Them” mentions Macabeu as follows:

*The Macabeo, a white class, giving a species of Muscat or sweet wine, generally used for home consumption.*¹

In Viala and Vermorel’s *Ampelographie Tome VI* Macabeu² is mentioned as a Spanish grape called either Macabeo and/or Forcallá. The main emphasis in Spain at the time was on the red variety, however the book also mentions that the white variety was popular in France and was called Macabeu in Roussillon. A variety was also grown in Greece at the time.

We are fortunate to be importing the wonderful wines of Laurent and Melissa from Mataburro some of which are made from Macabeu – we are talking Otium and Memo here!

The leaves of this grape variety can be seen in the photo below.

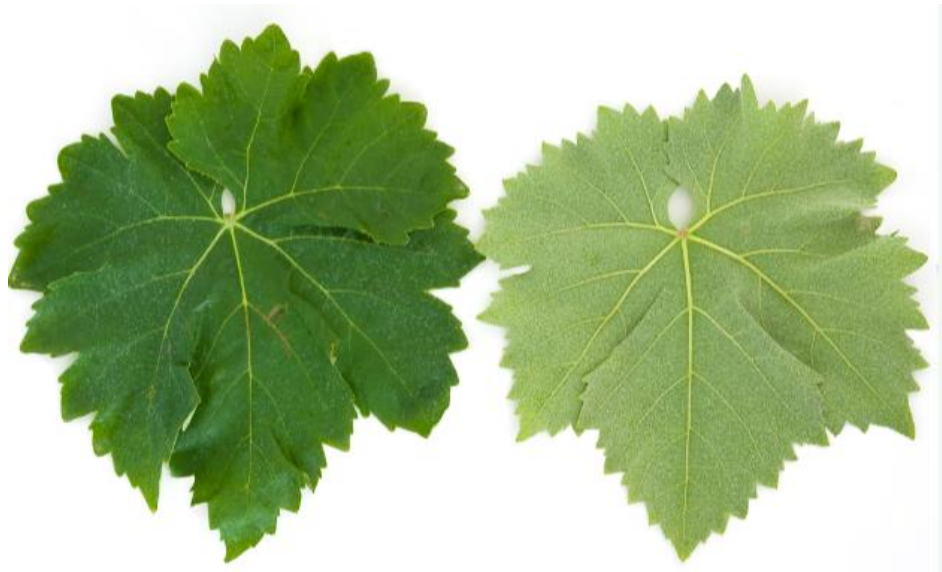


Photo courtesy: Vitis International Variety Catalogue

Notice the very distinctive three lobes on the leaf (especially the example on the right above), with the Apicus lobe (the one in the middle) that is quite distinctive.

The grapes form tight clusters of white grapes (as can be seen in the photo below). If the grapes are left on the vine long enough the added sugar helps create a sweeter wine.

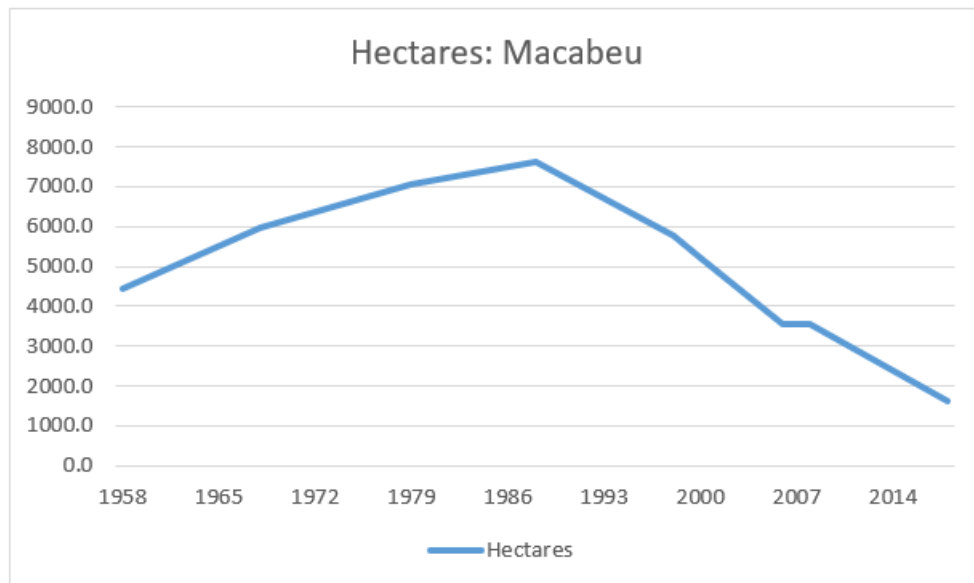
¹ Redding, Cyrus.(1860) *French Wines and Vineyards; and the Way to Find Them*. Houlston and Wright. London.

² Viala and Vermorel 1905 *Ampelographie Tome VI*, Page 104



Photo courtesy: [Vitis International Variety Catalogue](#)

As can be seen in the graph below, the area planted to Macabeu in France rose steadily between the early 1950s and 1986 and then suffered a steady decline thereafter.



We said in the first paragraph of this excursion into the Macabeu grape variety that it is found in the Catalan area of France. This covers the Roussillon département near the Spanish border. We therefore had a look at the official document for the wines of the Cotes du Roussillon appellation to find what grape varieties are authorised for the wines bearing the appellation name.

The picture below is taken directly from the official document and shows the approved encépagement (grape varieties) for red, white (vin blancs) and rosé wines.

| APPELLATION D'ORIGINE CONTRÔLÉE, COULEUR DES VINS | ENCÉPAGEMENT |
|--|--|
| Vins rouges | - cépages principaux : carignan N, grenache N, mourvèdre N, syrah N ; - cépages accessoires : cinsaut N, lledoner pelut N, |
| Vins rosés | - cépages principaux : grenache N, syrah N, grenache gris - cépages accessoires : carignan N, mourvèdre N, cinsaut N, lledoner pelut N, macabeu B |
| Vins blancs | - cépages principaux : grenache blanc B, macabeu B, tourbat B (dénommé localement malvoisie du Roussillon), - cépages complémentaires : grenache gris G, marsanne B, roussanne B, vermentino B -cépages accessoires : viognier B, carignan B |

Notice that Macabeu Blanc is approved as a Principal grape for white wines and an Accessory grape for rosé wines.

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 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.