

WINE Talk: August 2023

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 116

Welcome to newsletter 116, the fifth WINE Talk Newsletter for 2023. We hope you continue to enjoy reading them. We certainly are continuing to enjoy writing them!

We have been able to put together 7 packs to offer in this newsletter.

The newsletter has:

- News about wines that are arriving soon;
- Information about recent arrivals of which we still have stocks;
- 7 packs of mainly new wines with some rare recent arrivals among them including a pack of Mataburro wines which we rarely get a chance to offer, listed here before its general release;
- A story about contre-etiquettes (one of Alice Bouvet's);
- A story about Tony Bornard's new cellar;
- A story entitled "Not All Pet Nats are Natural";
- A story about the Terret (Terret Noir) 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.

New Arrivals

New wines from l'Octavin

We're delighted to have a small release of Alice Bouvot's l'Octavin wines. In the past we have always allocated these wines but we are now receiving an increasing quantity of wine – 3 shipments this year (although the last one has only just been collected and won't be ready until late 2023) – and we feel we have enough to be able to advertise them instead.

The increased availability is partly because of a big investment Alice made recently to build a new cellar on the outskirts of Arbois. It may not have the romance and charm of the tiny cellars in the back lanes in the middle of town, close to the famed Bistro des Claquets, from where which she and Charles Dagand began their domaine in 2004 but it is much more practical, has much more capacity and is so much easier to keep clean!

The other reason is with the new cellar she has been able to increase the size of her négoce business. What began as a consequence of a couple of devastating harvests due to frosts in the Jura, as a way to insure against increasingly fickle weather, has now become an integral part of her business and even during the rare bountiful local vintages she always makes négoce cuvées too. For the négoce wines she and her team harvest the grapes when they suit her winemaking decisions (which always means just the point where there is still plenty of acidity but the grapes have ripened) and she vinifies the wines in her Arbois cellar. This means that her harvesting starts early in the south of France and finishes weeks later with the last of the Jura grapes, with regions such as Bugey and Alsace in the east, Roussillon in the far south and, last year, also in Anjou in the west. We don't know how many kilometres she and her team travel but her annual tour de France is a daunting schedule. Her energy and capacity for work is astounding and also explains why, when we sometimes see her in October with the last of the grapes tucked away, for the most part macerating in tanks, she looks absolutely exhausted. But even at the point of exhaustion she always still has energy and drive.

She has long term relationships with the négoce growers, and in some cases has made multiple vintages of the same cuvée with the same grapes. All the wines we have to offer from this shipment are négoce wines with the grapes all sourced from people with whom she has been buying grapes for several years, and all certified organic or biodynamic. She uses the same winemaking principles with the négoce grapes as with wines she makes with the harvest from her own tiny 4 hectare estate. That means they are made with no additions, including no added sulphites, and are never filtered or fined. It's fair to say this means she does not strive for visual clarity. (There may be an almost searing clarity in the flavours of a wine but it may not be possible to see through it, even if it is white.)

Our previous arrivals earlier this year were all cuvées she had made many times before. However, a couple of the wines in this shipment, despite their familiar names, can definitely be considered as new cuvées. There are three wines made from the grapes she harvests from Claude Ughetto in Provence, including one made with a slightly different technique than other wines we have had from Alice.

Claude Ughetto's vines are in Saint Pierre de Vassols, just outside the town of Carpentras and within sight of Le Mont Ventoux. It's very nostalgic for us. Some of you may know that our wine

business came about some time after buying a house in Provence, which we spent time in each year until our habits were crushed by covid. As our connection with France (and our taste for savoury wines) grew we wanted a stronger connection and so began importing wine. We sold the house during 2020 but Claude Ughetto's vines are visible looking across the valley from its upper floors. We like the fact we still have a connection, through these bottles, with our former neighbourhood.

She began her relationship with Claude Ughetto, whose vines are certified biodynamic, with the cuvée Ganache, a juicy wine made with 100% Grenache. We have some of the 2021 vintage to offer in this shipment, the same cuvée we have been selling since the 2018 vintage. In 2021 she has harvested more of his vines and made two additional cuvées (although both use existing cuvée names, just to keep things complicated).

In 2021, Grenabar, a wine we have had before made with different varieties and from a different grower, was made with Claude Ughetto's Vermentino and Carignan. This wine is what Alice calls a "trempette" of whole bunch Vermentino in the juice of directly-pressed Carignan. The literal meaning of "trempette" is to "go paddling". We love its use to describe this technique of literally flooding the Vermentino in Carignan juice. We stole the photo below from Alice's Instagram account, taken in 2021 while the Vermentino was still paddling.



Similarly Ivre d'Vivre, which was a white Viognier in a former life has morphed into a new wine. It is now also sourced from Claude Ughetto and is an assembly (after fermentation) of 50 %

directly pressed Vermentino and a blend of Roussanne and Marsanne which was macerated for 10 days (whole bunch). The result is a lightly macerated wine.

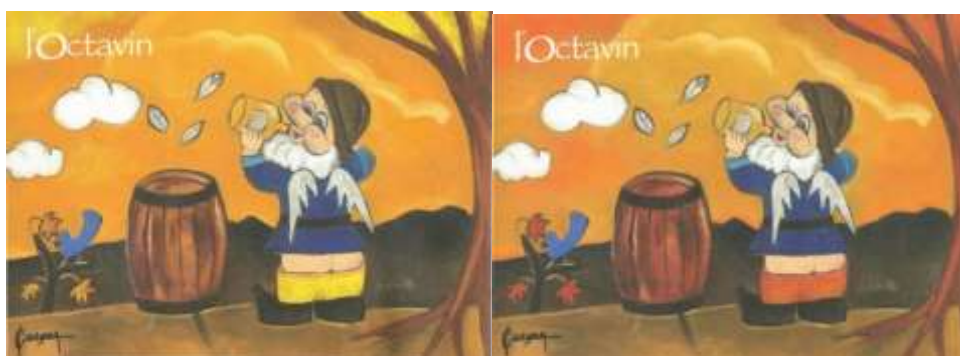
If you follow Alice’s Instagram account you may have noticed she has been picking the 2023 vintage Claude Ughetto’s in the past week.

As well as the wines from Claude Ughetto’s grapes we also have the 2021 vintage of Muscat (Muscat d’Alexandria from Roussillon) and Clé à Molette 2021, a directly-pressed white wine from Bugey made with Molette. Both of these are continuing cuvées we have had several times before and are characteristic of previous vintages.

Finally, there are two Jura wines, both from the relatively bountiful 2020 vintage. These wines are part of Alice’s “Hip Hip J” series of wines, all sourced from the same Pupillin grower. She is much less public about who this grower is, perhaps because Jura grapes are in such demand. We respect that and with all her wines only publish what she publishes. This small hint on Instagram, with a post of macerating Savagnin from the 2022 vintage and the comment “merci Juju” is the first time we have seen her acknowledge him, albeit just a nickname.



These are a challenge in your cellar because only the colour of the gnome’s partly-pulled down trousers and the leaves offer an obvious hint as to what the wine might be. With these two wines the Chardonnay’s trousers are yellow and the Savagnin’s trousers are orange.



The safest way to identify the wines though is probably to use the lot number on the back label not the trouser colour! In this shipment the lot number of the macerated Chardonnay is *Lch macéré 2020* and the lot number of the macerated Savagnin is *Lsv macéré 2020*.

Note that we released a 2020 Hip Hip J Savagnin last year but it was a directly pressed white wine. (The lot number was *Lsv press d. 2020*.)

Alice is a very good user of Instagram and we’d strongly recommend that if you are interested in her wines you follow her. Her account is [@octavin.alice.bouvot](https://www.instagram.com/octavin.alice.bouvot). Her posts provide glimpses into

the cycle of her year, both in the vineyard and the cellar and her saved highlights tell the stories of previous vintages. And at harvest time you can follow her tour de France.

Below is a summary of new wines, with brief descriptions. The prices are full prices but the wines receive our normal 10% discount when bought in a 6 pack.

Wines from Provence

Wine	Type	Variety	Notes
l'Octavin Ganache 2021	Red	Grenache	Sourced from Claude Ughetto, whose certified organic vines are in Saint-Pierre-de-Vassols, just outside Carpentras in Provence. The wine had 8 weeks maceration (whole bunches) before pressing. It was bottled in June 2022. 13% ABV.
l'Octavin Grenabar 2021	Light Red	Vermentino, Carignan	Also from Claude Ughetto, this wine is what Alice calls a "trempette" of whole bunch Vermentino in the juice of directly-pressed Carignan juice. The maceration was for 3 weeks. It was bottled in June 2022. The literal meaning of "trempette" is to "go paddling". 12.5% ABV. It is very light, much lighter than the last Grenabar we had which was sourced from a different place and made a different way.
l'Octavin Ivre de Vivre 2021	Macerated	Vermentino, Roussanne, Marsanne	Also sourced from Claude Ughetto, this wine is 50 % directly pressed Vermentino. The other 50% is blend of Roussanne and Marsanne which was macerated for 10 days (whole bunch). The two parts were assembled after fermentation. 12.5% ABV. (Previous wines we have had called Ivre de Vivre were white and made with Viognier so this is, like the Grenabar, to all intents and purposes a new cuvée.)

Wine from Bugey

Wine	Type	Variety	Notes
l'Octavin Clé à Molette 2021	White	Molette	This wine is sourced from certified organic vines from Domaine Trichon in Bugey. It is directly pressed and was bottled in April 2022. It is 11.5% ABV. It is very similar to previous vintages of this wine - very fresh with almost a citrus tang.

Wine from Roussillon

Wine	Type	Variety	Notes
l'Octavin Muscat 2021	Macerated	Muscat d'Alexandrie	This wine is sourced from Vincent Lafage in Roussillon. It had 10 days of maceration (whole bunch) and was bottled May 2022. 11% ABV.

Wines from the Jura

Wine	Type	Variety	Notes
l'Octavin Hip Hip J... Chardonnay 2020	Macerated	Chardonnay	This wine is sourced from a grower in Pupillin, whose name Alice chooses not to publicise. The vines are certified organic. This wine had 2 months of maceration (whole bunch), was aged in tank and bottled in July 2021. 12.5% ABV
l'Octavin Hip Hip J... Savagnin 2020	Macerated	Savagnin	This wine is sourced from a grower in Pupillin, whose name Alice chooses not to publicise. The vines are certified organic. This wine had 2 months of maceration (whole bunch), was aged in tank and bottled in July 2021. 13% ABV

New Wines from Jean-Marc Dreyer

Jean Marc Dreyer has literally dozens of small parcels of vines surrounding the village of Rosheim, not far from Strasbourg, but we first met him at a wine salon in the tiny village of

Glaine-Montaigut, many hundreds of kilometres away in the Auvergne. It took some years of subsequent visits to his cellar before we convinced him to sell us some wine and the first shipment arrived at the end of February 2020, just before the world turned upside down. Since then we have been able to receive an annual allocation and in the coming days we are releasing wines from the 2021 vintage.

His vines, which predominantly grow on clay and limestone soils, are certified biodynamic and he works without any additives in the cellar, and without filtration and fining. Aging is generally in old wood, a mix of foudre and larger barrels. The majority of his cuvées, including all the wines in this shipment except for one, are macerated white grapes from classic Alsace varieties. The wines he makes with a single variety from the same vintage are all in his Origin series. Despite similar winemaking for all of them the differences between each variety are marked, from the heady aromas of the Muscat and Gewurztraminer to a saline, minerality in the Auxerrois. The wines all work remarkably well with food and are best served at cellar rather than fridge temperature so the nuances are more detectable. This year we have some Sylvaner, Auxerrois, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Muscat and Gewurztraminer as well as Finisterra, which is also macerated but a blend of most of the Alsace white varieties.

The exception is the Elios Pinot Noir, a red wine he makes from the younger Pinot Noir vines which is aged in this beautiful foudre. (This photo was taken in April 2019 so the current vintage is not inside but we're sure the foudre is in the same place!)



In the vineyards, Jean-Marc is lucky that some parcels already had quite a few trees in and around the vines but he is planting more to encourage biodiversity. He also tries to limit as much as possible the pressure on the soil, taking the tractor in as few times as possible and, in fact, in some parcels putting back the rows which were removed 20 years ago to make it easier to take tractors into the vineyard.

And in one parcel at least he recently changed his pruning regime to leave one in every three rows unpruned. The vines will be allowed to go wild, something which he predicts they will take seven years to understand. One of the first consequences is that he's found it's best to pick the grapes on the wild vines about 3 weeks later than those which are pruned.

These photos are from that parcel, taken in April 2019 just as the vines are awakening for the new season.



These are the macerated wines we have this year.

Wine	Price
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Sylvaner Origin 2021	\$63
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Auxerrois Origin 2021	\$63
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Riesling Origin 2021	\$66
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Pinot Gris Origin 2021	\$68
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Muscat Origin 2021	\$73
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Gewurztraminer Origin 2021	\$68
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Finisterra 2021 (a blend of Gewurztraminer, Riesling, Auxerrois, and Sylvaner)	\$68

And there is one red:

Wine	Price
Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Elios 2021	\$63

Mosse Chenin 2020

Early in 2022 we received a shipment from the Mosse family which included a second release of the 2020 vintage of the cuvée Chenin, a white wine made with the estate's youngest vines.

We'd assumed, because the first release was so delicious, that we would be able to sell it immediately, but the wine was oily, the victim of a type of lactic bacteria which temporarily increases its viscosity. We've had this experience occasionally and once even seen it in a single barrel of Chardonnay when tasting in Pupillin. It's a very weird thing when you pour a wine but it has the texture of thin treacle and refuses to leave the sides of the glass. Confusingly there is no impact on the taste.

So we put it aside (along with Magic of Juju 2021, which had the same problem) and waited ... and waited and tasted and tasted. It's taken a while and provided us with a lot of very good cooking wine but it is now, finally, ready. Magic of Juju is also not far away but probably has a couple of months to go. It was oilier at the beginning so it's not surprising it is a little behind. Chemistry is such a mystery.

The wine tastes delicious, as it did through this entire tortuous time, and if anything now has a little more complexity and depth than when we released the first shipment. It's slightly spicy, with citrus on the nose, and an intense but still fresh mineral finish.

It is made from certified organic vines planted by the family between 2000 and 2002 at Saint Lambert du Lattay and Beaulieu sur Layon. The grapes were directly pressed and then fermented naturally in a mix of stainless steel, concrete tanks and foudre. The wine spent six months on lees in these various containers before being assembled 1 and a half months prior to bottling in April 2021. ABV is 13%.

The price before any pack discount is \$53 a bottle. It's the original price so considering what's happened with the cost of freight and the exchange rate since then represents very good value. As an example for comparison the 2021 vintage, which is sold out was \$56 a bottle and we wait with trepidation to calculate the price of 2022, which is on the way.

What's Coming

Our next releases, which won't be until mid October or later, are likely to be Domaine de la Garrelière, Vincent Carême, and La Soeur Cadette. The latter, we're pleased to say, will have plenty of La Soeur Cadette Melon from the 2022 vintage, as well as a good supply of Vézelay cuvées, some 2021 Juliéna, and good-value Bourgogne Rouge and Bourgogne Blanc sourced from Mâcon. After that there will be cider and Calvados from Julien Fremont, and a small shipment from Domaine des Cavarodes, which we will be allocating and plenty of new Mosse wines.

The Mosse shipment will include the 2021 vintage of some of the estate's more classic Chenin Blanc cuvées (Bonnes Blanches, Le Rouchefer and Savennières Arena). We will also have the 2022 vintage of Chenin, Magic of Juju, Bangarang, Bisou, Moussamoussettes, and Combo, a

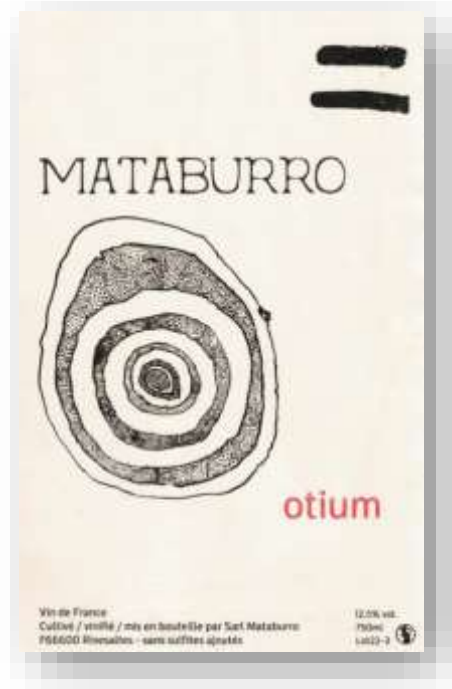
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possibly unique blend of 20% directly-pressed Mosse Cabernet Franc and 80% Muscat à petits grains, from Roussillon.

We are also allocating Mataburro (although we may be able to advertise small quantities of these wines), Bornard and de Moor at the moment.

Pack 1: Mixed New Arrivals (Approx 13% discount)

Note: 4 Packs Only!



This pack (of which there is only 4 available) combines 2 bottles from each of 3 of our producers from different areas of France, namely the Jura, Alsace and Roussillon.

We are delighted to see wines from Mataburro, Dreyer and Bornard back on the shelves in our warehouse. The delicate wines from Mataburro in Roussillon are a far cry from the big, bold reds that have defined this region for so long. Otium is a light, energetic red wine that had only about 4 days of maceration so that it limited the extraction. The Mura Mura is, again, a delicious rosé.

We are also celebrating the arrival of this year's shipment of Dreyer wines from Alsace and have included a Sylvaner and a Pinot Gris in this pack.

And Bornard is back! A Pinot and a Ploussard of these delicious wines round out the 6 bottles.

- Mataburro Otium 2022
- Mataburro Mura Mura 2022
- Dreyer Sylvaner Origin 2021
- Dreyer Pinot Gris Origin 2021
- Bornard Le Pinot Noir 2018
- Bornard Ploussard Point Barre 2020

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$409.00 but the pack price is only \$355.55. 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.

Pack 2: Mataburro Pack (15% Discount)

Note: 4 Packs Only



This pack will delight those of you who have been lucky enough to try these amazing wines in the past two shipments. Their reds are light, energetic and delicious and the macerated white is a treat!

The 2022 Memo is again made from Macabeu which has been macerated for 4 days to create a fresh orange wine. The Mura Mura is again a rosé that is light and fresh and perfect for spring sipping.

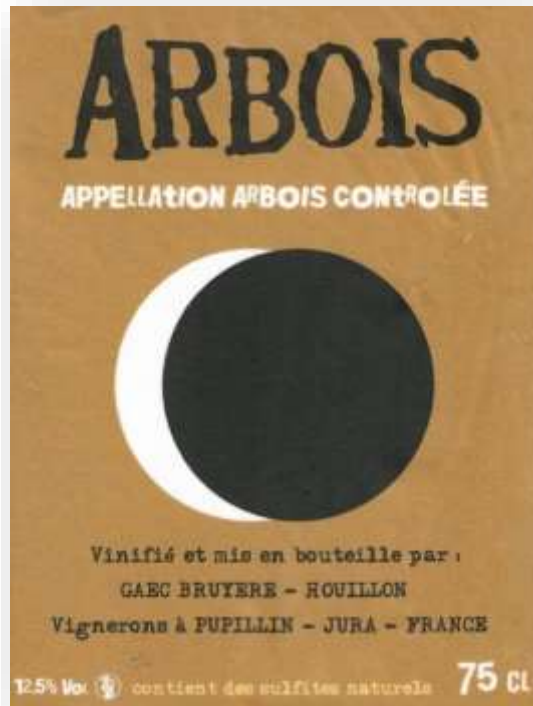
The remaining four wines are red wines but of the lighter side of the spectrum even though some are made using grape varieties that are usually associated with heavier reds, such as Merlot, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Only Totem could be truly considered a red wine but it is also juicy and easily drunk now.

- Mataburro Memo 2022
- Mataburro Idoine 2022
- Mataburro Otium 2022
- Mataburro Mura Mura 2022
- Mataburro Totem 2022
- Mataburro Quartet 2022

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$367.00 but the pack price is only \$311.95. 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.

Pack 3: Bruyere-Houillon Plus More Pack (10% - 15% discount)

Note: 3 Packs Only



It is a very, very rare occasion when we get to set aside a small number of Bruyère-Houillon wines to include in a pack.

So, this pack has two wines from the Mosse family (Bisou is a light red and Overmars is macerated Chenin Blanc) and then two Jura wines, one white (the 2018 Arbois Chardonnay Croix Rouge) and one red (the 2020 Arbois-Pupillin Ploussard from the En Aspis lieu dit) from the Renaud Bruyère and Adeline Houillon.

We have rounded the pack out with one of the amazing no-sulphur wines from Wim Wagemans in the Languedoc called Vin de France that is made entirely from Shiraz. Then we have included one of our natural wine vinegars from the famous Banyuls appellation.

- Mosse Bisou 2021
- Mosse Overmars 2020
- Renaud Bruyère and Adeline Houillon Arbois Blanc Chardonnay Croix-Rouge 2018
- Renaud Bruyère and Adeline Houillon Arbois-Pupillin Ploussard En Aspis 2020
- Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Vin de France 2021
- La Guinelle Vinaigre de Banyuls 50 cl

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$415.00 but the pack price is only \$362.90. It normally includes free or discounted freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

Pack 4: Our Dream Pink Pack (15% Discount)

Note: 2 Packs Only



At a recent public tasting in Hobart the first wine in this pack was clearly a standout with most people who tasted through the five wines we had on show commenting on the Peyras rosé and how light and refreshing it was.

We have also included the newly-arrived Mura Mura mentioned above from Mataburro and the Mystère de Rosée made from Gamay by Michel Guignier from Beaujolais. We have added a Beetle Juice which is a refreshing sparkling wine from the Geschickt family in Alsace made from Gewurtztraminer but 20% is cherry juice from trees they have planted in the same vineyard to provide protection from the sun and improve the biodiversity.

And finally, another very light red from Alice in the Jura made from purchased grapes of Vermentino and Carignan that is a delicious and exciting wine!

- Julien Peyras Rose Bohême 2021 (**2 bottles**)
- Mataburro Mura Mura 2022
- Michel Guignier Mystère de Rosée 2021
- Geschickt Beetle Juice No 2
- l'Octavin Grenabar 2021

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$354 but the pack price is only \$300.90. 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.

Pack 5: Damaged Labels Kaefferkopf Pack (40% Discount)

Note: 1 Pack Only



We have been experiencing some problems with delivery people dropping boxes lately so we have two lots of bottles with damaged labels.

On one occasion a box of wines from Geschickt in Alsace was dropped and wine spilled from a broken bottle onto the labels of the other bottles in the case. The wine will still be fine but we have made the discount a massive 40% because the labels are damaged.

These wines are all made from grapes picked from the famous Kaefferkopf Grand Cru vineyard. It has two distinctive terroirs. A part of the Kaefferkopf is predominantly granite and the other part is limestone and clay. We explained a little more about it in a previous newsletter.

There are three wines, with 2 bottles of each.

- The Pinot Noir cuvée K (which stands for Kaefferkopf) is not a Grand Cru wine because the appellation can only be used for wines made with white grapes. The grapes are sourced from both parts of the Kaefferkopf and the wine has been aged in old barrels.
- Geschickt Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Khépri 2020 is an orange wine that was macerated for a massive 200 days in amphora. It is from the clay and limestone part of Kaefferkopf.
- The third wine is Geschickt Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Purberg 2020. Predominantly Gewurztraminer on clay and limestone soils, it had 30 days of maceration. Purberg is the name of a lieu-dit within Kaefferkopf.

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$512 but the pack price is only \$307.20. 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.

Pack 6: Damaged Labels Mixed Pack (40% Discount)

Note: 1 Pack Only



This pack has also been discounted by 40% due to stained and scruffy labels and includes one bottle each of two of the Alsace wines in Pack 5 plus two bottles of Bonne Pioche which is a Gamay from Guignier in the Beaujolais and a Shiraz from Wim Wagemans in the Languedoc.

- Geschickt Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Purberg 2020
- Geschickt Grand Cru Kaefferkopf Khépri 2020
- Michel Guignier La Bonne Pioche 2020 **(2 bottles)**
- Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Vin de France 2021 **(2 bottles)**

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$400.00 but the pack price is only \$240.00. 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.

Pack 7: Cellar Pack (10% - 15% Discount)

Note: 1 Pack Only



The medical profession is circling us at the moment, reminding us that we both have issues, which means we should reduce our alcohol intake.

It's hard when you're a wine merchant, but we're trying to follow the advice. Given our constant need to try new wines it is making it hard to dent our cellar, so we've had one attempt to try to part with some wines where we still have more than one bottle. Even so, parting with some of these was not easy. It's possible there will be more cellar packs to come.

The wines in this pack are only available as a pack. The prices are their original prices less a discount, so they represent extraordinary value.

- La Cadette Vézelay La Châtelaine 2018 (Chardonnay from the north of Burgundy)
- Dominique Derain Les Nubes 2020 (Pinot Noir Dominique Derain made in Chile)
- Mataburro Quartet 2020 (a light red made from Merlot, Grenache and Muscat)
- Eric Thill AOP Côtes du Jura Chardonnay Préfleure 2014 (this is oxidative)
- Alice and Olivier de Moor Sans Bruit 2019 (Sauvignon Blanc, which would be in the Saint Bris appellation if it was appellated)
- Gahier Arbois Trousseau Les Grands Vergers 2010 (from Michel's oldest vines this is a wine that was worthy of aging)

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$346 but the pack price is only \$299.45. 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.

Octavin Back Labels

This story is about what the French call contre-etiquettes and in Australia we use the term “back labels”.

As far as we are aware there are no Australia-wide rules about what must be displayed on a back label or even the requirement for having one.

In France, the rules vary from one appellation to another and are set out in the document called “Cahier des Charges”.

In this document the rules about what must appear are clearly set out and even includes rules about font sizes, the requirement for a lot number, the requirement for the alcohol percentage if it doesn't appear on the front label and on it goes.



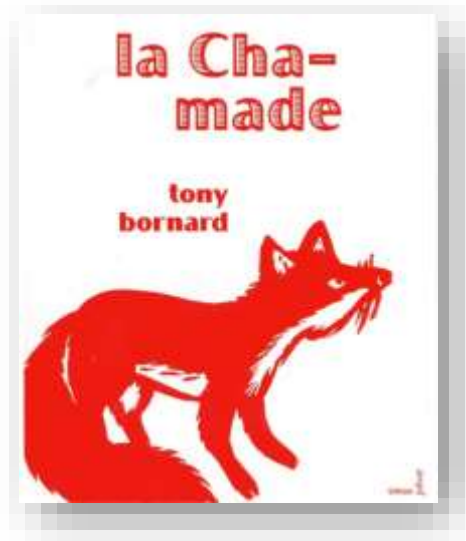
The label above is from one of Alice Bouvot of Octavin in the Jura. We have numbered each element of the label so that you can see what each of these mean.

1. Ganache – is the name of the wine.
2. “raisins vendangés, vinifiés et mis en bouteille à:” translates as “grapes harvested, vinified and bottled at:”
3. Alice Bouvot’s SAS l’Octavin is where they are vinified and bottled. Her new winery is situated in the suburbs of Arbois.
4. Merci à Claude Ughetto pour ses magnifiques raisins. Saint Pierre de Vassols. Translates as “Thanks to Claude Ughetto for his magnificent grapes.” These come from a vineyard that is immediately opposite the tiny village of Saint Pierre de Vassols which co-incidentally we could see from the top floor of our house that we bought at about the same time as we

started importing wines from France. The village of Caromb is built on a small but pronounced hill which overlooks the surrounding plains which includes this vineyard.

5. Non filtre, un leger depot est gauge de naturel. Pur jus de raisin. Vin bio. Translates as “Unfiltered, a slight deposit is natural” – Pure grape juice – Organic wine.
6. F – 39600 – this is the postcode for the town of Arbois. And here is where things get awkward for vigneronns who opt out of the appellation system and instead adopt the Vin de France designation. She is not allowed to use the name of the town she lives in and makes the wine in, in case someone mistakes it for the appellation name!
7. “Vin de France. Produit de France.” Vin de France refers to the fact that the wine is not allied to any specific appellation. Produit de France is Alice telling consumers that it is a product of France.
8. “LGrenache21”. Every bottle is supposed to have a lot number displayed, so that the wine can be traced back to its origins. Alice makes up her Lot numbers by using the name of each grape variety followed by the year the grapes were harvested. As we mentioned earlier, she sometimes includes the vinification method so her lot numbers are very useful.
9. “Contient uniquement de sulfites naturels aucun intrant utilisé.” Here she points out that she does not add sulphites – the only sulphites that might be in the wine are small amount of sulphites which can occur naturally. “Contains only natural sulphites no inputs used.”
10. 75cl is 750cc the size of the wine bottle.
11. 13 % vol is the alcohol content of the wine.
12. “FR Bio 01 Agriculture France.” Is a certification for organic practices in France by the Ecocert organisation.

Domaine Bornard – Exciting Changes



There has been a series of exciting changes at Domaine Bornard over the past few years with the most exciting being Tony Bornard taking over the reins of the domaine. Tony is now the owner and makes all decisions relating to the vines and the wines.

You will still see the famous red fox proudly displayed on the labels and the same range of wines is still available, but sometimes with a little twist.

Tony has also built a new winery on the edge of the village of Pupillin. He explains what he has

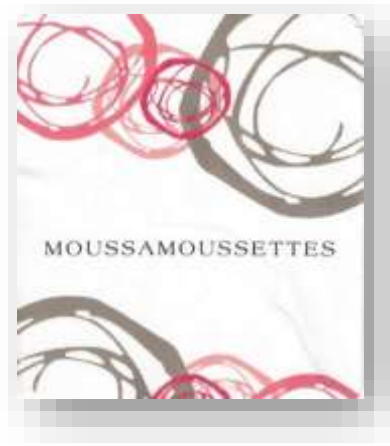
done in designing and constructing this very impressive facility:

Domaine BORNARD has just moved to a new winery. This new winery has been thought and designed for an approach to wine and vineyard that is resolutely focused on the dynamism of the living, with environmentally friendly materials based on the model of a traditional Comtoise farm. We are more than excited about this new beginning, this new page of our history that is being written. Still in Pupillin, we will have at heart to perpetuate the family wine tradition that goes back to so many generations before us.

Now that he has the construction of the winery heading towards completion, Tony can now put more effort into the vines where he is dedicated to implementing processes to ensure that the soil quality is improved.

You can see from the label at the start of this story that the labels are much simpler but still sport the red fox.

Not all Pet Nats are natural!!



A natural pet nat!

Recently we were in a restaurant in Melbourne and asked the sommelier if they had any natural wines on their list. Extraordinarily, he pointed to the list and said “No, we don’t have any pet nats”. On further questioning it appears that he assumed that all pet nats were processed naturally and that the only natural wines were pet nats – nothing could be further from the truth!!

Yes, it is a fact that the origin of pet nats in France came primarily out of the natural wine producers in the Loire Valley during the first decade of the current century. However, there are many reasons why a pet nat might not be natural.



And before anyone assumes that there is no definition of a natural wine in France, you might like to read our article in our March 2020 newsletter in a story called *Towards a Definition of Natural Wines* in which we discuss the fact that it is now possible to display a label on wines produced in France that conform to a legal definition of natural wines in that country. The label looks like the one on the left:

Switzerland also has a similar definition.

Let’s have a quick reminder of why a pet nat might not be natural:

- To be classified as natural the wine must be made with organic or biodynamic grapes. In Australia, some makers of pet nats, especially younger winemakers who are just starting out, buy non-organic grapes. The use of any chemical sprays in the vineyard immediately disqualifies a wine from being called natural.
- For a wine to be natural it must be fermented with only the yeasts on the grapes themselves. This means that if the wine has been fermented in a conventional winery

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the fermentation will primarily occur using commercial yeasts that are in every part of the winery from previous applications of the commercial yeasts.

- The wine must be made without additions such as sugar, water, fining agents and only minimal sulphites.

The above bullet points are just a summary of the reasons why a pet nat might not be a natural wine.

So, in summary – a pet nat might qualify as a natural wine, but not all pet nats are natural.

Grape variety: Terret Noir

Terret is a grape variety native to the Languedoc region of France which has red, white and grey expressions, sometimes in the same bunch! The reliable Vitis International Variety Catalogue claims that both Terret Blanc and Terret Gris are mutations of Terret Noir. Terret Gris is also known as Terret Bourret (sometimes called Terret Bourré). This variety adds floral notes to a wine.

This grape variety has been known for a long time and received due attention in Tome 5 of the books by Viala and Vermorel where the grape bunches were lovingly reproduced as shown.



There is no doubt that the Terret Gris grape variety has been out of favour in the south of France until recently when you consider that in 1958 there was 8,130 hectares given over to this variety and by 2006 it had declined to only 130 hectares. Terret Noir, on the other hand, covered a mere 130 hectares in 1958.

However, this figure rose to 1150 hectares by 1979 and now has dropped back to around 270 hectares. Terret Blanc is the most widespread variety with 180 hectares planted in 2006 down from a peak of almost 9000 hectares in 1979.

Terret Noir has been known for a long time and we have found references to this variety in a book by Victor Rendu entitled *Ampélographie Française* from 1857 which talks about the excellent vin de table

made partly from Terret Noir near the village of Lédénon, a village which lies between Avignon and Nîmes.

Here is the quote from page 38:

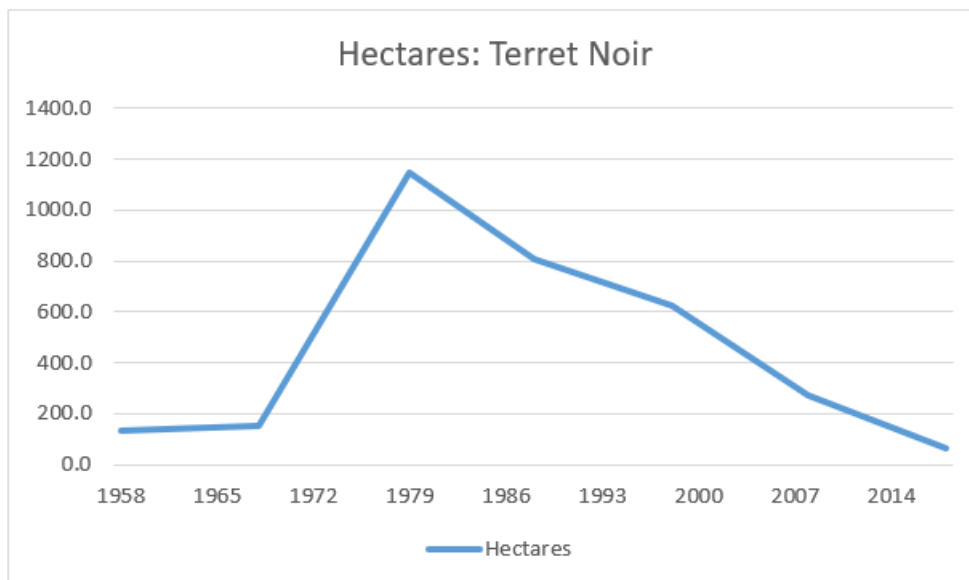
Le vignoble de Lédénon est complanté, dans les anciennes vignes, de Terret noir, Picpoule, Clairette et autres cépages fins ;

Which translates as:

The Lédenon vineyard is planted, in the old vines, with Terret noir, Picpoule, Clairette and other fine grape varieties;

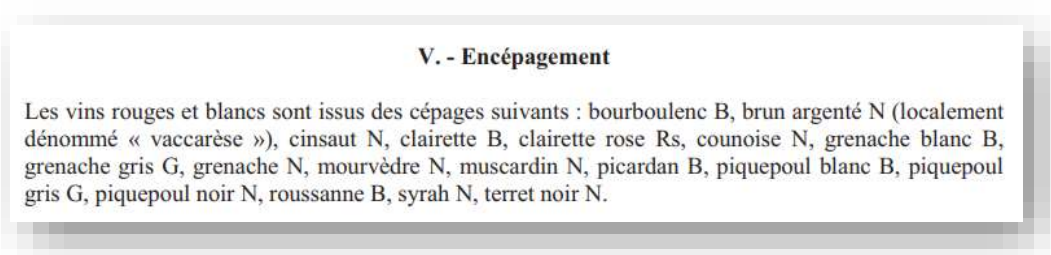
There are many other references in this book to plantings of terret Noir including the Rhone and Chateauneuf-du-Pape and even Gaillac which no longer allows the use of Terret.

The rise and decline of Terret Noir can be seen in the graph below.



Terret is one of the 18 grape varieties permitted in the wines of Chateauneuf-du-Pape, for example. It is also commonly used in the Corbières AOP where only the white and red expressions of the grape can be used.

You can see the list of Chateauneuf-du-Pape varieties taken from the Cahier des Charges which is the official document put out by the appellation authorities. Unusually this document combines red, white and gris varieties as you can see below.



You can see that Chateauneuf-du-Pape allows some quite rare grape varieties including Vaccarèse, Counoise, Muscardin, Picardin and Terret Noir.

There are quite a few other appellations in France where Terret Noir is permitted. We have found it listed in the Cahier des Charges for the following appellations, but there may be others as well:

- Corbières;
- Coteaux du Languedoc;

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- Costières de Nîmes;
- Coteaux du Languedoc;
- Coteaux de Pierrevert;
- Côtes du Rhône and Côtes du Rhône Villages;
- Minervois.

As can be seen below it has three very distinctive lobes with one central lobe and one on each side of the leaf. The lobes are separated by U-shaped “sinuses” that are very distinctive – as can be seen in the photo below.



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

The following photo shows the structure of the bunches of grapes which are quite tightly packed. This can sometimes cause problems as the wind can't blow through the bunches thus reducing the likelihood of mould affecting the ripening grapes.



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

You can find all three varieties of Terret in the wines of Le Petit Gimios and Wim Wagemans has some vines of Terret Gris which he uses to make his Vin de France in small amounts.

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.