

WINE Talk: January 2025

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 129

Welcome to newsletter 129 for January, the first WINE Talk Newsletter for 2025. We hope you continue to enjoy reading them. We certainly are continuing to enjoy writing them!

We have been able to put together **8** packs to offer in this newsletter, but some of these packs have only one or two available, so we expect them to sell out quickly.

The newsletter also has:

- Information about wines that have just arrived;
- Information about wines that are on the way from France;
- 8 packs with significant discounts;
- A story about wine faults - this month the story is about mousiness;
- A fascinating story about an experiment in France to mitigate the effects of climate change in vineyards;
- A story called Bits and Pieces which has a number of brief items including places to find our wines in Hobart and some French terms explained;
- A story about the "petrol" aroma detected in Rieslings;
- A story about four interesting grape varieties that are variants of well-known varieties.

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

Vincent and Tania Carême – Vouvray



We have just released four new wines from the Carême family whose cellars and some of their most special vines are in Vernou-sur-Brenne in the heart of Vouvray. Two are still whites – both dry Vouvrais – and two are sparkling. One sparkling is a Vouvray, although it's not a classic Vouvray because it is a pet-nat. Having said that it is a beautiful wine, complex enough to take the place of a Crémant or something similar in a meal.

Vincent, who is a first-generation winemaker, but from a farming family in this region, is one of the pioneers who worked in harmony with icons such as Christian Chaussard and then Pascal Potaire in the late 1990s and early 2000s to fine tune the techniques that now give us this beautiful wine. The other, Fizzy Pink is also a pet-nat and without, of course, the Vouvray appellation because it is not Chenin Blanc. It's made from the cheery, drinkable red varieties the Loire Valley is famous for. 'Crowd pleaser' springs to mind!

Below are descriptions of the four wines.

Vincent Carême Fizzy Pink 2023

Made with Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Gamay, and Grolleau Noir for many years this wine was only sold at the cellar door and a couple of venues in nearby Tours. We are very grateful that Vincent and Tania agreed to also sell their fun rosé pet-nat to us. Grown on gravel and sandy soil the grapes are briefly macerated then pressed and bottled while there is still residual sugar. The fermentation is completed in the bottle. The wine is dry with just 2g/l of residual sugar and has been disgorged. As usual it is tidy without visible sediment. The Carêmes' description is "Fine bubbles, fruity and fresh. Gourmet and refreshing mouth. Aroma of red fruits, strawberry, redcurrant" Certified organic. 12% ABV. \$42.

Vincent Carême Vouvray Plaisir Ancestral 2022

This glorious pet-nat made from 100% Chenin Blanc is a serious wine. Grown in Vouvray, the complex soil is clay and flint with a sub-soil of limestone, one the world's great places for growing Chenin Blanc. The vines are 40 years old. The wine is disgorged, with no dosage, and is well-suited to pouring. The Carêmes' description is "Nose has hint of toastiness and white fruits. Delicate, creamy mousse. Long, lingering finish". It is completely dry with just 2g/l of residual sugar. If you are familiar with Carême labelling on their scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is dry and 5 is sweet it is 1.5. Certified organic. ABV 13% \$60

Vincent Carême Vouvray Le Clos 2022

The Le Clos vineyard is also approximately 60 years old but the soil is clay and limestone. The grapes were directly pressed and initially aged on fine lees for 9 months in 400 litre barrels that had been filled between 1 and 5 times. It was then assembled and spent another 3 months in a foudre. It has 3g/l of residual sugar. If you are familiar with Carême labelling on their scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is dry and 5 is sweet it is 1.5. It is a powerful wine with a long and lingering finish. Also a food wine, it is ideal for matching with richer dishes, especially anything with some spiciness. Certified organic. ABV 14%. Certified organic. \$82. **This wine is now only available in Pack 1 from this newsletter.**

Vincent Carême Vouvray Peu Morier 2022

One of the Carêmes' two single-vineyard cuvées, the vines for Peu Morier are approximately 60 years old and grown on clay and flint soil. The grapes were directly pressed and aged on fine lees for 1 year in 400 litre barrels that have previously been filled between 1 and 5 times. It has 4.5g/l of residual sugar but drinks as a dry wine. If you are familiar with Carême labelling on their scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is dry and 5 is sweet it is 1.5. With hints of white fruits, citrus and a mineral finish it is a gastronomic wine, well suited to matching with poultry, fish, shellfish or cheese. Certified organic. ABV 13.5%. \$82. **We have one bottle available as well as the bottles in Pack 1 from this newsletter.**

Fanny Sabre



We also released last week some new wines from Bourgogne vigneronne Fanny Sabre. We were especially happy to have her Aligoté in our warehouse again. It's a wine made from Aligoté planted 50 years ago on the hills of Pommard. Should Fanny choose to replant the vineyard with Pinot Noir and sell it as Pommard it would be much more lucrative. Fortunately for us, Fanny likes Aligoté as much as we do (as did her father who planted it).

As well as the 2023 Bourgogne Aligoté we also received some 2023 Bourgogne Rouge, some 2023 Bourgogne Blanc and tiny quantities of four other wines.

From the 2022 vintage we received Beaune Blanc Les Prevolles and from 2023 two red wines – a spicy Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes-de-Beaune and very fresh, lightly extracted Savigny-Les-Beaune. The final wine was an early-drinking 2023 white called Anatole. It's a wine that she used to release as a cuvée from the IGP Sainte-Marie-la-Blanche but is now labelled as a Vin de France. Sainte-Marie-La-Blanche is a commune at about the same latitude as Meursault but on the “wrong side of the road”. To the east of the Côte de Beaune, on the eastern side of the A6 motorway, it is an area with much more mixed farming. The land is flatter and the soil more fertile, with much more clay than limestone. On the plus side, the prices reflect the less complex terroir.

As usually tends to happen, Fanny's wines have sold out very quickly. Quite a few people asked for advance notice and most of the wine has been sold to them. We do though have a pack which has five of these wines in it (pack 3) and another one (pack 2, which is a 3 pack), which has two of Tony Bornard's newest arrivals and one bottle of Fanny's Aligoté.

We do still have some Bourgogne Rouge, some Hautes-Côtes-de-Beaune Rouge 2023 and a bottle of Savigny-les-Beaune (although it has a slightly stained label so will be discounted by 20% if someone buys it).

If you are interested in some of the other wines all is not lost. We have another shipment of Fanny's wines arriving late next month, which includes more 2023 Bourgogne Blanc and 2023 Bourgogne Aligoté as well as other new cuvées including some Village and premier Cru wines. If you would like advance notice about the next shipment, please let us know.

And of course, these wines are likely to be appearing in many of the wine shops which stock our wines. For that reason, here is a full list of the new wines which are starting to trickle out into the world.

Fanny Sabre Anatole Blanc 2023

This is mainly Chardonnay but co-planted with Pinot Auxerrois, Pinot Gris, Aligoté, and Melon de Bourgogne. The vines are approximately 8 years old, with all the varieties co-planted in clay and limestone soil. It has been in organic viticulture since 2018 and is certified by ECOCERT.

Directly pressed, the juice is settled for 24 hours then half was aged in 500 litre barrels (which had been used for 4 wines previously) and half to amphora. The wine was aged on lees with no interventions except small additions of sulphites after malolactic fermentation and during aging. It was racked after 6 months and then lightly filtered before bottling. This wine is light and fresh and ready to drink now. 11.5% ABV.

This wine is in pack 3.

Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Blanc 2023

This wine is a blend from two clay and limestone parcels of Chardonnay, both of which have beautiful terroir. One is in Meursault below the Château de Meursault and the other on the hillsides of Pommard next to Pommard terroir. The vines are approximately 40 years old and certified by ECOCERT. After hand sorting in the vineyard, the grapes were directly pressed and the juice settled for 48 hours prior to aging in 500 litre and 228 litre oak barrels (a proportion of which were new). The wine was aged on lees with no interventions except small additions of sulphites after malolactic fermentation and during aging. It was racked after 11 months and then lightly filtered before bottling. It is well rounded and balanced with a mineral finish reflective of its lovely terroir. 13% ABV.

We will have more of this soon. If you would like some and don't want to buy a pack let us know now and we will offer you some before we advertise it.

This wine is in pack 3.

Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Aligoté 2023

Fanny Sabre's Aligoté vines were planted on the hills of Pommard by her father. They are now approximately 50 years old. The viticulture is organic, certified by ECOCERT. After hand sorting in the vineyard, the grapes were directly pressed and the juice settled for 48 hours prior to aging in 500 litre oak barrels (a proportion of which were new). The wine was aged on lees with no interventions except small additions of sulphites after malolactic fermentation and during aging. It was racked after 11 months and then lightly filtered before bottling. It may be only 12% ABV but it has structure and length.

We will have more of this soon. If you would like some and don't want to buy a pack let us know now and we will offer you some before we advertise it.

This wine is in pack 2 and pack 3.

Fanny Sabre Beaune Blanc Les Prevolles 2022

Les Prevolles is named after the lieu-dit where the vines are planted, which is on the plain between Beaune and Pommard. Fanny's vines cover only 0.12 hectares. The vines are approximately 40 years old. The viticulture has been organic since 2019 and is in the process of certification. After hand sorting in the vineyard, the grapes were directly pressed and the juice settled for 48 hours prior to aging in 500 litre and 228 litre oak barrels. The wine was aged on lees with no interventions except small additions of sulphites after malolactic fermentation and during aging. It was racked after 11 months and then lightly filtered before bottling. Fanny's observation is the wine has great depth and length for a village appellation. 12.5% ABV.

Sorry – we have sold out of this and we did not reserve any for a pack. We also only received 24 bottles. A few are in retail land though so it's possible to find it.

Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Rouge 2023

It's not quite Pommard, but it is as close as Pinot Noir you can get without it being so. Fanny's Bourgogne Rouge comes from three formerly Pommard plots which were declassified after World War 2! The soil is clay and iron, typical of Pommard terroir. The vines are approximately 40 years old and the viticulture is organic certified by ECOCERT. Whole bunches were macerated in open tronconique oak vats with punch down and pump over twice per day for approximately 2 weeks during alcoholic fermentation before pressing. Aging on lees was for 11 months in a combination of 400 litre barrels and a 20 HL tronconique oak vat, with a proportion of the barrels new. There was no racking or filtration. To paraphrase Fanny, it is "very digestible and delicious, a fruity, balanced and sunny wine, with the quality of Pommard terroir." 12% ABV.

We will still have stocks of this plus it is in pack 3. \$86.

Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes-de-Beaune Rouge 2023

This Hautes Côtes de Beaune parcel is situated in Echevronne. The soil is clay and limestone. Whole bunches were macerated in open tronconique oak vats with punch down and pump over twice per day for approximately 2 weeks during alcoholic fermentation before pressing. Aging on lees was for 11 months in a combination of 500 litre barrels and tronconique oak vats, with a proportion of the barrels new. There was no racking or filtration. This wine has a fruit aroma with floral notes and the effect is elegance and freshness. 12% ABV.

We still have stocks of this wine. \$105.

Fanny Sabre Savigny-Les-Beaune Rouge 2023

The vines for this wine are between Beaune and Pernand-Vergelesses. The soil is clay and limestone and the vines are approximately 30 years old. Whole bunches were macerated in open tronconique oak vats with punch down and pump over twice per day for approximately 2 weeks during alcoholic fermentation before pressing. Aging on lees was for 11 months in 400 litre barrels and a 20 HL tronconique oak vat, with a proportion of the barrels new. There was no racking or filtration. This wine has a freshness and lightness which makes it suitable for early drinking. 13% ABV.

Note: Due to a bottle of Aligoté which was in a case above one of the cases of this wine breaking while the wine was in transit we have several bottles of this wine which have slightly stained labels (fortunately the broken bottle was a white wine so it is not catastrophic). **There is one of these bottles in Pack 3 discounted by 20% and, at the time of writing, we had one more available not in a pack. The price pre-discount is \$137.**

Domaine Bornard



Thanks Kobi Ruzicka for being a hand model!

This new release of Domaine Bornard wines comes in quick succession after our November release. These are all new wines. It is fair to say that of all the people we work with Tony Bornard is the vigneron who has the least obvious cycle of releases of wines. In this collection we have wines made between 2015 and 2021. It is an unpredictably we really appreciate because it's mostly caused by him waiting until he thinks the wines are ready to present (sometimes it has more to do with delays in organising new label designs but mostly it's the first explanation!). Given he works almost entirely with no additions it is a risky business and some of the wines can take a long time to reach the right place. It is the reason why some of these wines are from older vintages.

As a general observation. the entire Bornard estate is now certified organic, with the last certification being obtained in 2018 for the Pinot Noir vines which are part of the Les Gaudrettes parcel (the Chardonnay, which makes up the bulk of Les Gaudrettes was already certified). The

labelling changes Tony has made to differentiate the estate from his father's era now include these certifications on the back labels. Philippe, although he had certified vines for many years, did not include that information on his labels.

None of these wines have been filtered and because of that, they form quite a deposit in the bottom of the bottle and are quite cloudy in the glass. As always the flavours are compelling and often intense, partly as a consequence of not removing anything with filtration, but we also think it's important to let you know this to ensure the wines are purchased by people who enjoy wines which push boundaries in many ways. If you like to be able to see through the glass once the wine is poured some of these wines, especially the reds, may not be for you. We think too the bottles are best enjoyed once they have had time to settle. We left them for a month before we started to try them and if you do buy we'd encourage you to give them time once they have travelled again.

We believe that of the new wines we are offering from this release only the vin jaune has had added sulphites.

Many of the wines are in very limited numbers – in one case only 24 bottles – so they may not be part of an offer we have made you or may also be hard to find in a wine shop or restaurant. Virtually all the wines are currently allocated and we have only just started sending out the offers but if, having read about the wines, you would be interested to order a bottle should one become available please let us know and if any are turned down we may be able to offer you one (it will be in the order we receive any requests).

We do also still have a few spare bottles of Tromp La Mort at the moment if you would like a bottle. In addition, Tromp La Mort and Les Chassagnes are in pack 2.

Domaine Bornard Trousseau Le Garde Corps 2019

Garde-Corps, as its cuvée name suggests, is the trousseau which Tony Bornard makes as a "vin de garde" - i.e. it is made for aging. From almost 40 year old vines grown in a lieu dit in Arbois-Pupillin called 'La Bidode' the wine is now labelled as a Vin de France. Destemmed grapes are macerated for one month in tank then pressed and aged in barrels for approximately one year. The wine is then racked and allowed to settle in tank. Finally, it has also spent several resting years in bottle prior to its release this year. Tony suggests it has potential to age for up to 10 years. 13.8% ABV. \$102.

Domaine Bornard Trousseau Trompe La Mort 2017

This unique cuvée name hints at the story of this trousseau. "Trompe la Mort" is someone who defies death or who has escaped it by miracle and that is what happened with this wine. 2017 was a year with severe frost so there were not enough grapes to make all the normal cuvées. This wine is made from the juice that normally would have made Le Ginglet and Garde Corps and also a little from the lieu dit Le Feule, which Philippe owned separately with two friends (one is Edouard Hirsinger, the owner of the legendary La Maison Hirsinger in the centre of Arbois). The wine was unstable for several years, with volatile acidity and mousiness. Tony was fearful for many years that the wine would not be able to be sold but patience was rewarded and eventually it settled down and he was happy to offer it. 12.5% ABV. \$135.

Domaine Bornard Savagnin Oeuf Mammouth Télécabine 2016

This was one of Philippe's first experiments macerating Savagnin in alternative vessels. The earliest we know of was the cuvee Macération Pelliculaire in 2015, which was a 2-week maceration in stainless steel and a wine we had many years ago. This 2016 wine was part of a larger experiment involving three different types of vessels – an egg made from engineered stone (this cuvée), a buried Georgian Qvevri, and an Italian Amphora. We have this and the 2020 vintage from the Qvevri in this release, and released the 2016 vintage from the Italian amphora cuvée recently. This wine was macerated in the egg until the following April before pressing. We're not sure when it was finally bottled but it has only just been released. The wine is aromatic, rounded and spicy with a distinctive orange colour, much more so than the amber tones of the Georgian wine. ABV 11.8%. Certified organic. \$159.

Domaine Bornard Savagnin Amphore Mammouth Géorgien 2020

Part of the same experiments with three different vessels for maceration, a 700 litre Georgian Qvevri was buried beside Philippe Bornard's house. It's literally an amber wine with immense energy and drinkability but complexity too. There are spices such as cloves and liquorice on the nose and white fruits such as apricots and peaches. It's quite extraordinary. 12.9% ABV. Certified organic. \$135.

This is the bottle in the photo above.

Domaine Bornard Pinot Noir L'Aide Mémoire 2021

2021 was a vintage decimated before it began by severe frost. As a result, Tony Bornard decided to only make one Pinot Noir cuvee. This is an assembly of what would normally have been three different wines - Aide-Mémoire, Petit Feule and Le Pinot Noir (one of the cuvees made with Tony's label). We expect this may be the case into the future with this cuvée.

The parcels where it come from include many variants of Pinot Noir, some of which are no longer cultivated and some with forgotten names. To quote (translated) Tony, "it allows us to keep in memory the work of our fathers" (i.e. an aide-memoire). From three lieu-dits, Bessard, Feule et Sous les Lettres, all the vines are within Arbois Pupillin but the wine is designated Vin de France. If you have visited Pupillin you will easily be able to identify "Sous les Lettres". It is the plot under the big Pupillin sign which Tony bought some years ago and from where his Le Pinot has come in the past. Within these parcels there is grey, black, blue and green marl and also Triassic sandstone. The expositions are northerly, southerly and westerly.

The grapes were destemmed in the vineyard then macerated for one month in a stainless steel tank with several pump overs but no punching down. After pressing it was aged in 400 litre barrels for about 9 months and then bottled in such a way to keep some gas from the fermentation and with no additions of sulphites. It was then aged in bottle until its recent release. Its complex spices will reveal themselves. Tony recommends you can keep this wine for up to 10 years. 11.8% ABV. \$91.

Domaine Bornard Chardonnay Au Fil des Générations 2021

Unfortunately this is the third time we have received this cuvée. Only made in years with severe frost it represents all the estate's Chardonnay – from the parcels that normally make Les Gaudrettes, Blanc de la Rouge, and Chardo Gai. In 2017, 2019 and now again in 2021 the frost was so severe that the only way to have enough juice to make a wine was to combine everything. The wine was directly-pressed then aged in barrels which were topped up. 12.6% ABV. \$121.

Domaine Bornard Savagnin Les Chassagnes 2021

Les Chassagnes is named for the lieu dit where the Savagnin for this wine is sourced from. It is within the Côtes du Jura appellation just outside Pupillin. The wine though, is now classified as a Vin de France. The soil is iridescent marne from the Keuper, which formed during the Triassic period, and is a complex layered stratified rock system which covers much of western Europe. The exposition is easterly and the vines were planted in the 1990s.

Whole bunches were directly pressed into vats to begin the fermentation and then subsequently most was transferred to 2400 litre foudre with a proportion in tank. It was aged on lees for two years and topped up during that time. For much of the time it was still fermenting, including when we visited in September 2022. However, because of the age of the foudre there is a hint of oxidation from exposure to air via the wood. It has also had a substantial further period of aging in bottle.

Tony's translated observations are "As it ages, this wine will develop smoky characteristics. It is aromatically intense and has a mouth that finishes with freshness." He thinks it has the potential to age for 30 years – sadly we are unlikely to find out if that's the case!

We also like French wine merchant Petite Caves' description of this wine as "Slight hints of oxidative notes (almonds and hazelnuts) on the nose, quickly complemented by grapefruit and ripe yellow fruit. The mouth is full and delicious". 12.6% ABV. \$92.

Domaine Bornard Savagnin Arbois Pupillin Vin Jaune 2015

This vintage is rich and rounded. We are under instructions from Tony Bornard to drink our one bottle with Gorgonzola. We don't have a lot of information about the story of this particular wine but do note that as a general rule for making vin jaune Tony confirmed to us recently that he tops up the barrels initially until the wine has fermented all the sugars and is fully dry. He observed that it is too risky to let the flor develop while there is still sugar. This wine does have a small addition of added sulphites. The ABV is a quite extraordinary 15.8%. We received 36 bottles which, given we also had 12 bottles of the same wine late last year, means it is our largest import of a single vin jaune cuvée ever, a reflection of the generosity of the 2015 vintage from which we have drunk some extraordinary wines (most recently sharing a magnum of Melon à Rouge Queue from that vintage thanks to Wines of While in Perth). \$233.

What's coming

Apologies for the repetition in this section of the newsletter. We have quite a lot of wine coming that we have mentioned in previous issues. But we like to mention most of the wines that are on the way a couple of times because we understand not everyone has time to read every issue of the newsletter. (There are a few we usually only mention once so it is a good idea to at least glance here though!)

We are currently sending out some very small offers for more of Tony Bornard's wines. It's a slow process plus we're not rushing it because breakoff the time of year. But, gradually we're getting there! We do, at the moment have the odd spare not allocated bottle so if you are interested let us know. There is a description of all the wines in the New Arrivals section.

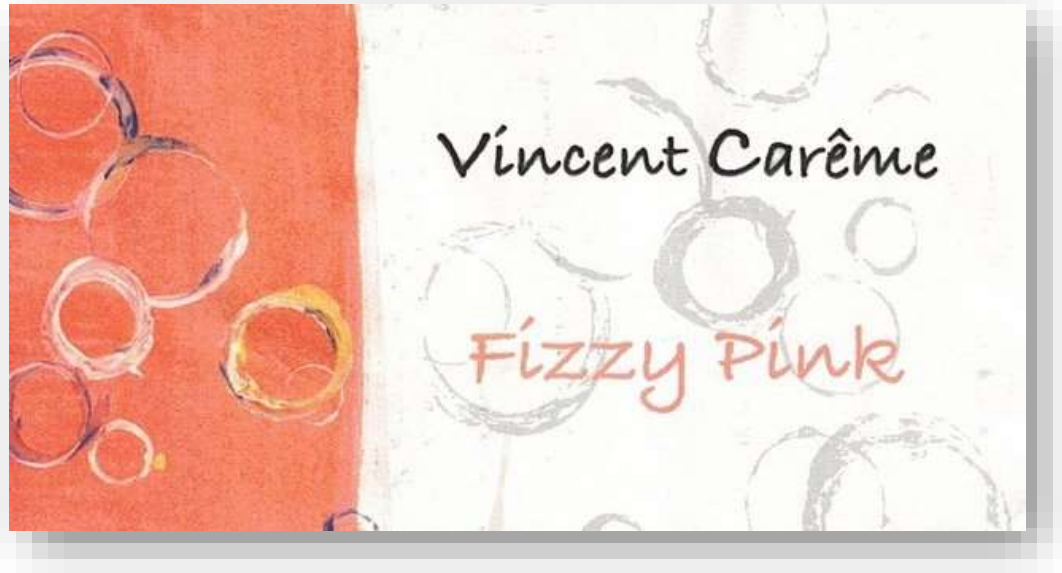
Next we will be allocating and offering some wines from two more of our Jura domaines - Domaine des Cavarodes and Michel Gahier. That will start later this month or early February. It's definitely not too late to ask for an offer if you haven't already.

After that we're expecting new vinegars from la Guinelle, wines from La Soeur Cadette, including a négoce Chablis for the first time, new wines from Julien and Carole - from Domaine Derain and Sextant – as well as two cuvées made by Dominique Derain in the south of France, more Fanny Sabre wines, including more of this 2023 vintage of Aligoté and Bourgogne Blanc which we have already run out of, and a shipment from the Mosse family including our first 2024 wine, their Bang Nouveau. It's a name change to differentiate the premier wine from Bangarang, which is released in the French spring. The new 2024 Bang Nouveau in this shipment is a blend of 65% Grolleau Gris macerated for 4 days, 20% Gamay and 15% Chenin and is only 9.5%. We won't be allocating this – it will be advertised – so we suggest letting us know if you would like early notice. We doubt it will last long and we're very happy it's going to be here while summer still is too. It's the same situation for all the wines mentioned in this paragraph. We're happy to give anyone who asks advance notice but we won't be making reservations and offers.

And we'd especially recommend you take a look at this section next month as we're hoping to have finalised a couple of orders and have arrival dates for some of our most loved wines, which means we'll be ready to share their likely arrival dates with you.

Pack 1 – Carême New Arrivals Pack (15% Discount)

(2 Packs Only)



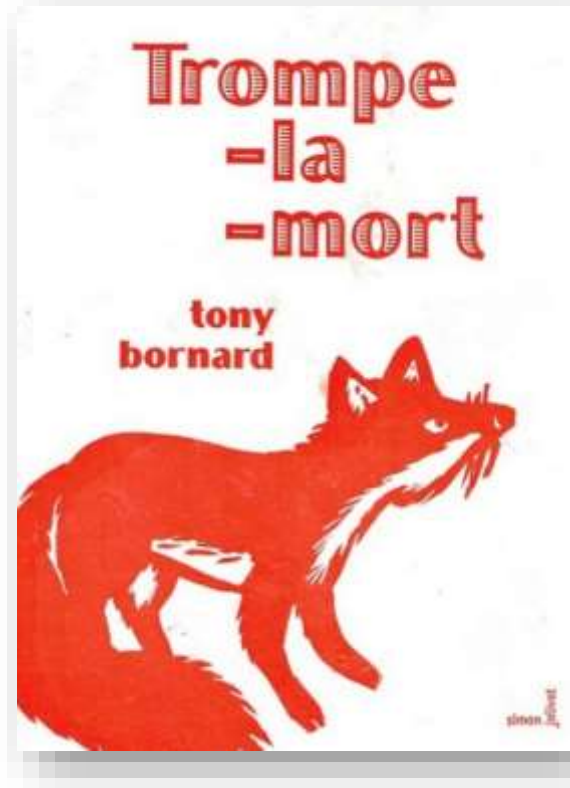
This pack is predominantly for Chenin Blanc lovers with a touch of fun provided by Fizzy Pink, made with most of the Loire Valley red varieties. The New Arrivals section of the newsletter has a detailed description of each of the wines.

These are the wines:

- **Vincent Carême Fizzy Pink 2023 (2 bottles)**
- **Vincent Carême Vouvray Plaisir Ancestral 2022 (2 bottles)**
- **Vincent Carême Vouvray Le Clos 2022**
- **Vincent Carême Vouvray Peu Morier 2022**

The RRP for this selection of **6** bottles is \$368.00 but the pack price is only **\$312.80**. Check with us for the subsidised freight charge to your location.

**Pack 2: Mainly Bornard New Arrivals (Approx 11% discount)
(3 bottle pack - 3 Packs Only)**



Our newest shipment from Tony Bornard is very small so we can't offer packs with multiple bottles. We also appreciate that Jura wines are increasingly expensive and that if we fill a pack with 6 bottles it would be prohibitive for many people. So, in keeping with the times this is a three bottle pack. There are two new Bornard wines and one new Fanny Sabre wine – a completely enjoyable Aligoté from vines planted in Pommard nearly 50 years ago.

Both Bornard wines and Fanny's Aligoté are described in some detail in the relevant New Arrivals section. Tony's Tromp La Mort (Escape from Death) is quite a story!

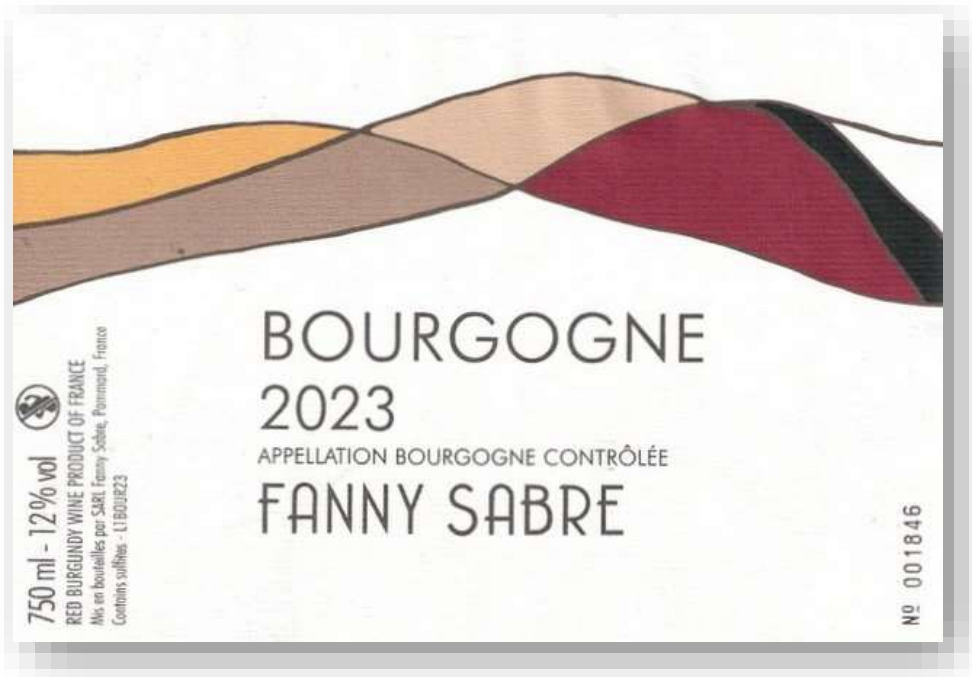
The wines are:

- **Domaine Bornard Trousseau Trompe La Mort 2017**
- **Domaine Bornard Savagnin Les Chassagnes 2021**
- **Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Aligoté 2023**

The RRP for this selection of **6 bottles** is \$304.00 but the pack price is only **\$269.75**. Check with us for the subsidised freight charge to your location.

Pack 3: Fanny Sabre New Wines Pack (Approx 16% Discount)

(3 Packs Only)



This 6 pack has almost all the new wines we have just received from Fanny Sabre, including two bottles of her delicious Bourgogne Rouge.

There is a detailed description of the wines in the New Arrivals section.

Please note that the Savigny-le-Beaune label is slightly stained. It was in a case below a case of Aligoté in which one bottle broke while the wine was in transit. Fortunately, it was a white wine so the damage is only just visible. On the plus side the bottle, which is the most expensive in the pack, has a 20% discount because of the staining.

These are the wines:

- **Fanny Sabre Anatole Blanc 2023**
- **Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Blanc 2023**
- **Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Aligoté 2023**
- **Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Rouge 2023 (2 bottles)**
- **Fanny Sabre Savigny-Les-Beaune Rouge 2023**

The RRP for this selection of **6** bottles is \$534.00 but the pack price is only **\$447.05**. Check with us for the subsidised freight charge to your location.

Pack 4: Robinot and Belluard 3 Pack (Approx. 11.5% discount)

(1 Pack Only)



This pack has two bottles of Jean-Pierre Robinot's wines and one of Dominique Belluard's.

Fêtembulles is a pet-nat made from 100% Chenin Blanc. The photo above shows Jean-Pierre disgorging¹ bottles of pet-nats in front of his Loire cellars dug into the limestone cliffs. The other Robinot wine is Concerto di Venezia, which for the 2020 vintage was 100% Pineau d'Aunis. (It has been more recently mainly Cabernet Franc, and we believe the next vintage we receive of this cuvée will be 100% Cabernet Franc.) Both are négoce wines but very rare.

The final wine is also very special, one of the last wines made completely by Dominique Belluard before he died in 2021. We received this wine and the other still 2019 cuvées only a few weeks before we heard he had died. We have put one bottle from our personal allocation in this pack. Les Alpes is one of the two still cuvées Dominique made with the Gringet grape variety which he championed. It's a wine he used to recommend keeping for about 4-5 years for optimum drinking (unlike Le Feu, which could keep for many years), so should be in a sweet spot.

¹ *Disgorging means to eject the sediment that has accumulated in the top of the upside down bottles. The bottles are then topped up.*

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

These are the wines:

- **Jean-Pierre Robinot Fêtembulles 2020**
- **Jean-Pierre Robinot Concerto di Venezia 2020**
- **Belluard Vin de Savoie AOP Blanc Les Alpes 2019**

The RRP for this selection of **6** bottles is \$215.00 but the pack price is only **\$189.95**. Check with us for the subsidised freight charge to your location.

Pack 5: Quite a Mixture Pack (Almost 14% Discount)

(1 Pack Only)



This pack is quite a mix. Two wines are made from a single variety. There's a rare Loire Valley Pineau d'Aunis from Jean-Pierre (Regard 2020) and Gamay in the form of a rosé from Michel Guignier in the Beaujolais. But the rest all have more than one variety.

There are two Mosse wines, also from the Loire Valley. La Joute is a white wine, made from some of the estate's Chenin Blanc and, as far as we know, all of its Chardonnay from the 2022 vintage. Moussamoussettes 2022 is a pet-nat – a blend of Grolleau Noir, Cabernet Franc, and Pineau d'Aunis.

The other pet-nat is from the Languedoc, Axel Pruffer's Le Temps des Cerises La Peur du Rouge Pet-Nat 2021. It's a blend of Chardonnay and Clairette and is only just fizzy. And the final wine, also from the Languedoc, is a spicy red made from a mix of red and white grapes (Merlot, Syrah, Muscat de Hambourg, Terret Bourret, Alicante Bouschet, Muscat à Petits Grains Blanc, Chardonnay, and Grenache Gris). Despite its name (Le Bouc à Trois Pattes French Press Shiraz 2021) the majority of the wine is made from Merlot (50%) not Syrah (Shiraz). Wim Wagemans has a unique sense of humour.

These are the wines:

- **Michel Guignier Mystère de Rosée 2021**
- **Jean-Pierre Robinot Regard 2020**
- **Mosse Moussamoussettes 2022**
- **Le Temps des Cerises La Peur du Rouge Pet-Nat 2021**
- **Le Bouc à Trois Pattes French Press Shiraz 2021**
- **Mosse La Joute 2022**

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$369.00 but the pack price is only **\$317.75**. Check with us for the subsidised freight charge to your location.

Pack 6: Robinot and Octavin 3 Pack (Approx 11.5% Discount)

(1 Pack Only)



This is another small pack of three with two bottles of Jean-Pierre Robinot's wines we've decided to release from our personal allocations and one of our last bottles of Alice Bouvot's Ivre de Vivre 2021.

Concerto di Venezia 2020 is 100% Pineau d'Aunis and Les Années Folles 2020, which is a pet-nat, is a blushing shade of pink being made with a blend of Chenin Blanc and Pineau d'Aunis. In our experience Jean-Pierre's pet-nats are still delicious after a few years of aging.

Ivre de Vire is made with wine from one of Alice's favourite sources of négoce grapes from a biodynamic grower in Provence. 50 % is 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.

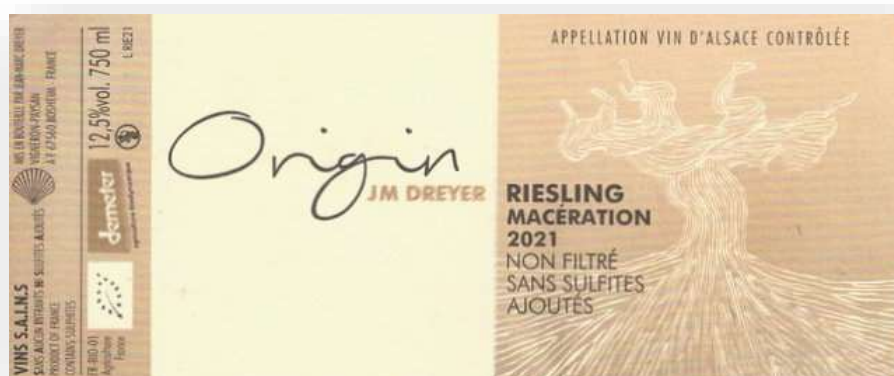
See the list below for more details.

These are the wines:

- **Jean-Pierre Robinot Les Années Folles 2020**
- **Jean-Pierre Robinot Concerto di Venezia 2020**
- **l'Octavin Ivre de Vivre 2021**

The RRP for this selection of 3 bottles is \$214.00 but the pack price is only \$189.10. Check with us for the subsidised freight charge to your location.

Pack 7: A Little of Everything Deep Sale Pack (25% Discount)



Pack 7 has a little of everything including a macerated Alsace Riesling from a master of maceration Jean-Marc Dreyer, Cru Beaujolais from La Soeur Cadette, a fresh white Sauvignon Blanc from Domaine de la Garrelière, which is a lovely expression of the variety, a bottle of la Guinelle aged Banyuls red wine vinegar, particularly useful at this time of year as the base for dressings to go with tomato salads, and a fairly fizzy white pet-nat from the Languedoc made with Chardonnay and Clairette. You need to take some care opening Julien Peyras's Les Pétillantes Blanc – we generally recommend not wearing your best clothes and doing it outside.

The highlight, though, is an incredibly special Pinot Noir from Domaine Geschickt in Alsace. Their Pinot Noir K Sonnenberg 2022 is made with Pinot Noir from the granitic part of the Kaefferkopf Grand Cru. However, it cannot be designated as from Kaefferkopf because Grand Cru wines from here must be predominantly Gewurztraminer. Only the K in the name hints at its source. Sonnenberg is the name of the lieu-dit where it comes from. It used to be part of a wine called K, which we have made in the past, but they decided to separate the harvest from this small parcel because of its superior quality. It is lightly extracted and aged in foudre

The discount is deep too!

These are the wines/vinegars:

- **Jean-Marc Dreyer Vin d'Alsace Riesling Origin 2021**
- **Geschickt Vin d'Alsace Pinot Noir K Sonnenberg 2022**
- **La Soeur Cadette Julié纳斯 2023**
- **Julien Peyras Les Pétillantes Blanc 2021**
- **La Guinelle Vinaigre de Vieux Banyuls 50 cl**
- **Domaine de la Garrelière Le Blanc de la Mariée 2022**

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$380.00 but the pack price is only **\$285.00**. Check with us for the subsidised freight charge to your location.

Pack 8: Most of These Slipped Through the Cracks Pack (11% Discount)
(1 Pack Only)



The photo above was taken at the table of Renaud and Adeline in Pupillin when we were tasting their wines last year.

It's the wrong time of year for a spring clean but we did take a peek in our spreadsheets for some wines we've recently sold only by allocation and found a few spare bottles that somehow missed being offered (or more likely were offered and then the offers were eventually turned down or we cancelled them).

This pack has one bottle of Renaud Bruyère and Adeline Houillon's precious 2017 Arbois Blanc from the Les Nouvelles and Viaduc vineyards. It's a blend of 60% Chardonnay (from Les Nouvelles) and 40% Savagnin from Viaduc. There is one bottle of 2023 Memo, Mataburro's macerated Macabeu from the Languedoc.

The two allocation-only wines are two red wines from the Bornard shipment we sold mainly during October. Le Ginglet 2021 is Trousseau and L'Aide Memoire 2020 is Pinot Noir.

The last two wines were not allocation wines but they are our last bottle of Domaine Derain Allez Goutons Rouge 2023 (an early drinking Pinot Noir from Burgundy) and our last bottle of l'Octavin Joker 2021, which is a négoce wine made with macerated Jacquère from the Savoie. The grower is Nathalie Montagnon from Le Mas des Abymes in Chapareillan.

These are the wines:

- **Domaine Bornard Trousseau Le Ginglelet 2021**
- **Domaine Bornard Pinot Noir L'Aide Mémoire 2020**
- **Mataburro Memo 2023**
- **Renaud Bruyère and Adeline Houillon Arbois Blanc Chardonnay/Savagnin (Nouvelles - Viaduc) 2017**
- **Domaine Derain Allez Goutons Rouge 2023**
- **l'Octavin Joker 2021**

The RRP for this selection of **6** bottles is \$557.00 but the pack price is only **\$494.40**. Check with us for the subsidised freight charge to your location.

Wine faults 8: Mousiness

Mousiness is a tricky one for us to write about because both of us fall into the 30% of people who struggle to detect the mouse aroma accompanying this fault. However the presence of the cause of the mouse aroma also causes the wine to taste flat and that's more the hint we get that something is wrong.

One of the first references to mousiness we can find is a book published in 1894² by J Thudichum.

The first unique thing about this fault is that it cannot usually be detected by sniffing the glass of wine. Rather it needs to be swallowed. As Hayasaka says in a paper on the subject:

Mousiness is a unique wine fault which is rarely perceived by sniffing but persistently turns up via the retronasal passage after swallowing³.

One way to establish if a wine is mousy by smelling it directly is to rub some of the wine on your arm and then sniff it.

Now to what may be the cause of this fault. Many of the papers we consulted put the problem down to bacteria. For example, Costello et al 2001 blame the following bacteria:

Lactobacillus hilgardii, Lactobacillus plantarum, Lactobacillus brevis, and Oenococcus oeni⁴.

What these bacteria do is to create one or more of the chemical compounds that are responsible for the mousy characteristics of the wine. These are:

2-acetyltetrahydropyridine (ACTPY), which is the main compound responsible, 2-ethyltetrahydropyridine (ETPY) and 2-acetylpyrroline (ACPY)⁵

And the problem is that once these bacteria have done their work, there is no way of removing these compounds that are causing the taint.

² Thudichum, J. L. W. (1894). *A Treatise on Wines* (George Bell&Sons: New York).

³ Hayasaka, Y (2019) *Quantitative analysis of mousy off-flavour compound 2-acetyl tetrahydropyridine in wine using liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry interfaced with atmospheric chemical ionisation. Journal of Chromatography A. Volume 1588, 15 March 2019, Pages 108-114*

⁴ Costello, P.J., Lee, T.H., Henschke, P.A. (2001) *Ability of lactic acid bacteria to produce N heterocycles causing mousy off-flavour in wine. Aust. J. Grape Wine Res. 7(3): 160-167.*

⁵ Grbin, P.R., Costello, P.J., Herderich, M., Markides, A.J., Henschke, P.A., Lee, T.H. (1996) *Developments in the sensory, chemical and microbiological basis of mousy taint in wine. Stockley, C.S., Sas, A.N., Johnstone, R.S., Lee, T.H. (eds) Maintaining the competitive edge: proceedings of the ninth Australian wine industry technical conference, 16-19 July 1995, Adelaide, SA: Winetitles, Adelaide, SA: 57-61.*

Exciting development in France to mitigate climate change

We have just read an article on a Web site that publishes stories about climate change. The heading led us to believe that a solar panel experiment had gone horribly wrong. We will let you judge before we tell you more.

The headline for the story was:

Researchers make shocking discovery after examining vineyard grown under solar panels

We wondered what the problem was going to be. Did the grapes not ripen due to lack of sunlight? Did disease spread faster without the winds being able to access the vines properly? Were the frosts stronger under the panels?

We then read on to find what the “shocking discovery” was going to be. The article explained that the experiment was in the field of agrivoltaics which uses:

the shaded area under solar panels to allow [sheep](#) to graze or to [focus on](#) growing crops that can thrive without direct sunlight.

To cut a long story short – the discovery was that (in this case) the vines actually grew better, and the yield increased not decreased.

In fact, there were three different grape varieties under the panels and the article reported the following results:

The yield of Chardonnay grapes increased by 60%, followed by Marselan at 30% and Grenache Blanc at 20%.

The figure for Chardonnay which is struggling in Australia due to the high temperatures during summer that are now being experienced is quite extraordinary. The shading is obviously beneficial.

As we have reported in past newsletters, some of our winemakers are now planting fruit trees in their vineyards to provide shade for the vines. However, these take a few years to reach the stage where they are providing shade whereas the solar panels can be installed immediately.

Another advantage that was discovered was that the frosts didn't settle under the panels thus protecting the vines during the budding season when frosts can ruin an entire crop.

And a third advantage relates to the alcoholic content of the wine that was subsequently made. In many regions of France the alcoholic content of the wines is increasing due to the higher temperatures during the ripening season.

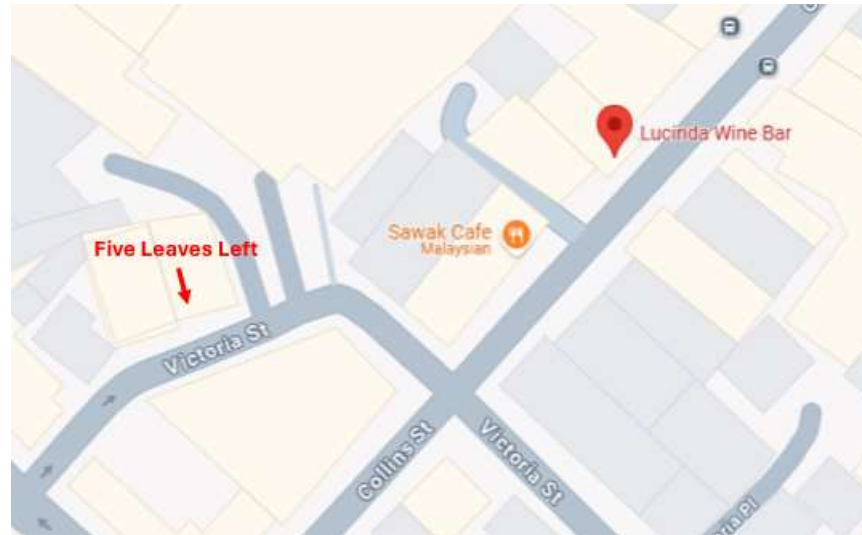
The alcohol content of the trial wine made from these vines was actually 1.5% less than previous years before the panels were installed. This is a major advantage especially given the trend towards lighter, lower alcohol wines.

So, this was the shocking discovery – seems like quite a good shocking discovery to us!

Bits and pieces

Where to buy our wines if you are visiting Hobart

We do not maintain a shop as we sell most of our wines online, however if you are visiting Hobart this summer then there are some places where you can buy some of our wines.



Lucinda

One of the best places is at the wonderful natural wine bar called Lucinda in Collins Street. They have a licence to sell wine by the bottle, and they have a room at the entrance to Lucinda's sibling, Dier Makr, where many of them are displayed, but you need to ask to gain access. You can also study the wine list and, if there is an estate you're particularly interested in, it never hurts to ask even if nothing is currently on the list. The cellar is deep. The staff at Lucinda are knowledgeable about natural wines and many people who drop in there for a drink end up buying a bottle to take away with them. If you are driving around the state, it is a very good idea to stock up on both wine and food before venturing out because the options are fairly thin once you are in the country areas.

[123 Collins St, Hobart](#)

Five Leaves Left

Quite close to Lucinda is a new wine shop which has some of our wine as well as many other natural wines, including Rory Duggan's Tasmanian r.meure wines. It is at Ground Floor, Shop 2/41-43 Victoria St, which is quite close to Lucinda and the opening hours are very good as they are open during the day from 10am till 8pm, closed Sunday and Monday. They don't just sell wine. Five Leaves Left is also a bookshop.

[Shop 2/41-43 Victoria St](#)

Blackhearts & Sparrows

This classy bottle shop, which began in Fitzroy but has expanded interstate, including Tasmania, often has some of our wines available. It is almost at the end of the restaurant strip in North Hobart.

[396 Elizabeth Street, North Hobart](#)

Moonah Hotel

If you reach the suburb of Moonah, then there are two venues you might want to explore. The first is Shake, which is one of the best coffee places in Hobart (they do their own roasting here). The other is the Moonah Hotel which also buys some of our wine.

[Shake, 85 Main Rd, Moonah and Moonah Hotel, 99 Main Rd, Moonah](#)

Restaurants

The following restaurants also may have some of our wines.

The first place, of course, is Lucinda and Dier Makr which always has a deep stock of our wines. If you want to have a drink in the docks area then a perfect place to go is Rosie in Your Midnight Dreams in the Brooke Street Pier (where the MONA ferries leave) – they usually have a number of our wines including the odd rare bottle you'd struggle to find in bigger cities.

Other places within the Hobart area include Ogee, Trophy Room, Fico, Pitzzi, Templo and Sonny. Not all of these will have wines available at all times but they all have lots of delicious wines to choose from.

French wine terms

Here are some more French wine terms in common use in the wine industry.

Débourrement

Débourrement is the French term for bud break or bud burst. Bud break marks the beginning of the growing cycle in a vineyard which normally commences after the snow has melted in most regions. After the snow has melted the soil gradually warms sending a signal to the vines that they can start to commence the process of photosynthesis (see Wine Talk 117 October 2023 and Wine Talk 118 December 2023 for more about this process). This is when bud burst occurs. It is the time when vigneronns are most nervous, because in many regions there is still the possibility of frosts occurring which can damage the tender buds.

Feuille de vigne

This is the French term for a leaf of a grapevine which begin to appear on the grapevine after bud burst.

Numéro de lot

Numéro de lot is the French term for lot number which is an identifier usually included on either the front label or back label (etiquette or contra-etiquette) which enables the winemaker and the appellation authorities (if used) to match elements of the harvest to the volume of wine produced.

There is no standard rule for creating a lot number, nor is there a defined format for what must appear in the lot number.

Examples from our producers include the very simple such as those applied by Beaujolais producer Michel Guignier, for example the lot number on the label for the Au Bonne Pioche 2020 and Granite 2020 label is L20 for both and for Mystere de Rosée 2021 is L21.

Another of our producers, Alice Bouvot from the Jura region of France, sometimes has a simple Lot number and on other occasions it is very complicated indeed.



So, for the Cariboom in 2021 she uses the lot number Lcarnign/gan 2021.

For her Hip Hip J... Chardonnay in 2020 she has adopted a very complex lot number:

Lchmacéré 2020 8 mois en jarre La Mailloche

We think that this is the most complex lot number of any of our producers.

Here she has indicated that it is a lot number (L) then captured the grape variety (ch = chardonnay), the fact that it has been macerated (macéré), the wine was

from the 2020 vintage and the maceration took place over an 8 month period (8 mois) which was carried out in glass jars (en jarre) using grapes picked from her vines in the La Mailloche vineyard.

Petrol aromas in Riesling

This is another interesting dilemma! Should this be part of our series on wine faults or is this a feature that wine drinkers actually like? Or is it both?

Many people comment that Rieslings often display a slight or strong petrol aroma especially as the wines age. Interestingly, Australian and South African Rieslings seem to display the highest

concentrations of the aroma compound (TDN)⁶ that causes the petrol aroma. This was first reported in 1978 by Simpson⁷.

The process of smelling a wine to determine if we like the odour seems to be a relatively straight forward event, however in reality it is quite complicated.

First, compounds have to be created in the wine that are capable of causing a specific aroma to be identified by humans via a process we will discuss soon.

As the grapes ripen they take on phenolic compounds as we discussed in the Wine Talk 127 October 2024 edition of the newsletter. One of these phenolic compounds which we mentioned in the article was carotenoids.

As the sun ripens the grapes the carotenoids are converted by the sunlight, including the ultra-violet rays, into a complex compound **1,1,6-Trimethyl-1,2-DihydroNaphthalene** which is called **TDN** for short.

Simpson wrote another paper in 1983 which simulated the aging process in wines and found that only Riesling developed enough TDN to allow humans to detect its presence⁸.

So, we know that Riesling can develop enough TDN for us to be able to detect it in the wine, but what do we use to do the detection work?

In fact, we humans can only detect aromas if we have a suitable odorant receptor present in our nasal passages. And of the possible 766 odorant receptors that are currently known only one allows us to detect TDN. The required odorant receptor goes by the exciting name, OR8H1.

Like many hard workers in our bodies OR8H1 (**O**lfactory **R**eceptor Family **8** Subfamily **H** Member **1**) is a protein coding gene which can both detect odours and bind to them.

Therefore, all that has to happen for us to be able to smell the petrol-like aroma is for the carotenoids to be created in the grape, then the carotenoids to be converted to TDN in the wine and then for us to detect the aroma if we have created OR8H1 in our nasal passages in sufficient quantity to be able to detect the TDN!

It is also interesting to note that TDN (and hence the possibility of detecting the petrol odour) is also present in passion fruit, peaches and strawberries.

Special grape varieties

This month we have taken a different approach (as we did in November by discussing a species of grape, *Vitis Vinifera* rather than a variety). This month we have decided to discuss four different varieties of more commonly known grapes.

The grapes we have written about before and which are relatively well-known are:

- Aligoté;

⁶ Winterhalter P.; Gok R., TDN and β -damascenone: Two important carotenoid metabolites in wine. In *Carotenoid cleavage products*; ACS Publications: 2013; pp 125–137.

⁷ Simpson R. F. 1,1,6-Trimethyl-1,2-dihydronaphthalene: an important contributor to the bottle aged bouquet of wine, 1978, 37.

⁸ Simpson R. F.; Miller G. C. *Aroma Composition of Aged Riesling Wine*. *Vitis* 1983, 22, 51–63.

- Trousseau;
- Syrah;
- Chardonnay.

However, each of these grape varieties have at least one “special” variant which have additional or different characteristics to the better-known variety.

The grapes we are going to briefly discuss are:

- Aligoté Doré;
- Trousseau a lá Dame;
- Serine;
- Melon à Queue Rouge.

Each of these has similarities to its “parent” but has enough differences to be considered a different grape by some. Let’s have a brief look at each separately.

Aligoté Doré

Aligoté Doré is a specific variant of the Aligoté grape variety. Doré means golden in French and the grapes are definitely slightly golden in colour when ripe.



Aligoté Doré grape cluster

We first came across Aligoté in the 1990s when a wine writer from Burgundy was showing us around some of the appellations in the area and when we stopped for lunch he bought a bottle of Aligoté for the table rather than Chardonnay, which provoked a discussion about his choice.

Anyway, we loved his choice and realised that it was a very interesting variety, and we have been fans ever since.

The main characteristics of Aligoté Doré when compared with regular Aligoté is it provides much lower yields, has higher phenolic complexity, a more pronounced texture and greater depth of flavour.

Aligoté missed out badly after phylloxera hit Burgundy in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century causing many vineyards to be replanted using American rootstock. Due to the popularity of Chardonnay many of the best sites were replanted to Chardonnay rather than Aligoté which was relegated to the valley floors in many cases, where the soils are not as rich as on the slopes.

However, enter Aubert de Villaine, a co-owner of the famed estate Domaine Romanée-Conti. In the early 1970s he settled, with his wife Pamela, in the village of Bouzeron. Separately to his work at DRC, he and Pamela created an estate called Domaine A & P de Villaine which they planted with Aligoté Doré. Eventually the appellation Bouzeron, was created just for Aligoté, elevating it above the more generally used Bourgogne Aligoté which can be used for all types of Aligoté grown in other Burgundy communes. This considerably raised the profile of Aligoté as a grape variety.

Wine writer Ian d’Agata adds some more detail:

Bouzeron’s Aligoté, known as Aligoté Doré, differs in significant ways from the Aligoté that is planted here and there in the rest of Burgundy (or the world, for that matter). Add that the wines of Bouzeron are generally blessed with a real sense of refinement and imbued with lovely white stone fruit and floral nuances enlivened by a racy minerality.

To provide just one more example, well-known Burgundy producer Michel Lafarge has a vineyard of Aligoté Doré which was planted in 1937 (nearly 90 years old). He bottles this wine under the name “Raisins Dorés” which stands for Golden Grapes.

There are a number of other top-ranking producers who have this grape variety such as Sylvain Pataille and Domaine Goisot who also treasure this rare variety. The Goisot plot near Saint Bris was planted 90 years ago and is still producing strongly!

For more information you can read the lengthy story about Aligoté in [Wine Talk 83](#) which we published in April 2019.

Trousseau à la Dame

Trousseau à la Dame is a variant of Trousseau which is quite rare in the Jura but there are some producers who have small plots with enough vines to create a separate bottling using this variety.

Examples in the Jura are Domaine de la Renardière and Domaine Ratte who both bottle this variant separately to show added spiciness and depth of flavour which one reviewer called “incomparably fruity”.

The following quote is about Domaine de la Renardière:

*Domaine de la Renardière is behind this red wine, one of the most distinctive you will encounter. Within their seven hectares of vineyards, this family cultivates several plots where vines of this unique clone grow, instantly identifiable and distinct. Part of this exceptional uniqueness is due to its yields, which are significantly lower than those of the standard **Trousseau**... but of a far superior quality!*

We have written a lengthy story about Trousseau in [Wine Talk 126](#) which we published in September 2024.

Serine

Serine is a variant of Syrah (Shiraz) which is found in the Côte Rotie in southern France. It tends to be more fragile than Syrah but there are a few winemakers in this region who swear by the flavour of the wines made purely from this grape variety.

Wine writer Jamie Goode has written about Serine versus Syrah in the Rhone Valley and the following quote is about one of Eric Texier's wines made from Serine:

Serine is a local northern Rhône clone of Syrah that looks quite different. Rich yet fresh, bold black cherry and plum fruit. Spicy, peppery, concentrated and complex with a savoury, mineral edge. Quite structured with lovely purity and precision.

We have written a story about Sérine in [Wine Talk 50](#) which we published in November 2014.

Melon à Queue Rouge

Melon à Queue Rouge is a controversial variety which is believed by some (including the appellation authorities) to be a minor variant of Chardonnay in the Jura.

Others, however, including Tony Bornard and other natural producers in the Jura recognise the origins but believe that it has, over the centuries since Chardonnay was taken to the Jura become a separate variety.

In the Wine Talk 96 edition of this newsletter, we tackle the issue of Melon:

There is much controversy about exactly what Melon le Queue Rouge is, but those who love this grape variety have few doubts. It is highly likely that it is a clone of Chardonnay that has evolved in the marl-rich soils of the Jura after being transplanted from the limestone soils of Burgundy. There are some producers in the Jura who claim that it is identical to Chardonnay and they are probably correct from a purely genetic point of view. However, there are some clear differences between the Chardonnay growing in the Jura or nearby Burgundy and this more obscure and interesting grape.

WINE Talk – the newsletter of Living Wines

Obviously, the main difference which is easy to spot is the vivid red shoots joining the grape bunches to the vine branches.

We have written a story about Melon à Queue Rouge in [Wine Talk 96](#) which we published in February 2021.

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.