



CROWN CELLARS®

WORLD WINES

From **Carlsberg**
UK

FROM YEARS

19 TO 20



TASTING GUIDE

INCLUDING
PEDLEY'S PICKS

WORLD WINES FROM **Carlsberg**
UK

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OUR WINES ARE GRADED, TO HELP YOU FIND EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

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HELPFUL INFORMATION

WINE TASTING GUIDE







White and rosé wines have a scale of 1–9, with 1 being very dry, through to 9 having a dessert wine level of sweetness. Examples of wines which are typically graded 1 are Sauvignon Blanc, Italian and Spanish whites; 2 and 3 tend to be softer styles such as Chardonnay and Viognier; and the sweeter wines are the blush rosés, like White Zinfandel – graded at a 5 or 6.

Red wines are marked on a scale of A–E. Lighter reds like Beaujolais, Valpolicella or Côtes du Rhône, will be graded A or B, while more chunky wines like Shiraz, Bordeaux and Rioja are a D or E.



STYLE GUIDE




To make your selection even easier, we have a simple style guide to each of our still wines. So whether you want a light white to go with fish, or a big gutsy red to enjoy with a steak, these style icons will help.

-  LIGHT & DELICATE
-  JUICY & RIPE
-  FULL-FLAVOURED & OAKED
-  DRY & AROMATIC
-  SPICY & WARMING
-  OAKED & INTENSE

PRICING GUIDE

In the listings we have used £ symbols as a guide to indicative pricing, with £ listed against the best value options, within each category, through to ££££, for the most premium.

OTHER ICONS

-  Exclusive to Crown Cellars. We have carefully selected a number of exclusive wines, specifically for the On-Trade, to allow you to offer that point of difference.
-  Suitable for vegetarians.
-  Suitable for both vegans and vegetarians alike.



WELCOME

Jonathan Pedley, Master of Wine and Crown Cellars' Wine Consultant, makes his personal selection from the 2019 wine range.

Louise Boddington, Crown Cellars' wine buyer, and I met up in the autumn for our traditional campaign of selection tastings. Our bases this time around were Yorkshire and Cheshire. Reading back through my notes it looks as if we tasted one hundred and twenty-five wines from which twenty made it through to join the Crown Cellars range.

**I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO
CHOOSE A DOZEN OF MY
PERSONAL FAVOURITES TO
MAKE UP PEDLEY'S PICKS**

LET'S GET STARTED IN FRANCE

Way down in the south-west of the country, within sight of the Pyrenees, is the region of Gascony. In the past this area was best known for producing Armagnac but over the last few decades has been re-purposing itself as a maker of light wines. Yoan Le Menn is one of the younger generation of vineyard owners leading this change. Domaine Horgelus, his 66 hectare property, grows traditional local varieties, such as Gros Manseng and Tannat, as well as more familiar grapes, such as Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot. Yoan puts together fascinating blends of these varieties. We have decided to list two of them: a Sauvignon/Gros Manseng white and a Merlot/Tannat red. The latter is impressively fruity but in the end I plumped for the Sauvignon/Gros Manseng to go into Pedley's Picks (Louise is a big fan as well). It is also worth mentioning that because these wines come from off the beaten track, the prices are very reasonable.

THE WONDERFUL DOMAINE DE LA BAUME WILL ALREADY BE FAMILIAR TO MANY OF YOU

We have gradually built up our selection of wines from there as well as adding a couple from its sister estate, Domaine Mas Belles Eaux. This year's new addition is a delightful rosé made from Pinot Noir, poetically badged as "Les Vignes d'Héloïse". It swans straight into Pedley's Picks. You will see that my tasting notes are rather gushing, but indulge me.

Let's face it, Châteauneuf-du-Pape has never been cheap, but I am afraid that prices have increased steeply over the last couple of years. Louise and I set ourselves the task of trying to find a small property in the appellation that was still making classic Châteauneuf-du-Pape at a price that did not induce angina. I must admit I was not optimistic, but that made the discovery of Domaine de Panisse doubly thrilling. The Olivier family acquired the property in 1992. The vineyard was in poor shape and the old house had been abandoned. It has been a labour of love for Jean-Marie, Christine and Fanny to restore the estate. This wine is a tribute to their success, and yes, by Châteauneuf-du-Pape standards, it is reasonably priced and well worthy of a place in Pedley's Picks.

While we are down in southern France it is worth giving a shout out to our new sweet Muscat available in half bottles. Domaine Les Tailhades produces a traditional Vin Doux Naturel (a sweet wine made by adding grape brandy to the must) under the Muscat de Saint-Jean de Minervois appellation. It is ideal as a pudding wine.

Right, for our last stop in France this year we need to jump in the car and thrash up the Autoroute du Soleil to Burgundy.



JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

THE LOVELY MÂCON BLANC: ANOTHER OBVIOUS SHOO-IN FOR PEDLEY'S PICKS



The Vignerons des Terres Secrètes is a group of 352 growers who farm just over 1,000 hectares of vineyards in the Mâconnais. We first came across them a few years ago when we listed their excellent St-Véran. More recently we added their eminently gluggable Mâcon Rouge. This time around it is the turn of the lovely Mâcon Blanc: another obvious shoo-in for Pedley's Picks.

Given the way that Pinot Grigio and Prosecco dominate Italian white wine sales in the UK, it is easy to overlook the variety of white wines that come il bel paese. What is more, the quality of these wines has improved immeasurably over the last quarter of a century. We have added two examples this year. For Pedley's Picks I have selected the less familiar one, a Falanghina from the Campania.

**THE VESEVO BENEVENTANO
FALANGHINA IGT, TO GIVE
IT ITS FULL TITLE, IS MADE
BY THE SAME WINERY THAT
PRODUCES OUR CHEWY
AND SPICY AGLIANICO**



It shares the same smart packaging and gives you a chance to try a wine made from Falanghina, a fascinating but little-known grape variety.

Once upon a time Soave was almost a household name. In fact, it could be argued that over-familiarity damaged the reputation of Soave. There was a lot of mediocre wine produced from Trebbiano vines planted on flat land. "Proper" Soave comes from Garganega vines cultivated on the volcanic hills of the Classico zone. This is exactly where our new "Terre di Monteforte" Soave is grown.



The image shows the interior of an ancient stone wine cellar. The walls are made of rough-hewn stone and feature three arched windows on the left side, through which bright light enters. The floor is also made of stone and is punctuated by several circular pits, some of which are filled with dark liquid. The overall atmosphere is warm and historical.

NOW, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LIKE “SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT”, THE NEXT OF MY PEDLEY’S PICKS IS FOR YOU

The archaeologists and geneticists reckon that vines have been cultivated in Georgia (and neighbouring Armenia) for around 8,000 years. It is likely that most of the *Vitis vinifera* vines that we grow to make wine around the world were first domesticated in the Caucasus region. It goes without saying that this part of the world has had a pretty torrid history, but today’s Georgian wines can claim descent from a winemaking tradition going back to Neolithic times. Burkhard Schuchmann, a German who had worked in the railway industry, fell in love with Georgia and founded his wine estate in 2008. Hence we have a youthful wine company tapping into the oldest wine culture on earth. See what you make of the mid to full-bodied Saperavi Schuchmann red.

In wine terms after getting as Old World as possible in Georgia,

LET'S HEAD TO THE NEW WORLD

Louise and I have been on the lookout for something from the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon and Idaho) for a number of years. Unfortunately whatever we tasted was either mediocre or violently expensive (actually, in several cases, both). We had almost given up, when what should pop up but a couple of wines from the Columbia Winery in Washington. An old acquaintance of mine, the late David Lake, had been the founding winemaker at Columbia. David was also the first North American to become a Master of Wine. I used to know the Columbia Wines pretty well and visited the winery and some of the vineyards. After David died there was a series of changes of ownership and I lost contact with the wines.



Hence it was poignant to see this Chardonnay and Merlot appear at one of our tastings. Even better, they are really well made and sensibly priced. I have selected the Merlot for Pedley's Picks but the Chardonnay is also delicious.



Jumping on Amtrak's "Coast Starlight" in Washington we head south through Oregon and wake up in California, the source of our new "TBC" range: a Chardonnay, a Zinfandel Rosé and a Ruby Cabernet.



THIS IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF QUIRKY HOUSE WINES THAT WE HAVE ADDED TO THE CROWN CELLARS PORTFOLIO:

Last year we launched Vinivision and before that Drop Dead Gorgeous, Curious Devices and many others. The wine market is evolving quickly and we are always trying to give you a choice of house options to keep your wine offering fresh. The TBC Ruby Cabernet stood out for me and goes into Pedley's Picks. As I say in the notes it is a cracking "fruit bomb" of a wine and makes a change from just another Cabernet Sauvignon.



**IT IS A BIT OF A LONG HAUL
FROM SAN FRANCISCO
TO SYDNEY BUT WORTH IT
TO LOOK AT THREE NEW
AUSTRALIAN WINES**

We have followed the resurgent Oatley wine operation for several years; it draws not just on the resources and experience of the family but also on industry veterans such as Chris Hancock and Larry Cherubino. This team has developed a pair of premium Australian house wines for us, a Chardonnay and a Shiraz under the Pocket Watch label. I have selected the Shiraz for Pedley's Picks but see what you reckon.

The other Australian wine I have chosen for Pedley's Picks is an absolute classic: Tyrrell's Hunter Valley Semillon. The Tyrrell family is one of the pillars of the Australian wine industry. The Tyrrells trace their involvement in wine in the Hunter Valley back to 1858, and as part of the English-speaking world back to the Norman Conquest!



AS IS OFTEN THE CASE THE LAST STOP ON OUR WORLD TOUR IS NEW ZEALAND

A hardened cynic might say that nowadays the New Zealand wine industry is only about two things: Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir. Whilst sales of these two varieties seem to dwarf everything else, there has always been more diversity if you care to look. For instance, think about Esk Valley with its fragrant Verdelho and its complex Merlot/Cabernet/Malbec blends. With this in mind it has been interesting to see the journey (I know, a bit of a cliché) undertaken by the Te Awa estate in Hawkes Bay. Sir George Fistonich (owner of Villa Maria and Esk Valley) bought the property in 2012 and put veterans Richard Painter and John van der Linden in charge of winemaking and viticulture respectively. The "Left Field" range is all about experimenting with the offbeat side of wine, both in terms of grapes, labelling and marketing. There is a rather good Chardonnay but I have saved my last two Pedley's Picks for the Pinot Gris and Syrah. Both varieties are a bit left-field in New Zealand, but the wines are very good.



SO THAT'S IT FOR 2019

However, while putting together this selection it struck me that this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of my appointment as wine consultant to Crown Cellars. More importantly, it means that Carlsberg UK has been independently wholesaling wines and spirits for a quarter of a century. I have written a few reflections on how our wine range has changed over the years and you will find these at the back of the brochure. If nothing else, it may raise a smile as you recall the glory days of Lambrusco Bianco, Liebfraumilch and Anjou Rosé.

Best wishes as ever,

Jonathan Pedley

Master of Wine and Crown Cellars' Wine Consultant



FAMILLE LE MENN

Domaine Horgelus Gros Manseng Sauvignon

CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

2018

Gros Manseng is best known for being the principal grape variety used to make the dry version of Jurançon, arguably the finest white wine appellation in south west France. With its thick skin, Gros Manseng is a robust grape variety, capable of producing wines with intensity and weight. It was stroke of genius to think of blending it with Sauvignon Blanc. As you all know, the latter has a pungent grassy aroma but can often be rather tart and one-dimensional on the palate. In this wine the Gros Manseng (40% of the mix) provides the texture and body underpinning the Sauvignon Blanc's high notes. I was going to use the analogy of a mezzo-soprano harmonising with a soprano but feared a raft of nominations for Pseud's Corner. Metaphor aside, the wine is nicely balanced, with freshness and ripeness on both the nose and palate. Quoting the wine's technical sheet, "this is a perfect aperitif and pairs beautifully with fresh summer salads and even fish and chips".



PEDLEY'S PICK



TASTE



STYLE



ABV 12%



SUITABLE FOR VEGANS

AN IMPRESSIVELY FRUITY (BRAMBLE AND PLUM) MID-BODIED RED WITH RIPE TANNINS PROVIDING STRUCTURE

FAMILLE LE MENN

Domaine Horgelus Merlot-Tannat

CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

2017

Deep pink-ruby appearance. Impressively fruity on the nose with lots of bramble and plum. Ripe tannins underpin the mid-bodied palate. The juicy fruit carries through to the finish.



TASTE



STYLE



ABV 12.5%



SUITABLE FOR VEGANS





DOMAINE DE LA BAUME

Les Vignes d'Héloïse Pinot Noir Rosé IGP

PAYS D'OC

2018

At one level this is a joyously uncomplicated wine. It has a fashionably peachy pink colour. The nose is lively and youthful, exhibiting delightful raspberry and rose petal notes. The palate is just off-dry and light-bodied, with a finish that is gorgeously fruity and refreshing. It cries out to be drunk on a summer's day, on its own or with meze/tapas/nibbles/canapés (you get the picture). Behind the scenes though, this is a very cleverly made wine. The grapes are picked at night to preserve the Pinot Noir fruit. The pressing is quick but gentle, hence the bright but pale colour. A cool and long fermentation further enhances the aroma. An early bottling captures these traits. Most people drinking this wine will understandably be oblivious to just what a technical tour de force it is, but you and I know and can salute the team at La Baume which produced it.



PEDLEY'S PICK



TASTE



STYLE



ABV 13%



JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

**THIS YEAR'S NEW ADDITION
FROM DOMAINE DE LA
BAUME IS A DELIGHTFUL ROSÉ
MADE FROM PINOT NOIR,
POETICALLY BADGED AS
"LES VIGNES D'HÉLOÏSE"**

JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

THIS WINE IS A TRIBUTE
TO THEIR SUCCESS, AND
YES, BY CHÂTEAUNEUF-
DU-PAPE STANDARDS, IT IS
REASONABLY PRICED AND
WELL WORTHY OF A PLACE
IN PEDLEY'S PICKS



DOMAINE DE PANISSE

Châteauneuf -du-Pape

Grenache, Syrah,
Mourvèdre,
Cinsault

RHÔNE

2016

The Domaine de Panisse vineyard covers seven hectares on the eastern edge of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation. The soil is predominantly sandy although there is also some calcareous clay. The grape mix here is the classic blend for Châteauneuf-du-Pape: a majority of Grenache (70%), with Syrah (15%), Mourvèdre (10%) and Cinsault (5%) added in to give complexity and structure. A traditional fermentation takes place with extraction of colour, flavour and tannin promoted by thoroughly mixing the grape skins with the must. The newly fermented wine is then aged in old oak barrels for fifteen months. This is a big rich wine and not for the faint-hearted. It is complex on the nose showing aromas of red berry fruit, rose petal, white pepper and dried herbs. Drink this elegant bruiser with a rare steak or mature cheeses.



PEDLEY'S PICK



TASTE



STYLE



ABV 15%



A SWEET BUT BEAUTIFULLY BALANCED WHITE WINE THAT HAS ATTRACTIVE AROMAS OF SULTANA AND BEESWAX



DOMAINE LES TAILHADES

Muscat de Saint-Jean de Minervois Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON | 2014

Mid-coppery-gold colour. On the nose there is a moderate intensity of ripe sultana and beeswax aromas. The palate is sweet but beautifully balanced by refreshing acidity. Long juicy finish.

- 8 TASTE
- STYL STYLE
- ABV 15% ABV 15%



TERRES SECRÈTES

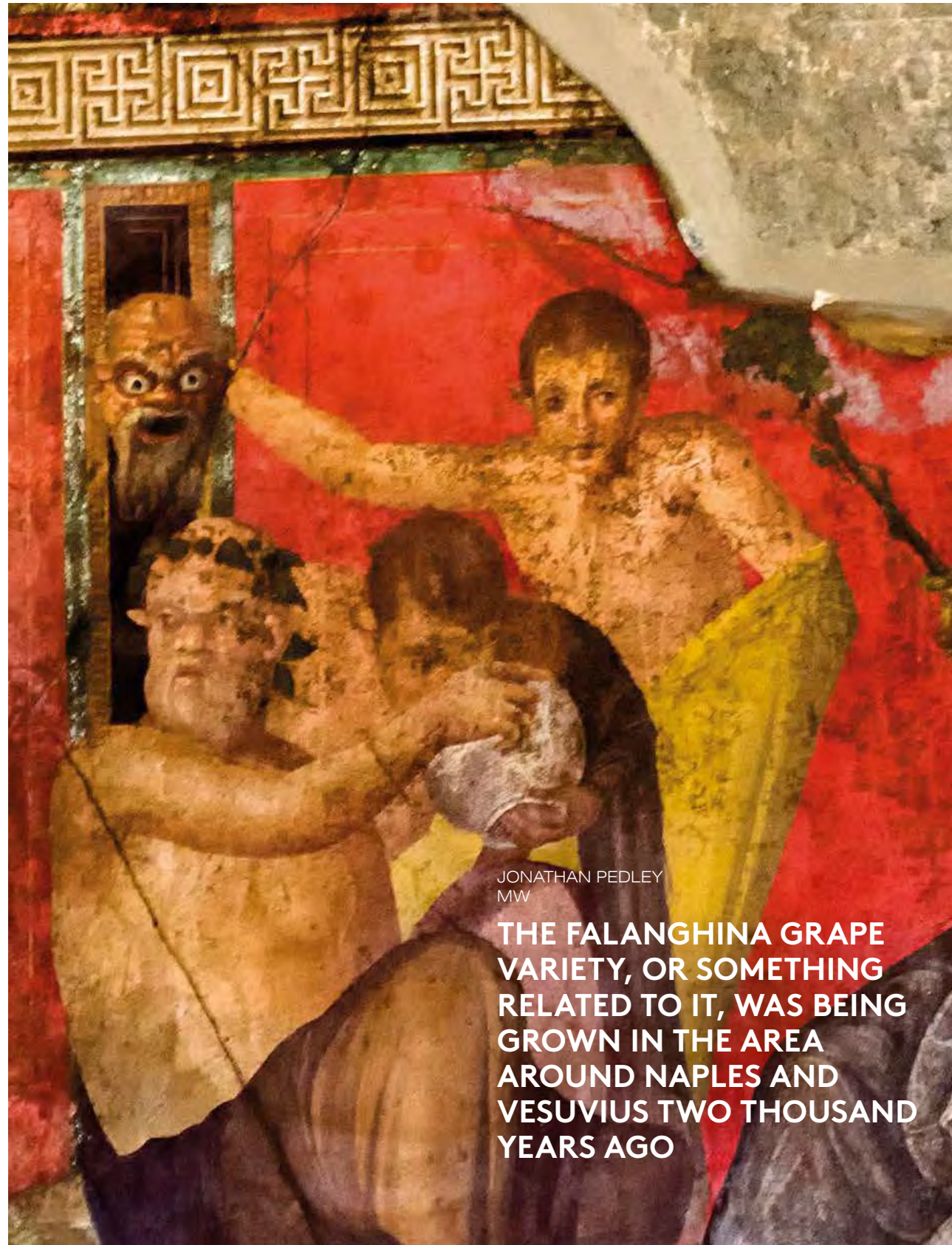
Mâcon Blanc Chardonnay

BURGUNDY | 2016

Given how hideously expensive most White Burgundy has become (think of the likes of Chablis and Meursault) thank goodness for the wines of the Mâconnais. Land is a lot cheaper in this southern part of Burgundy and the climate is warmer and more forgiving. Hence scrupulous producers can make some lovely wines for a fraction of the price of their cousins to the north. This Mâcon Blanc from Terres Secrètes has attractive ripe yellow plum and melon fruit on the nose, complemented by a creamy note. The palate is dry and moderately acid with a lovely smoothness on the finish. I always think that lighter-bodied unoaked Chardonnay wines like this are the perfect accompaniment to salmon – poached, grilled or pan-fried.

- PEDLEY'S PICK
- 2 TASTE
- STYL STYLE
- ABV 12.5% ABV 12.5%
- SUITABLE FOR VEGANS





JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

THE FALANGHINA GRAPE VARIETY, OR SOMETHING RELATED TO IT, WAS BEING GROWN IN THE AREA AROUND NAPLES AND VESUVIUS TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO



VESEVO

Beneventano Falanghina IGT

CAMPANIA

2017

In Ancient Rome the wines from the Campania were the most highly regarded in the empire. "Falernian Wine" in particular crops up in poetry, history, satyr (often showing the pretension and gullibility of the "nouveau riche") and famously it is even written on the wall of a bar in Pompeii. Making a link between such classical wines and the wines of today is nigh on impossible. That said, it is conceivable that the Falanghina grape variety, or something related to it, was being grown in the area around Naples and Vesuvius two thousand years ago. What the Romans did not have was the knowledge and technology that we can now bring to bear. For instance, refrigeration means that we can now control the temperature of fermentation, preserving a wine's fruit character and lowering the risk of spoilage. This Beneventano Falanghina is delicate on the nose but there is an attractive ripeness to the aromas. The palate is dry, mid-bodied and balanced in acidity. The finish is broad and well textured. I am fantasising about grilled red mullet or seared scallops as I write this.



PEDLEY'S PICK



TASTE



STYLE



ABV 13%



SUITABLE FOR VEGANS



A DRY AND CRISP WHITE WINE SHOWING AROMAS OF PEAR, MELON AND EVEN PEACH



CANTINA DI MONTEFORTE

Soave Classico "Terre di Monteforte" Garganega

SOAVE CLASSICO, VENETO	2017
------------------------	------

Mid-pale lemon gold. Surprisingly fruity for a Soave showing aromas of pear, melon and even peach. Dry, lightish-bodied and crisp in the mouth.

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 | TASTE |
|  | STYLE |
|  | ABV 12.5% |
|  | SUITABLE FOR VEGANS |



JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

THE SAPERAVI GRAPE VINE
WILL BE UNFAMILIAR TO
MOST WINE DRINKERS IN
THE UK. IT IS A TOUGH
OLD CUSTOMER, ABLE TO
COPE WITH FREEZING COLD
WINTERS AND BAKINGLY
DRY SUMMERS



SCHUCHMANN

Saperavi Red Dry

GEORGIA

2017

A little of the Saperavi grape is grown in Australia but it is predominantly found in various parts of the old Soviet Union and in particular in Georgia, where it is the most widely planted black variety. The grapes are thick skinned: hence the wine's deep pink-ruby colour and fleshy tannins. The nose is distinctly perfumed with lots of black fruit (damson and blackcurrant), floral (rose petal) and spice aromas. On the palate the fruit is needed to complement the chunky texture and those tannins. The finish is impressive and succulent. Common sense dictates that you would want to drink this with robust meat dishes – perhaps a casserole or steak pie.



PEDLEY'S PICK



TASTE



STYLE



ABV 13%





COLUMBIA WINERY


Columbia Merlot

COLUMBIA VALLEY, WA	2016
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One of the quirks of the wine industry in Washington State is the geographical split between where some of the historic wineries were built and where the vast majority of vineyards are found. The Columbia Winery is located on the eastern edge of the Seattle conurbation: great for sales and transportation links but subject to the wet and changeable Pacific climate. Most of the fruit for wines like this Merlot is sourced from way up the Columbia Valley; the intervening Cascade Range of mountains blocks the ocean influence. The resulting arid climate is great for vine health, with the river on hand to provide water for irrigation. The wine has a vibrant pink ruby colour. The nose is youthful and intensely fruity: showing plum and mulberry notes in particular. The palate is mid to full-bodied with fleshy tannins and a warm finish. Enjoy this, as the Americans would, with a juicy steak.

 PEDLEY'S PICK

 TASTE

 STYLE

 ABV 14%

A DELICIOUS MID-BODIED CHARDONNAY THAT SHOWS RIPE FRUIT, TOAST AND BUTTERSCOTCH AROMAS


COLUMBIA WINERY


Columbia Chardonnay

COLUMBIA VALLEY, WA	2016
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Mid-lemon with a hint of gold. A good intensity of ripe fruit and toasty oak on the nose. The palate is dry and mid-bodied showing delicious butterscotch and coconut flavours.

 TASTE

 STYLE

 ABV 14%





JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

A CRACKING "FRUIT BOMB" OF A WINE AND MAKES A CHANGE FROM JUST ANOTHER CABERNET SAUVIGNON



CROWN CELLARS

To Be Continued Ruby Cabernet

CALIFORNIA

2017

The Ruby Cabernet grape variety was bred by Harold Olmo, just before the Second World War, at the University of California at Davis. Olmo produced his new vine by crossing Carignan (heat tolerant and high yielding) with Cabernet Sauvignon (not so keen on high temperatures and shy yielding). The result was a great success. As you will see with this example, Ruby Cabernet gives lots of vibrant purple colour. The Cabernet parentage is very apparent on the nose: blackcurrant, bramble and herbal aromas predominate. The mid-bodied and softly tannic palate is not as tough and unyielding as one would expect from either Carignan or Cabernet Sauvignon. All in all, it is a bit of a "fruit bomb". Hence it is the perfect red wine for drinking on its own or as a partner to pasta or pizza.

e EXCLUSIVE TO
CROWN CELLARS

Pp PEDLEY'S PICK

C TASTE

T STYLE

% ABV 13.5%



QUITE A FULL-BODIED AND RICH CHARDONNAY THAT SHOWS RIPE FRUIT AND TOASTINESS ON THE NOSE



CROWN CELLARS

To Be Continued Chardonnay

CALIFORNIA

2018

Mid-gold appearance. A moderate intensity of ripe fruit and toastiness on the nose. The palate is surprisingly full-bodied and rich. There is a good weight on the finish.

e EXCLUSIVE TO CROWN CELLARS

2 TASTE

T STYLE

% ABV 12.5%

LIGHT AND SWEET WITH LOADS OF JUICY STRAWBERRY FRUITS AND A REFRESHING FINISH



CROWN CELLARS

To Be Continued Zinfandel Rosé

CALIFORNIA

2018

It offers delightful aromas and flavours of red berries paired with hints of citrus.

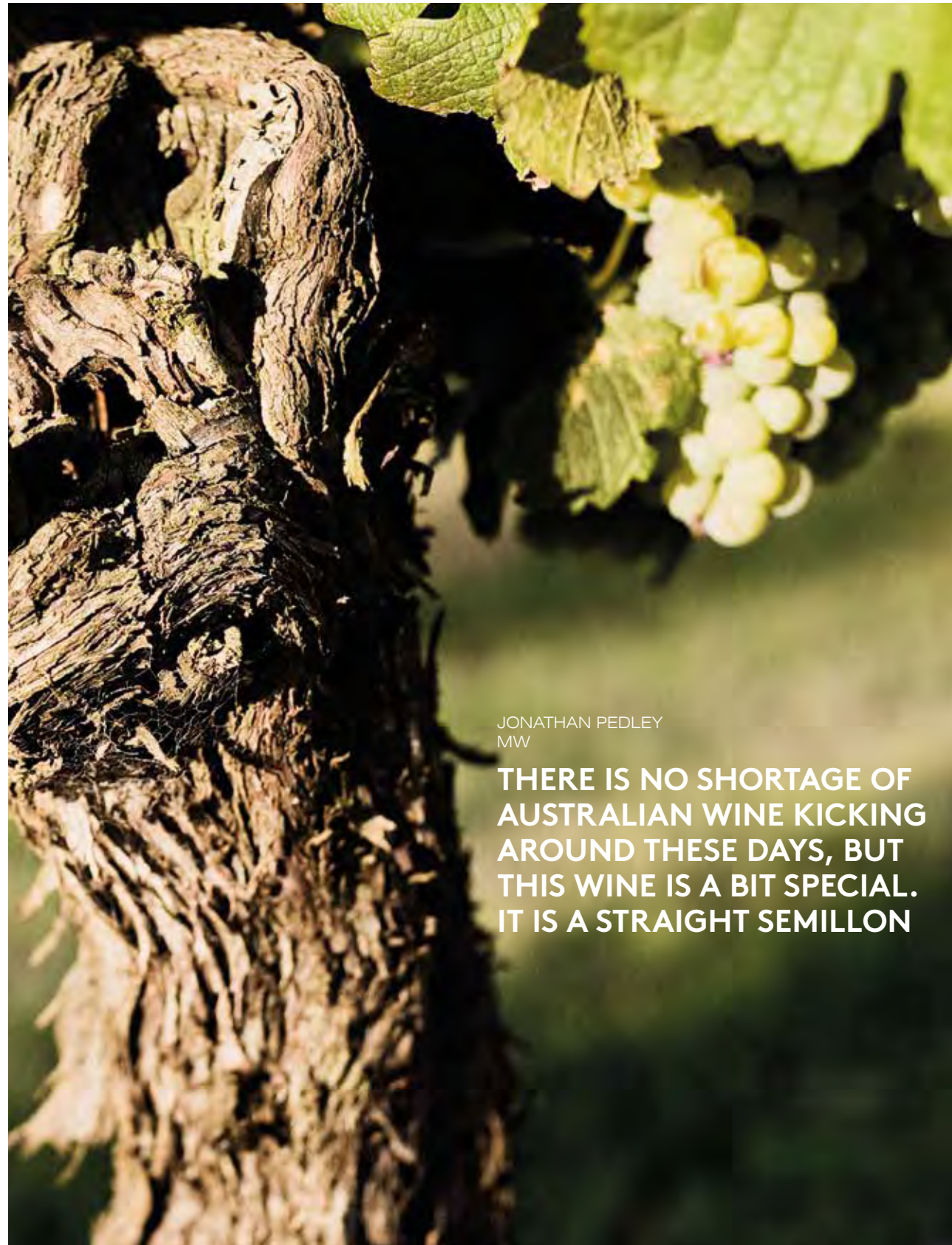
On the palate, the wine is fresh and lively with an appealing aroma of strawberries and cream and a crisp, succulent finish.

e EXCLUSIVE TO CROWN CELLARS

6 TASTE

T STYLE

% ABV 10%



JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF AUSTRALIAN WINE KICKING AROUND THESE DAYS, BUT THIS WINE IS A BIT SPECIAL. IT IS A STRAIGHT SEMILLON



TYRRELL'S WINES

Hunter Valley Semillon

NEW SOUTH WALES

2017

Over the past quarter of a century a lot of Semillon has been blended with Chardonnay to stretch the latter, but this wine is proud of its own varietal character. It comes from the HVD Vineyard. The "Hunter Valley Distillery" Vineyard is just over five hectares in extent and as its name suggests was not intended as a source of fine wine when it was established in 1908. However, as time went by it became clear that the Semillon planted there could make great wine. Tyrrell's night harvest the fruit and then carry out a cool fermentation in stainless steel. There is no fancy stuff in the cellar and the wine is bottled within three months of the harvest. At present the wine shows a lot of youthful fruit on the nose (lime and pineapple in particular) followed by a nutty note (macadamia). The palate is dry and crisply acid. You can drink it now with shellfish or white fish. However, the brave amongst you will stash away a couple of bottles for five to ten years. When you open it, and you have to trust me on this, you will be confronted by something extraordinary. The nuttiness I mentioned will have become pronounced and it will have been joined by other complex honeyed and toasty notes. This humble Semillon will have metamorphosed into one of the world's great aged white wines.



PEDLEY'S PICK



TASTE



STYLE



ABV 11%





ROBERT OATLEY

Pocket Watch Shiraz

CENTRAL RANGES, NSW	2018
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Deepish pink purple in appearance, this Shiraz has a good intensity of black cherry and blackberry fruit with just a touch of oak. These notes carry through to the mid to full-bodied palate. This toothsome red wine would be a good choice to accompany grilled meats. The Oatley family have long had an understanding of and commitment to the vineyards of New South Wales (going back to the days when they owned Rosemount Estate). In the case of the Pocket Watch range the fruit is sourced from the Central Ranges, a region west of Sydney on the slopes of the Great Dividing Range. Stylistically the winemaking team seem to be aiming for the modern style of Australian red: less jammy and less heavily oaked than in the past, with a bit more freshness on the palate.

- e EXCLUSIVE TO CROWN CELLARS
- Pp PEDLEY'S PICK
- D TASTE
- ST STYLE
- % ABV 14.5%
- V SUITABLE FOR VEGETARIANS

A LIGHT AND VIBRANT CHARDONNAY THAT IS FRUIT-LED, SHOWING CITRUS AND YELLOW PLUM AROMAS

ROBERT OATLEY

Pocket Watch Chardonnay

CENTRAL RANGES, NSW	2018
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Very pale lemon colour. A light and vibrant "modern style" of Chardonnay that is fruit-led, showing citrus and yellow plum aromas. Dry and refreshing on the palate.

- e EXCLUSIVE TO CROWN CELLARS
- 1 TASTE
- * STYLE
- % ABV 12.5%





JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

THE "LEFT FIELD" RANGE IS ALL ABOUT EXPERIMENTING WITH THE OFFBEAT SIDE OF WINE, BOTH IN TERMS OF GRAPES, LABELLING AND MARKETING



TE AWA ESTATE

Left Field Pinot Gris

HAWKES BAY

2018

From a style point of view, the Pinot Gris/Pinot Grigio grape variety is a chimera. Most of what is sold as Pinot Grigio, from Italy and elsewhere, is fresh, light and pretty neutral. By contrast, the top-end Pinot Gris grown in Alsace can be rich, intense and exotically flavoured. Many consumers love quaffing Pinot Grigio, but this style is scorned by the cognoscenti and many in the trade. By contrast, much as the chattering classes talk up Alsace Pinot Gris, the prices are high and sales in the UK are minuscule. It strikes me that stylistically the Left Field Pinot Gris is trying to bridge the gap between the two camps. It has enough aromatic interest (pear and primrose notes) and weight on the palate to appeal to the illuminati, but is still sufficiently lively and youthful to keep the vinous catechumens happy. As is often the case, the hint of sweetness will help it to partner a number of Chinese and Thai dishes.



PEDLEY'S PICK



TASTE



STYLE



ABV 12%



A BROAD RICH CHARDONNAY SHOWING LOTS OF BUTTER AND CREAM AROMAS



TE AWA ESTATE

Left Field Chardonnay

HAWKES BAY

2017

Mid-lemon gold colour. A broad rich Chardonnay showing lots of butter and cream aromas. Plenty of weight and richness on the palate as well. Good length.

2 TASTE

STYLE

ABV 13%



TE AWA ESTATE

Left Field Syrah

HAWKES BAY

2015

I shall put my cards straight on the table – I think that this wine is delicious. It has the beautiful Syrah aromas that come from a coolish climate: bramble, white pepper and jasmine tea. The palate is not too heavy and the tannins are dry but ripe. There is plenty of dark fruit and a touch of oak right through to the finish. Enjoy it with roast pork or lamb. It seems to have taken New Zealand a long time to establish a reputation for its own take on Syrah/Shiraz (probably not helped by having Australia just over "The Ditch", aka the Tasman Sea). Yet I can remember tasting a wonderful trial batch of Syrah produced by Villa Maria about twenty five-years ago. Anyway, do give this elegant and aromatic Syrah a try – it is very different from anything produced in the Barossa or McLaren Vale.

PEDLEY'S PICK

TASTE

STYLE

ABV 13%

SUITABLE FOR VEGANS



BURRIDDGES OF ARLINGTON ST, SPAIN

NOTES:

RIOJA – BODEGAS MEDIEVO CONTINUED

ROSADO

Pale rose colour with floral summer fruits aromas. Dry with plenty of refreshing acidity.

078	1			Ve	££
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CRIANZA

A concentrated and brooding red wine that has a solid structure of tannin and is mid-full bodied.

079	D			Ve	££
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“TUERCEBOTAS” TEMPRANILLO BLANCO

A dry white wine with attractive juicy fruit on the nose and a rich smooth palate.

080	2			Ve	££
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“TUERCEBOTAS” GARNACHA

A deliciously lush mid-bodied red wine: ripe and juicy with blueberry and spice to the fore.

081	C			Ve	£££
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RIOJA – BODEGAS LANDALUCE

FINCAS DE LANDALUCE CRIANZA

Bramble, dark plum and spicy oak aromas give the wine a lovely aroma. The palate is lush and rich.

082	C			Ve	£££
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FINCAS DE LANDALUCE RESERVA

Mid to full-bodied with well-integrated tannins. Smooth and mellow with hints of very ripe red fruit and a long finish.

083	D			Ve	£££
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BURRIDDGES OF ARLINGTON ST, SPAIN

NOTES:

GALICIA

JOAQUÍN REBOLLEDO, GODELLO, VALDEORRAS

Rich and ripe aromas of melon and greengage are followed by a dry but succulent palate.

084	2				£££
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ALBARIÑO LAXAS, RIAS BAIXAS

A beautifully aromatic and scented dry white wine that is refreshingly crisp.

085	1			Ve	££££
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BODEGAS ESTEBAN MARTIN

MARQUÉS DE ALFAMÉN, CHARDONNAY MACABEO, CARIÑENA

Fresh, light white with lots of juicy melon and pineapple fruit.

086	2		e		££
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MARQUÉS DE ALFAMÉN, GARNACHA ROSADO, CARIÑENA

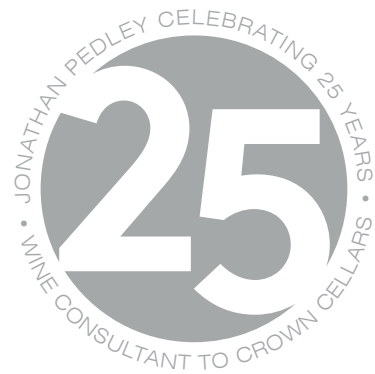
A pure, light and fresh rosé that is dry whilst being almost peachy on the nose.

087	2		e		££
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MARQUÉS DE ALFAMÉN, GARNACHA SYRAH, CARIÑENA

Juicy mid-bodied red packed with dark berry fruit.

088	C		e		££
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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AS WINE CONSULTANT TO CROWN CELLARS (WITH A NOD TO *THE SUPREMES*)

REFLECTIONS OF THE WAY LIFE USED TO BE

Back in 1994, Clive Hunt, one of the directors of Carlsberg-Tetley, asked me if I would have a look at their wine range. I did as instructed and twenty-five years later I am still advising the company (although Carlsberg UK's wine division is now Crown Cellars).

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THE DRINKS INDUSTRY WAS UNDERGOING ONE OF ITS PERIODS OF TUMULTUOUS CHANGE

This resulted in Carlsberg-Tetley taking on the responsibility for the sales and marketing of their wines and spirits. In the early days there were some spooky moments when the whole idea of the company wholesaling wines and spirits was under threat. However, the profitable role that Crown Cellars can play in a mature on-trade market became self-evident about a decade ago and our proposition has gone from strength to strength since.



MUSING ON THE ABOVE
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
INTERESTING TO DIG OUT A
COUPLE OF OLD PRICE LISTS
AND HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT
HAS AND WHAT HASN'T
CHANGED SINCE 1994



Perhaps the single biggest shift is at the house wine end of things. Back in the mid-1990s house wine was still primarily French Vin de Table. We had the Louis Larose and Maison des Bretons ranges and that was just about it. By the turn of the millennium that was all starting to change. From France we introduced the Aimery range and from further afield we had exclusive house wine pairs from all the major European and New World countries. Some of the labels, such as Millstream (South Africa) and Ochre Mountain (Chile) are still going strong, whilst others have fallen by the wayside.

I find it incredible that we introduced the Invenio range over a dozen years ago. More recently we have continued the innovation, constantly refreshing what we have to offer at the inexpensive end of the market. The choice of varietals has expanded as has the style of labels – from the coolness of Ren and Las Ondas, via the gothic horror of Dead Man's Dice, Clockwork Raven and Bone Orchard, to the gentle humour of Brightside and Drop Dead Gorgeous.



JONATHAN PEDLEY
MW

IF ONE LOOKS AT THE WAY COUNTRIES, GRAPE VARIETIES AND STYLES HAVE WAXED AND WANED IN POPULARITY, THERE ARE SOME BIG SHIFTS



In the late 1980s Germany had nearly a third of the UK wine market. Our sales of Liebmanns and Piesporter Michelsberg were enormous. That market has since collapsed and it remains very hard to sell wines made out of the Riesling grape, regardless of where they come from.

THE ITALIAN STORY IS PERHAPS EVEN STRANGER

Does anyone remember Lambrusco Bianco? Sales were huge thirty years ago and then fell off a cliff. Interestingly at about the same time Pinot Grigio started to appear on the scene.

WE LISTED OUR FIRST PINOT GRIGIO IN 1999 – THE MEZZACORONA VERSION THAT WE STILL CARRY TODAY

We now list nine others (including the blush versions) from Italy alone. But that wasn't the end. Around fourteen years ago Louise Boddington, suggested that we consider listing a Prosecco. She had worked in the Off-Trade and had noticed the growing fashionability of this wine. The rest is history: we currently list six Proseccos and sell tens of thousands of cases.

WE CURRENTLY LIST THIRTY-FOUR DIFFERENT STILL ROSÉS AND ELEVEN SPARKLING

Another paradigm shift in the market has been the rise of rosé. At the start of our reference period, sales of rosé in the UK made up barely 1% of the mix.



BY THE MID 1990S THE NEW WORLD HAD MADE ITS BREAKTHROUGH

With links to importer Hatch Mansfield, from day one we carried the Errázuriz Chilean wines and Villa Maria New Zealand wines. South Africa required some work. Starting from scratch we added the Bellingham and Millstream wines.

INTERESTINGLY, BOTH OUR CALIFORNIAN AND AUSTRALIAN RANGES HAVE SEEN SINCE QUITE A LOT OF CHURN OVER THE PAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY

This has not been down to any quality issues but rather with the major corporate interests involved in the US and Australian wine industries. Denise Parker, Louise's predecessor as wine buyer, spotted the opportunity for Argentina early on and championed the Bright Brothers wines for many years.

Changes in the popularity of the main varieties of grapes has perhaps been less marked than one might expect. The Pinot Grigio and Malbec booms are the exceptions where a grape has come from relative obscurity to super stardom. However, we still sell plenty of Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon today. Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Shiraz might have squeezed them but they are still alive and kicking. Pinot Noir has become more mainstream but I thought Viognier might have become a little better known by now. Of course for those prepared to take "the road less travelled" the choice of varieties we now list is incredible: Grüner Veltliner, Saperavi, Godello, Pecorino, Manzoni, Raboso, Malvasia Nera and so on.

In those early days we listed no English wines. This was understandable: volumes were tiny, quality was variable and the industry in England was yet to latch onto the potential of sparkling wine. Just try the Nyetimber Classic Cuvée Brut to see how the latter has been realised.

IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT OVER THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FRANCE HAS CHANGED THE LEAST

Rioja was important for Crown Cellars from the start and it still is today. However, in the 1990s we were already experimenting with some of Spain's upcoming regional wines and we have continued that process, not least because the quality:price rapport is tremendous.

We still carry a selection of top wines from Bordeaux, Burgundy, Champagne and the Rhône. But even in somewhere as well known as France we can all be surprised. I am pretty sure that nobody spotted the coming Picpoul de Pinet and Rosé de Provence explosions ten years ago.

One final reflection: back in the winter of 1986, I was taken on a buying trip to the Rhône. One of the co-operatives we visited was in Villedieu. Vintages and labels may have changed, but the Côtes du Rhône Cuvée St. Laurent we carry today is a direct descendent of the wine we selected at Villedieu a third of a century ago.



LITTLE GIDDING,
T. S. ELIOT

"WE SHALL NOT CEASE FROM EXPLORATION AND THE END OF ALL OUR EXPLORING WILL BE TO ARRIVE WHERE WE STARTED AND KNOW THE PLACE FOR THE FIRST TIME"



CROWN CELLARS®

WORLD WINES



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