

VARIETY - The Spice of Life

Sauvignon Blanc, White Grenache, Chardonnay, Viognier, Syrah (aka Shiraz), Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Carignan, Syrah Rosé from the Midi, Languedoc, Gascony, Gers, L'Aude and Garonne plus Red, Dry White and Medium White blends crafted by Borie-Manoux from Bordeaux (Beauroy) and by the Plaimont co-operative (Jean des Vignes), two very good houses. Despite the variety of grapes and producers, the wines all share qualities of freshness, flavour and fruit. The reds are smooth and rounded: the whites crisp and refreshing.



Beauroy Vin de Table

Red

Smooth, fruity and rounded.

Dry White

Crisp and tasty.

Medium White

Softer and very easy drinking.

Taste Guide	Trade Sales Price
B	£3.69
2	£3.69
3	£3.69

H. B. Clark Vin de Pays from Borie-Manoux

Why have a range of wines from France when Australia, Chile and now South Africa have such a hold on the U.K. market? Well, it is not true that the On-Trade's house and entry level wines come principally from the New World. Vin de Pays historically provided many British restaurants with their House Wines. What the New World has done is lift the standards of wine making in the areas in the South and South West of France. This improvement together with the lower costs of transport and a new found competitiveness in pricing adds up to value available for H. B. Clark customers. The range is two reds, three whites and a rosé exclusive to H.B.Clark. New World House wines are nearly all about 13/13.5% ABV. French VDP at this level is likely to be about 12%. Now the French winemaking techniques at this level have improved, there is no doubt about the attraction of the lower ABVs.



Borie Manoux, Vin de Pays (France)

Available in 75cl and with own label.

Merlot

With lots of typical blackberry fruit flavours, this Merlot has lovely soft, easy drinking charm.

Cabernet Sauvignon

Fresh-flavoured red with hints of cedar and lead pencil along with blackcurrant.

Syrah Rosé

Vibrant colour and luscious, refreshing summer fruit flavours with a hint of spiciness.

Sauvignon Blanc

Full of refreshing citrus fruit flavours and a very appealing tangy, long lasting finish for an entry level Sauvignon.

Chardonnay

Typical apple and melon flavours, this is great value Chardonnay with a lovely clean finish.

Cotes de Gascogne Demi-Sec

A refreshing medium dry white from Gascony in South West France. Blended to produce good fruit quality and an easy drinking style.

C	£4.25
C	£4.25
2C	£4.25
1	£4.25
2	£4.25
3	£4.25

Le Sanglier de la Montagne, Vin de Pays de l'Aude

We were pleased that the wine trade confirmed our judgement when these wines won medals at three of the most prestigious competitions.

Carignan

Made from older vines which give a better concentration of flavour, this is a perfect partner to barbecue style meats being both strong in flavour but not too burly in the mouth.

Syrah Rosé Réserve

Elegant but delightfully fruit filled with slightly spicy notes, this is great value for money from the South of France.

White Grenache

Amazingly France's third most popular white wine grape variety behind Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. Why? Because it provides refreshing, fruity wine which is almost Pinot Grigio like in character.

Taste
Guide

Trade
Sales Price

B

£4.29

2B

£4.29

2

£4.29



Jean des Vignes, Vin de Pays du Gers

Red

Elegant, appetising red with a dash of Merlot. Ripe, mulberry aromas and flavour.

Rosé

Fresh, light but vibrant rosé which has appealing dry fruit flavours.

Dry White

Clean, dry and refreshing white wine that is fruity and lively and fresh.

Medium Dry White

Aromatic blend of the popular Colombard with Ugni Blanc which is fruity and attractive drinking.

B

£4.35

2B

£4.35

2

£4.35

3

£4.35



Domaine de Moulin des Montarels

This Domaine is in the Côtes de Thongue in the Midi, an area of France which has been one of the most dynamic in combining New World fruit and Old World backbone.

Syrah

Classic Syrah (or Shiraz) with bramble and pepper flavours in the mouth and a smooth, rounded finish.

Merlot

An outstanding Merlot which is smooth and rounded but has lots of balancing fruit and power.

Syrah Rosé

Loads of fruit and flavour and very drinkable.

Sauvignon Blanc

Good Sauvignon fruit with tropical flavours and soft acidity to make the wine very refreshing.

Viognier

Viognier makes possibly the most aromatic dry white wine in the world redolent of apricots and peaches.

C

£5.40

C

£5.40

2B

£5.40

1

£5.40

2

£5.99





Does Bordeaux retain its importance in the U.K. On-Trade market and if so, why? Surely the success of the New World has inflicted permanent damage on France and its largest region.

Don't believe it. An often forgotten advantage gained by the New World for the Old is that New World wines have encouraged much more wine drinking. Bordeaux produces 800 million bottles a year from House Vin de Table to the aristocrats of the wine world such as the Châteaux Lafite, Latour, Petrus and d'Yquem.

Most Bordeaux wines are blends of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot in varying percentages. The Cabernet gives blackcurrant and cedar, the Merlot plums and smooth roundness. Traditionally St. Emilion and Pomerol are dominated by Merlot, the rest on the Left Bank by Cabernet Sauvignon.

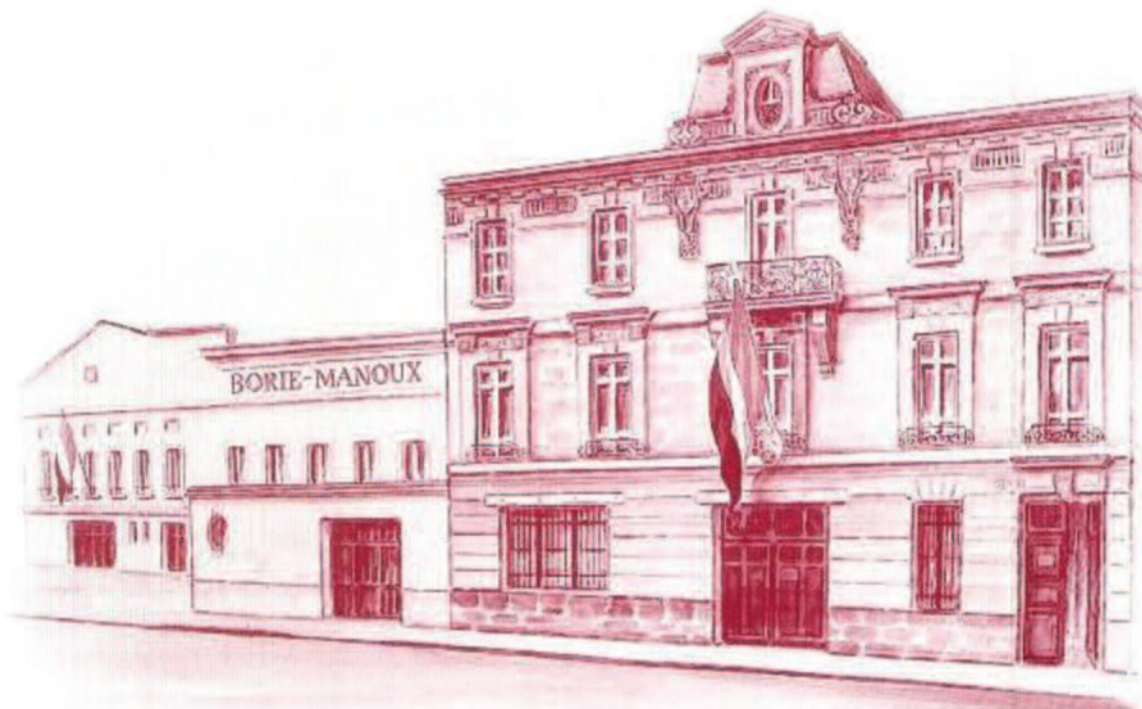


BORIE-MANOUX

As well as the Châteaux themselves, the Bordeaux wine industry is dominated by the négociants, the merchants who traditionally buy the wine from the growers and then take on the responsibility for selling it to the world.



H.B. Clark has had a very close relationship for many years with Borie-Manoux, a family négociant house owned by the Castéja family. Our Vin de Table, Beauroy, is blended for us by Borie-Manoux as is our Vin de Pays and our House Claret and our Bergerac. But this firm, one of the last in Bordeaux to be family owned and managed, also owns ten Bordeaux châteaux and manages two more. Their top-of-the-tree Classed Growth Château Bataille is well known for its very consistent quality. Indeed, in the James Bond novel, 'Devil may Care' by Sebastian Faulks, Bond is introduced to Bataille with the words 'Bataille is a miracle. One of the great secrets of Bordeaux'. We heartily agree.



Borie Manoux - Bordeaux



RED

Taste Guide

Trade Sales Price

Bergerac Borie Manoux

Effectively an extension eastwards of Bordeaux with a more rustic style of fruit and flavour which produces fresh but still elegant reds.

B

£4.25

Claret Borie Manoux

Classic Bordeaux blend from one of the leading producers showing good structured fruit and flavour.

B

£4.59

Grande Réserve de Beau Rivage

This barrel aged Bordeaux is principally blended from Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The wine was recommended to Decanter magazine readers by Michael Broadbent, the retired head of Christie's Wine Department.

B

£5.57



Château La Tuilerie de Puy, 2006, Bordeaux Superieur

Our supplier was so impressed by the quality of this wine that he bought the whole of the vintage! It is very easy to see why given the abundance of currant fruit, the soft tannins and the long aftertaste which give excellent balance.

C

£7.79

Chapelle de la Trinité, St. Emilion

An excellently made claret showing Merlot's plummy fruit and ability to match food very well.

C

£8.15

Château Le Cedre d'Arthus, 2006, Bordeaux Superieur

This is a highly regarded second wine of the St. Emilion château, Fleur d'Arthus. Lots of up front fruit followed by cedary and leathery complexity and an elegant finish.

B

£9.95

Château Lamarsalle, 2005, Montagne St. Emilion

Montagne is the largest and best satellite of St. Emilion and this comes from a classic year giving the warm, full, rounded style the Merlot grape has made so popular.

C

£11.20

Château Tour du Roc Milon, 2002, Pauillac

2002 was a year when the Cabernet Sauvignon wines of the regions like Pauillac did well. The result is both ripe and fresh fruit flavours with finesse and elegance.

B

£14.50

Château Au Pont de Guitres, 2001, Lalande de Pomerol

Lalande de Pomerol is just to the North of Pomerol, the region which is famous for its full, rich and very expensive wines like Château Petrus. Lalande wines tend to be ripe and supple, very much less in price and very much improving in quality. Rounded and full-bodied Merlot flavours are very much to the fore.

C

£14.50

Château Grand Soussans, 2004, Margaux

Margaux is the largest of the communes of the Southern Medoc and is famous for the production of elegant, fragrant wines with a silky feel to them. The Grand Soussans is classically well-made from this vintage with a really long finish.

B

£15.95

Château Batailley, 2004, Pauillac

Dense purple in colour, cedarwood and black fruits on the nose and palate, medium-bodied and a long, long finish - in fact all it should have to be a classed growth claret.

C

£26.65



BORDEAUX



WHITE

Monbazillac Borie Manoux

Increasingly popular medium sweet wine from the Dordogne which is both lemony and refreshing, rather like lemon curd! Excellent value.

4

£8.15

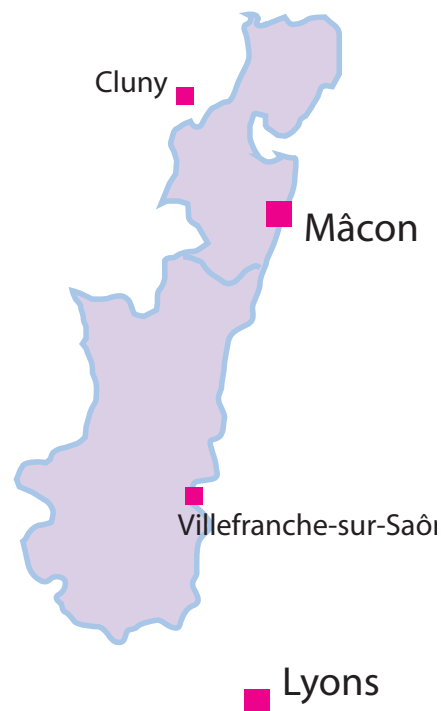


BEAUJOLAIS

Beaujolais, like Burgundy or Bordeaux, is an area in which different wines are grown AND a name applied to the wines which can be confusing. There are ten different villages or crus in Beaujolais with differing characters and that does not include Beaujolais Nouveau now very much rarer than twenty years ago.



What does unite the crus is that they are all made from the same grape, the Gamay. This produces very fruity red wine meant in nearly all cases to be drunk young and often at its best served cool with its fruit unjammed. The last few vintages have all provided really tasty wines, especially 2009.



BEAUJOLAIS



Beaujolais Milhomme

From a small, local producer, soft and juicy Gamay with the flavours of ripe summer fruits. Can be served slightly cool - perfect summer drinking.

Fleurie Reserve

One of the most popular Beaujolais Crus, because it is all that Beaujolais should be, scented, fruity and easy to drink.

Morgon, Didier Desvignes 2009

Fruity, juicy and more full bodied than many Beaujolais with a firmer finish and a bit more meat to it all round.

Fleurie, Didier Desvignes 2009

If Morgon is meaty, Fleurie is delicate, delicious and delectably ripe.

Taste Guide	Trade Sales Price
A	£6.95
B	£8.75
B	£10.75
B	£11.75



BURGUNDY

The most valuable agricultural land in the world lies in Burgundy. The vineyard of Le Montrachet with its few rows of Chardonnay vines and just up the road, the Pinot Noir of the Domaine de la Romanée Conti. The vineyards are situated on narrow strips of land so that one grower's wines are very often next door to another without a fence or any other boundary between them. Although they share the same basic soil, the vines are cultivated very much according to the individual owner's methods and customs. Often the wine will be sold to either the merchants or the co-operatives rather than being bottled at the Domaine.

Why doesn't French law allow the name of the grape on Burgundy labels especially Chablis, Meursault, Puligny Montrachet, Pouilly Fuissé, Macon Villages - some of the world's most highly rated white wines and all made with Chardonnay? Top white Burgundies are a mouthwatering balance of lemon fruit, complex flavours and balancing acidity with a finish which lingers in the memory.



PINOT NOIR

Is still the most difficult grape from which to make great red wine, but success leads to magical results. The small villages and even smaller vineyards of Gevrey Chambertin, Nuits St. Georges, Volnay, Beaune and others produce wines with huge flavours. No wonder the French Army salutes when marching past.



BURGUNDY



RED



Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Cave de Bissey

Fresh but flavoursome Pinot Noir with a rich finish.

Taste
Guide

Trade
Sales Price

B

£8.70



Côte de Beaune Les Longes, 2004, Lois Dufouleur

A definite find - a single vineyard Burgundy with all the fruit and elegance expected but again at a remarkable price. This shows all the advantages of low yields in terms of concentration of flavour.

B

£14.15

Beaune Clos du Dessus des Marconnets 2007, Lois Dufouleur

2007 was a small aromatic and attractive vintage for medium term drinking. Raspberry and redcurrant fruits to the fore with a juicy finish. The great advantage of Beaune burgundy is that not only is the town home to the Hospices (picture p.49) but that the wines are of consistent value and quality.

B

£19.95



Nuits St Georges, 2003, Domaine Dupont Tisserandot

A Nuits made by a boutique grower who pursues the old-fashioned objectives of balancing supple Pinot Noir fruit, soft tannins and a proper structure.

B

£25.05

Gevrey Chambertin, 2006, Domaine Dupont Tisserandot

The first of Burgundy's great villages met when travelling North to South and one of the best known. Full bodied and rich Burgundy with great depth of flavour. Didier Chevillon is a wine maker improving the ratings of his estate by producing wines such as this.

B

£25.05

WHITE BURGUNDY



CHABLIS



Petit Chablis, Domaine Christian Simon

Chablis is so popular with all ranges of customer that we have had to look for a slightly lighter but still steely alternative to the wines listed below.

1

£9.66

Chablis, J. Moreau et Fils

Flint and mineral flavours combine with the lemon fruit of the Chardonnay giving a long finish.

Also available in 37.5cl bottles

1

£10.15

£5.93



Chablis, Domaine Christian Simon

Chablis from a top quality winemaker which shows the unique qualities of freshness, finesse and depth of flavour. In the last four years from nothing, we have become the Domaine's Number One customer for this wine.

1

£10.65

Chablis Premier Cru Montmains 2009, Domaine Christian Simon

Premier Cru Chablis possesses all the qualities for which Chablis is famous together with a fullness of body and flavour.

1

£13.95



BURGUNDY



WHITE

Macon Blanc Villages

Round, full and generous in flavour.

Taste
Guide

2

Trade
Sales Price

£7.58

Bourgogne Chardonnay, Cave d'Aze

A proper Bourgogne Chardonnay like this reflects the lemony fruit, elegance and complexity of its more famous neighbours.

2

£8.95



Saint-Veran 'Vielle Vignes' Personnets 2007

A wine not as well known as it deserves as it provides a delicate, mineral bouquet, a refreshing citric but non-acidic taste and a clean, full finish. A quite outstanding example of fine winemaking.

2

£11.20

Pouilly Fuissé 2008, Les Vieux Murs

The best white from the Macon region. Made with a cocktail of generous fruit and delicate oak, giving weight, length and complexity.

2

£12.75

Meursault 2007, Les Grand Charrons, Domaine du Chateau de Citeaux

The combination of classic Chardonnay lemon flavours with hazelnut, vanilla and unsalted butter overtones creates a most attractive wine with great depth of flavour.

2

£24.91

Chassagne Montrachet 2008, Châteaux de Citeaux

Chassagne Montrachet and Puligny Montrachet are the two adjoining villages that produce the highest class of Chardonnay in the world. This is beautifully balanced wine with fruit and the right amount of oak and acidity continuing to present the drinker with flavours that linger and linger.

2

£24.91



BURGUNDY

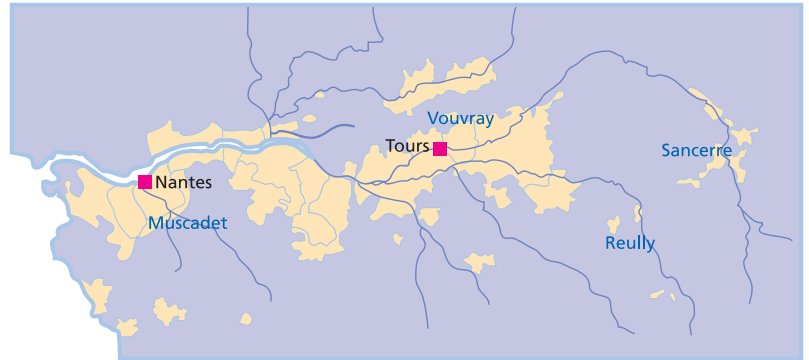


LOIRE AND ALSACE



LOIRE

The River Loire is six hundred miles long and produces a great variety of wines made from different grapes on different soils and with different micro-climates. Muscadet, Sauvignon de Touraine, Pouilly Fumé and Sancerre all come from the Loire and remain benchmarks for crisp, fruity, refreshing dry white wines with flavours that provide attractive drinking on their own or with anything remotely fishy, with chicken or with soft cheeses. Having said that, they are different with Sancerre and Pouilly being only eighty miles from Burgundy and Muscadet having some of the minerality and forcefulness of Chablis.

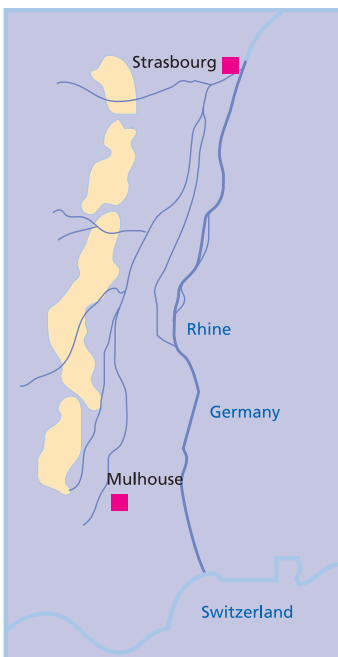
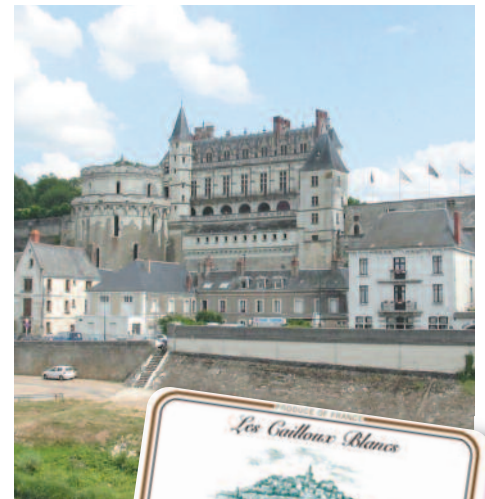


CHÉREAU CARRÉ

We at H.B. Clark are very proud to be the Northern wholesaler for the Loire wine house, Chéreau Carré. Their wine-making prowess has been recognised by the pre-eminent American wine guru, Robert Parker. His review of the Muscadet area singled out Chéreau Carré for their wines based on the traditional virtues of hand-harvesting and low yields. All their wines show freshness and minerality but he went further.

The Muscadet Comte Leloup (see facing page), made from vines more than 100 years old, was described as 'being able to age for over ten years..... it also represents one of the most remarkable wine values available on the planet.... readers should rush out and buy it'. The concentration and intensity of flavour are quite remarkable but the wine remains delicious.

Bernard Chéreau is another of our master winemakers who extracts the very best from his properties and never compromises on quality. The plain Muscadet Cuvée Chéreau is a very different kettle of fish to most entry level Muscadets and shows the difference a class winemaker makes even with his most modest wine.



LOIRE SAUVIGNON BLANC

Given the success of New Zealand and Chile, we should not forget French Sauvignon Blanc. From the Sauvignon de Touraine and Moulin de Montarels (see page 45) at just above entry level up to the top wines of Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé. French Sauvignon Blanc provides everything a wine drinker might be looking for.

ALSACE

Alsace is the region which can justifiably call itself the food and wine capital of Europe. The wines are still not as popular in this region as they deserve to be. They provide a number of grape varieties, principally Riesling, Gewurztraminer and Pinot Gris with an aromatic flavour and a dry finish and are a beautiful match for spicy cuisines. Last year, we added Hugel's Le Gentil so we can offer customers an Alsatian with bark and a bit of bite!

THE LOIRE



ROSÉ

Anjou Rosé Cabernet, Chéreau Carré

The revival in rosé wines has rekindled interest in this old favourite. Very well-made top of the market medium dry rosé that is extremely tasty and long.

Taste
Guide

3A

Trade
Sales Price

£5.01



WHITE

Muscadet de Sevre et Maine, Cuvée Chéreau

Entry level Muscadet with a touch of class added by its maker Bernard Chéreau. A benchmark for what Muscadet should be; light but crisp and full of fruit so the dryness complements the flavour but does not dominate it.

1

£4.89



££ Sauvignon de Touraine, Chéreau Carré

Crisp, fruity Sauvignon with a clean, fresh flavour. Despite the euro exchange rate, this lively wine offers Sauvignon Blanc of real value.

2

£5.21

Vouvray Demi Sec, Chéreau Carré

Only in the Loire can a wine be produced which is sweet honey and fruit in the mouth but just off dry. Perfect drinking and totally refreshing.

3

£6.19



Muscadet Comte Leloup de Chasseloir Sur Lie, Chéreau Carré

An outstanding dry white wine, full of fruit and depth of flavour. If it came from Burgundy it would be three times the price. The wine has plenty of minerality and so much juicy fruit that it is invigorating to drink. The hundred year old vines and the months spent on its lees retain freshness but add complexity.

1

£7.09



Pouilly Fumé, Les Loges

Flinty, concentrated and full of gooseberry fruit. The recent cooler vintages of this wine have resulted in a classic Sauvignon style.

1

£9.15

Sancerre Les Cailloux Blancs, Chéreau Carré

Superb accompaniment to fish, chicken or Brie. Great depth of citrus fruit flavours, slightly aromatic in the mouth with balancing soft acidity.

1

£10.21

ALSACE



WHITE



Hugel Le Gentil

This is hugely affordable Alsace made by probably the most famous quality producer of the region. Very appealing, medium bodied with the weight of fruit you would expect and a rich complexity in the finish.

2

£8.15



Riesling Cuvée Jean Charles, Ruhlmann

Perfect Alsace Riesling with intense fresh flavours of lime, lemon, pear and tropical fruits.

1

£8.75

Gewurztraminer Vieilles Vignes, Ruhlmann

A real find. All the aromatic, lychee flavours followed by a long aftertaste at an attractive price. Excellent with Asian cuisine.

2

£9.75

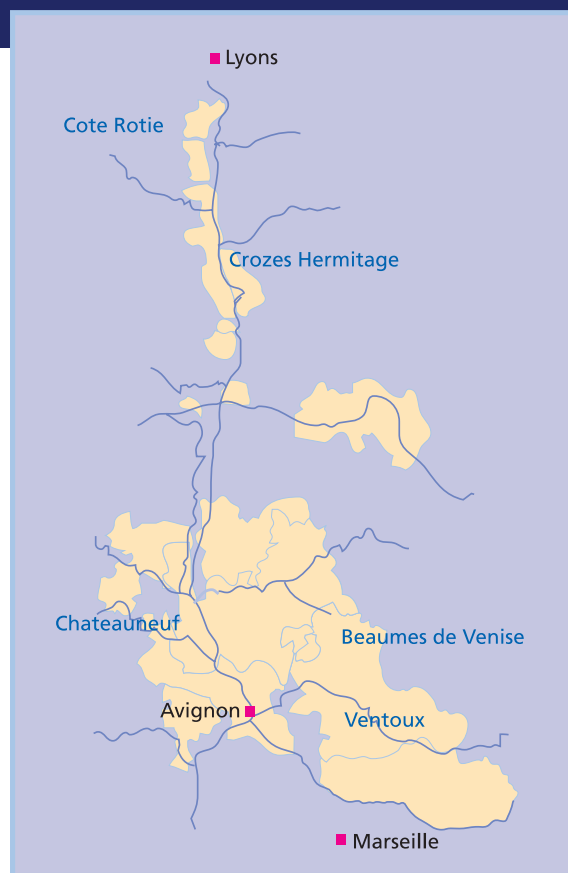


The third of France's greatest wine regions alongside Bordeaux and Burgundy and still surprisingly the most under-rated and undervalued. Indeed, were it not for Chateauneuf-du-Pape, many lists might not carry a Rhône representative. This is despite the Northern Rhône wines being made almost 100% from Syrah, better known elsewhere as the very popular Shiraz. Another example perhaps of the French wine industry losing out because of the illegality of showing the grape variety as part of the front label.

On the other hand, wines from the Southern Rhône may be made with Syrah and with a wide variety of other grapes.

One of the best known is Grenache which is used for red, white and rosé wines. Mourvèdre is the other main grape which helps to give colour and tannin.

Our selection of red wines from the Rhône and from the Languedoc Roussillon, we believe, shows a range of excellence made by very good growers.



CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

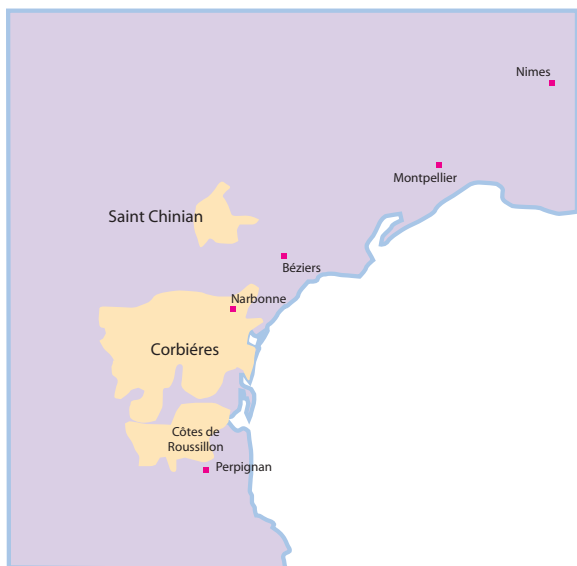
The Southern Rhône's best known wine region, Chateauneuf is very famous not least for the crossed keys of St. Peter which must appear on every bottle. Forty years ago, the wine was much abused as a huge variety of grapes were used, many of them from outside the region. Now there is more quality control and we have been very careful to choose wines showing the strong, ripe fruit flavours appreciated by lovers of this wine which matches most cuisine's meat dishes.

LANGUEDOC

The Appellation Languedoc has just been amended to include Roussillon and Corbières with names and labels to change over the next five years. The region has developed rapidly from the days when dark, heavy reds mysteriously found their way into very much higher priced wines from the Rhône for Paris and for Burgundy for the English market! It now attracts top winemakers.

We have chosen four wines from this area because of their competitive price and quality compared to some of the Rhônes we previously offered. Apart from Corbières, the names may not be too familiar but the quality of the winemaking is outstanding.

We predict that St. Chinian will very soon become widely known over here. The Haut-Bila wines are made by the famous Rhône house of Chapoutier and show what a difference expertise and experience and low yields from old vines make when quality is the prime consideration.



RED

Taste
Guide

Trade
Sales Price

££ Bouches du Rhône

An entry level Rhône wine showing plenty of fruit and structure and a tasty finish.

C

£4.69

££ Côtes du Rhône La Combes D'Art

Clean, robust fruit and proper Rhône flavours make this attractive drinking and outstanding value.

B

£5.15

Côtes du Rhône Valvigneyre

Made from 100% Syrah grapes by the award-winning wine maker Alain Paret. Robust, full-bodied and will complement most red meat dishes. Also available in 37.5cl bottles

D

£7.55

£4.37

Crozes Hermitage, Domaine Etienne Pochon

Aromas of blackcurrants, cherries and faint hints of earthy tobacco. Full-bodied and smooth on the palate with a lingering finish.

D

£9.15

Chateauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Remparts

Once one of the most abused of all wine names, Chateauneuf's wines are much improved now they come from single Domaines. The Remparts has plenty of ripe cherry fruit with a spicy finish.

D

£15.25

Chateauneuf-du-Pape Chais du Bâtard

This Chateauneuf du Pape is deep ruby in colour, opulent, full-bodied and rich with notes of smoke, blackberry, cassis, and pepper. It is superbly made with soft tannins and perfect balance.

D

£15.95

Côte-Rôtie 1997, Jaboulet

Only small quantities available of what is possibly the least expensive of the world's great wines; it has the advantage of showing rich softness and finesse when young.

D

£21.90

LANGUEDOC ROUSSILLON

RED

££ Excellence St. Chinian

Full flavoured red from the Languedoc made with the same mixture of grapes as much of Chateauneuf.

C

£5.15

Corbières L'Ancien Comté

Vibrant red with very generous fruit all the way through.

D

£5.65

Les Vignes de Bila-Haut, Côtes du Roussillon

Old vines producing concentrated but balanced and attractive wines of great quality.

C

£7.01

WHITE

Les Vignes de Bila-Haut, Côtes du Roussillon

Like the red made by world famous Michel Chapoutier on biodynamic principles. Full bodied, refreshing and a hint of minerality.

2

£7.01

