

The Bottleneck News June 2017

Sauvignon Blanc!

I tentatively think that this month we should be moving into summer, and we will all be looking for crisp fresh whites to pair with fish & salads and there is no doubt that Sauvignon Blanc fits the bill.

The home of Sauvignon Blanc is France and in particular Bordeaux & the Loire Valley, but it's story that doesn't stop there, New Zealand is famed for it's zingy Sauvignon Blancs and Chile is producing some really good examples, Chile is moving away from cheap & cheerful, to mid range & world class wines with character. Sauvignon Blanc is a green skinned grape that flowers late and ripens early. It is not really suited to very warm climates where over ripening cuts its acidity. The grape most likely gets its name from the French words *sauvage* meaning wild it is possibly a descendant of the Savagnin grape. In colder years it certain lives up to it's name and can be savagely acidic!! Sauvignon Blanc is planted in many of the world's wine regions, but the above mentioned countries seem to do it best.

Calvet Limited Release Bordeaux Sauvignon Blanc 2015 at £8.99 bottle Pale lemon in colour with green highlights, attractive aromatic nose, in the mouth it is crisp with lime citrus, background white peach & great minerality. Yes we know it's in the wrong shape bottle but this is how Sauvignon is usually bottled in the rest of the world!

Sancerre Langlois-Château Loire Valley 2015 at £15.99 bottle Pale lemon in colour. Slight herbal character with lemon leaves and green bell pepper. Full in the palate, nice acidity, very attractive wine treat it to a Dover Sole.

Cloudy Bay Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2016

at £22.99 bottle This is the wine that started the NZ Sauvignon Blanc revolution, it is as classy as ever, still packed full of aromatic bell pepper, gooseberry citrus & new mown grass, elegant and crisp on the attractive palate, despite the price it is still one of those must try iconic wines that I think is well worth every penny!

Greywacke Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough New Zealand 2016

at £16.99 bottle An attractive fusion of sweet scented fruits, nectarines, peaches & pears with a dash of orange zest, intermingled with a floral perfume reminiscent of jasmine & orange blossom. A generous palate with citrus, ripe pears deliciously succulent, the pinnacle of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc from Kevin Judd the master of Marlborough wines.

Montes Classic Series Sauvignon Blanc Casablanca Valley Chile 2016 £8.99 bottle

Another Sauvignon Blanc from a master winemaker Aurelio Montes has lifted Chilean wines from the every day to the fabulous. Intense aromatics of herbs and cut grass on the nose, with grapefruit, lime and white peach on the palate. This medium bodied white has racy acidity and a clean finish. Drink on its own or pair with light fish dishes.

There was a rumour a few years back that wine is all starting to taste the same, these wines show how different wines result from the same grape variety.

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If you do not receive this newsletter on a regular basis, please contact us at the above address, telephone number or email and we'll add you to our mailing list. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter just let us know.



Tickled Pink!

I have been told recently that we are not giving you enough info about our special offer wines so you'll be tickled pink to learn more about these super rosés at special prices.

Innocent Bystander Moscato Yarra Valley Australia 2016 Usually £9.99 bottle

Special Offer £7.99 bottle This winery changed hands in May 2016, with one family company, Brown Brothers,...taking it off the hands of another, its founder, Phil Sexton. Innocent Bystander is pure Yarra Valley so much so that the new owners have made the intelligent decision to build a new winery in Healesville, across the road from Giant Steps. They are quickly signing contracts with all the grape growers that Phil used for Innocent Bystander so that the style of the wines remains the same.

Intense candy floss and blackcurrant perfumes wrap around notes of musk, Turkish delight and mandarin peel. The palate is rich in flavour, yet refined by a cleansing natural acidity. The spritzy naturally dissolved carbon dioxide leaves the palate refreshed.

Caliterra Reserva Shiraz Rosé 2016 Valle de Colchagua Chile Usually £10.99

Special Price 8.99 bottle

Caliterra believe in sustainable viticulture they protect flora & fauna in the area of their vineyards. Founded in 1996 as a joint venture between Robert Mondavi & Viña Errázuriz their aim being to produce high quality wines in one of Chile's prime grape growing areas, in early 2004 Errázuriz obtained Robert Mondavi's 50% share in the Caliterra vineyards with the goal of crafting wines in an environmentally friendly way.

Pretty, vibrant, pink colour with attractive aromas of ripe strawberries, raspberries & floral notes of

roses. Delicious fruity palate with light berry flavours & zingy acidity. Pair with fresh pan fried salmon.

El Coto Rosado Rioja Spain 2016

Usually £9.59 bottle

Special Offer £7.99 bottle El Coto was founded in 1970 in Rioja Alavesa and has grown from modest beginnings into one of the best known of Rioja producers. Today El Coto has over 700 hectares of vineyard in production across the three Rioja DOC sub-zones of Rioja Alta, Rioja Baja and Rioja

Alavesa. They source grapes from all three areas, but mostly from Rioja Alavesa. Head winemaker Cesar Fernandez oversees production. This winery was awarded an international Wine Challenge Trophy in 2016

Lively, pale pink in colour. The nose displays aromas of strawberries and candied raspberries. The palate is dry, with a wide range of red and dark fruits, including strawberries and cherries. The finish is crisp with hints of fruit and flowers.

Cleef's Classic Collection Coastal Region South Africa Cabernet/ Shiraz Rosé 2016 Usually £9.99 bottle

Special Price £7.35 bottle

Cleef's parent company are Kleine Zalze. Wine-making has taken place on this site since 1695 but in 1996 the present Kleine Zalze vineyards were born when Kobus Bassoon purchased the vineyards. The vineyard's soils were scientifically mapped & the grapes planted, where the best terroir characteristics are found. They produce award-winning wines known for their distinctly South African character, boasting lively, full-bodied flavours that reflect the local climate and terroir. With their classical composition and complimentary relationship

with food, the wines ensure a refreshing experience reminiscent of the Stellenbosch countryside. An elegant dry style of rosé, having a pale salmon colour. On the nose it has summer berry fruits that carry over on to the creamy fruity palate, light & fresh perfect summer drinking.



English Wines

The good news is that 2016 was an excellent vintage for English wines quality was up on the previous few years (and previous few years were good quality!) the bad news is that the crop will only yield 4.15 million bottles. The average yield of late has been 5 million bottles, luckily there are new planting that will be coming on stream this year. The reason for the drop in quantity was the cool wet conditions in June that went on into early July it had an impact on fruit development and delayed veraison (ripening). However do you remember that warm spell in late August through September, well that did the grapes a power of good and the resulting harvest was excellent.

Wine tastings ~

Thanks to all of you who attended our May wine tasting. I have to say that the wines were very well received with the pink wines receiving a great deal of attention, all were showing well and are perfect summer wines. The Innocent Bystander Moscato 2016 at £7.99 is rather different & was a real hit, sit in your garden kick off your shoes & have a sip or two at 5.5 abv it is a very friendly wine. The stylish Muscadet Château du Coing de St Fiacre Muscadet Serve et Maine 2015 at £9.99 was sublime and was the biggest selling wine, as there is going to be very little Chablis around this year it's worth trying this instead. Last but not least the wonderful Punto Final Malbec was drinking like a dream, this was a second biggest selling wine, full-bodied smooth and rich deserving a fillet steak with all the trimmings. An honourable mention goes to the Forge Mill Chenin Blanc in third place at £5.99 bottle a total bargain!



Opening Hours ~



Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9.30am to 6pm

Friday & Saturday

9.30am to 8pm

Sunday Closed except for

Wine Tasting **June 18th What the Dickens is in the cellar? 9 wines to taste from 11am to 4pm tastings take about 30 minutes**

Wine Wizard

Did you know that it was Plato who first suggested that young people didn't drink alcohol until they were 18 years old? He went on to say that moderate consumption was advised until your 40th year & after that drink as much as you please to soften the aches & pains of old age! He gave this advice when he was almost 40 & he went on to live to the ripe old age of 80 a great age to live to in BC347.

Now that the Chinese are taking an interest in wine it maybe the end of wine as we know it! Luckily it's just the rich & the upper middle classes that are drinking it on a



regular basis the consumption per head a year in China is 1.4 litres. If that reaches the level of American consumption at 20.4 litres the Chinese will consume half the worlds production annually. If however they catch up with us Brits at 24 litres then it's game over the rest of the world will have no wine to drink! That is not the least of the Chinese wine drinkers problems it is estimated that for every genuine bottle of French wine in China there are also fake ones to go with it and the problem is growing. All I can say is Meow & Cheers.

Special Offers

Champagne

Ruinart Rosé NV Usually £57.00 bottle

SPECIAL PRICE £45.00 bt

Taittinger Nocturne Sec NV Magnum

Recommended Price £105

OUR PRICE £79

Moët & Chandon Rosé NV £49.50

Special Price 39.50 bottle

Veuve Clicquot Brut NV

Usually £45.50 bottle

SPECIAL OFFER £39.50 bottle

Argentina

Amalaya Gran Corte

Malbec Tannat & Cabernet Franc 2014

Usually £15.99 bottle

Special Price £12.99 bottle

Renacer Punto Final Malbec Classico

Usually £11.99 bottle

Special Price £9.99 bottle

Australia

Innocent Bystander Yarra Valley

Chardonnay 2015

Usually £15.99 bottle

Special Price £13.99

Innocent Bystander Moscato 2016

Usually £9.99 bottle

Special Offer £7.99 bottle

Chile

Caliterra Reserva Merlot, Shiraz Rosé
& Sauvignon Blanc

Usually £10.99 bottle

Special Price £8.99 bottle

Montes Outer Limits Carignan

Grenache Mourvedre 2013

Usual Price ££18.99 bottle

Special Price £16.99 bottle

France

Château du Coing de St Fiacre

Muscadet Serve et Maine 2015

Usually £11.99 bottle

Special Price £9.99 bottle

Louis Jadot Petit Chablis 2015

Usually £19.99 bottle

Special Price £14.99 bottle

New Zealand

Esk Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2016

Usually £12.99 bottle

Special offer £9.99 bottle

ARRIVING 2ND WEEK OF JUNE

South Africa

Cleefs Classic Collection

Shiraz Viognier 2014, Rosé 2016 &

Chenin Blanc 2016

Usually £9.99 bottle

Special Price £7.35 bottle

Darling Cellars West Coast Sauvignon

Blanc 2016 Usually £8.49 bottle

Special Price £6.99 bottle

Forge Mill Bush Vine

Chenin Blanc 2015

Usually £6.99 bottle

Special Offer £5.99 bottle

Withington Cellars Darling Malbec

2014 Usually £9.49 bottle

now £7.99 bottle

Spain

Cien Y Pico Doble Pasta Garnacha

Tintorera 2012 Usually £12.99 bt

Special Offer £8.99 bottle

Cuatro Pasos Mencia Bierzo 2014

Usually £10.99 bottle

Special Price £8.99

El Coto Rosado 2016

Usually £ £9.59 bottle

Special Offer £7.99 bottle

Viña Real Rioja Crianza 2013

Usually £11.65 bottle

Special Price £8.99 bottle

You will notice our special offer wines
are now colour coded.

White Pink & Red.

Beers

Nice range of ales on our special mix &
match Hobgoblin, Brakspear Bitter,
Wadworths 6X, Boon Doggle, Brains
SA Gold, Greene King IPA, Mann's
award winning Brown Ale & **Shepherd
Christmas Ale YES Christmas Ale!!!**
Whitstable Bay Pale Ale, Spitfire &
Masterbrew at 3 x ½ litres for £4.50
no further discounts on this offer.

*Beers on this offer may change
without notice & others take their place*

Whitstable Bay Blonde **£1.45 330mls
or buy 6 for £6.99**

Asahi Japan's No 1 beer
usually £1.55 500mls Can

Special Price £1.09 or buy 6 for £5.99
these are such a hot price they may not
last the month!

Estrella Damm Beer of Barcelona
£1.45 330mls or buy 4 for £4.99