

T H E

W I N E R Y

Formosa Garden Wine Tasting 15.08.24

with the kind support of Savills

There'll be Music, Cheese, Wine and some Grape Juice for those who want to go alcohol-free. We encourage you to taste every wine in the line-up before using your voucher for a pour of your choice. If you'd like more, you are welcome to buy a bottle or by the glass. Please hang onto your glass for the duration of the event. Thank-you for inviting us and we hope you enjoy the tasting!

sparkling

Champagne Tradition Brut NV, André Fays (Champagne/France) 32.99

In the depths of lockdown in March 2021, hotels that were open in France were few and far between. Particularly any that had a good kitchen and wine-list. We did however find three between Calais and Beaune. One of the most useful was (and still is) the Val Moret, conveniently close to the autoroute just east of Troyes. It may look like a motel in the US midwest, complete with a fluorescent sign visible from the autoroute, but the rooms are good and they have a wine-list which draws heavily on local growers from the southern part of the Champagne region – the Côte des Bars. We were drawn to a Solera Champagne by André Fays. Solera? Champagne? Solera system, like for Sherry? Yes.

It was inevitable that we would then go to Celles-sur-Ource to meet Marie Fays, current owner and granddaughter of André. What we weren't expecting was the high quality and sheer deliciousness of her other champagnes. Tradition, Réserve, Prestige, Rosé and Étincelles (a local peculiarity, being 100% Pinot Blanc). Boom. In the van and on our shelves. More than once. Marie's Cuvée Tradition is a blend of 85% Pinot Noir, 10% Pinot Blanc and 5% Pinot Meunier.



white

Mâcon-Solotr -Pouilly Sur Le Mont 2022, Cheveau (Burgundy/France) IN CONVERSION 22.99

In southern Burgundy, near M acon, the primal presence of the two jagged rock faces of Vergisson and Solotr  dominate the skyline above the tiny village of Pouilly, a village that time forgot. When we first visited over 20 years ago, the whole Cheveau family from grandparents to grandchildren gathered in the doorway to watch the 'hot-shot' wine merchants from London taste their wines. At that time Nicolas Cheveau made M acon, St-V eran and Pouilly-Fuiss . Joined by his wife Aur lie, much has changed. There's a swanky, much more accessible winery on the approach to the village. There are also multiple new bottlings; three M acon, one Bourgogne Blanc, one St-V eran, no fewer than eight separate Pouilly-Fuiss  bottlings (five of them 1er Cru) three red and one white Beaujolais. This is their fancier M acon bottling, further up the hill, parallel with the Roche de Solotr . Cool and citrusy, yet deep and spicy. In conversion? Organic conversion takes three years - they will be fully organic from the 2024 vintage onwards.

Riesling trocken 2022, Fred Prinz (Rheingau/Germany) BIODYNAMIC 17.99

The Rhine takes a sharp turn west at Mainz before turning north again at R udesheim. The south-facing slope on the north bank between the two is the Rheingau, thick with castles, convents and vineyards. This is the classical home of Riesling. Evocative names like Steinberg, Marcobrunn, Johannisberg, Hochheim - the home of Queen Victoria's "Hock", back when German wines were the most expensive in the world. In contrast to wine made in historic castles and convents, Fred Prinz made his wine in the garage below the flats where he and his family live in the village of Hallgarten. Having started as a hobby in 1991, demand became so great that he had to give up his day job and rent another cellar nearby, thereby freeing up space in the garage for a mid-life Harley-Davidson motorbike.

We have been importing Fred's dry Rieslings since our first buying trip to Germany in 2002, watched him outgrow his garage and have seen his vineyard holdings grow from 1.5 to over 10 hectares. His wife Sabine has always been involved and they have now been joined by their son Florian who has been experimenting with some hardcore Natural cuv es. This 'entry-level' dry Riesling is classic Rheingau Riesling: yellow fruits, opulent and expressive - a blend from three different soils: sandy loess, slate and quartzite.

rosé

Côtes de Provence Rosé 2022, Mauvan (Provence/France)

17.99

We were looking for a Rosé in Provence a decade and a half ago in the wilting 40C heat of summer. Much of our shortlisting work was done in the (thankfully) cool Côtes-de-Provence-Sainte-Victoire Vinothèque in the town of Trets. Our clear winner was Mauvan. 30 minutes later, with the stunning long ridge-like Mont Sainte-Victoire as backdrop (frequently painted by Cézanne), we were tasting the full range at the small winery. Gaëlle Maclou's Grandfather started the domaine in the 1950s. It was mixed farming: mainly cereal, fruit and a few vines. Gaëlle, a qualified Oenologist, took over the domaine 30 years ago, stripped out the cereal production and has concentrated on wine ever since. She and her long-time boyfriend Martin Massot make this delightful, classic Côtes-de-Provence Rosé from Cinsault with a splash of Syrah.

red

Ribera del Duero Roble 2021, Alvides (Ribera del Duero/Spain)

15.99

Alvides is a small family bodega in the dusty Duero valley two hours drive north of Madrid. The Casado family's grandfather Eutimio founded the Co-operative in Aranda del Duero in 1962. In 2001, Eutimio's sons Ildefonso and Delfin Casado - the next generation - set-up their own small winery with the help of Emmanuel Ivar, a young French oenologist who studied winemaking in the Loire and had moved to Ribera del Duero.

Alvides now have 25 ha of vines, all Tempranillo, with an average age of 40-50 years old. Harvesting is always by hand. Every level of wine from Roble, Crianza up to the Vendimia Seleccionada (formerly Reserva) and the Tercera Generación (*Third Generation* - tiny production from 75 year-old vines and only in the greatest years) are treated to some time in French oak with much stirring of the lees. The results are excellent: we find a high, dark fruit content in the nose (with a touch of vanilla – from the oak) and a fabulous suppleness in the mouth.

La Petite Ourse 2022, Pascal Chalon (Rhône/France) BIODYNAMIC

21.99

We discovered Pascal Chalon in 2007 when he was making his wines in his granny's garage in the hot and windy southern Rhône valley. We had to clamber over apples and a dusty old Renault to get to his few barrels. As soon as we had tasted his entire range, which consisted of two red wines, 'La Petite Ourse' and 'La Grande Ourse', we were quick to back the van up and load the last cases he had.

In the meantime, Pascal has built his own, larger winery and extended his range to include Ursa Major, a couple of whites and, recently, new bottlings from Visan and Suze La Rousse. The wines are always pure, biodynamic Rhône heaven. Fragrant and gutsy.

La Petite Ourse is a rich blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah from vines in Visan caressed (some might say ravaged) by the Mistral wind. All Pascal's reds evoke the *garrigue*: the aromatic, warm, bushy scrubland which dominates the region, thick with wild lavender, juniper, thyme, sage and rosemary. The 2022 has bright, ripe, saturated fruit and floral violet notes and a sense of integrated tannins.



non-alcoholic

Grape Juice, Reuscher-Haart (Mosel/Germany)

5.99

Last week, specially for today's event, we picked up some unfiltered, naturally cloudy grape juice from Mario Schwang of Reuscher-Haart in the picturesque village of Piesport on the Mosel. The grape is Rivaner (*aka Müller-Thurgau*). Mario keeps some grape juice back before it starts fermenting.

the winery

A wine shop for over 100 years, sited in a former Victorian pharmacy in Clifton Road, we import our entire range of wines and champagnes ourselves from small growers in our specialist regions around France, Italy, Spain and California. We are also well-known for our wide selection of New Wave dry wines from Germany - the largest range in the UK. We recently opened a second branch in Fulham, at 797 Fulham Road, SW6 5HD. We hold **free monthly tastings** open to all. Our **next tasting** at **The Winery Fulham** will be on **Wednesday 28th August**. Next one at **The Winery Maida Vale** will be on **17th September**.

Join us for our Monthly Tastings

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