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FINE WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1854

& Classics Upstarts



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& Classics Upstarts

We love the classics. Claret, Chablis, Châteauneuf-du-Pape: these names in fine wine are sought-after for good reason. They're dependable, and predictably delicious.

And yet, we also love upstarts. The future of fine wine: never replacing the classics, but joining their ranks as the household regions and producers - the next 'Big Things'.

You be the judge. Whether you're looking for a reliable favourite or a change of pace, these wines are standout examples of each style.

Best wishes,

 & 

Robbie Toothill

Catherine Petrie, MW

We show all prices "in bond", excluding UK duty and VAT. If you wish to buy and store them with us, we recommend buying them in bond. If you wish to buy them for immediate delivery, you'll need to pay the duty and VAT. We show both prices on the same web page for each wine.



Refreshingly serious whites

Sauvignon Blanc's homeland is the Loire Valley, where wines from Sancerre are arguably the world's leaders.

2017 Sancerre Cuvée La Demoiselle, Alphonse Mellot

Sancerre is the spiritual home of the Sauvignon Blanc grape, and, in the heart of the town, Alphonse Mellot has 500 years of history. It's run by the 19th Alphonse: the name always given to the eldest son. While Sauvignon Blanc is often drunk immediately after bottling, from the best spots like this it can age brilliantly. This, at three years old, is just coming into its peak.

£ £22.50 per bottle

£ £135 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2022



If you're open to other crisp, refreshing whites, try this Arneis from the Piedmont region of Italy. It's fresh, vibrant, and what the Piemontese - producers of Barolo - drink as their weeknight white.

2018 Roero Arneis, Bricco delle Ciliegie, Giovanni Almondo

Arneis is a white grape that's only found in one corner of Italy: in Roero, just across the river from Barolo, and frequently gracing the same tables. Ask anyone there who's the master of the grape, and you'll get the same answer: the Almondo family. This is from a single vineyard, and has pure fruit and a lovely texture.

£ £11 per bottle

£ £66 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2026

Chardonnay, pure but not simple

The world's most highly sought white wines are made from Chardonnay, in the grape's Burgundian homeland, the northernmost part of which is Chablis.

2016 Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaumes, Samuel Billaud

Chablis, in the northernmost edges of Burgundy, offers some of the most ageworthy examples. Samuel Billaud is one of the best winemakers here. This comes from a single vineyard, a premier cru, that's one of the best. Steely, fresh, but with plenty of fruit still, it's a benchmark Chardonnay - with minimal oak influence.

£ £25.50 per bottle

£ £306 per case of 12 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2028



Winemakers in places like Australia's cool Yarra Valley have sought similarly marginal climates for the grape, with classic results.

2017 Woori Yallock Chardonnay, Mac Forbes

Mac Forbes is a real magician. He turns Aussie sun into a pure expression of Chardonnay, ageing it in neutral old oak barrels simply for texture. 2017 was a great vintage here, and this is the answer if you're looking for a textured, complex example.

£ £22 per bottle

£ £132 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2028



Lighter reds, with character

Lighter reds are the ultimate fine wine lover's friends: light in body, with finesse and elegance, they are imminently drinkable. Pinot Noir is the natural first choice.

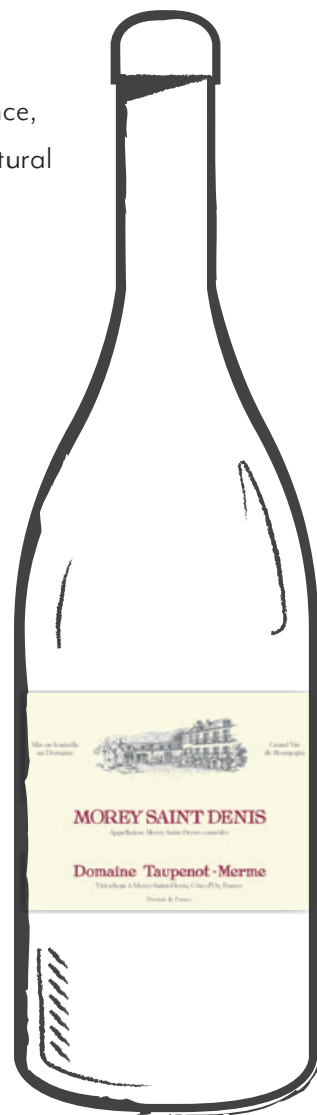
2014 Morey-Saint-Denis, Domaine Taupenot-Merme

Pinot Noir is the ultimate heartbreak grape, with its thin skin and success only in the most marginal climes. Romain Taupenot in Morey-Saint-Denis makes this, a wild, juicy example, from a too often overlooked corner of Burgundy.

£ £30 per bottle

£ £180 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2022



Italy's Nebbiolo grape rivals Pinot in its poise and purity, with similar elegance and pale colour.

2016 Langhe Nebbiolo, Cavalotto

The Cavalotto family are practically Piedmontese nobility, with generations of Barolos produced here. Made from young vines destined for the grande vino, this is a true inside tip. From one of the best vintages yet, it's silky, elegant and unendingly aromatic.

£ £19 per bottle

£ £114 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2024

Bordeaux, claret, we'll have it

Bordeaux offers unparalleled consistency: estates revered centuries ago remain at the pinnacle of French wine.

2012 Château Pontet-Canet, Cru Classé Pauillac

Fifth Growth Pontet-Canet is a particular gem within Bordeaux's famous sub-region, Pauillac. Owned by the Tisseron family, and run biodynamically, this is classic claret at its best: cassis and leather, with intense tannins and a long finish.

£ £60 per bottle

£ £360 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2036



Yet there are still estates to be discovered here: mavericks who are doing everything a bit differently. Good thing we have both.

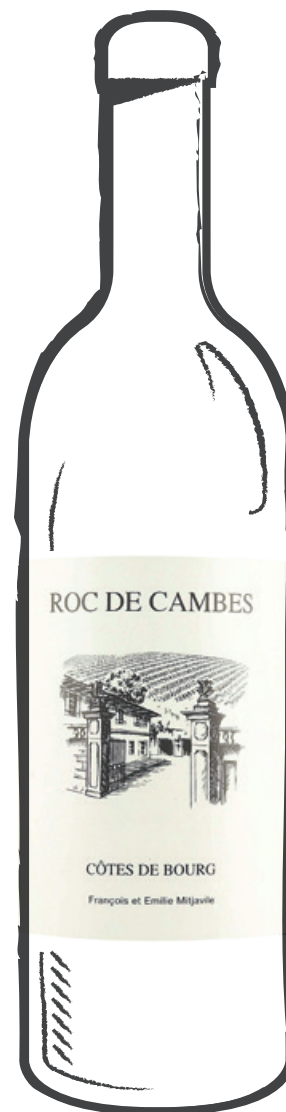
2014 Château Roc de Cambes, Côtes de Bourg

François Mitjavile is a legend. He makes wine outside of the Bordeaux hierarchy. Best known for his St-Emilion, Le Tertre Roteboeuf, Mitjavile's Roc de Cambes is arguably his true hidden gem. From the unfashionable Côtes de Bourg, from an approachable, expressive vintage, that will make you the talk of any dinner party.

£ £33 per bottle

£ £198 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2026



Dreaming of the Mediterranean sun

With dry summers, and long autumns, the Mediterranean is home to wines with depth of flavour, ripe tannins, and loads of character. Classics like Châteauneuf-du-Pape from top names are surefire crowd pleasers.

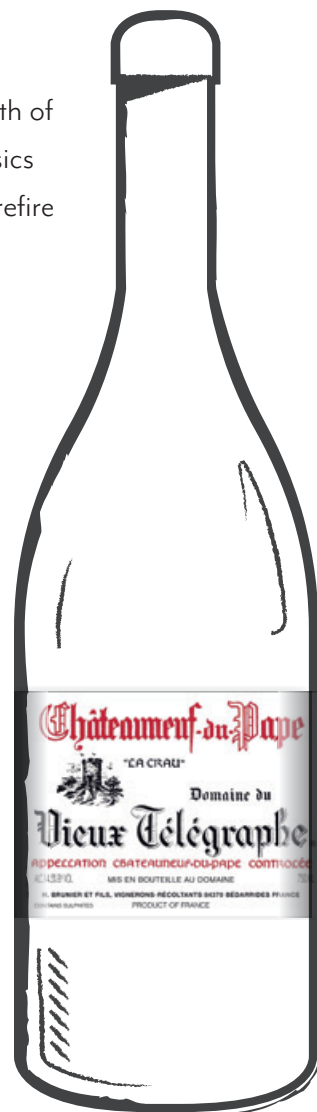
2013 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe

As traditional as Châteauneuf gets: most of its grapes come from La Crau vineyard, a plot covered in the famous “pudding” stones which keep heat in the soil and aid drainage, pitch-perfect Grenache growing conditions. This is juicy and wild, with delicious herbal notes.

£ £31.50 per bottle

£ £189 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2026



There are also names that fly under the radar, from lesser known appellations like Ventoux, that are just as stunning.

2016 La Source, Saint Jean du Barroux, Ventoux

Mont Ventoux is known as the Giant of Provence, and its wild hillsides are only just being recognised for their quality of wine. Philippe Gimel of Saint Jean du Barroux is one of the best here - he trained at illustrious names like Château de Beaucastel in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. 2016 was a spectacular vintage in this part of the world, and this is a bargain.

£ £10 per bottle

£ £60 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2026

Syrah, Shiraz, always Significant

Some of the most famous examples of the Syrah grape come from the northern Rhône in France. However, this variety thrives in other parts of the world, particularly the Southern Hemisphere.

2016 Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz, Penfolds, South Australia

No producer personifies Shiraz like Penfolds. They're the masters of the grape, and this, from a blend of vineyards throughout South Australia, is stunning. With silky tannins and lots of dry berry character, it's an unctuous, delicious wine.

£ £18.50 per bottle

£ £111 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2027



Today, we find Shiraz (as the grape is called in other regions) that offers just as much complexity, tension and ageworthiness around the world.

2019 Sons of Sugarland Syrah, Boschkloof, Stellenbosch

Reenen Borman's father is South African winemaking royalty, and his talent has rubbed off: Reenen is one of the region's most exciting young winemakers. If you love top Côte-Rôtie, this is the wine for you: pure, spicy, fresh, and long.

£ £25 per bottle

£ £150 per case of 6 bottles

🍷 Drink to 2032





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