

THE WALNUT TREE WINES

For the wine selection, we have opted for wine quality and interest over quantity or a notion of being comprehensive, favouring the artisans over the big boys. The wines on the list are unusually grouped:

ESSENTIAL whites and reds. A solid varietal-based selection all available by-the-glass, and in 35cl. (about a half-bottle) carafes.

CORE whites and reds. Shining stars that are good value too. And a few decent half-bottles, which are hard to find.

CLASSIC whites and reds. Mostly top-end drinking, but not exclusively. And be assured reputation has not swayed the choice.

I offer you too, some red wines from my old stamping ground, Gidleigh Park in Devon. When he sold up, Paul Henderson kept some interesting bottles from Gidleigh's renowned collection. I recently purchased a few from him. If you're interested, they are marked... ** in this list,

Santé, Shaun.

WINE SERVICE

Wine service in restaurants can be a bit elaborate. Not here. We offer you a taste to check the condition, pour a small glass for each diner and then we leave you to it.

SPARKLING

- 01 Morton Reserve Sec NV £22
12.5cl glass: £4.5
New Zealand. Dry rather than brut and a fine apéritif. Classic grape mix of pinot noir and chardonnay. Cracking estate.
- 02 Rosato Spumante Sec NV £22
N.E. Italy. Dry, fragrant fizz from the home of Prosecco. Local wine rules don't allow for pink stuff, but it is 'Prosecco' really!
- 03 Innocent Bystander Pink Moscato NV Half: £11
South Australia. Here's a bit of pink frothy fun. Low in alcohol (5.5%) with 'Turkish Delight' notes. Start with it, or drink with pud.
- 04 St.-Péray Mousseux NV £28
France, Northern Rhône. Oddball sparkler. Full-on flavours with citrus edge and a touch of toasty oak.
- 05 Champagne Hubert Laurent NV £32
12.5cl glass: £6
N.E. France. Our house champagne has a smooth mature style. Good value from the respected Jacquart estates.
- 06 Champagne Gallimard Brut NV £38
N.E. France. Small but respected grower in the prestigious Aube region. Subtle, pinot noir dominant. Full-flavoured.
- 07 Champagne Drappier Brut NV £42
N.E. France. Less well-known but worthy house in the prestigious Aube region. Subtle, pinot noir dominant.
- 08 Champagne Roederer Brut NV £48
N.E. France. A top property. Toasty and flavoursome.
- 09 Charles Melton Sparkling Red 2005. £48
South Australia. Fizzy red! May seem odd to some but cult stuff in Australia, and not cheap. 100% shiraz, rich and supple. A classy apéritif, but also very good with cheese (and chocolate!)

PUDDING WINES

- Kracher Beerenauslese 2006 10cl. Glass: £6
Austria. Charismatic Alois Kracher is known internationally as one of the top producers of sweet wine in the world. Vibrant sweet fruitiness with a spicy edge.
- Innocent Bystander Pink Moscato NV Half: £11
South Australia. In contrast our other Oz fizz (quite serious, see below) here's a bit of pink frothy fun. Low in alcohol (5.5%) with 'Turkish Delight' notes. Enough for two or three glasses.
- Banyuls L'Etoile 1999 10cl. Glass: £5
Southern France. Grenache grape. A distant relation of Port. Sweet red *vin doux naturel*.
- Dow's 10-year old Tawny Port 10cl. Glass: £5
Portugal. Old tawnies are the favourites of the producers. Profound nutty richness from a top house.
- Riesling Sélection des Grains Nobles 1976 (Hugel)** £150
Alsace. The equivalent of the German late-harvest trockenbeerenauslese, made from individually picked grapes. THE greatest wine of the greatest vintage in living memory.

DIGESTIVES

- Armagnac. Marcel Trépout 8 years. £5
Armagnac. Marcel Trépout 30 years. £8
Cognac. Ragnaud-Sabourin VSOP. £5
Cognac. Ragnaud-Sabourin alliance No. 35 £8
Cognac. Delamain 'Pale & Dry' £8
Calvados. Groult 8 years. £5
Poire William eau-de-vie. (Miclo/Trimbach) £4
Framboise eau-de-vie. (Trimbach) £4
Grappa di Tignanello. (Antinori) £5

ESSENTIAL WHITES

- 11 **Sauvignon Blanc** Morton 2008. £16
17.5cl glass: £4 25cl glass: £5.7 35cl carafe: £8
New Zealand, Marlborough. Crisp, very dry with a cool fruitiness.
- 12 **Pinot Grigio** Quercus 2008. (Goriška Brda) £18
17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
Slovenia. Full and dry. The vineyard is right on the Italian border, contiguous with Marco Felluga's Venezia estate. Expert Angela Muir MW advises, and her skills show.
- 13 **Chardonnay** Stimson 2007. (Ste. Michelle) £18
17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
USA, Washington State. Definitive rounded chardonnay character with a long flavour, from the Pacific Rim.
- 14 **Viognier/Grenache** Domaine Coste 2007. £20
17.5cl glass: £5 25cl glass: £7.1 35cl carafe: £10
France, Languedoc. Smooth and dry, with a fragrant style.

ESSENTIAL REDS

- 15 **Tempranillo** Campo Nuevo 2007/8. £16
17.5cl glass: £4 25cl glass: £5.7 35cl carafe: £8
N. Spain, Navarra. Bright fruity style. A soft Rioja character from the neighbouring area.
- 16 **Shiraz** Tyrrell's Moores Creek 2006/7. £18
17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
South Australia. Typically big Aussie style, with a pleasant roundness.
- 17 **Montepulciano d'Abruzzo** 2007. £18
(Umani Ronchi)
17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
Central Italy, Marche. Fruity but with a solid backbone; from a modern Italian wine star.
- 18 **Corbières** Château de Tersac 2005. £20
17.5cl glass: £5 25cl glass: £7.1 35cl carafe: £10
Southern France. Smooth, mature style with plenty of flavours, and a dry finish.

ROSE WINES

- 101 **Domaine Coste Rosé** 2008. £18
France, Languedoc. A modern, fresh dry rosé.
- 102 **Domaine Vignelaure Rosé** 2007. £29
France, Provence. Top-ranking estate. Dry, and curvaceous!

CORE WHITES

- 19 **Etim Blanc** 2005/6. £22
N.E. Spain, Monsant. Enclave of Priorato. Modern skills give a dry characterful white, bursting with flavour.
- 20 **Morton Pinot Grigio** 2007. £23
New Zealand, Hawkes Bay. Unusual, smooth, quite full and spicy.
- 21 **Picpoul de Pinet** 2008. (Gaujal) £23
Southern France. Old grape: picpoul, combined with modern winemaking. Light, dry and fresh.
- 22 **Saint Clair Sauvignon Blanc** 2008. £24
New Zealand, Marlborough. A really bright, piercing, super-dry style from one of the world's finest winemakers, Matt Thomson.
- 23 **Condesa Eylo Verdejo** 2007. £24
N. Spain, Rueda. Dry, fresh, modern with real *machismo*.
- 24 **Grüner Veltliner** 2007. (Dürnberg) £24
Austria. Bright, zesty dry wine from the national grape. Yum!
- 25 **La Segreta Bianco** 2007/8. (Planeta) £25
Italy, Sicily. Fresh flavours with a lovely smooth finish. Chardonnay and local grenacico. Superb estate.
- 26 **Flor de Gewürztraminer** 2006. (Laus) £25
Spain, Somontana. Softly dry and fragrant with a clean, fresh style. From the Pyrenean foothills. Fine apéritif.
- 27 **Jurançon Sec** 2008. (Domaine de Lahargue) £26
France, Pyrenean foothills. Fresh, crisp with a spicy edge.
- 28 **Sauvignon Blanc de St. Bris** 2007/8. (Brocard) £26
Central France. Saint Bris sits (geographically and stylistically) between Sancerre and Chablis. Lean, very dry; a top guy.

MORE CORE WHITES

- 29 **Vondeling Babiana 2005.** £27
South Africa. Awkward name but classy dry wine. Zesty chenin blanc with fragrant viognier.
- 30 **Spy Valley Riesling 2007.** £27
New Zealand, Marlborough. Aromatic, softly dry and fresh.
- 31 **Saint Véran 2007. (Domaine Perraud)** £28
France, Burgundy. Pouilly-Fuissé wannabee. Young Jean-Christophe Perraud, still in his twenties, makes punchy chardonnay, quite full in style. Bright drinking!
- 32 **Tangent Pinot Blanc 2006.** £29
California. Really brilliant! Full, aromatic, but fresh and zingy too.
- 33 **Crozes-Hermitage Blanc Domaine des Entrefaux 2007. (Tardy)** £30
France, Rhône. Full, dry. Touch of oak adds richness.
- 34 **Cullens Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2007.** £31
Western Australia, Margaret River. Posh Oz grower. Crisp and fresh with a lovely length of flavour (no oak). A Shaun fave white.
- 35 **Saintsbury Chardonnay 2006/7.** £34
Half: £18.5
USA, California, Carneros. Full, dry, balanced, buttery, tad oak.
- 36 **Petaluma Tiers Chardonnay 1998.**** £55
South Australia. Famous Adelaide Hills estate. Dry, mature, spicy character. Oaked but much softened now.

CLASSIC WHITES

- 37 **Muscadet Domaine La Quilla 2007.** £23
France, Loire Valley. Bone-dry, refreshing; matured *sur lie*.
- 38 **Vouvray les Roussières 2006. (Raimbault)** £24
France, Loire. That softly dry style the French call '*sec tendre*'.
- 39 **Gewürztraminer 2007. (Kuehn)** £25
France, Alsace. Off-dry, overtly grapey. Matches spicy flavours.

MORE CLASSIC WHITES

- 40 **Mâcon-Fuissé 2007. (Thibert)** £26
Half: £14.5
France, Burgundy. Smooth chardonnay, no oak.
- 41 **Riesling les Princes Abbés 2005/6. (Schlumberger)** £27
France, Alsace. Clean dry style with focused concentration.
- 42 **Chablis 'Vieilles Vignes' 2007. (Ch. de Maligny)** £29
France, Burgundy. Fine dry chardonnay.
- 43 **Pouilly-Fumé 2007. (Pabiot)** £29
Half: £16
France, Loire. Bone-dry flinty sauvignon blanc.
- 44 **Riesling Kabinett Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2004. (J. J. Prum)** £33
Germany. Aromatic, quite dry but very soft. So much flavour from such a lightweight is amazing. But this is a World-class grower. Drink as an apéritif or with gentle flavours.
- 45 **Soave Classico 'La Rocca' 2006. (Pieropan)** £37
Italy, Veneto. Shocking price for Soave? But this is a '*Numero Uno*' Italian white. Opulent, dry and flavour-rich. A revelation.
- 46 **Condrieu 2006. (Pichon)** £46
France, Rhône. Floral, fragrant, dry viognier. Top producer.
- 47 **Meursault Poruzots 2005/6. (J.-M. Bouzereau)** £48
France, Burgundy. Premier Crû. A racy style of chardonnay.
- 48 **Vintage Tunina 2006. (Silvio Jermann)** £52
N.E. Italy, Sauvignon/chardonnay/local grapes. Star wine from a star grower. Melon/lemon fragrance, long and full.
- 49 **Puligny-Montrachet 2006. (Armand de Corcy)** £56
France, Burgundy. Chardonnay with breeding from the World's most famous white wine vineyards.
- 50 **Puligny-Montrachet Clavoillon 1997. (Domaine Leflaive)**** £150
France, Burgundy. Polished, mature, still concentrated. A premier crû from one of the area's very top names.

CORE REDS

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| 51 | Côtes-du-Rhône 'St. Esprit' 2007. (Delas) | £23 | |
| | France, Rhône. Smooth strength. Junior stuff but good producer. | | |
| 52 | Candela 1884 Malbec 2007. (Escorihuela) | £23 | |
| | Argentina. Their best grape makes meaty red, and this one has a nice roundness of flavour too. | | |
| 53 | Tyrrell's Cabernet/Merlot 2005. | Half: £11.5 | |
| | South Australia. Smooth ripe flavour from fine family growers. | | |
| 54 | Barbera Briccotondo 2007/8. (Fontanafredda) | £24 | |
| | Italy, Piedmont. Super-smooth, packed with fruity flavours. Excellent value for such a prestigious wine region. | | |
| 55 | Chocalan Reserva Cabernet Franc 2006. | £24 | |
| | Chile. Unusual grape, here with a smooth, ripe, classy style. | | |
| 56 | Morgon. Côte de Py 2006. (Savoie) | £25 | |
| | France, Beaujolais. The most savoury of the Beaujolais crus. | | |
| 57 | Santa Rita Medalla Real Cabernet 2006. | £26 | |
| | Chile. Dark, dry, muscular. Real concentration. Reserve cuvée. | | |
| 58 | Zweigelt 2006. (Esterházy) | £26 | |
| 59 | Pinot Noir 2006/8. (Esterházy) | £28 | |
| | Austria. Light but lots of bright fruity character. The pinot's very Burgundian; zweigelt(Austrian speciality), more Bordeaux. | | |
| 60 | Chianti Castiglione 2007. (Frescobaldi) | Half: £13 | |
| | Italy, Tuscany. Fine berry aroma and flavour. Full and rounded. | | |
| 61 | Innocent Bystander Pinot Noir 2006. | £27 | |
| | South Australia. Star winemaker Phil Sexton works his magic on this difficult grape. Ultra-smooth and fruity, cool red. | | |
| 62 | Cedro do Noval 2004. | £27 | |
| | Portugal. Polished Bordeaux style with a rounded finish. A still red wine from a famous Port house. | | |
| 63 | Abadia Retuerta Selección Especial 2005/6. | £29 | |
| | N. Spain, Sardon del Duero. Tempranillo, cabernet, merlot. Solid ripe flavours demonstrate pukka winemaking. A Hill favourite. | | |
| 64 | Ceresuolo de Vittoria 2006. (Planeta) | £29 | |
| | Italy, Sicily. Ripe aroma, silky tannins and a fruity finish. | | |
| 65 | Môreson Magia 2004. | £30 | |
| | South Africa. Top notch with an elegant Bordeaux style. | | |
| 66 | Chinon Clos de Noyer 2006. | £31 | |
| | France, Loire Valley. Dark, supple cabernet franc grape. | | |
| 67 | Palazzo della Torre 2005/6. (Allegrini) | £31 | |
| | Italy, Verona. Allegrini is stonking good. Think posh Pomerol. | | |
| 68 | Insgoglio del Cinghiale 2006. (Tenuta di Biserno) | £31 | |
| | Italy, Tuscan coast. Modern cabernet/merlot. Dark, deep, roll-around-the-mouth flavours. | | |
| 69 | Lang and Reed Cabernet Franc 1998.** | £34 | |
| | USA, California, Napa. Mature, but still big. Smooth and juicy. | | |
| 70 | Nebbiolo d'Alba 2005. (Pio Cesare) | £36 | |
| | Italy, Piedmont. Not as big as a barolo; a softer, easier style. | | |
| 71 | Plexus 2006. (Duval) | £36 | |
| | Australia, Barossa Valley. Smooth, super-ripe. Shiraz, grenache, mourvèdre in a Châteauneuf way. John Duval used to make Grange! | | |
| 72 | Charles Melton Nine Popes 2005/6. | £38 | |
| | S. Australia. Plush, velvety Oz take on Châteauneuf (same grapes). | | |
| 73 | Felton Road Pinot Noir 2006/7. | £56 | |
| | New Zealand, Central Otago. Bright and lively, with sweet fruit. | | |
| 74 | Long Meadow Ranch Cabernet 2000.** | £59 | |
| | USA, California, Napa. Top boutique winery. Dry but opulent style. | | |
| 75 | Madiran Château Montus Cuvée Prestige 1995.** | £70 | |
| | South-West France. Mature, but still a big wine, that's needed its years. Muscular not fat, deep colour. Concentrated. | | |

CLASSIC REDS

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| 80 | Faiveley Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2006.
France, Burgundy. Tasted against fancier appellations, this won us over. Solid traditional red burgundy character. | £26 | 90 | Nuits-St.-Georges premier crû 2001.
(Domaine de l'Arlot)
France, Burgundy. Modern pinot noir. Rich fruit; star grower. | £54
Half: £29 |
| 81 | Château La Grande Clotte 2005.
France, Bordeaux, Lussac St. Emilion. From famous wine guy, Michel Rolland; supple fruity style with soft tannins. | £27 | 91 | Sagrantino di Montefalco 1996. (Caprai)**
Italy, Umbria. Powerful red, highly-rated, nicely mature. | £66 |
| 82 | Château Beaumont 2004.
France, Bordeaux, Haut-Médoc. Top crû bourgeois estate offering firm traditional claret flavours. | £28 | 92 | Hermitage La Chapelle 1996. (Jaboulet)**
France, Rhône. Dark broody syrah (shiraz), only just mature now. Lovely balance of tannins and fruit from a star estate. | £76 |
| 83 | Baron de Ley Gran Reserva Rioja 1998.
N.E. Spain, tempranillo. Restrained power, smooth integrated oak. Nice mix of tradition and modern winemaking skills. | £29 | 93 | Vosne-Romanée 2002. (Engel)**
France, Burgundy. Top notch. Spicy, firm and fragrant. | £78 |
| 84 | Gigondas 2005. (Guigal)

France, S. Rhône. Deceptively smooth with a peppered richness from the next-door neighbour to Châteauneuf. | £30
Half: £16.5 | 94 | Hermitage 1984. (Chave)
France, Rhône. Famous. Aged syrah complexity. (poor labels) | £98 |
| 85 | St. Aubin premier crû 2006. (Lamy Pillot)
France, Burgundy. Solid pinot noir from a junior Côte de Beaune village. | £33 | 95 | Château Le Gay 1989.**
France, Bordeaux, Pomerol. So powerful, it's almost port-like. The monster tannins have softened now, but the concentrated super-ripe fruit remains. Has needed its years. | £140 |
| 86 | Châteauneuf-du-Pape Clos St. Jean 2006/7.

France, S. Rhône. Typically big meaty, alcoholic red. | £35
Half: £19 | 96 | Barolo Le Vigne 1996. (Luciano Sandrone)**
Italy, Piedmont. Fine exponent of the 'modern Italian' style. Chewy and massive, but full of ripe fruit too. And still tastes young after 13 years in bottle! | £148 |
| 87 | Jim Barry 'McCrae Wood' Shiraz 2003.
South Australia, Clare Valley. Packed with warm dark fruit, you have to love it! Triple trophies: International Wine Challenge. | £36 | | | |
| 88 | Bandol Château de Pibarnon 2002.
France, Provence. Solid and luscious at the same time. Top-ranking estate in the region. | £39 | | | |
| 89 | Crozes-Hermitage 2006/7.
(Domaine Hauts Chassis)
N. Rhône. Meaty syrah(shiraz). Rock-solid ripe, dark red. | £39
Half: £21 | | | |