

THE WALNUT TREE WINES

We list what we taste and like, not in any way trying to be comprehensive. We do favour smaller and artisan winemakers. Note, too our affinity with one of the finest of Champagne estates, Billecart-Salmon, our house champagne by-the-glass.

The wines are grouped:

ESSENTIAL. Varietal based, available by-the-glass, and in 35cl. (about a half-bottle) carafes.

CORE. Shining stars that offer value too.

CLASSIC. Mostly top-end, but not exclusively.

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,

Santé,

Shaun.

ESSENTIAL WHITE & ROSÉ

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- 02 **Pinot Grigio** Quercus 2017. (Goriška Brda) 26
Glass: 17.5cl: 6.5 25cl: 9 35cl carafe: 13
Slovenia. Full and dry. The vineyard is right on the N.E. Italian border.
- 03 **Alsace** Hugel 'Gentil' 2016. 28
Glass: 17.5cl: 7 25cl: 9.5 35cl carafe: 14
France, Alsace. Dry, fragrant, class. Pinot gris, riesling, gewürztraminer.
- 04 **Sauvignon Blanc** Tinpot Hut 2018. 28
Glass: 17.5cl: 7 25cl: 9.5 35cl carafe: 14
New Zealand, Marlborough. Super-crisp, punchy style.

ESSENTIAL RED

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- 06 **Nero d'Avola** Mandrarossa 2016. 22
Glass: 17.5cl: 5.5 25cl: 7.5 35cl carafe: 11
Sicily. Bright colour and style. Quite meaty, typical southern Italian.
- 07 **Azamor** 2015. 26
Glass: 17.5cl: 6.5 25cl: 9 35cl carafe: 13
Alentejo in Southern Portugal. Rounded, dry like a decent rioja.
Excellent winemaking.
- 08 **Merlot** Château Ste. Michelle 2015. 30
Glass: 17.5cl: 7.5 25cl: 10 35cl carafe: 15
USA, Washington State. Not overtly fruity, more restrained in a
'St. Emilion' way. And a good way too. This is from the same estate
as Stimson merlot, which was a favourite on this list for years.

N.B. 12.5cl. glass size available on request.

SPARKLING

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| 111 | <p>Champagne Billecart-Salmon NV</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12.5cl glass:</p> <p>N.E. France. We are proud to offer one of the great champagne houses as our house fizz. Super-smooth with lovely balance.</p> | <p>55</p> <p>11</p> |
| 112 | <p>Champagne Billecart-Salmon Rosé NV</p> <p>N.E. France. Really special, widely regarded as one of the very best pink champagnes.</p> | <p>85</p> |
| 113 | <p>Rivarose Prestige Rosé NV</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12.5cl glass:</p> <p>France, Provence. Softly dry, brightly fresh with overt fruit flavours.</p> | <p>30</p> <p>5.5</p> |
| 114 | <p>Innocent Bystander Pink Moscato 2018.</p> <p>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 a pudding.</p> | <p>Half: 13</p> |
| 115 | <p>Veuve Ambal Crémant de Bourgogne NV</p> <p>France, Burgundy. Dry rather than brut. Very decent.</p> | <p>30</p> |
| 116 | <p>Charles Melton Sparkling Red 2005.</p> <p>South Australia. May seem odd but cult stuff in Australia. Shiraz, rich and supple. Classy apéritif, also good with cheese (+ chocolate!)</p> | <p>56</p> |
| 117 | <p>Champagne Janisson Tradition Brut NV</p> <p>N.E. France. Small grower owning their own vineyards (not always the case), much of grand cru standard. A serious pinot noir element gives body and style. Nice contrast to our other champagnes from big players.</p> | <p>60</p> |
| 118 | <p>Champagne Roederer Brut NV</p> <p>N.E. France. A famous property. Toasty and flavoursome.</p> | <p>70</p> |
| 119 | <p>Champagne Gosset
Grande Reserve NV</p> <p>N.E. France. The oldest, and smallest, of the great houses. Well-aged complexity, but flavours still zingy fresh.</p> | <p>74</p> <p>Half: 42</p> |
| 120 | <p>Champagne Gosset Grand Rosé NV</p> <p>N.E. France. A perfect rosé style, with rounded concentrated flavours. Exemplary.</p> | <p>84</p> <p>Half: 48</p> |

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| 11 | La Segreta Bianco 2016/7. (Planeta) | 26 |
| | Italy, Sicily. Fresh, smooth finish. Chardonnay and local grenacico. | |
| 12 | Eidosela Albariño 2017/8. | 28 |
| | North-West Spain, Rias Baixas. Spain's best whites come from here. Zippy, dry, light and fresh. As an apéritif or with fish/shellfish, ideal. | |
| 13 | Le Versant Viognier 2017. (Foncalieu) | 28 |
| | France, Languedoc. Sweet peachy nose; bold, dry, fruity flavours. | |
| 14 | L'Aurora Bianco 2016. (Marzucco) | 28 |
| | Italy, another Sicilian. Dry, sprightly vermentino. Light, easy drinking. | |
| 15 | Tinpot Hut Pinot Gris 2016/7. | 28 |
| | New Zealand. A worthy alternative to regular Italian pinot grigio. Quite dry, super-smooth, fruity too. Have to like it! | |
| 16 | Petit Paradis 2016. | 28 |
| | France, Languedoc, St. Chinian. A blend of marsanne, grenache and vermentino. 99% of St. Chinian is red, so this is an oddball. Fully dry, nicely complex, with a waxy quality. Good white with meats. | |
| 17 | Picpoul de Pinet 2017. (Cave de l'Ormarine) | 30 |
| | Southern France, Languedoc. Dry, medium-full, fresh citrus edge. Picpoul is the grape. | |
| 18 | Leeuweenkuil Marsanne 2015. | 30 |
| | South Africa. Aromatic, full style, with a gentle citrus edge. Quality. | |
| 19 | Le Petiot Sauvignon Blanc
de Touraine 2017. (Ricard) | 30 |
| | France, Loire. Fresh and dry in the leaner French style. Pleasant change from the in-your-face new worlders. | |
| 20 | Grüner Veltliner 2018. (Kremstal) | 30 |
| | Austria. Dry, fresh, lots of fruit. Quality. | |
| 21 | Soave Classico 2017. (Pieropan) | Half: 16 |
| | Italy, Veneto. Dry and fresh, and full of flavour. From one of Italy's top producers, who is bringing respect back to Soave. | |
| 22 | Greywacke Sauvignon Blanc 2017. | 32 |
| 23 | Greywacke Wild Sauvignon Blanc 2016. | 42 |
| | New Zealand, Marlborough. Very dry, intense, especially the 'wild' version! Made by Kevin Judd, the inspired maker of Cloudy Bay in its stupendous early years. Say no more. | |
| 24 | Pinot Blanc d'Alsace (Boesch) 2016. | 32 |
| | N. E. France. Clean full and dry. Good grower in this reliable area. | |

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- 25 **Bourgogne Chardonnay Ursulines 2015/6. (Boisset)** 32
 France, Burgundy. Basic appellation, but a very good grower, demonstrating proper taste of the grape. No oak, quite full.
- 26 **Tournon Mathilda 2015. (Chapoutier)** 34
 Australia, Victoria. This is the famous Rhône grower using a typical Rhône white mix of viognier and marsanne in OZ. Dry, full, peachy. Named after Michel Chapoutier's daughter, coincidentally.
- 27 **Fania 2016. (Gulino)** 34
 Italy, Sicily. Very dry, fresh, nicely full. Local Fiano and Insolia grapes.
- 28 **Graziano Chenin Blanc 2011.** 34
 USA, California, Mendocino. Chenin blanc can be a long-lived grape. This is rounded and dry, with a nice bit of body too.
- 29 **Saint Véran 2016. (Domaine Perraud)** 34
 France, Burgundy. Pouilly-Fuissé *wannabee*. Jean-Christophe Perraud makes punchy chardonnay.
- 30 **Bogle Chenin Blanc 2015.** 34
 USA, Central California. An under-rated grape handled well here. Dry and crisp, but the body too to take on spicy flavours.
- 31 **Gewürztraminer d'Alsace (Boesch) 2016.** 34
 N. E. France. Aromatic, grapey, but still dry. Excellent example of this difficult varietal.
- 32 **Plexus White 2016. (Duval)** 36
 Australia, Barossa Valley. We've long listed Maestro Duval's take on Rhône reds, and now here's the white. Marsanne, roussanne and viognier together like an Hermitage blanc. Full, dry, aromatic. A joy!
- 33 **Collioure Blanc 2015.** 36
 France, Pyrénées. Crazy-steep vineyard right by the Spanish border. Co-operative effort of local growers - purely to maintain the terraces. Quite full, dry and fresh-tasting. Weird local grapes. Refreshing change from the regular stuff.
- 34 **Pegasus Bay Bel Canto Riesling 2014.** 38
 New Zealand, Waijpara. Hint of spritz. Bold, dry, crisp with a citrus edge. Quite an oddball, but we found it attractive.
- 35 **Cullens Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2016/7.** 38
 Western Australia, Margaret River. Posh Oz grower. Crisp and fresh with a lovely length of flavour (no oak). A Shaun fave.
- 36 **Cambria Tepusquet Vineyard Viognier 2016.** 42
 USA, California. A fine viognier with that typical apricot and tropical fruit character. Aromatic, dry and bright.

CLASSIC WHITE

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| 38 | Riesling Alsace 2016. (Trimbach) | 34 |
| | Half: | 18 |
| | France, Alsace. Wildly under-rated grape - fresh, dry, aromatic. Below is the epitome of Alsace riesling. This is simpler, but still very fine. | |
| 39 | Mâcon-Pierreclos 2015. (Marc Jambon) | 38 |
| | France, Burgundy. Smooth chardonnay, no oak. | |
| 40 | Rully la Créé Domaine Pagnotta 2014. | 40 |
| | France, Burgundy, Côtes Chalonnaise. Traditional Burgundy chardonnay. Dry with a lovely creamy style. | |
| 41 | Hautes Côtes de Beaune-Villages 2015.
(Delagrange) | 40 |
| | France, Burgundy. Lesser vineyards but a decent grower, it's very good chardonnay. Think junior Meursault, which is the neighbour. | |
| 42 | Chablis 2015. (Domaine Oudin) | 42 |
| | France, Burgundy. Fine dry chardonnay. | |
| 43 | Sancerre 2017. (Boulay/Bailly) | 42 |
| | Half: | 22 |
| | France, Loire. Dry smooth sauvignon blanc in the classic style. | |
| 44 | Soave Classico 'La Rocca' 2016. (Pieropan) | 42 |
| | Italy, Veneto. Shocking price for Soave? But this is a ' <i>Numero Uno</i> ' Italian white. Opulent, dry and flavour-rich. A revelation. | |
| 45 | St. Aubin 2015. (Marc Colin) | 48 |
| | France, Burgundy. Junior village but this is a serious grower (see his Puligny below). Creamy, full chardonnay. For Burgundy, good value. | |
| 46 | Condrieu Domaine Christophe Blanc 2015. | 58 |
| | France, Rhône. Floral, fragrant, dry viognier. Top producer. | |
| 47 | Vintage Tunina 2016. (Silvio Jermann) | 60 |
| | N.E. Italy. Sauvignon/chardonnay/local grapes. Star wine from a star grower. Melon/lemon fragrance, long and full. | |
| 48 | Riesling Alsace, Frédéric Emile 2011. (Trimbach) | 68 |
| | Half: | 34 |
| | France, Alsace. One of the finest rieslings in the world. The essence of the grape - racy, intense, aromatic. Nicely mature now. | |
| 49 | Chassagne-Montrachet 2014.
(Château de la Maltroye) | 66 |
| | France, Burgundy. A fleshy style of chardonnay. Rounded, touch of spice and citrus. | |
| 50 | Puligny-Montrachet 2016. (Marc Collin) | 76 |
| | France, Burgundy. Chardonnay with breeding. | |

ROSÉ

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| 131 | Yealands Estate Pinot Noir Rosé 2017.
New Zealand. Smooth, fruity, dry. | 28 |
| 132 | Château Minuty 2017.
France, St. Tropez. Classy estate in a classy area. Softly dry, fresh style. Good match for seafood. | 34 |

CORE RED

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| 53 | Rioja Crianza Bodegas Lan 2013.
N. Spain. Bright, dry, typical Rioja-style. Top-notch bodega. | 28 |
| 54 | Mitolo 'Jester' Cabernet 2016.
S. Australia. Bold curranty fruit to the fore from Ben Glaetzer. | 28 |
| 55 | Cerasuolo de Vittoria 2016. (Planeta)
Italy, Sicily. Ripe aroma, silky tannins and a fruity finish. Class producer where there's lots of very basic winemaking. | 30 |
| 56 | Bergerac 'Fruit' 2016. (Jonc Blanc)
Southern France. Dryish but juicy cabernet-dominant mix of grapes. Modern winemaking of quality. | 30 |
| 57 | Izadi Rioja Reserva 2014.
N. Spain. Benchmark, modern rioja: more fruit, less oak. Plus very old vines make a difference. | 30
Half: 16 |
| 58 | Innocent Bystander Pinot Noir 2017.
South Australia. Star winemaker Phil Sexton works his magic on this difficult grape. Ultra-smooth and fruity, cool red. | 32 |

59	<p>Saumur-Champigny Domaine le Petit Vincent 2017. France, Loire. Cabernet franc, an under-rated grape. Shows fruitiness but there's structure too.</p>	32
60	<p>Yealands Pinot Noir 2017. New Zealand, Marlborough. Overtly fruity in a very non-Burgundian way.</p>	34
61	<p>Chiroubles 2013/5. (Daniel Bouland) France, Beaujolais. The smoothest and least well-known of the Beaujolais crus.</p>	34
62	<p>Corbieres Clos de l'Anhel 2016 (Guiraudon) Southern France. A lovely soft fruity style, with just a nice bit of body. Well-made wine, and good value too.</p>	36
63	<p>Meloso Joven Tempranillo 2016. N. Spain, Ribera del Duero. Junior 'young' red, no oak, bright fruit but structure too. Quality and value from a very posh wine area.</p>	36
64	<p>St. John's Road Shiraz 2016. Australia, Barossa Valley. Strong, dark, some proper use of oak.</p>	36
65	<p>Buitenverwachting Christine 2012. S. Africa. An old (still unpronounceable) favourite. Smooth claret style, gives decent claret a serious challenge. Good value.</p>	38
66	<p>Fontodi Chianti Classico 2015. Italy, Tuscany. Perfectionist grower. Rich and quite powerful style, with a berry aroma like good shiraz. Not expensive for the quality.</p>	38 Half: 20
67	<p>Palazzo della Torre 2015. (Allegrini)</p>	38
68	<p>La Grola 2014. (Allegrini) Italy, Verona. Allegrini is stonking good. Palazzo is smooth in a posh merlot way. Grola is more substantial.</p>	40
69	<p>Irancy 2012/4 (Thierry Richoux) France, Chablis. Yes, they do make a bit of red in Chablis, and this is it. Light fruity pinot noir; a rounded Burgundy style.</p>	40
70	<p>Fleurie La Madone 2014. (Chanudet) France, Beaujolais. Plenty of fruit as you'd expect but substance too.</p>	40

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| 71 | Allan Scott Pinot Noir 'Generations' 2017.
New Zealand, Marlborough. Touch of oak, but the fruit shines through. Quite full. Very decent pinot noir. | 40 |
| 72 | Ata Rangi Pinot Noir 'Crimson' 2016.

New Zealand, Martinborough. Fancy, world-class estate with pinot directly challenging Burgundy's best. Smooth, soft fruit. Fine value as this is NOT the top wine, just number two. Didn't worry us, super! | 42
Half: 22 |
| 73 | Quinta do Crasto Reserva Old Vines 2015.
Portugal, Douro valley. One of Portugal's finest estates. Substantial, some oak; balanced. | 42 |
| 74 | Drus 2014. (Gulino)
Italy, Sicily. Really dark and meaty, mouth-filling flavours. Nero d'Avola is not normally a classy grape. But beautifully handled here. Think fine South Australia shiraz made with Italian style. | 42 |
| 75 | Plexus 2015. (Duval)
Australia, Barossa Valley. Smooth, super-ripe. Shiraz, grenache, mourvèdre in a Châteauneuf way. Duval used to make Grange! | 44 |
| 76 | Alpha Zeta 'A' Amarone 2011.
N.E. Italy. Valpolicella. Unusual style made with some grapes semi-dried first. Deep, intense, with a slightly dry edge. Match it with strong meat dishes. | 44 |
| 77 | Greywacke Pinot Noir 2014.
New Zealand, Marlborough. Another Kevin Judd star bottling (see core whites). 'Exuberant' is not a word we use lightly, but this is that sort of wine. | 50 |

CLASSIC RED

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- 81 **Côtes-du-Rhône Villages 2015. (Morel)** 30
France, Rhône. Smooth strength. Junior stuff but top-notch producer (see our posh Châteauneuf opposite).
- 82 **Bourgogne Rouge 2015. (Michel Juillot)** 30
France, Burgundy. Rounded pinot noir. It's hard work finding decent burgundy (so many duds). But got a respectable example here.
- 83 **Le Baron de Château Rouillac 2008.** 34
France, Bordeaux. Pessac-Léognan, best bit of Graves. The second wine of an obscure estate. Cabernet + merlot. Attractive mature style, showing balance and fruit.
- 84 **Hautes Côtes de Beaune-Villages 2015.**
(Delagrange) 38
France, Burgundy. This Volnay grower has some lesser vineyards too. We were ready to dismiss this junior wine, but it really surprised us with its quality. Not fancy, but balance and fruit shine through.
- 85 **Château Haut Goujon 2014.** 38
France, Bordeaux, Montagne St. Emilion. Traditional merlot, nicely full and dry. Often lesser Bordeaux estates disappoint but not this.

CLASSIC RED - POMEROL

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This appellation, bordering St. Emilion, is tiny in Bordeaux terms. But the small estates make the best merlot wines in the world. The style is famously rich, supple, sumptuous, long-lived and sought after. Here from 2005 which was a great vintage.

- 141 **Château Nenin 2005.** 115
France, Bordeaux, Pomerol. Restrained elegance from this well-known property. Still fresh and grapey. Great merlot example.
- 142 **Château Petit-Village 2005.** 130
France, Bordeaux. Dense but warm style, the epitome of fine Pomerol.
- 143 **Château Gazin 2005.** 150
France, Bordeaux, Pomerol. Star estate. Superbly aromatic, velvety and mouth-filling. Long finish.

MORE CLASSIC RED

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| 86 | Gigondas 2015. (Domaine du Grapillon d'Or)
France, S. Rhône. Châteauneuf wannabee. Solid, spicy richness. | 40 |
| 87 | Château Brisson 2011.
France, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux. Mature, stylish, merlot-based claret. Quite substantial for a merlot. | 40 |
| 88 | Chorey-les-Beaune 2016. (Maillard)

France, Burgundy. Traditional Burgundian pinot noir. Soft style, though not overtly fruity. | 42
Half: 22 |
| 89 | Corbières Haut Gléon 2013.
Southern France. Deep coloured, solid red with a lovely bouquet. | 46 |
| 90 | Château Caronne Ste. Gemme 2004/10.
France, Bordeaux, Haut-Médoc. Cabernet-dominant cru bourgeois of excellent reputation. Mature, still with good structure and fruit. | 48 |
| 91 | Bandol Sainte Anne 2014.
France, Provence. Solid and luscious at the same time. A serious glass from a leading grower. | 50 |
| 92 | Châteauneuf-du-Pape
Domaine de la Biscarelle 2014.
France, S. Rhône. Typically big meaty, alcoholic red. | 50 |
| 93 | Château Villa Bel-Air 2005.
France, Bordeaux, Graves. Bottled in London by Berry Bros. Lesser estate, but posh owners (Lynch-Bages folk). Decent weight and with good fruit (from the 50% merlot). Nice mature style. | 54 |
| 94 | Santenay Premier Cru 2013. (B.-Legros)
France, Burgundy. Traditional pinot noir with good fruit. Nice dense structure to add body. | 54 |
| 95 | Duluc de Branaire-Ducru 2006.
France, Bordeaux, St. Julien. The second wine of this worthy fourth-growth estate. Dark, quite earthy, with a creamy style. | 58 |
| 96 | Château Soutard 2005.
France, Bordeaux, St. Emilion. Classic merlot claret. Good fruit, touch of spice. Aspiring estate. | 58 |
| 97 | Château Angludet 2006.
France, Bordeaux, Margaux. Consistently fine cabernet from a well-known estate. Fragrant, restrained style. | 62 |
| 98 | Gevrey-Chambertin 2013. (Thierry Mortet)
France, Burgundy. We love NZ pinot noir (like Greywacke) but nice to be reminded of that classy restrained style of good Burgundy. | 66 |

- 99 **Cornas 2011. (Guillaume Gilles)** 68
 France, N. Rhône. Solid syrah (shiraz), old vines, deep flavoured.
- 100 **Châteauneuf-du-Pape Pignan 2013. (Morel)** 76
 France, S. Rhône. Serious drinking from a famous grenache vineyard, now under Chapoutier-related ownership. Traditional style but plenty of fruit. Deep and dark. Shouts quality.
- 101 **Morey St.-Denis Clos des Ormes 2013. (Lignier)** 76
 France, Burgundy. Old vine premier cru pinot noir. Aromatic, substantial, rounded. Morey is the less-famous neighbour of Gevrey-Chambertin and Chambolle-Musigny. But equally fine.
- 102 **Aloxe-Corton 2007. (Edmond Cornu)** Half: 38
 France, Burgundy. Traditional pinot noir from a respected Côtes-de-Beaune grower. Rare mature half.
- 103 **Château Cos Labory 2005.** 78
 France, Bordeaux, St. Estephe. Quality cabernet style. Dark, with quite a solid style. Good intensity of flavour.
- 104 **Torres Mas la Plana 2011/2.** 80
 Northern Spain. Miguel Torres' flagship wine. 100% cabernet sauvignon. Dark and solid, but fruit too. Exceptional.
- 105 **Saint Joseph Lieu-Dit 2011. (Guigal)** 82
 France, N. Rhône. Big, big syrah (shiraz) from a world star grower. Smooth plummy fruit, structured. Very fine appellation, if not as famous as your Côte Rôties and Hermitages.
- 106 **Côte Rôtie Brune et Blonde 2010. (Guigal)** 90
 France, N. Rhône. Classic syrah with a touch of viognier, substantial but smooth. One of France's finest appellations.
- 107 **Château Gloria 2000.** 105
 France, Bordeaux, St. Julien. Cabernet-dominant cru bourgeois every bit as good as the posh classed-growths around it. There's fruit and depth, and a long, graceful finish too. Mature classic.
- 108 **Château Kirwan 2003.** 110
 France, Bordeaux, Margaux. Solid third-growth. Dark, aromatic, super-ripe in this vintage. Good fruit, spicy edge, long finish.
- 109 **Hermitage La Chapelle 1997/2000. (Jaboulet)** 110
 France, Rhône. Famous name. Dark broody syrah (shiraz). Lovely balance of tannins and fruit from a star of very good years.
- 110 **Château Pichon-Longueville Lalande 2006.** 180
 France, Bordeaux, Pauillac. Renowned super-second growth, strong on cabernet. Just mature now, taken its time. Curranty fruit, but solid structure too..

PUDDING & CHEESE WINE

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- Graham's 10-year old
Tawny Port. 10cl. Glass: 7
- Graham's 20-year old
Tawny Port. 10cl. Glass: 10
Portugal. Old tawnies are the favourites of the producers.
Profound nutty richness from top house.
- Muscat de Rivesaltes 2017. (Cazes) 10cl. Glass: 6
Southern France. Sweet grapey nectar.
- Barossa Botrytis Semillon 2016.
(Peter Lehmann) 10cl. Glass: 6
South Australia. Classic dessert wine style with an Aussie tweak.
Medium-sweet with tropical fruit notes, quite luscious.
- I Capitelli 2015. (Roberto Anselmi) 10cl. Glass: 9
Italy, Veneto. Sweet, golden, complex beauty. Think ripe apricots
and pears together. Legendary winemaker.
- Innocent Bystander Pink Moscato 2018. Half: 13
South Australia. Here's a bit of pink frothy fun. Low in alcohol
(5.5%) with 'Turkish Delight' notes. Enough for three glasses.
- Loupiac Cuvée d'Or 2008. (D.-Rodillon) Half: 24
France, Bordeaux. Sauternes neighbour. Similarly medium-sweet
but lighter and fresher than Sauternes-proper. Good botrytis.
- Cyprès de Climens 2009. Half: 42
France, Bordeaux. Sauternes. Climens is one of the great wine
estates. This is the second wine, but in a magnificent vintage.
Toasty, rich, layered, majestic.
- Bonnezeaux Domaine du Petit Val 1995. 68
France, Loire. Mature chenin blanc, still lively; from a class area.
Baked apple sort-of flavours. Medium-sweet.
- Vin de Paille Hermitage 1996. (Chapoutier) Half: 140
France, Rhône. Marsanne grapes are dried on straw mats for a
couple of months, before fermentation. The resultant wine is
deep, sweet and viscous, but there's balancing acidity too. Think
spicy apricot. Extremely rare style, only revived by Chapoutier
since 1990.