

CONTENTS

P2-3	WINES BY THE GLASS
P4-5	HALF BOTTLES
P6	MAGNUMS AND LARGE FORMATS
P7	RHINE, MOSEL
P8	ALSACE, LOIRE
P9	DESSERT LOIRE, MONBAZILLAC, WHITE BORDEAUX,
P10-14	RED BORDEAUX
P16-17	WHITE BURGUNDY
P18-19	RED BURGUNDY
P20	BEAUJOLAIS, WHITE RHONE
P21-22	RED RHONE
P23	FRENCH COUNTRY WINES
P24-25	SPARKLING WINES
P26	ITALY
P27	SPAIN
P28	U.S.A., ARGENTINA, CHILE
P29	NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA
P30	PORT, DIGESTIFS
P31	HOUSE WINES, BAR DRINKS

WINES BY THE GLASS

(175 ml)

WHITE

5. Kreuznacher Kronenberg Kabinett 2007. Nahe Prädikatswein
Deliciously refreshing, low alcohol (9%) Riesling. Pale gold in colour; lightly aromatic grapey nose; good fruit throughout the palate with a hint of *spritz*. Clean and well-made, and great value.
£4.90
15. Chateau Septy 2005. A.C.F.B. (Cave de Monbazillac)
Less cloying than some of the heavier dessert wines from Sauternes. Pale buttercup gold; light barley sugar nose with floral notes; intense sweet fruit on the palate, with excellent length and pleasant fruity acidity on the finish.
£5.00
18. Château Boudigand 2009. C.B. (Comte de Bosredon)
I have rarely been impressed by the white wines of the Appellation, but this wine is a knock out. Fine gold colour; plenty of semillon on the nose; wonderfully focussed and sprightly fruit on the palate. Balanced, delicious, and great value.
£4.50
80. Apaltagua Chardonnay Reserva 2009. Casablanca Valley
The New World in general, and South America in particular, is producing better and better wines. This, despite its formidable alcoholic content, is lightly textured and elegant; clean and balanced chardonnay, with fine-boned structure and peachy Notes on the finish.
£4.80

HOUSE WHITE

- Apaltagua Gran Verano Chardonnay 2009. E.B. Central Valley, Chile
£4.30
- Liebfraumilch Qualitätswein
£4.30

ROSÉ

57. Rosé Les Oliviers 2009 Domaine de Montaubéron. Vin de Pays Côtes de Thongue.
D.B. (de Berlier)

Provence is in many ways the spiritual home of rosé, and this is a distinctly classy example, made from 100% Syrah, and exhibiting none of the dispiriting flabbiness so often encountered. Deep salmon pink in colour; ripe floral fruit on the nose; good assertive fruit on the palate, wonderfully clean-limbed, and with great balance and length.
£4.30

RED

59. Merlot Domaine St Estève 2008. Vin de Pays d'Oc.
Typically robust and gutsy merlot from provence. Big, purple-tinged colour, ripe and concentrated fruit on the nose and palate. Uncomplicated, but with enough acidity and soft tannin to avoid jamminess.
£4.50
75. Rioja Reserva Viña Cerrada 2005 D.O.C.

Reserva Riojas spend a minimum of two years in oak barrels and one year in bottle before release. This longer maturation promotes the development of greater depth and complexity. Deep cherry/crimson colour; lively ripe, supple fruit on the nose and palate, with a hint of well-integrated oak; great length of fruit in the mouth.

£5.00

81. Pinot Noir Reserva Vina Mar 2009. Casablanca Valley
Great value authentic Pinot Noir from Chile.

£5.00

86. Cabernet Sauvignon, 2007 Peter Lehmann 'My Word is My Bond' Barossa Valley, South Australia.

A quiet, yet dramatic change is coming over the Australian wine industry. Faced with a surfeit of fruit-and-alcohol laden spectaculars, more and more growers and wine makers are aiming for more subtle and complex wines, much to the joy of hidebound palates such as mine. This splendid example from the legend of Barossa Valley, Peter Lehmann. Dark velvety crimson in colour, solid-centred and with great viscosity; rich healthy cabernet nose; wonderfully ripe seamless fruit on the palate. Full of sunshine, and a hefty 14% alcohol, but with good acidity and soft tannin to give some elegance and balance.

£5.00

HOUSE RED

Apaltagua Gran Verano Cabernet Sauvignon 2008. E.B. Central Valley, Chile

£4.30

HALF BOTTLES

15. Château Septy 2003. A.C.F.B. (Cave de Monbazillac)
Less cloying than some of the heavier dessert wines from Sauternes. Pale buttercup gold; light barley sugar nose with floral notes; intense sweet fruit on the palate, with excellent length and pleasant fruity acidity on the finish. Half Bottle £12.50
16. Château Filhot 1998. C.B. Sauternes 2ième Cru
The relatively light 1998 vintage in Sauternes has matured into a delightfully charming and elegant wine. Appealing buttercup gold, but still pale at the rim; aromatic, slightly botrytic barley sugar fruit on the nose; intensely sweet in the mouth, but with lively acidity throughout the palate; opens out in the glass to a sustained finish. Half Bottle £22.00
18. Château Boudigand 2009. C.B. (Comte de Bosredon)
I have rarely been impressed by the white wines of the Appellation, but this wine is a knock out. Fine gold colour; plenty of semillon on the nose; wonderfully focussed and sprightly fruit on the palate. Balanced, delicious, and great value. Half Bottle £9.30
22. Château Patache d'Aux 2000 C.B. Médoc Cru Borgeois
This old favourite probably produced its best ever wine in this year, as maturing wines combined with a fantastic vintage, distinguished crimson-garnet colour, softening at the rim; soft mature cabernet fruit on the nose, healthy and ripe but with a fine boned tannin structure; wonderfully balanced fruit on the palate, with great length and development. Typypaically 2000, in that the wine is clearly pushing above its weight. Half Bottle £15.00
23. Château La Croix Carion 2000 Canon Fronsac C.B. (J-P Mouiex)
Another spectacular advertisement for this much lauded vintage, deeply impressive colour, just beginning to soften a touch at the rim; deep and scented on the nose, vibrant and spicy, and with the Cabernet more evident than one might expect from this appellation; and a huge dense, multi dimensional palate, ripe and seamless, with great development and glance. Most impressive. Half Bottle £16.80
24. Château les Grands Maréchaux 2001 C B Premières Côtes de Blaye
The so called 'Bordeaux satellites' are making better and better wines at very accessible prices. This one, from a generally under-rated vintage, has a fine deep garnet colour; forward open-textured merlot first on the nose; and wonderfully healthy-tasting, tightly constructed fruit on the palate. Very Satisfying. Half Bottle £12.50
32. Chablis Premier Cru Fourchamme 2008. D.B. Château de Maligny
This property continues to impress with its classically-made wines. Fine pale gold in colour; semi-mature Chardonnay fruit on the nose, with citrus notes and a hint of honey; seamless, fine-boned Chardonnay palate; with good weight of fruit, but finishing clean and elegant. Half Bottle £16.00

39. Mersault 2006 A.C. F.B. (J-M. Bouzereau)
 It is very difficult to find supplies of good, mature white burgundy in half bottles. This was a fine vintage; possibly better, or at least more classical in style than the much praised 2005. Mature mid-gold colour; rich fat Chardonnay fruit on the nose, with lots of lanolin, rich and round on the palate, typically Mersault, with a nice touch of lemon on the finish to balance the ripeness
 Half Bottle £21.50
61. Champagne Guy de Chasse Brut Grand Cru N.V.
 Unusual among the cheaper champagnes in that the grapes come from 100% rated vineyards, and the wines are given plenty of bottle age. Truly excellent wines at the price.
 Half Bottle £18.50
62. Champagne Delamotte Brut N.V.
 Not the best-known Champagne house, but this is the sister company of the great Salon le Mesnil, and uses some of their grapes in years not thought quite up to vintage standard. This explains the wonderfully aristocratic quality of this wine; pale lemony gold, with a fine sustained mousse; nose and palate showing the elegance stemming from the 50% Chardonnay content, and with the lacy texture so characteristic of this house.
 Half Bottle £22.00
- *106. Réserve de la Comtesse 2001 C.B. Pauillac
 This is the second wine of the celebrated Second Growth Pichon Lalande. Like the Grand Vin it is wonderfully rich, and more approachable than most Pauillacs. Fine deep garnet colour, semi-opaque still; lively Cabernet nose which reaches out of the glass as it is poured; smooth berry fruit with abundant space already evident; great concentration and intensity on the plate.
 Glamorous and flattering, in the typical Pichon style. Half Bottle £24.00
- *112 Château Soutard 1989 C.B. St Emilion Grand Cru Classé
 Fine garnet colour, fully mature, but still deep and healthy; sweet spices and tobacco on the nose; soft Merlot fruit on the palate, graceful and satisfying.
 Half Bottle £30.00

MAGNUMS AND LARGE FORMATS

68. Salon le Mesnil 1990 Blanc de Blancs
Perhaps the finest of all the pure Chardonnay champagnes. The house maintains its quality and consistency by rigorous selection and a policy of only releasing their wines to the market when ready to drink. Expensive but sublime.
Magnum £240.00
101. Domaine Toigant de Boisset 2001 D.B. Pomerol (J-P Moueix)
This has been an under-valued vintage, suffering from the – sometimes hyperbolic – praise accorded the vintages which surrounded it. I have always found it to offer excellent healthy wines, whose main characteristics a charming ‘juicy’ quality. This wine is a fine deep semi-opaque crimson in colour, with a very flattering; rich Merlot fruit on the nose and palate. Coherent, long, harmonious.
Magnum £75.00
- *106. Réserve de la Comtesse 2001 C.B. Pauillac
This is the second wine of the celebrated Second Growth Pichon Lalande. Like the Grand Vin it is wonderfully rich, and more approachable than most Pauillacs. Fine deep garnet colour, semi-opaque still; lively Cabernet nose which reaches out of the glass as it is poured; smooth berry fruit with abundant space already evident; great concentration and intensity on the plate.
Glamorous and flattering, in the typical Pichon style.
Magnum £85.00
- *109 Château Gruard Larose 1990. C.B. St Julien. 2ième Cru
This wine was recently re-assessed by the ubiquitous Robert Parker as being of First Growth quality in this vintage; indeed it out-scored some of them. My own all-too-brief acquaintance with it suggests that he is right. Amazing youth and vigour considering its age, with power, subtlety, harmony and length all in spectacular proportions. These bottles were stored at the Château itself until a couple of years ago and thus have had the minimum of disturbance in their twenty years.
Magnum £260.00
- *121 Château Margaux 1983. C.B. Margaux 1ier Cru
Perhaps the most long-lived of this vintage; just entering its full maturity.
Magnum £800.00
- *124 Château Pichon-Lalande 1983. C.B. Pauillac
Magnum £250.00
- *145. Nuits St Georges 1ier Cru Clos des Forets 2000 D.B. (Domaine de l’Arlot)
The 2000 vintage, while not producing wines of the weight and concentration of the two preceding vintages, did give beautifully charming and graceful wines. This is delectable; fine mature colour; authentic Côte de Nuits pinot nose, with spice and farmyard notes starting to develop; and an elegant, finely-structured palate, balanced and ripe, without being opulent. Surprisingly meaty on the finish.
Magnum £85.00

- *154. Château de Beaucastel 1994 Châteauneuf-du-Pape D.B. (Perrin)
One of the finer vintages from the first half of the '90's, and now fully mature. All the Beaucastel hallmarks of density, complexity, power and finesse.
Magnum £100.00

We also have available Château Mouton Rothschild 1989 in Imperials, and Château Gruard Larose 1990 in Double Magnums.. These are stored at cool cellar temperature, and are only available if ordered a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Prices on application.

- * Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

MOSEL, SAAR

2. Kastel-Stadt Maximiner-Bälat Riesling Auslese 1989 Saar Q.m.P (Bert Simon)
One of the great vintages of the last twenty years, this has the classic richness of the late-picked, specially-selected bunches of grapes, balanced throughout with a fine acidity. Rich, but perfectly clean; classic Riesling nose, with a hint of petrol overlain with citrus and honey; and a wonderfully assured palate of lemon, barley sugar, and honey, with great length and balance.
Bottle £25.00
3. Wiltinger Schlangengraben Halbtrocken 2007 Saar Riesling (J-P Simon)
I have never been a great fan of the German *trocken* and *halbtrocken* wines. For me, the effort to produce what are perceived to be more 'food-friendly' wines usually results in a rather 'pinched' tasting palate which misses out on the greatest delights of the Riesling grape. This wine however, has made me at least realise that *Halbtrocken's* do have their place. Cold pale gold in colour; unemphatic Riesling fruit on the nose; appealing zippy fruit on the palate, grapey and with an appealing malic acidity. Pleasing and refreshing.
Bottle £16.50
4. Piesporter Michelsberg. Q.b.A
A gentle, fruity wine.
Bottle £12.00
5. Kreuznacher Kronenberg Kabinett 2007. Nahe Prädikatswein
Deliciously refreshing, low alcohol (9%) Riesling. Pale gold in colour; lightly aromatic grapey nose; good fruit throughout the palate with a hint of *spritz*. Clean and well-made, and great value.
Bottle £18.00
Glass £ 4.90
6. Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 2003. Q.m.P (Max Ferd Richter)
The wines of Alsace and the Rhine have become unfashionable, and therefore difficult to sell. This is a shame, as they offer wonderful value. This example, from the fantastically ripe 2003 vintage, is a classic Mosel, with intense fruit balanced throughout the extended palate by elegant acidity. Absolutely delicious, and only 9% alcohol.
Bottle £32.00

ALSACE

7. Gewürztraminer Furstentum 2002. Grand Cru D.B. (Bott-Geyl)
The difficulty with this kind of wine, in Britain, at least, is when to drink it. In Alsace they would happily drink it with paté de fois gras or other charcuterie, or with rich chicken dishes. To me it would be delicious either as a richer-than-usual aperitif, or as a lighter-than-usual dessert wine. Either way, it is a wonderful expression of the riper style of the Gewürztraminer. Rich old gold in colour; classic Gewürz. lychee nose, overlain with honey and exotic spices; intensely grapey in the mouth, very long and concentrated; clean finish despite its weight. Remarkable stuff. Bottle £32.00

8. Gewürztraminer Cleebourg Cuvée Prestige 2008. D.B. (Cave Vinicole)
Alsatian wines are hard to sell in restaurants, but they are individual, delicious, and represent such good value. This is a totally authentic example of the Gewürztraminer grape; aromatic nose with hints of lychee and lemon; lots of ripe fruit on the palate, with hints of spice and a pleasing underlying austerity. Bottle £22.50

RED LOIRE

10. Saumur Champigny Lieu-dit Les Villaises 2008. D.B. (Cave de Saumur)
The red wines of the Loire are less well-known than they deserve; they are charming, distinctive and good value. This is a typical example, with vibrant deep cherry colour; lively Cabernet Franc fruit on the nose; and succulent red fruits on the palate.
SERVED AT CELLAR TEMPERATURE TO EMPHASISE ITS FRESH AND JUICY QUALITIES. Bottle £19.00

WHITE LOIRE

11. Savennières Clos de la Coulée de Serrant 2003. C.B.
Nicolas Joly's biodynamically produced Savennières is a celebrated *tour de force*. Made with fanatical attention to detail, miniscule yields, and absolute faith to the *terroir*, it is a Savennières like no other; in character and, sadly, price. I will be quite frank, and admit that I find it hard to entirely like, possibly because it is so very unusual. The huge concentration, and 14.5% of alcohol, suggest a sweetness which isn't really there on the palate. Pure rich honeyed Chenin on the nose; palate ripe and unctuous, but with a real steely core. Dramatic, indestructible, and totally individual. Bottle £65.00

12. Pouilly Fumé 2008. D.B. (J-C Chatelain)
Delicious grassy Sauvignon (in the French style, I'm glad to say, rather than in the over-emphatic New World style). Pale gold colour, made with a touch of oak which broadens the fruit on the palate. Strikingly delicious. Bottle £22.50

13. Sancerre 2008. A.C .F.B. (J-C Chatelain)
The great popularity of Sancerre has brought with it the usual surge in prices and uncertain quality. This is a beautifully made example however, with a delectable combination of freshness and fruit. Bottle £23.00

DESSERT LOIRE

14. Quarts de Chaume Domaine des Baumard 1989

The dessert wines of the Loire are less well-known than they deserve, as they surely match the quality of all but the absolute pinnacle of what Bordeaux and the Rhine have to offer. This example comes from one of the greatest vintages of the last century, and from one of the great domains as well. It is as clean and sprightly as it was in its youth. Surprisingly pale gold still; wonderful Chenin Blanc nose; and seemingly endless palate that combines dessert apples, apricots and honey all with enough acidity to ensure that it sustains its interest throughout.

Bottle £40.00

MONBAZILLAC

15. Château Septy 2005. A.C.F.B. (Cave de Monbazillac)

Less cloying than some of the heavier dessert wines from Sauternes. Pale buttercup gold; light barley sugar nose with floral notes; intense sweet fruit on the palate, with excellent length and pleasant fruity acidity on the finish.

Bottle £21.50

Half Bottle £12.50

Glass £5.50

DESSERT BORDEAUX

16. Château Filhot 1998. C.B. Sauternes 2ième Cru.

The relatively light 1998 vintage in Sauternes has matured into a delightfully charming and elegant wine. Appealing buttercup gold, but still pale at the rim; aromatic, slightly botrytic barley sugar fruit on the nose; intensely sweet in the mouth, but with lively acidity throughout the palate; opens out in the glass to a sustained finish.

Half bottle £22.00

BERGERAC SEC

18. Château Boudigand 2009. C.B. (Comte de Bosredon)

I have rarely been impressed by the white wines of the Appellation, but this wine is a knock out. Fine gold colour; plenty of semillon on the nose; wonderfully focussed and sprightly fruit on the palate. Balanced, delicious, and great value.

Bottle £17.00

Half Bottle £9.30

Glass £4.80

RED BORDEAUX

20. Château Sainte Colombe 2001. Côtes de Castillon C.B. (SCA Ste Colombe)
The 2001 vintage, while lacking the majesty of the great (and greatly-hyped) 2000s, produced many appealing, juicy, and accessible wines, at a much more reasonable price than their predecessors. This is delicious and astoundingly good value. Early mature colour; ripe, open-textured fruit on the nose, with hints of spice; and a smooth and suavely balanced palate with plenty of ripe Merlot and an appealing oakey undertone.
Bottle £20.50
21. Château Chenade 2000 Lalande de Pomerol A.C. F.B. (Denis Durantou)
One of the features of the great 2000 vintage is the way in which the spectacular quality is exhibited at all levels. This relatively modest appellation, made by the great Denis Durantou of the Domaine de L'Eglise, could very easily take its place among the classed growths. Impressively deep and vibrant scarlet colour; ripe juicy Merlot fruit, almost fruit-cakey, reaches up out of the glass; and lovely seamless, sumptuous merlot palate.
bottle £27.00
22. Château Patache d'Aux 2000 C.B. Médoc Cru Bourgeois
This old favourite probably produced its best ever wine in this year, as maturing wines combined with a fantastic vintage; distinguished crimson-garnet colour, softening at the rim; soft mature cabernet fruit on the nose, healthy and ripe but with a fine-boned tannin structure; wonderfully balanced fruit on the palate, with great length and development. Typical 2000, in that the wine is clearly punching above its weight.
Half Bottle £15.00
23. Château La Croix Caron 2000 Canon Fronsac C.B. (J-P Mouiex)
Another spectacular advertisement for this much lauded vintage. Deeply impressive colour, just beginning to soften a touch at the rim; deep and scented on the nose, vibrant and spicy, and with the Cabernet more evident than one might expect from this appellation; and a huge dense, multi dimensional palate, ripe and seamless, with great development and balance. Most impressive.
Bottle £32.00
Bottle £16.80
24. Château les Grands Maréchaux 2001 C B Premières Côtes de Blaye
The so called 'Bordeaux satellites' are making better and better wines at very accessible prices. This one, from a generally under-rated vintage, has a fine deep garnet colour; forward, open-textured merlot first on the nose; and wonderfully healthy-tasting, tightly constructed fruit on the palate. Very Satisfying.
Half Bottle £12.50
25. La Petite Eglise 1999. Pomerol F.B. (Denis Durantou)
Although from a less-fashionable vintage than those which bracket it, this is delicious wine. Deep, relatively unevolved colour still, semi-opaque at the centre; charming expressive Merlot fruit on the nose; and a gloriously generous, meaty palate; rich and ripe, but with plenty of balancing acidity.
Bottle £32.00

- *100 Château Haut-Bailly 1998. C.B. Cru Exceptionnel Graves
 This wonderfully consistent property made a particularly successful wine in this underrated vintage. Excellent colour; accessible open-textured fruit on the nose; charming and harmonious on the palate, with the silky finish so characteristic of good Graves. Bottle £65.00
- *101. Domaine Trigant de Boisset 2001 D.B. Pomerol (J-P Moueix)
 This has been an under-valued vintage, suffering from the – sometimes hyperbolic – praise accorded the vintages which surrounded it. I have always found it to offer excellent healthy wines, whose main characteristics a charming ‘juicy’ quality. This wine is a fine deep semi-opaque crimson in colour, with a very flattering, rich Merlot fruit on the nose and palate. Coherent, long, harmonious. Bottle £36.00
Magnum £72.00
- *102 Château Cantemerle 1996. C.B. Macau 5ième Cru
 This popular property has been producing better and better wines in the past decade or so, thanks to huge investment in the ‘80’s. The 1996 vintage has been taking an age to come round, but the wait has been worth it. Fully mature garnet colour, but with a wonderfully healthy solid centre; spicy Cabernet fruit on the nose, with cedary hints; classic claret palate, with a touch of austerity on entry, but a marvellously suave and complete middle palate, leading to a long and balanced finish. Bottle £40.00
- *103 Château Pichon – Longueville Baron 1997. C.B. Pauillac 2ième Cru
 The most immediately impressive wine I have tasted from this under-rated vintage. Fully mature colour – solid-centred with a warm garnet rim; big, lush Cabernet fruit on the nose, with spicy notes beginning to develop; juicy fruit on the palate, with the immediacy characteristic of the vintage, but with surprising density and weight. Bottle £58.00
- *104 Château du Tertre 1996. C.B. Margaux 5ième Cru
 This vintage, hailed as a classic on release, has taken some time to come round, but is now showing that the early hopes were justified for those sufficiently patient. Fine dense mature garnet, with a tawny tinge at the rim; soft ripe fruit on the nose, with cigar-box notes developing; classic ‘feminine’ Margaux palate, with well-integrated fruit and acidity, and lovely length and balance. Bottle £43.00
- *105 Château Talbot 1996 C.B. St Julien 4ième Cru
 This property has long been admired in England for its elegant, cabernet –dominated wines. The 1996 vintage has taken forever to come round, but it is now delicious. Dense, opaque garnet colour, narrow tawny rim; delicate floral-spicy cabernet nose; wonderfully poised and elegant fruit on the palate; long and stylish. Typical St Julien, typical Talbot. Bottle £80.00
Half bottle £43.00

* Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

- *106. Réserve de la Comtesse 2001 C.B. Pauillac
 This is the second wine of the celebrated Second Growth Pichon Lalande. Like the Grand Vin it is wonderfully rich, and more approachable than most Pauillacs. Fine deep garnet colour, semi-opaque still; lively Cabernet nose which reaches out of the glass as it is poured; smooth berry fruit with abundant spice already evident; great concentration and intensity on the plate.
 Glamorous and flattering, in the typical Pichon style. Half Bottle £24.00
 Bottle £45.00
 Magnum £90.00
- *107. Clos St Martin 1998. Grand Cru St Emilion C.B.
 St Emilion is probably the most variable region amongst the classic Bordeaux Appellations, and many can seem disappointingly lightweight. No such worries here; a brilliant vintage, and a wonderfully concentrated wine. Chunky, deep scarlet, just beginning to soften at the rim; huge, concentrated Merlot Fruit on nose and palate; spicy notes just beginning to develop. A brooding monster, which really benefits from decanting.
 Bottle £60.00
- *108 Château La Grave à Pomerol 1998. Pomerol C.B.
 Typically seductive Pomerol from one of the classic right bank vintages of the past twenty years. Vibrant deep cherry colour; soft and succulent Merlot on nose and palate; so ripe and dense it is almost chocolatey. Very complete, developing complexity in the mouth.
 Bottle £40.00
- *109 Château Gruard Larose 1990. C.B. St Julien. 2ième Cru
 This wine was recently re-assessed by the ubiquitous Robert Parker as being of First Growth quality in this vintage; indeed it out-scored some of them. My own all-too-brief acquaintance with it suggests that he is right. Amazing youth and vigour considering its age, with power, subtlety, harmony and length all in spectacular proportions. These bottles were stored at the Château itself until a few years ago and thus have had the minimum of disturbance in their twenty years.
 Bottle £130.00
 Magnum £260.00
- *110 Château Léoville Barton 1989. C.B. St Julien 2ième Cru
 This is, quite simply, perfect old-fashioned Claret. The wines of this well-known property are built to last, and 1989 was a big-boned vintage; it has developed into a remarkable wine. Huge, semi-opaque colour still; warm spicy Cabernet fruit on the nose, fully mature but absolutely bursting with life; classic mature claret on the palate, thick on the tongue, rich concentrated and spicy, hugely long on the finish, with effortless balance, seamless and totally beguiling. Truly great wine. Bottle £130.00
- *111 Château Ducru-Beaucaillon 1989. C.B. St Julien 2ième Cru
 Still deep in colour, just developing at the rim; great viscosity, showing the richness of the vintage; deep complex Cabernet nose, with spicy notes just beginning to develop; and a stunning mouthful of dense chewy Cabernet fruit on the palate, enormously long, the ripeness balanced perfectly by the acidity. Bottle £80.00
- *112 Château Soutard 1989. C.B. St Emilion Grand Cru Classé
 Fine garnet colour, fully mature, but still deep and healthy; sweet spices and tobacco on the nose; soft Merlot fruit on the palate, graceful and satisfying.
 Half Bottle £30.00

* Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

- *113 Château Petrus 1997. C.B. Pomerol. Grand Vin.
Retasted recently, this wine is now clearly embarking on its full maturity. Petrus, with all its advantages of almost manically selective picking, grape selection, and vinification has made a substantial and complex wine in what can be a one-dimensional vintage. Deep bright crimson; deep, imposing, almost chocolatey nose; and a huge concentration of fruit on the palate. Absolutely majestic.
Bottle £400.00
- *114 Château de Marbuzet 1989. St. Estephe. Cru Grand Bourgeois Exceptionnel
The wines of St. Estephe can be a bit tough and unyielding in their youth, but tend to mature with a long and rewarding old age. This shows fully mature garnet colour, solid centred, with a narrow tawny rim; aromatic Cabernet nose, very attractive, and with plenty of cigar-box notes; lovely sweet ripe Cabernet fruit on the palate, complex and spicy. Classic St. Estephe.
Bottle £55.00
- *115 Château Palmer 1986. C.B. Margaux 3ième Cru
Like so many wines from this commune this softened much earlier than many 1986s, and is wonderfully suave and seductive.
Bottle £100.00
- The remaining Clarets listed are too well-known to need elaborate tasting notes. No-one, after all, needs me to tell them that Latour 1982 is a spectacularly fine wine.
- The past two years have seen an extraordinary rise in the prices of fine mature clarets. For example, Château Latour 1982, which was available (if you could find it) for around £4000.00 per case two years ago, has more than trebled its price to around £15,000 per case. It is therefore with the greatest reluctance that we have had to increase our prices of these wines at least somewhere closer to their replacement value.
- *116 Château Latour 1985. C.B. Pauillac 1ier Cru
Bottle £220.00
- *117 Château Margaux 1985. C.B. Margaux 1ier Cru
Bottle £300.00
- *118 Château Palmer 1985. C.B. Margaux 3ième Cru
Bottle £100.00
- *119 Château Cheval Blanc 1983. C.B.
Bottle £300.00
- *120 Château Lafite 1983. C.B. Pauillac 1ier Cru
Bottle £300.00
- *121 Château Margaux 1983. C.B. Margaux 1ier Cru
Perhaps the most long-lived of this vintage; just entering its full maturity.
Bottle £400.00
Magnum £800.00
- *122 Château Mouton Rothschild 1983. C.B. Pauillac 1ier Cru
Bottle £140.00
- *123 Château Palmer 1983. C.B. Margaux 3ième Cru
Bottle £200.00
- *124 Château Pichon-Lalande 1983. C.B. Pauillac
Magnum £250.00
- * Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

What more can one say about the celebrated 1982 vintage? For once the trade's hyperbole was justified, and while too rich and voluptuous to be classic claret, fears by

some that they would prove too pleasing to last have proved gloriously mistaken. Extraordinarily, the Mouton still needs time to show its best, in my view; while the Latour towers over the rest at present.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| *125 <u>Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 1982</u> . C.B. St Julien 2ième Cru | Bottle £ 170.00 |
| *126 <u>Château La Mission Haut Brion 1982</u> C.B. Graves Cru Classé | Bottle £ 700.00 |
| *127 <u>Château Lafite Rothschild 1982</u> . C.B. Pauillac 1ier Cru | Bottle £1200.00 |
| *128 <u>Château Latour 1982</u> . C.B. Pauillac 1ier Cru | Bottle £1200.00 |
| *129 <u>Château Léoville-las-Cases 1982</u> . C.B. St Julien 2ième Cru | Bottle £ 400.00 |
| *130 <u>Château Mouton Rothschild 1982</u> . C.B. Pauillac 1ier Cru | Bottle £ 1000.00 |
| *131 <u>Château Pichon-Lalande 1982</u> . C.B. Pauillac 2ième Cru | Bottle £ 400.00 |
| *132 <u>Château Vieux-Château-Certan 1982</u> . Pomerol Grand Vin | Bottle £ 130.00 |

We also have available Château Mouton Rothschild 1989 in Imperials, and Château Gruard Larose 1990 in Double Magnums. These are stored at cool cellar temperature, and are only available if ordered a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Prices on application.

- * Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

WHITE BURGUNDY

30. Macon-Charnay Le Clos st Pierre 2008
Another wonderfully poised and elegant White Burgundy from this renowned grower-negotiant. Fine pale gold in colour; zippy citrus blossom on the nose, with honey in the background; open-textured Chardonnay fruit on the palate, persistent and balanced throughout the long development. Bottle £23.00
31. Chablis Montée de Tonnerre 2004 Premier Cru A.C. D.B. (Billaud-Simon)
The better wines from this vintage have broadened out with more bottle age, and are showing themselves to be classic old-fashioned steely Chablis. As usual, this rising star of the region has made wines absolutely true to both vintage and vineyard. Fine light clear gold, still water-pale at the rim; restrained fruit on the nose, with hints of honey and citrus; lovely nectarish fruit on the palate; long and clear in the mouth, with both great elegance and plenty of backbone. Delicious. Bottle £34.00
32. Chablis Premier Cru Fourchamme 2008 D.B. Château de Maligny
This property continues to impress with its classically-made wines. Fine pale gold in colour; semi-mature Chardonnay fruit on the nose, with citrus notes and a hint of honey; seamless, fine-boned Chardonnay palate; with good weight of fruit, but finishing clean and elegant. Half Bottle £17.50
33. Chablis Grand Cru Grenouille 1999 D.B. (Dom William Fèvre)
I rarely buy Grand Cru Chablis, as I find that at prices frequently exceeding £500 per case there is generally more pleasure to be had elsewhere in Burgundy. There are exceptions to most rules, however, as the wines of the illustrious William Fèvre can sometimes show. This one is incredibly youthful for a ten year old; palish gold in colour; restrained chardonnay nose, with lime blossom notes backed with honey; and an absolutely classic stately Chablis palate, racy, fine boned, supremely elegant, will last for years. Bottle £50.00
34. Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 1990 D.B. (Bonneau du Martray)
Another stellar vintage for White Burgundy and from a grower who for many represents the pinnacle of Corton-Charlemagne. Remarkably pale still, given its age; delicate lime-blossom on the nose; and incredible intensity and purity of fruit on the palate, starting with citrus notes, leading on to honeyed Chardonnay and a nutty finish. Bottle £100.00
35. Meursault Les Rougeots 2005 A.C. F.B. (Giradin)
Stunning Mersault from one of the defining vintages of the past generation. This Appellation can sometimes sacrifice elegance to weight, but this is beautifully made. Pale clear gold, still showing its youth; classic young chardonnay nose, peachy notes underpinned by citrus; and a most beautifully poised and balanced palate, with lovely clean chardonnay fruit on the mid palate, and a delicate persistent acidity leading to a long finish. Bottle £45.00

36. Beaune 1ier Cru Pertuisots 2002 A.C. F.B. (Girardin)
Delicious white Beaune from a great year and from one of the best-regarded of the younger generation of growers in Burgundy. Mid-gold in colour, showing signs of early maturity; elegant, aromatic Chardonnay nose, restrained, but with great presence; powerful Chardonnay fruit on the palate, with citric notes clothed in lanolin, and with great concentration. . Bottle £33.00
39. Mersault 2006 A.C. F.B. (J-M. Bouzereau)
It is very difficult to find supplies of good, mature white burgundy in half bottles. This was a fine vintage; possibly better, or at least more classical in style than the much praised 2005. Mature mid-gold colour; rich fat Chardonnay fruit on the nose, with lots of lanolin, rich and round on the palate, typically Mersault, with a nice touch of lemon on the finish to balance the ripeness
Half Bottle £21.50

RED BURGUNDY

40. Vosne-Romanée 1ier Cru Les Suchots 1996 D.B (Domaine De L'Arpot)
The 1996 vintage, much heralded in its youth, has proved an uneven one in Burgundy, high acidity producing wines which remain green to the palate in some cases. Where, as here, there is an abundance of fruit and extract to go with the initial acidity, they have matured into quite wonderful wines. Fully mature colour, healthy cherry and almond nose; lovely concentrated ripe pinot fruit on the palate, the remaining acidity giving it wonderful pose and vitality. Bottle £50.00
42. Pernand-Vergelesses 1ier Cru de Vergelesses 2002 D.B. (Chandon de Briailles)
Classic Côtes de Beaune Burgundy from one of the foremost producers in Pernand-Vergelesses and from a very fine vintage. Semi-mature colour, beginning to develop at the rim; elegant, spicy Pinto Noir on the nose and palate, with that characteristic Côte de Beaune restraint and elegance, but with real guts. A very pleasing wine. Bottle £36.00
43. Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes 2005 . A.C. F.B. (Ambroise)
Fine, authentic Burgundian Pinot Noir at a very competitive price. 2005 was a wonderful vintage in Burgundy, as in so much of France. Cold, deep cherry red, just beginning to show maturity; powerful, aromatic Pinot nose; sustained fruit on the palate; both substantial and elegant. Bottle £23.00
45. Chambolle-Musigny 1ier Cru Les Charmes 1998.
This wine has taken much longer to come round than expected, but is now fully ready. Fine deep garnet colour, fully mature; wonderful rich, complex 'farmyard' pinot nose; and intense concentrated pinot fruit on the palate; sweet and ripe, with great length and balance. Classic côte de nuits pinot, and great value for Burgundy of this quality. Bottle £45.00
- *141. Chambolle-Musigny 1ier Cru Les Charmes 1990. D.B. (Georges Clerget)
From one of the great Burgundy vintages of the last thirty years, this is my idea of a quintessential Côtes de Nuits Burgundy: harmonious and graceful, with a seductive quality which no Bordeaux could match. Bottle £65.00

*142. Clos de la Roche Vieilles Vignes 1996. Grand Cru D.B. (Ponsot)

This domaine was one of the first to start running their vineyards according to biodynamic principles. Whatever one may feel about the value of some aspects of this, such as the conducting of vineyard operations with reference to the lunar cycle, the wines are absolutely stunning, and can only have been made with almost supernaturally healthy fruit. Colour just beginning to show some maturity; intense highly perfumed Pinot nose, with great focus and concentration; and a huge, classically Côtes de Nuits palate; just entering its maturity, with fine acidity and soft tannins; spectacular 'attack' in the mouth, fine balance and an impressively long finish. Super burgundy with a long future.

Bottle £125.00

*144. Nuits St Georges 1ier Cru Clos des Forets 1999 D.B. (Domaine de l'Arlet).

Fantastic Nuits St Georges, as ever, from this immaculate estate. Deep, early-mature colour, with great clarity; classic Côtes de Nuits pinot nose, developing the characteristic farmyard notes in the glass; poised and gracious on palate, with great concentration and elegance.

Bottle £55.00

Half bottle £29.00

*145. Nuits St Georges 1ier Cru Clos des Forets 2000 D.B. (Domaine de l'Arlet)

The 2000 vintage, while not producing wines of the weight and concentration of the two preceding vintages, did give beautifully charming and graceful wines. This is delectable; fine mature colour; authentic Côte de Nuits pinot nose, with spice and farmyard notes starting to develop; and an elegant, finely-structured palate, balanced and ripe, without being opulent. Surprisingly meaty on the finish.

Magnum £80.00

* Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

BEAUJOLAIS

46. Brouilly Vieilles Vignes Domaine Joubert 2006 D.B.

I am not a great lover of the Gamay grape, but this wine shows just how good the village wines of Beaujolais can be. Impeccably made, and from a fine vintage, this has a healthy, mature, deep colour; classic immediate Gamay fruit on the nose; and a suave and poised palate, with much more weight, breadth and balance than most Beaujolais. £27.00

SERVED AT CELLAR TEMPERATURE TO EMPHASISE ITS FRESH AND JUICY QUALITIES.

WHITE RHONE

50. Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc Domaine Grand Veneur 2008 D.B. (Alain Jaume)

White Rhône are under-appreciated in Britain, which is a shame, as they are distinctive, and are frequently both well-made and excellent value. This is a delicious example; water-pale in colour; fine elegant floral-lemony nose; full and ripe on the palate, with peach and honey notes balanced by excellent acidity, and a long nutty finish. Really fine wine.

Bottle £35.00

RED RHONE

51. Côtes du Rhône Villages Les Beccs Fins 2008. D.B. (Tardien-Laurent)
Côtes du Rhône can be on the dull side; but this is a truly distinguished example. Made from 50% Grenache, 50% Syrah and from vines averaging 60 years of age, it is unfiltered and unfiltered. Deep cherry-scarlet colour; plenty of ripe inky Syrah on the nose; and real density of fruit on the palate; very coherent, lots of soft residual tannin. Very nice wine. Bottle £19.50
52. Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Grand Veneur 'Les Origines' 2001 D.B. (Alain Jaume)
Probably the best vintage in Châteauneuf this decade, until the (still very immature) 2007s. This is the special cuvée from this up-and-coming property, and has produced a wine of stunning depth, concentration, and complexity. Still semi-opaque; rich voluptuous fruit on nose and palate; huge concentration; spicy and long in the mouth. Pure hedonistic pleasure. Bottle £46.50
53. Crozes Hermitages 'La Guiraudé' 1999 A C F B (Grillot)
Alain Grillot makes wonderfully 'serious' Rhônes, full of extract and personality. 'La Guiraudé' is his top cuvee, and is built to last. This one, from one of a string of very fine vintages in the past few years, has an incredible depth of colour still, almost opaque to its very narrow rim. Peppery syrah nose, full of vitality and vibrant fruit; and a tight-packed muscular palate, ripe, long and complex. Bottle £37.50
54. La Rosine Syrah 2003. Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes F.B. (Michel Ogier)
We have listed this wine amongst the Rhônes, although technically speaking it is a Vin de Pays from just south of the Côte Rotie Appellation. Made from 100% Syrah by one of the foremost growers in Côte Rotie, it is the Grand Vin in all but name, and at a fraction of the cost. From the rich 2003 vintage this shows a fine deep semi-opaque colour still; voluptuous black-cherry fruit on the palate. Saved from jamminess by fine balancing acidity throughout the long finish. Impressive wine. Bottle £24.00
- *150. Côte Rotie 1996. D.B. (Rostaing)
The syrah-based wines of the Côte Rotie age into the most gloriously gracious and complex wines. This is surprisingly youthful in colour, a deep and markedly bright crimson; cherries and plums on the nose, with great depth; and with distinguished fruit on the palate, huge development in the mouth, and a finish of restrained cassis fruit which goes on seemingly forever. Bottle £54.00

* Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

RED RHONE (cont)

*151. Cornas Vieilles Vignes 1998 D.B. (Alain Voge)

Fine Mature 100% Syrah from one of the best growers in the Northern Rhône. Deep garnet colour, fully mature; ripe, soft fruit on the nose, spicy, harmonious, wonderfully healthy; sweet, soft, and beautifully balanced on the plate, with great length. Classic old Syrah.

Bottle 40.00

*152. Château de Beaucastel 1989. Châteauneuf-du-Pape. D.B. (Perrin).

This spectacular wine from the Perrin family is widely acknowledged as the pinnacle of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It seems expensive for the Appellation, and I suppose it is; but in no way over-priced. Now fully mature, this monumental vintage has an astounding concentration and complexity of fruit.

Bottle £80.00

*154. Château de Beaucastel 1994 Châteauneuf-du-Pape D.B. (Perrin)

One of the finer vintages from the first half of the '90's, and now fully mature. All the Beaucastel hallmarks of density, complexity, power and finesse.

Magnum £90.00

*155. Hermitage La Chapelle 1998 A.C. F.B. (Jaboulet Aîné)

Perhaps the most celebrated name in Hermitage, La Chapelle is always highly sought after. Distinguished, fully-mature garnet colour; wonderfully graceful mature Syrah on nose and palate; intense, ripe and harmonious.

Bottle £65.00

* Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

FRENCH COUNTRY WINES: WHITE

55. Terre de Lumière Viognier 2009. Pays d'Oc
The problematic and intriguing Viognier grape used to be virtually confined to a small area of the northern Rhône, where it was made into the fine but exorbitant white wines of Condrieu. Now it is fashionable, and grown widely, not only in Southern France, but in the New World. It is usually at its best relatively young, to preserve its freshness. This is a terrific example; lemony gold in colour; peach fruit aromas reaching out of the glass; deep but focussed fruit flavours on the palate, given a lovely life by a lemony acidity on the finish. Terrific wine at the price.
- Bottle £16.20

FRENCH COUNTRY WINES: PINK

57. Rosé Les Oliviers 2009 Domaine de Montaubéron. Vin de Pays Côtes de Thongue. D.B. (de Berlier)
Provence is in many ways the spiritual home of rosé, and this is a distinctly classy example, made from 100% Syrah, and exhibiting none of the dispiriting flabbiness so often encountered. Deep salmon pink in colour; ripe floral fruit on the nose; good assertive fruit on the palate, wonderfully clean-limbed, and with great balance and length.
- Bottle £15.50
Glass £4.30

FRENCH COUNTRY WINES: RED

58. Chateau de Saint-Sériès Vieilles Vignes 2007. Côteaux du Languedoc. A.C. F.B. (Roux)
A fantastic Côteaux du Languedoc from one of the biggest producers in the Côte d'Or. A blend of Syrah and Granache, this has a fine deep colour, harmonious fruit on the nose, and a really suave and gracious palate, much classier than many wines from the Appellation.
- Bottle £17.50
59. Merlot Domaine St Estève 2008. Vin de Pays d'Oc.
Typically robust and gutsy merlot from provence. Big, purple-tinged colour, ripe and concentrated fruit on the nose and palate. Uncomplicated, but with enough acidity and soft tannin to avoid jamminess.
- Bottle £15.90
Glass £4.50

SPARKLING WINES

60. Corney & Barrow Blanc de Blancs Méthode Champenoise. F.B. (Varichon et Clerc)
A beautifully made wine, which shows how much better some of the regionally made sparkling wines can be than some of the cruder examples from the sacred Appellation of Champagne. Pale gold, fine even mousse; good fruit on the nose; clean, light, and crisp in the mouth, but with plenty of ripe fruit. Excellent all-round wine.
Bottle £22.00
61. Champagne Guy de Chasse Brut Grand Cru N.V.
Unusual among the cheaper champagnes in that the grapes come from 100% rated vineyards, and the wines are given plenty of bottle age. Truly excellent wines at the price.
Bottle £34.00
Half Bottle £18.50
62. Champagne Delamotte Brut N.V.
Not the best-known Champagne house, but this is the sister company of the great Salon le Mesnil, and uses some of their grapes in years not thought quite up to vintage standard. This explains the wonderfully aristocratic quality of this wine; pale lemony gold, with a fine sustained mousse; nose and palate showing the elegance stemming from the 50% Chardonnay content, and with the lacy texture so characteristic of this house.
Bottle £37.50
Half Bottle £22.00
63. Champagne Pol Roger Réserve Brut N.V. White Capside
Pol Roger was reputedly the favourite of that heroic drinker of champagne, Sir Winston Churchill; and the wine itself is built on an heroic scale. Explosion of *brioche* nose as it is opened; fine even *mousse*; and a huge ripe Pinot-dominated palate. The recent collapse of the pound against the euro has played havoc with the price, sadly; but *que faire?*
Bottle £48.00
65. Delamotte 1997 Blanc de Blancs Brut.
Not the best known name in Champagne, but it is the sister house to the great Salon le Mesnil. Classically elegant and complex Blanc de Blancs from one of the best vintages of the nineties.
Bottle £50.00
67. Joseph Perrier 1990.
Disgorged, with minimum *dosage*, in 2003, this shows the fantastic 1990 vintage off to wonderful effect. Pale buttercup gold and with a fine, persistent *mousse*; light and unemphatic nose with the bready quality typical of fine Champagne; and a big fruity Pinot Noir-influenced palate, with great style and backbone.
Bottle £75.00

SPARKLING WINES (cont)

68. Salon le Mesnil 1990 Blanc de Blancs
Perhaps the finest of all the pure Chardonnay champagnes. The house maintains its quality and consistency by rigorous selection and a policy of only releasing their wines to the market when ready to drink. Expensive but sublime.
Magnum £240.00
69. Salon le Mesnil 1995
Sadly, the last bottle of the wonderful 1982 vintage of this spectacular wine has gone. The good news is that the 1995 is in its own way just as much of a revelation; a debutante rather than a *grande dame*. Medium buttercup gold, with the finest, most delicate mousse; breedy *brioche* nose, with the faintest of honeyed and nutty notes in a nose which really builds in the glass; fantastic quality of fruit in the mouth, clean and delicate but with ripeness and roundness throughout the seemingly endless palate.
Bottle £120.00

ROSÉ CHAMPAGNE

64. Drappier Val des Demoiselles Rosé Brut N.V.
A distinguished rosé with plenty of bottle age, classy palate, and the classic *oeil de perdrix* colour.
Bottle £47.00

ITALY

70. Pinot Grigio delle Venezie 2008. I.G.T. (Vigneto Cantarelle)
A grape variety which can often appear a bit dull and one dimensional; but this is a most pleasing example at a very good price. Medium gold colour; appealing grapey, almost Muscat-y nose; fine concentrated zippy fruit on the palate.
Bottle £18.00
71. Valpolicella Ripasso Sapiro 2008. CanFinaValpantena D.O.C.
Valpolicella used to produce mainly lightish, charming wines, and could be very uneven in quality. Twenty or more years of increasing ambition and care in vinification have resulted in spectacular improvements. This glorious example is made by the 'ripasso' technique which means that the barrels and lees of the celebrated *amarone* wines are used to give added depth and a hint of the slightly bitter chocolate *amarone* character. Deepest crimson, and with pronounced glycerol 'legs'; tight-knit chewy fruit on nose and palate, meaty, and with great length and balance. Fantastic wine for the price.
Bottle £20.00
72. Barolo Fiontanafredda 2004. D.O.C.G
The aristocrat of Piemontese red wines, from a justly admired producer. Made from 100% Nebbiolo grapes, with two years in oak barrels and a further year in bottle before it is released. Nebbiolo can be tough in its youth, but this is a beautifully mature wine, deep garnet colour; vibrant nose with spices and hints of toffee; a seamless mouthful of round ripe fruit on the palate, with a hint of residual tannins; very complete.
Bottle £33.00
- *170. Ornellaia 1994. Vino da Tavola Bolgheri D.B. (Marchese Ludovico Antinori)
One of the earliest of the 'Super-Tuscans' this Merlot-based wine has impressive depth and complexity, and takes time to come round. Impressive deep crimson colour still, just starting to evolve; scented, super-ripe fruit on the nose; and a wonderfully rich and harmonious palate, with well-integrated tannins and complex spicy notes.
Bottle £75.00
- *171. Sassicaia 1994. D.O.C. Bolgheri D.B. (Tenuto San Guido)
Another of the pioneering 'Super-Tuscans', this celebrated Cabernet-based wine has such density of fruit and flavour that it can take decades to show its best. This is just coming out of its shell. Vibrant youthful colour, almost solid to the rim still; concentrated cassis fruit on the nose; and a palate of great purity and intensity, with the complexities just beginning to emerge from behind the massive structure.
Bottle £95.00

* Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

SPAIN

75. Rioja Reserva Viña Cerrada 2005 D.O.C.
Reserva Riojas spend a minimum of two years in oak barrels and one year in bottle before release. This longer maturation promotes the development of greater depth and complexity. Deep cherry/crimson colour; lively ripe, supple fruit on the nose and palate, with a hint of well-integrated oak; great length of fruit in the mouth.
Bottle £24.00
77. Rioja Solar de Samaniego Gran Reserva 2001. D.B. (Bodegas Alavesos)
With their extra time in both barrel and bottle, Gran Reservas represent the pinnacle of Rioja. They are expensive to make, and therefore are only produced in especially fine vintages. This one epitomises their combination of grace, elegance, and power. Deep semi-opaque crimson, with a narrow warm bricky rim; excellent 'legs'; aromatic as it is poured, with dense, ripe berry fruit on the nose, and classic Tempranillo character; suave, slightly chewy fruit on the palate, with excellent acidity, balance, and length. Even a hint of toffee on the finish. Very fine wine.
Bottle £33.00

ARGENTINA

- *181. Achaval Ferrer Quimera Malbec-Cabernet-Merlot 2006. Mendoza. D.B.
(Florida del Tupungato)

This spectacular wine is made from high altitude old vines – up to 90 years; giving a wine of extraordinary concentration. Approximately equal proportions of the three different varieties, yielding a huge dense purple-crimson colour; a distinctively inky Malbec nose; with the deepest, ripest fruit on a palate which starts with Malbec and then broadens out. Hugely ripe and concentrated, with a long intense finish.

Bottle £43.00

CHILE

80. Apaltagua Chardonnay Reserva 2009. Casablanca Valley

The New World in general, and South America in particular, is producing better and better wines. This, despite its formidable alcoholic content, is lightly textured and elegant; clean and balanced chardonnay, with fine-boned structure and peachy notes on the finish.

Bottle £18.50

81. Pinot Noir Reserva Vina Mar 2009. Casablanca Valley, Chile

As understanding of this problematic grape grows in the New World, better and better Pinots are coming out of South America. Good ruby colour; deep authentically Pinot nose, quite aromatic and elegant; muscular fruit on the palate with good Pinot character and plenty of length. Great value.

Bottle £18.50

Glass £5.00

- * Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

NEW ZEALAND

83. Ana Sauvignon Blanc 2009 Malborough
This wine, while avoiding the cliché 'Tropical fruit salad' style of many (rather overstated in my view) Malborough Sauvignon has delicious crisp gooseberry / grapefruit notes on nose and palate. Elegant and clearly made.
Bottle £20.00
84. Kumeu River Chardonnay 2005. Estate bottled.
This Estate produces (*pace* the Australians and Californians) the best New World Chardonnay I have yet tasted, or at least the one I personally most enjoy. Clear buttercup gold; restrained but complex Chardonnay nose, rich and peach-kernelly, with hints of something more exotic; and a wonderful mouthful of fruit, sweet and ripe, but with a faintly citric backbone providing real elegance. Excellent length and balance; wonderful wine. It is not cheap, but is more than good value.
Bottle £28.00

AUSTRALIA

86. Cabernet Sauvignon, 2007 Peter Lehmann 'My Word is My Bond' Barossa Valley, South Australia.
A quiet, yet dramatic change is coming over the Australian wine industry. Faced with a surfeit of fruit-and-alcohol laden spectaculars, more and more growers and wine makers are aiming for more subtle and complex wines, much to the joy of hidebound palates such as mine. This splendid example from the legend of Barossa Valley, Peter Lehmann. Dark velvety crimson in colour, solid-centred and with great viscosity; rich healthy cabernet nose; wonderfully ripe seamless fruit on the palate. Full of sunshine, and a hefty 14% alcohol, but with good acidity and soft tannin to give some elegance and balance.
Bottle £19.00
Glass £5.00
87. Chardonnay 2008 Little Yering, Yering Station, Yarra Valley, Victoria
A fine example of the more elegant style of chardonnays now being made by some Australian wine makers; Very pale lemon colour; underrated Chardonnay fruit on nose and palate, but with surprising weight and concentration in the mouth. Lovely vibrant acidity gives it a real zing.
Bottle £19.00
- *182. Parker Coonawarra Estate Terra Rossa First Growth 2000. South Australia
Celebrated wine from a celebrated grower. Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with a little Merlot in the blend, this is a wine which perfectly exemplifies the strengths, and some would feel the weaknesses, of hot country New World wines. It is huge in all aspects; dense opaque scarlet colour; super-ripe 'cassis' Cabernet nose; huge, concentrated, seamless Cabernet fruit on the palate, with excellent acidity and length. Undeniably impressive, but in musical terms very much a chord in C Major, without much in the way of modulations or grace notes.
Bottle £65.00

* Please note that all wines marked with an asterisk are stored in temperature controlled conditions at 14°C.

PORT

Late Bottled Vintage

Croft 2003

Bottle £32.00

Glass £ 4.60

MALT WHISKY

Laphroaig

Glass £4.00

Smith's Glenlivet

Glass £4.00

Black Bush Irish Whisky

Glass £4.00

BRANDY

Hine Fine Champagne Vintage Cognac.

Selection Denis Hine.

I have always admired Hine's cognacs, which are supremely elegant, and rely on quality of fruit and great technical skill rather than the over-sweet caramely productions one so frequently encounters. This particular cognac is not available commercially, being made especially for the late lamented Denis Hine, and made available to me by the courtesy and generosity of his widow, Baba Hine, of the Corse Lawn Hotel in Gloucestershire.

Glass £7.00

Janneau Grand Armagnac XO

Sumptuous stuff

Glass £7.00

CALVADOS

Calvados Pays d'Auge 15 year old. A.C. Roger Groult.

Bottled in magnums by this well-known producer. Spectacular apples-and-oak nose leading to an exceptional palate, smooth and elegant.

Glass £7.00

LIQUERS

Green Chartreuse V.E.P.

Extra ageing in small oak casks makes this stronger and more aromatic than the usual version. Bottled at 54%.

Glass £5.50

HOUSE WINES

White:

Dry	Apaltagua Gran Verano Chardonnay 2008. E.B. Central Valley, Chile	Glass (175ml) £4.30 Bottle (75cl) £14.50
Medium Dry	Liebfraumilch Qualitätswein	Glass (175ml) £4.30 Bottle (75cl) £14.50
Sweet	Chateau Septy 2005. (Monbazillac)	Glass (175ml) £5.50 Bottle (75cl) £21.50

Red

Dry	Apaltagua Gran Verano Cabernet Sauvignon 2006. E.B. Central Valley, Chile	Glass (175ml) £4.30 Bottle (75cl) £14.50
-----	---	---

BAR DRINKS

Beers

*Adnams Bitter	Pint £3.40 ½ pint £1.70
Gladiator spelt beer 330ml	£3.40 Bottle
Bitter Shandy	Pint £3.20 ½ Pint £1.60
Guinness bottle	£3.00
Peroni bottle	£3.40
Peroni and lime	£3.40
Aspall Suffolk Cyder	£3.00 per bottle

Spirits (25cl)

Whisky

Bells etc	£2.90
Laphroaige, Glenlivet	£4.50
Bushmills	£2.90

Gin

Gordons	£2.90
Tanqueray	£3.30

Vodka	£2.90
Bacardi / Dark Rum	£2.90
Pernod	£3.30

Standard Spirit and Mixer	£4.20
---------------------------	-------

Brandy

Courvoisier Three Star	£3.35
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	£4.50

Liqueurs

£3.30

Aperitifs (50ml)

Sherries	£3.00
Tio Pepe	£3.00
Vermouths	£3.00
Cinzano	£3.00
Dubonnet	£3.00
Campari (25ml)	£3.00

Port

Cockburns Ruby	£3.00
Croft Vintage port	£4.60

Miscellaneous

Pimms	£5.75
Ginger Wine	£2.20

Minerals

£1.30

Mineral Water

Glass	£1.60
Sparkling Bottle	£3.00
Still Bottle	£3.00

Fruit Juice

Apple Juice	£2.20
Orange Juice	£2.20
Coca Cola	£2.00
Lemonade	£2.00
Elderflower cordial	£2.00

* Alcohol content of draught beer 3.7% volume

