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INDEPENDENT WINE MERCHANTS-1780



BUYERS' PICKS MIXED CASE

There is nothing our buying team enjoys more than discovering innovative, exciting bottles from winemakers pushing boundaries. Naturally, it is so hard to pick favourites, but the team has whittled it down to just six, selected to thrill and offer something distinctive from the wide world of wine. These are some of the gems our buyers have in their wine racks at home right now.

Hommage à Colette Grenache Blanc, IGP Pays d'Oc 2019 – Languedoc

Lively. Luminous. Exuberant. This gently creamy Grenache Blanc pays tribute to an iconic, much-loved local personality in France's rural Languedoc region. Sunshine in a glass!

How about joining us on a little journey to Southern France to meet our free-spirited Colette? Close your eyes, feel the enveloping sunshine on your back, be guided by the scent of the nearby *garrigues* and lavender. Listen to the enchanted song of the crickets and walk through a maze of medieval stone buildings to reach the world's only heptagonal church, hidden away in the small village of Rieux-Minervois.



France, Languedoc



Celliers Jean d'Alibert



70% Grenache Blanc, 30% Chardonnay-Viognier

Seductive on the nose, this wine beguiles with its exotic and wildflower scent, soft apricot laced with whipped cream and characterful citrus tang. Refreshing. Versatile. A style apart.

- Pop Art label design to bring the museum to your door
- An invitation to lazy, Mediterranean summer days
- Suitable for vegans

Soave Classico DOC Brognoligo, Cecilia Beretta 2018 – Veneto

Exceptional Soave from the 'premier cru' Brognoligo vineyard, high in the hills of the Soave Classico region above Verona.

The Cecilia Beretta estate was founded in the 1980s by the Pasqua family – legends in the Italian wine world. This estate aims to shine the spotlight on the traditional local styles and indigenous grape varieties of the Veronese region. Brognoligo, their flagship white wine from an exceptional vineyard in the heart of the Soave Classico zone, is made in tiny quantities from the ancient Garganega grape variety. The grapes are allowed to partially dry on the vine before being hand-harvested, helping to concentrate aromas and flavours.



Italy, Veneto



Cecilia Beretta



100% Garganega

Gently floral with the classic hint of chamomile flavours, and ripe orchard fruit. The palate displays ripe peach, pear and citrus, with an almondy finish and creamy texture.

- A wine with personality – floral scent, intense flavours and a creamy texture.
- Hallmark minerality linked to the area's volcanic soils.
- Ideal as an Aperitif, or try with the classic seafood pasta like *linguine alle vongole*.

La Gringa Moscatel, Massoc Frères 2017 – Itata Valley

A dry and perfumed style from 80 year old Moscatel vines, with aromas of ripe peaches and tropical flowers.

'Wines with humanity' is the adopted motto of producers Massoc Frères, based in the heart of the Itata Valley – a region attracting huge attention in the wine world right now. Brothers François and Jean-Paul Massoc have a strong cause, championing the revival of heritage grapes while underlining the value of human input in the process of wine production, from the growers in the vineyards to the winemakers in the cellar. François and Jean-Paul have forged strong relationships with local growers, offering expertise in modern oenological practice while respecting local traditions. In this way, they are helping to preserve ancestral vineyards and to further the cause of wine production in southern Chile.



Chile, Itata Valley



Massoc Frères



100% Moscatel de Alexandria

This unusual wine is made from 80 year old Moscatel vines in the heart of Chile's Itata Valley. Testament to its origin and grape variety, with a delicious sense of purity.

- Dry, aromatic, refreshing – perfect for a sunny afternoon aperitif!
- Supports small traditional vinegrowers
- Excellent with food – try with fragrant Thai or Vietnamese

L'Ostal del Souquet Carignan Vieilles Vignes, IGP Coteaux de Peyriac 2017 – Languedoc

Made from gnarled, low-yielding, 50-year old bush vines planted on a limestone plateau, this wine shines the spotlight once again on the potential of the Carignan grape.

Established in 1978 in the foothills of the Montagne Noire in the Languedoc region, Les Celliers Jean d'Alibert is one of the oldest wine cooperatives in France. Located in the ancient Minervois area, cradle of French winemaking since Roman times, the Celliers' long-standing, expert team produces wines with the magic combination of flavour concentration and hallmark freshness. *L'Ostal del Souquet* comes from a small hidden vineyard in the hills, planted with the old Carignan grape variety. Its idiosyncratic, twisted vine shoots are called "souquets" in the local vernacular.



France, Languedoc



Celliers Jean d'Alibert



100% Carignan Vieilles Vignes

As deep in colour as its flavours, finely textured L'Ostal boasts notes of ripe blackberries, wild Mediterranean herbs and savoury liquorice. Pure and concentrated.

- A rare 100% old-vines Carignan
- Powerful fruit profile combined with mineral freshness
- The ideal companion to roasts or even dark chocolate!

Chak Cabernet Sauvignon, Viña Nahuel 2015 – Valle Central

Fusion of Bordeaux Elegance and Chilean Spice.

Named after the Andean Puma, Viña Nahuel, is something of a labour of love for Daniel Wiederkehr. A former banker from Switzerland who had always held dreams of owning a winery he leaped at the chance to purchase six hectares of land in Colchagua – 200km south of Santiago positioned between the Andes and the Pacific. His ungrafted old vines (at least 80 years old) are farmed following phases of the moon and respecting organic practices, with minimal intervention. Chak, which means 'together' in Chile's native language combines the best of two worlds – the European backbone with a definite Chilean twist.



Chile, Colchagua



Viña Nahuel



100% Cabernet Sauvignon

An elegant and rich, full-bodied cabernet sauvignon, classically structured and aged in French oak barrels. Blueberries, smoke & herbs, with refreshing acidity. Fine tannins, and a lasting finish.

- Rich, complex, with fine tannins
- Suitable for vegans
- Wonderful with barbeques, steak, roast vegetables

Moulin-à-Vent Coeur de Terroirs Vieilles Vignes Domaine Labruyère 2016 – Beaujolais

As winemaker Nadine Gublin says: “I do not make Beaujolais. I make Moulin-à-Vent.”

In 1850, Jean-Marie Labruyère bought ten hectares of vines around Les Thorins, a hamlet in the Romanèche-Thorins commune, establishing the family roots in Moulin à Vent. The Coeur de Terroirs is produced from a selection of 5 plots, matured 50% in vats 50% in barrel – though not new. Edouard Labruyère, who grew up at the estate, is the seventh generation to run it. He took over in 2008 and together with winemaker Nadine Gublin and viticulturalist Michel Rovere, has continued to shepherd an estate which is both a Moulin-à-Vent superstar and a fine ambassador for the Gamay grape, too often overlooked. Geographically, this resides within Beaujolais, but stylistically it has more in common with its illustrious neighbours, Burgundy to the north and the Rhône to the south.

Being a blend of five parcels, Coeur de Terroirs sits somewhere between the Bourgogne Gamay and the terroir wines stylistically.



France, Beaujolais



Domaine Labruyère



100% Gamay

Tightly wound red berries, pretty rose petal perfume and a hint of herby spice. The palate is lithe yet assured, poised yet expressive. A confident wine, happy in its own skin.

- Strong personality somewhere between Rhône and Burgundy
- Independent producer, meticulous care from picking to bottling
- Ideal on its own or with pasta, pork or poultry