

Seasonal Wine Tasting: November 6 2023

Whites

6222	France, Northern Rhone Viognier Les Vignes d' à Côte 2022, Yves Cuilleron	£41
7042	France, Pouilly-fume, Domaine Chatelain	£38
8060	New Zealand, Riesling 2020	£49

Reds

4943	Switzerland, Merlot Arzo 2020, Gialdi	£64
1296	France, Vieux Château Gaubert 2010, Graves	£41
3173	France, Maranges 1er Cru La Fussiere, 2014, Domaine Bechelet-Monnot	£46

Notes

WHITES

Pouilly-Fume

History Chatelain for 300 years the family has worked on the land of the hillsides of Pouilly sur Loire.

The 12th Châtelain generation now runs the estate on 30 hectares of Pouilly Fumé AOC vines, spread over six out of seven communes in the appellation.

Tracy-sur-Loire - Pouilly-sur-Loire - Mesves-sur-Loire - Saint-Andelain - Saint-Laurent l'Abbaye - Saint-Martin-sur-Nohain

This particular geography of plots offers us a range of all the AOC terroirs.

Featured in Top 25 Upper Loire White wines in United Kingdom right now (2021 Vintage)

- This wine boasts a pale yellow colour with greenish hues that glisten in the glass
- On the nose, the wine offers an intense and complex bouquet of aromas, ranging from citrus and passion fruit to subtle hints of flint and mineral
- On the palate, the wine is vibrant and refreshing, with a zesty acidity and a crisp, clean finish that lingers on the tongue.

Pairs beautifully with a variety of dishes, from grilled fish and seafood to salads and light pasta dishes.

Northern Rhone Viognier Les Vignes d' à Côte 2022 Yves Cuilleron

Yves Cuilleron, is described by Wine Spectator as "the leader of Condrieu's new generation of winemakers." Yves represents the 4th generation of Cuilleron vigneron, although he initially trained as an engineer.

The lure of the vine proved too hard to resist and after a year's training at the Ecole Viticole in Macon he took over the vineyards in 1987. Since then he has built an entirely new winery at Chavanay facility while at the same time he acquired additional vineyard property.

The domaine now produces about 50,000 bottles annually divided between the appellations of St. Joseph Blanc, St. Joseph Rouge, Côte-Rôtie and Condrieu. Most of the vineyards are situated in and around the commune of Chavanay which is just south of the town of Condrieu.

This is text book Viognier with great typicity and amazing purity. Fresh, fine and floral, it offers exceptional value for money, with a level of complexity more often associated with Condrieu, a wine selling at twice the price!

Once the grapes are hand-picked they are sorted and left to settle in the cellar. Alcoholic and malolactic fermented occurs in temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats. The wines are matured for 6 months on their lees in vats and barriques.

This is a delicate, pure Viognier, with scents of peach, apricot and citrus zest. Effortlessly balancing delicacy, freshness and satisfying roundness, it is an exquisitely well-made wine. The name 'Les Vignes d'à Côté' is a play on words, since the wine comes from the vicinity of Condrieu, whose vines are planted on the very steep slope, or 'côte'. But this is made from vines next to (à côté de) the slope.

This excellent value Viognier comes from terraces above Condrieu. Full-bodied but with freshness, this Viognier has scented, luxury peach & apricot fruit on the nose and palate.

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2020 Prophet's Rock Reisling

Almost everyone knows about New Zealand sauvignon blanc, which accounts for more than one-half of New Zealand wine production, and virtually all of the New Zealand wine sold in UK supermarkets. However, it seems that few people know that New Zealand also produces excellent reislings. If you like your reisling to be completely dry, then there is something special about the schist stone in Central Otago that imparts searing minerality.

Prophet's Rock Dry Reisling is a classic example of this style, grown on schist rock, which has strong minerality and a long complex finish. This is a classic of its type. The dryness enables the flinty and fruit flavours of Central Otago to come through.

Various reviewers have noted a wide variety of aromas, particular citrus. The producers state that there are *"intense aromas of lemon, lime, and grapefruit with green, crunchy apple and hints of*

chamomile. The palate is lively and fresh, citrus, apple, and subtle nectarine flavours with zingy acidity and a chalky mineral note on the long, lingering finish.”

REDS

Switzerland – Merlot Arzo 2020, Gialdi

£64

We have had some very nice comments from members of other Pall Mall clubs about the variety of wines on the Athenæum’s Coffee Room Wine List, and this is a good example. We have 3 Swiss wines on the List – there are 2 whites and this is the one red.

From the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino – the municipality of Arzo. Gialdi is the name of the wine merchant.

Deep ruby red colour. On the nose, ripe red berry fruits, hint of liquorice and menthol. On the palate – powerful, fresh and fruity.

France – Vieux Château Gaubert 2010, Graves

£41

One of the great bargains on the Coffee Room Wine List! A fully mature claret from the great 2010 vintage. From the Graves area just south of Bordeaux – known for its typical gravelly flavour.

Dominique Haverlan bought the property in 1981. He produces reds from a number of châteaux in the Graves appellation. But Vieux Châteaux Gaubert is his original property and the wines produced here age well.

A blend of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, aged for 12 months in 40% new oak. The nose has quite a level of complexity with some savoury, dark fruits while the palate is ripe and juicy with blackberry, coffee and a touch of dry spice. The soft, ripe tannins give it a delicious succulence.

France – Maranges 1^{er} Cru La Fuisse 2014, Domaine Bachelet-Monnot **£46**

(Bachelet not Bechelet)

The southernmost appellation of the Côte de Beaune. The AOC Maranges is primarily a red wine producing area – 95%, with the remaining 5% accounted for by white wine. It produces relatively robust wines for Burgundy.

In 2005, after years of travelling in various countries gaining wine-making experience, two young vigneron, brothers Marc and Alexandre Bachelet, set up this Domaine that spans 10 hectares over the Maranges, Santenay and Puligny-Montrachet communes. This Domaine is a rising star.

Deep ruby red in colour, with notes of black cherry and spices. “Crunchy cherry and liquorice aromas”.