

### **Feudi Di San Gregorio Greco di Tufo Cutizzi 2021**

**£41**

Greco di Tufo has its own DOCG for the area around the village of Tufo in Campania, the province of which Napoli is the capital. It is a clone of Greco Bianco, and is a late-ripening grape and produces wines that are dry, assertive, and tend to have more body than aroma. It is sometimes described as vaguely similar to Viognier.

The Cutizzi Greco di Tufo has beautiful clarity and layers of classic pear, peach and green plum fruit with decisive hints of balsamic mint. Full bodied and bright on the palate, with a lively acidity and defined mineral notes, very typical of the region.

### **Hunters Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2022**

**£25**

This is one of the Club wines. A New Zealand Sauvignon that nearly every year clocks up Golds, this wine combines finesse with exuberant passion fruit ripeness and brilliant lemon minerality. It's from kiwi 'royalty' Hunter's, one of the first on the world stage, and an ace vintage.

Classically Marlborough, the Sauvignon Blanc shows ripe passionfruit, lime and grapefruit notes. The palate is rich and complex with a dense fruit core. Multi layered palate of citrus and tropical fruits make this an excellent wine to enjoy. These flavours and aromas leave a fresh lingering finish on the palate making it a full satisfying wine with balanced acidity.

*"This classically styled Sauvignon Blanc shows passionfruit and citrus characters along with grapefruit and green herbs. Dry and saline, the lively palate has a creamy texture and a juicy finish. The multi-layered palate is rich and complex with a dense fruit core. These flavours and aromas leave a fresh lingering finish on the palate, making it a full satisfying wine with balanced acidity."*

### **Gaia Assyrtiko Thalassitis 2020**

**£48**

Assyrtiko is widely recognised as the top white wine grape in Santorini, and has the ability to retain acidity and a strong minerality in an extremely hot climate. It is indigenous to Santorini, and the Santorini wines produced from Assyrtiko owe their uniqueness to the volcanic and porous soil of the island. Gaia produces excellent wines from a wide variety of grapes and locations across Greece, and the Gaia Assyrtiko is no exception.

The grapes are produced exclusively from vineyards in the Episkopi, Akrotiri and Pyrgos regions, at elevations of between 50 to 250 metres above sea-level. The vines are between 70 to 80 years old and produce a bone dry wine, with

an explosive mineral core surrounded by delicate notes of fresh lemon zest and floral hints. Refreshing with a crisp, mineral finish.

**Rippon Mature Vine Pinot Noir 2016**

**£56**

Pinot noir from Central Otago and Martinborough is perhaps New Zealand second great wine style (after Marlborough sauvignon blanc). Rippon is one of the original five vineyards in Central Otago, which are geographically spread, with many pockets of potentially great wine-production having not yet been explored. As with all Central Otago pinot noirs, Rippon has an excellent nose (let it breath, and breath it yourself, for as long as possible before tasting it). The first time I tried it, the first word that came to mind was “velvet”. This is a classic Central Otago pinot noir which not only has a fantastic nose, but is also full-bodied, lacking the “thin-ness” of some other pinot noirs. Various reviewers have also particularly commented on the very silky, smooth-honed texture and a long, focused run of fine tannin, with red fruit notes, particularly with darker cherry flavours.

**Uruguay – Tannat Reserve, 2017 Bodega Garzón**

**£38**

As a Wine Committee, 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 from one of the countries less well-known in the UK for wine production.

In fact I would say that this is one of the great bargains on the Coffee Room Wine List! Deep purple in colour, this wine has very pleasing fresh aromas of red and black fruits such as plums and raspberries with a background of spices.

Tannat is a rustic, dark red grape that originates in the Madiran region of south-west France. It was brought to Uruguay in the early 19th century by Basque settlers. The name actually comes from “tannin”, being a grape that is naturally high in tannins. Tannat has been so successful in Uruguay that it has come to be considered the "national grape".

Bodega Garzón is close to Punta del Este on the south coast of Uruguay, in a landscape of sloping hills that roll down to the sea. Garzón is a small town with 600 inhabitants which is home to farmers and local artists.

## Spain - Rioja Reserva 2018, Bodega Beronia

£38

This is the Club Rioja, and I would be interested to know what you make of it.

The wine is a blend of 95% Tempranillo, 4% Graciano, 1% Mazuelo. It is aged in American and French oak for 18 months.

Reserva is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 4 ranks of red Rioja wine – Vino Joven, Crianza, Reserva, and Gran Reserva:

**Vino Joven** wines are up to 15 months old and do not require any ageing in oak.

**Crianza** wines are aged for at least 2 years including 6 months in oak cask.

**Reserva** wines are aged for at least 3 years including 1 year in oak cask.

**Gran Reserva** wines are aged for at least 5 years including 18 months in oak cask. Gran Reserva wines tend to be a minimum of around £20 a bottle and many are a good deal more.

Rioja is divided into 3 sub-regions – Rioja Alta, Rioja Alavesa and Rioja Oriental. Bodegas Beronia is situated in Ollauri, in the Rioja Alta, and is named after the "Berones" tribe who lived in the Rioja area.

The winery was founded in 1973 by a group of friends from the Basque country, and the winery was acquired by Gonzalez Byass in 1982.

A smooth wine full of flavours like blackberry, oak, vanilla, and liquorice.