



Welcome to the CellarHand newsletter for June 2016. Here's a little taste of what's going on this month...

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NEWS

LUBIANA LIFTS TROPHY



Congratulations to Steve and Monique Lubiana! Their 2014 Stefano Lubiana Estate Pinot Noir just snared the Best Tasmanian Pinot Trophy at the prestigious **International Wine Challenge** in London. Their Estate Chardonnay from the same vintage also won IWC gold.

And while the London judges were fawning over the still wines, the sparklers were a standout star throughout the **2016 Australian Sparkling Report** by the country's resident Champagne guru, **Tyson Stelzer**. The Lubianas had a runner-up wine in no fewer than four categories and were the second-

equal best performer. Sadly three of those featured – the 2010 Brut Rosé, 2007 Grande Vintage and a 1996 vintage wine – have sold out. The good news is that we still have healthy stocks of the NV Stefano Lubiana Brut Reserve.

2014 Stefano Lubiana Estate Chardonnay RRP\$57

International Wine Challenge Gold Medal

2014 Stefano Lubiana Estate Pinot Noir RRP \$59

International Wine Challenge Trophy for Best Tasmanian Pinot Noir

NV Stefano Lubiana Brut Reserve RRP \$40

*[A runner up in the **best sparkling wine of the year under \$50** category]*

Steve and Monique Lubiana have recently extended their portfolio of beautifully refined sparkling wines from their Granton Estate in Tasmania's Derwent Valley, and their NV

*blend remains rock solid. It's a beautifully expressive chardonnay pinot noir blend that upholds the tension of the 2011 base vintage and deepens it with the red apple fruit and toasty, spicy complexity of 2009 and 2010 reserves, half of which have been aged in large Austrian oak barrels. The current blend is a 2013 disgorged cuvée released in 2014, making for a particularly toasty and honeyed style, finished off neatly with less than 8g/L dosage. 92 points. **Tyson Stelzer, Australian Sparkling Report 2016***

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FLORITA FÊTED

Well done to Tom and Sam Barry. Their family winery in the Clare Valley, Jim Barry, was named Winery of the Year for its showing in the **100 Best Australian Wines** list by hugely influential UK wine writer **Matthew Jukes**.

A wine that is no stranger to this list is the clos Clare Riesling that the Barry brothers make from a blessed corner of the Florita vineyard in Watervale. Jukes says he's been following this wine for a couple of decades now and it shows – he absolutely nails the poise and personality of this impeccable Rizza in this tasting note. 2015 is a splendid rendition. Make sure you check it out.

2015 clos Clare Riesling RRP \$31

One small, five-acre corner of a Riesling vineyard, in Watervale, was sectioned off 30 years ago to help the Barry family fund the purchase of some truly hallowed ground.

The Florita was the greater vineyard and the tiny corner was named clos Clare by its new owner, artist and the designer of its eye-catching label, Ian Sanders. In 2007, the Barrys bought this little vineyard back but wisely kept the brands separate. Today, this incomparable wine is made by Sam Barry (Jim Barry's grandson) and it is all about excitement – from the tender yet racy nose to the pellucid, glassy palate and beyond to a breakneck, high-drama finish. I have followed this wine for just short of twenty years and it has never failed to move me. The 2015 shows rare Riesling sophistication and no matter when or where you drink this wine you will recognise its unique signature scent and peerless poise.

Matthew Jukes, 100 Best Australian Wines 2016



2010 clos Clare Riesling RRP \$38

*Very pale straw-green; a highly aromatic bouquet with slate, herb and apple/citrus blossom, then a vibrant and long palate with perfectly balanced fruit and acidity. Sure to develop superbly. 96 points. **James Halliday***

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SCORPO SOARING

Scorpo Chardonnay: it's a thing. Not just a Mornington Peninsula thing, a Paul-Scorpo's-vineyard-is-awesome thing.

Witness the current vintage of the Scorpo Aubaine Chardonnay. Witness the brand-new release 2012 Scorpo Estate Chardonnay. And witness – soon, we promise – the 2013 Eocene Chardonnay... You'll be left in no doubt.

2014 Scorpo Aubaine Chardonnay RRP \$32

*Light straw colour. Tastes delicious. Pear, lime and spice with highlights of red apple. Swings both effortlessly and juicily through the palate, dripping flavour as it goes. 94 points. **Campbell Mattinson, Halliday Wine Companion 2016***

2012 Scorpo Estate Chardonnay RRP \$43

*It takes excellence and challenges it to reach higher. It's complex and flinty with grapefruit and white peach flavours running pure and bright from start to finish. Fennel and cream notes play throughout, as do struck match/sulphide characters. 4 years young. Brilliant. 97 points. **James Halliday***

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DEAD END STREET



A new wine from S.C. Pannell is always a pretty cool thing. The man has been doing great things with Tempranillo for many years, turning his blend with Touriga into a perennial trophy-winning, modern Australian classic. Now it's time for Tempranillo to get its solo role in a wine sourced predominantly from the Pannell's vineyard at the dead end of Amery Road in McLaren Vale. Strawberries, black cherries, sarsaparilla, cola nut, silk and guzzleability. You know the drill.

2015 S.C. Pannell Dead End Tempranillo RRP \$30

100% Tempranillo, traditionally vinified in small open-top fermenters for 10 days. Aged for seven months in large format French and Hungarian oak vats and puncheons, 20% of which were new. Highly perfumed, vibrant and complex with sweet black cherries, sarsaparilla, and good hints of exotic spice. A plush, light to medium bodied, juicy, but tannic wine. Leafy, dusty tannins on the finish.

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FLOWERDAY FILLIP

Finally the wait is over for this lovely wine. It caused quite a stir at our trade day last August, when Anna Flowerday smuggled a bottle in that was quickly drained by the adoring masses. The inaugural release of the TWR SV 5182 Pinot Noir – the numbers signify the biodynamic certification number of their vineyard – had obvious appeal. It's since proved its pedigree, making headlines in UK's **Decanter** magazine, where it featured in April's feature entitled: **Pinot Noir The world's best (outside Burgundy)**. It was the only Marlborough wine to make the list, rated **Highly Recommended** (and also one of the **Best Value** wines).

While we're at it, we may as well remind you that TWR Pinot has been something of a big deal for some time - and also thought we should share some of the other highly flattering press that this – “one of Marlborough's best and most exciting producers” according to Campbell Mattinson - has been getting across the board.

2013 Te Whare Ra SV 5182 Pinot Noir RRP \$88

*Fresh, vibrant cherry nose, ample upfront fruit. Sleek attack, a pretty rather than powerful wine, quite concentrated but limpid too. Easy-going with immediate appeal. **Decanter Magazine***

*Gentle, floral, ripe and pure with aromas of light red fruits - a medley lead by red cherry then a little red apple skin; red rose perfume moments and soft fresh layers of oak. On the palate - pure with a seamless journey between fruit, oak spices and flavors with fine yet abundant tannins. The long finish only enhances these attributes. This is a wine for Pinot Noir purists who appreciate subtlety and charm. 97 points. **Cameron Douglas MS***

*This represents a selected parcel that has been singled out as the best expression of Te Whare Ra. It has an enchantingly bright and perfumed nose with violet-like florals, sweet baking spices and beautifully pure red cherry fruits. The palate has impressive structure and textural complexity, the tannins swirl, the acidity shines and the fruit flavors in the red cherry and redcurrant spectrum run deep, long and deceptively powerful. Drink in 2017. 96 points. **Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com***



2013 Te Whare Ra Pinot Noir RRP \$46

*This is a super attractive pinot noir and 2013 looks to be a terrific vintage for Te Whare Ra. Plenty of bright perfume notes, musk and spices, some leafy bracken and dark cherries, too. The palate has a very supple style to it, nicely polished tannins deliver bright cherry and red plum flavours, and there's brilliant balance and energy. Drink in 2017. 94 points. **Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com***

2015 Te Whare Ra Sauvignon Blanc RRP \$28

There's no sign of oak in flavour terms but there's a softness evident here; courtesy you'd think of the 16% that saw time in old oak. It's a smart ploy.

*The wine itself is brimful of flavour, all pineapple and gooseberry, grapefruit and lemon. It's steely and a touch grassy, a quiet riot going on, with an added burst of flavour to the finish. It wants for neither power nor elegance; it has both sides of the coin covered. It's quite excellent. 93 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front***

2014 Te Whare Ra SV 5182 Pinot Gris RRP \$32

Pinot gris from one of Marlborough's best and most exciting producers. 30% of this wine spends time in older French oak.

*Highly textural. It's not oily or indeed overtly oak-influenced but it slides seductively through the mouth, pulp and skins and juice all having a bearing, or seemingly so. It's alive with fruit perfume on the nose; active with spice on the finish. There's a steeliness. A smokiness. A crunch of apple. It has a wealth of flavours and scents and yet it maintains a subtlety. It gets better as it rests in the glass too. 92 points. **Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front** May 2016*

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WAIRAU WINNER

Sam Rose's reds have been kicking goals. This family estate in Marlborough is best known, unsurprisingly, for its exceptional regional renditions of Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris, but its

Pinot Noir and Syrah have gained richly deserved plaudits. Wairau River came top in last month's **Cuisine Magazine** tasting of New Zealand's best Pinot Noirs. The winning wine was the 2014 Wairau River Reserve Pinot Noir – a wine not yet available in Australia (we have the very good 2012 version). We do, moreover, have the wine that was placed #8 and a "Best Buy" recommendation on the list: the 2014 Wairau River Estate Pinot Noir.

The Wairau River reds are no stranger to these kinds of accolades. You may recall the winery's Reserve Syrah was a star performer in a **Decanter** magazine tasting last year. Not only are the best Marlborough producers starting to show the potential in this region for perfumed, nuanced, cool-climate red wines, but they also offer the added bonus of very good value.

2014 Wairau River Estate Pinot Noir RRP \$30

*Giving Wairau River a top 10 double is this elegant expression. What it lacks in concentration it makes up for in precision and persistence. Red and dark fruit notes, together with highlights of spice, race across the palate to a lengthy finish. Try it with eggplant parmigiana. 5 stars. **Cuisine Magazine***

2012 Wairau River Reserve Pinot Noir RRP \$38

*Dark spicy oak adds complexity and allure to ripe dark cherry and plum pinot fruits here. The tannins are ripe; there's a wealth of fleshy, really open-knit and juicy pinot; and this becomes gently chewy through the finish. Drink now. 91 points. **Nick Stock, jameessuckling.com***

2012 Wairau River Reserve Syrah RRP \$41

*Brightly perfumed with notes of ripe damsons, black cherries, cloves and leather undertones. Ripe but attractively fresh palate with generous pure fruit, a soft violet and lavender lift and excellent savoury depth. Has a high drinkability factor. Drink 2015-2020 Alc 13%. 91 points. **Decanter Magazine***

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COTTAGE INDUSTRY



"They got off to a flying start with an immensely seductive 2009 and have maintained a string of gold medal wines ever since." Indeed they did, **Bob Campbell MW**. And they kept you wanting more.

Now they're giving you more. Burn Cottage last year offered drinkers a chance to climb aboard via a slightly more accessible – and equally delicious – rung, with the release of three-site blend Moonlight Race Pinot Noir. And from that same lovely 2014 Central Otago harvest come a couple of brand new wines. The first is a single-origin Pinot Noir from Grant Taylor's Valli Vineyard in Gibbston, which matches the original Burn Cottage

Vineyard in price and seductiveness. The second is the debut release of a Riesling/Grüner Veltliner blend from the eponymous, biodynamically-farmed Burn Cottage vineyard in the Cromwell Basin. A juicy, crunchy, zingy blend with great presence, character and harmony.

Burn Cottage Moonlight Race Pinot Noir RRP \$66

Has a smooth 'natural' feel to it, with gentle acidity, slippery texture and fine brick dust tannin.

Fruit is towards the cherry pie spectrum in the world of cherries, seasoned with aromatic regional herbs, then a juicy sour cherry finish of good length. Feels good. Tastes good. 93 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

Burn Cottage Vineyard Pinot Noir RRP \$88

Seductive, floral and gently perfumed with a core of light red fruits and sweet oak. Softly spicy and organic. Complex, plush, soft, generous and enticing. Very fine tannins, exciting wine, long finish. 96 points. Cameron Douglas MS, Decanter Magazine

2014 Burn Cottage Valli Vineyard Pinot Noir RRP \$88

One of Burn Cottage's dear friends in Central Otago is Grant Taylor, the former winemaker of Gibbston Valley Vineyards and proprietor of Valli Vineyards. In the view of Burn Cottage (and Littorai) winemaker Ted Lemon, there's no finer vineyard in the Gibbston region than Grant's. The resulting wine has a lovely confectionary note to the aromas along with bright black cherry, rhubarb, spice, and plum tones. There's great intensity and concentration on the mid palate, with wonderful richness and very supple tannins.

2014 Burn Cottage Riesling Grüner Veltliner RRP \$88

Riesling 53%; Grüner Veltliner 47%. Several years ago Burn Cottage devoted a small, north facing, calcium-laced hillside to Riesling and Grüner Veltliner. This is bony, unforgiving ground and it has taken longer than we expected for Burn Cottage to produce this, our first wine from the two varieties.

This wine has great aromatic complexity: honey dew melon, begonia, orange blossom, lime, lemon zest, under-ripe pear, quince, fern-leaf, moss, the aromas just keep coming. The palate attack is elegant, dominated by great acidity and freshness which are followed by very moderate sweetness, which yields, yet again, to the bracing acidity on the finish.

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HEARTLAND HITS THE MARK

Ben Glaetzer got a couple of entries into **Matthew Jukes' 100 Best Australian Wines**, including the already sold-out **2013 Glaetzer Amon-Ra**.

The other wine is the 2013 Heartland Directors' Cut Cabernet Sauvignon, a wine that somehow flies under the radar each year, despite the way it marries phenomenal generosity and definition of fruit with that improbable elegance that is the Ben Glaetzer trademark.

Jukes' write-up is effusive and highly entertaining – but don't let it distract you from the key point, here: this is a wine of seamless composition, and the capacity to give tremendous pleasure.

2013 Heartland Directors' Cut Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$38

You will allow me a moment of borderline insanity and greet this deluxe Cabernet with a kiss on each cheek and a hearty handshake, too. This is a tumescent Cabernet with colossal dimensions and reckless tannins. It gives the illusions of being approachable and genial, but I would imagine it will still be sending out these signals in twenty years' time. With 14 months of new oak soaked into the amazing fruit this is a wine which wears its armour on the inside. I would imagine that its ideal food partner would be a barbecued T-Rex thigh pre-marinated in a forest of chillies and a smouldering plantation of finest Cuban tobacco. Either that or just fire up the Weber, grab some steaks and give me a ring! Matthew Jukes, 100 Best Australian Wines 2016

Inky ruby. Vibrant, smoke-accented dark berries, cracked pepper and a hint of mocha on the

*perfumed nose. Silky, seamless and pliant, offering sweet blackberry and blueberry compote flavors and a repeating peppery quality. Gentle tannins provide shape to the very long, spicy finish, which leaves a suave blue quality behind. 91 points. **Josh Raynolds, Vinous Media***

UNSUNG SPARKLINGS

We mentioned Tyson Stelzer's just-released **2016 Australian Sparkling Report** in our news item on six-star producer **Stefano Lubiana**. It's a really impressive piece of work, this – something that nails its aim “to establish a benchmark as Australia's first comprehensive report dedicated exclusively to sparkling wines of all styles”. For anyone who loves sparkling or would love to know more, it's a must-read.

And guess what? There are a couple of unsung heroes out there that get their due credit from tireless Tyson. Balnaves of Coonawarra and those Yarra Valley champs at Punt Road both appeared as runners-up in very different categories. Pop a cork to their success – and join the party...

2011 Punt Road Vintage Sparkling RRP \$31

*[A runner-up in the **best blanc de blancs of the year** category]*

*Sufficient is the chardonnay in this blend (86%) that it could be labelled blanc de blancs, and in concert with the elegant 2011 vintage and majority blocking of malolactic fermentation, the blend makes for a restrained and energetic style. A tiny portion fermentation in old hogsheads followed by almost four years on lees in bottle has built nicely integrated texture and honey and ginger nut biscuit notes, finished neatly with low dosage of 4g/L. 92 points. **Tyson Stelzer, Australian Sparkling Report 2016***

NV Balnaves Sparkling Cabernet RRP \$40

*[A runner-up in the **best sparkling red wine of the year** category]*

*A standout in the sparkling cabernet stakes, this is cuvée that is true to the character of Coonawarra cabernet, while singing with all the complexity of deep reserves (a blend from 2014 back to 1995). Black- and redcurrant fruit meets dark chocolate and notes of red capsicum on a long and bright finish. Firm, fine tannins are well handled, promising a long future. 92 points. **Tyson Stelzer, Australian Sparkling Report 2016***

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BURGUNDY 2014s

Not much import action this month, but we have seen a pretty precious shipment land in Australia. The 2014 wines from **Jean Tardy** and **Domaine Taupenot-Merme** are with us. No secret that this was a fantastic Burgundy vintage, and we're sure you'll be keen to check it out. The quantities are limited but the range is broad, from over-delivering generic appellations to grands crus. The reviews below give a taste of the spectrum and quality on offer. Suffice to say, if sublime and affordable Burgundy is up your alley, please don't hesitate to contact your account manager.

JEAN TARDY

2014 Jean Tardy Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits 'Cuvée Maëlie' RRP \$72

Good medium red. Dark berries and spicy, slightly resinous oak on the nose. Lightly saline and round,

*with harmonious ripe acidity framing the sappy purple fruit flavours. This supple, spicy wine should offer early appeal. 87 points. **Stephen Tanzer, Vinous Media***

2014 Jean Tardy Fixin 'La Place' RRP \$120

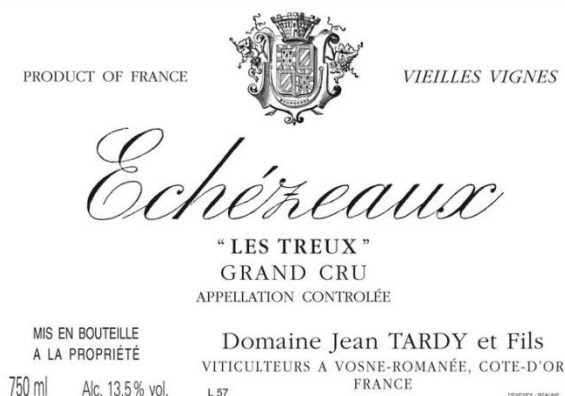
*The 2014 Fixin la Place, which was taken from a used barrel but will have 35% new oak by the time it is imprisoned in glass, has an elegant bouquet with quite lush red cherry and cranberry fruit, clean, pure and nicely focused. The palate has a sense of brightness on the entry. Crisp acidity, a nice bitter cherry edge towards the finish, this is a fine Fixin to enjoy over the next 6-8 years. 88-90 points. **Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate***

2014 Jean Tardy Chambolle-Musigny 'Les Athets' RRP \$176

*The 2014 Chambolle Musigny Les Athets has a clean, lucid bouquet with raspberry confit, hints of iodine coming through, later wilted rose petals. The palate is medium-bodied with a succulent entry that sets the tone for this plush Chambolle. There is good concentration here and it is nicely weighted in the mouth with plenty of "rondeur" on the finish. I would like to see a little more precision once in bottle and that may well develop. 89-91 points. **Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate***

2014 Jean Tardy Vosne-Romanée 'Vigneux' RRP \$200

*The 2014 Vosne Romanée Vigneux has a precise bouquet, here with a subtle earthy, undergrowth element, a splash of cola among the red and black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins, moderate acidity, good density with black cherry and a touch of sea salt towards the structured, masculine finish that should soften by the time of bottling. This might well be one of the picks from Monsieur Tardy. 90-92 points. **Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate***



2014 Jean Tardy Nuits-St-Georges Vieille Vigne 'Bas De Combe' RRP \$158

*The 2014 Nuits St Georges Vieilles Vignes Bas da Combe has a pure bouquet, quite floral and feminine here with lush strawberry, red cherries and a touch of orange sorbet. The palate is nicely balanced, silky in the mouth and there is a keen line of acidity with black cherries, a hint of dried fig and a healthy dose of spice towards the linear finish. This will need 3-4 years in bottle, but hey, if you cannot afford Lalou Bize-Leroy's version, here is a commendable alternative. 89-91 points. **Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate***

2014 Jean Tardy Gevrey-Chambertin Vieille Vigne 'Champerrier' RRP \$158

*The 2014 Gevrey Chambertin Champs Perrières Vieilles Vignes has a more backward bouquet, introspective at first, with subtle woodland/damp earth aromas tucked behind the ripe black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied, fleshy in the mouth with a gentle grip, nicely structured with good density. Again, this is solidly on the black fruit side of the spectrum with a touch of black pepper towards the finish. This has good aging potential. 90-92 points. **Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate***

2014 Jean Tardy Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru 'Aux Argillas' RRP \$232

*This is the first wine to display any appreciable amount of reduction. There is good volume and excellent intensity to the tautly muscular and notably stony medium weight flavours that display more than a touch of rusticity on the impressively persistent finish. This is very Nuits in basic character but not especially austere or inelegant. Drink to 2022+. 89-92 points. **Allen Meadows, Burghound.com***

2014 Jean Tardy Echézeaux Grand Cru Vieille Vigne 'Les Treux' RRP \$448

*The 2014 Echézeaux Vieilles Vignes was taken from a one-year-old barrel, although the final blend will be 70% new oak. The nose is very attractive with black fruit rather than red, cold stone, perhaps even a hint of graphite. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, silky in texture with well-judged acidity, plenty of finesse towards the edgy and quite grippy finish. I would like to see it develop just a touch more precision, and that may well evolve after bottling. 91-93 points. **Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate***

TAUPENOT-MERME

2014 Taupenot-Merme Passetoutgrain RRP \$36

2014 Taupenot-Merme Bourgogne Rouge RRP \$62

2014 Taupenot-Merme Chambolle-Musigny RRP \$158

Two parcels. Mainly Bussièrès and also La Taupe. Vines over 40 years old.

*Broad and quite rich. Could taste quite like a spicy Morey. Very good for a village wine. 17/20 **Jancis Robinson, Jancisrobinson.com** November 2015*

2014 Taupenot-Merme Gevrey-Chambertin RRP \$144

*Broad and purple perfumed. Very fresh and pure. Fluid and expressive. Very Gevrey. Precise. 17/20 **Jancis Robinson, Jancisrobinson.com** November 2015*

2014 Taupenot-Merme Chambolle-Musigny Combe d'Orveau 1er Cru RRP \$256

*(these 67-year-old vines, planted by Taupenot's mother's grandfather, share the same plant material as Christophe Perrot-Minot's parcel of Combe d'Orveau): Healthy dark red. Pungent, ripe scents of cherry, raspberry, mocha, cinnamon and stone. Lovely silky, sappy wine with excellent juicy lift to its flavours of red berries, spices and flowers. A step up in precision, energy and length from the village wines here, finishing with silky tannins and lingering perfume. 90-92 points. **Stephen Tanzer, Vinous Media** January 2016*



2014 Taupenot-Merme Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru RRP \$400

*The 2014 Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru has a pretty, quite floral bouquet with wilted rose petal infusing the brambly red berry fruit, nicely defined and more expressive than the Corton Rognet at the moment. The palate is succulent and fresh on the entry with a gentle grip in the mouth, quite saline and structured; it is more Mazoyères than Charmes in some ways, demonstrating impressive density and backbone on the finish. This is a sublime expression of the vineyard, a great wine with a long future ahead. 93-95 points. **Neal Martin, Wine Advocate** December 2015*

2014 Taupenot-Merme Mazoyères-Chambertin Grand Cru RRP \$432

The 2014 Mazoyères Chambertin Grand Cru has a crisp blackberry and bilberry-scented nose, more reticent than the Charmes-Chambertin at the moment and yet it is undeniably extremely focused. There is a subtle marine influence here that adds a little intrigue, some "je ne sais quoi."

*The palate is medium-bodied with supple ripe black fruit struck through with a keen thread of acidity. There is a little more body and weight on the finish compared to the Charmes-Chambertin, a residue of cold stone and a little pepper on the aftertaste. You come away thinking...that is a very serious wine. Cellar it for 4-5 years and you should have an outstanding counterpart to the domaine's 2014 Charmes-Chambertin. 93-95 points. **Neal Martin, Wine Advocate** December 2015*

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BLANC DE BLANCK

Quick note but an important one, as this fruity, gluggable Alsatian staple is insanely popular: We have the 2015 Paul Blanck Pinot Blanc in stock. Kientzheim cousins Freddie and Philippe never let you down. Come and get it.

2015 Paul Blanck Pinot Blanc d'Alsace RRP \$25

Yellow flowers, peach and apricot pits, grapefruit zest. Fresh and beautifully balanced.



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