



Welcome to the CellarHand newsletter for September 2018. Here's a little taste of what's going on this month...

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### DOMESTIC



### MULHOLLAND'S DRIVE

It was great to have the modest and magnificent Claire Mulholland of Burn Cottage here at the start of the month, making a splash across Australia with the superb wines of this Central Otago estate. This biodynamic producer has enjoyed such a meteoric rise, it was great to slow things down and appreciate why it's won so many fans so quickly – and become such a distinct voice in New Zealand Pinot Noir.

It's perhaps passed people by that the offering here has grown, and there are plenty of exciting plans afoot. And while it's all happening, of course, these wines are just getting better.

### 2016 Burn Cottage Cashburn Pinot Noir RRP \$53

*From Northburn and Mark II vineyards, and the estate vineyard, of course. Fragrant perfume of red berries, leafiness, sour cherry and green olive. The palate is soft, transparent, ethereal – a quiet flow of pale cherry and savoury fruit characters, spice and herbal detail. Lovely crisp acidity and very fine sheath of tannins in tow. Very quiet, beautiful expression. 94 points. Mike Bennie, The Wine Front August 2018*

### 2016 Burn Cottage Moonlight Race Pinot Noir RRP \$68

Pinot from estate source and Mark II (Pisa) and Northburn (Northburn) sub-regions. Fleshy, fuller figured Otago pinot expression, laden with ripe cherry fruits, sweet spice, some earthy-cherry characters, and an orange-y acidity. While ostensibly 'fruitier' it's also quite firmly in the amaro-Campari spectrum of pinot, hemmed with chalky tannins, driving with authority across the palate. Loaded with character/structure. Good, bold wine this. 93 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* August 2018

### 2016 Burn Cottage Vineyard Pinot Noir RRP \$92

Fragrant and rosy, scrub herb, plum and cherry, spice and subtle oak. Medium bodied, great flavour, smooth feel, and a 'settled' character to it, supple fine grained tannin, slightly earthy and malty in the finish. Delightful. So well done. 95 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front*

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## FLOWERDAYS ON FIRE

It was wonderful to have South Australia-born Anna Flowerday visit with Burn Cottage's Claire Mulholland, a biodynamic duo to wow the crowds with their dedication to harnessing nature to produce truly transcendent wines.

It's no secret that husband-and-wife team Jason and Anna have taken incredible strides in redefining what people can expect from Marlborough. It's now 15 years since they began rejuvenating some of the oldest vines in the region on their way to crafting a range of elegantly delineated, textural and alluring wines.

And going from the praise voiced in her wake, the secret is also out that the current range is crammed with unmissable delights.

### 2017 TWR Sauvignon Blanc RRP \$29

Pretty sauvignon blanc, actually quite restrained, low key citrus and frangipani floral characters are the mainstay. Cool and refreshing, lean and pure though a quiet savoury element might just be present. It drives well, finishing with a splash of juicy lime. Nice stuff here. Real nice. 92 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* August 2018

### 2015 TWR SV 5182 Sauvignon Blanc RRP \$43

Vibrant perfume shows sweet citrus, blackcurrant, faint green herb and a waft of almond. There's more of those things in the flavour profile, it's surprisingly tight, though the almond-nuttiness is more pronounced here and layers in more character. Quite powerful too, though you'd also say, surprisingly, restrained. Nicely done. 94 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* August 2018



### 2016 TWR SV 5182 Riesling 'D' RRP \$33

Faint toasty notes, cracked honeycomb too, but the mainstay is green apple and ripe citrus. Dry in the palate, dart-shaped, assertive in a way, showing more of the green apple and then the light sheen of honey-butter-toast in tow. Has a good feel, quite complex, but beginning its secondary character slide. 92 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* August 2018

### 2017 TWR SV 5182 Pinot Gris RRP \$33

Gris is part of the vineyard planted by the Flowerdays, with the clones have been carefully managed, and then it is grown like it is pinot noir. There's a portion of this that is barrel ferment. TWR really are masterful with the aromatic varieties, NZ's upper echelon in that regard.

Lively perfume described by sweet floral notes, faint candied citrus peel, a dash of pepper, some herbal notes. The palate is taut, shaped with really fine chalky elements, drives on puckering acidity, finishes with a squeaky tightness. It's very precise, refreshing and fine in detail. It is very, very good white wine. 94 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* August 2018

### 2017 TWR SV 5182 Toru RRP \$28

Highly perfumed wine showing rose water, jasmine, fresh pear and sweet spice. The palate has a slipperiness, gentle pear sweetness, cool lift of acidity and an attractive, pulpy and peppery but fresh finish. Lots going on, supple and delicious to drink. A ripper. 92 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* August 2018

### 2016 TWR Pinot Noir RRP \$53

Spicy as! Clove, cinnamon, spiced cherries, with some raspberry/red berry fruitiness in tow. The palate is quite sinewy, hemmed with good-dusty tannins, quite restrained, leaner and dusty-savoury fruit profile, tightly wound and finishes long and squeaky. Structured, serious expression here. 92 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* August 2018

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## CULLEN CLASS OF 2017

Vanya Cullen was in Melbourne earlier this month, in part to attend the **Langton's Classification VII** tasting where she was showing the **Exceptional**-rated Diana Madeline and **Excellent**-rated Kevin John.

It was good to run through the current releases with Vanya, with some superb value on offer to go with, naturally, immaculate quality. This smattering of '17s also highlights the versatility among the wines grown on the Mangan and Cullen vineyards.



**2017 Cullen Mangan Sauvignon Blanc Semillon RRP \$32**  
100% Mangan Vineyard fruit; this year the blend comprises 54% Sauvignon Blanc and 46% Semillon. The grapes were hand-harvested between 11th and 25th March 2017. No oak used. Very pure nose with white flowers, nettles and lemony lift. Immediately mineral and crisp on the palate, with the anticipated sense of clean, pure fruit. It also builds nicely, finishing fresh and floral. A highly elegant, poised white wine. – *Ed Merrison, CellarHand*

### 2017 Cullen Amber RRP \$42

Strong fog of perfume here, and it shows with quince, ripe lemon, green herbs, grassiness, almond butter. The palate goes a similar way but with tangy green gauge herbal characters and a large dash of white pepper. Indeed, the leaner profile of sauvignon blanc is pretty overt in this wine, though the build of chalky, chewy texture does a neat smothering job. It's a powerful

expression in terms of bandwidth, but stays refreshing and vibrant from each sip. 92 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* September 2018

### 2017 Cullen 'Mangan Vineyard' Red Moon RRP \$33

A light, crisp, energetic red wine of crunchy red berry fruit featuring strawberry, cherry and pomegranate-like flavours. The bouquet is floral too, with big whiffs of pot pourri and faint green herbs lending character. It's such a vibrant, electric mouthful of wine, skies away from the more elegant, shapely reds that make up the flagships of Cullen. Train tracks of sleek tannin lend some shape. In some respects, it's a wild-edged wine, free form and eclectic, but can't escape its pedigree, per se. A nerd in hipster clothing. I like it. 92 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* June 2018

### 2017 Cullen Cabernet Merlot RRP \$43

81% Cabernet Sauvignon from Cullen Vineyard with 19% Merlot from Mangan Vineyard, harvested between 12th March and 11th April 2017. 100% matured in French oak (30% new) for an average of six months. Ripe, fresh blackcurrant and mulberry fruit has enough flesh to make this young wine approachable. Lovely, rippling fruit tannins are the highlight, with a hint of gravel adding a darker shade to a wine that finishes zesty and floral with violet notes. Again, extremely pure and elegant. – *Ed Merrison, CellarHand*

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## HERITAGE LISTING

Mount Mary Quintet has long enjoyed singular status as a wine at Australia's apex. If any confirmation were required that this wine occupies a rarefied, and lofty, position in our vinous landscape, it was delivered by **Langton's Classification VII** earlier this month. Where once there was one wine in this classification that sat in a league of its own – Penfolds Grange – this has now been joined by four others in a newly baptised **Heritage Five**. And one of those is none other than the five-variety Bordeaux blend that Dr John Middleton christened Quintet.

Though we've sold out of the current vintage – and while Australia eagerly awaits the release later in spring of the 2016 – we do have a limited amount of the 2014 available.



### 2014 Mount Mary Quintet RRP \$153

While there wasn't a lot of wine made in the Yarra Valley in '14 (wind and rain during flowering), some wine of very high quality was made - witness this. Mount Mary has shown over the decades that Quintet develops superbly, and this complex dark berry-flavoured Bordeaux blend will do just that. 97 points. *James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion* 2017

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## TEMP TOURIGA TROPHY

The wine that started as a dare in 2009 before going on to win trophies in the National, Melbourne, Alternative Variety and McLaren Vale wine shows, has come up trumps once again at the **2018 Sydney Royal Wine Show**. That's right - it's Stephen Pannell's Tempranillo Touriga, and it just snagged **The John Swann Perpetual Trophy** for **Best Other Red Blend**. While working at Hardys in the late '90s Steve instigated a Portuguese vine program that included Tempranillo, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Cao, primarily for the production of fortified wine. However, it wasn't till a chance conversation with a

journo mate regarding the future of Touriga Nacional as a table wine variety - and an epiphany with a glass of Quinta do Valado in a Melbourne bar in 2009 - that Steve decided on the blend that is today one of S.C. Pannell's most recognised wines.

Fast forward nine years, and the current edition is drinking beautifully. It was good by a fire in winter, and it'll sure as heck be ace as a springtime slurper.

### 2016 S.C. Pannell Tempranillo Touriga RRP \$31

*A deliciously spicy nose with Indian spices, dried herbs, blue licorice, blueberry skin and slate. Full-bodied with grippy tannins, enveloping the mouth and carrying flavours of herbs and minerals to the long and fresh finish. Drink in 2022. 94 points. Nick Stock, [jamesuckling.com](http://jamesuckling.com) August 2018*

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## BIG UPS FOR LITTLE HAMPTON

"It has a superbly fragrant perfume, multi-faceted and lifted, with charm and refinement," wrote **Huon Hooke**. It sure has - and it now has a pretty smart capital-city gold to its name, too.

We were immediately smitten with Little Hampton when we tried the first single-vineyard Pinot in 2015. That was thanks in part to the infectious, barely contained enthusiasm of Shadowfax's then vineyard manager - now winemaker - Alister Timms. The long, cool 2017 growing season marks the third single-site offering from this super-cool spot 720m up in the Macedon Ranges, and Al has pulled out a pearler - crystal clear evidence that his faith in the site was more than justified. The **Sydney Royal Wine Show** judges clearly agreed, landing this with top gold from a star-studded field.

Accompanying this is Shadowfax's regional Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, which knit together fruit from the various vineyards that Shadowfax owns or manages amid the Macedon Ranges. They



come together in harmonious, layered and delectable wines with striking class and regional signature writ large.

**2017 Shadowfax Chardonnay RRP \$35**

Chardonnay from the Midhill Vineyard in the beautiful Macedon Ranges. All fermented wild. Ripper chardonnay. Powerful, textural and long. Essence of the variety. Stonefruit, meal, flint and spice, toasty/cedary oak as added emphasis. No questions here: this is a wine of outstanding quality. 95 points. *Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front* August 2018

**2017 Shadowfax Pinot Noir RRP \$37**

Some handy restraint of fruit on the nose. Subtly spicy, earthy and predominantly floral aromas here. The palate unleashes energetic, tangy flavours of red cherries with a thread of meaty, spicy oak. Tannins and acid intertwine to tighten the finish neatly. Drink or hold. 93 points. *Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com* August 2018

**2017 Shadowfax Little Hampton Pinot Noir RRP \$62**

*Gold Medal, Sydney Royal Wine Show*

A single-vineyard bottling. This has a pretty array of wild red fruits and flowers on the nose, making it a delicate and alluring pinot. The palate has a smooth fan of fine tannins that builds power, pace and focus as it goes. An impressive, elegant and interesting pinot. Drink or hold. 95 points. *Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com* August 2018

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**IMPORTS**



**FRESH FROM THE LOIRE**

We had a thoroughly rewarding trip to ProWein earlier this year, much of it spent catching up with members of the CellarHand family. It was also a chance to fruitfully follow up on promising conversations with other excellent growers who've since joined the fold.

The one unexpected find was this delightful domaine in the Loire. Frédéric Mabileau is an organic-certified, biodynamic grower based in Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil. Run by Frédéric and

Nathalie Mabileau, with son Rémi also working in the business, the family's winegrowing history goes back to 1620. Inspired by his father Jean-Paul Mabileau, Frédéric kicked off his own project in 1988 when he planted his vines on a parcel owned by Nathalie called Rouillères - a name now given to the estate's entry-level Anjou Chenin Blanc and Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil Cabernet Franc. When Jean-Paul retired in 2003, Frédéric and Nathalie combined two domaines into one. Frédéric immediately took stock of the vineyard holdings, embarking on a painstaking study of the terroirs before establishing his own range of wines. Today they own 28 hectares across the Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil, Bourgueil, Saumur and Anjou appellations.

**2017 Frédéric Mabileau Chenin des Rouillères Anjou RRP \$46**

Chenin Blanc from a 0.53-hectare plot of sand and gravel over a layer of white clay. The 10-year-old,

single guyot-trellised vines are harvested by hand, with a yield of 25hl/ha. The bunches are slowly pressed and the must fermented in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts at low temperatures. This sees no oak, lees stirring or fining, for a wine of energy, tension and purity.

**2016 Frédéric Mabileau 'Les Rouillères' Cabernet Franc Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil RRP \$46**

It was with les Rouillères that it all began, the St Nicolas cuvée par excellence: light, fruity and full of finesse. This wine epitomises everything that this unique terroir offers in terms of purity, freshness and pleasure. The fruit comes from vines with an average age of 38 years, planted on gravelly sand soils and hand-harvested at 27hl/ha. Fully destemmed and sorted on a table before a pre-ferment cold soak. Fermented in temperature-controlled stainless steel, without pigeage but regularly pumped over. The wine spends four months in stainless steel and is naturally cold stabilised. It's racked twice prior to bottling.

**2015 Frédéric Mabileau 'Les Racines' Bourgueil RRP \$58**

The parcel is situated in the Bourgueil appellation, in Chouzé-sur-Loire, very close to the river. It was Frédéric's grandfather who planted these vines more than 45 years ago in the "Champs Colesse" lieu-dit, and that's why the wine is named "racines", meaning "roots". The fruit comes from 46-year-old vines on a two-hectare plot on clay and gravel. Hand harvested with a yield of 35hl/ha, then destemmed and sorted on a table. Given a pre-ferment cold soak before fermentation in temperature-controlled stainless steel, which entails 18 days on skins. Malolactic conversion and maturation for 18 months in 3- and 4-year old French oak demi-muids.

**2015 Frédéric Mabileau Pineau d'Aunis 'Sans Les Mains' RRP \$46**

This is described as Nathalie's coup de coeur, a juicy, slurpable red made from the rare Loire red grape Pineau d'Aunis. Hand harvested grapes are destemmed and sorted on a table before fermentation in a concrete egg. All up it's on skins for 10 days before spending 10 months in a 16-hectolitre concrete egg. The name 'Sans Les Mains' refers the fact that it's so easy to drink; you could lap it up with no hands.

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**GUILLAUME COMES HOME**

"Intense and tensile wines are the calling card here, pure and unadorned by style and consistently high in quality," wrote **Wine Advocate's William Kelley** following his most recent tasting chez Guillaume Gicqueau-Michel. "Indeed, I sometimes think that Louis Michel is the most underrated of Chablis's great domaines." Yes, well - the proof is right here.

"The bad news is there's not much wine; the good news is they're both very good," Guillaume Gicqueau-Michel said of '16 and '17 when we visited the domaine in March. Chablis has been lashed by a catalogue of

meteorological mishaps over recent harvests, with this particular grower losing half its crop in 2016 (those losses in the Petit Chablis and village vineyards running to more like 70%). But 170 years of history gives you a sense of perspective when it comes to dealing with the vicissitudes of nature.

So come hail or shine, the important thing is that Guillaume and his seven full-time vineyard workers will eke the absolute best out of the 22 hectares they farm. The 2016 wines we have here come from seven premiers crus and three grands crus, while the Petit Chablis and village wine are from 2017. As Guillaume says – and as the reviews attest – a nightmare from the skies became a dream in the bottle once again.

**2017 Louis Michel Petit Chablis RRP \$46 screw cap**

*Notes of lemon oil, grapefruit pith and green apple introduce the 2017 Petit Chablis, a juicy, medium-bodied wine that's pure, open-knit and expressive. It's a charming but classic expression of the appellation that exemplifies the 2017 vintage's merits. 88 points. William Kelley, Wine Advocate September 2018*

**2017 Louis Michel Chablis RRP \$53 screw cap**

***MAGNUM RRP \$115***

*Some ripe peaches and mangoes. Exotic, sweetly floral and fragrant. The palate's rich and plush with fleshy peaches and apricots. Good power. Drink now. 90 points. Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com September 2018*

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis 1er Cru Montmain RRP \$71**

*A single parcel that has good balance between clay and limestone in the soil. A very rich peaches and mangoes on the nose with acacia and honeysuckle. Very attractive density with ripe mangoes and yellow peaches. Bold and fleshy. Drink now or hold. 91 points. Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com September 2018*

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis 1er Cru Forêts RRP \$80**

*Big limestone influence, driving more savory gunflint and a slightly spicy, white peppery edge. Honey-drizzled peaches, too. The palate's very svelte, long and silky. Succulent, elegant and energetic. Drink now or hold. 93 points. Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com September 2018*



**2016 Louis Michel Chablis 1er Cru Butteaux Vieilles Vignes RRP \$88**

*The 2016 Chablis 1er Cru Butteaux Vieilles Vignes had only been bottled two weeks before I tasted it, but even in its reserved state it was showing very well, offering up aromas of green apple, white flowers, nutty reduction and iodine. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and concentrated, with good tension and structure. This is one 2016 that will have some upside potential. 91+ points. William Kelley, Wine Advocate September 2018*

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons RRP \$71**

*One of the earliest plots to be harvested each year. This has attractive apricots and some hints of lemon butter. Smooth, fleshy and silky. A very elegant, smooth and drinkable style. A twist of herbs at the finish. Very drinkable now. 92 points. Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com September 2018*

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis 1er Cru Séchets RRP \$80**

*To my palate, the 2016 Chablis 1er Cru Séchets is the finest of Louis Michel's premiers crus this year,*



unfurling in the glass with aromas of lemon oil, oatmeal, honeycomb and dried white flowers. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, concentrated and textural, with superb cut and tension and a long, saline finish. It's well worth seeking out. 93 points. *William Kelley, Wine Advocate* September 2018

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre RRP \$88 screw cap  
375ml RRP \$49**

A very impressive and quite classical nose with grapefruit, lime peel, nectarine and dried flowers with a stony edge. The palate's very neatly forged with a wealth of ripe white peaches. A very succulent, long and complete shape. Drink now or hold. 93 points. *Nick Stock, jameessuckling.com* September 2018

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis 1er Cru Vaulorent RRP \$88**

A warmer site with higher clay content. This has an exotic array of tropical fruits with strong white peaches and a hint of praline. The palate rolls out smooth and fleshy fruit with a pithy, slightly grippy texture. Pastry and hints of orange marmalade to close. Drink or hold. 92 points. *Nick Stock, jameessuckling.com* September 2018

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir RRP \$155**

Notes of Meyer lemon, oystershell, crisp pear and subtle reduction introduce the 2016 Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir, a medium to full-bodied, pure and structured wine with serious concentration and chewy extract that compensates for what it lacks in acidic cut. It's the most ample and giving of the three grand cru bottlings in the Louis Michel cellar this year, but it remains quite classic in profile. 93 points. *William Kelley, Wine Advocate* September 2018

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis Grand Cru Grenouilles RRP \$168**

Lime brulée with bright compressed fruit flavors, delivering a wealth of succulent fleshy ripe fruit in a very pure, slightly flinty and very polished style on the palate. Very composed, pure and well-balanced. Drink or hold. 93 points. *Nick Stock, jameessuckling.com* September 2018

**2016 Louis Michel Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos RRP \$168**

A single parcel in the mid slope facing southwest. This delivers an array of lemon and lime citrus with sweet perfumed fruits, apricots and sweet, fragrant melon. The palate's very stony, minerally and savory. A salty feel to the finish. A super long and mineral finish that holds very fresh. 95 points. *Nick Stock, jameessuckling.com* September 2018

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## FILL IN THE BLANCKS

Freddie Blanck is a regular visitor to Australia, and we're lucky to see a fair bit of the affable ambassador of Alsace. A rarer sight, though, is the towering presence of his cousin, Philippe, so seeing the duo in action at ProWein earlier this year was a rare pleasure. These two have headed up something of a revolution at the estate in Kientzheim, with a very close focus on the vineyards. That impeccable viticulture across first-rate holdings pays off with wines that punch well above their weight. Still



underrated here in Australia, their reputation in France, the UK and US reflects the way these wines not only punch above their weight when it comes to value – they are also some of the most consistently well-judged, deft touch wines of their region, finding excellent balance for their pure and intense fruit.

### 2017 Paul Blanck Riesling RRP \$33

*The vineyards were hit hard by April frosts, with production down by 65%, but quality turned out well with good freshness after a warm, fairly dry summer around the Blanck vineyards. As is typical, the Riesling shows prettiness and purity, with plentiful Alsace flavour delivered with a gentle flow; kept taut with citrusy acidity. – Ed Merrison, CellarHand*

### 2016 Paul Blanck Patergarten Riesling RRP \$43

*A south-facing, early-ripening Kientzheim vineyard of gravel on moraine. Airbag-pressed and wild-fermented slowly at controlled temperatures in stainless steel, before maturation on lees in large barrels for six to nine months. Highly aromatic, floral and slightly exotic on the nose. Gentle feel to this mid-weight wine on the palate, with extract and purity. Limey acidity through the pleasantly chewy finish. – Ed Merrison, CellarHand*

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## LATOUR-GIRAUD, OUR HERO

“I’m not sure if Latour has yet been properly recognized as one of the most thoughtful and intelligent producers in the village,” reflects **Stephen Tanzer** of **Vinous Media** on writing up this Meursault domaine. Well, we’ll do what we can to earn Jean-Pierre Latour his due. Ours was a friendship kindled a few years back when we first had a look at his wines, as scarce as they are alluring. The scarcity, from Jean-Pierre's point of view, meant there was little need to force things (and this is a place ruled by patience and grace). But that allure - well, that meant that we weren't going to wait too long. We got a chance to catch up again in March, tasting through the wines in the cellar in Meursault while Jean-Pierre once again stood back and allowed things to take their course. And it was only going to go one way. One after another, the Chardonnays pressed their irresistible case: aromatically enticing, seductive, resonant and mineral-inflected. The lovely reds - a little icing on the cake of this offering - were further evidence of Jean-Pierre's sureness of touch.



Jean-Pierre's oldest known ancestor living from the vine was Jean Latour-Boillot, born about 1680, while the Giraud family were distillers in Meursault. The two domaines were united in 1958 with a marriage between the two families. These days production of the 10-hectare domaine is a little over 80% white, with the majority of vines across five premiers crus of Meursault: Les Genevrières, Les Charmes, Les Perrières, Les Bouchères and Le Poruzot. Jean-Pierre is really a one-man show. He first got his hands dirty in the cellar back in 1983, then took the helm in '93. It's been just over 10 years, he says, since he feels he's absolutely nailed this style of white Burgundy - which he defines, justifiably, as “richness, purity and elegance, so that

wines finish fresh”.

The whites are whole-bunch pressed, receiving a first racking at the end of August, when Jean-Pierre looks at the quality of lees to take forward. Bâtonnage is often part of the equation, but close observation of the vintage dictate frequency and duration. The wines are raised in oak for 11 to 12 months, with about 20% new oak for Bourgogne and village, and 25% for the premiers crus.

Here’s a little taste of what’s on offer. There’s a neat range but quantities are limited, so act quickly.

#### 2016 Latour-Giraud Meursault Cuvée Charles Maxime RRP \$124



Domaine Latour-Giraud has always aspired to produce a village Meursault of particularly high quality, representative of the region and unifying various soil profiles. To mark this out as a special wine, this has been baptised with the name of the family's two grandfathers: Charles (Giraud) and Maxime (Latour).

The domaine owns three hectares of village-designated

vineyards across seven climats in Meursault: the Limozin, the Crotots and the Pelles Dessous (just under the Genevrières and the Poruzots); the Vireuils below (at the top of the side near Auxey-Duresses); the Clos du Cromin; the Corbins; and the Malpoiriers at the north end of Meursault, near Volnay. This Meursault conveys the elegance and prettiness of this appellation, with roundness, softness, freshness and nuances of hazelnuts - all typical features of Meursault in all its finesse.

*Medium yellow. Ripe scents and flavors of apricot, nuts and honey. Salty, rich, dry wine with surprisingly brisk acidity. Finishes tactile and fresh. 87-89 points. Stephen Tanzer, Vinous Media September 2017*

#### 2016 Latour-Giraud Meursault Narvaux RRP \$140

The famous 16-hectare Narvaux climat is situated in the highest vineyards of the village, at the tip of the top premiers crus. Grown on thin, poor soil and substrata (multiple layers of lava), the wine takes the best features of the soil. The wine has fantastic finesse and aromatic complexity, while the palate has abundant elegance, complexity and length.

*Lighter yellow than the Charles Maxime but a bit hazy. Deep, rich nose conveys good lemon-limey lift. This, too, boasts a strong impression of acidity, with salty minerality contributing to its tactile, chewy texture. But this wine still needs the rounding influence of more élevage. 88-91 points. Stephen Tanzer, Vinous Media September 2017*

#### 2016 Latour-Giraud Meursault 1er Cru Genevrières RRP \$205

The vineyards of Genevrières total 16 hectares in the heart of the Meursault premiers crus, south of the village. The name of the appellation comes from the juniper trees that used to grow

there. Domaine Latour-Giraud is the most important owner of this fabulous premier cru, with 2.5Ha. Along with Perrières, this would be considered by most to be Meursault's top premier cru. The wines have exquisite structure. Round, deep and smooth, it also has great elegance, finesse and raciness.

*Pale, bright yellow. A musky essence of Meursault on the nose and palate: stone fruits, lime and hazelnut, plus a hint of oak char. This very tactile, saline wine shows less early sweetness than the Charmes (it's a bit less advanced today) but it's more complex and profound even if its components are not yet in perfect harmony. The long finish leaves behind a note of honey. This deep wine boasts terrific stuffing and should be a beauty. 91-94 points. **Stephen Tanzer, Vinous Media** September 2017*

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## ANSWER MY PRIEUR

It's like a gift from the gods, a Burgundy grower with such an outstanding range of vineyard holdings, steeped in tradition and with boundless ambition for greatness. Since 1868, the domaine has created one of the rarest mosaics of Burgundy terroir. Today it's probably the only estate with vineyards on the greatest appellations both of Côte de Beaune and Côte de Nuits:

Chambertin, Musigny, Clos Vougeot, Echézeaux, Corton, Meursault or Montrachet. This amazing collection is completed by other prestigious premiers crus and three clos monopole sites.

Several of these phenomenal parcels of vines were snapped up at the turn of the 20th century by Jacques' great uncle, while Jacques himself gained fame for instituting, with comtes Jules Lafon, the famous Paulée de Meursault, and as co-



founder of the legendary Chevaliers du Tastevin. Current custodians, the Labruyère family of southern Burgundy, became involved in 1988 when, unified with four other prominent French families, it rescued the estate from falling into the hands of foreign investors.

The domaine, which switched to 100% organic viticulture in 2000, is nowadays run by Edouard Labruyère alongside the heirs of the Prieur family. The warm and acutely intelligent Nadine Gublin serves as oenologist, a position she has held since 1990. Steeped in tradition and armed with a quality-at-all-costs philosophy, the lofty standards of this great domaine keep on climbing. Here's a little taste of what's on offer. There's an incredible range but quantities are limited, so please contact us for the full list.

### **2016 Jacques Prieur Beaune 1er Cru Clos de la Féguine Monopole Blanc RRP \$190**

0.27Ha plot with south exposure on a very steep slope of thin, light brown, light loams and clay-limestone soil, with plenty of cracked limestone running through. Perfect drainage. Élevage 17 months.

*The 2016 Beaune 1er Cru Clos de la Féguine Blanc, one new barrel out of six, offers brioche, green apple and light gravel scents on the nose. The palate is well balanced with a fine line of acidity, a slight honeyed*

*note with a very pure and caressing finish. This becomes more and more appealing the longer you are acquainted with it. Recommended. 89-91 points. Neal Martin, Wine Advocate December 2017*

### 2016 Jacques Prieur Beaune 1er Cru Champs-Pimont Blanc RRP \$153

1.42Ha parcel. East-oriented Chardonnay on the upper part has chalky soil giving originality and minerality, with saline notes typical on the finish. 17 months in oak.

*A whiff of the exotic can be found on the aromas of white peach, floral, pear, citrus and mineral reduction. There is a bit more mid-palate volume to the round yet reasonably precise middle weight flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the slightly more complex and persistent finale. 89-91 points. Allen Meadows, Burghound June 2018*

### 2016 Jacques Prieur Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Combettes RRP \$313

Facing south-east, this 1.5 hectare plot has clay-limestone soil with a strong presence of pebbles.



Whole bunch-pressed, settled over 12 to 14 hours and then full barrel fermentation (about 30% new). 100% MLF. 17 months' élevage.

*The 2016 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Combettes has a higher quantity than even the 2015, perplexing to Edouard Labruyère. It has a rip-roaring, vivacious, energetic bouquet that is surfeit with energy and frisson—so effervescent. The palate is well balanced with crisp*

*acidity, very good weight in the mouth, fine tension with a precise and quite sustained finish, although it almost seems overshadowed by the aromatics at the moment. 90-92 points. Neal Martin, Wine Advocate December 2017*

### 2016 Jacques Prieur Montrachet Grand Cru RRP \$2475

From a 0.59-hectare parcel. Very sunny, mid-slope, perfect drainage. East/southeast exposure. Thin, stony soil, higher in sodium. Outcrop of white marl. The grapes are harvested by hand in small crates, then whole bunches are pressed in a pneumatic press. The juice is cold settled after pressing for 12 to 14 hours. Alcoholic fermentation and ageing are 100% in new oak barrels. Full MLF. Élevage of 21 months.

*Much fresher and admirably pure aromas are comprised by notes of honeysuckle, citrus, pear and white peach. There is outstanding richness and volume to the equally pure, intense and detailed broad-shouldered flavors that brim with minerality on the delineated, focused and notably dry finish. This impeccably well-balanced effort should reward at least 10 years of cellar time and is very much a Montrachet of power but also refinement. In a word, magnificent. 93-95 points. Allen Meadows, Burghound June 2018*

### 2016 Jacques Prieur Beaune 1er Cru Champs-Pimont Rouge RRP \$173

This large plot with the name meaning “fields at the foot of the hill” climbs the hillside behind Beaune, towards Pommard. This vines have full south exposure, and produce both white and red

wine. The Pinot Noir in its lower part has plenty of clay in the soil, giving powerful wines with colour, while the high proportion of iron often brings out smoky notes. 30% new oak.

*The 2016 Beaune 1er Cru Champs Pimont was also impacted by the frost. 50% of the production was saved but they decided not to destem one of the blocks in order to maintain volume. The whole stem addition works well on the nose, quite natural and refined, dark berry fruit mixed with sous bois and rose petals. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, ripe tannin, fresh in the mouth, crisp and focused with a bright, tensile finish that is a joy. This comes recommended—excellent. 90-92 points. Neal Martin, Wine Advocate December 2017*

### **2016 Jacques Prieur Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru RRP \$487**

Clay dominates this terroir, which produces powerful and structured wines which are a little rustic in their early youth. Jacques Prieur's roughly 1Ha is "at the top of the bottom of the Clos" 30% whole bunches here.

*(at 13% potential alcohol, this cuvée was the highest in octane in 2016 and was not chaptalized; these vines were affected by frost--the yield was 24 hectoliters per hectare--but not to the same extent as the estate's Echézeaux and Musigny): Dark red with ruby tones. Captivating, ripe, soil-driven nose shows savory mineral and spice nuances. Silky on entry, then fine-grained and elegant in the middle palate, with nothing hard or rustic about it. Cherry and redcurrant fruit flavors are complicated by saline mineral notes and a suggestion of anise. Finishes with full, mounting, harmonious tannins and lovely energy and length. Very classic Clos Vougeot. 91-94 points. Stephen Tanzer, Vinous Media January 2018*

### **2016 Jacques Prieur Musigny Grand Cru RRP \$2145**

It's of the greatest terroirs of the Côte de Nuits on a fault overlooking the Clos de Vougeot and adjoining the Combe d'Orveau. With a southeast exposure and a confined, sunny micro-climate, the parcel has thin, light soil with a strong presence of stones, guaranteeing good drainage. 100% destemmed. Aged in new oak barrels for 20 months.

*A brooding and beautifully complex nose of spiced plum and a remarkably broad mix of dark berry fruit scents is trimmed in a background application of wood. The opulent, rich, round, velvety and wonderfully refined middle weight flavors display excellent mid-palate density and impressive volume on the superbly long finish where a touch of menthol appears. This too is really very good but note well that it's indisputably built-to-age. 92-94 points. Allen Meadows, Burghound June 2018*

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## **ENGLISH ROSÉ**

Ah, it's that time again. A ray of sun peeks through and immediately everyone's thoughts turn to English sparkling wine.

OK, so it doesn't exactly work that way – yet – but with each passing spring, those whiffs of early blossoms and white flowers cause a twitch in more and more antipodean nostrils. The wines of Hattingley Valley, entering their third summer on Aussie soil, have continued to win accolades across the globe. This is a young success story worth getting in on – a taste of the new from the old world, delicious and bristling with energy, vitality and class. Hot on the heels of the current-

edition Classic Reserve's **Most Outstanding NV Classic Cuvée** win at the **Wines of Great Britain Awards**, the delicious rosé just copped a mouthwatering rap from Wine Front's Mike Bennie.

**NV Hattingley Valley Rosé Classic Reserve RRP \$80**  
50% Chardonnay, 30% Pinot Noir, 19% Pinot Meunier, 1% Pinot Gris. Lovely hedgerow notes on the nose, plus crisp apple fruit and a slight wheatiness giving complexity to the finish. The autolysis is very well expressed here, giving genuine complexity in a classic style, yet retaining that verdant English meadow freshness. 17/20 *Richard Hemming MW, jancisrobinson.com* May 2018



### 2014 Hattingley Valley Rosé RRP \$90

English sparkling wine is on the rise and rise, despite the long history of production there. English fizz, for me, is distinct for its incredible acid profile, something that distinguishes it from just about anywhere else in the world – you know it when you feel it. This wine sees some barrel fermentation, which mitigates the acidity in some sense, but it is still there. The wine also contains a splash of the unusual mutation variety, pinot précoce, a weird cousin of pinot noir.

Very pale pink in glass, the bouquet is likewise 'pale' with soft strawberry, raspberry scents, overlay of talc, a whiff of red apple and some faint citrus. The palate is assertive in its chalky, sherbety acidity, a belt that runs through lightly juicy red berry fruit flavours and zings the wine long and refreshing, to an almost pin-point-mouth-watering conclusion. It's a very precise feeling wine, barely showing fruitiness, all about the elemental, mineral-esque charm. Very good wine here, bound up and full of energy and freshness. Yep, worth the visit. 93 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* September 2018

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### BABBLING BRUCK

We like to point out that Domäne Wachau has the best vineyard holdings in this, Austria's number-one grape growing region. Its growers have vines in more hallowed turf than any other estate, and that's a real boon to the terroir-obsessed wine lover. It's also why we were so chuffed to choose a couple of single-vineyard

Federspiel wines, which are a phenomenal bargain when you see how the essence of place is expressed. For Grüner Veltliner, we opted for Kaiserberg - the "emperor's hill", named for the ancient campground of emperor Charlemagne who banished the Avars from the Wachau around 800 AD. And for Riesling, we went for Bruck in Spitz. The latter has just rolled vintage and is once

again a thrillingly tense wine with sublime citrus blossom and flesh at its core. Both of these wines beam with a minerality you'd have to say is specific, allied to lovely fruit.

**2017 Domäne Wachau Bruck Riesling Federspiel RRP \$35**

*Grapefruit, lemon and tangerine notes unite on nose and palate of this wine, creating an intriguing interplay of ripe and tart citrus that tingles on the tongue and sweeps across the senses. It's taut, fresh, fruity and full of refreshment and joy. 92 points. Anne Krebiehl, Wine Enthusiast September 2018*

**2016 Domäne Wachau Kaiserberg Grüner Veltliner Federspiel RRP \$35**

*Wines from Kaiserberg are renowned for their superb overall balance and their classical mineral character. Along with its lively yellow colour and green glow, there is a succession of intense aromas including Golden Delicious apple, subtle hints of pears and smoky tobacco spices as well as elegant exotic fruits. In the mouth it is a well-balanced, fresh wine with lively acidity, flavourful fruit and well-structured salty character causing it to linger on the palate. – Roman Horvath MW, Domäne Wachau*

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**OH YEAH, LABRUYÈRE**

Domaine Labruyère is the Beaujolais estate of the top-flight French vigneron family behind Champagne Labruyère and famed Burgundy producer Jacques Prieur.

Now in its seventh generation, Domaine Labruyère is one of the oldest wineries in the Moulin-à-Vent appellation. Its history here dates back to 1850, when winegrower Jean-Marie Labruyère settled in les Thorins, a hamlet of Romanèche-Thorins. He acquired 25 acres of well-located vineyards. The later acquisition of the famous “Clos du Moulin-à-Vent”, a unique monopole, epitomises the restless quest for excellence of subsequent generations.

Located right beside the iconic windmill, this is one of the most precious jewels in the formidable Famille Labruyère crown.

Jean-Pierre Labruyère, long-serving president of Moulin-à-Vent cru, handed the estate's reins in 2008 to his son Edouard. Together with talented, long-standing winemaker Nadine Gublin and viticulturist Michel Rovere, Edouard has injected an even greater dynamism into this spearhead of world-class Beaujolais.



**2016 Labruyère Bourgogne Gamay RRP \$35**

*Barrel sample. Mid cherry red. Juicy Gamay fruit. Lively and spiced on the palate, supple tannins, very drinkable but should age better than many Bourgogne Pinots with quite definite but fine tannins. 16/20 Julia Harding MW, jancisrobinson.com January 2018*

**2016 Labruyère Coeur de Terroirs RRP \$43**

**MAGNUM RRP \$107**

This 100% Gamay cuvée is a selection of great terroirs of Domaine Labruyère, predominantly



grown on granite soils rich in quartz. Vines of 50 years of age on average, planted at 10,000 vines per hectare. Grapes are harvested manually in 25kg crates before passing through a double sorting table. Fermentation of 100% destemmed grapes takes place in concrete or stainless steel tanks, in order to isolate each parcel and to express the unique characteristics of the terroirs. The entire system is thermo-regulated. Half the wine is aged in concrete tanks, and another half in used barriques and 600-litre demi-muids, for 12 months. Slight filtration and no fining.

*Barrel sample. Mid crimson. Peppery and dark-fruited with a light rocky/mineral note. Dry and savoury on the palate, a lovely refined darkness but not lacking fruit. Classic Moulin-à-Vent with tannic finesse and firmness, well balanced for ageing. Dry, chalky finish. Elegant. 16.5/20 Julia Harding MW, jancisrobinson.com January 2018*

### 2016 Labruyère Champ de Cour RRP \$53

**MAGNUM RRP \$124**

The peculiarity of this south-east facing granitic plot is the presence of pebbles under a thick layer of dense clay, which gives the wine a bold character with pronounced minerality. 100% Gamay with an average age of 50 years planted to 10,000 vines per hectare. Grapes are harvested manually in 25kg crates before passing through a double sorting table. The fermentation of 100%



destemmed grapes takes place in a single concrete vat, in order to isolate the parcel and to express the unique characteristics of its terroir. The entire system is thermo-regulated. The wine is aged in used 600-litre demi-muids for 13 months. Slight filtration and no fining.

### 2016 Labruyère Le Carquelin RRP \$69

**MAGNUM RRP \$156**

The vineyard spans 1.75 hectares. This terroir has light, sandy clay, quite acid and with low levels of organic matter. It has the typical pink colour of the cru. Its granite is highly decomposed and medium deep. 100% Gamay with an average age of 50 years planted to 10,000 vines per hectare. Grapes are harvested manually in 25kg crates before passing through a double sorting table. The fermentation of 100% destemmed grapes takes place in a single concrete vat, in order to isolate the parcel and to express the unique characteristics of its terroir. The entire system is thermo-regulated. Wine is aged in oak barrels (15% new) for 12 months. Slight filtration and no fining.

*Barrel sample. Deep crimson. Not very expressive now, just dark and rocky and invitingly so. Tantalising. Savoury and rocky dark fruit, has fruit to balance but not to shout at you. This is really elegant and the opposite of showy. Super-refined. 17/20 Julia Harding MW, jancisrobinson.com January 2018*

### 2016 Labruyère Le Clos du Moulin à Vent RRP \$99

**MAGNUM RRP \$222**

A unique monopole of the appellation, this 0.92-hectares site is perfectly located by the windmill, the symbol of the cru. Based on a dry, hard, granitic soil, this exceptional terroir produces outstanding Gamay offering structured, mineral, long-lasting wines as iconic as the greatest French wines. 100% Gamay with an average age of 70 years, planted to 10,000 vines per hectare. Grapes are harvested manually in 25kg crates before passing on a double sorting table. The

fermentation of 100% destemmed grapes takes place in a single concrete vat, in order to isolate the parcel and to express the unique characteristics of its terroir. The entire system is thermo-regulated. Wine is aged in oak barrels (15% new) for 12 months. Slight filtration and no fining.

*Monopole. Barrel sample. Deep cherry red. Smells very different from Le Carquelin, more meaty but still that dark, rocky minerality. Bone dry, chalky. Refined texture, almost chalky but more like layers of paper. A long, dark, savoury finish. Needs time. 17++/20 Julia Harding MW, jancisrobinson.com January 2018*

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