



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

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SEASONAL STUFF

MAGNUM MAYHEM

Go large, or go home. That's right, celebration season is here and we've completed our magnum opus - a compilation of all 1.5-litre bottles we have to share. We all know there are few more welcome sights than a jostling scrum of towering Kabinetts nestled in an ice-crammed bathtub. Ditto plump mags of Champagne. Meanwhile, Blaufränkisch, Beaujolais and Spätburgunder are among star-performing large-format reds on the party circuit. Be it still, sparkling, dry, sweet, white, pink or red, we have it in family size. Just ask.

Here's a little taste of some favourites.

2014 Paul Blanck Riesling MAGNUM RRP \$85

A seriously lovely Alsace Riesling, with all the expected flavour – and unexpected elegance and lightness



of foot running alongside the synergistic fusion of fruit and acidity. There are none of the phenolic hoof prints of many young Alsace Rieslings, instead hints of spiced pear and camomile. Bargain, and will glide through the next 20 years. Drink to 2034; 12.5% alc. 94 points. *James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion* August 2015

2013 A. Christmann Riesling Idig Grosses Gewächs MAGNUM RRP \$297

Some toasty notes, drizzle of honey, punch of ripe green apple. It's a beautiful bouquet, evocative of complex, layered Riesling. Hedonistic flavours of green apple, honey, brioche, but with crackling acidity, lively chalky fringes, a focus, but also generosity and drive. Slate and lime characters. Driven

and delicious. 97 points. *Mike Bennie, The Wine Front* March 2015

2016 Bonhomme Viré-Clessé Vieilles Vignes MAGNUM RRP \$115

This cuvée is completely different because it's from vines that are between 70 to 95 years old on clay and limestone. All the wines are separated during winemaking before blending. So, for 12 months all the wines are in oak ranging from new (15 to 20%) to 8 years old. Then the family blends all the barrels in stainless tanks to spend a further nine months or more.

2017 Chalmers Rosato MAGNUM RRP \$58

In 2017 the Chalmers family once again sourced the grapes for their rosato from the highest-altitude, most-prized block at their Heathcote site. For the first time, though, all three of the varieties planted there made it into this unique blend. Aglianico (63%), Sagrantino (33%) and Nero d'Avola (4%) were hand-picked, whole bunch-pressed, and vinified separately. The Nero and Sagrantino parcels were fermented in stainless steel tank, and the Aglianico parcel was fermented in old French barriques. All parcels were wild fermented with no acid additions, and blended together once dry.

2016 Domaine Labruyère Le Carquelin Moulin-à-Vent MAGNUM RRP \$156

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

2013 Huber Malterdinger Pinot Noir MAGNUM RRP \$124

Spicy and sappy, smoky cherry and plum with oak well in the background. Light to medium bodied, spicy and undergrowthy, with crunch of acidity and a fine dusting of tannin. A bit minerally and has precision, without being too strict. Finish is good too. Likely better with a couple of years on it too, though attractive now. 92 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* May, 2016

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STOCKING FILLERS

We all know what Christmas shopping can be like – you're rushed off your feet with no time to think. So that's why we put together this little 12 Wines of Christmas list, a diverse mix of pretty fancy gear that would please anyone with half a tastebud this festive period.

Jacquesson Cuvée No. 741 Champagne RRP \$124

MAGNUM RRP \$297

Classy concentration immediately apparent on the nose. Lovely lacy texture but with density underneath. This is very smart stuff. Just a pleasure to drink now with great balance. Maybe not amazing persistence but I challenge anyone not to enjoy this. 18/20 *Jancis Robinson, jancisrobinson.com*

2017 Frankland Estate Isolation Ridge Riesling Frankland River RRP \$43

MAGNUM RRP \$117

All the hallmarks of this site are at play with camomile and blossom, the lightness of touch on the palate with its citrus notes, some concentration and texture yet the steely freshness and acidity so pure it creates an ultra-fine and long finish. 96 points. *James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion 2019*

2015 Paul Blanck Riesling Schlossberg Grand Cru Alsace RRP \$70

Sourced from different plots and terroirs, the 2015 Riesling Schlossberg opens with a clear, deep, ripe and intense bouquet with floral and flinty aromas. Full-bodied and highly elegant on the palate, this is an enormously complex, rich and persistent Riesling with the generous and almost hedonistic finish of an intellectual wine. Impressive! 93 points. *Stephan Reinhardt, The Wine Advocate*

2016 Gunderloch Rothenberg Riesling Grosses Gewächs Rheinhessen RRP \$107

A super-elegant and filigree wine that is both deep and finely-etched with a very long pure finish that's as straight as a laser beam! Best from 2018. 95 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com*

2015 Louis Michel 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre Chablis RRP \$81

MAGNUM RRP \$182

Distinct smell of pastis along with rock pools and sea shells, nectarine and ripe lemon. It's full-flavoured, yet discreet, marrying flint to a subtle glycerol texture. There's crunch and vivacity, complexity and satisfaction at every sip along the way, and a tight almost chalky finish of excellent length and carry. Wonderful. 95 points. *Gary Walsh The Wine Front*



2017 Irrewarra Chardonnay Western District RRP \$66

Irrewarra is one of Australia's most brilliant Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grower, Nick Farr, pushing himself further, delving into new territory and giving voice to another captivating landscape. The soils across the slope are a mixture of grey sandy clay loams at the south end, to dark brown loams with fragments of buckshot and quartz gravels towards the north - all with underlying brown to yellow clays. Overall the soils remain very moist throughout the year thanks to the clay base and annual rainfall of 885mm. This gives a very attractive, damp-earth character to the fruit and wine. Harvest comes in April after a steady, drawn-out growing season, resulting in great fruit expression and a deceptively long, mineral palate.

2015 Frédéric Mabileau Cabernet Franc 'Les Racines' Loire Valley RRP \$58

Fragrant black fruit aromas, initially very seductive. Palate complete and harmonious, fresh, with dried currant and juniper berry, green peppercorn, crushed rocks and mint. Delicious, quite classic, shows substance and potential as well. 92 points. *Decanter Magazine*

2017 Stefano Lubiana Estate Pinot Noir Tasmania RRP \$69

100% certified biodynamic, estate-grown, single-vineyard Pinot Noir from a mix of two terroirs: grey gravelly loams over clay and red loam over gravel. Fruit is handpicked and sorted by hand on a vibrating table. Matured in French oak for 8-10 months. Integrated and intriguing, with charm and seriousness at once.

2016 By Farr Farrside Pinot Noir Geelong RRP \$88

It's a scintillating wine and that's all that need be said. It's cut with acid, plump with fruit, spicy, svelte and silken. It's simultaneously tangy, plush and long. Some wines get a lot of mileage out of an inherent tension, and this is one such wine. It has the air under its rule; all the wine's components operate as though missteps are not tolerated. As a drinker, the effect is transfixing. It puts you at ease. It puts you on edge. You're in the presence of something extra and other and you can't but help sink in for more. 96 points. *Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front*

2016 Burn Cottage Vineyard Pinot Noir Central Otago RRP \$92

This is a terrific Pinot Noir - great to drink now despite the sneaking feeling it's going to get even better with bottle age. Totally seductive ripe cherry, berry and plum flavours with added complexity from subliminal floral, spice, savoury and herb. The texture is to die for and the wine has impressive power as evidenced by a lingering finish that won't quit. 98 points. *Bob Campbell MW, The Real Review*

2016 S.C. Pannell Syrah Adelaide Hills RRP \$39

The purity of fruit is impressive to say the least. The blue fruits just keep on coming with notes of brambleberries, dark cherries, dark plums, pressed violets, acai berries, elderberries. Citrus, nutmeg, licorice, dark chocolate and charcoal follow. Very tight and chewy on the palate, which is so structured and fine-tuned. Full body, grainy and encompassing tannins and a long, steely finish. Edgy and silky at the same time. Drink in 2028. 95 points. *Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com*

2015 Yeringberg Cabernet Sauvignon Yarra Valley RRP \$98

The wine has presence, charm and elegance in equal measure. A blend of cabernet sauvignon 66%, cabernet franc 13% with splashes of merlot, petit verdot and malbec, all of which has created a medium-bodied wine. Expect a mix of red berries and leafy freshness, some menthol and spice with super fine tannins and excellent length. It's a contemplative wine to savour. 96 points. *Jane Faulkner, Halliday Wine Companion 2019*

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DOMESTIC

KEVIN SEVENTEEN

"I was lucky enough to get a few hours with Vanya Cullen on her property in mid-October, a fascinating exploration of culture, history, agriculture, spirituality and art, as always," wrote **Mike**

Bennie in his introduction on **The Wine Front**. “So many outstanding wines to emerge.”

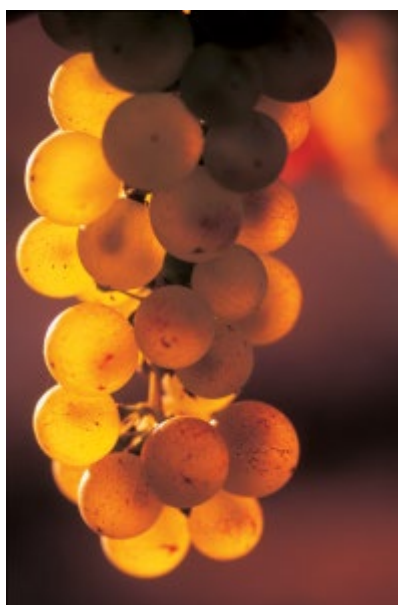
But first this, just in time for Christmas: the latest iteration of Vanya’s Cullen Vineyard in the form of the purest organic-grown Chardonnay. It won’t surprise you to know that it’s fantastic again.

“2017 turned out to be another great season for our vineyards and our 1976 Chardonnay vines produced some incredible fruit, with very low yields of 3.2 tonnes per hectare,” Vanya reported.

“This is a wine defined by great purity, elegance and a fantastic acid backbone; a vintage destined for great ageing potential.”

And the critical response has echoed those sentiments. “Bright acidity is in perfect harmony with the wine; the palate is refined and taut, long and beautifully modulated,” says **Huon Hooke**. “Great line and length. A superb Chardonnay.”

And from **Ray Jordan**: “Oh gosh this is good Chardonnay. It’s a classy wine that captures vineyard and vintage to perfection.”



2017 Cullen Kevin John Chardonnay RRP \$140

*Finely wrought wine, lacy and pure, shows incredible acid line and a web of mineral, fruit and light savouriness surrounding. Drives with authority and precision across the palate, feels very pure, energetic and refreshing. An exceptional wine here, you get that from texture alone. Stellar release. 96 points. **Mike Bennie**, *The Wine Front* November 2018*

2018 Cullen ‘New Moon’ Chenin Blanc Pétillant Naturel RRP \$53

The fruit was picked on a new moon in early February 2018 hence the name of the wine. It is a “pétillant naturel” based on the méthode ancestrale, with the wine being bottled before the end of the first fermentation. With no additions, no preservatives and fermented with indigenous yeast, each bottle is unique and ever-changing, just as a natural wine should be. This approach gives a

*vibrant, fun and utterly drinkable sparkling wine. Made entirely of Chenin Blanc, the wine has lifted apples, with pear and citrus on the nose, and an explosion of flavour with a gentle beam of cooked apples with some pear notes. Dry with a typical Pét Nat spritz. - **Vanya Cullen***

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FEW & FARR BETWEEN

It’s rare as hen’s teeth, Pinot Noir from the ultra-talented Philippa Farr. This is the sixth release from Pip under her eponymous label. These wines established a following in no time, and have become a cult hit in our portfolio. And what is always a blink-and-you’ll-miss-it release is even more so this year, since Pip just made the one wine from ‘17. Get in quick!

2017 Philippa Farr Pinot Noir RRP \$54

A vintage where everything fell into place: goods rains but no disease pressure; low crops that were very clean; a warm dry build-up to picking, of neat, compact bunches. Picking occurred perfectly, seven days after the birth of my second little girl!

The 2017 Mornington Pinot Noir is off a 20-year-old vineyard, with predominately clone 115, and some MV6 and 114. The vineyard is southeast-facing and seems to take just a few extra days to ripen than the

vineyards close by, which can make all the difference with hot summers. The vines are on a bed of rich red loam over coarse gravel.

The blend of clones for this wine resulted in 60% 115, with 20% MV6 and 20% 114. These were three separate ferments, allowing room to find that sweet spot at blending. Wild ferments were allowed to take hold and 25% whole bunches used to produce structure and complexity. All ferments spent close to three weeks on skins. The wine then went into 30% new French oak. It was racked twice over 17 months before going to bottle. - *Pip Farr*

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WEAVING HIS MAGIC

One of the most touching relationships in Australian wine is the bond that exists between Geoff Weaver and his Lenswood vineyard. This affectionate and utterly adorable man dotes on that land, and to hear him speak of it is to be treated to a love story that dates back to the start of the '80s.

As befits such a relationship, Geoff sees it as his duty to transpose that place, as purely and faithfully as possible, into the bottle. Old dry-grown vines and pristine natural acidity – allied to enough warmth over time to build balancing flavour – are the prime ingredients. And from there winemaking with lightness – but total sureness - of touch.

The Sauvignon Blanc was once more named in **James Halliday's Top 100 Wines** this year. At the same time, we rolled to a new vintage of Geoff's impeccable Chardonnay.



2017 Geoff Weaver Sauvignon Blanc RRP \$29

*The late vintage reflected the ideal growing conditions throughout the season. Laidback technical/vinification parameters set the scene for the wine. The bouquet is precise and strongly varietal, but it's not until the palate that the wine sets sail, and does so in fine style with citrus and apple taking control on the long finish. It's the outcome of Geoff Weaver's long experience with the vineyard, and his undoubted skill as a winemaker. 95 points. **James Halliday, Top 100 Wines***

2013 Geoff Weaver Chardonnay RRP \$49

*Bunches were chilled to 5 deg before being whole bunch-pressed to French barriques (50%new, 50% second use) for wild yeast fermentation, partial mlf, 12 months' maturation. This, as they might say is the cat's pyjamas, with its pyrotechnic display of grapefruit-driven fruit flavours, bright acidity and long finish. It is ambling surely along its development path. 96 points. **James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion 2018***

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GRANTON GRIS

There's too much Pinot Gris in this world. Way too much. But not enough of the right kind of Pinot Gris - that is, real wine by real people who care. We're proud to have portfolio with only the latter. And this is without doubt one of the right kind.

The 2017 version of this was such a delight, with its alluring light-pink hue, its slippery texture and a fan of flavours you chased as they swept across the palate. Steve and Monique have all three components of their range firing – exceptional sparkling, peerless tiers of Chardonnay and Pinot, plus aromatic wines that are

engaging and so good to drink.

2018 Stefano Lubiana Pinot Gris RRP \$35

This Pinot Gris is an estate-grown, single-vineyard wine that is 100% certified biodynamic, rooted through a mixture of grey gravelly loam, gravel, red loam atop an old riverbed. The grapes are destemmed and crushed into pneumatic press where they are left on skins for 72 hours. Next they are pressed and settled in stainless steel and tacked into large format oak for fermentation and maturation for seven months. The 2018 Pinot Gris flaunts fragrances of rosewater and pear with subtle hints of tropical fruit. Prominent fruit complexity, well rounded texture and of acid and silky tannins. RS 1.7g/L; pH: 3.38; TA 6.2g/L. – Steve & Monique Lubiana

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CRITICAL MACEDON

Shadowfax and Macedon keep going from strength to strength. The 2017 releases from Al Timms and the team were the strongest to date, and the Pinot Noir's recent crowning as the best in its class in the **Macedon Ranges Wine Show** was further confirmation of this.

The first indication of what 2018 holds is with us now, and proves once again that Little Hampton - at 700m above sea level, the second highest and one of coolest vineyards in Macedon – has got it all going on.

2018 Shadowfax Macedon Ranges Pinot Gris RRP \$28

Hand harvested fruit from Shadowfax's Little Hampton Vineyard was firmly whole bunch pressed to release the full Pinot Gris flavour profile. Natural ferment occurred in older French barrels. The wine was left to unwind and age slowly on its ferment lees to add generosity. After nine months the wine was racked and filtered prior to bottling in August 2018. pH 3.41g/L; TA 5.5g/L; alcohol 13.3%.

This high-altitude Pinot Gris displays great aromatic lift. Potpourri, orange blossom and citrus notes leap from the glass. The perfume is persistent and intriguing, always bringing you back for another sniff. White pear and orange sorbet flow onto the palate giving instant appeal. These fruit flavours are complexed with barrel ferment characters such as nougat. The fruits are enveloped with fine grapefruit pith texture giving extra intrigue. The rich flowing palate is long and intense that is finished off with great acidity and persistence. - Al Timms, Shadowfax

2017 Shadowfax Macedon Ranges 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 Macedon Ranges Pinot Noir RRP \$37
Best Pinot Noir Trophy winner at Macedon Ranges Wine Show

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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BEYOND FLORITA

The Riesling that Sam and Tom Barry grow under their clos Clare label hogs the limelight. And understandably so - after all, it's from the hallowed Florita site in Watervale, the district at the lime-juicy heart of Aussie Riesling.



But the Barry family's reds are the stuff of Clare Valley legend, too, and clos Clare has a couple of aces up its sleeve here. One is the Shiraz, which epitomises Clare's generous, deceptively deep fruit and the Barry brothers' easygoing charm. And then there's the Grenache, a wine that was runner-up in last year's **James Halliday Grenache Challenge**. Halliday himself praised "a line of fruit reminiscent of the Rhône Valley's Château Rayas". We've just swung onto the juvenile and joyful 2018 vintage, and it's sheer delight.

2016 clos Clare Grenache RRP \$28

Sourced from 20 year old vines from the McKays Vineyard, planted amongst the limestone and slate soils of Watervale. The grapes are 100% de-stemmed and cold fermented as whole berries, finally seeing six months in old French oak. A medium- to light-

bodied wine, the 2018 is fresh and youthful in the glass, showing bright red with purple hues. The nose has hints of cloves and Asian spices, along with dark cherry and satsuma plum characters. The palate shows a good core of dark and red fruits balanced with a sway of firm tannins. The wine finishes with savoury dark earth characters. - *Tom & Sam Barry*

2016 clos Clare Cemetery Block Shiraz RRP \$28

The Cemetery Block Shiraz is from 25-year-old vines across the road from the Watervale Cemetery. The vines are really hitting their straps to produce elegant, perfumed fruit from the valley's cool meso-climate. An attractive crimson robe with purple tints leads you into the fragrances of sage, oregano, hyssop, chocolate and cranberry. The palate demonstrates integrated tannins with flavours of blueberries, red cherry and turmeric apparent in spades. - *Tom & Sam Barry*

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SLEIGHT OF SHAND

Another little bit of magic from the Coldstream conjuror. Tim Shand was ahead of the game when his curiosity led him to see what fun Yarra Cab Franc could inject into the wine world a few harvests back. "Now into our fifth instalment of this wine, the fruit practically picks and makes itself," comments Shandy. "I have never seen a winemaking style (whole bunch, old oak, early bottling/release) resonate so quickly with amateurs and connoisseurs alike."

The grape that made its name in the Loire and Right Bank of Bordeaux loved the warm, dry conditions of 2018, and this edition is the finest to date. So bright and playful - an absolute no-brainer for summer chillin'.



2018 Airlie Bank Gris on Skins RRP \$23

Picked from a block of gris on the Napoleone vineyard which is nurtured to hang a touch longer, with better tannin maturity than the fruit picked for the Punt Road Pinot Gris. Whole berry and whole bunch ferments are conducted in isolation in one-tonne open pots. They were pressed separately to oak this year, but in the end both went in their entirety into the blend, so the overall result is 50:50. The bunch ferments developed a very significant funk this year, and it was good to see this in the finished wine. The berry ferments supply musk flavour and fruit sweetness. It's all about the bunch though: Campari, aniseed and kombucha. Unfined and minimally filtered. - *Tim Shand, Punt Road*

2018 Airlie Bank Franc RRP \$23

Blackcurrant, ripe raspberry, ash and lots of spice, sweet capsicum. Light bodied, but good intensity of small berried fruits, sappy green and spicy things are punctuation marks here, rather than text, acidity is fresh and slaty, tannin forms a fine dust, and the finish is cool and fresh. Great thing to drink. 92 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* November 2018

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THE EGANS HAVE LANDED

The superb new Wantirna Estate releases were among the headlines in November, and in the run-up to Christmas when the word “special” gets bandied around a bit – and when everyone realises they deserve a bit of a treat after a long, hard year – it’s worth revisiting. The news here is a tidy set of reviews for what is a very tidy, and effortlessly charming, set of wines from Maryann and Reg Egan.

2017 Wantirna Estate Isabella Chardonnay RRP \$87

It's not shy, but it is kind of discreet. Yellow fruit, butter menthol, aniseed and cedar spice. Medium-bodied, wheat germ and nectarine, a glossy feel but shot through with intense and fine acidity, the finish is long, with lemon curd and a tight tang of acidity. So lovely. 95 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front November 2018

2017 Wantirna Estate Lily Pinot Noir RRP \$87

Raspberry, strawberry, vanilla, dried roses and general gorgeous fragrance. Ripe poached strawberry, light spice, fine dusty tannin, earthy and savoury, in among pretty red fruits. Orange peel twist on a nice long finish. It's generous and warm-hearted this year, yet manages to keep itself lovely. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front November 2018

2016 Wantirna Estate Amelia Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot RRP \$87

Violet and cigar box perfume, red and black fruits, pencils and vanilla. Medium-bodied, fleshy but gentle tannin, deep flavour delivered with a light touch, fine long finish, poise and elegant feel from start to finish. Classic. Beautiful Cabernet. 95 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front October 2018

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IMPORTS

PERSONAL F.X.

Our tasting with Lucas Pichler at ProWein this year was a highlight. The file of identically-labelled bottles lined up in their crate like soldiers gave nothing away. And yet, to taste! So intricately etched, so pure, penetrating and individual.

Many of the Danube growers commented that 2017 was pretty warm and early, and all voiced the same surprise at the animation and detail that their sites had achieved. That was borne out by what we tasted from the Wachau, Kremstal and Kamptal; an abundance of juicy, open fruit with all the tension and mineral nuances that makes these regions – and especially their top estates – such a magical mystery tour for the terroir-obsessed winelover.

“It's time to marvel at what Grüner Veltliner was able to do in 2017!” wrote **Stuart Pigott** of jamesuckling.com of his tasting chez Pichler. And as for Riesling, it says it all that Kellerberg scored a near-perfect 99 points, while Unendlich managed to go one better.

2016 F.X. Pichler Grüner Veltliner Loibner Federspiel RRP \$53

Attractive ripe apple, white pepper and fresh herbs character. Juicy, but only medium-bodied with a finish that's fresh and elegant. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 91 points. Stuart Pigott, jamesuckling.com

2017 F.X. Pichler Grüner Veltliner Dürnstein Smaragd RRP \$74

Ripe white fruit, generous body and an open heart make this a very appealing Grüner Veltliner. An impressive combination of richness and enough acidity to keep it lively. Drink now. Screw cap. 93 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

2017 F.X. Pichler Grüner Veltliner Liebenberg Smaragd RRP \$138

Lots of green-plum and wild-berry aromas, plus herbal freshness that beautifully balances the considerable power of this unusual Wachau Grüner Veltliner. Great tension through the long finish. From chalk-rich soil, a rarity for the region. Drink or hold. 96 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

2016 F.X. Pichler Riesling Burgstall Federspiel RRP \$64

Almost dangerously fresh. A very mineral acidity and tart peach and delicate herbal aromas. Only medium-bodied, but with a ton of character and a super-crisp finish. Drink now or hold. 93 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2017

2017 F.X. Pichler Riesling Steinertal Smaragd RRP \$124

Very cool and crystalline with a ton of white peaches and citrusy acidity driving the long, radically mineral finish. Long aging potential. Drink or hold. 96 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

2017 F.X. Pichler Riesling Kellerberg Smaragd RRP \$190

How do you begin to describe a wine like this, which busts apart the usual frames of reference for dry white wine? So many fresh aromas - from white peaches through mint to Amalfi lemons - but so much ripeness and concentration, too. The finish is super long and so delicate, in spite of all the power. Drink or hold. 99 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

2017 F.X. Pichler Riesling Unendlich Smaragd RRP \$412

Although this dry Riesling is mind-blowingly concentrated, what makes it utterly astonishing is the extreme clarity in the nose, featuring the very essence of white peach, together with the sharply defined contours of the widescreen palate. Some may, quite possibly, find the intensity and vibrancy at the finish a bit too much right now, but just give it a year or two. Better still, a decade or more! From the great Kellerberg and Loibenberg sites. 100 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

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SPINETTA STAMPEDE

“These are some of the very best wines I have ever tasted from La Spinetta,” says **Antonio Galloni** of **Vinous Media**. “Proprietor Giorgio Rivetti and long-time winemaker Stefano Mazzetta have turned out a superb set of wines. The 2015 Barbarescos are racy and intense – as they always are – but the wines are also increasingly translucent and finessed.”

It’s a pleasure to be able to offer an extensive range from this distinctive and visionary Piedmontese grower, taking in three Barbaresco wines from 2015 as well as some rare whites that are well worth a look.

In addition, we double dipped on the cru wines from the magnificent 2010 vintage in the Langhe, and these are entering an amazing phase right now.



2014 La Spinetta Langhe Bianco RRP \$96

100% Sauvignon Blanc from 36-year-old vines on the south-facing sandy soils of the Mango site, which sits at 500 metres above sea level. Barrel fermented in 2,000-litre French oak casks, where the wine undergoes malolactic conversion and about 12 months' maturation. It is then transferred to stainless steel for almost two years before bottling.

2015 La Spinetta Lidia Chardonnay RRP \$153

Plenty of smoky oak here, but the concentrated, dried-pear character takes it in its stride. Vibrant for a 2015 with a ton of energy at the long, clean finish. Drink or hold. 93 points. *James Suckling* jamesuckling.com September 2018

2014 La Spinetta Barbera Ca di Pian RRP \$53

A rich and fruity wine with oyster shell and dark berry character. Some wet earth. Medium to full body. Flavorful finish. Serious. Well done for 2014. Drink now. 91 points. *James Suckling* jamesuckling.com

2015 La Spinetta Langhe Nebbiolo RRP \$53

100% Nebbiolo from the Staderi cru in Neive. The vines grow at 270m altitude on calcareous soils with a southern exposure, and are between 20 and 23 years old. The vineyard is managed sustainably, with no use of herbicides or pesticides. It undergoes alcoholic fermentation for 7-8 days in temperature controlled roto-fermenters followed by malolactic fermentation in oak. It spends 12 months in medium toast, used French oak barrels and is later transferred to stainless steel vats for two months. After



bottling, it is aged for another 12 months in glass. It is not fined or filtered. It has aromas of dried rose petals and plum and blueberry fruit. It's full-bodied, rich and chewy with dusty tannins and a juicy yet elegant finish.

2015 La Spinetta Barbaresco Bordini RRP \$117

Decadent and rich aromas of smoked meat, ripe fruit and rose stems. Lots of leather, too. Full body, round and soft tannins and a delicious finish. Give it a year or two to come around more, but already delicious. 92 points. *James Suckling* jamesuckling.com September 2018

2015 La Spinetta Barbaresco Staderi RRP \$293

The 2015 Barbaresco Vigneto Staderi rounds out this series of Barbarescos from La Spinetta in grand style. I don't think the Staderi has ever been so elegant or refined as it is in 2015. Medium in body and translucent, the 2015 possesses remarkable purity and nuance in its red-toned fruit and floral aromatics. The oak needs time to fully integrate, but readers should not be planning on opening bottles anytime soon, as the youthful tannins are also imposing. Bright citrus and floral notes add the closing flourishes. 95 points. *Antonio Galloni*, *Vinous Media* October 2018

2015 La Spinetta Barbaresco Gallina RRP \$272

The 2015 Barbaresco Vigneto Gallina is absolutely gorgeous. Vivid and nuanced on the palate, the 2015 is fresh, juicy and flat-out delicious. The Gallina is often a shy wine that needs time in bottle to truly blossom, but the 2015 seems to have skipped that initial phase of reticence. In two separate tastings, the 2015 has been incredibly sensual and polished. Historically, the Gallina has the most consistent track record in aging of the three top Barbarescos in the range. It will be interesting to see if

that is the case here as well. For now, the 2015 Gallina is one of the finest wines I have ever tasted from La Spinetta. 96 points. *Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media* October 2018

2010 La Spinetta Barbaresco Gallina RRP \$204

A Barbaresco that shows unique dried-fruit and warm-stone aromas, like a warm summer afternoon in the vineyards. Full body with velvety tannins and fresh acidity. It's long and intense. Lots going on here. Powerful. One of the best Gallinas ever from here. Better in 2018, but wonderful to taste now. 97 points. *James Suckling, jameessuckling.com* March 2015

2010 La Spinetta Barbaresco Valeirano RRP \$204

Fruit for the 2010 Barbaresco Vigneto Valeirano is harvested at 450 meters above sea level in the Neive township. These conditions shape a radically different character. This wine is precise and sharp with finely etched tones of spice, dark berry and wet earth. The overall structure and power of the wine is super elegant and immediate. You can safely put this bottle away for years. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2035. 96 points. *Monica Lerner, eRobertParker.com* June 2013

2010 La Spinetta Barolo Campè RRP \$280

Lots of flowers, stem and berry character on the nose. It's full body, with chewy tannins and a long, long finish. Big and powerful for the vintage. Needs at least five years of bottle age. Try in 2019. 95 points. *James Suckling, jameessuckling.com* March 2015

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LEGEND OF LANGENLOIS

You may have missed it, but Willi Bründlmayer was this year awarded the **2019 Lifetime Achievement Award** from the **Gault & Millau** restaurant guide. It's recognition for a career in which he's tirelessly flown the flag for quality Austrian wine, led the way in the sphere of viticulture, furthered the terroir cause by spearheading the Association of Traditional Austrian Wine Estates - and continued to be a thoroughly decent all-round gentleman.

He has a diverse and talented team there, too, with creative and equally affable son Vincent at the forefront alongside Andreas Wickhoff MW and Thomas Klinger, with a dedicated support crew in the vineyard and cellar crew backing them up all the way.

The certified-organic estate has always been characterised by purity, elegance and thoughtfulness. That's still emphatically the case, but this latest shipment sees Bründlmayer on its most exciting form ever.

2017 Bründlmayer Grüner Veltliner Kamptal Terrassen RRP \$39

Kohlrabi, apple, coconut juice, spice. Chalky texture. Good acidity and flavour to go. Lemon peel, cucumber and juicy lemon. Tightens the nuts nicely on the finish, with a bit of pith and crunch to close. Good stuff. 92 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* October 2018

2016 Bründlmayer Grüner Veltliner Vincents Spiegel RRP \$121

Slightly funky (reduction) on the nose with plenty of citrus peel character. An extremely dry Grüner Veltliner that packs quite a tannic punch. Lots of drive and freshness at the finish even if it's not Bründlmayer's greatest 2016 from this grape. Partly fermented on the skins. Drink now. 94 points. *Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com* October 2017

2017 Bründlmayer Grüner Veltliner Loiserberg RRP \$53

Lots of dried-herb and lentil character on the nose. At once powerful and elegant, this is a really sophisticated 2017 Grüner Veltliner that's more open than many of the top wines of the vintage. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. 94 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

2016 Bründlmayer Riesling Kamptal Terrassen RRP \$43

This properly dry riesling is so juicy and attractive. Plenty of depth, but tastes almost weightless. A wealth of white fruits, lemon zest and lemon blossom character, but also a hint of smoke. Drink now. 92 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* November 2017

2017 Bründlmayer Riesling Steinmassl RRP \$64

A totally original dry Riesling from the Danube valley that has a suave and supple feel on the front palate. Then, the firmness from the rocky soil comes through on the cool, lemony finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. 94 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

2017 Bründlmayer Riesling Heiligenstein Lyra RRP \$131

Delicate pineapple nose, then a rich and precisely contoured palate that steers well clear of opulence, making this a very strong 2017 dry Riesling. Long, very clean and mineral finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. 94 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

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PINEAU PALOOZA



The name 'Pineau' appeared as early as 1183 in the Val de Loire – though it's been associated over time with at least four different varieties, according to **Jancis Robinson**. The one at issue here – Pineau d'Aunis – has certainly had a foothold in the Loire since at least the early 1800s. "Wines are generally pale but lively and peppery" says the **Wine Grapes** bible.

If you haven't had a chance to taste one, then our man Mabileau is the perfect place to start. Like all the wines we have from this biodynamic-certified Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil grower, it showcases the Loire's vitality in a way that's going to prove pretty irresistible as the

weather warms up.

2017 Frédéric Mabileau Les Rouillères Chenin Blanc RRP \$46

What a wonderful dynamic and bright thing this is. Green apple, barely ripe pineapple, light, feathery, precise, nervy, tingling subtle sour finish of fair length. You could smash a bottle between two in, well, something like 30 minutes... maybe less. 93 points. *Gary Walsh, [The Wine Front](http://TheWineFront.com)* November 2018

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

Light, bloody meat, a dusting of pepper, raspberries and blackcurrant, a light leafy edge. It's lively, but also kind of mature and savoury, fine peppery tannin, earthy but juicy, cool 'mineral' acidity and slaty feel, finish is dry and pretty long. It's easy to smash, but offers complexity and a point of difference.

Achingly trendy, perhaps, yet feels traditional. Like this. 92 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* November 2018

2016 Frédéric Mabileau 'Les Rouillères' Cabernet Franc RRP \$46

Vivid bright purple colour. Cherry, raspberry, subtle leaf and herb perfume, clay, pencils, but almost a liquorice richness. It's light to medium-bodied, impressive depth of flavour, tight graphite tannin, crisp cranberry acidity, satisfying length. Wonderful energy and high drinking appeal. I was tasting, but then decided to drink a glass of this. 93 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* October 2018

2015 Frédéric Mabileau Bourgueil Racines RRP \$58

Fragrant black fruit aromas, initially very seductive. Palate complete and harmonious, fresh, with dried currant and juniper berry, green peppercorn, crushed rocks and mint. Delicious, quite classic, shows substance and potential as well. 92 points. *Decanter Magazine* June 2018

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EMMI AWARDS

Whenever you read about the wines of Emmerich Knoll, it's striking how even seasoned critics deeply familiar with them can't help but marvel at the seeming contradiction at their heart: such power and depth, yet so sleek, fresh and energetic.

The warm 2017 season here might have run things close, but Emmi Knoll told us at ProWein in March that they were saved by September. A freshening dose of rain and the arrival of some cooler weather held things nicely in check. For this is a family that likes to let the grapes hang out, deepening in flavour and complexity. It's "time out in nature" – not cellar work - that gives wines their character and enduring appeal, says Emmi.

"Hang time is an extremely important part of our wine style," he continues. "Like butter, it cannot be replaced by anything else."

These '17s will once again lead you frolicking across their many dimensions, marvelling at how they pull it off.

2017 Emmerich Knoll Grüner Veltliner Loibner Federspiel RRP \$53

A fresh and lively Grüner Veltliner with a lot of charm and plenty of green and yellow apple aromas, plus a hint of white pepper. Drink now. 90 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamesuckling.com* October 2018

2017 Emmerich Knoll Grüner Veltliner Kreutles Smaragd RRP \$86

A wonderfully expressive Grüner Veltliner with aromas of sweet green beans and snow peas, plus plenty of green plums. Generous, but without any hint of heaviness. Long, silky finish. Drink or hold. 94 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamesuckling.com* October 2018

2017 Emmerich Knoll Grüner Veltliner Loibenberg Smaragd RRP \$115

The whole range of stone-fruit aromas, but the subtle spice is what makes this stand out. Powerful, but comes across as surprisingly light-footed on the palate. This is magnificent Grüner Veltliner Smaragd. Drink or hold. 95 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

2017 Emmerich Knoll Grüner Veltliner Loibner Auslese 500ml RRP \$82

A powerful and spicy Auslese that's only slightly sweet and, therefore, best drunk with sautéed liver or liver paté. Very long, texturally complex, creamy finish. Drink or hold. 95 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

2016 Emmerich Knoll Riesling Loibner Federspiel RRP \$49

Delicate peachy character and a bright, lemony acidity make this a very attractive wine, with a crisp, rather long finish. Drink or hold. 91 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2017

2017 Emmerich Knoll Riesling Schütt Smaragd RRP \$131

So many spicy nuances and an entire spectrum of stone-fruit aromas, make this dry Riesling masterpiece extremely attractive. Yet, beneath these aromas lies a deep chasm that will suck you in if you gaze into it. Still quite firm and tight at the long finish. Drink or hold. 96 points. *Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com* October 2018

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REAP WHAT YOU SOW

For some the classic Lou Reed tune Perfect Day is indelibly stamped with the image of Ewan McGregor overdosing on heroin in that brilliant scene in *Trainspotting*. How different things might have been for Renton, you can't help but feel, if he got hooked on sulphur-free skin-contact white blends from the Burgenland.

Anyway, this concoction of Grüner Veltliner, Muscat Ottonel, Traminer and Chardonnay will give you a genuine lust for life.

2017 Pitt Nat Rosé RRP \$56

The Pitt Nat Rosé comprises Blaufränkisch, Merlot and Syrah grapes which are whole bunch-pressed, spontaneously fermented and bottled with 20-25 grams of residual sugar still left to ferment. This happens in the bottle where the remaining sugar transforms into carbon dioxide and alcohol. After a December night out in the cold (to freeze the yeasts in the bottlenecks) our pét nats get disgorged and refilled with the same wine. Fun to drink at breakfast, lunch, dinner and even at New Year's Eve – although summer is the season where it performs best. Copper-coloured mousse. Unifies cranberries, rose petals and grapefruit. Bone-dry, energetic, dynamic and enticing. Vibrant, fresh and light-hearted finish. – *Gerhard Pittnauer*



2017 Pittnauer Perfect Day RRP \$46

High-toned floral Muscat perfume, spice, tangerine, ginger, a bit umami to taste with a ginseng tea thing going on too. Light. Powdery. Pretty. Breezy but skinsy. So easy to drink, but with subtle orange wine complexity built in. It goes best with a light chill on it. 93 points. *Gary Walsh, [The Wine Front](http://TheWineFront.com)* November 2018

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VAJRA REVISITED

It's been one of the high points of our year on the import front, beginning a partnership with the Vaira family of Vergne in Barolo. We were so pleased with your response, too, with a rich and varied first shipment rapturously received.

We've just landed a set of reinforcements, with sold-out wines such as Dolcetto, Barolo Ravera and J.C. Claré returning, while we also welcome a new vintage of Riesling and Langhe Nebbiolo.

2017 G.D. Vajra Pètracine Langhe Riesling RRP \$76

Aldo Vaira is the pioneer of Riesling in Piedmont. The Riesling harvest takes place in the first half of September and goes on for about two to three weeks. The harvest, as well as the conveyance of the grapes in small crates, is manually carried out to preserve the whole fruit. A triple selection ensures the best quality of the grapes: first in the vineyard, observing the grapes on the vine, and later with a double sorting in the cellar. The fruit was gently pressed and the juice given a brief cold settling before fermentation that goes for about 15-20 days. The wine is aged in steel before bottling in the first half of the spring after harvest. - Giuseppe Vaira



2016 G.D. Vajra Langhe Rosso RRP \$35 screwcap
What a little ripper! Cherry, strawberry, almond, new leather, and spice, aniseed too. It's fresh and juicy, bursting with cherries and spice, but a little bit savoury too, with suede tannin, bright strawberry acidity, and a slightly sticky finish of excellent length. Pleasure packed regionality, perfectly executed. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front November 2018

2017 G.D. Vajra Dolcetto d'Alba RRP \$38

Meaty, spicy, dark cherries, almost into jam, but the spice and savoury stuff checks it: this is serious Mum. Suede tannin, rolling right through the middle, and spiced plum

and Xmas things push it along. It's a wonderful, deep and earthy Dolcetto. Do it. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front September 2018

2016 G.D. Vajra Barbera d'Alba RRP \$49

Floral, dark cherry, red fruit, spice, lively, medium-bodied, such fine balance, tannin is grainy but fine, 'mineral' feel to the acidify, fresh, juicy and long to close. Smoking Barbera, and so nicely made. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front September 2018

2017 G.D. Vajra Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C. RRP \$46

Produced with grapes from younger vines on the estate's vineyards, Claré J.C. is 100% Nebbiolo. In 2017, approximately a quarter of the fruit was vinified with whole clusters. The winemaking protocol follows the 1606 writings of Gian Battista Croce. 25% of the fruit was gently placed as whole clusters at the bottom of the vat, and topped up with crushed juice. After five days, the wine was racked into a closed tank to finish fermentation off the skins, for a more gentle extraction. Malolactic conversion took place in stainless steel. Claré J.C. was bottled in February 2018, after a very short period in vat, so as to retain maximum freshness in the bottle. - Giuseppe Vaira

2017 G.D. Vajra Langhe Nebbiolo RRP \$53

How's the clarity? So much clarity. Red fruit, cherry, almond paste, spice. Medium-bodied, fresh and sure-footed, succulence of flavour without sweetness, gentle rasp of tannin, and that almond thing really hooks me, along with a clear and long finish. Delicate and beautiful. 93 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front November 2018

2014 G.D. Vajra Barolo Albe RRP \$97

A tribute to local tradition, the 2014 Barolo Albe represents an assembly of fruit from various vineyard plots throughout the area. Winemaking is classic in approach with a 25-day maceration period and aging in large Slavonian oak casks. This vintage shows silky, fine lines and a more accessible approach for near and medium-term drinking. I would recommend a few more years of bottle aging, however, to allow the wine the time to grow in texture and mouthfeel. 91 points. Monica Lamer, Wine Advocate June 2018

2014 G.D. Vajra Barolo Ravera RRP \$149

Earthy, savoury, rolling tannin, mineral feel, has depth and rosy perfume in there. Soil. The quality of tannin is pretty good here, especially considering it's from 2014. Thick and ripe, even like recalling the wonders of Serralunga (as some parts of Novello often do) with a raspberry freshness. It feels well-etched and clear, and while softer and more approachable this vintage, it's still pretty robust. And very bloody good. 94+ points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front September 2018

2014 Luigi Baudana Barolo Cerretta RRP \$163

Gravitas and pure power are the signatures of the 2014 Barolo Cerretta. The black cherry, plum, lavender, sage and menthol notes add to an impression of dark, brooding intensity to go with the wine's vertical sense of structure. This tannic, massive Barolo is likely to require a number of years in bottle to become approachable. 93+ points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media February 2018

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RIESLING RATED

A whole host of pourable Rieslings arrived down under in time for spring, all of them furnished with handsome reviews from the northern hemisphere. Now summer's upon us, and in case you needed an extra nudge or a bit of local endorsement, here are a few tasty options – all dry apart from the Gunderloch Spätlese; all German apart from Domäne Wachau's Bruck; and all '17 apart from the newly-landed Vom Schiefer from the lovely Eva Clüsserath of Trittenheim in the Mosel.

2017 Domäne Wachau Bruck Riesling Federspiel RRP \$35

Smoky, flinty, lime and grapefruit, with a little white peach and honey. It's intense and flavoursome, fresh and lightly chalky, preserved lemon in the mix, with a satisfying mouth-watering finish. Bold, but beautiful. 93 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front December 201



2016 Ansgar Clüsserath Vom Schiefer Riesling Trocken RRP \$39

What a little mouth-waterer this is! Lime, thyme, mint, a little honey and petrol. Light, intense burst of lime and green mango, distinctly stony texture, zippy and tight through the finish, which closes dry and flinty. Quick, someone hand me a schnitzel! 92 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* November 2018

2017 A. Christmann Estate Riesling RRP \$39

I'm partial to a little synaesthesia when it comes to wine, and offer that this wine tastes very 'yellow'. I'm thinking ripe lemon and something of a fresh apricot kernel, mango and starfruit thing happening, along with a bit of spice, and a tickle of spritz. It's juicy and fleshy, some zest, a chalky texture, balanced acidity, and a slightly savoury finish of generosity where brine meets spiced peach. It has weight and presence, yet retains an easy charm. 93 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* November 2018

2017 Wittmann Estate Riesling RRP \$39

Mineral, slight petrol note, lime and other citrus. It's juicy and fleshy, with soft but sure acidity, a bit of tingly fun and crunch, and a yellow Starburst finish of fine length. It's a wonderful thing to drink, and to me, feels very approachable right now. On a pure enjoyment scale, could be tempted to rate it one point higher. 93 points. *Gary Walsh, The Wine Front* November 2018

2017 Gunderloch Rothenberg Riesling Spätlese RRP \$74

That tension, that tussle between sweetness and acidity is just so well fought here. Compelling. It's viscous, juicy, explosive and 'mineral'. Honey, smoke, pineapple, candied ginger, and a wee bit of savoury cheese stuff. It moves on glistening rails of sugar and acidity: barley sugar and green apple acidity, to be more prosaic. Finishes long, sweet, but etched with acidity and powdery texture. Outstanding. 95+ points.

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READING THE RIOTTE ACT

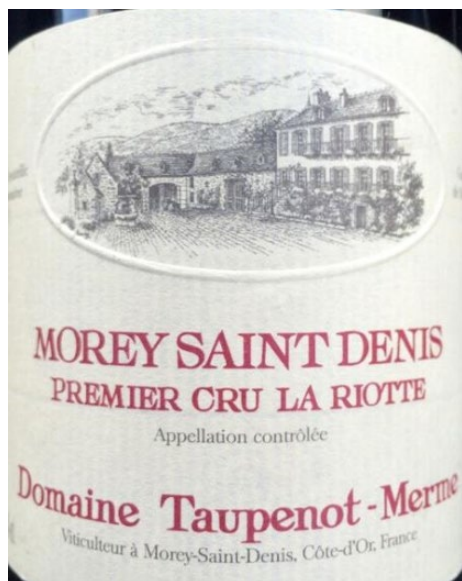
Neal Martin of **Vinous Media** recently took part in Burgfest, an annual blind tasting we don't want to say too much about lest you – or, let's be honest, we – expire from jealousy. Needless to say, the line-up was unfathomably awesome, with breathtaking quality and scope.

It featured solely wines from the 2015 vintage, both red and white. And from Martin's write-up this nice mention caught our eye about brother-and-sister act Romain and Virginie Taupenot. "Domaine Taupenot-Merme is another grower that performed extremely well," he wrote. "I have been following Romain Taupenot for many years now, and there has been a real upswing in quality in the last five or six years. His 2015s are simply glorious, his best vintage to date." One of the wines tasted was the La Riotte premier cru in Morey-Saint-Denis. A bit of an unsung climat, it lies in the Taupenots' home village and CellarHand started bringing it in from '14 onwards. We now have a small quantity of three vintages available, and thought you might like to discover it, too.

For those in the know, it's actually one of Morey's leading premiers crus, with mostly very old vines and the same geology as Mazoyères, with calcareous soil rich in clay. Taupenot-Merme has a 2.5ha parcel, and the estate's vines are about 55 years old.

2014 Taupenot-Merme Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru La Riotte RRP \$248

Good bright red. Pretty, floral nose combines raspberry, rose petal and saline minerality. A silky, savoury



midweight given definition and lift by tart red berry, violet and spice flavors. The wine's sweetness is nicely countered by its penetrating character. A classically dry 2014 with terrific energy, this has turned out very well. Romain Taupenot considers La Riotte to be an underrated premier cru. 92 points. *Stephen Tanzer, Vinous Media* March 2017

2015 Taupenot-Merme Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru La Riotte RRP \$266

The 2015 Morey-Saint-Denis La Riotte 1er Cru has a taut, crisp, well-defined bouquet with just a hint of boot polish that actually complements the mélange of red and black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied, offering sappy black fruit laced with white pepper, and nicely proportioned, providing satisfying freshness and composure toward the sustained finish.

Excellent. Tasted blind at the annual Burgfest tasting. 93 points. *Neal Martin, Vinous Media* November 2018

2016 Taupenot-Merme Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru La Riotte RRP \$272

The 2016 Morey Saint Denis 1er Cru La Riotte has an expressive and engaging bouquet, a mixture of red and black fruit, pressed flowers and bergamot tea, complex and gaining intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well-judged acidity, maybe a little conservative but very precise with a sense of energy and tension conveyed on the finish. Fortunately there is a good volume of this wine this vintage – try to buy some. 91-93 points. *Neal Martin, Wine Advocate* December 2017



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