



Welcome to the CellarHand newsletter for August 2021. Here's a little taste of what's going on this month...

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DOMESTIC

EBENEZER KNEES-UP

Ben Glaetzer's label turns 25 this year, and these two 2019 flagships are a great way to celebrate this Baron of the Barossa's mastery of his art.



The Ebenezer sub-region in the valley's north has a monumental reputation for old-vine excellence that belies its size (just one square mile). And that's thanks to Ben and those growers, like Adrian Hoffmann, who are spot-on with the quality and character of the fruit.

Cool ferments in 1- and 2-tonne stainless-steel pots tease out fragrance and elegance that marries harmoniously with the sheer intensity and complexity of these wines. Anaperenna brings together Shiraz (84% of the blend in '19) from vines aged 30–100 years old with Cabernet Sauvignon (16%) from vines aged 30–130 years old. Yields are a measly 2.5 tonnes per hectare. It has beautifully succulent, creamy cherry and blackberry fruit within a long, linear framework.

The Glaetzer Amon-Ra (vines aged 50–130 years old; yields 2 tonnes per hectare) is a classic, too. Though a little more reticent and brooding at this stage, phenomenal detail emerges with time - red and black fruits with whispers of spice, soy, dried herbs, white pepper, coffee,

cola and more. Its supremely persistent with supple, melting tannins. The wines are resounding. Bravo, Ben!

THE 2019 SEASON

It was a dry growing season, with very few rainfall events. This, combined with strong winds and minor frost during October, had an impact on flowering and thus lowered ultimate crop levels. This was followed by a hot and dry January and February. However, our vineyards with their deep root systems thrived in the conditions; canopies remained fresh and the small crop ripened nicely. Vintage commenced later than usual as a result of the flowering impact.

The sheer quality and balanced concentration of the fruit was astounding. The resultant 2019 wines are showing dark and vibrant colour, terrific aromatic lift and freshness with tight yet approachable young tannins. – Ben Glaetzer

2018 Glaetzer Wallace Shiraz Grenache RRP \$24

Glaetzer's least-expensive offering is a terrific bargain. The 2018 Wallace Shiraz-Grenache is a 72-28 blend, offering hints of cola and plum on the nose, backed by brighter raspberry and strawberry notes. It's medium to full-bodied and framed by silky, fine-grained tannins, with a long, mouthwatering finish that hints at mocha and wood spice. Drink this beauty over the next 6-7 years. 91 points. Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate

2018 Glaetzer Bishop Shiraz RRP \$37

All Shiraz, all from the Ebenezer section of the northern Barossa, the 2018 Bishop Shiraz is a super value in the context of Barossa, and Australian Shiraz in general. Matured in only 5% new oak hogsheads, it delivers bountiful cherry and raspberry fruit, accented by hints of mocha and cola. It's medium to full-bodied, plump and juicy, fruity and lush, but reined in by firm, savory tannins on the long, mouthwatering finish. It should drink well for up to a decade. 92 points. Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate

2019 Glaetzer Anaperenna Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$55

Exceptional old-vine fruit grown in the famed Ebenezer sub-district at the northern tip of the Barossa Valley. The Shiraz (84% of the blend) is from vines aged 30–100 years old; the Cabernet Sauvignon (16%) is from vines aged 30–130 years old. Yields are 2.5 tonnes per hectare.

The fruit was fermented in one- and two-tonne open fermenters and hand-plunged three times daily. The wine was matured for 16 months in 100% new oak hogshead barrels (92% French and 8% American) and matured on lees to maintain fruit profile and animation. The wine is bottled unfiltered to ensure minimal intervention with the wine's natural characteristics.

The wine is almost glowing black with deep red hues. The nose offers a heady bouquet of mulberries, blackcurrant, clove, aniseed and nutmeg. A fine white pepper nuance intermingles. Fine Cabernet tannins provide the structural framework for the flesh and fruit-driven nature of the Shiraz. A dense yet savoury palate with depth and boldness also exhibits an elegant restraint. This is a wine that will mature extremely well with long term cellaring through to 2040. – Ben Glaetzer

2019 Glaetzer Amon-Ra Shiraz RRP \$101

Exceptional old-vine Shiraz fruit was sourced from the famed Ebenezer sub-district at the northern tip of the Barossa Valley. Vine age 50–130 years old. Yield 2 tonnes per hectare.

Fermented in one- and two-tonne open fermenters, hand-plunged three times daily. Matured for 16 months in 100% new oak hogshead barrels (95% French and 5% American) and matured on lees to maintain fruit profile and animation. Bottled unfiltered to ensure minimal intervention with the wine's natural characteristics.

Deep purple in youth, this wine will evolve to a lovely dark red hue with maturation. The nose displays blood plum showing hints of dark cherries and dried garden herbs. The palate is rich and mouthcoating

yet with the balance, finesse and elegance that epitomises Amon-Ra. An earthy spice complements the brooding dark fruit flavours. This is a wine that will develop beautifully with long-term cellaring through to 2045. – Ben Glaetzer

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CORYMBIA COMEBACK

“An exceptionally elegant, powder-fine Cabernet, part of the new Margaret River breed. A massive, resounding, YES.”

That was how Erin Larkin of **Halliday Wine Companion** heralded the second coming of this wine. The 2019 had followed a debut that met with monumental, joyous fanfare. “Beautiful wine. Succulent, seamless, flowing,” said **Mike Bennie** of the '18. “Beautiful expression of Cabernet here,” gushed **Gary Walsh**. “Beautifully balanced, precise and poised,” crowed **The Real Review**.

So, the scene is set for number three: the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon from Rob and Gen Mann of Corymbia.

“This was the year you wanted a dry-grown, coastal vineyard in Margaret River exclusively planted to Cabernet,” the Manns say of the season, which was the warmest vintage on record. Their vineyard’s situation, within sight of the rolling breakers and cooling salt spray of Redgate Beach, was key to buffering the season’s impact. “If you look closely at our label between 11 and 12 o’clock, this is how hot December was, with all days way above average for maximum temperature,” says Gen. So, she and Rob gratefully cocooned themselves from Covid-19, avoided bushfires and smoke, got a great tan and let a great wine grow.



“We think the result is a remarkable wine from a remarkable year,” she says. “We hope you love it as much as we do.”

The release of this wine happily coincides with the vintage roll onto the 2020 Corymbia Chenin Blanc from Rocket’s Vineyard in the Swan Valley, another triumph of Chenin’s uncanny resilience and freshness in a place the grape’s happy to call home. And to round out this offer we have what Gary Walsh calls the “distinctive and wonderfully regional” red blend from 2019. This brings together dry-grown organically farmed Swan Valley Tempranillo and Malbec in what Erin Larkin calls “an amalgam of emotion and sensation”.

Yes, indeed!

2020 Corymbia Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$64

This wine is the realisation of a dream seeded by Rob’s grandfather, Jack Mann, a departure from the orthodox, to achieve a unique expression of Margaret River Cabernet. Variety, place and experience are woven together to redefine what’s possible.

The third release from our dry-grown, organically farmed Calgardup Vineyard. Located just 2 km inland from the famous Redgate Beach in Margaret River. The fruit was harvested by hand in late March, a little earlier than the typical mid-April harvest dates we’re used to.

100% Cabernet Sauvignon (126 clone planted in 2002) from the Calgardup vineyard in Redgate, Margaret River. Planting density is 1785 vines per hectare on Keenan gravelly loam. The fruit was picked on 23rd and 26th March 2020. It was berry-sorted prior to natural, whole-berry fermentation in a single French oak vat. Maturation followed in very old demi-muids and barriques for 14 months. Bottled 28th May 2021.

We love wines with spine and structure that comes from the grape and not from an oak tree grown on the other side of the world. No fancy winemaking or oak influence, just a relentless pursuit of perfection in the vineyard. This wine tastes of the grape, the dirt and the season without pretention, which is exactly what we want. Pomegranate, wild blackberries, violets and salted licorice characters are complemented by a palate of great energy and drive. It's all framed by the vineyard's typical graphite-like structure. Very satisfying. - **Rob & Gen Mann**

2020 Corymbia Rocket's Vineyard Chenin Blanc RRP \$32

Well, we made a cool wine, from one of the hottest and driest vintages, from one of Australia's hottest wine regions. Pretty snazzy eh? Combine this with being dry grown, it gives us confidence our little region has a few more miles under the bonnet for the bumpy road of climate change ahead.



100% Chenin Blanc grown on Rocket's Vineyard in Upper Swan. Soils are Houghton loam and the clones are Noack massale selection. The vines are planted at a density of 1540 vines per hectare. The grapes were picked on 16th and 22nd January 2020. Bottled on 11th November 2020 Alcohol 13%; RS 0.8g/L; pH 3.32; total Acidity 5.78g/L.

The grapes were harvested by hand and whole bunch-pressed prior to natural fermentation. A portion was fermented and matured in seasoned French oak barriques for seven months prior to blending and bottling.

The wine smells of lemon pith and nashi pear with a lick of carbide. The palate is lively with a briny spine, great clarity and stacks of flavour. - **Rob and Gen Mann**

2019 Corymbia Tempranillo / Malbec RRP \$43

Both varieties harvested together, hand sorted, wild-yeast fermented followed by 10 months in seasoned oak. Tony 'Rocket' Mann (Australian Test Cricketer, among other things) was Rob's dad, and this vineyard is outside the family home in Upper Swan.

'Engaging' is an understatement. This is classically structured with dense, chewy tannins that enshroud the ripe and frankly seductive fruit in a blanket of texture. The wine is earthy, layered, glossy and succulent - what an amalgam of emotion and sensation. Yes. 95 points. Erin Larkin, Halliday Wine Companion

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GARDEN RED

On the one hand, it feels a little weird to be talking about 2021 wines, since autumn seems like only yesterday. On the other hand, it's bloody exciting because conversations with growers about the sensational conditions are fresh in the memory.

Well, here they are - fresh on the tongue, too. And none are newer or more jubilant than Airlie Bank's first bottling of Garden Red, a cuvée some years in the making as young Grenache plantings readied themselves to unite with Loire Valley bedfellows Gamay and Cab Franc. This debut is joined by the just-

rolled Pinot Noir from the same vintage.

That means that the Airlie Bank range – snappily dressed in its new livery – is a complete package of youthful exuberance.

NV Airlie Bank Yarra Cuvée Sparkling RRP \$24

This is a blend of 90% Chardonnay and 10% Pinot Noir fruit sourced entirely from the Napoleone Vineyard in the Yarra Valley. Each bottling represents a blend, being one part from the grandfather base tank (the oldest element being 2010) along with one part from the current vintage. The wine sees full MLF, as well as small injections of new oak and brandy spirit.

It's pale gold in appearance with a fine persistent bead. The nose shows aromas of citrus fruits and subtle apricot, complemented by a doughy, bready complexity. Fresh and vibrant with a focused palate structure of apple blossom and citrus characters with complex brioche notes.

2021 Airlie Bank Sauvignon Blanc RRP \$24

The 2021 Airlie Bank Sauvignon Blanc fruit was (as always) picked at low baumé (10.5) from Block 10 on the Napoleone Vineyard, which was planted in 2009. Juice with all solids was run to old puncheons the day after pressing. After fermentation it was stirred weekly before coming out to the bottling tank in late April. It just gets an SO2 addition and then to bottle in mid-May.

This is a really gentle, refreshing wine. It has hints of passionfruit and baby peas. The wine runs a higher pH/lower TA than most Sauvignon Blanc that's out there. It's really succulent as a result, and the fruit finishes with a savoury and slightly phenolic line. – **Tim Shand, Punt Road**

2021 Airlie Bank Gris on Skins RRP \$24

The 2021 Airlie Bank Gris on Skins has its distinctive Redskin (now quite rightly renamed Red Ripperz!) nose, with Meyer lemon and dash of Old Spice. The palate is more restrained than in previous years, musky and floral with a bitter aperol finish. Winemaking was more towards whole bunches this year, and even the skins component had a longer maceration (4 days). Despite all this the wine is refreshing and balanced, restrained even. – **Tim Shand, Punt Road**

2021 Airlie Bank Pinot Noir RRP \$24

This was another mild, relatively wet growing season leading into a mild but dry, clear ripening period, so broadly a cross between the much-loved 2015 and '17 seasons. The Airlie Bank blocks (predominantly clones 777 and 115) are now 15 years old, which should be a watershed in terms of vine rigour and subsequent wine depth.

The gentleness of the weather and benign vintage conditions led to gradual ripening and high tannin synthesis, but most significantly ripe tannins – dense but fine-grained.

We have found that whole-bunch ferments in the milder years can lean towards aggressive green tea characters, so we brought the proportion back to 40% this year. That's still much higher than any "affordable" Pinot on the market. The role of the whole bunch element in people's enjoyment of this wine can't be overstated.

As always, we used no barrels. The wine was pressed to tank, left on full lees and with no SO2 until just before bottling. For the preservative-wary its worth pointing out that this wine only carries 45ppm of SO2. Nearly all red wine not labelled preservative free would be 80-110ppm. This also means the wine is ready to drink much sooner. It was subjected to no finings and only a coarse filtration. This is a lot of Pinot for the price. – **Tim Shand, Airlie Bank**

2021 Airlie Bank Garden Red RRP \$24

This is exciting on two fronts: First, as a considered response to the fresh, juicy red style the drinker is rapidly swinging towards. Second, because it marks a significant



point in time for our vineyard, seven years in the planning. This wine is an equal-parts blend of Grenache, Gamay and Cab Franc. Grenache and Gamay are relatively new arrivals for us, and both could be as significant as Pinot Noir in our future. The wine's characteristics show why we planted them post-phylloxera and in a warming climate. This is bright but savoury, and maintains our house style on an increasingly volatile planet.

Gamay and Cab Franc play together as you'd expect, the young vine Grenache surprised us with its ability to bring seriousness and edge, particularly to the tannin profile.

The winemaking is Punt Road 101: Canopies maintained to promote vine and fruit vigour; grapes picked on the cusp of ripeness; 100% whole-bunch ferments in one-tonne open pots; pressed to old puncheons to rest on lees for four months. There was a small SO₂ addition the day before it hit the bottle (40ppm). No finings, coarse filtration. - **Tim Shand, Punt Road**

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ROCCIA E RUSCELLO



“How good is Tasmanian Pinot Noir!” asks **Jeni Port**, clearly rhetorically, in the face of compelling evidence of its wondrousness from Stefano Lubiana.

If you missed the memo about these bottlings, then we'll fill you in with the help of Jeni's **Halliday Wine Companion** colleague **Ned Goodwin MW**, who wrote of the previous release: “These single-plot Pinots are among the finest of the country, demanding serious attention.”

There are three blocks singled out for special attention on account of their special terroir and the way the fruit's striking definition stood out to Steve Lubiana. One of them, Il Giardino, wasn't made in 2018. (Its soil is kind of an amalgam of the other two, so I suppose it's there in spirit.)

So it is that we offer Ruscello and La Roccia, a couple of shining examples of an organic winemaker at the top of his game, who knows his vineyard intimately.

SINGLE-BLOCK PINOT NOIR

The three plots – Ruscello, Il Giardino and La Roccia – have been singled out for their diverse soil and topography, and the nuances of shape, texture and structure that these give to these unique iterations of Pinot Noir. Crop levels are kept low at 3 to 4 tonnes per hectare or 800g to 1kg per vine. Winemaking is very simple and relatively consistent between blocks, with the number of whole clusters in the ferment being the main difference. All are fermented with natural yeast in small, open fermenters with a total maceration of three weeks. All blocks are matured in French oak barriques (20% new) for 12 months.

2018 Stefano Lubiana Ruscello Pinot Noir RRP \$100

How good is Tasmanian Pinot Noir! A wine rich in a profound complexity, seamless and dark. It moves, it glides with fruit intensity deep in dark fruits and savoury spice, bitter chocolate, pomegranate. Smooth across the middle with beautifully crafted tannins. The next step up in Australian Pinot Noir terms is here. 96 points. Jeni Port, Halliday Wine Companion 2021

2018 Stefano Lubiana La Roccia Pinot Noir RRP \$100

Another in the single block series of pinots, and this time drinkers are in for a spice-fuelled treat. What an

exhilarating wine with energy to burn. The scent of licorice, nutmeg, musk and pepper are joined in the glass by black fruits, forest floor. Smooth and even with nicely defined tannins, the middle palate lift and long goodbye provides a starring role for dark spices. 96 points. Jeni Port, Halliday Wine Companion 2021

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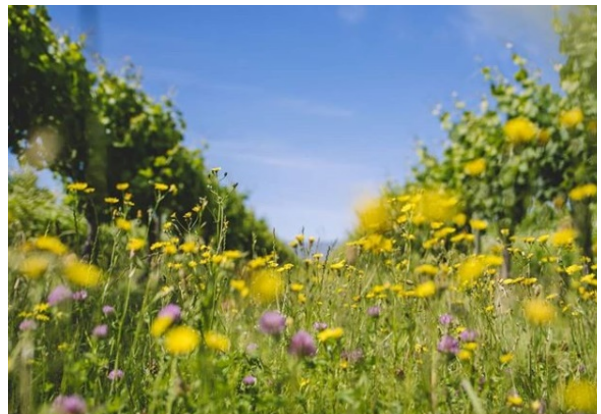
TWR'S TOP '20

It's perhaps fitting that 2020 – “a Goldilocks vintage” for TWR – has ended up repaying the Flowerdays in tasty wine after stealing their thunder with the Covid crisis.

It was a year when TWR deserved to be riding the crest of a wave. Jason Flowerday, one half of this inspiring husband-and-wife team, was named **NZ Viticulturist of the Year** back in February by **Gourmet Traveller WINE**. A few months later, the estate rocketed into super-rarefied company by having a second wine added to the **Fine Wines of New Zealand** classification when Anna and Jase's 2017 single-vineyard dry Riesling joined Toru.

The arrival of a stellar Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer from 2020, joining Toru and Sauvignon Blanc from the same vintage, is an elegant riposte.

And with the current line-up we have a resounding reminder that, though TWR's modern fame is built upon its pristine aromatic whites, the Flowerdays' deft touch and first-rate viticulture works wonders with Syrah and Pinot, too. The estate's latest Pinot inspired **Wine Front** writer **Gary Walsh** to write in his review intro: “I always bang on about how good Marlborough Pinot Noir can be. It just needs the right sites, and attention to detail in the vineyard.” Exhibit A, right here.



The 2020 Harvest

Over the spring of 2019 we experienced great conditions over flowering which led to moderate crops and a nice, even set which was great after the bad flowering we had in 2019. The summer that followed was warm, dry and even with no big heat spikes - similar to the 2016 growing season. We have described it as "the Goldilocks vintage" - not too hot, not too cold, just right! We did not get the issues with extreme drought like we had in 2019 and so the gentler summer conditions meant that we had the first fruit into the winery mid-March and harvest was completed by the first week in April.

The resultant wines have great depth of flavour and fleshiness with purity of fruit, bright aromatics and ripe, juicy acidity. – Anna Flowerday

2020 TWR Sauvignon Blanc RRP \$30

The intensity and freshness here is hard to beat in this hotly contested category, and the intensity of peach, green-mango, lime and grapefruit flavours is impressive. Long, juicy and mouthwateringly fresh. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 93 points. Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com

2018 TWR Riesling 'D' SV 5182 RRP \$32

This has a very fresh, concentrated and composed nose that fuses white peaches, lemons and apple pastry to good effect. The palate has a succulent feel with attractive, fresh acidity and a smooth core of white-peach and honeydew flavours. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 94 points. Nick Stock, jamessuckling.com

2020 TWR Toru SV 5182 RRP \$32

Made with Gewürztraminer, Riesling & Pinot Gris – this is an exemplary wine and master class in co-

fermentation, style and balance. Aromas and flavours of exotic tropical fruits, fresh citrus and apple, white flowers and spice. Equally intense and fruity on the palate with myriad flavours of fresh white fleshed fruits, citrus and tropical. Refreshing acid line carries flavours and a firm youthful mouthfeel through to a lengthy finish. Best drinking from purchase and through 2025. 96 points. **Cameron Douglas MS, camdouglasms.com**

2020 TWR Pinot Gris SV 5182 RRP \$32

Ripe, fruity, varietal, floral and gently spicy bouquet. Aromas and flavours of white nectarine and Asian pear, yellow apple and lychee nut. A fine complex layer of tangerine and lemon peel, blossoms and white pepper add complexity and depth. Silky texture with plenty of acidity to contrast a core of fruit flavours. A gentle warming alcohol carries the flavours and textures through a lengthy finish. Excellent example in a drier style, balanced and well made. Drink now and through 2024+. 94 points. **Cameron Douglas MS, camdouglasms.com**



2020 TWR Gewürztraminer SV 5182 RRP \$43

Fresh, creamy and concentrated Gewürztraminer, with classic varietal flavours including Turkish Delight, lychee and potpourri. A lovely wine with old-vine intensity. Should develop well with bottle age. 95 points. **Bob Campbell MW, *The Real Review***

2017 TWR Pinot Noir RRP \$54

Cherry, damp earth, spice and dried flowers. Medium-bodied, a little sappy, but with a coolness and fine 'mineral' feel, tannin is dense and tight, with a sort of emery texture, a dusting of cocoa, and tamarind infused red fruits on a long clean finish. Lovely wine. Has a bit of X-Factor, even. I like it. 94 points. **Gary Walsh, *The Wine Front***

2019 TWR Syrah SV 5182 RRP \$80

Complex, varietal, floral, a deep core of minerality and soft white pepper bouquet. Flavours of wild and fresh raspberry, black currant, violets and sweet meats, fine silty mineral core and layers of barrel spice and toastiness. Plenty of tannin and a backbone of acidity with youthfully firm yet polished tannin textures - all leading to a lengthy finish. A wine for the cellar - if you can wait till early 2022 - then decant for service and enjoy on its own or with food. Well made, complex and highly recommended. 95 points. **Cameron Douglas MS, camdouglasms.com**

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IMPORTS

PITTI YOURSELF

The CellarHand team was recently treated to a wonderful virtual trip to Gols to catch up with the great Gerhard and Brigitte Pittnauer. There was plenty to talk about, as we've just welcomed a full and varied shipment from these Burgenland champions.

"Our approach is artistic rather than technical or commercial," he says – as if the colourful labels and playfully elegant wines didn't spell it out.

As befits a creative genius, this latest range is brimming with



vibrancy, colour and surprises.

As always, the excellent rosé and Pitti red lead the way - everyday sippers full of pleasure.

We have varietal reds from indigenous varieties Blaufränkisch and Zweigelt, as well as a very pleasing Pinot Noir.

The St Laurent Vom Dorf is a step up, doing justice to the enigmatic charms of this tricky variety.

And at the more avant-garde end of the spectrum is the Pitt Nat méthode ancestrale rosé and the R&B Grüner Veltliner/St Laurent blend.

Just because Pittnauer peddles pleasure at every step, it shouldn't be forgotten that he's hugely excited by the top-end potential of his Pannonian paradise. He showcases this exceptionally well with his Pittnauski and Pannobile bottlings.

We're really proud to present this eclectic, electric range to you.



2020 Pittnauer Pitt Nat Rosé RRP \$57

Like other ground-breaking movements the natural wine avant-garde did not come out of the blue. Most of its methods were already used before but a lot of them were forgotten or neglected in times of increasingly unifying and global trends: sparkling wines produced in the méthode ancestrale, so called pét-nats (pétillant naturel), for example. Pét-nats run through a second fermentation in the bottle and its production demands care and experience. When they are great, they are without any doubt more interesting and quaffable than whatever comes out of a pressure tank. This is why they were reborn by a group of young French winemakers some years ago and in the meantime made their leap to Gols.

The selection of Merlot and Syrah as main grapes for the Pitt Nat Rosé is a tribute to the homeland of

the pét-nats (and also rosé). It is whole bunch-pressed, spontaneously fermented and bottled with 20-25g 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 bottleneck) our pét nats are disgorged and refilled with the same wine.

Last year's version was already fun to drink at breakfast, lunch, dinner, New Year's Eve, spring, summer and autumn – nothing has changed there, although the flavours are slightly different. It has the colour of pink grapefruit and tastes a little bit like it. It also brings together raspberries, rose petals and grapefruit. It is inciting and dynamic, fizzing fresh and vibrant over the finish line. - **Gerhard Pittnauer**

2020 Pittnauer Rosé RRP \$29

The king's crown has slipped. Which is not really surprising. After all, Blaufränkisch, Zweigelt, Merlot and Cabernet have come together to form a deeply democratic pink-red cuvée, based on the motto "Rosé for everyone". The principle of égalité is not followed literally, but the lion's share is granted to the Blaufränkisch and Zweigelt grapes - but no revolution is to be proclaimed either.

Rather, the "König" is about a rosé that can be drunk on any occasion and at any time of the day or night, that is inviting and stimulating, ensures a good mood, combines fluidity with substance and is welcome on the terrace, while picnicking and at business dinners.

To do this, we handpicked organically grown grapes from different vineyards on the right bank of Lake Neusiedl, pressed them after a few hours of maceration, fermented them spontaneously and then matured them in steel tanks for a few months.

The result is a wine that is waiting to be drunk outdoors and with friends. Under the last rays of sunshine of the day, by the lake or in the mountains or - if everything goes well - by the sea. It is light as a feather, smells of strawberries and roses, is crystal clear, slightly spicy, juicy and invigorating and flows fresh, fruity and without dangling over the palate. - **Gerhard Pittnauer**

2018 Pittnauer Pitti RRP \$28

The Pitti is quite simply a quintessential wine from the east bank of the Neusiedlersee. It reproduces almost all the attributes that characterise the lake, its micro- and macroclimate and the geology of its surrounding landscapes using fermented Zweigelt and Blaufränkisch grapes.

In terms of climate, the cool winds on the Parndorfer Platte play just as important a role as the often dry and hot conditions on the Heideboden and the constant regulating influence of Lake Neusiedl. The subsoil is also diverse: some vines are rooted in loess, others in loamy sand, and still others in lime-rich black-earth soils.

All vineyards are cultivated either organically or biodynamically - not all by ourselves, but all according to our principles. The picking dates, vinification of the different batches, élevage and assemblage is entirely our responsibility. In short, this means that crisp but perfectly ripe grapes are harvested relatively early and then fermented spontaneously, the maceration is not too long and the maturation takes place in large, used wooden barrels.

Pitti is carefree, inviting, fresh and fruity, juicy and dynamic. Red berries, cherries and a fine spice characterise the aroma profile. The texture is juicy and compact, the acidity and tannin are in balance and give the Pitti temperament, balance and energy all the way through. It also uplifting on the finish with good fruit and vitality. - **Gerhard Pittnauer**

NV Pittnauer R&B RRP \$43

R&B = rosso e bianco, rouge et blanc, a lot of rhythm and a little blues - or to get to the heart of it ampelographically: 75% Grüner Veltliner + 25% St Laurent. The fruit comes from the Goldberg and Neuberg vineyards. The St Laurent grows on light, gravelly soils and the Grüner on limestone and slate. In some wine circles this mixing ratio is regarded as highly heretical and contradicts the canon of how wine is usually made, but ultimately the result justifies the means.

Our R&B is made from red and white grapes as an answer to social conditions in which concepts of purity are constantly brought to the fore. We mix and unite and show that this can also result in a harmonious whole.

The grapes were picked, vinified and aged separately and only then blended. Both wines were fermented spontaneously and the maturation took place in large wooden barrels. There was no filtering or fining, and minimal sulphuring.

The open and inviting nose shows crystal-clear red berries. Currants, cherries and tangerines. It's structured, a little rough, which is definitely fun. Not a soft-brushed everyday wine, rather a real wine with rough edges, character, dynamism, energy and aromas, which are always red and fresh, even further down the palate. The wine will withstand a few years in the cellar without any problems. - **Gerhard Pittnauer**



2019 Pittnauer Pinot Noir RRP \$40

The fruit grows on the gravelly brown soils of the Goldberg, Zwickelacker and Holzacker vineyards. Pinot Noir stands in big letters on the label and Pinot Noir takes centre stage in this wine. Origin is - as always - important but backs down in favour of the variety. Since Pinot Noir is one of the great translators of terroir, this might come as a surprise. But what is true for Burgundy and other lime-based regions - the

calcareous soils of the Leithaberg, for example – does not apply to our vineyards: our grapes come from the plains of the Parndorfer Platte, and its flat, sandy and windy plots. It is no terroir for subtle and complex, soil-driven Pinot Noir but one where the tender, radiant, vivid, precise, immediate and captivating delicacy of the fruit gets all the glory. Fermentation takes place in stainless steel tanks, maturation in 500-litre wooden barrels.

This is velvety and smooth, with red fruit everywhere. Cherries and strawberries. Ripe and juicy. Initially round and soft, it tapers along its way through the mouth and runs straight as a train over the palate. It combines substance with drinkability and levity with depth. It's one of the few red wines which goes perfectly well with fish. - **Gerhard Pittnauer**

2018 Pittnauer Zweigelt RRP \$32

Black cherry, sour cherry, marzipan, dried herb and game meat. Medium-bodied, sour cherry and orange rind, juniper, brisk acidity and fine chalky tannin, tart blackberry and spice on a juicy and pan-juicy finish of solid length. A distinctly 'mineral' feel here, and while it's a little 'off road' in character, it's a lovely thing to drink. 90 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front February 2021

2018 Pittnauer Blaufränkisch RRP \$32

The Heideboden is not precisely defined geographically. Located on the eastern shores of Lake Neusiedl, it includes the plain that stretches from the Seewinkel via Frauenkirchen to the foot of the Parndorfer Platte. Covered by sand, gravel, lime and clay, it offers a geological mosaic in which Zweigelt, Sankt Laurent and Blaufränkisch feel at home.

As with our Zweigelt, we also pursue a double intention with the Blaufränkisch Heideboden. On one hand, we want to capture the origin here as well; to reflect the warmth of the Pannonian climate and the lightness inherent in the sandy soils of the Neusiedlersee. On the other hand, we are concerned with revealing the subtle, precise and finely woven side of the grape variety.

The grapes for the Blaufränkisch Heideboden are picked by hand and fermented spontaneously in stainless steel tanks. It is matured on the lees in large, used wooden barrels for a good six months.

Herbs and red berry aromas set the tone, with complementary pepper and undergrowth. The body is compact and elegant, the acidity is lively, the tannins have easy grip. This shows that, even in a warm vintage like 2018, you could make fine, light-hearted yet profound wines. Floral aromas complete the sensory impression on the palate. - **Gerhard Pittnauer**



2019 Pittnauer St Laurent Vom Dorf RRP \$43

The fruit for Pittnauer St. Laurent Vom Dorf comes from the iron-rich, broken stone-strewn Goldberg, Salzbergacker, Zwickelacker and Jungäcker vineyard.

So here we have St. Laurent in top form from perhaps the best vintage of the last decade. It was warm but never too hot and, thanks to a rainy May, completely stress-free for the vines. The autumn was golden, the sky blue, and the grapes ripe and pristine. Nothing stood in the way of a smooth vinification.

Most of the vineyards in which our St. Laurent is rooted are located on the Parndorfer Platte. It is a relic of the original Danube, as manifested in soils comprising gravel and alluvial sand. A few dozen wind turbines also clearly point out what else characterises the Parndorfer Platte: somewhat cooler conditions and consequently longer vegetative periods, which is extremely noticeable in an early-ripening variety like St. Laurent.

In the cellar we did what had to be done. The fermentation started spontaneously as always, and the wine's expansion took place in used 500-litre wooden barrels. It was not fined or filtered, and only minimally sulphured.

This wine is playful, elegant and yet emphatic. It has vigour and power. The nose shows deep, clear, cool, red-berry fruit. It's mineral, powerful and vital on the palate. The tannins are very fine, the structure juicy

and light-footed, yet noticeably compact. The wine has superb drinking flow and makes you want a second bottle. - **Gerhard Pittnauer**

2015 Pittnauer 'Pittnauski' RRP \$49

A wine that glides over the palate, just medium weight, succulent with firm but lacy tannins, good acidity, loaded with cherry flavours and dried herb character. Feels understated in the best possible way, one to whisk around in a big glass and settle in and watch open. Such a good vibe here. 93 points.

Mike Bennie, The Wine Front

2016 Pittnauer Pannobile RRP \$64

Funky smokiness reigns on the nose, allowing glimpses of cherry to peek through. The palate is juicy and has black cherry notes at its pulsating, fresh core that is cushioned by velvety tannins. A hint of dark chocolate starts swinging by, but it is juiciness that prevails, caught in a fine gauze of smooth tannins. There is something unforced and free about this. Lovely. 94 points. *Anne Krebiehl MW, Wine Enthusiast*

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JOSE ROSÉ

The lowlight in a year of lowlights was, for CellarHand, the news that Loire vigneron Frédéric Mabileau was killed in a light aircraft crash on the eve of vintage 2020. A standard-bearer for Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil and surrounds, Frédéric had taken on family vineyards and turned his biodynamically farmed domaine into something truly special. The soulful wines have a heartbeat to them, conveying a love of life and land. He is sorely missed.

He is survived by wife Nathalie and sons Charly and Rémy, who pulled together with winemaker mentors and friends to pull off a harvest that Frédéric would have been proud of.

It's an emotional moment for us, receiving this latest set of wines that has seen us delve deeper into the wonders

of the estate. We have fizz, white, rosé and red, including three wines from this latest vintage plus previous harvests that Frédéric had overseen.

A particular mention goes to the carbonic-maceration Cab Franc named Fred, in homage to the late, great man himself.

2020 Frédéric Mabileau Orgasmic Pét Nat RRP \$54

Frédéric Mabileau Orgasmic Pétillant Naturel - or Pét Nath, more correctly, since it's named in honour of Nathalie Mabileau - is 100% Chenin Blanc from a 0.53-hectare plot of sand and gravel over a layer of white clay. The 13-year-old, organic-certified, single guyot-trellised vines are harvested by hand, with a yield of 55hl/ha. The handpicked bunches are slowly pressed and the must fermented in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts. This is a soft and pure pet-nat with extremely fine mousse and aromas of peach, apple and pear.

2020 Frédéric Mabileau Les Rouillères Chenin Blanc RRP \$47

Frédéric Mabileau Les Rouillères Chenin Blanc is grown on a 0.53-hectare plot of sand and gravel over a layer of white clay. The 13-year-old, organic-certified, single guyot-trellised vines are harvested by hand, with a yield of 55hl/ha. The handpicked 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.

2020 Frédéric Mabileau Jose Rosé RRP \$40

Frédéric Mabileau Jose Rosé is dry Cabernet Franc from Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil in the Loire Valley. The organic-grown, biodynamic-certified fruit grows on a 1.5ha plot of sand and gravel. Vines are 40 years old on average and are planted at a density of 5,000 vines per hectare.

The handpicked bunches are destemmed and crushed with 24 hours on skins before spontaneous fermentation in stainless steel. The wine spends six months in tank and is racked twice before bottling with minimal sulphur.

The freshness of this rosé is accompanied by charming aromas of small red fruits. Its tender, mouthwatering side makes it even more sublime.

2018 Frédéric Mabileau Fred RRP \$47

Frédéric Mabileau Fred is a carbonic-maceration expression of Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil Cabernet Franc for a thirst-quenching style. Beautiful whole bunches are gently vinified in this tribute cuvée to Frédéric.

The organic-grown, biodynamic-certified fruit grows on a 1.5ha plot of sand and gravel. Vines are 40 years old on average and are planted at a density of 5,000 vines per hectare.

The carefully selected handpicked bunches are carefully sorted before spontaneous fermentation with carbonic maceration in temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks, where the wine spends six months. Racked twice before bottling with minimal sulphur.



2018 Frédéric Mabileau Cabernet Franc Les Rouillères RRP \$47

Frédéric Mabileau 'Les Rouillères' Cabernet Franc is 100% biodynamic-certified Cabernet Franc from Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil.

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 organic-certified, biodynamically farmed vines with an average age of 40 years, planted on gravelly sand soils and hand-harvested at 43hl/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 eight months in stainless steel and is naturally cold stabilised. It's racked twice prior to bottling.

2017 Frédéric Mabileau Bourgueil Les Racines RRP \$59

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 47-year-old vines on a two-hectare plot on clayey mud and sandstone with gravel. Hand harvested with a yield of 35hl/ha, then destemmed and sorted on a table. Given a four-day pre-ferment cold soak before fermentation in 70-



hectolitre Tronçais oak fermenter. Malolactic conversion and maturation for 18 months in 3- and 4-year-old French oak demi-muids.

The 2017 has deep spicy and smoky notes. The dominance of ripe fruits is combined with the cocoa aromas thanks to the aging in oak. This is a generous wine with soft tannins which expresses the terroir clearly.

2017 Frédéric Mabileau Cabernet Sauvignon RRP \$43

Frédéric Mabileau Cabernet Sauvignon is

100% organic-certified Cabernet Sauvignon from a two-hectare vineyard on sandstone in Anjou. The vines are 20 years old on average, planted at a density of 5,000 per hectare.

The handpicked grapes are destemmed and spontaneously fermented in temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks, where this wine is matured before bottling with minimal sulphur.

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MORIC SMORGASBORD

“Roland remains an innovator of the Burgenland and is a colour-bearer of the region’s most authentic expressions on planet wine,” wrote **Wine Advocate’s Stephan Reinhardt** of the charismatic, enigmatic man behind Moric. “If there was no Roland Velich, the Burgenland would not have been known as a potential world-class red-wine region. It still isn’t widely known but more and more wine nerds on planet wine discover the Pannonian virtues thanks to Moric’s terrific Blaufränkisch wines...”

It’s a timely reminder of the importance of this character in promoting the greatness of this Austrian red-wine heartland. The Blaufränkisch offerings run deep (and incredibly long) with a regional expression, a reserve rendition from the best sites and a single-origin wine from the great Lutzmannsburg vineyard. And as if that weren’t enough, there’s the Jagini joint venture with Hannes Schuster.

The joys here go beyond the Blaufränkisch grape, of course. These limestone-rich soils do wonders with Grüner Veltliner, too, which reaches its Pannonian zenith with Roland’s Serious Wine from a Gorgeous Place.

And Roland’s influence doesn’t stop there; his Hidden Treasures project sees him team up with Hungarian winemakers Tamas Kis and Villa Tolnay for Furmint blends from Somló and Balaton respectively.

All up, that’s one head-spinning trip right there. And you’ll find no better guide than Roland himself.

2019 Moric Hausmarke Supernatural RRP \$54

*Based on Grüner Veltliner, Chardonnay and a bit of Riesling and Welschriesling from the Leithaberg and the Rust hills, the fresh-coloured 2019 Hausmarke Supernatural opens with a cooler and stonier bouquet than the 2018 and indicates a firm structure and good concentration. On the palate, the silky and yeasty-textured wine is pure, fresh and vivaciously mineral, with lingering salinity and delicate phenolic grip that gives a stimulating kick to the finish. Bottled in May 2020 and tasted in June 2020. 91 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate May 2021***



2018 Moric Serious Wine from a Gorgeous Place RRP \$142

*There was no 2017 of Velich's St Georgen Veltliner (which went into the Hausmarke in the end), so I tasted the 2018 Serious Wine from a Gorgeous Place. It offers a clear, pure, rich and complex nose with herbal, floral and spicy, coolish terroir aromas and notes of crushed stones. The fruit intensity emerges only after a longer while of aeration. On the palate, this is a full-bodied, rich and intense, well-concentrated and tightly structured Veltliner from the coolish, forest-surrounded limestone vineyards of St Georgen. The finish is fresh and reveals seriously fine and mealy tannins and lingering salinity. Tasted in June 2020. 92 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** May 2021*

2018 Moric Burgenland Blaufränkisch RRP \$49

*The 2018 Burgenland Blaufränkisch is sourced in Lutzmannsburg, Zagersdorf and St Georgen and the Föllig in Wulkapodersdorf. Its bouquet is deep, pure, intense and spicy as well as refined and fresh in its dark cherry and berry aromas intertwined with lavender and violet and even red berry notes. On the palate, this is silky textured, refined and elegant, wonderfully tart and fruity. The finish is pure and fresh with the vital finesse and salty purity of a white Burgundy intertwined with the black, tart blackthorn fruit of a Burgenland Blaufränkisch. The 2018 is clearly limestone-dominated but, luckily, doesn't hide its fruit. The tannins are fine and fresh and intertwined with the salty purity. A gorgeous red wine. 92 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** May 2021*



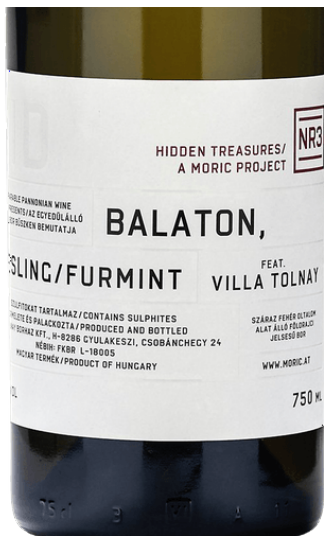
2017 Moric Reserve Blaufränkisch RRP \$89

*The 2017 Blaufränkisch Burgenland Moric Reserve is deep, concentrated and very intense on the nevertheless pure, fresh and floral nose that is populated with dark, tart fruit aromas along with floral and peppery notes. Silky textured, finessed and almost light on its feet in the first moment, this is a pure, salty and very fresh and tensioned Blaufränkisch with the texture of a tart Pinot Noir with fine-grained tannins and the saline purity of the terroirs in Lutzmannsburg and St Georgen. Add Zagersdorf and you get a complete, ambitious and terroir-driven blend of Austria's greatest red wine variety. This 2017 is so pure and tensioned (due to a percentage of whole clusters) that I recommend cellaring it for at least 3-5 years. The finish is almost Chablis-like. Bottled in September 2019 and tasted in June 2020. 95 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** May 2021*

2017 Moric Lutzmannsburg Blaufränkisch Alte Reben RRP \$213

*The 2017 Blaufränkisch Burgenland Lutzmannsburg Alte Reben is deep, intense, fresh and floral on the concentrated and spicy nose that is dominated by dark berry, sour cherry and herbal aromas, with a subtle saline aroma that is a kind of typical for the Moric red wines from limestone, namely from Lutzmannsburg. With time, elderflowers and dark cherry emerge along with notes of pure raw beef, iron, tea, redcurrant and floral notes from lavender and cress blossoms. It is fresh and silky on the palate, with fleshy, concentrated and chewy fruit and an enormous finish that reveals concentration as well as mineral freshness and limestone purity intertwined with ripe and crumbly tannins. This is a fascinating, pure and refreshing wine that will turn out to be one of the greatest in the history of Moric. Bottled in September 2019 and tasted in June 2020. 96 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** May 2021*





HIDDEN TREASURES – Hungarian white-wine collaboration

2019 Moric Hidden Treasures No.2 - Somló RRP \$64

2019 Moric Hidden Treasures No. 2 is a collaboration between Roland Velich and Hungarian winemaker Tamas Kis. It comprises 60% Furmint, 35% Welschriesling and 5% Harslevelü.

Somló is an 832-hectare wine region in Veszprém county, in the northwest of Hungary. The wines of Somló are exclusively white, and this has historically been home to the most highly prized dry-white wines of the Pannonian region. (It is the traditional wedding wine of Habsburg family.) The majority of the vines are grown on four extinct volcanos: Nagy-Somló; Kis-Somló; Ság; and Herczeg. The grapes grow on pure basalt soil (basalt rock mixed with basaltic sand) from the upper parts of the mountain. They benefit from bottle age but even in youth give a super-mineral and intense wine without any heaviness (less than 12% alcohol).

The vineyard has been cultivated organically since 2014 (though it's not yet certified). The wine is spontaneously fermented and matured in a mixture of stainless steel and some Hungarian oak.

2019 Moric Hidden Treasures No.3 - Balaton RRP \$47

2019 Moric Hidden Treasures No. 3 is a collaboration with Hungarian winemaker Villa Tolnay. It comprises 50% Furmint and 50% Riesling grown on the volcanic hills around Lake Balaton, which feature basalt at the top of the slope and limestone lower down. Furmint might be considered as the Pannonian equivalent to Riesling with its wonderful acidity, fine floral and fruity aromas and great aging potential.

This is a wine that on one hand shows interesting, high-toned aromatics, but develops a completely independent characteristic over time. On the nose it's very appealing - crystal clear and fragrant. There are floral notes with pure white and yellow stone fruits, plus a faint herbal hint in the background. In the mouth it has intense fruit with beautifully balanced acidity and a great attack of minerality. Precise and elegant, it also has even darker, salty aromas and very good length. It's vibrant and seductive with a very clear and distinct message of the place where it's grown. This is our greatest success so far at Lake Balaton! - Roland Velich, Moric

JAGINI – Burgenland collaboration with Hannes Schuster

2013 Jagini Zagersdorf Blaufränkisch RRP \$107

*The 2013 Zagersdorf Jagini is from 60- to 85-year-old vines on dense clay soils that give the wines an intense reduction. That's why Roland Velich and Hannes Schuster give the wine five years in used 1,500- and 1,600-liter barrels and 10-year-old 500-liter barrels. It is deep, ripe and intense on the fruit-driven yet pure and elegant nose, with graphite, black tea and peppery notes. This is a full-bodied, lush and silky-textured Blaufränkisch with fine tannins, good intensity and well-harnessed power. A promising red that I tasted as a barrel sample in August 2018 and from the just-filled bottle in October 2018. The 2013 will be released in spring 2019. 93 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** December 2018*

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MÂCON BACK ON

We were reminiscing recently on the luck that landed us this organic-certified domaine. Young Aurélien Palthey and an old-school label caught our eye during a quest for the holy grail that is great-value Burgundy. A room in Beaune rammed with producers peddling their wares hadn't thrown up a great deal of hope. And then this came along.

It was the 2014 vintage that we first shipped from this Viré-Clessé family, and the wines have been

received marvellously all along the journey. Here we are with the old-vine Mâcon-Villages in its 2020 iteration. Funny how things turn out.

It's a small but perfectly formed parcel we're receiving right now. The ever-delightful stainless-steel raised Chardonnay is joined by the estate's calling-card cuvée from vines aged 70 to 95 years old. Available in halves and magnums, too, the Viré-Clessé Vieilles Vignes is glowing evidence that luck was on our side that day in Beaune.

2020 André Bonhomme Mâcon-Villages Vieilles Vignes RRP \$43

André Bonhomme Mâcon-Villages Vieilles Vignes is 100% organic-certified Chardonnay. The fruit is from vines with an average age of 50 years on clays and limestone. The whole bunches are airbag-pressed before the musts undergo long fermentations with natural yeasts. This wine is made exclusively in stainless tanks for freshness. It's lively and charming with notes of ripe white fruits and white flowers. Clean cut, supple and zesty, with notes of white fruits. The finish has good mineral crispness.



2019 André Bonhomme Viré-Clessé Vieilles Vignes RRP \$61

375ml RRP \$36

MAGNUM RRP \$207

André Bonhomme Viré-Clessé Vieilles Vignes is 100% organic-certified Chardonnay, and is seen as the calling card of the estate. The 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.

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RISE OF ROSI

"I must conclude that [Hannes Schuster] has become one of Austria's beacons, both stylistically and qualitatively," writes **Wine Advocate's Stephan Reinhardt** in an article on Burgenland entitled "Terroir wines from Austria's outlaws". "His red wines, grown on heavy limestone clay and marl soils, are stunning," continues Reinhardt. "He has always produced some of the best Sankt Laurent, as did his mother Rosi, but now these reds are of exceptional class, not to mention the Blaufränkisch. In the meantime, however, he also produces excellent white wines that are so different, so chalky and spicy, that one does not miss the wines of the Wachau or from the Kamptal for a minute. With Hannes, the wines of Pannonia find their way into the Olympus of the great terroir wines of this world."

This is, indeed, a humble, rare and prodigious talent. We have a broad range of Hannes's wares available, and cannot

recommend them highly enough.

2018 Rosi Schuster Aus den Dörfern Weiss RRP \$43

*Schuster's 2018 Aus den Dörfern Grüner Veltliner / Gemischter Satz is from the plateau and from east- and north-facing sites in Schützen, Osslip and Sankt Margarethen, so a wide range of soils from slate and gneiss to limestone and clay. It opens with a very clear, intense and characterful nose with ripe, concentrated and elegant fruit intermixed with herbal aromas. It was vinified two-thirds in oak barrels and one-third in stainless steel and bottled in 2019. This is a full-bodied, intense and juicy wine with sweet (two grams per litre) and intense Pannonian fruit, serious structure and a long finish. This is another beautiful white from Hannes Schuster that has a warm and intense but structured character. 13% alcohol. Tasted in June 2020. 92 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** May 2021*

2019 Rosi Schuster Aus den Dörfern Rot RRP \$43

*Dark cherry, sweet spices, some liquorice and dried roses. Medium-bodied, damp earth, juniper and dried herb, tangy blackberry, firm glassy acidity and Turkish coffee tannin, game meat and blood plum on a finish of good length. 91 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** February 2021*

2018 Rosi Schuster Sankt Laurent RRP \$43

*The 2018 Burgenland Sankt Laurent is clear, intense and spicy on the nose that is beautifully pure and fresh, with spicy concentration. On the palate, this is a juicy, round, fresh, charmingly sweet and slightly licoricey red with elegance and so much charm. It is made from grapes sourced between Donnerskirchen, Osslip, St Margarethen, Zagerdorf and Rust, fermented together (with 20% whole clusters) and aged in 500- to 2,000-liter vats. 11.5% alcohol. Tasted in June 2020. 92 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** May 2021*

2019 Rosi Schuster Blaufränkisch RRP \$43

The vineyards for this are in Sankt Margarethen and Zagersdorf but for this wine Hannes Schuster uses younger vineyards (between 10 and 25 years old). The must is spontaneously fermented in stainless steel tanks and aged in big oak barrels for 18 months. It's bottled without fining and without filtration.

2012 Rosi Schuster Blaufränkisch Rusterberg RRP \$91

*Smells pleasingly rustic with red berries, briar, turned soil, old spice cupboard, ferrous things. In the palate, more medium weight than light weight, quite a sour-sweet wine, but in that pleasing, amaro-like way. Texture is suede, touch dusty, but feels rich in personality of fruit. Finishes refreshing and faintly ripe, red berry fruit sweet. Lots to mull over and enjoy. 93 points. **Mike Bennie, The Wine Front** January 2016*

2013 Rosi Schuster Blaufränkisch Sankt Margarethen RRP \$132

*The 2013 Sankt Margarethen Blaufränkisch is a great village wine from Austria's Burgenland. Concentrated and fleshy, with white-pepper powder and black-olive flavours highlighting the perfectly ripe dark cherry, blackberry and cassis aromas on the nose, this is a round and full-bodied, pure, fresh and elegant wine with remarkable fine tannins. This is probably the Blaufränkisch where fruit wine drinkers and Nebbiolo fans could come together. The concentration here is enormous and so is the tannin and acidity, but also: how refined. The finish is pure, fresh and long and reveals a stimulating robustness with leather and tobacco flavours in the aftertaste. What purity, vitality, finesse and elegance! 94 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** June 2016*



2013 Jagini Zagersdorf Blaufränkisch RRP \$107

The 2013 Zagersdorf Jagini is from 60- to 85-year-old vines on dense clay soils that give the wines an intense reduction. That's why Roland Velich and Hannes Schuster give the wine five years in used 1,500- and 1,600-liter barrels and 10-year-old 500-liter barrels. It is deep, ripe and intense on the fruit-driven

yet pure and elegant nose, with graphite, black tea and peppery notes. This is a full-bodied, lush and silky-textured Blaufränkisch with fine tannins, good intensity and well-harnessed power. A promising red that I tasted as a barrel sample in August 2018 and from the just-filled bottle in October 2018. The 2013 will be released in spring 2019. 93 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate December 2018**

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CLASSIC ENGLISH RESERVE

It's great to see English sparkling wines continue their rise, with a growing profile here in Australia. It's a good few years since we climbed into bed with Hattingley Valley of Hampshire, and this very English affair is going, as they say, swimmingly.

It helps that Emma Rice and the team remain a leader in the field, and one of the key drivers of innovation and quality advances.



Our supplies of the reigning **WineGB Awards Supreme Champion's** calling-card cuvée - the NV Classic Reserve - ran dry some time ago, so it's great to welcome a new disgorgement. The wine is based on 2015 and is a textbook blend of 53% Chardonnay, 31% Pinot Noir and 16% Pinot Meunier, all served up with English zip and class.

NV Hattingley Valley Classic Reserve RRP \$81

The 2015 growing season was a test of good site selection, and our vineyard team did a wonderful job in challenging conditions. The summer was cooler than the previous year, particularly in August which is the crucial month for véraison and the start of the ripening season. The Pinots were super-ripe with wonderful flavours, good acidity levels and deep colour, and good vineyard

sites produced some very fine Chardonnay as well.

The hand-harvested grapes (53% Chardonnay, 31% Pinot Noir, 16% Pinot Meunier) were whole bunch-pressed to extract top quality juice. 19% of the total blend was barrel-fermented in old white Burgundy barrels and partial malolactic fermentation took place in order to soften the wine's natural acidity. To ensure the consistency and continuity of our signature style, 23% of reserve wines (that had naturally softened and developed over time in oak barrels and stainless-steel tanks) were added to the blend before secondary fermentation. After three years' ageing on lees in a bottle to add roundness and character, the wine was disgorged with a light dosage of 7g/L.

Our Classic Reserve is pale gold in colour with delicate and fine long-lasting bubbles. The beautifully complex bouquet combines aromas of green apples with creamy nougat, freshly baked brioche and delicate toasted notes from ageing in bottle. On the palate, the complexity continues with notes of soft lemon sherbet, biscuit and a subtle oak character. Refreshing and perfectly balanced, with a delightfully long finish. – **Emma Rice, Hattingley Valley**

2014 Hattingley Valley Rosé RRP \$91

The 2014 Rosé is a blend of 60% Pinot Noir, 40% Pinot Meunier and 20% Pinot Noir Précoce. Now this is a very impressive sparkling Rosé. It has a succinct bouquet of freshly picked strawberry, red cherry and a touch of green apple, all precise and quite mineral-driven. The palate is fresh on the entry with a slight waxiness to the texture. It has more complexity than its peers and it fans out gloriously with hints of

praline and strawberry towards the vivacious finish. This is one to serve to the next person that refutes the idea of great English sparkling wine. 92 points. **Neal Martin, Wine Advocate**

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ALBE THERE FOR YOU

Year in, year out, this wine is a golden ticket to enjoy the bounty of a Barolo harvest as viewed through the elegant, charming prism of G.D. Vajra.

"This is one of the most accessible and trustworthy wines you can buy from Piedmont," wrote **Wine Advocate's Monica Lerner** of this latest instalment of Albe.

This Nebbiolo grows on three vineyards in Barolo, each with a slightly different exposure.

That means the pickers see three different sunrises ("albe" in Italian).

It's as bright, fresh and hopeful as a brand new, sunny day.

"A lovely fruit-forward and charming Barolo here," is how **Wine Front's Gary Walsh** sees this '17, while **Antonio Galloni** of **Vinous Media** is equally unequivocal: "Bright and beautifully lifted, the 2017

Albe is a wine of pure and total pleasure."

You're going to love it, just as you'll love all the wines in this latest line-up from the Vaira family.

2019 G.D. Vajra Langhe Rosso RRP \$36 *screwcap*

Our Langhe Rosso is a hug from Piedmont. It's an invitation to explore its different varieties and to get to know its personality. From young vineyards, it is a fruity, delicately complex wine - an ideal companion at the table. It's predominately Nebbiolo, Barbera and Dolcetto, with smaller quantities of Freisa, Albarossa, Pinot Noir. Each vineyard is harvested when it reaches perfect ripeness. The varieties are vinified one by one, to express their personality and uniqueness. The wine is aged for 18-24 months partially in steel and then in first-, second- and third-use pièces. - **Giuseppe Vaira**

2020 G.D. Vajra Dolcetto d'Alba RRP \$40

*The G.D. Vajra 2020 Dolcetto d'Alba is very fruity and bright. You can taste raw blueberry and raspberry flavours with impressive intensity. There's not much else behind that wall of primary fruit, save for some earthy tones and maybe pressed blue flowers. This is a delightfully simple 30,000-bottle production that would pair with burgers on the grill. 88 points. **Monica Lerner, Wine Advocate** June 2021*

2019 G.D. Vajra Dolcetto d'Alba Coste & Fossati RRP \$54

Complex and tightly-wound Dolcetto here. Fresh blackberry and dark cherry, spice and black pepper, thyme and aniseed, new leather. Medium-bodied, glassy and firm feel to acidity, intense shale-like tannin, tangy boysenberry and blackberry, a distinctly 'mineral' feel to it, and a lively finish of fine length. Pretty tense as at now, and while I do enjoy the tussle, it



really needs a few more years in bottle before it rolls out the goods. 94 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** August 2021

2019 G.D. Vajra Barbera d'Alba RRP \$49

The steel-fermented G.D. Vajra 2019 Barbera d'Alba shows nicely, with dark fruit, pressed blackberry and dark cherry. This is a lovely and equally refreshing wine with mid-weight texture and bright acidity to tie it all together. 89 points. **Monica Larner, Wine Advocate** June 2021

2019 G.D. Vajra Claré J.C. Nebbiolo RRP \$49

Although this wine has been produced since 2014, it is a new discovery to me – and a terrific one at that.

I'll start off with the beautiful graphics on the label that were inspired by the winemaking protocols penned in 1606 by Gian Battista Croce, a jeweller for the House of Savoia who dabbled in wine. The G.D. Vajra 2019 Langhe Nebbiolo Claré J.C. is a pure expression of Nebbiolo, with about one-fifth whole-cluster fermentation. Following suggestions to serve the wine slightly chilled, I tasted my sample at 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and I would recommend the same to you. This wine offers an innovative and playful look at the normally austere, long-term Nebbiolo grape. In fact, this Langhe Nebbiolo borrows from Beaujolais. You'll love the vibrant, tonic and lively fruit that pops from the glass with focused intensity. The palate is lean and crisp. Some 12,000 bottles were released in March 2020, and that price point is unbeatable. I am absolutely smitten. 92+ points. **Monica Larner, Wine Advocate** July 2020



2019 G.D. Vajra Langhe Nebbiolo RRP \$54

Red fruits, almond paste, aniseed, sweet spice and floral notes. It's medium-bodied, pure and fine, cherry and red fruits, fennel and almond, crisp feel here, brightness and perfume, light brick dust tannin, a quiet succulence, and a long cool finish. A taste of Vajra finesse at an entry level price, is the message. 93 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** February 2021

2017 G.D. Vajra Barolo Albe RRP \$108

A lovely fruit forward and charming Barolo here. Raspberry, cherry, menthol and sweet spices. Medium-bodied, spicy red fruits, perfume and juicy flavours. Tea leaf fragrance, a bit of liquorice and bergamot, gentle brick dust tannin, affable and succulent, with a long and cool mentholated finish. Drinking well now, but a few years will see it rise and shine. Excellent. 93+ points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** June 2021

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