

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

### DOMESTIC

[BACKIN' THE NEWEST SR – Spanking sub-regional Cabernets, Chardonnay & Rosé from Nocturne](#)  
[PROTERO PROCREATION – Barbera, Nebb & Aromatico from Stephen Pannell's Adelaide Hills label](#)  
[NEXT-LEVEL LEVEL – Onannon skin-contact gris moves to '21 along with intergalactic Shiraz](#)  
[BIG BEN CHIMES – Wine Advocate's whopping 96+ points for Amon-Ra as Anaperenna scores gold](#)  
[TAMAR TRIO – Lou & Joe Holyman's new-release Chardonnay, Pinot Noir & Project X](#)

### IMPORTS

[HOLY WACHAU! – Saint Urban blazes back as 2020 Emmerich Knoll Federspiel & '19 Smaragd land](#)  
[LA SPINETTA SPLENDOR – Cru Barolo & Barbaresco hit Australia with Vermentino & Sangiovese](#)  
[THE FULL MONTERUSTICO – New Bianco and Dogliani Dolcetto from Piedmont's Vaira family](#)  
[BODENSTEIN'S BACK – We welcome our fullest shipment in years from Wachau treasure Prager](#)  
[RE-ENTER THE DRAGON – Luigi Baudana field-blend white joins new G.D. Vajra Riesling & Moscato](#)  
[JEAN-MARC SET GO! – Comprehensive range of grower Champagne from JmSélèque](#)  
[REAL NOICE GROISS – Single-site Grüner lands with reinforcements of already-gone 2020s](#)  
[GERMAN 2020s – Estate and village wines from Wittmann, A. Christmann and Gunderloch](#)  
[SWISS BLISS – 2019 Chardonnay & Pinot Noir from revered & rare-as-hen's-teeth Gantenbein](#)  
[JEAN TARDY '19s – Full new suite of red Burgundy from under-radar Vosne-Romanée star Guillaume](#)  
[CRIMINALLY UNDER-APPRECIATED – Antonio Galloni extolls Barbaresco hidden gem Cigliuti](#)

### DOMESTIC



### BACKIN' THE NEWEST SR

An eagerly anticipated release every year that puts a smile on many a dial, this is the sub-regional range from Julian and Alana Langworthy. It comprises Chardonnay from Treeton, Cabernets from Yallingup and, of course, that Sangiovese/Nebbiolo rosé from Carbunup.

"The SR range, well, it's very cool and getting cooler by the minute," say the Langworthys. "We think this suite of wines is our very best yet."

The 'SR' Rosé is from 2021. "It rained a lot, it upset Julian a lot at the time! However, what's not upsetting is how this wine has turned out. Light, fine and expressive but with phenolic crunch and freshness which is very grown up."

The SR Chardonnay and Cabernets this year are from 2020, which was apparently a strange grape-growing year in Margaret River. It was warmer than 2019 or 2017, which were cool, but the 2020 wines retain great elegance and class with beautifully expressive

fruit characters and ripe tannins.

“Being a totally essential industry, we just cracked through the first lockdown,” say Jules and Alana. “It was a weird time but these wines, while unique, are definitely wonderful. Not weird...”

**2021 Nocturne ‘SR’ Sangiovese Nebbiolo Rosé** *Carbunup, Margaret River* RRP \$32

*Spicy, peppery, dried herb and floral perfume, white cherry and pink grapefruit. It’s dry with a grainy and chalky grip, subtle but engaging flavour profile, a coolness to acidity, and a dusty finish of crunch and excellent length, a little amaro tang in the aftertaste. Texture is a highlight in this high cheek-boned style of rosato. 93 points.*

*Gary Walsh, The Wine Front, August 2021*

**2020 Nocturne ‘SR’ Chardonnay** *Treeton, Margaret River* RRP \$36

Treeton: It’s a weird little area full of hillbillies, dairy cows and, interestingly, some great Chardonnay vineyards. Cold at night, warm in the day with deep silver-grey sands that we think produce special Chardonnay. This wine is a combination of three awesome Treeton vineyards: the original and favourite Tassell Park; plus Grace & White and Victory Point.

This wine is, unsurprisingly, super cool. It’s pale green, redolent of white stone fruits and the suggestion of flint and funk. Expressive and quite generous in comparison to 2019 - but the texture and length of flavour are to die for.

Chardonnay is what Jesus made when he turned water into wine; it’s also why we winemakers have a God complex. Epicness unchained. - **Julian & Alana Langworthy**



**2020 Nocturne ‘SR’ Cabernets** *Yallingup, Margaret River* RRP \$36

*Blackberry, blueberry, cherry pie with a spicy crust, polished cedar and menthol. Medium-bodied, dark chocolate and baking spice, dried herbs and black olive, supple tannin, a brine and nori savoury aspect, dense feel to it, though not heavy, and a silty tannin and baked raspberry finish of good length. Typical maritime feel of 2020 MR Cabernet here, and good drinking. 92 points.* **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front**



[Back to headlines...](#)

**PROTERO PROCREATION**

“Great drinking. Really hits the spot.” That’s what **Gary Walsh** wrote about the inaugural Nebbiolo from Stephen Pannell’s Protero label.

In fact, that could be the tagline for this range.

Now in only its second year, that’s what Steve’s latest dream has grown into – a range - with four wines now available, and all sporting similarly unmistakable motifs inspired by good-luck charms.

It starts with a dry white comprising 85% Pinot Grigio with a 15% splash of Pinot Nero. Next we have the ever-so-slightly off-dry olfactory orgasm that is Aromatico, newly released from the splendid 2021 season.

And these are joined by the brand-new reds: A forest berry-filled Barbera from the neighbour’s property; and the second edition of the Nebbiolo from Steve and Fiona Pannell’s recently acquired Protero Vineyard in Gumeracha.

To rewind a little – well, let’s go back to 2004, when the Pannell's family returned from Piedmont. That’s when they found Nebbiolo growing in the northern Adelaide Hills. The vineyard, just outside Gumeracha, was planted by Rose and Frank Baldasso in 1999. Steve lost no time getting to know it, and started working with the fruit in 2005.

In late December 2019 Fiona and Steve signed a contract for the Baldassos’ vineyard. It was planted to all the wrong varieties bar one: five clones of Nebbiolo. A week later, it was on fire, and only through the courage of others was Protero spared.

Surrounded by brave people, the Pannells knew they too had to be courageous. To that end they removed Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Viognier and planted varieties they like drinking and believe in for the region: Barbera, Dolcetto, Gewürztraminer, Pinot Gris and Riesling.

These vine varieties are all well suited to the landscape, the region and in particular this place, Protero. In time, then, it will be this vineyard that provides all the colours and scents for the range. In the meantime, long-standing friendships in the Hills are helping to fuel the dream.

The images uniting the Protero range are inspired by Coptic Christian sigils – a good-luck charm, basically, because as Stephen Pannell says, “We could all do with a little good luck.”

Never truer than now, but then it’s always going to be the case. What these wines will give you, now and forever, is a sense of joy and hope.

They were conceived with and for pleasure, and pleasure’s what they’ll provide.

### **2020 Protero Pinots** *Macclesfield, Adelaide Hills* RRP \$32

*From the Macclesfield district, crafted by Steve Pannell. A creative mix of 85/15% Pinot Grigio/Pinot Nero (Noir if you will). What the latter component brings is a debate to be had, otherwise we're in solid grigio/gris territory, with lovely ripe fruit and florals to open, citrus orchard flowers wafting. A small portion spent 3 or so months in an old French barrique, giving a mouth-filling texture with baking spice elements. A note of white pepper adds to all round satisfaction. 93 points. Tony Love, Halliday Wine Companion 2022*

### **2021 Protero Aromatico** *Woodside, Echunga & Carey Gully, Adelaide Hills* RRP \$32

2021 vintage conditions were joyous. There was no stress in the vineyard, with plenty of water and warmth at the right time. An extended ripening period without disease pressure led to great flavour. The fruit was plentiful and perfectly ripe. What a strange contrast to the previous year!

The blend composition is: 76% Gewürztraminer (harvested from Woodside on 22nd February; 20% Riesling (harvested from Echunga on 18th March); and 4% Sauvignon Blanc from Carey Gully (also picked on 18th March).

The Gewürztraminer had completed fermentation before the Riesling and Sauvignon were picked. The two later varieties were co-fermented, with fermentation stopped by chilling at the desired level of dryness. Both parcels were blended on yeast lees and left to settle in stainless steel. Alcohol 13%; RS 7.5g/L; pH 3.31; TA 6.1g/L.

The nose is exotic, complex and deeply aromatic, with notes of galangal, stem ginger, Turkish delight, beurre bosc pear and citrus blossom. In the mouth the wine is fresh, linear and compelling. A laser like entry of exotic flavour is backed up by a back palate alive with stone fruit and lingering Asian herbs like lemongrass and coriander root. -

**Stephen Pannell**

### **2019 Protero Barbera** *Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills* RRP \$37

The fruit was grown on Bonoposto Vineyard in Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills, which is owned and farmed by Carmine Pepecelli. It’s situated next door to Protero.

Seven tonnes of Barbera were harvested on 6th April 2019. The fruit was given a three-day cold soak on skins before a ten-day fermentation followed by gentle pressing. Malolactic conversion took place in French oak puncheons (20% new) followed by five



months' maturation. Extended maturation then took place in an oak vat and extra-large puncheon. It was bottled without fining or filtration in early December 2020.

The nose is classic, calm and poised. It has none of the tutti frutti bubblegum character typical of low-tannin varieties. It smells of forest berries and preserved protein with incense and polished teak. The palate is glossy and refreshing, with good tension. It's deliciously medium-bodied with loads of pink fruit and cherry compote. Bay leaf and subtle spice give rise to an umami finish. The mouthfeel is driven by acidity with tannin sitting right back on the palate. – **Stephen Pannell**

### **2019 Protero Nebbiolo Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills RRP \$37**

The fruit comes from Block 2 on the Protero Vineyard in Gumeracha, Adelaide Hills. The vines were planted in 1999 by Frank and Rosie Baldasso, and the site is managed by Carmine Pepicelli. The Nebbiolo clones are 230, 111, F12V7, F12V13, Mudgee all on own roots.

Eight tonnes of fruit were harvested on 17th April 2019. The Nebbiolo grapes macerated for 25 days before gentle pressing. The wine was sent to 4600-litre French oak vat and extra-large puncheons for malolactic conversion and maturation. The wine underwent extended maturation in old French oak vats and puncheons. It was bottled without fining or filtration in December 2020.

The nose is at once perfumed, alive and subtle. It immediately activates all the senses with its brick dust, rose petals, red fruit and linseed.

The palate is varietal, confident and charming. It has raspberry and layers of fruits-of-the-forest. The finish has a liquorice kick with amaro the final salute to its Italian roots. The tannins are layered and present but sit back on the palate, latent and reserved in some regards, but ultimately bold and persistent. – **Stephen Pannell**

[Back to headlines...](#)

## **NEXT-LEVEL LEVEL**



Will Byron from Onannon tells us he gets fan-mail – random messages from adoring wine-lovers all over Australia - for this skin-contact Pinot Gris. The Level, is a delicious lo-fi wine with a cool label, and clearly it's struck a chord. I mean, it's released early and sells out in a flash.

The 2021 is here now. It landed with the Onannon chaps' excellent Pinot Gris (in best-ever form in '21). And the third wine from this vintage is a youthfully exuberant Shiraz raised in a futuristic stainless-steel egg that the boys nickname 'the rocket'.

These arrive hot on the heels of the Chardonnay's roll to 2020, while the Pinot Noir recently moved to 2019.

It's a range on superb shape, topped off with three

consummate and characterful single-site wines: Tuerong Chardonnay; and Pinot Noir from Red Hill and Leongatha.

The word 'popular' springs to mind when you think of Onannon. People love drinking these wines, and always have since their debut from the 2008 harvest. They ooze class and personality but always retain a sense of levity and joy.

And the three men behind them – Will, Kaspar and Sam – are affable blokes whose good-natured modesty belies a fierce talent.



### 2021 Onannon Mornington Peninsula Pinot Gris RRP \$32

The fruit was handpicked and whole bunch-pressed, settled overnight, then racked with some solids into old puncheons. Half of the must was seeded immediately with the CY3079 yeast and the other half was left to ferment naturally. 100% malolactic conversion. The wine saw only minimal SO2 just prior to bottling in July. 12.7% alcohol.

Pear skin, quince and lemon verbena on the nose, and these carry onto the palate with a touch of wood spice. The wine finishes dry with some tonic water bitterness. - Will Byron, Onannon

### 2020 Onannon Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay RRP \$40

*Invariably lovely wines from Onannon. Nectarine, ripe grapefruit, vanilla wafer biscuit, a little spice and flint. Smooth and even delivery of ripe Chardonnay flavour, a creamy gloss with a ripe citrus tang, a little bit savoury, a little bit fruity, but finds ideal balance for pleasurable drinking. Finish offers watermelon rind and lime zest, and goes pretty long. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front June 2021*

### 2019 Onannon Single-Site Tuerong Chardonnay RRP \$54

*This is pretty spiffy Chardonnay it has to be said. Chardonnay of line and length. It's funky on opening but it quickly straightens up and settles down. White peach in all its pure glory; flint; the freshness of nectarine; the fibre of cedarwood runs towards nodes of woodsmoke. The finish is a spinnaker in which flavour is held. We are in beautiful territory here. 94+ points. Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front May 2020*

### 2021 Onannon 'The Level' Skin-Contact Pinot Gris RRP \$32

Pinot Gris grapes picked by hand from our home base in Red Hill. The fruit went straight into a three-tonne stainless-steel open fermenter. There it was saturated in CO2 and sealed up, away from the world for 14 days. The fruit was then pressed and sent straight to two old puncheons.

The wine finished its alcoholic fermentation and malolactic conversion over the next 10 weeks in oak. It was racked off lees into tank at the start of June, then racked again off the remaining lees again a week after and then bottled without fining. 12% alcohol.

This 2021 is very aromatic, with strawberry, guava, plenty of whole-bunch spice and fresh green herbs. The palate is dry with some nuttiness. - Will Byron, Onannon

### 2019 Onannon Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir RRP \$40

Onannon Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir is grown on three vineyards: Onannon's original Red Hill site (23-year-old vines, MV6, 777), a site in Shoreham (20-year-old vines, MV6) and another in Balnarring. 10% whole bunches, no new oak. Unfined. In 2019 the fruit really sits in the front seat. It's darker than the previous couple of releases, blue moving into black fruits with some cardamom/star anise spice notes from the bunches. On the palate the fruit really attacks, again led primarily by darker fruits that at the moment seem to swallow the bunch spices. The wine finishes with sour cherry echoes and fine tannins. - Will Byron, Onannon



### 2021 Onannon Mornington Peninsula Shiraz RRP \$32

From a single site on the Mornington Peninsula, this wine is made using 30% whole bunches. 20 days in total on skins and matured in a stainless-steel egg we call the rocket.

Blue/black fruits, bunch spice and treacle on the nose. The palate has some density and tannin, and finishes brightly with sour red fruits. - Will Byron, Onannon

### 2018 Onannon Single-Site Leongatha Pinot Noir RRP \$63

*Fresh, frisky, strawberry and mint, perfumed too, and a modest amount of smoky earthiness. Limpid and*

*fine, cool feeling, with a stroke of emery tannin, sap and spice, and a lively finish of excellent length. Beautifully made and so pleasing to drink. Touch and go for a higher score. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front June 2020*

### 2018 Onannon Single-Site Red Hill Pinot Noir RRP \$63

*Forgive me for putting it this way but I'd describe this as a 'true Pinot'. It has a sense of in-built complexity that is outside of the norm. It's like rhubarb and raspberry, beet and strawberry rolled through leaves and spice, but presented as a seamless whole. It has a gentle firmness to the tannin, an undergrowth aspect. It's complex already but it has the future at its feet. 94 points. Campbell Mattinson, The Wine Front May 2020*

[Back to headlines...](#)



### BIG BEN CHIMES

What a bloody achievement for Ben Glaetzer! A score of 96+ points for his 2019 Amon-Ra Shiraz marks 12 consecutive vintages that this wine has received at least a gold medal from **Wine Advocate**.

The Anaperenna joined it on the golden podium, while the exceptional quality and character of Wallace and Bishop were also applauded by **Joe Czerwinski**. "All of the grapes for Glaetzer come from the Ebenezer district of the Barossa—just six growers in total (largely Hoffmann and Roehr)," the U.S. critic noted. "So, not only do the Glaetzer wines offer a taste of Ben's winemaking, they also provide a sense of place that goes beyond 'just' Barossa Valley." Coming off the back of a great 2018 vintage in Barossa, the CellarHand team was hugely taken with these '19s from Ben. The way they harness the power of their terroir

and climate, allowing the wines to flow with such balanced finesse, is monumentally impressive.

"It's full-bodied yet crisp, supple but tight and really long," said Czerwinski of the Amon-Ra – and therein lies the magic.

### 2019 Glaetzer 'Wallace' Shiraz Grenache RRP \$23

*A pretty typical blend of 78% Shiraz (aged in older oak) and 22% Grenache (matured only in stainless steel), the 2019 Wallace Shiraz-Grenache comes across as a bit tarry on first opening, followed by plummy, blackberry fruit, with more savory tones of black olive and bright blueberries on the medium to full-bodied palate. Not overly rich or extracted, this is a fine, silky offering that can be consumed over the next half-dozen years or so. 89 points. Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate September 2021*

### 2019 Glaetzer 'Bishop' Shiraz RRP \$37

*The 2019 Bishop Shiraz is all Shiraz and all from the Ebenezer district of the northern Barossa Valley. Aged almost exclusively in second, third and fourth use oak (mostly French), it features slight herbal overtones to the black cherry and black olive notes. It's medium to full-bodied on the palate, supple, generous and reasonably concentrated, folding in hints of peppery spice and mocha shadings on the velvety, mouthwatering finish. 91 points. Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate September 2021*

### 2019 Glaetzer 'Anaperenna' Shiraz Cabernet RRP \$60

*The 2019 Anaperenna Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon is an 84-16 blend, all sourced from the northern end of the Barossa Valley. Bottled in October 2020 and scheduled to be released in October 2021, it features*

lovely lift and delicate herbal nuances on the nose, plus hints of red and black currants and blackberries. Full-bodied and supple, it's also crisp, long and velvety on the finish, picking up delicious nuances of vanilla, dark chocolate and bright, fresh fruit. 95 points. **Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate** September 2021

### 2019 Glaetzer 'Amon-Ra' Shiraz RRP \$100

The 2019 Amon Ra Shiraz is 100% Shiraz and 100% from the 2019 vintage, as Ben Glaetzer felt it—unlike many previous vintages—didn't need to be freshened with a small proportion of younger wine. From old vines in the Ebenezer district of the northern Barossa Valley, it offers classic notes of blackberries and spice, framed by hints of cedar and vanilla (it's aged in 100% new oak hogsheads, mostly French). It's full-bodied yet crisp, supple but tight and really long. Offering lovely dark fruit, hints of espresso and black olive, it finishes mouthwatering and firm. Give it some time in the cellar and drink it from 2025 – 2040. 96+ points. **Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate** September 2021

[Back to headlines...](#)

## TAMAR TRIO

Lou and Joe Holyman's status as a pinnacle producer of the Apple Isle belies the fact that the vineyard that bears their name bears little fruit. It's tiny.

So there's not much wine to go around. But that doesn't stop us making a bit of a fanfare come September when the Chardonnay and two Pinots are released. The Chardonnay is from the 2020 vintage, which Joe tells us was "quite a good one". The Pinot – one of the best-ageing of its ilk in Australia, if you ask us – is from 2019, while the all-bunch, all-oak Project X hails from 2018.

### 2020 Holyman Chardonnay RRP \$64

All class. Fine-boned and filigreed, tight, precise, but delivers flavour and abundant energy. There's a little whiff of struck match, white peach, citrus, vanilla almond cream and cinnamon, maybe some green olive, with outstanding drive and length. Pure and wonderful. Love at first sip. 97 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front**

### 2019 Holyman Pinot Noir RRP \$57

Red and black cherry, exotic spice, dried roses, and some sweet damp earthiness. It's tight and quite tangy in acidity, with layers of graphite tannin, some pomegranate tartness here, but also has flavour and a long and firm finish. It's kind of old school Burgundy style in a way, just the essential bits and little excess, and quite demanding and uncompromising as a young wine. I like it, but it's not really a wine to drink now. I think it will be very good with quite a few years under its belt. 94+ points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front**

### 2018 Holyman 'Project X' Pinot Noir RRP \$91

Red fruit and cherry, heaps of spice and orange peel, toasty biscuit oak. Fresh and luminous style, crunchy cranberry acidity, a bit of amaro tang, plenty of emery board tannin, and a sappy finish of excellent length, and firm tannin. Distinctive style. Needs more time. 94 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front**

### 2017 Holyman 'Project X' Pinot Noir RRP \$91

Whole bunch complexity on the bouquet and palate alike. A polarising style. It's 100% whole bunch from the same small block (1t of fruit, 55 dozen), matured in new French oak. The maker's thumbprint is all over the wine, and it needs time to sort itself out. It'll be all duck or no dinner when that happens. 94 points. **James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion**

[Back to headlines...](#)







## IMPORTS

### HOLY WACHAU!

Literally just landed, this latest suite from Emmerich Knoll won't hang around. This is, after all, perhaps the cultest of cult producers operating in Austria's no. 1 region: The Wachau Valley. The inimitable Knoll label - featuring a bad-ass Saint Urban (patron saint of wine-growers) - hints at the fact that you're in the presence of something sublime.

We've just received the Federspiel wines from 2020. Everyone is familiar with the sense of intensity and structure in these Federspiel wines, which pull you firmly into the Knoll realm. With the Ortsweine (village-designated Grüner and Riesling) from Loiben, you're already in a place to revel in purity of fruit and chiming minerality.

Even more exciting is to have a pair of single-site wines at this same level. And we're not just talking any old sites; Kellerberg and Loibenberg, for this Federspiel Grüner and Riesling respectively, are the stuff of legend. In the cool Wachau vintage of 2020, the combination of Knoll's ripe precision and site character culminate in wines of striking personality and value.

The two new Smaragd wines hail from the fantastic 2019 vintage. Loibenberg features again, this time alongside Kreutles.

Whenever you read about the wines of Emmerich Knoll, it's remarkable 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. Embrace it!

#### 2020 Emmerich Knoll Grüner Veltliner Federspiel RRP \$54

*Yellow fruit with a whiff of fennel and radish spiciness. It has a fleshy feel and powdery texture, bright acidity, lemon zest, a nutty and saline character, a hit of pepper, and a gently bitter finish of excellent length. Weighty, but still kind of light on its feet. Always a lovely drink, and so it is in 2020. 93 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front August 2021*

#### 2020 Emmerich Knoll Grüner Veltliner Kellerberg Federspiel RRP \$89

*A juicy, elegant Wachau Grüner with the sophistication you expect from the region. Plenty of yellow fruit (from mirabelle to nectarine), the wine feeling lighter than it really is, thanks to its sleek and crystalline personality. Long, polished finish. Drink or hold. 92 points. Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com May 2021*

#### 2019 Emmerich Knoll Grüner Veltliner Kreutles Smaragd RRP \$89

*A concentrated, medium-to full-bodied Grüner with cool reine-claude plums, mini bananas and a ton of herbs and spices. Superb balance and a long, complex finish. Drink or hold. 95 points. Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com September 2020*

#### 2019 Emmerich Knoll Grüner Veltliner Loibenberg Smaragd RRP \$107

*The super ripe aromas of pears and mini bananas are married to a rich, silky palate, where*





*the power is skilfully underplayed and the long, mineral finish glides over the palate. Drink or hold. 95 points. **Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com** September 2020*

**2020 Emmerich Knoll Loibner Riesling Federspiel RRP \$59**

*A little pepper and spice over tart plum, green apple and grapefruit. It's a bit chewy and grippy, a subtle bitterness, tangy acidity, and a long sour-edged grapefruity finish. A lot of spicy character and rugged appeal. Like this. 92 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** August 2021*

**2020 Emmerich Knoll Riesling Loibenberg Federspiel RRP \$70**

*Juicy stonefruit and grapefruit, some pepper and quinine, cut fennel. Spicy, stony, again a grapefruit pith sort of bitterness, but in a good way, a burst of juicy acidity, some light tropical fruit flavours, and a firm finish of excellent length. Heaps of character. 94 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** August 2021*

[Back to headlines...](#)



**LA SPINETTA SPLENDOUR**

We welcome a rich and varied offering from the Rivetti family of La Spinetta.

As always, there are a couple of faithful Tuscans in the mix – the new Vermentino from 2020 and Sangiovese from 2017 – plus a diverse smattering of Piedmontese prowess.

These are led by a young Barbera d'Asti Superiore from 2018 - a wine

that has brightened up its image considerably in recent years. This joins a Langhe Nebbiolo from the same cooler harvest, as well as the family's Bordini – always the first of the Barbaresco wines to be released.

The other three cru Barbareschi continue their scintillating form in 2017 – while there's still a chance to get your hands on the last stocks of the excellent '16s.

Flying the flag solo for Barolo is the 2017 Garretti, "a wine of depth, dark fruit and concentration", according to **Wine Advocate's** **Monica Lerner**.

For many years now we've seen a steady and notable drift towards greater finesse at La Spinetta, while still remaining confident and faithful to the strength of site and vine variety.

This latest suite is certainly set to please a wide range of wine lovers who love the contours and powerful personality of Tuscany and Piedmont.

**2020 La Spinetta Vermentino RRP \$43**

100% Vermentino grown on sandy soils of marine origin, rich with oceanic sediments. The 15-year-old vines grow on a southeast-exposed slope at 250m elevation in Terricciola. Spontaneous fermentation in stainless steel, then aged on lees for three months.

The wine is pale yellow with green hues. The nose shows hints of aromatic Mediterranean herbs and bergamot orange. It's fresh with mineral and citrus notes, plus hints of Mediterranean vegetation. A clean and decisive finish. – **La Spinetta**

**2016 La Spinetta Lidia Chardonnay RRP \$154**

*Tangy and fruity with sliced-apple and cooked-pear character. Honey, too. Medium to full body. Bright*

acidity and a clean finish. Drink now. 91 points. *James Suckling, jameessuckling.com April 2019*

### 2017 La Spinetta 'Il Nero Di Casanova' Sangiovese Terre di Pisa RRP \$40

This wine comes from Tuscany's Toscana Sangiovese IGT. It's 100% Sangiovese from vineyards within the Terricciola municipality and Sezzana site in Casciana Terme. The vines sit at around 250 metres above sea level and have an average age of more than 20 years. Terricciola has sandy soils of marine origin, and is rich with ocean sediments. Casciana Terme has rocky soil, strongly characterised by travertine. Fermentation and maceration take place in temperature-controlled stainless steel over 14-15 days, followed by malolactic fermentation in used (2nd and 3rd use) French oak barrels, for 12 months. The wine is rested in bottle for another three months prior to release.

Intense ruby in colour, it has elegant notes of wild violets, ripe red fruits and cinnamon. It's decisive and well-structured on the palate, with notes of white pepper and graphite. – **La Spinetta**

### 2018 La Spinetta Barbera d'Asti Superiore Cà di Pian RRP \$54

This comes from vines with an average age of 40 years, grown on calcareous marl soils at an altitude of 300m in Castagnole delle Lanze, Costigliole d'Asti and Montegrosso d'Asti. Maceration and alcoholic fermentation in temperature-controlled vats for an average period of nine days.

Malolactic fermentation takes place in used French oak barrels (part new), where the wine is aged for 13 months. It's then aged in bottle for at least another three months prior to release.

It's violet-red in colour and shows hints of red fruits, herbs and wild violets. It's extremely elegant and balanced on the palate, with fresh and powerful flavours. There are intense aromas of blackberry and morello cherries. This wine is truly captivating, yet it remains fresh and extremely versatile. – **La Spinetta**

### 2018 La Spinetta Langhe Nebbiolo RRP \$59

*Giorgio Rivetti is very proud of this wine and his work in this classic, slightly cool vintage. The La Spinetta 2018 Langhe Nebbiolo offers dark tones and bright fruit definition with forest berry, wild rose and cedar wood. I actually tasted some ripeness and softness in this wine, which adds to its immediate and universal appeal. You could pair a wine like this with a wide range of foods, from pasta to breaded veal. Fruit comes from the youngest plants in the Staderi vineyard (in Barbaresco), and the wine is aged in barrique.*

*91 points. Monica Larner, Wine Advocate*

### 2017 La Spinetta Barolo Garretti RRP \$149

*Lots of dried roses with stems to the strawberry and cherry character. It's full-bodied and chewy with lots of fruit and wood tannins that pucker your mouth now. But it should come around nicely with bottle age.*

*Try after 2023. 94 points. James Suckling, jameessuckling.com June 2021*

### 2018 La Spinetta Barbaresco Bordini RRP \$125

*La Spinetta's 2018 Barbaresco Bordini is a very nuanced and streamlined expression. It opens softly to present aromas of red and purple currants. The elegance of the wine comes out, thanks to the subtle mineral tones of crushed limestone and dry earth that lift so delicately from the bouquet. The La Spinetta house style is normally richer and more concentrated, and this cool vintage comes as a nice surprise. 93 points. Monica Larner, Wine Advocate July 2021*

### 2017 La Spinetta Barbaresco Gallina RRP \$306

*A beautiful, focused red with intensity and brilliance, showing cherry, watermelon, truffle and mushroom*



aromas and flavours. It's full-bodied, yet tight and refined. Long finish. Try after 2023. 95 points. **James Suckling**, [jamesuckling.com](http://jamesuckling.com) June 2021

### 2017 La Spinetta Barbaresco Staderi RRP \$306

Lots of dried roses with stems to the strawberry and cherry This is dense and tight with layers of berry, dried orange-peel, meat and chocolate character, yet ever so refined and complex. Full-bodied with firm tannins and a long, flavourful finish. Give it three or four years to come around. Try in 2024. 96 points. **James Suckling**, [jamesuckling.com](http://jamesuckling.com) June 2021

### 2017 La Spinetta Barbaresco Valeirano RRP \$306

La Spinetta's 2017 Barbaresco Valeirano is classy, elegant and polished from start to finish. Freshly cut flowers, mint, sweet red berry fruit and blood orange are some of the many notes that grace this super-expressive, inviting Barbaresco from La Spinetta. In 2017, the Valeirano is more delicate and less hefty than it can be – which is not a bad thing – although there is plenty of its characteristic tannin to carry the wine and give it energy. 95 points. **Antonio Galloni**, *Vinous Media* October 2020

[Back to headlines...](#)



### THE FULL MONTERUSTICO

This is, for us, the second coming of the Vaira family's Monterustico wines.

The first, from 2019, was a whopping success. The Arneis-based Bianco sold out fast and first, and the Dogliani Dolcetto garnered great praise over the course of the release. Writing in **Gourmet Traveller WINE**, **Angus Hughson** praised the latter's 'fleshy red and black fruit aromas lifted by earthy and green herb complexity'. He continued: "That generosity continues on the palate with rich ripe fruit matched by mouthcoating tannins leading to a long and muscular finish suggesting good drinking over the medium term."

**Gary Walsh** of **The Wine Front** wrote it up not long before it sold out. "Yum," he said. "Smooth, deep and dark 'mineral' feel, packed with dark cherry and liquorice, spice too... So good."

So, it's great to have them back again - this time from the

cooler 2020 harvest.

To recap, Monterustico is a third frontier for Vergne-based Barolo producer G.D. Vajra. The Vaira family, who also own Luigi Baudana in Serralunga d'Alba, have firmly established themselves as one of Piedmont's most assured, stylish and elegant producers. They effortlessly straddle the line between tradition and modernity, celebrating the beauty of their home and its alluring grape varieties while serving up wines that are expressive and downright delicious.

The family acquired the Monterustico estate in Dogliani a couple of years back, included in the deal that landed them a parcel of the beautiful Coste di Rose cru in Barolo.

With these wines, CellarHand and the Vairas are delighted to present you with another angle on Piedmont from one of this region's visionary producers.

### Vintage 2020

2020 was a cooler vintage, and as such there's more lift but conversely a little more mystery to these



wines. They're aromatic and crunchy, but at the same time they play their cards close to their chest, with lots of charm and detail waiting to emerge with time in the glass.

### 2020 Monerustico Langhe Bianco RRP \$33

The Langhe Bianco was the second wine released by the Monerustico team. The vision for this white wine was to gravitate around Arneis, the most popular native white grape that is such a rascal to farm and such a delight to drink. This lively, zesty white brings a true zing to the table.

The fruit (95% Arneis with 5% Sauvignon Blanc) comes from Farigliano and the broader area of Langhe and Roero, home to Arneis. All the vineyards are dry farmed on steep hills with very low yields.

Fruit from vines aged 12 to 25 years old was harvested by hand in September. It was gently pressed and, after a long fermentation at low temperatures, the wine was aged briefly in stainless-steel tanks and before bottling in March.

It has a captivating nose of orange blossom, lemon zest and yellow fruits. It's citrusy and salty on the palate, lingering on the finish to leave you with a promise of many unfolding layers. - **Giuseppe Vaira**

### 2020 Monerustico Dogliani Dolcetto RRP \$43

This Dogliani DOCG is from the wonderful diversity of Monerustico estate vineyards, located in what is considered the home of the greatest and most structured Dolcetto wines. It is a wine of power and depth yet possesses lift and energy. It's a Dogliani for the table that won't mind being forgotten for a few years in the cellar. 2019 is the first vintage to be certified organic.

The fruit comes from three different vineyards with distinctive terroirs: Monerustico, Casabianca and Zovetto. Monerustico, located 300m up, has predominantly red clay that unleashes depth and power. Casabianca, at 270m, is characterised by a mix of alluvial loam and gravel. The most aromatic and spicy fruit comes from here. Zovetto, the highest of the sites at 340m, features older soils that are mainly composed of white marls. This is the vineyard that contributes elegance and length to the wine. Grapes from vines aged 15 to 45 years old were hand harvested before 18-24 days of gentle maceration. This was followed by six months' aging in stainless-steel.

The wine is a beautiful, deep violet-purple in colour. The brooding nose is a cornucopia of blueberries, wild berries and delicate mineral nuances. There's a suggestion of liquorice and Mediterranean herbs, too. The palate is structured yet balanced by wonderful, velvety fruit. With its long and pure finish, this is a wine that promises a long life ahead, and it provides a joyful pairing with a wide range of dishes. -

**Giuseppe Vaira**

[Back to headlines...](#)

## BODENSTEIN'S BACK

It's been a while between offers with the Bodenstein family of Weingut Prager, so we're especially delighted to bring you this varied offering from 2020.

Prager is renowned as one of the fab four families of the Wachau, along with Emmerich Knoll, Franz Hirtzberger and F.X. Pichler. There is almost nothing that divides these families in terms of the greatness of vineyard holdings or wines.

But Prager, known for its incredible finesse, is based in Weissenkirchen, home to the Achleiten and Klaus vineyards. The former is





generally regarded as the most minerally distinct site of the Danube Valley; the latter is a tremendous place for coolly opulent Riesling. On top of this, Prager's distinction is the unique Wachstum Bodenstein plantings of Grüner and Riesling, situated at 440 to 460m on the top of the Hinterseiber vineyard. The slow-ripening site breeds wines of insanely subtle depth - and it's also a shrine to biodiversity. The Riesling parcels alone host 15 different types sourced from the Wachau as well as Germany's Rheingau, Mosel and Pfalz, and France's Alsace.

“From rock to wine” is the motto of this 16.5-hectare estate founded by Franz Prager. Now run by his daughter Ilse and former biologist husband Toni Bodenstein, it espouses this motto in everything it does. With third-generation Robert Bodenstein helping to take it forwards, the family's mission is to grow outstanding wines that mirror the unique qualities of the vineyards from which they come. It's our pleasure to let you judge their success for yourself.

#### 2020 Prager Grüner Veltliner Hinter der Burg RRP \$71

*Electric Grüner. Flinty, smoky, all the crushed rock and mouth-watering citrus acidity. Tight and bony, radish spiciness, grapefruit and lime zest, crunch and energy on a long and cool finish. Pure, driven, with a Riesling-like intensity, but the pleasing vegetal varietal spicy and bitter bits of this variety. 94 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front August 2021*

#### 2020 Prager Grüner Veltliner Achleiten Smaragd RRP \$150

Achleiten is a legendary vineyard in the Wachau village of Weissenkirchen. It's famous for wines with an inimitable mineral character. Dry stone walls dating back to the 12th century, which mount the steep slopes with their silicate-rich soil, dominate this vineyard's landscape. In the upper terraces, gneiss is the prevailing subsoil, the lower terraces are dominated by dark, schistous amphibolites.

#### 2020 Prager Grüner Veltliner Wachstum Bodenstein Smaragd RRP \$150

The vines for Prager Grüner Veltliner Wachstum Bodenstein Smaragd were planted in 1990 in a high-altitude section of the Hinterseiber vineyard (literally bordering the forest at the top of the mountain), at an altitude of 440 to 460m. A couple of decades later, not only does the vineyard produce incredibly elegant and mineral wines, but while others have problems with over-ripening, the Bodenstein wines, even in hot vintages like 2003 and 2006, are balanced and elegant. Anytime you see the “Bodenstein” moniker, you should know that one of the points of the wine is to showcase genetic diversity.



#### 2020 Prager Riesling Steinriegl Federspiel RRP \$71

*Powerful dry Riesling here. Stone dust, minerally feel, grapefruit and lime, green herb and spice, subtle kiwifruit and guava character, citrus zest and layers of flavour and firm dusty texture, a bit juicy, but so controlled. And very long, with a cinch of quinine to close. Magnificent. 95+ points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front August 2021*

### 2020 Prager Riesling Wachstum Bodenstein Smaragd RRP \$150

*Kiwifruit, pink grapefruit, spice and green herbs. It's powerful, and also quite exotic, juicy and chalky, a subtle savoury cheese twist character, slightly bitter quinine flavour, waxy but tight, with a very long finish laden with pith, lime zest and grip, and tingly acidity, and a celery crunch. X-Factor here. A little something that lifts it up and above. 96 points. Gary Walsh, The Wine Front August 2021*

### 2020 Prager Riesling Klaus Smaragd RRP \$150

The Klaus vineyard is one of the Wachau's best, a luxurious vineyard that sits on steep slopes directly under the Achleiten. We'd call Klaus the Wachau's version of Montrachet, whereas the Achleiten is like Corton-Charlemagne; the former is rich and gushing, the latter chiselled and mineral.

[Back to headlines...](#)

## RE-ENTER THE DRAGON

We're delighted to top and tail our G.D. Vajra offering with some Piedmont whites and a sticky – the Luigi Baudana Dragon field blend, G.D. Vajra's legendary Riesling and a fresh, fragrant Moscato d'Asti.



These latest arrivals bring even more stardust to a range topped by the great 2017 Barolo Albe. "This is one of the most accessible and trustworthy wines you can buy from Piedmont," declares **Monica Lerner** of **Wine Advocate** of this latter. "A lovely fruit forward and charming Barolo here," was **Gary Walsh's** opening comment. "Excellent," was his closing remark. And **Antonio Galloni** of **Vinous Media** was bowled over just as thoroughly. "Bright and beautifully lifted, the 2017 Albe is a wine of pure and total pleasure," he wrote. "All the elements come together so gracefully."

Once again, purity, elegance and charm are to be found across the range. The other reds go from the top-value Langhe Rosso through the faithful varietal iterations of Dolcetto, Barbera and Nebbiolo.

Once again, Coste & Fossati and Claré J.C. present a compelling alternative take on Dolcetto and Nebbiolo respectively to round out another seamlessly impressive offering from this wonderful estate.

### 2020 Luigi Baudana Dragon Bianco RRP \$43

*Bright straw colour. There are lifted aromas of pear, stone fruit, white flowers and a hint of fresh herbs, whilst in the mouth the wine is rounded and textured, quite rich of fruit though with tang, the Nascetta providing a crunchy celery-like counterpoint to the international varieties (there is also a dash of Riesling in this wine). A flavoursome white. 92 points. Stephen Blandford, The Real Review June 2021*

### 2020 G.D. Vajra Pétracine Riesling RRP \$83

*Shimmering pale straw colour. At this quite young age the aromas are fresh though a little shy with a touch of free SO<sub>2</sub>, lime pith, jasmine and talc powder notes. Then pow! On the first sip there is a burst of concentrated lime juice and chalky-minerality. The finish is dry, crisp and long. There is a juggling act here between the vibrant fruit character and regional sapidity. 93 points. Stephen Blandford, The Real Review June 2021*



**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 Lerner, 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 jeweler 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 Lerner, 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*



### G.D. Vajra Barolo Chinato RRP \$141

Barolo Chinato is an ancient Piedmontese digestif. The wine used as a production base is Barolo Albe of the current vintage. The “chinatura” is the addition of infusions of about 30 herbs, rinds and roots, including Cinchona Calisaya, hence the name. The blend is about 85% DOCG Barolo Albe and 15% hydro-alcoholic extracts of aromatic and medicinal herbs. We choose those favoured for their specific digestive, decongestant and relaxing properties, drawing liberally from the rich floral heritage of the Alps that hug Piedmont. Spices, brown sugar and the peel of organic oranges from Sicily complete the process.

It's intense ruby red in the glass, and the nose displays typical freshness of our Barolo, with a weave of roses and ripe cherries, fresh mountain herbs and orange zest. In the mouth it's bittersweet and persistent - beautiful as a digestif or paired with dark chocolate. – Giuseppe Vaira

### 2020 G.D. Vajra Moscato d'Asti RRP \$43 375ml RRP \$29

*The G.D. Vajra 2020 Moscato d'Asti is luminous and bright with light foam and soft beading. There is honey and some candied orange at the back of fragrant apple and sweet honeydew melon. There is also a touch of sweet almond paste or nuttiness. The finish is sweet and soft. I found this vintage to be more robust than its predecessors. 88 points. Monica Lerner, Wine Advocate June 2021*

[Back to headlines...](#)

## JEAN-MARC SET GO!

“I cross my fingers for Australia!” says Oriane Sélèque, as we know the wines aren't arriving against a typical Champagne backdrop.

But as is constantly noted between wine people in Australia and across the world, we need each other, we need hope and we need to appreciate the finer things in life. And to celebrate whatever, wherever, whenever we can.

This latest shipment from JmSélèque is the most diverse of our relationship so far, with no fewer than four single-plot Soliste wines from three different varieties. The highlighting of these plots is in itself a kind of micro-celebration – the sort that only a small, dedicated grower can realise.

But then Jean-Marc and Oriane cherish every block and harvest throughout their range. The non-vintage blanc de blancs, Quintette, is four-fifths based on a single year and comes from five treasured Chardonnay plots. Solessence (“essence of the soil”) is where the fun starts, and even these three

excellent wines are based on the same seven villages in and around the Sélèques' home in Pierry.

So it is, then, that nothing is taken for granted; Jean-Marc and Oriane shine a light on what's special right the way through the range.

With skill, flair, vision and optimism, they craft wines to invigorate, to energise and to enrapture.

And to comfort, too. Let's not forget that.

**NV JmSélèque Solescence Extra Brut (2019 base) RRP \$103**

**375ml RRP \$64**

**MAGNUM RRP \$224**

**JEROBOAM RRP \$675**

50% Chardonnay, 40% Meunier, 10% Pinot Noir. Fruit from seven crus on mostly flinty clay on chalky subsoil: Pierry, Moussy, Épernay, Mardeuil, Dizy, Boursault, Vertus. Base vintage 2018, 70% stainless steel tank and 30% oak barrels.

50% of the blend from wines in perpetual reserve (in tank and oak barrels). Two years ageing under crown seal. No fining or filtration. Dosage 2g/L.



**NV JmSélèque Solescence Nature RRP \$125**

*The NV Brut Nature Solescence Nature 7 Villages is a blend of old-vine Chardonnay, Meunier and Pinot Noir bottled with no dosage. Time in the cellar (the base vintage is 2014) gives the wine a natural feeling of richness and depth that is quite compelling. Dried lemon, chamomile, crushed flowers and herbs lend a very pretty savory character throughout. This is such a pretty and expressive Champagne. Disgorged: October, 2019. 92 points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media November 2020*

**NV JmSélèque Solescence Rosé Extra Brut RRP \$122**

**MAGNUM RRP \$256**

45% Chardonnay, 40% Meunier (of which 10% skin-contact Meunier Infusion from Les Charmiers, Pierry 1er Cru) and 15% Pinot Noir of which 5% is Coteaux Champenois from Les Gayères, Pierry 1er Cru). Fruit from seven crus on mostly flinty clay on chalky subsoil: Pierry, Moussy, Épernay, Mardeuil, Dizy, Boursault, Vertus. Base vintage 2018, with 40% of the blend from wines in perpetual reserve. 70% stainless steel tank and 30% oak barrels. No fining or filtration. Two years ageing under crown seal. Dosage 2g/L.

"The fruity flavour of the Meunier, the pedigree of Pinot Noir, the freshness of our Solescence blend. The harmony of flavours." - Jean-Marc & Oriane Sélèque

**NV JmSélèque Quintette Extra Brut RRP \$139**

**MAGNUM RRP \$323**

*Sélèque's latest NV Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Quintette, based on the 2016 vintage, was disgorged in October 2019 with two grams per litre dosage. Unwinding in the glass with scents of crisp orchard fruit, freshly baked bread, citrus oil and blanched almonds, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and concentrated, with a layered core, tangy acids and chalky structuring extract, complemented by an elegant pinpoint mousse. This has turned out beautifully. 94 points. William Kelley, Wine Advocate April 2021*

**2016 JmSélèque Soliste Chardonnay Brut Nature RRP \$206**

100% Chardonnay from the Pierry 1er cru parcels of Les Tartières and Les Porgeons,





planted in 1990 and 1985 respectively. It's on the mid-slope of a south-facing limestone ridge with Campanian chalk soils. It features deep clay with the presence of flint calcite. The wine was vinified in oak barrels (100%). The wine is aged on lees on natural cork for four years. It is unfiltered and unfiltered and was given a dosage of 3g/L at disgorgement.

"A blend in the press of two adjoining plots located in the heart of the Pierry Terroir, at the junction between the deep Sparnacian clays and the flush Campanian chalk. A pure expression of the complexity, an interplay of flesh and tension, of Coteaux Sud d'Epernay Chardonnays." – **Jean-Marc & Oriane Sélèque**

#### 2016 JmSélèque Soliste Meunier Extra Brut RRP \$206

100% Meunier from the very special Pierry 1er cru parcel Les Gouttes d'Or, which was planted in 1951. The vines are at the bottom of the hill, on ochre clays with strong a presence of flint calcite, on Campanian chalk. The wine was vinified in oak barrels (100%). The wine is aged on lees on natural cork for four years. It is unfiltered and unfiltered and was given a dosage of 2g/L at disgorgement.

"The nobility of great Meunier, on a historical terroir with massale selection vines planted in 1951, gives us a wine of precision and finesse." - **Jean-Marc & Oriane Sélèque**



#### 2014 JmSélèque Soliste Meunier Extra Brut RRP \$190

*Preserved lemons, guava peel, green mangoes, green papaya, almonds, shortbread, muffin and biscuits. Medium-to full-bodied but very layered with tightly poised acidity that takes the bright citrus and stone fruit by storm. Quite long and mineral on the finish. Drink now. 94 points. Nick Stock, jmessuckling.com September 2019*

#### 2016 JmSélèque Soliste Pinot Noir Extra Brut RRP \$206

100% Pinot Noir from the Pierry 1er Cru parcel of Les Gayères, which was planted in 1975. It's

on the mid-slope of a west-facing limestone ridge with Campanian chalk soils. It features flinty clay and small lumps of calcite. It is vinified entirely in oak barrels, and is aged on lees under natural cork for four years. Bottled without fining or filtration with a dosage of 2g/L.

"Rooted in the thickness of flinty clays, proud vines give us small black grapes with crisp skins, taking advantage of the west winds and the sunset." - **Jean-Marc & Oriane Sélèque**

#### 2015 JmSélèque Soliste Meunier Rosé Extra Brut RRP \$206

*Sélèque's deep-hued 2015 Extra-Brut Infusion Meunier Pierry 1er Cru Les Charmiers wafts from the glass with scents of raspberries and plums with notions of blood orange and underbrush. Full-bodied, vinous and textural, it's broad and muscular, with a ripe core of fruit, succulent acids and a delicate pinpoint mousse. The ripe vintage translates to quite an extreme style this year, but I loved it. 93 points. William Kelley, Wine Advocate April 2021*

#### 2013 JmSélèque Partition Extra Brut RRP \$190

*Disgorged in March 2019 with two grams per litre dosage, the Chardonnay-based 2013 Extra-Brut Partition is a blend of seven barrels, each derived from a different lieu-dit, from four different communes.*

*It opens in the glass with an incipiently complex bouquet of crisp yellow orchard fruit, green mango, fresh pastry and white flowers, followed by a medium to full-bodied, tight-knit and chiselled palate that's concentrated and vinous but youthfully austere, with uncompromisingly bracing acids despite evident fruit maturity—an impression surely emphasized by its recent disgorgement, as the wine unwinds very promisingly when followed over several days. The finish is saline and penetrating. While this is sufficiently dry and tangy that it will mostly appeal to unabashed acid-lovers, it's a beautifully rendered cuvée from Sélèque. 94 points. **William Kelley, Wine Advocate** May 2020*

### NV JmSélèque Ratafia RRP \$80

Liqueur composed of grape must (tails of the domaine pressings) and pure alcohol of the Marne (94.5% alcohol). 50% Chardonnay, 40% Meunier, 10% Pinot Noir. 35% from 2019 + 65% perpetual reserve wine started in 2010. Grapes grown in Pierry, Moussy, Epernay, Mardeuil, Dizy, Boursault and Vertus. Clay-limestone on Campanian chalk. The best-quality tails are selected from the pressings. Light fermentation starts before arresting with alcohol for a finished product at 18%. Ageing in 600-litre oak barrels. RS 130g/L.

[Back to headlines...](#)

### REAL NOICE GROISS

The cool 2020 season turned out beautifully in Austria's Weinviertel – but even so, it's nice to have one last taste of 2019 with the arrival of Ingrid Groiss's single-vineyard In der Schablau bottling. This organic-certified Grüner is from 50+-year-old, realised in typical Groiss fashion: Eight hours' maceration on the skins; gentle pressing without stems; fermented with indigenous yeasts in stainless steel; and aged on full lees for 11 months.

The three 2020 labels will be familiar to you – not least since the two whites are already top-ups! We have the great-value Grüner Veltliner from her home village of Breitenwaida; the 17-variety Gemischter Satz; and the single-vineyard rosé with the evocative name: Hasenhaide, or “garden of the hares”.

After a year where gaiety has been all too scarce, it's time to rejoice in Groiss and the unbridled pleasure of Ingrid's wines.

### 2020 Groiss Gemischter Satz RRP \$32

*A very authentic expression of the Weinviertel region (even if it's not named on the label), this has tons of herbal and apple character, the bold finish very crisp. 90 points. **Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com** May 2021*

### 2020 Groiss Grüner Veltliner RRP \$30

*This generous and supple Grüner Veltliner has tons of reine-claude plum and green-apple aroma, along with an excellent balance of precisely delineated body and mineral acidity through the long finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 92 points. **Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com** May 2021*



### 2019 Groiss In der Schablau Grüner Veltliner RRP \$49

*Deep and subtle nose with Reine-Claude plum, mirabelle, nectarine and floral notes. Concentrated and very elegant, this is a stunning Grüner Veltliner that's still so youthful that we have no doubt about its*

*long-term aging potential. Where did they hide the 14% alcohol? From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 93 points. **Stuart Pigott, jameessuckling.com** May 2021*

### 2020 Groiss Hasenhaide Rosé RRP \$30

Hasenhaide means "garden of the hares" - it's the vineyard where the grapes come from. A blend of Pinot Noir and Zweigelt from soils of crushed rock with chalk. The bunches were selectively hand harvested over several passes. The grapes were given eight hours of skin contact before gentle pressing. Kept on the lees until bottling. Fermented and raised in stainless steel. Alcohol 12.5%; RS 1.9g/L; acidity 6.9g/L. Everything about this wine is tender: the soft pink colour, the subtle nose of berries, the gentle lemon freshness. This is lovely, light and ever so fresh. - **Ingrid Groiss**

[Back to headlines...](#)

## GERMAN 2020s

"Germany's 2020 vintage amazes," went the headline from the latest report from **jameessuckling.com**, which featured wines of Wittmann and A. Christmann among others.

"Senior editor **Stuart Pigott** is just as surprised himself with the number of amazing wines he has been



finding from 2020 in his tasting," the introduction read, "and he points out that they are mostly from key and highly respected winemakers in this week's report, including the revered name[...] of [...] Wittmann."

The estate Riesling (magnums, too) lands at the same time as 2020 estate (Gutswein) and village (Ortswein) Riesling from Johannes Hasselbach of Gunderloch and father-and-daughter biodynamic duo Steffen and Sophie Christmann.

Also There's also our final top-up of hugely popular Dr Loosen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese from 2019. Plenty of fresh, ripping rizz for spring – please hit us up.

### 2020 Dr L Riesling RRP \$25

This crisp, refreshing Riesling represents the jumping-in point from Dr. Loosen, capturing the elegant and racy characteristics of steep, slate-soil Mosel vineyards at a very reasonable price. It's produced from grapes from contracted growers throughout the Mosel valley who work closely with brothers Ernst and Thomas Loosen to achieve excellent quality and superb concentration in every vintage.

### 2019 Dr Loosen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese RRP \$66

*Very pretty, and very fine. Sweet green apple and melon, white flowers, almost vanilla I'd say, and a dusting of spice and crushed rocky things and salt. It's all juicy white fruit with a charming mouth-perfume, spicy and slightly cheesy/savoury, fine chalky texture and sherbety acidity (and flavour). Slightly creamy feel too. Finish is all spiced sweet apple, and long with it. Ever so tasty. 94 points. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front***

### 2020 A. Christmann Riesling RRP \$43

*For a basic dry Riesling this is very cool, mineral and herbal with a compact core. Attractive white and*



*citrus-fruit character on the medium-bodied palate. Serious, dry finish. From biodynamically grown grapes with Respekt certification. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 92 points. **Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com***

**2020 A. Christmann Gimmeldingen Riesling RRP \$61**

*Low on forthright fruit, but high on elegance, this is a sophisticated dry Riesling with delicate blossom and herbal notes. Impressive structure at the long, dry and mineral finish. From biodynamically grown grapes with Respekt certification. Drink or hold. 93 points. **Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com***

**2020 Gunderloch Als wär's ein Stück von mir Riesling RRP \$43**

For "A piece of me", Johannes Hasselbach pushed an imaginary reset-button and look back at how his grandparents made wine. He uses every part of the grape (maceration on fully crushed grapes up to 72 hours; minimal clarification; natural yeast fermentation; long time on lees). He also makes sure not to lose or alter anything (no artificial yeasts; no fining; no aromatisation of any kind). 100% healthy fruit from young vines in the top site Nackenheimer Rothenberg, blended with grapes from a parcel of 35-year-old vines from Hipping in Nierstein to create a tautly strung wine with extraordinary aromatic expression.

**2020 Gunderloch Nackenheim Riesling Aus Ersten Lagen RRP \$53**

This premier-cru village wine is entirely composed of fruit from the great Rothenberg Grosse Lage.

**2020 Gunderloch Jean Baptiste Kabinett RRP \$36**

Happy 30th birthday, Jean Baptiste! The first edition was grown in 1991. Since then, this delicious Kabinett has been the perfect ambassador of its origin in the mighty "Roter Hang". - **Johannes Hasselbach**

**2020 Wittmann 100 Hügel Pinot Blanc RRP \$30**

*Full of Asian-pear, white-peach and fresh-herb aromas, Excellent harmony of fruit, medium body and animating freshness. From organically grown grapes. Drink now. Screw cap. 90 points. **Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com***

**2020 Wittmann 100 Hügel Riesling RRP \$30**

*Plenty of nutty apple and quince aromas and a juicy, generous body with very lively acidity that gives this considerable appeal. From organically grown grapes. Drink now. Screw cap. 90 points. **Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com***

**2020 Wittmann Estate Riesling RRP \$43**

**MAGNUM RRP \$103**

*Wonderful peach, melon and floral nose. Concentrated, racy and filigree with intense, chalky minerality at the long, polished and playful finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. Screw cap. 93 points. **Stuart Pigott, jamessuckling.com***

[Back to headlines...](#)

**SWISS BLISS**

The bell has just gone for Round Two with Gantenbein, after CellarHand managed to secure a tiny parcel of the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from this revered and outrageously rare Swiss producer. The new wines are from 2019, a year Martha Gantenbein describes as "a classic cool climate vintage".



“The Gantenbeins do things differently,” wrote **Sue Style** in London’s **Financial Times** about this husband-and-wife outfit. “All their efforts go into producing just three wines, labelled simply Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Riesling, with a single quality level – the best. The results have given the wines cult status and placed them firmly (and frustratingly) in the hen’s teeth category.” And **Stephan Reinhardt** of **Wine Advocate** gives an equally unequivocal endorsement. “The wines from Martha and Daniel Gantenbein are a safe investment,” he says, “and no matter if they’re Pinot Noir or Chardonnay, they are still among the finest and most vibrant wines produced in modern Switzerland.”

Founded in 1982, Gantenbein is widely considered to be one of the best wine estates in Switzerland.

It’s located in the Graubünden (Grisons) district of the upper Rhine valley in eastern Switzerland, one of the most breathtakingly beautiful places on Earth. Not far from here, high up in the Alps, the Rhine begins its long journey to the Atlantic. In the small village of Fläsch at the foot of the Alps, you’ll find the gravity-flow winery of Daniel and Martha; a marvel of design simplicity, ingenuity and mechanical precision.

Daniel and Martha do all of the vineyard and cellar work themselves, by hand. Together, they farm six hectares of vineyards, about 500 metres above sea level on the scree slopes of the northern Alps. Most of the vineyards are high-density planted Pinot Noir clones from Burgundy. The rest is planted to Chardonnay, as well as a tiny parcel of Riesling, planted with vines sourced from the Mosel.

Gantenbein Pinot Noir is carefully harvested by hand and fermented in custom-built, open-top wood fermenters, typically with 20% whole clusters. Malolactic conversion takes place in barriques. The wines are bottled after 12 to 14 months in oak, without filtration or fining. Even in a good vintage, the yields are quite low – only about 1.5 tonnes per acre, for an average production of about 1,200 cases of Pinot Noir and about 200 cases of a fine, mineral-focused Chardonnay.



**2019 Gantenbein Chardonnay RRP \$320**

Deep mineral earthiness, the feel is full and firm with a long finish. - **Martha Gantenbein**

**2019 Gantenbein Pinot Noir RRP \$320**

Raspberry, smooth and silky tannins and ripe acidity, the wine has power and is elegant with good aging potential. - **Martha Gantenbein**

**2016 Gantenbein Pinot Noir RRP \$281**

*The 2016 Pinot Noir is pure, fresh and aromatic on the well-concentrated nose, a great mix of fine red berries and crushed slate. Pure and intense on the palate, this is a concentrated, tight and linear Pinot with great tension on the finish. Very salty and fresh, taut and promising. Tasted November 2018. 94 points. **Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate** February 2019*

[Back to headlines...](#)

## JEAN TARDY '19s

Neal Martin of Vinous Media captures the seductive appeal of Guillaume Tardy's Pinot Noir nicely. Wines with good body, darker fruit and denser in structure than some of his peers. Clive Coates MW put it memorably, too: "I like the style here: rich, balanced and pure, plump and intensely flavoured."

Guillaume always picks a little earlier than his neighbours, ensuring freshness and brightness - and his light-touch maceration by infusion lends further levity and elegance.

Terroir and succulent pinosity wrapped in a cool satin cloak. It's a good fit for many a palate.

In 2019 Guillaume Tardy began picking his grapes from 16th September in weather conditions he describes as great, with temperatures touching 28°C. Sugar levels were a little higher than in 2018 because phenolic maturity had taken longer to arrive. "But everything is fresher because the ripeness took longer to come than the previous year," he told Neal Martin. Indeed, though 2019 was a sunny summer, it was characterised by a couple of heat spikes instead of 2018's long periods of warmth. "It was very enjoyable," Guillaume says of the 2019 experience - and who wouldn't begrudge a bit of picking pleasure for a humble Côte de Nuits grower?

Especially a fellow like Guillaume, who dishes up pleasure in spades with wines like these.



### 2018 Jean Tardy Bourgogne Passetoutgrain RRP \$49

50% Pinot Noir and 50% Gamay from Flagey-Echézeaux, the first vineyard Jean bought in 1982. Plush, silky, pleasurable purple fruit with genuine tannin structure.

### 2018 Jean Tardy Hautes-Côtes de Nuits Cuvée Maëlie RRP \$93

*A very fresh and cool nose offers up notes of various red berries, plum and a hint of spice. The racy, intense and attractively textured middle weight flavours exude a subtle and refreshing salinity which helps to add a bit of lift to the delicious finale. 86-88 points. Allen Meadows, Burghound January 2020*

### 2019 Jean Tardy Fixin La Place RRP \$142

*The 2019 Fixin La Place is limpid ruby in colour. It has a lovely bouquet of vibrant raspberry and blueberry fruit - très Fixin. The palate is supple and lithe in the mouth, the fine tannins framing the mixture of vivacious red and blue fruit. Maybe it needs a little more complexity on the finish, but it feels longer and more tender than the previous vintage. 89-91 points. Neal Martin, Vinous Media December 2020*

### 2019 Jean Tardy Chambolle-Musigny Les Athets RRP \$213

*The vines are between 50 and 80 years old on clay soil, making a wine which usually ages very well. Dense purple colour. Soft and easily charming bouquet, which then starts to deepen and grow, offering dark raspberry fruit, violets and peonies, quite sultry but managed. Deep sweet fruit on the palate, with good acidity, and fair length. 90-92 points. Jasper Morris - Inside Burgundy November 2020*

### 2019 Jean Tardy Vosne Romanée Vigneux RRP \$231

*The 2019 Vosne-Romanée Vigneux has quite a precocious bouquet, but nicely defined and focused, featuring small red cherries, crushed strawberry and blood orange scents. The palate is sweet and rounded on the entry, offering black cherries mixed with touches of black pepper and a suggestion of tobacco. Quite Morey-like in style, with*





*good structure on the finish, this is an excellent Vosne-Romanée from Guillaume Tardy. 89-91 points. Neal Martin, Vinous Media December 2020*

#### 2019 Jean Tardy Nuits-Saint-Georges Bas De Combe RRP \$190

*Matured in around 40% new oak, the 2019 Nuits Saint-Georges Au Bas de Combe Vieilles Vignes has a very controlled, focused bouquet of raspberry and bilberry fruit, beautifully defined and very terroir-expressive. The palate is well balanced and stylistically equidistant between Nuits Saint-Georges and Vosne-Romanée, betraying its geographical location. The 85-year-old vines impart great concentration but also immense quality, more Premier Cru than Village Cru. Superb. 92-94 points. Neal Martin, Vinous Media December 2020*

#### 2019 Jean Tardy Gevrey Chambertin Champerrier RRP \$190

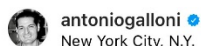
*Dense dark purple, there is rather an impressive solid weight of purple here deep fruit, more sweet than savoury on first impression, with lush red fruit, a little bit of strawberry, but then drawing in to a fine tense finish, even a sense of minerals. Long and lovely, full of energy. With a velvet texture. 92-94 points. Jasper Morris - Inside Burgundy November 2020*

#### 2019 Jean Tardy Nuits-Saint-Georges Argillas 1er Cru RRP \$320

*The 2019 Nuits Saint-Georges Aux Argillats 1er Cru, matured in 50% new oak, has greater intensity on the nose compared to the Champs Perrières, and the fruit profile is a notch darker. The palate is medium-bodied with a grippy, masculine entry. Broody and backward, this is a Nuits Saint-Georges that will benefit from cellaring. Very saline on the marine-tinged finish. Plenty of character and class here. One for the long term. 92-94 points. Neal Martin, Vinous Media December 2020*

#### 2019 Jean Tardy Echézeaux Les Treux Grand Cru RRP \$745

*From vines planted in 1937. Rich dense purple. Unexpectedly dark and intense for Echézeaux. Super-ripe dense black fruit with a lovely tingle of acidity behind. This builds to a luxurious finish, sumptuous up front then some more detail and a fresher acidity, with red fruit pulling out of hiding behind the blacker notes. 94-96 points. Jasper Morris - Inside Burgundy November 2020*



... [Back to headlines...](#)



### CRIMINALLY UNDER-APPRECIATED

A short-and-sweet snippet to end this month's bulletin. We couldn't let it pass that **Antonio Galloni**, the critic who went out on his own with **Vinous Media** after years as Italian specialist for **Wine Advocate**, has been waxing lyrical about Cigliuti. This isn't exactly a surprise – Claudia and Silvia Cigliuti give us loads to wax lyrical about, and Galloni has long been a fan. But still, this is something of an underdog grower, not a big name with a marketing budget to match. Honest, humble and utterly true to themselves and their Barbaresco home, the Cigliuti family is the kind we should hold up for admiration. "Ya know... I think Cigliuti might very well be the most overlooked winery in Piedmont when it comes to quality (across the entire range) and price," Galloni wrote alongside a bottle of 2019 Cigliuti Langhe Nebbiolo. "These wines are criminally under-appreciated... well, not by me." Well said, Antonio! And not by us, either.



Liked by brushyandwine and others

antoniogalloni Ya know...I think Cigliuti might very well be the most overlooked winery in Piedmont when it comes to quality (across the entire range) and price. These wines are criminally under appreciated...well, not by me 🤔👍🌟🍷

### 2018 Cigliuti Barbera Serraboella RRP \$54

*Here's a bottle that goes down quickly with slices of roast pork, to which I can personally attest. The highly enjoyable and drinkable 2018 Barbera d'Alba Vigna Serraboella is dark but not too black. It's rich but not too concentrated. It hits all the right marks, imparting pretty tones of blackberry and dark cherry along the way. It is especially attractive in terms of mouthfeel, thanks to the wine's careful balance. 91 points. **Monica Larner, Wine Advocate** June 2021*

### 2018 Cigliuti Barbera Campass RRP \$58

*The F.lli Cigliuti 2018 Barbera d'Alba Campass opens to a medium dark colour with hues of garnet and ruby. This wine from the Cigliuti family is robust and slightly wild in character, with brambly fruit, sour cherry and a touch of bitter almond. This release of 4,000 bottles is faithful to Barbera's roots, and you cannot help but ponder a heaping dish of tajarin with cheese, especially to soak up some of the 15% alcohol content. This refreshing and food-friendly Barbera closes with a faint hint of crushed white pepper. Campass is a section of the Serraboella cru. 90 points. **Monica Larner, Wine Advocate** June 2021*

### 2017 Cigliuti Barbaresco Serraboella RRP \$141

*The 2017 Barbaresco Serraboella captures all the best the vintage has to offer. Floral and lifted, the 2017 is a bit more red-fruited and lighter in body than most vintages, but it has plenty of depth as well. A more gracious, finessed side of this Neive cru emerges over time. The 2017 is a sensual, arrestingly beautiful Barbaresco from Cigliuti, although it has plenty of tannic grip. In 2017, the Serraboella doesn't have the heft and darkness of most years, but at the same time, it reveals a different facet of this site, which is quite intriguing. Sadly, yields are down 80%. The Serraboella is typically done in a combination of cask and smaller barrels, but yields were tiny, only enough to fill a single cask. My impression is that the Serraboella could turn out to be one of the hidden gems of 2017. 93+ points. **Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media** October 2020*

[Back to headlines...](#)