

## WINELETTER 255 SEPTEMBER 2019

Bondland

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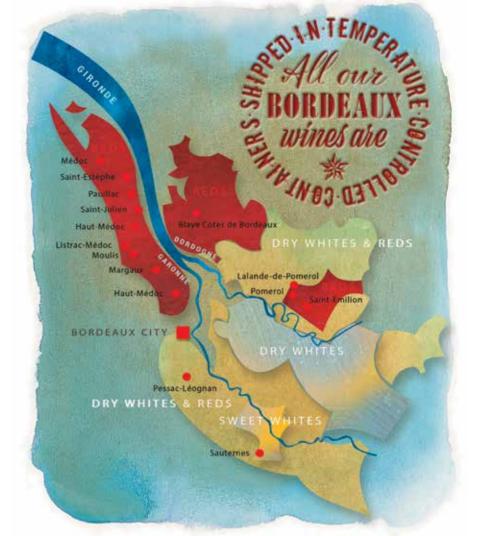
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Reinforced by its imposing châteaux, the aristocratic Bordeaux holds court at the centre of France's vinous universe. It is the largest AOC area in France. When combined with the peerless pedigree of the world famous reds, the quality whites of Graves and the seductive Sauternes, the 112,000ha of vineyard plantings and around 60 million cases produced annually make this region hard to ignore.

Bordeaux is divided into two general groupings of appellations: those on the left bank of the Gironde River and those on the right with the Dordogne running through them. Generally, the left bank is home to Cabernet-driven wines and the right bank to Merlot-dominant expressions. At the centre of trade is the négociant system; the châteaux sell their wines to négociants, who in turn offer them to their partners around the world, in what is for the most part an open trading market.

In 1855, the French created what became known as The Classified Growths of the Médoc, a five-tier classification of 61 of the leading Médoc châteaux along with two from Graves. These growths, or *crus* range from first (*Premier*) through to fifth (*Cinquièmes*). Over the years there has been little change, apart from events such as Château Mouton Rothschild moving from second growth to first in 1973 (Baron Philippe de Rothschild reportedly saying, 'Mouton I am, Second I am not.').

Saint-Émilion introduced its own classification system in 1955, which has subsequently been frequently revised. Pomerol has never been classified, although the greatest wine from this region, Château Pétrus, is generally spoken of in the same hushed tones as the five first growths of the Médoc, Lafite-Rothschild, Margaux, Latour, Haut-Brion and Mouton Rothschild. The inherent problem with a system introduced in 1855 is that some of the châteaux have improved out of sight, while others are considered to have rested on their laurels. It's a reasonable and still relevant guide, as long as one keeps in mind that some of the wines outside its boundaries can still be superb.

# Left Bank

Médoc

Sited on the left bank of the Gironde estuary, the greater Médoc region is divided into the southern zone of Haut-Médoc and the northern zone officially known as the Médoc. It is characterised by large deposits of mineral-rich silt and gravels. The Médoc region at large is home to illustrious appellations such as Saint Estèphe, Pauillac and Margaux, where you'll find many of the top classified wines. There are no crus classés, or classified growths, in the general area designated as the Médoc, but its communes can produce exceptional crus bourgeois wines, a step below cru classé but, many would argue, with some overlap in quality.



## CHÂTEAU POTENSAC 44662 CHAPELLE DE POTENSAC MÉDOC 2015

### **\$39.99** CASE OF 6 \$36.99 A BOTTLE

One of the three estates owned by the Delon family, Château Potensac has always been handed down by the women in the family. This, their excellent earlierdrinking second wine, fully delivers on the quality and value stakes. Merlot dominant, with an attractive fruity nature and a nice edge to the tannins that gives way to a round, juicy finish.



## CHÂTEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL 44340 GOULÉE BY COS D'ESTOURNEL MÉDOC 2015

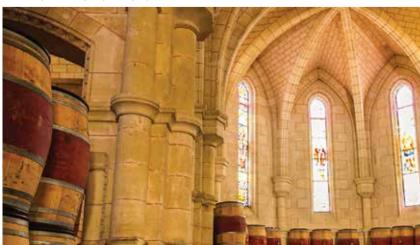
#### \$69.99 CASE OF 12 \$66.99 A BOTTLE

77% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Cabernet Franc, this is the second wine of the high-flying Second Growth Château Cos d'Estournel. With its generous ripe fruit and round nature, this is brilliant Bordeaux Merlot for early drinking, made to open over the next 4-6 years. A window into the class that is Cos winemaking.



48994 CHÂTEAU FOURCAS-HOSTEN LISTRAC-MÉDOC 2016 \$54.99 41165 CHÂTEAU CHASSE-SPLEEN MOULIS EN MÉDOC 2016 \$89.99

#### CHÂTEAU POTENSAC



Saint-Estèphe

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Saint-Estèphe is the largest and northernmost of the great Médoc communes. It produces a lot of wine from a clutch of highly reputed cru bourgeois producers such as Château Phélan-Ségur. It is separated only by a gully and a stream from Lafite Rothschild, but the terroir is quite different. The soils are less gravelly and contain larger deposits of clay, limestone and sand than those of Pauillac, conditions that tend to produce lighter wines with greater portions of Merlot supporting the dominant Cabernet Sauvignon. Saint Estèphe boasts five classified growths - two seconds, a third, a fourth and a fifth - to accompany its excellent selection of first-rate cru bourgeois.



CHÂTEAU PHÉLAN-SÉGUR





A stately château founded by Irishman Bernard Phélan and developed by his son, Frank, in the late 1860s, Phélan-Segur is renowned for its long-lived, Cabernetdominated wines. The second wine of the Château, Frank Phélan is intense and compelling with an elegant structure of silky tannins, its roundness and suppleness allow it to be enjoyed from a young age.



## CHÂTEAU MONTROSE 41774 LA DAME DE MONTROSE SAINT-ESTÈPHE 2014

#### **\$99.00** CASE OF 6 \$96.00 A BOTTLE

The 94-hectare vineyard has a terroir of gravel, typical of the Saint-Estèphe appellation, with sand and some clay. Owners, the Bouygues brothers, instigated an intensive renovation programme that was completed in 2013, with sustainability a key component. An excellent second wine with a fragrant nose, ripe fruit flavours, fresh tannins and earthy, mineral-tinged notes

93/100 JAMES SUCKLING

49210 CHÂTEAU MONTROSE LA DAME DE MONTROSE 2016 \$99.00 43660 CHÂTEAU PHÉLAN-SEGUR SAINT-ESTÈPHE 2016 \$125.00 46221 CHÂTEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL ST-ESTÈPHE 2016 \$360.00 3

Bordan Pauillac

The most important commune of the Médoc, containing three of the five first growths and no fewer than fifteen other classified châteaux. It covers 23 square kilometres of undulating terrain that varies from site to site and accentuates the individuality of each vineyard. The wines of Pauillac are the archetype of Bordeaux and the taste of Cabernet Sauvignon, which is completely at home here. Dense, full bodied and tannic, austere when young, rich and distinguished when mature, they are the longest-lived of all the Bordeaux wines. The soils dictate the longevity with heavy gravel, thicker to the north than the south, that lies on a sub-soil of larger stones and iron-based sands.



CHÂTEAU LAFITE BOTHSCHILD

### CHÂTEAU LYNCH-BAGES 42529 ECHO DE LYNCH-BAGES PAUILLAC 2014

## \$77.00 CASE OF 12 \$74.00 A BOTTLE

A blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot. One of the Bordeaux properties who have, of late, outperformed their classified standing and historic quality, offering far more than anticipated. Their second wine is outstanding; with its blocky Pauillac tannins, the Echo is firm and boldly structured, unveiling a pure Cabernet precision. Fresh, vibrant, lively and ultra-fine.



ECHO

PAULLAR

CHÂTEAU PICHON-LONGUEVILLE 49216 TOURELLES DE LONGUEVILLE PAUILLAC 2016

\$79.00

This stunningly appointed château produces rich, fullbodied, concentrated, tannic wines poised eloquently between power and refinement, now some of the most sought-after in Bordeaux. The estate's second wine, Les Tourelles, is these days more chief exec than 2IC. Each year the fruit is sourced off the same vineyards and devoted all the care and attention of a first wine.





## CHÂTFAU PONTET-CANET 48935 FIFTH GROWTH PAUILLAC 2013

### \$245.00 CASE OF 6 \$240.00 A BOTTLE

Ranked as a Fifth Growth in the 1855 Classification, Pontet-Canet has undergone a meteoric rise in quality in recent years. In three centuries it has been owned by only three families, the latest being the Tesserons. Alfred Tesseron has embraced biodynamics in challenging conditions, using earthen eggs for maturation and horses in the vinevard. His wines are ethereal and stunning, capturing his terroir with increasing flair.



## CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD 48928 FIRST GROWTH PAUILLAC 2016

## \$1.899.00

Lafite's history dates back to medieval times. Ranked in the 1855 classification as a First Growth, Lafite was considered at the time to be the top of that group, its remarkable performance over the years ensuring that reputation has remained unchallenged. The estate goes to extreme lengths to ensure guality, with only around a third of the crop ending up in the Grand Vin and the wine matured in barrels produced by Lafite in their own cooperage. Ambrosial, sumptuous, sleekly captivating.

98/100 100/100 NEAL MARTIN JAMES SUCKLING

49208 CHÂTEAU LYNCH-BAGES ECHO DE LYNCH-BAGES 2016 \$89.00 43670 CHÂTEAU PICHON-LONGUEVILLE BARON 2016 \$480.00 43683 CHÂTEAU PICHON COMTESSE DE LALANDE 2016 \$499.00 42642 CHÂTEAU LATOUR PAUILLAC 2011 \$1.350.00 43283 CHÂTEAU MOUTON ROTHSCHILD PAUILLAC 2015 \$1,150.00

Saint-Julien

Sandwiched between the famous appellations of Pauillac and Margaux, Saint-Julien is the smallest in the region, but boasts the highest concentration of AOC vineyards. It has no first growths, although there are years when some of its châteaux produce wines to rival them. The commune is dominated by its eleven classed growths, with five second growths, two thirds and four fourths. The Saint-Julien soil is mainly gravel, particularly near the river. The wines are similar to those of Pauillac, with high levels of Cabernet Sauvignon, though the Saint-Julien wines mature more quickly. The top estates can produce superb wines.



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## CHÂTEAU GRUAUD-LAROSE 44462 SARGET DE GRUAUD-LAROSE SAINT-JULIEN 2014

\$59.99 CASE OF 12 \$56.00 A BOTTLE

Established in 1725, back in the day Gruaud-Larose erected a tower over the vineyards so they could watch their workers. Not lacking in audacity, they would sell their wines to the highest bidder at auction, and if the wine didn't sell, they would keep lifting the price until it did. This, the second wine is intense but charming. luxuriant aromatics of plum and bold cassis surging across a vibrant, deliciously smooth palate.



## CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE BARTON 48951 SECOND GROWTH SAINT-JULIEN 2016 **\$249.00** CASE OF 6 \$240.00 A BOTTLE

This Second Growth Grand cru classé property has been in Barton family hands since 1826, the Bartons able to trace their Bordeaux roots back as far as 1722. Leoville Barton is now the only château from the 1855 Classification that has the same family remaining in unbroken ownership from that time. A palate of rich, sweet, concentrated fruit, ripe tannins, notes of coffee,

## 97/100

 44655
 DULUC DE BRANAIRE-DUCRU SAINT-JULIEN 2015
 \$57.00

 41192
 CHÂTEAU GRUAUD-LAROSE SAINT-JULIEN 2015
 \$169.00

 42664
 CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE LAS CASES ST-JULIEN 2009
 \$645.00

chocolate and smoke. Huge aging potential.

Hant-Médoc

The southern two-thirds of the Médoc peninsula is known as Haut-Médoc. The appellation with the same name covers wines produced outside the six Haut-Médoc communes that have their own official designation: Margaux, Pauillac, Saint-Estèphe, Saint-Julien, Listrac and Moulis supply the majority of the wines produced here, while the generic title is used for vineyards lying outside these communes. Soils are diverse, leading to differing styles and quality levels. It is said that some lesser-known wines are rising in quality faster than their more famous namesakes.



## CHÂTEAU LANESSAN 49181 HAUT-MÉDOC 2016

#### \$39.99 CASE OF 6 \$36.99 A BOTTLE

The story of this estate stretches back to the early 1300s, and it can boast a long history of quality. Some wine critics have suggested that Lanessan ought to be elevated to a higher classification. We would have to agree. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc, with a tight structure of juicy fruit flavours and fresh tannins.

91/100 DECANTER



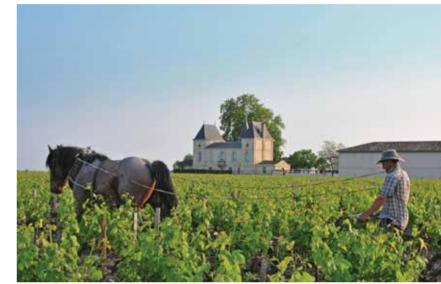
CHÂTEAU GRUAUD-LAROSE

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Margaux

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The wines of the Margaux appellation are arguably the most sensual and seductive produced in the southern Médoc, with the appellation, at 1,413 hectares, the largest in the region. It boasts no fewer than 21 classed growths: one first – the impressive Château Margaux – five seconds, ten thirds, three fourths and two fifth growths. In an appellation of this size the soils vary a great deal; they often include high gravel levels and free-draining conditions that can extract subtle nuances from the Bordeaux varieties. Margaux produces wines that are softer, have less backbone and develop sooner than those from the appellations to the north.



CHÂTEAU MARGAUX



## CHÂTEAU MARGAUX 44395 PAVILLON ROUGE MARGAUX 2013 \$299.00 case of 6 \$280.00 a bottle

One of the world's greatest wine estates, Margaux has a history dating back almost 800 years and is ranked as one of only four wines to achieve first growth status in the 1855 Classification. The modern era for this estate is perhaps its greatest ever, with even the Pavillion Rouge better than the Grand Vin itself was a few decades earlier. 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2013 is the smallest vintage ever of Margaux' second wine.

92/100 JAMES SUCKLING

## CHÂTEAU PALMER 49202 THIRD GROWTH MARGAUX 2016

## \$799.00 CASE OF 6 \$750.00 A BOTTLE

Designated a third growth in 1855, Château Palmer has always been one of the most respected of the classified wines. The true golden era for Palmer is actually right now, with the wines produced since 2000 amongst the greatest ever seen here. Farmed organically from 2014, the vines have very deep roots, with the Merlot planted in gravel rather than the usual clay. Impressively rich and elegantly silky, this is a fabulous Margaux wine.

97/100 NEAL MARTIN

**\$999.00** 5

Borden

Right Bank Ponerol

Located on the right bank to the northwest of Saint-Émilion, Pomerol has never been classified. At around 800 hectares it is a tiny place, taking just minutes to drive past every famous Pomerol name. With the best vineyards planted on a seam of iron-rich clay soils, Merlot rules Pomerol, with Cabernet Franc lending a hand in blending. Cabernet Sauvignon vines are very rare. Despite the latter hardly being used, the best Pomerol wines can age as long as the finest first growths from the left bank.



## JEAN-PIERRE MOUEIX 44674 POMEROL 2015 \$44.99 CASE OF 12 \$41.99 A BOTTLE

J-P Moueix are the largest wine merchants on the Right Bank and exclusive distributors of over 20 important châteaux. They are owners of a number of prestigious crus. The Jean-Pierre Moueix range is a tip of the hat to founder Jean-Pierre Moueix's original vision for authentic, terroir-driven wines channelling the nuances of fruit and terroir. The Pomerol is a 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc blend. Aromatic notes of berries, spice and smoke accompany a refined, precise palate with Pomerol's characteristic elegant, silky tannins.



## CHÂTEAU PLINCE 41918 POMEROL 2015 **\$79.99 CASE OF 6 \$76.99 A BOTTLE**

One of the few 'grands châteaux' in Pomerol, Plince has been owned by the Moreau family for four generations. The ten-hectare vineyard, consisting of dark sands and iron-rich sub-soils, is dominated by Merlot plantings, with the balance Cabernet Franc. The 2015 Plince is 74% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc, with the dominating character the gorgeous velvety finish. Roasted plum notes with a nice dash of freshness and finesse.

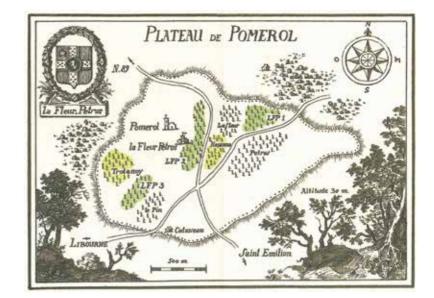
93/100



## CHÂTEAU BOURGNEUF 41195 POMEROL 2015 **\$86.99 CASE OF 6 \$83.99 A BOTTLE**

One of the oldest family-owned properties in Pomerol, having been in the hands of the Vayron family since 1821 and now managed by them for eight generations. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. Displaying dark plum notes on the nose, the structure greets you at the outset. Boasting a core of ripe red fruits and well-formed tannins, this lovely Pomerol is deliciously velvety with a fresh and lively finish.







## CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR-PÉTRUS 48964 POMEROL 2016 **\$545.00 CASE OF 6 \$540.00 A BOTTLE**

A stone's throw from Chateau Pétrus and adjacent to Lafleur, this vineyard lies on the north-eastern edge of the high plateau of Pomerol, where the soil involves large gravels with very little of the blue clay found in its high-profile neighbours. The château was built in 1782 and has had a strong reputation since the late 1800s. Recent vintages are the finest ever produced here. Fresh, sensuous, full of finesse.

99/100 JAMES SUCKLING

 41171
 CHÂTEAU LAGRANGE POMEROL 2016
 \$89.99

 44323
 CHÂTEAU GAZIN L'HOSPITALET DE GAZIN 2016
 \$89.99

 46132
 CHÂTEAU GAZIN POMEROL 2016
 \$245.00

Lalande-de-Pomerol

Immediately to the north of Pomerol, Lalande-de-Pomerol is separated only by the small Barbanne stream and very much in the shadow of its prestigious neighbour. The appellation is much larger than its auspicious neighbour, the soils composed of clay, sand and some well-drained gravels, and Merlot dominates. Stylistically, the wines display the same opulence as Pomerol with a little less complexity and subtlety. They command significantly lower prices, making them exceptionally good value.



## CHÂTEAU LA ROSE TRÉMIÈRE 49133 LALANDE-DE-POMEROL 2015 **\$29.99 CASE OF 12 \$26.99 A BOTTLE**

La Rose Tremière's three-hectare vineyard stretches across two different Merlot-dominated blocks of old vines that combine to deliver wines of great finesse and complexity. An expressive nose of black berryfruits and floral notes introduces a supple, elegant palate with silky tannins and an attractive aromatic freshness.

43042CHÂTEAU LA CHENADE LALANDE-DE-POMEROL 2016\$49.9949205CHÂTEAU SIAURAC LALANDE-DE-POMEROL 2016\$59.99

Saint-Émilion

On the right bank of the river Dordogne lies the large commune of Saint-Émilion. Saint-Émilion was omitted from the 1855 Classification, so in 1954 it established its own classification system (ranked from Premier grand cru classé A, to Premier grand cru classé B, to Grand cru classé), which is revised every ten years. Châteaux have been both promoted and demoted during the revisions. Merlot and Cabernet Franc lead the grape varieties in terms of importance, with Cabernet Sauvignon playing a support role. Soil profiles in this large appellation are diverse, from a mix of gravel, sand and alluvial soils in some areas to gravel and limestone in the best areas.



### CHÂTEAU PUY-BLANQUET 44202 GRAND CRU CLASSÉ SAINT-ÉMILION 2016

**\$49.99** CASE OF 6 \$46.00 A BOTTLE

Owned by the Jacquet family, Puy-Blanquet is managed by J-P Moueix (of Château Petrus fame) via a longterm leasing agreement. The Merlot-dominated wines benefit from amazing vine age, and the château undertakes a range of environmentally friendly practices. Mediumbodied, with fresh raspberry and floral characters.

92/100 JAMES SUCKLING



## CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC 41737 PREMIER GRAND CRU CLASSÉ A SAINT-ÉMILION 2008

### **\$997.00** CASE OF 6 \$994.00 A BOTTLE

Founded in 1832, Cheval Blanc has a unique mix of 58% Cabernet Franc and 42% Merlot, with some of the vines close to 100 years old. Its beauty is encountered in the complex, powerful perfume-entwined textures that can feel as sensual as silk and as soft as velvet. The wine is incredibly opulent, yet light on its feet, a masterpiece of winemaking.

95/100 JAMES SUCKLING

42548 CHÂTEAU LA SERRE SAINT-ÉMILION 2015

\$89.00

CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC



## Petits Châteaux

If you're feeling a little priced out of the market, there is more to Bordeaux than the rarefied world of premium producers. Some of the best value Bordeaux wines are crafted by the Petits (small) Châteaux. They offer serious, estate-grown and château-bottled wines crafted by quality conscious individuals. These producers work hard at upping the stakes, and many are delivering earlier drinking, riper styles that allow a user-friendly route into the complex world of Bordeaux wine appreciation. In the great years, the best of them offer excellent drinking and exceptional value.



CHÂTEAU MARQUISAT LA PÉROUSE



## CHÂTEAU NICOT 41620 BORDEAUX 2016 \$16.99 CASE OF 6 \$13.99 A BOTTLE

A Cabernet-dominant blend off an estate that has been in family hands for over two centuries. Situated on the east bank of the Garonne, Nicot is part of the Dubourg family's 73 ha of land in the Bordeaux region. Mineraledged aromas of blackcurrant and raspberry embellish a supple and rounded palate of concentrated plummy flavours. Traditional Bordeaux with a great price tag.



## CHÂTEAU MARQUISAT LA PÉROUSE 49151 BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR 2016 **\$24.99 CASE OF 6 21.99 A BOTTLE**

Sited in the Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux region, Château Marquisat la Pérouse is an organically certified and biodynamically managed Merlot-dominant property. This is 100% Merlot, with no artificial additions to the winemaking process. Sleekly smooth and plummy, with a lovely supple quality and great fruit purity.

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42523	CHÂTEAU HAUT DOMINGUE BORDEAUX 2015	\$16.99
42510	CHÂTEAU AIMÉE MÉDOC 2014	\$17.99
41135	CHÂTEAU HAUT-COLOUMEY MÉDOC 2016	\$17.99
42524	CHÂTEAU LES VALLÉES BORDEAUX 2016	\$17.99
44670	JEAN-PIERRE MOUEIX BORDEAUX 2015	\$22.99
42521	CHÂTEAU SAINT-PAUL HAUT-MÉDOC 2014	\$27.99

Borlan

# The South

Pessac-Léognan

The appellation was only created in 1987, changed from what had been known as Graves. Its most famous wine, Château Haut-Brion is a first growth and one of Bordeaux' most noble wines. The wines are generally not as full bodied as the other Médocs, though made with more or less the same blends; however, they are similar in weight to those of Margaux. A blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, often oak matured, Pessac-Léognan's longlived white wines are considered among the best in the world.



CHÂTEAU LARRIVET HAUT-BRION 44443 BLANC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN 2014

## \$79.00 CASE OF 12 \$76.00 A BOTTLE

A 72-hectare property producing classic Bordeaux red blends and excellent whites, their wines some of the best-known of the unclassified estates in the Pessac-Léognan appellation. Acquired in 1988 by the Gerverson family, the estate has made marked improvements in quality. Their 2014 white wine is replete with crisp, ripe citrus characters and vanilla notes, delivering a subtle honeyed edge and a bright, refreshing finish.

91/100 JAMES SUCKLING

## CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION 46190 PREMIER GRAND CRU CLASSÉ PESSAC-LÉOGNAN 2011

### **\$923.00** CASE OF 6 \$920.00 A BOTTLE

Regarded as one of the world's greatest wines for around 600 years, Haut-Brion was the only First Growth outside of the Médoc in the 1855 Classification. Grapes are thought to have been grown here since Roman times. Virtually in a class of its own, with a programme of deliberately lowered yields and stringent sorting. the 2011 is a superb classic, full of power, opulence and breadth, but still beautifully light on its feet.



Sauternes

Sauternes lies 65km to the south of Bordeaux city and is made up of different communes such as Barsac (which is its own appellation), Preignac, Bommes, Fargues and Sauternes itself. All wine produced here is white and much of it is sweet, influenced to varying degrees by botrytis cinerea. The varieties are Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and a little Muscadelle. Yields are tiny compared to further north, with one glass of wine per vine not uncommon, whereas one bottle per vine further north is more than common. The legendary first growth Château d'Yquem can live for well over a century.

## CHÂTEAU SUDUIRAUT 44420 CASTELNAU DE SUDUIRAUT SAUTERNES 375ML

## \$26.99 CASE OF 12 \$23.99 A BOTTLE

Château Suduiraut go back to 1580, and they produce one of the great Premier cru classé sweet wines. This is their second wine, and it's excellent. Rich aromatic notes of spicy mandarin, apricot and butterscotch on a creamy, opulent palate balanced by subtle acidity. If the thought of laying out for the Yquem makes your eyes water, this is a great way to tap into the lush and poised brilliance that is Sauternes. Excellent value.



STELNAL

Clin.

### CHÂTEAU D'YQUEM 49101 PREMIER CRU SUPÉRIEUR SAUTERNES 2014 375ML

( )

#### \$499.00 CASE OF 12 \$490.00 A BOTTLE

Yet another French house steered to further success by the steely determination of a winemaking widow, in this instance Françoise-Joséphine de Sauvage d'Yquem, otherwise known as La Dame d'Yquem. The only estate with a Premier cru supérieur designation, Yquem's goal has been the same for five centuries: to finesse nature and produce an average of just one glass of brilliance per vine. The 2014 d'Yquem was widely regarded not only as the top sweet wine from the 2014 vintage, but the top wine from the vintage. An exceptional d'Yquem wine that will only grow in stature over the years.

44422 CHÂTEAU SUDUIRAUT 1ER CRU SAUTERNES 2007 \$197.00





## Chilean Cutting-Edge

Located in Chile's Aconchagua Valley, the Errázuriz estate is the vinous obsession of Decanter's 2018 Man Of The Year, Eduardo Chadwick, widely acknowledged as the driving force behind Chilean wine. In 2004, frustrated by a lack of global recognition, Eduardo organised a comparative tasting in Berlin. In the tasting, which included first growths and other international benchmarks, Eduardo's wines topped the list. The biodynamic Seña, a joint venture with California's wine royalty, the Mondavi family, is part of Eduardo's stable of brands. The Errázuriz property is a spectacular marriage of old and new, with the original 1870-era winery situated atop the tunnels housing cellars and barrel storage. Beside it, among the 600ha of vineyards, sits the new winery, environmentally created to recirculate air, chill it with the water from the hills and naturally cool the building.



90741 ERRÁZURIZ ESTATE CARMENÈRE 2017 \$15.99 **ERRÁZURIZ MAX RESERVA CABERNET 2015** \$26.99 90745

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MAX RESER

# Errázuriz

90

WINE

JAMES SUCKLING

## ERRÁZURIZ ACONCAGUA VALLEY 90742 ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016 \$15.99 CASE OF 12 \$14.99 A BOTTLE

Spicy aromatics of red and black fruits showing notes of vanilla, clove, cherry and plum. A soft, dry, full-bodied palate with fleshy, fine-grained tannins and refreshing acidity.

#### ERRÁZURIZ ACONCAGUA VALLEY 90746 MAX RESERVA CARMENÈRE 2015 93 \$26.99 CASE OF 12 \$25.99 A BOTTLE JAMES SUCKLING

Aromas of pepper, herbs, and mushroom, notes of blackberry and cherry. Delicate flavours of cherry, plum, a touch of spice, ENTHUSIAST chocolate and coffee. Soft tannins and mouthwatering acidity.

ERRAZURIZ ACONCAGUA COSTA 90747 MAX RESERVA CHARDONNAY 2017 \$26.99 CASE OF 12 \$25.99 A BOTTLE 92

Floral-edged apple, apricot and vanilla notes, a touch of spice, lavish apple flavours and crisp acidity. A rich, spicy Chardonnay with a good tight structure binding the oak characters.

ERRÁZURIZ ACONCAGUA COSTA 90748 ACONCAGUA COSTA PINOT NOIR 2017 \$36.99 CASE OF 12 \$35.99 A BOTTLE

Earthy in style, and more savoury than you'd expect. The schist soil gives a real iodine note to the wine. A distinctly mineral and austere Pinot with good length and sweet, ripe fruit signing off.

#### ERRÁZURIZ ACONCAGUA VALLEY 90744 LA CUMBRE SYRAH 2015 93 \$128.00 PARKER 92

Herb-tinged aromatics with a sweet note of clover. Black and JAMES SUCKLING red berries and cherries mingle with delicate notes of caramel. Fresh and juicy, with fine tannins and a lovely persistence.

ERRAZURIZ ACONCAGUA VALLEY 90749 KAI CARMENÈRE 2015 95 JAMES SUCKLING \$220.00

The Kai is predominantly Carmenère, with a 5% touch of Syrah. 92 PARKER Intensely hued, hugely aromatic, with notes of figs and florals and soft, generous tannins. A boldly rich wine, but not overdone.

90743 ERRÁZURIZ DON MAXIMIANO 2015 \$128.00 SEÑA CABERNET BLEND 2016 \$340.00 90629

THEFT

MAX REAL

KINI SPARKler

When one regards the collection below, it is obvious that our sparkling wines have well and truly come of age, every one a testament to the relentless efforts of our local winemakers to knock champagne off its lofty perch. Pick any one – you can't go wrong.

### MORTON HAWKES BAY 15424 PREMIUM BRUT NV \$16.99

Morton Estate have been making this for ever. This silkily creamy, longstanding Kiwi sparkler garners much respect, and is a reminder that something done well needs little tweaking. Complex, elegant, iconic.

## ALLAN SCOTT MARLBOROUGH 17397 CECILIA MÉTHODE TRADITIONNELLE BRUT NV \$19.99

A fitting testament to the meticulous Scott family. Silkily elegant, with a smartly tart palate and a creamy mouthfeel, this is a quality, great value méthode from one of Marlborough's winemaking institutions.



## DEUTZ MARLBOROUGH

15108 MARLBOROUGH CUVÉE ROSÉ NV \$22.99

Some real weight and body from the excellent parcels of Pinot fruit, displaying nice smatterings of strawberry and raspberry notes. Brioche and shortcake characters reflect an easy yeastiness that adds delight.

## ALPHA DOMUS HAWKES BAY 15263 CUMULUS MÉTHODE TRADITIONNELLE BRUT 2017 \$25.99

A fragrant blanc de blancs with a generous character and attractive complexity. Fresh citrus notes are accompanied by hints of brioche, taut mineral characters and an elegantly dry, crisp finish.

## No.1 FAMILY ESTATE MARLBOROUGH 15201 ASSEMBLÉ BRUT NV \$29.99

From one of New Zealand's premier sparkling winemakers, Daniel le Brun, this is a blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay fruit, with generous aging on lees. The palate is rich, complex and lingering.

## QUARTZ REEF CENTRAL OTAGO 17230 MÉTHODE TRADITIONNELLE BRUT NV \$29.99

This sets a benchmark for New Zealand sparkling wine with its delicate aromatic presence, a stylish robustness underpinning the exquisitely long flavours and cool, creamy acidity.

## **TOHU** MARLBOROUGH

## 11121 REWA BLANC DE BLANCS VINTAGE 2014

Aromas of bright citrus, crisp apple, touches of brioche and toasted hazelnut. Extended lees aging in the bottle has resulted in a rich, creamy mousse, finely balanced with bright acidity and a touch of minerality.

## DEUTZ MARLBOROUGH

## 15017 BLANC DE BLANCS VINTAGE 2016 \$29.99 CASE OF 6 \$26.99 A BOTTLE

Produced only in specially selected vintages, Deutz's vintage Blanc de Blancs delivers an intense palate of crisp, opulent, citrusy fruit with creamy, toasty biscuit flavours from extended lees aging.

## NO.1 FAMILY ESTATE MARLBOROUGH 12167 NO.1 CUVÉE BRUT NV \$33.99 case of 6 \$29.99 A BOTTLE

Originally from Epernay, Marlborough's Daniel le Brun produces only méthode wines and nothing else. The mainstay of his range, the No.1 Cuvée delivers citrus-edged richness on a toasty, weighty palate.



CLOUDY BAY MARLBOROUGH 12122 PELORUS BRUT NV

## **\$33.99** CASE OF 6 \$29.99 A BOTTLE

Dazzlingly clean and bright, dusted with florals, the pure fruit echoing with toasty touches from a bed of creamy richness. Elegance meets complexity in a sophisticated blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

## NAUTILUS MARLBOROUGH 15470 CUVÉE MARLBOROUGH BRUT NV \$34.99

This boutique family winery is a premium brand on the world stage. Refined and opulent, there is a champagne level of commitment, with 36 months spent on lees and up to 15% of the blend reserve wines.

## CLOUDY BAY MARLBOROUGH 12121 PELORUS ROSÉ BRUT NV \$36.99

A beautifully crafted sparkling rosé displaying spice-edged characters of soft summer fruits with a hint of toast. Made from Pinot Noir fruit, it's superbly silky, fresh and elegant with a delicately dry finish.



# SARAH'S SAVVY

Celebrity wine. It's a thing, right? Sarah Jessica Parker is obviously clued up when it comes to where Sauvignon Blanc should come from, creating it in partnership with enterprising Kiwi string-pullers Invivo (you may remember them from such hits as Graham Norton's Own Prosecco or Pink By Design. And who can forget Paul Henry's Own Pinot Noir?). Anyway, here it is, said Sauvignon, all bottled up and good to go. One imagines those NYC women lounging somewhere and sipping on it as we speak.

12519 INVIVO X, SJP

\$18.99

SARAH JESSICA PARKER



WOOINGTREE Gel .....

# **BLANC DE NOIR**

#### SPLASH OF PINK FOR SPRING

What is it? It's not a rosé. Basically, it's a white Pinot Noir, a white wine from black grapes, made by removing the skins soon after the grapes have been lightly pressed, thereby avoiding the pigment transfer from skin to juice that would have otherwise created a red wine, and leaving in its wake the faintest blush of pink. They do it with champagne, and also with still wine, which is what we have here. Think delicacy, with a degree of richness and complexity.

16203 TE KANO BLAN	NC DE NOIR 2018	\$24.99
14260 DEVIL'S STAIR	CASE BLUSHING 2019	\$26.99
19783 WOOING TREE	BLONDIE 2019	\$29.99

# **SPRING DRINKING**

#### FRESH, FORAGED AND NATURAL

Kim and Erica Crawford are proud owners and operators of the organically-certified Loveblock, perched high on the hills above Marlborough's Awatere Valley. Their lovingly crafted, terroir-focused wines exhibit a lightness of touch, where the terroir does the talking.

The Botanist Islay Dry Gin is a slice of Scottish magic and an exploration of the Isle of Islay's botanical heritage. Nine classic gin botanicals are augmented with 22 hand-foraged Islay botanicals in a superb handcrafted gin that's as good as it gets. Pairs like a dream with the Royal Botanic Tonic from mixer maestros, East Imperial.

With three centuries of distilling experience behind them, Rotterdam's De Kuyper family specialise in coctail liqueurs. The world's oldest and largest producer, their Elderflower Liqueur combines an elixir of ripe fruits, honey and floral notes, its delicate characters delivering a refreshing spring tipple when mixed with a dash of prosecco and soda water, garnished with a slice of lime.



14787	LOVEBLOCK MARLBOROUGH PINOT GRI	S 2018 <b>\$19.99</b>
14592	LOVEBLOCK ORANGE NATURAL SAUVIGNO	ON BLANC 2019 <b>\$24.99</b>
96174-4	EAST IMPERIAL ROYAL BOTANIC TONIC	150ML 4-PACK <b>\$9.99</b>
93757	THE BOTANIST ISLAY DRY GIN	700ML <b>\$79.99</b>
92286	DE KUYPER ELDERFLOWER LIQUEUR	700ML <b>\$32.99</b>



## VIDAL HAWKES BAY 19481 ESTATE CHARDONNAY 2018 \$13.99

There's very little Vidal winemaker Hugh Crichton doesn't know about Chardonnay. It's hard to see how Vidal make money here; the top quality fruit, oak aging and fastidious care read more like a \$20+ wine.

## LAWSONS DRY HILLS MARLBOROUGH 13378 CHARDONNAY 2018 \$17.99

Consistency and reliability are a Lawsons hallmark. Their Chardonnay has had all the works (malo, lees stirring, etc.) with the result a creamy and balanced mouthful of stonefruit-and-citrus gorgeousness.

## BRANCOTT ESTATE MARLBOROUGH 15161 O CHARDONNAY 2017 \$20.99 CASE OF 6 \$19.99 A BOTTLE

A tribute to Montana's original Kiwi classic, the Letter Series. Opulent stonefruit and citrus characters combine with toasty, mealy nuances, a creamy, nutty mouthfeel and a lingering textural finish.

## KUMEU VILLAGE KUMEU 18215 PINOT GRIS 2017

\$14.99

Michael Brajkovich works his magic on the Pinot Gris grape via this offdry offering. Stonefruit, pear and floral characters are accompanied by a nice textural presence. Eminently drinkable, brilliantly priced.

### RUSSIAN JACK MARTINBOROUGH 18968 PINOT GRIS 2018 \$14.99

Under the revamped Russian Jack label, this is picking up the medals wherever it goes. Intense aromas of stonefruits and pear, dry to taste, with the texture and weight to pair with the best Asian-inspired dishes.

## TERRA SANCTA CENTRAL OTAGO 19944 MYSTERIOUS DIGGINGS PINOT GRIS 2018 \$23.99

Superb Bannockburn fruit delivers an enticing floral bouquet, with a substantial palate of pristine fruit flavours and a clean, dry finish. The excellent fruit weight means this will pair very well with food.

## RAPAURA SPRINGS MARLBOROUGH 17904 CLASSIC SAUVIGNON BLANC 2019 \$13.99

A textural, fruit-driven Sauvignon that delivers appealing tropical and citrus flavours. An attractive underlying flinty quality combines with the generous fruit and crisp acidity to deliver an excellent value wine.

## VAVASOUR MARLBOROUGH 12170 AWATERE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018 \$19.99

A serious, concentrated and expressive wine with a powerful bouquet of fresh herbs, tropical fruits and bright citrus. Ripe stonefruit flavours and a distinct minerality hold up well to rich, spicy foods.

## CHARLES COURBET CHAMPAGNE 41526 SPECIALE CUVÉE BRUT NV \$39.99 CASE OF 6 \$34.99 A BOTTLE

A value-driven champagne, the initially restrained bouquet opening up to reveal fresh, attractive, biscuity aromas. Light and creamy on the palate, nicely balanced, with a lovely crisp finish.

## G.H. MUMM CHAMPAGNE 46445 GRAND CORDON BRUT NV \$54.99

One of the world's biggest-selling champagnes. The nose of citrus, peach and vanilla is enhanced by Mumm's trademark biscuity nuances. A silky, mouthfilling mousse and a lovely fresh, lingering finish.

## MOËT & CHANDON CHAMPAGNE 47211 IMPÉRIAL BRUT NV \$56.99

The giant-striding Moët & Chandon brand is still a force to be reckoned with in the quality and consistency stakes. Their Impérial NV is broad and stylish, with a creamy presence and a vibrantly elegant character.

## VEUVE CLICQUOT CHAMPAGNE 49833 VINTAGE BRUT 2008 TOP VINTAGE \$99.00

An exceptional champagne from an exceptional vintage, this is number 65 for Veuve, with their first back in 1810. Rich aromatics, a bold fusion of power and elegance with a delicate minerality and light toasty notes.



# WINES

### THE NED MARLBOROUGH 12246 ROSÉ 2019 **\$16.99**

A classic bouquet of summer berries and cream with a dash of spice. The vibrant palate is dominated by a mouthful of ripe, soft berryfruit flavours enhanced by a creamy texture and a bright, vivacious finish.

## MAN O' WAR WAIHEKE ISLAND 12482 PINQUE ROSÉ 2018 \$23.99

Man O' War's elegant Provencal-style rosé offers delicate aromas and flavours of strawberry and watermelon nuanced with tangy mineral notes. The crisp and creamy palate finishes clean and dry.

## TERRA SANCTA CENTRAL OTAGO 11113 ESTATE PINOT NOIR ROSÉ 2019 **\$24.99**

A fragrant nose of cherry and pomegranate entrances, courtesy of the pristine Bannockburn grapes. Bright red fruit flavours are endowed with a dash of spice, a smidgen of mineral and a deft touch of sweetness.

## BLACK ESTATE NORTH CANTERBURY 14704 TREBLE ROSÉ 2018 \$25.99

An intriguing blend of red and white grapes from Black Estate's three certified organic hillside vineyards. Strawberry, rhubarb and cinnamon notes, a bright, juicy palate of lingering flavours, a touch of liquorice.

## CHÂTEAU PUECH-HAUT SAINT-DREZERY 49145 PRESTIGE ROSÉ 2018

## \$27.99 CASE OF 6 \$24.99 A BOTTLE

A freshly crisp, bone-dry rosé blended from Grenache and Cinsault, boasting haunting aromatics and a lightly vibrant palate. Notes of strawberry, raspberry and melon are nuanced with hints of florals and citrus.

## MATAWHERO GISBORNE 10766 SINGLE VINEYARD MERLOT 2018 \$20.99

A smooth, fruit-driven wine with aromas of blackberry, mulberry and plum nuanced by toasty notes. Good concentration of flavours, with well-integrated oak and firm tannins.

## ILLUMINATI ITALY 62800 RIPAROSSO MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO 2016 \$14.99 CASE OF 6 \$13.99 A BOTTLE

Italy's Montepulciano grape, top sites yielding expressive, savoury fruit. A little spice for good measure, the wine perfectly poised with just the right amount of fruity, gentle tannins and lively acidity.

## WAIPARA HILLS WAIPARA 19372 PINOT NOIR 2018 **\$14.99**

A succulent, early-drinking blend of sweet red fruits, with the dark cherry and red currant characters enhanced by subtle spice and cocoa notes complemented by an appealing earthiness and a silky mouthfeel.

## LEFT FIELD HAWKES BAY 19067 FLAMINGO RECLUSE PINOT NOIR 2018 \$15.99

A purple-hued Pinot Noir with an alluring bouquet of cherries and strawberries enhanced by notes of earth and spice. The medium-weighted palate offers generous summer fruit flavours with a subtle touch of oak.

DASHWOOD MARLBOROUGH 12214 PINOT NOIR 2017 \$19.99 CASE OF 6 \$18.99 A BOTTLE

From premium producer Vavasour, this is an excellent value Pinot Noir that is no stranger to awards and accolades. Succulent berry and cherry flavours, lithe tannins, a dash of the herbal. Good drinking.

# SADDLEBACK CENTRAL OTAGO 17120 PINOT NOIR 2017 \$26.99 CASE OF 6 \$25.99 A BOTTLE

A drink-now, fruit-driven Pinot Noir from A-list Central Otago producers Peregrine. Bursting with floral and redcurrant notes, it's opulently juicy, with spice-edged characters of raspberry and wild strawberry.

MT DIFFICULTY CENTRAL OTAGO 14935 ROARING MEG PINOT NOIR 2017 **\$26.99** 

Consistently good drinking year after year, the Meg is a classic Central Otago fruit explosion, the red and black berry characters released in a smooth rush of crushed fruit, herbs and subtle spice. Ripe and textural.







## **GOLDEN VALUE** BARGAIN PRICES FOR GOLD MEDAL WINES BY THE CASE



## **BRANCOTT ESTATE** 15156 SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018

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Classic Marlborough. Displaying fruity sweetness and punchy aromas of citrus, this is a well-balanced wine with good weight and crisp acidity. Try pairing it with seafood and Mediterranean-style dishes.

## \$12.99 A BOTTLE WHEN YOU BUY A 6-PACK



# WITHER HILLS MARLBOROUGH

Wither Hills have been crafting exceptional wines for more than two decades. Their Sauvignon is beautifully scented, fleshy and zesty, with intense gooseberry, melon and green capsicum flavours.

## \$16.00 A BOTTLE WHEN YOU BUY A 6-PACK



## VIDAL MARLBOROUGH 19464 RESERVE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018

Intense passionfruit aromatics combine with tropical fruit characters in a classic Marlborough expression. Fresh, pure fruit flavours reflect their prime Awetere Valley origins on a long and lingering palate.

## \$18.99 A BOTTLE WHEN YOU BUY A 6-PACK

VILLA MARIA MARLBOROUGH 19684 RESERVE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018

Villa Maria's Reserve Sauvignon Blanc is sourced from their Wairau Valley vines. The rich, fragrant palate is textural and generous, evoking a refreshing style that has you reaching for a second glass.

## \$20.00 A BOTTLE WHEN YOU BUY A 6-PACK



## VILLA MARIA HAWKES BAY 19553 CELLAR SELECTION CHARDONNAY 2017

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A great Hawkes Bay Chardonnay with aromas of peach and nectarine, along with complex cashew characters from a subtle infusion of French oak. A silky palate with layers of fruit, oak spice and balanced acidity.

## \$16.50 A BOTTLE WHEN YOU BUY A 6-PACK



## SUMMERHOUSE

14721 MARLBOROUGH PINOT GRIS 2018

A single vineyard Pinot Gris offering ripe tropical fruit and nectarine notes with ginger spice undertones. Richly textured and well-balanced, with a hint of acidity and a subtle sweetness.

## \$14.83 A BOTTLE WHEN YOU BUY A 6-PACK



GOLI



A good balance between the apple-apricot sweetness and the acidity, the fruit coming off the stony Condors Bend vineyard in Marlborough's Renwick district, where it ripens slowly and gains superb intensity.

**\$18.33 A BOTTLE** WHEN YOU BUY A 6-PACK

## WILD EARTH CENTRAL OTAGO 16023 PINOT NOIR 2017

Silky and seamless with vibrant fruit, enticing layers, and a serious structure showing a good deal of finesse. Drinking beautifully as a young wine, this will continue to develop its qualities for another 10-12 years.

\$29.99 A BOTTLE when you buy a 12-pack









PROPHET'S ROCK CENTRAL OTAGO PINOT GRIS 2018

\$32.99 18435

Prophet's Rock are consistent deliverers of finely expressive terroir-driven wines. Their Pinot Gris boasts tiers of pear, stonefruit and quince aromas and flavours enlivened with a crisp citrus finish.

\$32.99

CASE OF 12 \$29.99 A BOTTLE

Single vineyard Chardonnay with a bright nose of

apple and peach nuanced with notes of riverstone and oak. Opulently generous stonefruit flavours

are edged with a citrus-like acidity and a dry finish.

\$22.99 <sub>15252</sub>

\$29.99 18301

CASE OF 6 \$19.99 A BOTTLE

Fragrant aromas of stonefruit, citrus and toasty

oak. The fruit flavours are complemented by subtle

oak nuances and a silky, textural mouthfeel that's balanced with a lingering, mineral-infused finish.

From maritime-influenced vineyards in the lower

Wairau Valley. Concentrated and ripe, with pungent

passionfruit, gooseberry, citrus and tropical fruit

characters brought to a crisp, invigorating finish.

SAINT CLAIR MARLBOROUGH

WAIRAU RESERVE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018

CRAGGY RANGE HAWKES BAY

**GIMBLETT GRAVELS CHARDONNAY 2018** 

11240

CHURCH ROAD HAWKES BAY McDONALD CHARDONNAY 2018

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\$24.99 88065 CASE OF 12 \$21.99 A BOTTLE

A serious, well-priced Rioja enhanced by a robust structure, displaying fragrant aromas of raspberry, blackberry, spice and pepper on a palate tinged with berryfruit, nutmeg, plum and coffee notes.

SERESIN MARLBOROUGH

LEAH PINOT NOIR 2017

\$30.99 18623





Seresin's usual class, harvested off their organic and biodynamic vineyards. Elegant and focused, soft tannins supporting the succulent summer fruit characters through to a lingering finish.



THE FALCON SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018 **\$16.99** 14484 Fresh aromatics of passionfruit, blackcurrant and



TE KAIRANGA MARTINBOROUGH ESTATE PINOT NOIR 2018 \$23.99 <sub>19097</sub>



From the heart of Pinot Noir country. A fragrant bouquet of berry, cherry and plum displays a touch of spice. On the palate succulent fruit integrates seamlessly with oak and supple tannins.





A moreish, full-bodied and fleshy Barossa Shiraz. Deep and brooding, with aromas of dark fruits, red spices, anise and ripe cherries, the lush palate flows with an even texture to a soft finish.



**CHARDONNAY 2017** \$20.99 17045 Ó

PENCARROW MARTINBOROUGH

CASE OF 12 \$18.99 A BOTTLE

Palliser Estate's early-drinking label. A rich, mouthfilling Chardonnay with a style and finesse well in excess of its price. Citrus and stonefruit notes are seamed with nuances of nutty oak and flint.



SAINT CLAIR

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# LEEFIELD - STATION -

Located in Marlborough's Waihopai Valley, Leefield Station is one of the region's oldest farming stations. John Marris was a stock and station agent and a pioneer in the Marlborough wine industry. His son, Brent Marris, is the founder of Marisco, home to The Ned wines, and the owner of Leefield Station. The Marris family have resurrected the stunning property, operating it as both a vineyard and a farm and retaining its historic buildings and trees.

12271 SAUVIGNON BLANC 2017	\$15.99
18924 CHARDONNAY 2017	\$23.99
13886 PINOT GRIS 2017	\$15.99
12270 PINOT ROSÉ 2018	\$18.99
18925 PINOT NOIR 2017	\$23.99

