

GLENGARRY

WINELETTER **102** SEPTEMBER 2005

TI POINT
THE RHÔNE
FORGOTTEN WHITES
NZ HIGH FLIERS
SEPTEMBER TOP 10
SEPTEMBER CASE OFFERS



Wineflash

CHÂTEAU DU PIN BORDEAUX 2003

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Half Mile Creek Cabernet Sauvignon 2003

was \$11.95 now **\$8.95** 21407



'We make this wine with the wine drinker in mind,' claim the Half-Milers; which is awfully good, because I don't know if the boys down the aluminium smelter quite have the nuance of palate to sort the good from the merely acceptable. This slides easily onto the 'very good' end of the continuum, unleashing a fruit-wash of flavour (blackberries and blackcurrants mostly) and a comforting warmth and richness that hugs you like an old rug. No need to spill oodles of ink debating this wine's merits: they are patently obvious, and there for the drinking.

Kim Crawford Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2005

was \$19.95 now **\$15.95** 11787



If I had a dollar for every time someone has asked me 'have you tried the new Crawford Savvy yet?' or I got dancing lessons for every 'isn't it amazing?!' I'd be a millionaire *and* a Fred Astaire. And damnit it *is* fantastic, with its lickily luscious passionfruit and gooseberry characters, its there or thereabouts (but not dominant) herbaceousness, and a crisp revitalising acid that makes a lone glass mostly an impossibility. Full-bodied rather than linear, long and flowing like a chiffon gown, and just as lovely.

Mills Reef Chardonnay 2004

was \$17.95 now **\$13.95** 14506



Nice entry-level-priced little cracker from the Tauranga Terrier himself, ole Paddy Preston. His Reserve wines command much respect and attention; hence, while a case of this costs you less than it does to fill your tank, rest assured that there is no scrimping in the quality department. Bursty, peachy, ripe fruit, some oak seasoning and a creamy malolactic component ensure plenty of mouthfilling richness. Some tasty, lip-smacking, citrusy, zesty elements keep it vivid, and there's a good, long, satisfying tail.

G d'Arenberg The Footbolt McLaren Vale Shiraz 2002

was \$24.95 now **\$18.95** 20718



A wet spring and long, dry autumn resulted in low yields of highly concentrated, highly developed berries. You know, the sort that do quantum physics equations while they're solving world poverty. Anyhow, the high level low-down is this: masses of blueberry, blackberry and plum fruit characters, a solid skein of spice and mocha coffee and some savoury olive notes. Soft tannin, cedary oak hints and a richness and vitality make it the Rogaine of Aussie Shiraz. Exceptional, and doubly so at this price.



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The squabbling over who gets a window seat. The 'you-sure-it's-this-way-no-it's-that-way' arguments over creased maps of France. The 'what's French for public toilet?' discussions. Yep, we've always gone to great lengths to secure the best, most interesting wines at the best prices direct from the source, and nothing is a bigger length than the annual Vin Expo trade fair, held in Bordeaux. 2,400 exhibitors, 41,000 square metres of stands, and Glengarry were the only New Zealand retailer present.

What's the point? See we've got more than 50 French agencies, wineries and négociants that we deal with direct, and while we keep in touch via email, fax and phone, grabbing these opportunities to get across a desk from them and really find out what's been happening is crucial. First hand knowledge of vintage conditions, the quality of the wines in barrel, release schedules, volume availability; these are all elements that we collect and take away in order to keep our French wine-drinking clients happy.

This year, we sent Liz Wheadon and Monique Antunovich to scope the stands and bring back the lowdown on the high-lights. Monique is my niece, a fourth-generation member of the family, one of the youngsters who has inherited a passion for wine and for wine retailing from the rest of us. Liz has been with the company eleven years, and for the last six of those has been in charge of all Glengarry purchasing. This is a huge role, overseeing what is on our shelves and where we get it from, and a vital part of that role is

keeping in touch with our key suppliers from the Rhône Valley, Alsace, Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne.

The women managed to convince me that they needed to go to as many of the regions as possible, as well as to Vin Expo, and I folded when they promised me they'd pick up a vintage Harley biker's jacket on the way back through LA. I'm easily bought, believe me.

So Liz and Monique visited Christian Pol-Roger at the family firm, they saw Jossmeyer, Sipp, Sparr and Gisselbrecht in Alsace, and then moved on to Chablis, Burgundy, the Rhône Valley and Bordeaux for the EXPO. They had their work cut out, tasting upwards of twenty wines a day, having detailed discussions with the various suppliers and then trawling Vin Expo for as much info as they could get.

Back they came a few weeks ago full of talk, and it's been brilliant to collate everything that they got from the trip. Having consolidated our existing relationships and secured some new ones, we will have some exciting developments to report to over the next few months, thanks to the girls' junket.

The bit that I don't get is that there were so many shoe stores in those wine regions. And since when was there a Versace outlet in Champagne? There go the Customs bills. Yep, as I said, any lengths...

Enjoy.

Jak Jakicevich

GLENGARRY


Locations

Services

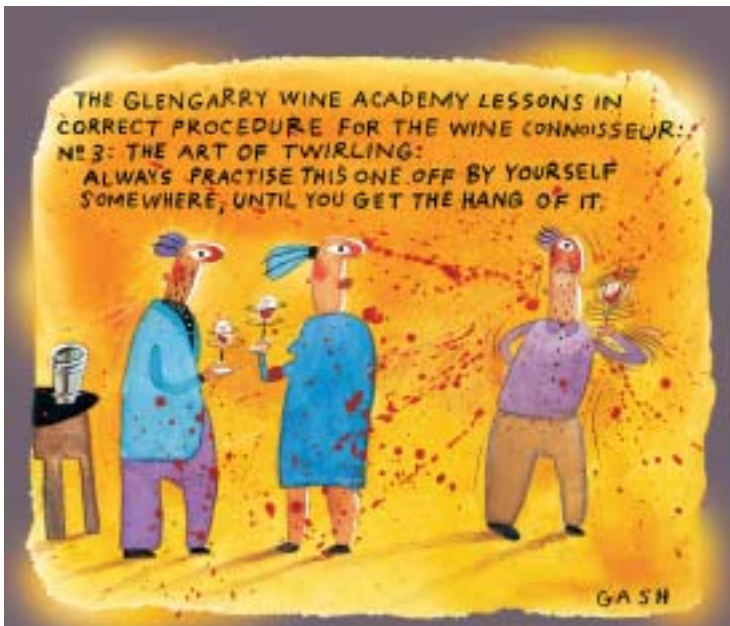
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Over the last ten years, the Glengarry Wine Academy has established itself as one of our country's leading wine educators. Initially created to train Glengarry staff, it is also widely used by the hospitality industry and wine enthusiasts. Informative, but never intimidating, the Glengarry Wine Academy courses are an opportunity for beginners as well as experienced aficionados to expand their knowledge and develop their interest. The only pre-requisite is a passion for wine!

For further information, ph 0800 733 505 or email sales@glengarry.co.nz



Ti Point

The Ti Point vineyard is magnificently sited on the Ti Point peninsula on the Matakana Coast, an hour north of downtown Auckland. The tiny, north-facing 3.5 hectares perched above Omaha Bay enjoys a beneficial diet of steady, gentle sea breezes. The enterprise is unique, being New Zealand's only winery, and possibly the world's, that is owned and operated by three generations of Haslam women. It is very much a hands-on operation. The driving force, winemaker Tracy Haslam, explains: 'The three of us (with the help of rellies and friends) cleared the land of scrub, and from 1993 progressively planted the vineyard. We do everything by hand; weeding, leaf plucking, harvesting and pruning.'

Tracy grew up in the area, went to the local college, and after an OE stint, completed a Diploma in Wine Science at the Hawkes Bay Eastern Institute of Technology. Armed with her Diploma, she headed off overseas and worked vintages in Italy, Switzerland, the Napa Valley and Bordeaux. After finishing at St. Émilion's famous Château Figeac, she returned to New Zealand, becoming winemaker at Lombardi and Black Barn while beginning the planting at Ti Point. The vineyard is planted exclusively in Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. 'This is the perfect mix; I love red wines that have layers of flavour and inviting textures, and these varieties are perfectly suited to the site.'

The wines are made at a Hawkes Bay winery, there being no room for one at Ti Point. Tracy says, 'I don't want any one character to dominate the other; I'm striving for seamless wines that are simple, sexy and ultimately food friendly.' The Ti Point vineyard is the sole source for the red wines, but they have leased a Sauvignon Blanc property in Marlborough and are planning to do the same in Hawkes Bay's Dartmoor Valley for Chardonnay and Viognier. The first release of these stellar wines has garnered immediate critical acclaim; and rightly so.



Ti Point Sauvignon Blanc 2004

was \$19.95 now **\$16.95** 19000

Using grapes from two Marlborough vineyards, the wine was cold fermented in stainless steel tanks to extract optimum varietal flavours. It is styled to showcase Marlborough's distinctive aromatic purity and crisp, refreshing characters. It is a bright, greenish-gold wine, with an upfront bouquet displaying ripe, tropical fruit aromas and mineral and straw nuances in the background. The palate is lively and generously structured, with a range of passionfruit, citrus, guava and gooseberry flavours extending through to a zippy, dry, lingering finish.



G Ti Point

Rosé 2004

was \$19.95 now **\$16.95** 19001

Rosé, touted as the perfect summer wine, is in fact just as appetising throughout the rest of the year. This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon expression has the depth and structure to match ham, roast pork and beef, and it is a great accompaniment to salmon and veal. The wine was diligently crafted to extract a splash of colour, and cold fermented to retain and enhance varietal character. It's attractive and polished, with a bouquet that evokes tropical fruit and strawberry. The palate is quite full bodied, with pervasive berryfruit flavours enhanced by a lively, spicy finish.

Ti Point

Two Merlot Cabernet 2004

was \$19.95 now **\$16.95** 19002

The Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec that make up the blend were harvested in excellent condition and at optimum ripeness. The grapes were whole bunch-fermented in separate batches and transferred to a traditional basket press. The batches were matured both in tank and seasoned French oak prior to the final blending. The wine is subtle and well focused, with a finely judged bouquet. The ripe plum and berry aromas have hints of spice, herbs and toasty oak, while the complex palate has lovely, spicy berry flavours complemented by a silky texture.



Ti Point

One Merlot 2004

was \$34.95 now **\$29.95** 19003

'One' is Ti Point's signature red, and very expressive of its terroir; powerful yet subtle, and already showing some elegance, it has been meticulously crafted. The Merlot was hand-picked, sorted, de-stemmed, whole bunch pressed, regularly hand plunged, basket pressed, put through a malolactic fermentation and matured in new French oak. It is immediately appealing with its purplish highlights and exotic spicy aromas. Beautifully integrated, multilayered and smooth, the abundant plum, berry, chocolate and cedar aromas and flavours linger on and on.

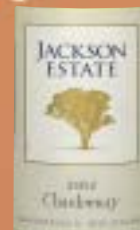


Hot off the Press

Jackson Estate

Marlborough Chardonnay 2004

\$16.95 13113



So good to have our grimy little mitts, sorry expensively manicured *mains* on this treasure. Amazing price for a wine that has a large hand-picked and processed component, too. The use of oak is so subtle and judicious that frankly, it could hand down sentences from the bench. Richly citric, with ripe white peach characters, a hint of flint and lifted spice and a rich, rewarding finish. 'To the fridge with him!'

Katnook Founder's Block

Coonawarra Shiraz 2003

\$17.95 20032



The fruit for this rather aristocratic red comes from the original Riddoch block, and it has that Coonawarra finesse that some of the more blustery Aussies just can't seem to get. A two year stretch in oak provides strong support for the rich raspberry and plum fruit, while supple, yet subtle, cedary oak notes and spice lend weight and gravitas to the monumental finish.

G Gros Frère et Soeur

Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits 2003

\$26.95 41005



From a block just across the fence from the famed Domaine de la Romanée Conti, yet about one gazillionth of the price and much more available. It has the most gorgeous strawberry aromas, an exotic fragrance that is echoed in the chewy, juicy palate that twins the strawberries with some fungal, earthy components. A lick of vibrant acid and, well, there'll be no holding you back, to be honest.

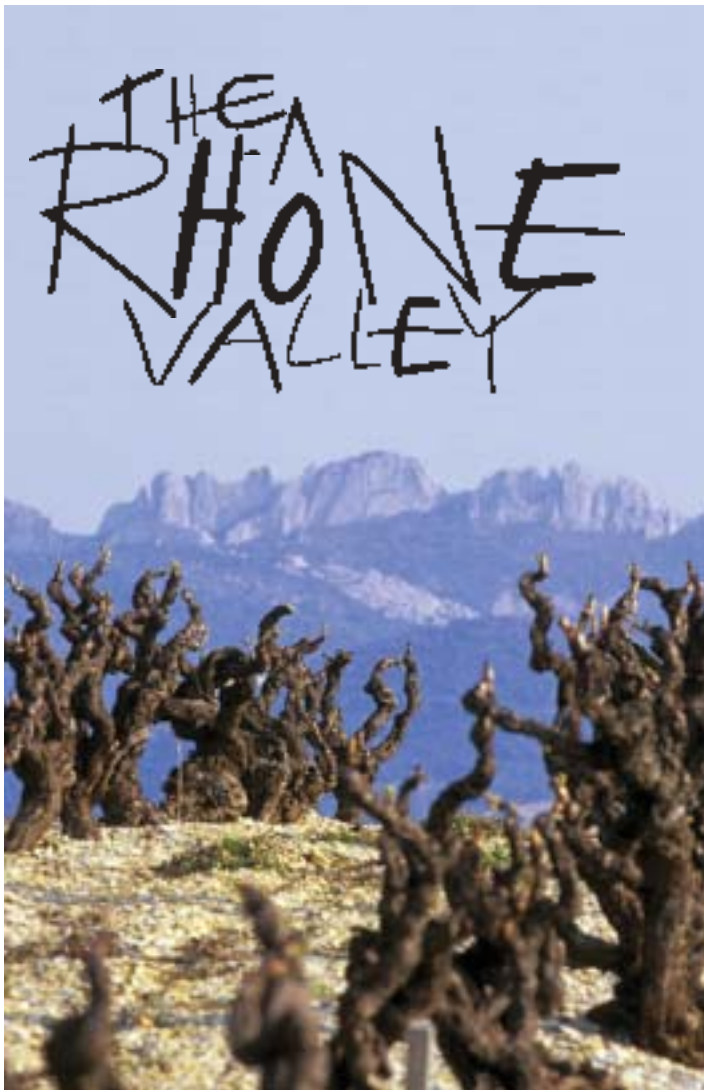
Georges Duboeuf

Beaujolais-Villages 2004

\$16.95 43911



My fondness for contempt prior to investigation has often resulted in my missing out on some of life's greatest surprises. So when I saw 'Beaujolais Villages' I thought, hmm, could be a lightweight. Wrong. I was delighted to discover layers of rich plum and cherry fruit notes, a fine vinous quality and a weight that pairs with plenty of food. Most rewardingly excellent.



We rejuvenated ourselves after the strenuous demands of *Vin Expo* by taking a trip through the Rhône Valley, catching up with some long-time Glengarry partners and meeting and forging relationships with some new ones.

Fortified by excellent pastries from the fantastic Bordelaise bakery known simply as 'Paul', we jumped on a train to take us through to the impossibly beautiful town of Avignon. 'Rich in history' barely describes this ancient walled place, and that history is very much focused on its being home to the papal court that Pope Clement V moved here in 1305. So keen was he on the local wines, that when the court was briefly re-established in Rome (1367-1370) Clem had some Côtes-du-Rhône vines planted there, too! Châteauneuf-du-Pape, which translates as 'the Pope's new castle', is a mere 15-minute drive from Avignon, and once you spot those huge, oval orange stones in the vineyards, you know you're in the Southern Rhône's best wine country. The stones so dominate the landscape, which is peculiarly level in comparison to the incredible steepness of the Northern Rhône, that if you look under your feet as you cross the famous vineyards you see no soil at all, just these rust-coloured boulders. And like the river stones of Marlborough, these stones act as a natural sieve to drain excess rainwater, and of course as retainers of heat when the sun is out, often becoming too hot to touch at the height of a Rhône summer. Hence the ability of Châteauneuf to produce wines that are heady and alcoholic yet still flavoursome and fragrant.



Cave de Rasteau
Tradition Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages 2003

was \$21.95 now **\$16.95** 43003

Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages wine must, by law, be from the 17 villages in the region considered to have superior soils, aspects and climate. Yields are restricted, and the alcohol must be at least 12.5. This wine was made at the cooperative created by Rasteau's vintners in 1925. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the Cave produces premium wines from some of the oldest vineyards in the region. This blend of 65% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre is excellent value. It is ripe, generous and supple, with spicy, peppery nuances and violet-tinged blackberry and cherry flavours.

Paul Jaboulet 375mL
Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise 2003

was \$23.95 now **\$20.95** 45369

Beaumes-de-Venise is one of the 17 villages specified Côtes-du-Rhône, but it also has full *appellation contrôlée* status for its unique dessert wine. It is made from blanc and noir Muscat à Petits Grains, in order to produce the pale orange colour that distinguishes it. The grapes were late harvested to retain high sugar content, and slowly cool fermented. When it reached optimum sweetness, the wine was fortified with grape alcohol; it is opulent and intensely aromatic, with spicy aromas and lush, peachy flavours that are sustained right through.



Bosquet des Papes
Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2003

was \$63.95 now **\$56.95** 41291

This estate comprises only 57 acres, but it is rated amongst the very best in what is arguably the Rhône's best known appellation. This is a blend of 70% Grenache, with the balance made up of equal parts Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. It was traditionally vinted and aged for eighteen months in oak. A beautifully-focused, deeply-concentrated wine that combines power with finesse, it is jam-packed with ripe, rich plum, currant, black cherry and anise flavours that turn to toast on the finish. Rated 89-91 by Robert Parker.



43737	Domaine Jaume La Friande Côtes du Rhône Rouge 2003	\$14.95
43304	Cave de Rasteau Les Viguiers Côtes du Rhône Rouge 2003	\$15.95
45344	Paul Jaboulet Les Traverses Côtes du Ventoux 2003	\$17.95
45318	Paul Jaboulet Côtes du Rhône Sélection 2003	\$17.95
45359	Paul Jaboulet Parallèle 45 Côtes du Rhône Villages 2003	\$18.95
41290	Bosquet des Papes Côtes du Rhône 2003	\$21.95
41202	Les Vins de Vienne Côtes du Rhône Villages 2003	\$22.95
45343	Paul Jaboulet Vacqueyras 2001	\$29.95
41201	Pontifical Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2001	\$39.95
41292	Bosquet des Papes A La Gloire De Mon Grand-Père 2003	\$89.95
41282	Les Vins de Vienne Les Otéliées 2003	\$89.95
41293	Bosquet des Papes Chante Le Merle Châteauneuf 2001	\$115.95
41295	Bosquet des Papes Chante Le Merle Châteauneuf 2001 1.5L	\$249.95

Our first stop was at Bosquet, a well-respected producer from whom we've been importing wines for a few years now. In true Rhône style, we got a family welcome from *mère, père* and the family *chien*. We also tried a selection of their excellent wines, including tank samples of the '04's, which were uniformly excellent, along with the '03's, which are proving that they are as upfront and full of fruit as the wine press had led us to believe. From there we flitted across to Beaumes-de-Venise where we met with two outstanding producers who we can say a bit more about when the ink has dried on the contract! It's just great to visit these little towns that for so long have just been an exotic name on a French wine label; it really gives you a perspective on the wines, their true terroir and the people that make them.

Our first village the following day was that of Rasteau, still in the southern Rhône. The region is well known for their fortifieds, and *vins doux naturels*, but there are some exciting developments happening, particularly with Grenache, and the surrounding environs are hoping to be granted *appellation contrôlée* status in 2006. The wines we tasted certainly showed great promise. Weighed down with good food and generous hospitality, we decided to walk to Chapelle St Didier, which is situated at the top of the Rasteau hill, the steep climb very much compensated for by the opportunity to walk through row upon row of 80-year-old vines.

46811	Pierre Gaillard Clos de Cuminaille AOC Saint Joseph 2003	\$49.95
46812	Pierre Gaillard Les Pierres AOC Saint Joseph 2003	\$59.95
46813	Pierre Gaillard Côte Rôtie 2003	\$79.95
41281	Les Vins de Viennes Les Barcillants AOC Cornas 2003	\$77.95
41283	Les Vins de Viennes Les Essartailles Côte Rôtie 2003	\$99.95
41280	Les Vins de Viennes Chirats de St Christophe Hermitage 03	\$102.95



Paul Jaboulet Les Jalets Crozes-Hermitage 2001

was \$28.95 now **\$26.95** 45348

The Crozes-Hermitage is the Northern Rhône's largest appellation and extends over eleven communes. The vineyards sit on the eastern side of the Rhône, on sandy soils mixed with smooth river stones called 'Les Jalets' in the old French. Made from 100% Syrah, the wine was traditionally fermented and matured for up to twelve months in oak barrels. The colour is dense with purple highlights, the aromas full of concentrated ripe berry, spice, black pepper and toast. The palate is powerful and complex, with a burst of vibrant, lingering black cherry flavours. Excellent value.

Pierre Gaillard Côte-Rôtie 2003

\$81.95 46813

In recent years the vinous treasures of the Côte-Rôtie, producing less than 50,000 cases of red wine annually, have been 'discovered' and the wine has become the most sought after in the Rhône Valley. The Wine Advocate's Robert Parker awarded this 92 marks, the equivalent of a Gold Medal. It is a benchmark for the appellation; sumptuous and inky black, with an explosive bouquet of cassis, berries, violets and smoky oak aromas. The well-structured palate has raspberry, plum and spice flavours coursing elegantly through to a lengthy finish.



45374	Paul Jaboulet Les Sauvagères Saint-Péray 2002	\$19.95
45349	Paul Jaboulet Les Jalets Crozes Hermitage 2002	\$24.95
45377	Paul Jaboulet Les Cassines Condrieu 2004	\$59.95
45334	Paul Jaboulet La Chapelle Hermitage 2001	\$170.00
45352	Paul Jaboulet La Chapelle Hermitage 2000	\$170.00
45338	Paul Jaboulet La Chapelle Hermitage 1999	\$170.00

THE RHÔNE

We were further rewarded by a tasting of the full range of the Cave de Rasteau wines, a handful of staggeringly good Côtes du Rhône that we will be able to retail in our stores for under \$20 (check out the previous page). From there we went to a number of tiny villages in the rustic region of Gigondas which was almost fairy tale-like in its charm and beauty, the wines as wild and untamed as you'd expect.

Nothing could prepare us for the majesty of the trip up the Rhône to Tain l'Hermitage. This Holy Grail for Syrah drinkers is a truly wondrous place, our sugar rush from a quick stop at the Valrhona chocolate factory only adding to our enthusiasm and excitement (an entire town that smells like a cup of hot chocolate is an almost unnerving experience!).

For those of you who have been as fortunate as we were to visit the great vineyards of France, you'll know what we're talking about. For those of you who haven't, if you're serious about the great wines of France, beg, borrow or somehow get yourself there. To say 'it was worth the trip' doesn't do justice to the experience. And of course, coming back to a New Zealand winter and opening up some Châteauneuf you can still taste just a little of that baking Southern Rhône heat, and remember.

Liz Wheadon

FORGOTTEN WHITES

Forgotten? Perhaps misplaced might be a better word. We've turned the spotlight on some of those white varietals that are either a little unknown in these parts (Roussanne, Marsanne), or are aristocratic varieties like Riesling, which seems to slip out of favour now and again while Chardonnay and Sauvignon get their day in the sun. So we've corralled these all under the 'lost souls' banner and beseech you to broaden your vinous horizons, to abandon yourself to the shock of the new and, with a guiding hand via the tasting notes, have a look at a few wines that might have got past your nose.

43908	Georges Duboeuf	Viognier 2002	\$16.95
20706	d'Arenberg	Hermit Crab Marsanne Viognier 2004	\$16.95
20703	d'Arenberg	Last Ditch Viognier 2003	\$23.95
13334	Lake Chalice	Marlborough Riesling 2004	\$14.95
13226	Jackson Estate	Marlborough Dry Riesling 2002	\$14.95
10992	Brookfields	Ohiti Estate Riesling 2004	\$15.95
15774	Nga Waka	Martinborough Riesling 2002	\$15.95
16753	Palliser Estate	Martinborough Riesling 2004	\$19.95
12307	Rockburn	Central Otago Riesling 2003	\$19.95
22233	Kaesler	Stonehorse Semillon 2002	\$12.95
20287	Tyrrell's	Lost Block Semillon 2004	\$16.95
18762	Francis Cole	Bianco Edition 1	\$19.95



d'Arenberg The Money Spider Roussanne 2004

was \$24.95 now **\$21.95**₂₀₇₂₁

In 2000, d'Arenberg's first Roussanne crop was smothered in tiny Money Spiders, and no wine was made that year. The spiders have moved on, but the name has remained. The 2004 McLaren Vale vintage delivered very ripe bunches, which were basket pressed and cool fermented in stainless steel tanks to retain varietal characters. The resulting healthy, straw-coloured wine has a distinctive bouquet displaying, pear, peach and traces of aromatic herbal tea. The palate is well balanced, with the honeyed stonefruit flavours countered by a long, fresh finish.

Paul Jaboulet Les Sauvagères Saint-Péray 2002

was \$25.95 now **\$19.95**₄₅₃₇₄

The vineyards of Saint Péray are the most southerly of the Northern Rhône, and they enjoy a warm, reliable climate. The appellation produces only white wines, primarily from the Marsanne variety. Once the wines enjoyed great fame, but fashions change, and today they are not well known beyond their borders. The wine was traditionally vinted and lightly oaked to provide an extra dimension. With its distinctive mineral-edged bouquet, it is quite weighty, displaying honeyed, apricot-like flavours, an oily texture and an easy finish.



Rongopai Ultimo Gisborne Viognier 2002

was \$35.95 now **\$29.95**₁₇₅₆₉

In its native home in the Rhône Valley, Viognier was in serious danger of extinction; fortunately, both French and New World winemakers rediscovered the variety and, luckily for us, it is making excellent progress in New Zealand. This wine is from Peter Briant's Gisborne vineyard, which in 2004 produced an excellent, well-conditioned crop. The wine was traditionally vinted and minimally handled to retain optimum varietal characters. The bouquet is quite fragrant, with peachy, honeyed tones. The wine is full bodied, with good depth and a creamy texture.





Yalumba Y Series Viognier 2004

was \$17.95 now **\$13.95**₂₉₈₄₂

If you're chardonnayed out and sauvignon is beginning to pall, then this may be just the tonic to restore your appetite for white wine. Yalumba's winemaker, Luisa Rosa, has delivered a Viognier that is both generously flavoured and exceptionally well-priced. It is a lovely, bright, straw-coloured wine, with the well-focused bouquet showing floral and spice-edged stonefruit aromas. The weighty palate offers rich, honeyed melon and lime flavours, supported by a crème fraîche texture that leads on to a fine, measured finish. Great buying.

G 3 Terraces Riesling 2005

was \$24.95 now **\$19.95**₁₉₃₂₆

New Zealand Riesling, bottle for bottle, probably offers the best value on the market, and our panel finds it perplexing that this terrific variety does not get the credit it truly deserves, with its aromatic floral aromas, freshly-plucked fruit flavours and thrilling freshness. In Wairarapa it has found an accommodating home, as this wine so brilliantly displays. Ripe and fresh, with floral and citrus aromas and flavours, it has a viscous texture and lime-accented finish. Well worth a look.



Kim Crawford Marlborough Dry Riesling 2004

was \$19.95 now **\$16.95**₁₁₉₀₀

Kim Crawford's masterly blending skills are well to the fore in this delicious dry Riesling. The wine is from three vineyards; the Dog Point provided citrus characters, the Brancott honey and spice and the Watts Road weight and depth. The result is a complete wine that oozes class. It is elegant and balanced, with plenty of fresh floral and apricot aromas on the nose. The palate is medium bodied and packed with delicious, honeyed tropical fruit flavours enhanced by a silky texture and a lime-tinged finish. Still in its youth, but it will develop nicely.



Fearless Bays

Trapiche Estate Argentine Pinot Noir 2003

was \$14.95 now **\$9.95**₉₀₆₆₄

The Argentine Finance Minister, upon being told his country owed \$92 billion US, was asked what that represented in pesos, the local currency. 'Pretty much all of them,' he replied. Like Pedro, this is an honest, no-nonsense Argentine, starred with bright plums and cherries, velvet-smooth, with loads of oomph. Medium-weight and loaded with flavour, it is soundly robust without being overbearing and, as such, is ideal for mid-carbo pasta and rice dishes.



G Backyard Gisborne Chardonnay 2002

was \$14.95 now **\$9.95**₁₂₃₀₀

Gisborne sometimes gets left behind in the uncool wine basket, while The Bay and Marlby soak up the stardom but, lest we forget, this sun and surf region was indeed NZ's breadbasket, particularly for Chardonnay, for many years. And still is. Check this: loads of peachy, orangey fruit all pushed to the top for instant and easy access, a sound structure based on judicious oak and the sheer quality of the grapes themselves, a texture that is as smooth and surging as a great set off Waikanae beach. And check the \$\$.

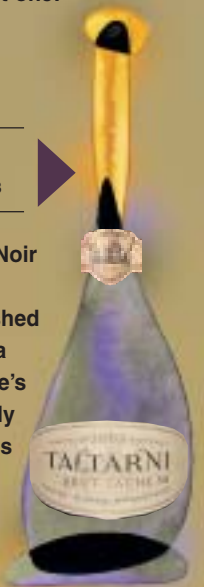
Where's the bad bit? There isn't one.



Taltarni Brut Taché 2003

was \$22.95 now **\$18.95**₂₇₇₈₃

While this does have a fairly substantial Pinot Noir component (52%), the colour comes from the soupçon of red grape liqueur added to the finished triage wine at disgorgement. If that all sounds a touch dramatic, just lie back and lap it up. There's a delightful weave of strawberry fruit and bread yeast notes, a calculated strip of acid that keeps it all jingling and a finish of such class and refinement that the French may well consider putting peepholes in the cellar doors of this legendary Australian winery.





Gift Selections

Fathers' Day Pack

\$64.95 65862

Two Riedel O Pinot Noir glasses
Kim Crawford Marlborough Pinot Noir
Presented in a black box



Transtherm take the phrase 'wine accessories' to a whole new level. With the cabinet itself divisible into a range of temperatures, from cold for whites, to room temperature for reds and somewhere in between for your cellar wines, this gives you complete control over your collection and ensures that your wines are stored in a constant, stable environment, your investment well protected and your friends suitably jealous.



Transtherm

78-bottle wine storage cabinet **\$4,580** 95992

240-bottle wine storage cabinet **\$6,580** 95991



In Fine Spirits

Finlandia

Mango Fusion Vodka 700mL

\$32.95 92764

We like our mangoes here in kiwifruit land, with a passion, as it happens. So the focus groups say and well, by the number of mango sauces, chutneys, yoghurts and so forth that are on the market, one would tend to be a believer. It's perfect for infusing vodka with, being fruity but not overly sweet; so rather than cloud or sully this, the purest of the pure, it merely transforms, enhances and adds an extra dimension to the Finlandia experience. It tastes great. It's fab in cocktails. Wicked over ice. Makes an evil Finlandia Mangotini.



On the Hop

Black Sheep

Black Sheep Ale 500mL

\$5.95 91422

Funny old thing, the Black Sheep Brewery, cos it isn't actually that old, being founded by Paul Theakston in October 1992. Ahh yes, but anyone with a beer bent will recognise that surname; and it is indeed the bearded one from the famous brewing family who resurrected a dilapidated English brewery, sourced antique brewing equipment from Land's End to John O'Groats and set about making a mighty good pint or two. This, his original house release, is a fruit-driven, bitter-sweet affair, with plenty of weight and a refreshingly dry finish. Great with a wedge of pie.





What's On

Freephone 0800 733 505

SEPTEMBER

sunday 18
auckland

Dinner with Christian Pol-Roger

Christian Pol-Roger will be in New Zealand to launch the latest vintage wines from his famous Champagne house. To celebrate, we are holding dinners in Auckland and Wellington. The four-course dinner will be accompanied by Pol Roger's Brut Réserve NV, the stunning Chardonnay Vintage 1998, Vintage Rosé 1998, Brut Vintage 1998, and sublime Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill 1995

Auckland: 7:00pm, Vinnies Restaurant

Geoff Scott, new owner and chef of Vinnies, combines his wealth of experience & love of Champagne to create a superb menu.

For bookings and more information call Marcus Pickens on 09 308 8372

monday 19
wellington

Wellington: 7:00pm, Zibibbo

The dinner will be held in the Pol Roger Room at Zibibbo, and the champagnes will be expertly matched by award-winning chef and Zibibbo owner, Adam Newell.

For bookings and more information call Phil Rowe on 04 495 4527

friday 23

Friday in the Cellar: The Forgotten Whites

We turn the spotlight on some whites a little understated in these parts. Come along and broaden your vinous horizons 4pm-6pm, **Glengarry Victoria Park, Cnr Wellesley & Sales St**
Cost: FREE Please come along

tuesday 27

2003 - The Rhône's Super Vintage

We profile what has been declared by some as a benchmark vintage in the Rhône Valley, where temperatures reached record highs and yields reached record lows. We have landed a variety of 2003 wines, from Châteauneuf-du-Pape in the south to Côte-Rôtie in the north. We'll open top wines from Pierre Gaillard, Bousquet des Papes, Les Vins de Viennes and Paul Jaboulet.

7:00pm, Glengarry Victoria Park, Cnr Wellesley & Sales St

6:00pm, Glengarry Thorndon, 232 Thorndon Quay

Cost: \$30.00 Booking Required



Buy any 6 bottles and we'll give you the 7th!

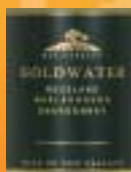
Goldwater

MAKE YOUR OWN 7 for 6 COMBO from these 3 wines



Boatshed Bay Merlot-Cabernet-Franc 2003

Lovely aromas of crushed blackberries vie for your attention with hints of chocolate and cedar. The full bodied palate has velvety tannins and a long, fruit-laden finish.



Roseland Chardonnay 2004

A seamless Chardonnay with well-defined peach and melon aromas and flavours supported by toasty oak. Full bodied and smooth, with mineral touches and a firm, fresh finish.



New Dog Sauvignon Blanc 2004

A crisp and zingy Sauvignon with an aromatic bouquet of pineapple and passionfruit. Ripe and tasty, it is endowed with a light herbal quality and refreshing citrus finish.

SINGLE BOTTLE PRICE **\$15.95** normal retail ~~\$19.95~~

OR BUY 7 for 6 \$13.67 a bottle
equates to only



Much ink is spilled over the Grand Marque Champagne houses that dominate production and consumption the world over, but is rare to find a champagne with the wherewithal to compete with the big guns, to have large enough stocks that they can export some to far-flung corners of the globe. Like here. We import Charles Courbet exclusively, and while it is not a Pol Roger or a Veuve Clicquot, that's kind of the point. To clarify: check the price tag. This is a genuine Champagne from the genuine, delineated Champagne appellation, using the methods proscribed by the French Government; they just charge a whole bunch less. No big marketing budget (OK, no marketing at all) means that we can get this to you for very little. Nice when that happens, huh?



Charles Courbet Speciale Cuvée Brut NV

\$29.95₄₁₅₂₆

For a champagne of ineffable vivaciousness, finesse, frivolity and sheer class, see that you unhinge the cage and remove the cork, with all due care and attention, of course. A sunburst of citrusy flavour, the fruit dances across your tongue before it handshakes you through to the breadly, toasty mid-palate which in turn takes you on a flight of fancy to a quite remarkable finish of both length and weight. Stylish and complex, fresh as a daisy, clean as a whistle and other clichés. At this price, ace a case.



Fine Wines

NZ's High Fliers

Classic Blends

Of all the classic varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon is by far the most widely-planted. Wherever someone wants to make a serious red wine, rich in varietal character, they invariably turn to Cabernet. Its first New Zealand planting was in Northland in 1832, but by the beginning of the 20th Century, phylloxera had almost wiped it out. Cabernet Sauvignon is a late-ripening variety, better suited to warm, reliable climates, and when it was resurrected in the mid-sixties in Hawkes Bay, it had found itself a near perfect environment.

Cabernet-based wines are renowned not only for their depth of colour, aroma, power and richness of flavour, but for the tannic quality that gives them the ability to be long-lived and have excellent cellaring potential. Characteristically, they have a strong entry and finish, and are often blended with varieties like Merlot to fill the mid palate and provide a smoother, mellower texture.



G Sacred Hill Helmsman
Hawkes Bay Cabernet Merlot 2002

was ~~\$44.95~~ now **\$41.95** 18243

Helmsman is Sacred Hill's signature Hawkes Bay red, and winemaker Tony Bish has spared no effort in the production of this Bordeaux-inspired wine. The hand-picked grapes were separately fermented and given extended skin contact to extract optimum colour and character. Following fermentation, it was put through a malolactic conversion, matured in new French oak and minimally handled before bottling. With focused fruit, an excellent backbone and stunning aromas of blackberry, cassis and cedar, the wine is a full bodied triumph with chocolate-spice nuances and a persistent finish.

MIXED CASE OFFER 65880

ALL 12 FEATURED CABERNETS FOR \$695 SAVE \$96.40 OFF RETAIL

13516	Stonybatter	Roadworks Cabernet Sauvignon 2003	\$29.95
10979	Brookfields	Reserve Merlot Cabernet 2003	\$36.95
14099	Matua Valley	Ararimu Merlot Cabernet 2002	\$39.95
19666	Villa Maria	Reserve Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon 2000	\$41.95
19419	Vidal Estate	Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2002	\$46.95
12800	Esk Valley	Reserve Merlot Malbec Cabernet 2002	\$51.95
10988	Brookfields	Gold Label Cabernet Merlot 2002	\$54.95
19122	Te Mata	Coleraine 2003	\$59.95
12984	Goldwater	Goldie Cabernet Merlot 2002	\$64.95
19043	Stonyridge	Larose 2003	\$115.95
15235	Montana	Tom Cabernet Merlot 2000	\$119.95

95830 **Riedel Vinum** Cabernet Sauvignon Glass **\$49.95**



96214 **Riedel O** Pinot Noir Glass **\$24.95**



Pinot Noir

Pinot Noir is not for those growers and winemakers after a predictable life. The variety is a great deal more choosy about where it will grow than the cosmopolitan Cabernet Sauvignon. It is not just a matter of climate; it prefers cool growing conditions, but is also very particular about the soils it lives in. On top of that, it is an inconsistent cropper, thin-skinned, prone to disease and has a tendency to mutate at the drop of a gene.

So why do growers bother with this sullen grape? Because when the wines are good, they are very good, with alluring qualities that will have the senses racing. The wines can indeed be sensual, with intoxicating fruit aromas full of silky, tactile flavours, or dark and muscular with spicy, beefy textures. New Zealand winemakers have risen to the challenge; Pinot Noir is now the most widely planted red variety, and our nation's best are producing exhilarating, world-class wines.



G Rockburn Central Otago Pinot Noir 2003

was \$38.95 now **\$32.95** 12314

We don't have the space to list all the awards this wine has accumulated, but here are just some from the last 12 months: Gold Medal, Air New Zealand; 18/20, Jancis Robinson; 90/100, Wine Spectator. A blend of Gibbston and Lowburn Pinot Noir, the wine was cold fermented and matured in new and seasoned French oak. The distinctive bouquet is full of lively cranberry, strawberry and spice aromas. It is rich and velvety, with layer upon layer of ripe, nutmeg-accented fruit enhanced by a plush texture and a long, flavoursome finish. Excellent value.

MIXED CASE OFFER 65879

ALL 12 FEATURED PINOT NOIR FOR \$395 SAVE \$86.40 OFF RETAIL

10382	Waipara Hills	Canterbury/Marlborough Pinot Noir 2003	\$16.95
19320	3 Terraces	Dakins Road Pinot Noir 2004	\$27.95
10168	Akarua	The Gullies Central Otago Pinot Noir 2003	\$28.95
18318	Saint Clair	Omaka Reserve Pinot Noir 2003	\$29.95
13738	Martinborough	Te Tera Martinborough Pinot Noir 2004	\$29.95
10169	Akarua	Central Otago Pinot Noir 2003	\$34.95
11128	Carrick	Central Otago Pinot Noir 2003	\$35.95
14941	Mt Difficulty	Pinot Noir 2003	\$36.95
10997	Bald Hills	Central Otago Pinot Noir 2003	\$39.95
11161	Chard Farm	Vipers Vineyard Pinot Noir 2003	\$39.95
10581	Ata Rangī	Martinborough Pinot Noir 2004	\$59.95

Sleepers

Nugan Estate Manuka Grove Durif 2003

Cellar for 4 years

was \$29.95 now **\$24.95** 20995

The Durif variety is a shy bearer, well suited to warmer, drier climates. This Durif is from the Nugan family's Manuka Grove Vineyard in New South Wales. It was traditionally fermented and matured in one- and two-year-old American and French oak for sixteen months. A dark ruby wine, it offers finely-tuned berry, plum, spice and vanilla aromas and flavours. Full-bodied and generously flavoured, it has hints of chocolate, a supple texture, silky tannins and a long, firm finish.



Château du Cros Loupiac 2002 375mL

Cellar for 6 years

was \$29.95 now **\$24.95** 41948

Château du Cros, in Bordeaux' Loupiac AC, is named after the remains of the estate's medieval château, and it has forged a formidable reputation for its sweet whites. This is a blend of 70% botrytised Semillon, 20% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Muscadelle. The hand-harvested fruit was rigorously sorted, separately fermented and oak matured for twelve months. The wine is characterised by a superbly complex bouquet that echoes musky floral notes. Solidly structured, the sweet fruit is balanced by a fresh acidity.



Clearview Estate Reserve Hawkes Bay Chardonnay 2004

Cellar for 4 years

was \$49.95 now **\$39.95** 11304

This is bold and powerful, with a tremendous concentration of weighty fruit. Produced from very ripe, hand-harvested grapes, it was barrel fermented in new French and American oak and matured on lees for eleven months. A polished, creamy, vanilla-scented wine displaying aromas of pineapple and toasty oak, it is a rich, generous and lush mouthful, with the layers of fruit framed by a silky texture and balanced by a clean finish. Loaded with flavour, it will develop more depth with cellaring.



1 **Goldwater Zell**
Waiheke Chardonnay 2003

was \$29.95 now **\$25.95**¹³⁰⁰⁰

Barrel fermented wine from the low-cropping Zell Vineyard. Beautifully balanced, it has lovely stonefruit aromas and flavours enhanced by a silky mouthfeel and a fresh, lingering finish.



2 **3 Terraces**
Wairarapa Pinot Gris 2005

was \$24.95 now **\$19.95**¹⁹³²⁵

This shows excellent weight and balance. The bouquet displays appealing pear and spice characters, while the well-rounded palate has a fleshy feel and finishes on a refreshing note.



3 **Gunn Estate**
Skeetfield Chardonnay 2004

was \$24.95 now **\$21.95**¹⁸⁰³⁸

Complex, barrel-fermented and displaying peachy fruit characters, aromas and flavours. Superbly balanced fruit is supported by unobtrusive oak, enhanced by a buttery texture and a citrus finish.



4 **Brookfields** Marlborough
Sauvignon Blanc 2005

was \$18.95 now **\$14.95**¹⁰⁹⁷⁷

A ripe, tropical, fruit-driven wine that captures the essence of Marlborough without its more overt herbaceousness. Stop fermentation provides a hint of sweetness that balances the fresh finish.



5 **Devil's Lair** Fifth Leg
Margaret River Red 2004

was \$22.95 now **\$16.95**²³²⁹¹

A subtly styled and harmonious Cabernet-dominated wine. It has a berry/plum bouquet, with hints of spice supported by oaky nuances flooding through to the smooth, long-flavoured palate.



6 **Gulf Station**
Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2003

was \$21.95 now **\$17.95**²¹³²⁶

A superb-value Gold Medal wine. The bouquet and palate are awash with plum, berry, vanilla and minty nuances. Full bodied and silky smooth, it finishes on a firm note.



7 **Rongopai** Reserve
Gisborne Merlot 2003

was \$18.95 now **\$15.95**¹⁷⁵⁷³

Attractive, well-crafted Merlot that's easy to enjoy. Supple and classy, it offers ripe cassis aromas and flavours supported by vanillin oak and enhanced by silky tannins.



8 **Main Divide**
Canterbury Pinot Noir 2004

was \$24.95 now **\$19.95**¹³⁶⁰⁸

This is a medium- to full-bodied Pinot with cherry-raspberry aromas and hints of vanilla. The palate is well integrated, with a plush, fruit-dominated structure and fine tannin finish.



9 **Geoff Merrill**
Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2001

was \$22.95 now **\$18.95**²²⁰⁹⁶

A rich, powerful, complex Cabernet Sauvignon with masses of cassis/berry aromas and flavours supported by a hint of vanillin oak. Deliciously concentrated yet supple, it lingers on endlessly.



10 **Chapel Hill**
Unwooded Chardonnay 2004

was \$19.95 now **\$12.95**²¹²³⁰

Ripe, rich and displaying tropical fruit salad characters, this is a generously-flavoured chard with a smooth, lingering finish. Bottle aging will develop buttered toast characters and richness.





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sept 2005

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- 65875 Value Red Case
- 65876 Premium White Case
- 65877 Premium Red Case
- 65873 Friday Night Drinks Case

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12
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- 2x **Deakin Estate** Sauvignon Blanc 2004
- 2x **Mills Reef** Chardonnay 2004
- 2x **Trapiche Estate** Argentine Pinot Noir 2003
- 2x **Backyard** Gisborne Chardonnay 2002



Value White Case

\$168 65874

Premium White Case price will never exceed \$168



- 2x **Ti Point** Sauvignon Blanc 2004
- 2x **Jackson Estate** Marlborough Chardonnay 2004
- 2x **Yalumba** Y Series Viognier 2004
- 2x **Goldwater** New Dog Sauvignon Blanc 2004
- 2x **Cairnbrae** Chieftain Marlborough Chardonnay 2003
- 2x **Lake Chalice** Marlborough Riesling 2004



Value Red Case

\$164 65875

Premium Red Case price will never exceed \$168



- 2x **Domaine Jaume** La Friande Côtes du Rhône 2003
- 2x **Half Mile Creek** Cabernet Sauvignon 2003
- 2x **d'Arenberg** The Footbolt Shiraz 2002
- 2x **Ti Point** Two Merlot Cabernet 2004
- 2x **Georges Duboeuf** Beujolais Villages 2004
- 2x **Rongopai** Reserve Gisborne Merlot 2003