

Harrogate Fine



Wine Co.

HARROGATE FINE WINE COMPANY NEWSLETTER

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CORN EXCHANGE CELLARS

THE GINNEL

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After a busy run of tastings (thanks to all who attended) we took our foot off the event peddle over the last few months but will be back with an action packed run starting in September. One event we do know about is a tasting of wines from Lebanese producer Chateau Musar (see below). In addition to this we have a wonderful showing of Tuscany's new season olive oil accompanied by a prestigious set of wines from the region – this is pencilled in for November but we'll confirm the date in due course. In other news we visited Germany in the late spring to taste their 2010 vintage and as soon as the wines arrive we'll send a comprehensive report on what we fell in love with. We would like to hold a small German tasting as well so please drop us a line if you are interested. The first of our 2009 Burgundies have arrived as have some 2009 Rhones, both looking quite fantastic. We also have a very limited offering of arguably Sancerre's greatest producer - Francois Cotat - who makes premium Sauvignon Blanc (but not as you know it!).

Chateau Musar Tasting

A name familiar to most and one that has been associated with this shop for many years. Chateau Musar's winery is based in Ghazir in the Lebanon, but the grapes are grown some distance away in the Bekaa Valley. The tales of triumph and woe connected with transporting the grapes from the vines to the winery are the stuff of legend, but year after year Musar continue to make exciting wines. We are still as enthusiastic as ever and continue to stock one of the best ranges of older vintages in the country. We thought it a good time to show a decent selection of the wines that Musar make - these extend well beyond the famous Chateau Musar itself as a number of other ranges are produced. If you are unfamiliar with these other bottles or simply haven't tried them then this is an ideal opportunity to discover the depth of quality available. We'll have a good selection of excellent bottles open from the full range - *Chateau Musar, Hochar* and *Musar Jeune* - so you'll find red, white and rosé wines on show and, as ever, we'll be on hand to provide any information you might need.

On Friday September 23rd we're delighted to present a Chateau Musar tasting and this will run, as usual, from 6-8 p.m. in the shop. Tickets are priced at £5 and are available now. Please get in touch if you'd like to come.

A selection of new wines.... As we are very much in the heart of summer our focus turned to delicious sunny whites and tasty reds and we have managed to find some absolute crackers. **Domaine Chante Cigale Les Vignes des Alexandre Blanc 2009 £10.99** is a Vin de Pays of some considerable quality that gives more than a gentle nod to its big brother the hugely impressive **Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc 2010 £19.99**. Les Vigne des Alexandre is made from Roussanne and Clairette and has a minerally nose - chalk, stones and honeysuckle combined with soft stone fruit. The palate is expansive – it's full-bodied and powerful with balanced acidity as well as deeply flavoured peach and nectarine notes, with aspects of bitter apricot and blossom. Staying with the Rhone we have just taken this year's allocation of **Yves Cuillerons Marsanne 2010 £12.99** and his **Roussanne 2010 £13.99**. Both are as delicious as ever and a steal for a winemaker of this pedigree. Heading over to the southern hemisphere but sticking to the Rhone-ey grapes we have the wonderful **Foundry Grenache Blanc 2010 £12.99** from South Africa. The 2009 was awarded 4 ½ Platter Stars and this is every bit as good; highly aromatic and crisp with fantastic length and complexity. For a little more of a treat then look no further than the **Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru Clos du Cailleret Domaine Vincent Girardin 2008 £41.99**. Vincent Girardin found the foundations of a wall around this vineyard (or 'clos') and the law allows him to rebuild the wall making this back into a Clos. This 2008 is toasty and pure with a lovely citrus angle - fantastic acidity and a very long finish. Lastly not to be outdone by the French **Mount Mary Chardonnay Yarra Valley 2009 £54.99** makes a welcome return to the shelves after perhaps 10 years absence. This ultra-rare iconic wine is Aussie Chardonnay at its absolute best. Powerful, yet elegant, it would give many a Grand Cru Burgundy a run for its money. Certainly one of the best New World Chardonnays you are likely to come across.

For fans of red wine we have many tasty new bottles that have caused more than a ripple of excitement in the shop. First up is **Vigne di Chiarlo Monferrato Rosso D.O.C 2008 £15.99** from Italy, a country that seems to go from strength to strength. This blend of Barbera and Nebbiolo with a splash of Cabernet is soft, round and with a beautifully harmonious quality which makes it far more accessible than many of the more serious wines of the region. Sticking with the wine of Chiarlo we have what is considered their flagship bottle, a wine that has won countless Tre Bicchieri (one of Italy's most prestigious wine awards) over the years: **La Court Barbera D'Asti Michele Chiarlo 2007 £37.99** has a deep concentrated nose of dark fruits, spice and cocoa that already suggests power and concentration. It is rich, very full bodied and is without question a world class wine that scales the heights this grape is capable of. Then heading over to New Zealand we welcome back a Pinot Noir that we have not had for a few years but it was so good at a recent tasting we simply had to restock it. **Sherwood Pinot Noir Marlborough 2009 £11.99** has all the soft red fruits, silky body and soft tannins you could want and for a remarkably reasonable price. It's back to France for the consistently enjoyable **Bourgueil 'La Petite Cave' Yannick Amirault 2007 £19.99**. A deeply scented red - spicy notes, pepper and tar coated black and red fruit with a leathery angle too. Considerable power on the palate - powerful yet melting tannins, ripe fruit, gravel and spice. A big wine for sure but curiously open knit and enticing. Drinks like quality Bordeaux but a little more generous and without the austerity. Sticking with a vaguely Bordeaux theme we have **Remelluri Reserva Rioja 2006 £19.99**. Remelluri has always had a unique style, with an old-fashioned hint of stewed fruit character, red and dark fruits, spice, leather and coffee. Its structure and direction must surely head more to Bordeaux, perhaps because of the high percentage of French oak used in the wine-making process. Very much a food wine and is chucking out some sediment so we recommend you decant this before drinking.

Domaine François Cotat Chavignol Sancerre 2010

God bless François Cotat! It is easy to forget that out on the peripheral edge of the wine trade there is a dedicated band of winemakers who continue to follow their own paths and make the wine they want to, going against trends or current fashions. Perhaps no other winery typifies this artisan approach more than Domaine François Cotat. François inherited the estate's old winery in Chavignol and half of Domaine Cotat Frères from his father Paul Cotat. The vineyards of Les Monts Damnés, Le Cul de Beaujeu and La Grande Côte are on the steepest slopes of the property so benefit from the best natural aspects. François adopts a minimal intervention approach to winemaking, and surprisingly for the region the grapes are late picked and as a result the wines carry more residual sugar and higher alcohols. These wines can be so untypical that the powers that be sometimes ask for the wine to be declassified to a lowly Vin de Table! They are not your normal Sauvignon Blancs in that they are made to age and ideally should be left for 3-5 years and – incredibly - will age for at least the next 15/20 years. Even more remarkable is the fact that very special vintages can still be drunk at 50 years old! François's *Rosé* is a bit of a revelation - with its silky body and delicious red fruit aroma it makes for a Rosé of some considerable quality. One quick tip – make sure you don't serve it too cold or you will lose much of the depth and subtleties. *Caillottes* is perhaps the most Sauvignon like, but more smoky and spicy as opposed to grassy. *Culs de Beaujeu* seems to carry a touch more residual sugar and *Monts Damnés* has a certain crispness - this is sure to be approachable somewhat sooner than the Culs de Beaujeu. Lastly we have the *Grande Côte* which is François Cotat's flagship wine - bottles of this are going to become like hens teeth after this vintage as the vines are so old they are no longer viable and a grubbing up process is sadly going to take place.

We have a very limited amount of the following wines available.

Rosé 2010	£21.99
Caillottes 2010	£24.99
Culs de Beaujeu 2010	£31.99
Monts Damnés 2010	£31.99
Grande Côte 2010	£34.99

The million pound wine drop!

You may have read an article that detailed a disastrous loading accident where hundreds of cases of premium Australian wine were dropped by a forklift while being loaded into a container for export. Winemakers in the region dried their eyes as rare bottles of their prized wines were smashed all over the place. One particular winery, **Mollydooker**, lost 461 cases of their premium 'Velvet Glove' Shiraz. Winemaker Sparky Marquis was heartbroken and reported that 'when they opened up the container they said it was like a murder scene – there was red everywhere – but it smelled phenomenal...' We may not have any of the now world-famous Velvet Glove (not much about after this incident!), but we do have a couple of other classic Mollydooker wines available, albeit in miniscule quantities. These are juicy-fruited, high-extraction, stylish Aussie reds, much favoured by such luminaries as Robert Parker and the folks at the Wine Spectator. Grab them while you can...

Mollydooker 'Two Left Feet' Shiraz/Cabernet/Merlot 2009 £25.99

Mollydooker 'Blue Eyed Boy' Shiraz 2009 £41.99

Burgundy 2009 part one...

Some of the real stars that have arrived so far... From the **Côte Chalonnaise** the Givrays are so pure and elegant, and the Rully and Mercurey are just that little bit more generous because of the excellent vintage. Heading up to the **Côte de Beaune** the Pillot wines are as majestic as ever; the Vide Bourse is stonkingly good white Burgundy made in the vineyard next to Bâtard Montrachet. The Boucherottes has a fantastic core of fruit and soft tannins and must be one of the best red Beaunes we've tasted. Up to the **Côte de Nuits** and the rising star that is René Bouvier... We have more wines to come from René but for the time being we have his fruity but structured Côtes de Nuits Villages and his more serious Fixin. On a grander scale we have a wine from Taupenot-Merme which is a wonderfully opulent Pinot that screams elegance and concentration. For wine at this level to be drinking so well now really is unusual. Lastly we have the wine of Domaine Fourrier. There's more firmness about these and if you can resist them you will be rewarded with the most perfect Burgundy in a few years. Please note all wines are currently available.

Côte Chalonnaise

Domaine Vincent Dureuil-Janthial Rully Rouge Maizières	£22.99
Domaine Vincent Dureuil-Janthial Mercurey 1er Cru Clos des Montaigus	£19.99
Domaine Francois Lumpp Givry Rouge 1er Cru Le Crausot	£27.99
Domaine Francois Lumpp Givry Rouge 1er Cru A Vigne	£26.99

Côte de Beaune

Domaine Laurant Pillot Chassagne Montrachet Vide Bourse Blanc	£44.99
Domaine Laurant Pillot Beaune 1er Cru Boucherottes Rouge	£26.99

Côte de Nuits

Domaine Rene Bouvier Côtes de Nuits Village Rouge	£22.99
Domaine Rene Bouvier Fixin Crais de Chêne Bouvier Rouge	£28.99
Domaine Taupenot-Merme Morey Saint Denis	£38.99
Domaine Fourrier Gevrey Chambertin	£36.99
Domaine Fourrier Morey Saint Denis Clos Salon	£34.99
Domaine Fourrier Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Cherbaudes	£58.99
Domaine Fourrier Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Goulots	£58.99
Domaine Fourrier Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Combe aux Moines	£73.99

Next issue we will have the wines of Lamarche, Latour-Giraud, Rene Bouvier, Michel Gros, Ballot Millot, Comte Armand and Domaine Bruno Colin.

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