



1. Veuve Clicquot Brut

The full flavour of this champagne comes from good maturation. Soft, baked bread and biscuity nose, with creamy white fruits and a long lasting flavour.

Stylish, elegant and full-bodied.

Grape Varieties: 50% Pinot Noir, 30% Chardonnay, 20% Pinot Meunier

£43.50

Veuve Clicquot turns out consistently high quality champagnes, their full-bodied character coming from a predominance of black grapes in the blends. The house was founded in Reims in 1772, but its name was established by the founder's daughter-in-law, Veuve (widow) Clicquot-Ponsardin, otherwise known as 'La Grande Dame'. Veuve Clicquot is now owned by LVMH - Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy - who market it as 'The Champagne of the Season', all the time ensuring the brand is intrinsically linked to the distinctive egg yolk colour of the labels.



2. Laurent Perrier Cuvée Rosé Brut

Revealing the full aromatic richness of the Pinot Noir grape, this precise and intensely fruity rosé is blended from ten different crus. Aromas and rounded flavours of strawberries, raspberries and wild cherries. Supple and long.

Grape Varieties: 100% Pinot Noir

£65.90

Laurent-Perrier lays claim to being the largest independent Champagne house, having been built up in spectacular fashion by Bernard de Nonancourt from small beginnings. His two daughters - Alexandra and Stéphanie - are involved in the business, helping to keep the inimitable Brut Rosé on the tip of people's tongues, as well as the elegant Chardonnay-dominated 'Brut L-P'. Laurent-Perrier is to be found out in the countryside, in extensive grounds near Tours-sur-Marne, in contrast to the great majority of big Champagne houses which operate from town sites in Epernay and Reims. Laurent-Perrier also owns three other houses: De Castellane, Salon and Delamotte.



3. Bollinger Special Cuvée Brut

A powerful yet elegant, bone dry champagne with a high proportion of Pinot Noir giving a wonderfully biscuity nose, and flavours of citrus, nuts, figs and spice. Complex, muscular yet graceful with fine length and lovely maturity.

Grape Varieties: 60% Pinot Noir, 25% Chardonnay, 15% Pinot Meunier
£46.50

Bollinger's distinctive dry, biscuity style has long been a favoured in England, the most important market for this is relatively small, but well-formed Champagne house. The style owes much to fermentation of the wine in oak barrels which is unusual in the Champagne region.



4. Louis Roederer Cristal Brut Vintage

Intense aromas of white flowers, citrus and red berries then notes of toast and oak. White soft fruits, peaches and toast on the beautifully structured palate. The jewel of the Roederer House, created in 1876 for Tsar Alexander II.

Grape Varieties: 65% Pinot Noir 35% Chardonnay
Price on Application

Founded in 1776, this superlative Reims-based family house is run by the serious minded Jean-Claude Rouzaud and his son Frédéric. With 450 acres of vineyards rated at 98% Roederer is unusual in being able to source 78% of the grapes it requires from holdings that it owns. The famous Cristal cuvée was created in 1876 for Tsar Alexander II. The Louis Roderer style is of patience and precision to produce fresh, delicate yet full, sensuous champagnes.



5. Sancerre Rosé, André Dezat et Fils, France

The rosés of Sancerre are made from Pinot Noir, not so surprising as Sancerre is closer to Burgundy than to Muscadet! This dry rosé is deliciously light with strawberry fruit so is ideal as an apéritif or with a light meal.

£28.00

Louis and Simon Dezat produce classic, elegant Sancerre and Pouilly Fumés, which are regular gold medal winners in Paris and elsewhere. There are 20 hectares in Sancerre under vine, spread over five villages where the grapes produced on three different soil types are blended to give a perfectly balanced wine. In Pouilly Fumé the family owns the 10 hectare Domaine de Thibault where the heavier soil gives a fuller wine. A small amount of Pinot Noir is produced from plantings in Sancerre, from which they also produce a deliciously elegant Rosé. Their methods are very traditional.



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6. Château Le Fagé Sauvignon Blanc, Bergerac Sec, France

Fresh, elegant Sauvignon, bursting with elderflower, crisp refreshing acidity and grassy, herbaceous fruit. Winemaking at Château Le Fagé dates back to 1920, and Benoit Gérardin continues its tradition of great wines.

£23.00

Château Le Fagé occupies forty hectares of rolling vineyard at Pomport, on the northern slopes of Monbazillac. The château is situated at the top of these slopes, with wonderful views towards Bergerac. Winemaking at the estate dates back to 1920 and estate owner, François Gérardin, and his son Benoit combine a healthy respect for this tradition with very modern techniques.



7. Gewurztraminer, Pfaffenheim, Alsace, France

Fine, richly textured Gewurztraminer from the co-operative at Pfaffenheim. A spicy, rose petal nose then a firm, fruit-filled palate, with typical lychee and Turkish Delight flavours. Fresher and crisper than many, it is also dry.

£26.00

The Pfaffenheim Co-operative was founded in 1957 and has some 220 producers with 235 hectares between them. Many of their wines are medal winners, especially in Paris. Founded in 1957 by the growers of the villages of Pfaffenheim and Guebenschwir, the Pfaffenheim Co-operative, is one of the leading co-operatives in Alsace with some 220 producers and 235 hectares of vines between them, many on the quality sloping vineyards. All grapes are handpicked and much investment has gone into the winery. Fresh, excellent varietal wines offering great value for money.



8. Sunnycliff Chardonnay, Victoria, Australia

Mildura in northern Victoria is the perfect place for vines, with water from the Murray and sunshine in abundance. This wine has sheer drinkability, everything is well balanced so one glass is not enough!

£23.00

The excellent Lyrebird and Sunnycliff wines are made by the Wingara Wine Group from their estate at Red Cliffs, near Mildura in the Murray Valley of North West Victoria. Here they have 350 hectares (865 acres) of vines growing a wide variety of grape varieties, both black and white. The climate in this inland part of Australia is reliably warm while the great Murray River which flows down from the Australian Alps brings life to the region. Wingara now belongs to Freixenet, the Spanish Cava producer.

9. Churton Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand

A delicious full-flavoured Sauvignon, none of your usual unsubtle gooseberry flavours here, but a wine full of ripe passion fruit and mango with a subtle mineral finish. This wine is extremely well-balanced with a lingering finish.

£26.00

Sam Weaver, a Shropshire Lad, determined to produce his own wine and was lured to New Zealand in 1989. By 1997 he was able to fulfil his ambition and produced his first vintage of Sauvignon Blanc. His wines have succulent fruit, plenty of finesse and a mineral quality that is developing with every vintage. His wines are always a pleasure to drink.

10. Amanti del Vino, Pinot Grigio, Terre di Chieti IGT, Italy

Pinot Grigio from northern Italy is the dry white wine of the moment! This one, from near Venice, is crisp, refreshing and unoaked, making it perfect for drinking before or during any meal.

£22.00

The Amanti del Vino wines are sourced and blended by Englishman Robin Woodhouse who has been based in Italy for many years. He has been the 'legs' on the ground, looking after the Italian end of some very large winemaking projects for British buyers, with particular expertise in Puglia and Sicily. For the Amanti wines he sources the best wines possible from selected co-operatives in Sicily and elsewhere before taking them to the Venice area for blending and bottling.



11. Chablis 'Le Classique', Pascal Bouchard, France

A classic Chablis with freshness, minerality and good weight from an excellent producer.

£29.00

Joëlle and her husband Pascal Bouchard. They extended and replanted with great effect and to satisfy demand had to buy in must. In 1995 a new winery was constructed and in 2000 Romain Bouchard joined his parents. Great care is taken in the vineyards with no chemical fertilisers or pesticides used. The aim is to ensure that the soil is alive and the grapes healthy and ripe. Fermentation is mostly in stainless steel using natural yeasts with both domaine and négoce wines treated in the same manner. Bottling is early to maintain fruit and freshness.



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Red Wines

12. Freedom Cross Pinotage, Coastal Region, South Africa

The product of a crossing of Pinot Noir and Cinsault, Pinotage is South Africa's unique grape. This example is softly styled with intense blackberry fruit and mocha coffee..

£21.00

Under relatively new management and a young winemaking team, Franschhoek Vineyards (founded in 1945) has shed it's old co-operative image in favour of a dynamic drive to make quality wines at affordable prices. New winemaking equipment was installed for the 2001 vintage and the wines now being produced are clean and well-made with good varietal character and weight of fruit for easy drinking. The Franschhoek Valley ward is a relatively small area which was settled in the late 1600's by 200 Protestant Huguenot immigrants fleeing from Catholic persecution in France. The winemaking tradition is consequently very French with noble varietals dominating production.



13. Maiden Flight Pinot Noir, Reserva, Casablanca Valley, Chile

Rich nose packed with ripe cherry and strawberry fruit, the palate is fine with more mocha and coffee hints underlying the ripe fruit. Colchagua at the foot of the Andes has a consistent climate ideal for this tricky grape variety.

£23.00

Viña Cono Sur was created in 1993, specifically to serve the international export market and in direct response to its growing demand for quality wines. The principal aim was, and remains, to create innovative and expressive wines, placing great emphasis on state-of-the-art technology and a constant search for the wine regions that best convey each variety's aromatic and flavour potential. The company currently produces close to 600,000 cases of wine, which are exported to more than 30 countries in Europe, Asia, America and Africa.



14. Beaujolais, Jacques Charlet, France

This juicy and very drinkable Beaujolais comes from a well established vineyard owner and merchant based in the Beaujolais region. White flower aromas are followed by raspberry flavours in the mouth.

£22.00

A sizeable négociant and vineyard owner, now under the direction of Xavier Barbet whose ancestor founded the company in 1821. Specialists in Beaujolais and Mâconnais wines, Loron own about 50 hectares in Beaujolais and Beaujolais crus. They have three bottling lines and a large air-conditioned winery with underground storage for two million bottles. A very reliable source.

15. Marqués de Cáceres Tinto Crianza, Rioja, Spain

Marques de Cáceres displays a remarkable consistency in the quality of its wines, the Crianza being the perfect example. 15 months in oak, ripe fruit aroma and claret-like palate of fruit, supple tannin and balancing acidity.

£24.00

Enrique Forner founded the bodegas in 1970 bringing with him his expertise gained at his family's Bordeaux property, Château Camensac. With the help of Emile Peynaud, Forner chose the best sites, limited yields and introduced a new style of Rioja, with limited and careful oak ageing.



16. Chianti Colli Senesi DOCG, Geografico, Italy

Brick red in colour with a nose of cherries and spice, this great value Chianti comes from the hills around Siena and is made by the excellent Geografico co-operative. Medium body and mild tannins make it all too easy to drink.

£23.00

The Agricoltori del Chianti Geografico was formed in 1961 by 17 farmers in order to improve the quality of their produce and its commercial potential. The group now comprises 200 members in the most prestigious area of Tuscany and covers an area equivalent to 571 hectares. Most of that land falls under the DOCG quality standard. Chianti Classico is produced from 250 hectares in the south of the region, at an altitude of between 280 and 600 m above sea level. In the province of Siena, a total of 160 hectares of vines produce Chianti Colli Senesi. The aim of the co-operative is to produce wines that respect the traditions of the various regions of Tuscany whilst paying close attention to technical innovations that might contribute to the quality of the wines.



17. Stirling Hills Shiraz/Cabernet, South Eastern Australia

Such a laid back wine, with no harsh edges, super smooth tannins and plenty of minty, blackcurrant fruit flavours.

£22.00

McPherson Wines is owned and run by Andrew McPherson with his wife Nikki. Based in Nagambie, Victoria, they have vineyards in Murray Darling and also in the Goulburn Valley, adjacent to the winery, which was completed in 2000. Sustainable viticulture is important to the family and their vineyards and winery encompass a variety of ways to preserve the environment. The reds are soft and easy while the whites have good freshness and balance.



Wines by the Glass
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18. Ladera Verde Sauvignon, Central Valley, Chile

Crisp and fresh with limey fruit, a hint of herbs and a twist of melon. Typically dependable and friendly, and an excellent introduction to Chile.

£4.00

19. Freedom Cross Chardonnay, Coastal Region, Franschoek Cellar, South Africa

A complete, lightly oaked Chardonnay coming from the beautiful Franschoek Valley.

Lychee and melon flavours are offset by hints of butterscotch, making this a full, satisfying white.

£4.00

20. Ladera Verde Merlot, Central Valley, Chile

This has lovely plummy Merlot fruit with a ripeness that is so typical of Chile. Easy and very drinkable, this is a pleasing wine for current drinking.

£4.00

21. Rioja Vega Tempranillo, Spain

A soft, fruity wine with plum and blackcurrant flavours, vibrant and juicy. This is a young (joven) wine without any oak, made to be drunk in its youth to appreciate its lively fruit.

From a forward looking winery that has invested a lot of money in recent years.

£4.00

22. Marqués de Caceres Rioja Rosé, Spain

A vibrant aroma of crushed strawberries and raspberries in the glass. Spicy flavours mix with concentrated sweet fruit and crisp acidity on the palate, giving it lots of personality. Versatile, bright and balanced stuff.

£4.00

23. Baron de Beaupré Brut Champagne, France

Offering white flowers and honeyed notes, a fine mousse and long toasty flavours.

£7.00