

winelist

Aug/Sep 2010

tel: 01531 670809

croque-en-bouche

Prices are per unit inc. vat. The minimum order is 12 items, or £180.
Delivery is £5 per order, NOT per case. Detail on the website.
15% inc. VAT price in blue. Ex. VAT in grey.

RED...			Ex. VAT	NEW ZEALAND
SAINT CLAIR MERLOT 2007	102	11.00	9.36	Lovely! Soft, smooth with a great fruity merlot character. Matt Thomson is NZ's No. One wine guy.
SAINT CLAIR PINOT NOIR 2007	72	12.00	10.21	Want your pinot up-front and super-fruity? Then this is for you. It's not gamay and not Beaujolais, but reminds me of the style.
RED...			Ex. VAT	AUSTRALIA, PINOT NOIR & WEIRD
D'ARENBERG IRONSTONE PRESSINGS 1998	1	32.00	27.23	Only outshone by Dead Arm. Grenache/shiraz/mourvedre.
INNOCENT BYSTANDER PINOT NOIR 2009	13	11.50	9.79	Phil Sexton is famous! He makes wines called Giant Steps. This is junior stuff for him, but you'll be won over by the soft, enveloping flavours here. And the value!
RED...			Ex. VAT	AUSTRALIA, SOUTHERN RHONE GRAPES
CHARLES MELTON NINE POPES 2006	36	24.00	20.42	Australia takes on Châteauneuf and wins. Got dearer!
JOHN DUVAL PLEXUS 2006	36	18.50	15.74	Another glorious Châteauneuf-type wine that's really big. Duval was a famous Penfold guy before setting up on his own. A current favourite.
RED...			Ex. VAT	AUSTRALIA, SHIRAZ
CHARLES MELTON SHIRAZ 2002	1	19.00	16.17	Charlie is very good at shiraz and this is a delight.
CORIOLE LLOYD SHIRAZ 1995	4	48.00	40.85	Top cuvée here.
GIANT STEPS SEXTON JONES BLOCK SHIRAZ 2004	3	18.50	15.74	Top dog wine from Phil Sexton. Really deep and brambly but... balanced too. 94 from Halliday, and Wine Spectator: 92. Can drink now, but will of course, go on for ages.
HENSCHKE KEYNETON 1996	2	36.00	30.64	Junior Henschke but still very fine shiraz/cab mix. I tasted it recently (Nov 09) 'cos I thought it might be losing it, but was fantastic! Aromatic and gutsy.
GOLDFIELDS SHIRAZ/CABERNET 2008/9	60	6.00	5.11	Modest but soft and generous.
JOHN DUVAL ENTITY SHIRAZ 2006	45	19.00	16.17	Duval used to make Grange - say no more! This is a GOLD winner in the 2008 WINE Challenge. Drink or keep.
LEASINGHAM CLASSIC CLARE SHIRAZ 1994	2	66.00	56.17	One of the greats. Halliday called the wine, "Stentorian, takes no prisoners, compacting densely-rich fruit and layer upon layer of oak into every long-lived bottle." Jimmy Watson Trophy - fantastic.
LINDEMANS BIN 6600 SHIRAZ 1983	1	135.00	114.89	Superb 'Museum Release' wine cellared at Lindemans until the late 90's.
MITOLO JESTER SHIRAZ 2007	24	11.00	9.36	Lots of beefy fruitiness from master winemaker, Ben Glaetzer.
PETER LEHMANN WEIGHBRIDGE SHIRAZ 2007	110	7.00	5.96	Decent stuff. Plenty of flavour for the money.
ROSEMOUNT ESTATE SHOW BALMORYL SYRAH 1994	3	38.00	32.34	Recently this brand name has been devalued (dumped?) by its owners - too many cheap supermarket deals. But it did do class wine - here's the proof.
SHAW AND SMITH SHIRAZ 2005	42	18.00	15.32	This extremely good but needs unit! 2009.
STEVE MAGLIERI SHIRAZ 1995	1	28.00	23.83	A man who made his name selling oceans of Aussie Lambrusco proves he can hack it with the serious stuff. Grand drinking.
TALTARNI SHIRAZ 1982	4	33.00	28.08	Still looking good!
TEUSNER ALBERT SHIRAZ 2004	11	27.00	22.98	Top wine maker Kym Teusner, makes classic old-vine wine. Top of the heap.
TYRRELL'S SHIRAZ 2008	111	7.00	5.96	Good smooth stuff at a good price.
WIRRA WIRRA R.S.W. SHIRAZ 1996	2	27.00	22.98	Better known for their Angelus, but this is probably the best wine named after the founder, Robert Strangeways Wrigley. There's oak but the fresh fruit pushes through well.
WOLF BLASS PRESIDENT'S SELECTION SHIRAZ 2004	12	13.50	11.49	Gold medal: WINE Challenge 2006. This estate is now back on song.
WYNNS MICHAEL SHIRAZ 1998	2	37.00	31.49	Drink now or give it a few years.
YALUMBA SHIRAZ/VIOIGNIER 2006	46	12.50	10.64	Classic Côte Rôtie (Northern Rhône) style. 5% of the viogner works magic. Recommended.
YALUMBA SHIRAZ/VIOIGNIER 2006 HALF.	66	7.00	5.96	And in halves!
RED...			Ex. VAT	AUSTRALIA, CABERNET-DOMINANT
CHATEAU TAHBILK CABERNET 1982	6	38.00	32.34	Lovely trad oldie. Superb levels.
JIM BARRY COVER DRIVE CABERNET 2007	21	11.50	9.79	Don't know why you should drink Bordeaux any more unless it's the mega-stuff, 'cos this knocks out most clarets. A smoothie looking to go with a steak.
LINDEMANS SAINT GEORGE 1985	4	29.50	25.10	Still very good.
LINDEMANS SAINT GEORGE 1988	3	29.50	25.10	Still very good too.
PETALUMA COONAWARRA RED 1988	1	45.00	38.30	Lovely maturity.
ROSEMOUNT SHOW RESERVE CABERNET 1988	1	22.00	18.72	See above.
ROSEMOUNT TRADITIONAL 2000	4	12.00	10.21	Australia tackles fine claret, and wins!
ROUGE HOMME RESERVE CABERNET 1978	8	55.00	46.81	All the cabernet sauvignons show typical dry, minty flavour; top quality, getting better and better with age.
SEPPELT RESERVE CABERNET 1983	1	48.00	40.85	Should still be excellent.
TYRRELL'S CABERNET/MERLOT 2005 HALF.	84	4.50	3.83	Nice half. Smooth in a claret way, but much better value.
WOLF BLASS PRESIDENT'S CABERNET 1993	1	30.00	25.53	Yellow label is nice but it's the specials which shine. Smooth oozy cab.
WOLF BLASS YELLOW LABEL CABERNET 2007/8	32	8.00	6.81	Yellow Label is actually quite fine.
WYNNS JOHN RIDDOCH CABERNET 1985	3	135.00	114.89	Beat Mouton 85 in a recent tasting!
WYNNS JOHN RIDDOCH CABERNET 1990	3	105.00	89.36	All-time great year and this will be a wonder wine - but as to its readiness, I'm not about open one and see! Suspect another 5 years.
WYNNS JOHN RIDDOCH CABERNET 1993	2	46.00	39.15	Can be drunk now or 2020.
WYNNS JOHN RIDDOCH CABERNET 1994	24	49.50	42.12	First made in 1982, only in the best years and never more than 1% of the cabernet crop, this is almost too powerful.
WYNNS JOHN RIDDOCH CABERNET 1996	12	55.00	46.81	Very fine year, but I wouldn't try it yet. This wine needs 15 years usually.

WYNNS JOHN RIDDOCH CABERNET 1998	6	42.00	35.74	More mature than the 96 - could try.
YALUMBA SIGNATURE CABERNET 2001	10	28.00	23.83	94 from Wine Spectator. Think second growth claret, but at this price?
RED...			Ex. VAT	SOUTH AFRICA
BUITENVERWACHTING CHRISTINE 2006	24	17.00	14.47	Glorious Bordeaux-style, smooth, mouth-filling ripe flavour. One of SA's top wines.
DOOLHOF CAPE BOAR 2007	96	8.00	6.81	So smooth and easy to drink. Do NOT drink modest claret - drink this!
MAN CABERNET 2008	75	8.50	7.23	Another value smoothie.
RED...			Ex. VAT	CALIFORNIA
SEGHEISIO ZINFANDEL 2007	18	17.50	14.89	Not normally into zin. But this is v. sophisticated stuff. A must buy for me!
SUTTER HOME MERLOT 2008	84	6.50	5.53	Modest money, but a nice, fruity wine.
RED...			Ex. VAT	WASHINGTON STATE
STIMSON ESTATE MERLOT 2006	11	8.50	7.23	Not overt fruit, more restrained, classy. Superb value.
RED...			Ex. VAT	ARGENTINA
1884 RESERVE MALBEC	6	8.50	7.23	Meaty but quite smooth, good stuff.
COLOME AMALAYA 2008	36	9.50	8.08	Gorgeous mix with malbec prominent. Full smooth, made by the Hess family who are famous in California.
NORTON MALBEC 2009	14	7.00	5.96	A really good buy. Imagine a £10 meaty Rhône red, maybe a Gigondas. And then buy this instead.
NORTON RESERVE MALBEC 2006	6	11.00	9.36	Super-solid - a real bruiser. Pretty good though. 90 from Wine Spectator!
RED...			Ex. VAT	CHILE
CHOCALAN RESERVE CABERNET FRANC 2006	24	10.50	8.94	Smooth and fruity. Top-notch value.
ERRAZURIZ CABERNET 2006/8	24	9.00	7.66	Dry claret style.
ERRAZURIZ CABERNET HALF. 2008	30	5.00	4.26	Please don't drink cheap claret!
SANTA RITA MEDALLA REAL CABERNET 2006	21	10.00	8.51	Quality drinking, real concentration.
SIETE SOLES 2009	1	6.00	5.11	Cabernet and merlot and fruity.
RED...			Ex. VAT	NORTHERN ITALY
BAROLO 2004 (PIO CESARE)	40	34.50	29.36	"Extremely attractive aromas of blackberry, fresh mushroom and mahogany. Full-bodied, with lovely fruit, soft tannins and a long finish. Chewy, yet balanced and pretty. Builds on the palate. A big and juicy red. Best after 2010." 94 - 'Wine Spectator' and no. 6 in their '2008 TOP 100 WINES' selection. Still needs a couple of years to my mind.
BAROLO PERNANNO (CASCINA BONGIOVANNI) 1997	1	37.50	31.91	A real biggie, with massive tannins. The berry aroma is intense and the finish long. 93 - 'Wine Spectator'.
BARBERA BRICOTONDO 2008 (FONTANAFREDDA)	42	11.50	9.79	SUPER-SMOOTH! Bulging with goodness and brightness. Fave wine.
CORTEGIARA VALPOLICELLA RIPASSO 2007	32	11.50	9.79	Extraordinary value! Big, rounded rich style, that won a trophy at the 09 Wine Challenge. A trophy winner at this price?
TERODOLGO ROTALIANO RISERVA (MEZZACORONA) 2006	12	8.50	7.23	Forget the unpronounceable Veneto name. This shouts fruity solid quality.
RED...			Ex. VAT	ITALY, TUSCANY & SOUTH
CERESUOLO DE VITTORIA 2008 (PLANETA)	18	13.50	11.49	Sicilian beauty, very smooth, very fruity.
CHIANTI CASTIGLIONE (FRESCOBALDI) 2007	96	10.00	8.51	Right from the heart of Tuscany, this is an excellent glass. Loads of bright grapey fruit.
CHIANTI CASTIGLIONE (FRESCOBALDI) HALF. 2007	150	5.50	4.68	Neat half.
GUARDO AL TASSO (ANTINORI) 1995	2	50.00	42.55	Predominately cabernet, but tastes like a fine Aussie shiraz.
INSOGLIO DEL CINGHIALE 2006 (TENUTA DI BISERNO)	6	16.00	13.62	Dark color, with blueberry and hints of herbs. Full-bodied, with round tannins and a bright finish. Drink now. Super-modern stuff!
MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO (UMANI RONCHI) 2008	48	7.00	5.96	Nice rustic oomphy wine from the Marches.
TORMARESCO NEPRICA 2008	28	9.00	7.66	Dark but sophisticated stuff from Puglia.

RED...			Ex. VAT	RIOJA & NAVARRA, SPAIN
BARON DE LEY CLUB PRIVADO 2006	24	7.50	6.38	Fruity-style rioja. Beats all-comers at this price! And talking price this is NOT the same as a similarly named wine in Waitrose, which is rubbish!
BARON DE LEY RESERVA 2003/4	48	10.00	8.51	Excellent value from this new estate. Modern technique means less oak, more fruit, but not New Worldy at all.
BARON DE LEY GRAN RESERVA 1998	18	15.00	12.77	Lovely mature wine with just the right amount of integrated oak.
CAMPO NUEVO TEMPRANILLO 2009	48	6.50	5.53	Bright Navarra. Rioja style with fruit.
RED...			Ex. VAT	RIBERA DEL DUERO, SPAIN
ABADIA RETUERTA SELECCION ESPECIAL 2006	31	15.50	13.19	From just outside this area from Sardon del Duero. Like a very classy smooth rioja, mostly tempranillo. Star winemaker: A WINE Challenge Winemaker of the Year.
RED...			Ex. VAT	NORTH-EAST SPAIN
RED...			Ex. VAT	PORTUGAL
CEDRO DO NOVAL 2004	1	11.50	9.79	Brilliantly smooth like a posh claret. A top port house shows what they can do as a 'regular' red. I expect they always could, just never sold it. 90 score from Wine Spectator.
CHURCHILL ESTATES 2006	31	11.00	9.36	New vibrant red from this fine port house. Debut vintage and they have tried very hard. Loads of fruit but meaty too. Very good value!
RED...			Ex. VAT	FRANCE, S. RHONE & LANGUEDOC
CHATEAU MONTOLIERS	40	7.00	5.96	Claret-like dry wine from Southern France, Languedoc. Good for the money.
COTES DU RHONE ST. ESPRIT 2007 (DELAS)	60	8.50	7.23	Fruity in a trad. French way, but backbone too.
DOMAINE TERSAC 2006	24	8.00	6.81	Dry claret style from Languedoc.
RED...			Ex. VAT	CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE
CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE CHATEAU FORTIA 1998	4	21.00	17.87	A1 stuff.
CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE CHATEAU FORTIA CUVÉE BARON 2003	24	18.50	15.74	"Packed with bramble, tar, red currant, licorice and cocoa, this muscular Châteauneuf gives way to briary tannins and smoke. Big, fruit-packed finish. Equal parts Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre." Wine Spectator 91/100
CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE MONT OLIVET 2005	32	23.00	19.57	Needs a bit of time but will be v special.
RED...			Ex. VAT	HERMITAGE, RHONE
HERMITAGE MARQUIS DE LA TOURETTE (DELAS) 1998	2	33.00	28.08	Gold Medal - 2004 WINE Challenge - gorgeous stuff. Ready but go for a decade or more yet.
HERMITAGE MARQUIS DE LA TOURETTE (DELAS) 2000	10	34.00	28.93	Gold Medal - 2005 WINE Challenge. Sort of ready but will age well. This house is revitalised.
RED...			Ex. VAT	COTE ROTIE, RHONE
COTE ROTIE (ROSTAING) 1995	2	22.00	18.72	classic example from this historic grower.
RED...			Ex. VAT	LOIRE
CHINON VARENNES DU GRAND CLOS 2003	4	17.00	14.47	Classic cbernet franc. 91 from Wine Spectator.
RED...			Ex. VAT	BORDEAUX
CHATEAU DE GIRONVILLE 2002	9	15.00	12.77	In fact a quite new estate which only started in the late 80's, but a crû bourgeois with a soft smooth style. Should be cheaper but that's Bordeaux!
CHATEAU GRAND PUY DUCASSE. PAUILLAC E.B. 1961	1	140.00	119.14	Rich and full wine from Berry Bros.; shows how good English-bottling was in the 50's and 60's, often better than at the châteaux!
CHATEAU GRAND PUY LACOSTE. PAUILLAC 1961	1	190.00	161.69	This is my favourite traditional claret. Officially a fifth-growth, but consistently a top performer, defining the taste of the cabernet sauvignon grape. LABEL CONDITION: POOR. LEVEL: VERY TOP SHOULDER
CHATEAU LA LAGUNE. LUDON 1990	2	69.00	58.72	Heavy investment in ultra-modern winemaking, has established a superb reputation.
CHATEAU LASCOMBES 2001	18	56.00	47.66	A very special claret, full-flavoured with toasty ripe character.
CHATEAU PICHON-BARON 1988 HALF.	2	55.00	46.81	Nearly as wonderful!

RED...			Ex. VAT	POMEROL, ETC.
CHATEAU LE TERTRE-ROTEBOEUF. ST. EMILION 1986	2	89.00	75.74	A superstar in the Bordeaux firmament, François Mitjavile. Low yields and obsessive winemaking give flamboyant, rich wines that compare with Pétus or Certan de May, or Guigal's La Mouline, or Gaja's Barbaresco, for that matter.
RED...			Ex. VAT	BEAUJOLAIS
FLEURIE. DOMAINE COLLONGE 2006	37	14.00	11.91	Fleurie is as nice a wine village as the name suggests.
FLEURIE. DOMAINE COLLONGE HALF. 2006	8	8.00	6.81	This is the leading traditional grower. Not a light wine; quite weighty with 13° alcohol.
RED...			Ex. VAT	BURGUNDY
PINOT NOIR BOURGOGNE 2006 (FAIVELEY)	60	12.00	10.21	In a big tasting for a restaurant list, with much grander burgundies, this shone out. Pure fresh traditional flavours at modest money (for Burgundy!)
CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY (BOISSET) 2004	1	25.00	21.28	Jean-Claude Boisset is one of the new-wave burgundy makes. Clean pinot noir fruit with a nice firmness too.
CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY (BOISSET) 2006	24	27.00	22.98	A GOLD winner in the 2008 WINE Challenge, but I think it needs a year.
WHITE... WINES				CHAMPAGNE
SPARKLING...				
CANARD-DUCHENE BRUT N.V.	36	19.50	16.59	This was the second label of Veuve Clicquot, though a Grande Marque in its own right.
CANARD-DUCHENE BRUT MAGNUM N.V.	1	39.00	33.19	Party size.
CANARD-DUCHENE BRUT ROSE N.V.	2	23.00	19.57	Rosé is on the up, and has caught the Champenoise on the hop. There is a shortage of pink champagne.
DOM PERIGNON 1999	7	102.00	86.80	Famous! But rationed!
GOSSET GRANDE RESERVE BRUT N.V.	1	38.00	32.34	The oldest house of Champagne. Also one of the smallest, still a family enterprise, but in the top league. The ultra-smooth style has an underlying freshness
GOSSET GRANDE RESERVE BRUT N.V. HALF	5	23.00	19.57	Fine halves too!
GOSSET GRANDE RESERVE BRUT ROSE N.V.	6	45.00	38.30	Class pink - much admired.
KRUG GRANDE CUVÉE BRUT N.V.	5	120.00	102.12	The individual style of Krug, toasty and oaky, is not one I immediately took to, but it does grow on you. Whether you want it to, may depend on your financial priorities.
HUBERT LAURENT BRUT N.V.	168	19.00	16.17	Made by Jaquart this is soft, fresh and excellent value. Has decent bottle age too.
ROEDERER BRUT PREMIERE N.V.	60	31.00	26.38	Good stuff!
TAITTINGER BRUT N.V.	36	33.00	28.08	Super chardonnay-dominant house.
TAITTINGER COMTES DE CHAMPAGNE 1998	6	125.00	106.38	Ultimate chardonnay champagne.
VEUVE CLICQUOT BRUT N.V.	24	31.00	26.38	Full-bodied wine from the great estate of Champagne.
VEUVE CLICQUOT BRUT. HALF. N.V.	26	18.00	15.32	Shows incredible consistency in quality terms.
GOSSET CELEBRIS 1995	2	98.00	83.40	The oldest house of Champagne. Also one of the smallest, still a family enterprise, but in the top league. The best they do.
VEUVE CLICQUOT 1998	6	42.00	35.74	One of the great names.
VEUVE CLICQUOT 1999	6	42.00	35.74	One of the great names.
SPARKLING...			Ex. VAT	THE REST
CHARLES MELTON SPARKLING SHIRAZ 2005	11	24.00	20.42	Bloody brilliant!
INNOCENT BYSTANDER MOSCATO 2008 HALF.	46	6.00	5.11	Pink and frothy. Actually quite sweet, but still good before a meal. A fun wine seriously made!
MORTON ESTATE RESERVE SEC NV	144	9.50	8.08	More dry than brut, and the more delicious for it too! Spectacular value.
PROSECCO DI CONEGLIANO SPUMANTE (CA MORLIN) N.V.	18	11.00	9.36	Northern Italy's special fizz is light, frothy and great refreshment. And the essential part of a Bellini. Particularly good example as it is made by New Zealander, Matt Thomson (see Saint Clair estate).
ROSATO SPUMANTE (CA MORLIN) N.V.	18	10.50	8.94	Pink 'Prosecco', dry and fresh. BUT Italian rules mean it can't actually be called Prosecco! Doh!
WHITE...			Ex. VAT	NEW ZEALAND
CLOUDY BAY CHARDONNAY 2007	13	17.50	14.89	Tropical fruit dominant - not like burgundy.
CLOUDY BAY SAUVIGNON BLANC 2009	72	17.50	14.89	Still on the ball. And still not enough. Except this year we did get a bigger allocation.
TINPOT HUT SAUVIGNON BLANC 2009	32	9.50	8.08	New kid on the Marlborough block. Super-fruity and super good! Value too.
MORTON CHARDONNAY 2007	12	8.50	7.23	Lovely balance from NZ's chardonnay specialist. And value too.
MORTON PINOT GRIGIO 2007	18	8.00	6.81	Better than the Italian stuff! Full, smooth.
MORTON SAUVIGNON BLANC 2009	360	8.00	6.81	Typically crisp and fresh quality at a good price.
SAINT CLAIR GEWURZTRAMINER PIONEERS' BLOCK 12 2007	2	15.00	12.77	Didn't expect this big grapey style to sell, but dang it you love it, me too!
SAINT CLAIR SAUVIGNON BLANC 2009	164	10.50	8.94	Dead ringer for Cloudy Bay sauvignon, big and assertive. The man who runs the wine store, down the road from the Cloudy Bay estate also agrees about its quality.
SAINT CLAIR SAUVIGNON BLANC PIONEERS' BLOCK 3 2008	30	15.00	12.77	Top cuvée here. By golly, this grabs you. Really, as good as it gets.
SAINT CLAIR SAUVIGNON BLANC WAIRAU RESERVE 2009	24	22.00	18.72	The absolute best from here. Repeated GOLD and TROPHY wine IWC. Is it too powerful?
VILLA MARIA CHARDONNAY 2008	48	9.00	7.66	Like the sauvignon, fruit and zip.
VILLA MARIA SAUVIGNON BLANC 2009	36	10.00	8.51	Keeps winning medals.

WHITE...		Ex. VAT	AUSTRALIA
CULLENS SAUVIGNON/SEMILLON 2008/9	18	19.50 16.59	Star of Western Australia. Piercing freshness.
PEWSEY VALE RIESLING 2009	24	10.50 8.94	Bright and generous, with pineapple, citrus flavors, finishing with finesse. Drink now through 2015. 90 in Wine Spectator.
TYRRELL'S CHARDONNAY HALF. 2006	96	5.00 4.26	Nice clean half.
YALUMBA <Y> RIESLING 2009	35	9.00 7.66	Clean and fresh, very good example.
YALUMBA <Y> UNWOODED CHARDONNAY 2009	36	9.00 7.66	Crisp wine matured in oak, but not overly. I bet there are plenty of growers around Maçon, who would like to make wine as good as this.
YALUMBA <Y> VIOGNIER 2008/9	1	9.00 7.66	Most modest money versions of this grape don't work. Dry and fragrant... this does.
YALUMBA EDEN VALLEY VIOGNIER 2006	1	11.50 9.79	Oz challenges Condrieu here – and to my mind wins. Fragrant and complexly rich, this is quality stuff. Amazingly this wine is a little cheaper than it used to be!
WHITE...		Ex. VAT	USA
STIMSON CHARDONNAY 2007	36	8.00 6.81	Extraordinary for the money. Such true chardonnay character!
CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE CANOE RIDGE CHARDONNAY 2006	6	18.00 15.32	Washington State. 92 in Wine Spectator. "A fruit-centered wine, ...perched enticingly on a lithe frame, with subdued oak notes lingering around the periphery. It's the texture, though, that makes it so attractive, polished and refined."
CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE EROICA 2006	6	17.00 14.47	Joint venture with famous Dr. Loosen. Super!
SAINTSBURY CARNEROS CHARDONNAY 2007	14	19.00 16.17	California. Long and smooth, layering taste on taste. Whilst definitely dry, it has a honeyed richness, with gentle oak body. This straight chardonnay has up-front freshness.
SAINTSBURY CARNEROS CHARDONNAY 2007 HALF.	12	10.00 8.51	California. Long and smooth, layering taste on taste. Whilst definitely dry, it has a honeyed richness, with gentle oak body. This straight chardonnay has up-front freshness.
SUTTER HOME GEWURZTRAMINER 2005	24	7.00 5.96	California. Classic grapey style. And check the price. Alsace does not do this!
WHITE...		Ex. VAT	ARGENTINA & CHILE
CALBUCCO SEMILLON/CHARDONNAY 2009	80	6.50 5.53	Smooth and fresh.
COLOME TORRONTES 2008	36	9.00 7.66	Fragrant, dry, very good example of grape unique to Argentina.
MONTGRAS SAUVIGNON BLANC 2009	36	6.00 5.11	A1 stuff for the cash. Fresh, dry, restrained.
SANTA RITA SAUVIGNON BLANC 2009	6	7.00 5.96	Well-made, fresh crisp.
SANTA RITA SAUVIGNON BLANC 2009 HALF.	50	4.00 3.40	Good fresh-tasting half.
VENTISQUERO CHARDONNAY 2009	24	6.50 5.53	Clean and fresh, very good example.
WHITE...		Ex. VAT	SOUTH AFRICA
STORMY CAPE CHENIN BLANC 2007/9	24	7.00 5.96	Super fresh, with that crisp apple character of the grape.
WHITE...		Ex. VAT	ITALY & SLOVENIA
LA SEGRETA BIANCO 2008 (PLANETA)	30	8.50 7.23	From Sicily's major grower, this is quite full with a nice fruity finish. Chardonnay and local grape, grenacico.
PINOT GRIGIO DEL DIAVOLO 2008/9	265	8.50 7.23	Classy one this, nicely full and dry.
PINOT GRIGIO DI TRENTO (MEZZACORONA) 2009	84	8.50 7.23	Pinot Grigio, the new liebfräumlch. Well, I have tasted a lot, and most offer bu**er all (excuse me!). Not this, it's clean, super-fruity, has character too. We're drinking a fair few ourselves. Must be good.
PINOT GRIGIO DI TRENTO (MEZZACORONA) 2008/9 HALF.	20	4.80 4.08	Pinot Grigio, the new liebfräumlch. Well, I have tasted a lot, and most offer bu**er all (excuse me!). Not this, it's clean, super-fruity, has character too. We're drinking a fair few ourselves. Must be good.
QUERCUS PINOT GRIGIO 2008	84	8.50 7.23	Actually in Slovenia, this vineyard straddles the Italy/Slovenia border. This too has some proper flavour.
SOAVE 'LA ROCCA' 2007 (PIEROPAN)	30	19.50 16.59	The finest and probably the most expensive Soave you'll come across, actually delivers value. Full, dry with superb complexity. I'd say... Value-for-Money!
BENEVENTANO FALANGHINA 2009 (VESEVO)	10	9.50 8.08	From South of Naples, this has a lovely citrus freshness. Class act.
TORMARESCO CHARDONNAY 2007	24	8.00 6.81	Puglian and modern. Fresh dry. I'm not mad for chardonnay but this is good!
VERMENTINO DI SARDEGNA CRABALIS 2009	48	9.50 8.08	Citrus edge and a bit of spritz to this winning wine. A personal favourite.
VINTAGE TUNINA 2006 (JERMANN)	18	35.00 29.79	Very posh stuff from NE Italy.
WHITE...		Ex. VAT	GERMANY AND AUSTRIA
DONABAUM GRUNER VELTLINER 2008	34	14.00 11.91	Lovely aromatic dry style, unique to Austria.
WHITE...		Ex. VAT	ENGLAND
CODDINGTON VINEYARD BACCHUS 2009	38	8.00 6.81	Our most local vineyard started by Mr and Mrs. Savage, only a couple of miles away. It's dry, light, fruity. Got a Bronze medal in the UK Vineyards tasting competition.
WHITE...		Ex. VAT	SPAIN & PORTUGAL
CONDESO EYLO 2008	18	8.50 7.23	New-wave verdejo. Dry, fresh, aromatic. Great value.
MURRIETTA RIOJA CAPELLANIA 2004	54	14.00 11.91	Gorgeous character of trad white rioja with a modern, clean edge. Tastes so young!
WHITE...		Ex. VAT	ALSACE, RIESLING & PINOT BLANC
RIESLING PRINCES ABBES (SCHLUMBERGER) 2006	36	12.50 10.64	Gorgeous character of the grape. Dry and pure.
RIESLING (TRIMBACH) HALF. 2005	6	6.20 5.28	Nice half.

WHITE...			Ex. VAT	ALSACE, GEWURZTRAMINER
GEWURZTRAMINER (KUEHN) 2007	16	10.00	8.51	Good value these days.
GEWURZTRAMINER (ROUFFACH) 2005	15	12.00	10.21	This aromatic wine has a soft, delicate flavour.
GEWURZTRAMINER (ROUFFACH) HALF. 2007	21	7.00	5.96	Nice half.
WHITE...			Ex. VAT	LOIRE
POUILLY-FUME DOMAINE BELAIR 2008	39	14.00	11.91	GOLD in the 2009 WINE Challenge. A1 stuff.
POUILLY-FUME DOMAINE BELAIR 2008 HALF.	49	8.00	6.81	GOLD in the 2009 WINE Challenge. A1 stuff.
VOUVRAY CHATEAU GAUDRELLE 2006	11	11.50	9.79	Classic 'sec-tendre' style, softly dry, perfect on a summer's eve.
VOUVRAY (BREDIF) HALF. 2006	32	7.00	5.96	Fresh, quite dry wine from the top negociant.
VOUVRAY DEMI-SEC PEU DE LA MORIETTE 1989	5	27.00	22.98	Classic vouvray in a fine year; exuberant, flowery character.
WHITE...			Ex. VAT	VIN DE PAYS & RHONE
CROZES HERMITAGE MULE BLANCHE 2008 (JABOULET)	6	17.00	14.47	Big dry wine from revitalised house.
CAZAL VIEIL RESERVE VIOGNIER 2009	47	8.00	6.81	Languedoc. Sweet peachy nose; bold fruity flavour. A1.
DOMAINE COSTE VIOGNIER/GRENACHE 2008	10	8.00	6.81	A Languedoc goodie - fresh fullness.
WHITE...			Ex. VAT	BURGUNDY
SAINT VERAN DOM. PERRAULT 2008	43	13.50	11.49	Think Puligny-Montrachet - pay posh Macon. Bags of flavour.
SAINT VERAN DOM. CROIX SENAILLAT HALF. 2006	20	6.80	5.79	This wine is universally liked.
SAUVIGNON DE ST. BRIS (BROCARD) 2008	18	11.00	9.36	I'd forgotten about this one in the 15-year frenzy of New Zealand sauvignons. Think crisp, lean sancerre style (St. Bris sits between Sancerre and Chablis) but at reasonable money. Famous Chablis grower.
CHABLIS FOURCHAUMES (LAMBLIN) 2006	62	13.50	11.49	Very good value for a clean fresh glass of splosh.
ROSE...			Ex. VAT	
CHATEAU VIGNELAURE ROSE 2007/8	12	14.50	12.34	Sophisticated Provence stuff. I bought 12 bottles 'cos I loved the bottle shape (shallow or what?). But selling well. Nice!
DOMAINE COSTE ROSE 2009	54	8.00	6.81	Rosé is on the up, but most don't impress me. This does! Very refreshing wine from Southern France.
SUTTER HOME WHITE ZINFANDEL 2008	63	6.50	5.53	One of the 'blush' wines of California. It's off-dry and quite light, with only 10° alcohol; very refreshing in summer.
SWEET...			Ex. VAT	AUSTRALIA
BROWN BROS. LATE-HARVEST RIESLING 1982	1	28.00	23.83	Still looking good.
YALUMBA MUSEUM MUSCAT HALF. N.V.	25	10.00	8.51	Some rare old Aussie stuff that's really impressive. Port from the Forties, great liqueur muscat (good with chocolate/Christmas pudding)
SKILLOGALEE MUSCAT. N.V.	12	12.50	10.64	Good value for fine liqueur muscat.
YALUMBA MUSEUM OLD TAWNY HALF. N.V.	5	11.50	9.79	Great old-fashioned Aussie, at least 15 years old. Ringer for old tawny port!
SWEET...			Ex. VAT	ITALY
VIN SANTO TETRINO 50CL. 2004	6	22.00	18.72	Pleasant oddity. You also need the hard cantucci biscuits, which you soften by dunking in vin santo. GOLD Wine Challenge.
SWEET...			Ex. VAT	SPAIN
HIDALGO PX NAPOLEON N.V.	1	18.00	15.32	The Pedro Ximenes grape gives a very dark, very sweet wine, normally used in the blends of sweet sherry, Bristol Cream, et al. A match for anything sweet, including chocolate.
SWEET...			Ex. VAT	LOIRE
BONNEZEAX CHATEAU LES GAULIERS 1935	1	130.00	110.63	Two wonderful, old wines from the grand crû area of Coteaux-du-Layon. Note these were château stock that did not have foils.
BONNEZEAX DOMAINE DU PETIT VAL 1995	6	38.00	32.34	A very good recent vintage. Can be drunk now, but long-term potential.
COTEAUX-DU-LAYON LES ONNIS DOMAINE DES FORGES (FOREAU) 1995	1	26.00	22.13	Ultra-rich, but a couple - or dozen - of years would not matter.
SWEET...			Ex. VAT	SOUTHERN FRANCE
BANYULS DOMAINE LA TOUR VIEILLE MEDITATION 50cl. 1952	1	94.00	79.99	This old one is brilliant.
CHATEAU JOLYS 2004/5 HALF.	40	10.00	8.51	IWC Gold medal.
MUSCAT DE RIVESALTES 2005 (CAZES)	5	16.00	13.62	A leading estate for this sweet grapey nectar.
VIN DE PAILLE (CHAPOUTIER) HALF. 1996	2	79.00	67.23	This is the rare and extraordinary straw (grapes semi-dried on straw mats) wine from this revitalised Rhône estate. Very rich and raisiny, it should keep for ever. Drank one

SWEET...		Ex. VAT		ALSACE
GEWURZTRAMINER CUVÉE ANNE SCHLUMBERGER (SCHLUMBERGER) 1989	1	70.00	59.57	The combination of rich sweetness and delicacy of Cuvée Anne 1976 (now gone) may never be equalled. But 89 is no slouch.
FORTIFIED...		Ex. VAT		PORT
DOW 10 YEAR OLD TAWNY.	48	15.50	13.19	The growers' favourite style. BTW, goes well with chocolate too!
QUINTA DA NOVAL OLD DRY WHITE N.V.	3	8.50	7.23	Quite rare apéritif port. Nor expecting a rush, but worth trying.
QUINTA DA NOVAL L B RESERVE N.V.	5	9.50	8.08	Posh ruby. A bit mis-named, but good drinking.
QUINTA DA NOVAL LATE-BOTTLED 2001	7	12.50	10.64	Port kept in the casks for a few years, sediment racked off and bottled. Value choice for reasonable quality.
FORTIFIED...		Ex. VAT		MADEIRA
HENRIQUES AND HENRIQUES SERCIAL VINTAGE 1944	2	160.00	136.16	Sercial is the dry one. Wartime years are rare.
FRUIT...		Ex. VAT		LIQUEURS & BRANDIES
CREME DE CASSIS 20 DEGREE (PHILLIPE DE BOURGOGNE) N.V.	4	14.50	12.34	Add a dash to still or sparkling wine, or ice-cream.
CREME DE FRAMBOISE 18 DEGREE (PHILLIPE DE BOURGOGNE)	2	14.50	12.34	Add a dash to still or sparkling wine, or ice-cream.
CREME DE PECHE 18 DEGREE 50CL.	5	12.50	10.64	Bellini any one?
EAU DE VIE DE CASSIS 45 DEGREE (CATTIN) N.V.	1	37.50	31.91	You need prodigious amounts of fruit! About 8 kilo per 75cl.
EAU DE VIE DE CASSIS 45 DEGREE (CATTIN) HALF. N.V.	1	19.00	16.17	Dry strong distilled fruit brandy.
EAU DE VIE DE COING 43 DEGREE (BERTRAND) N.V.	1	38.50	32.76	Some are obscure like this quince one.
EAU DE VIE DE QUETSCH (PLUM) 40 DEGREE (BERTRAND) N.V.	1	38.50	32.76	Blue plum.
EAU DE VIE DE FRAMBOISE 45 DEGREE (TRIMBACH) N.V.	12	25.00	21.28	Raspberry is one of the best flavours. Superb in sorbets and other desserts.
EAU DE VIE DE POIRE 43 DEGREE (TRIMBACH) N.V.	4	21.00	17.87	Pear is arguably the finest flavour of them all.
EAU DE VIE DE MYRTILLES 45 DEGREE (PIERRE SPARR) N.V.	1	38.50	32.76	Dry strong distilled fruit brandy. Some are obscure, but the pear and raspberry are the most successful.
APERITIFS...		Ex. VAT		VERMOUTHS
MANZANILLA GUITA 20CL.	48	3.00	2.55	Cute and sensible!
CHAMBERY	6	8.50	7.23	Vermouths from Savoie. The original dry martini was made with Chambéry.
CHAMBERYZETTE	9	8.50	7.23	Chambéryzette is medium-dry and flavoured with strawberry.
PINEAU DES CHARENTES BEAULON (5 YEAR OLD) WHITE	4	15.00	12.77	Grape juice with brandy added to stop fermentation. Can be rough but not this!
PINEAU DES CHARENTES BEAULON (5 YEAR OLD) RED	5	15.00	12.77	The red version is quite rare.
BRANDY...		Ex. VAT		
GRAPPA DI TIGNANELLO ANTINORI 50cl.	4	37.00	31.49	Classy Italian brandy from Master Piero Antinori.
BAS ARMAGNAC CASTERADE VSOP (10 YEAR OLD)	8	39.00	33.19	Best combination of price and quality. Very smooth but strong on flavour too.
BAS ARMAGNAC MICHEL TREPOUT (20 YEAR OLD) MAGNUM	1	114.00	97.01	Usually in stock. Very good.
BAS ARMAGNAC MICHEL TREPOUT APOTHEOSE (30 YEAR OLD)	1	78.00	66.38	Usually in stock. Very VERY good.
CALVADOS ROGER GROULT (15 YEAR OLD)	5	53.00	45.10	Usually in stock. Very good.
CALVADOS ROGER GROULT DOYEN D'AGE (40 YEAR OLD)	1	114.00	97.01	Glorious stuff! Usually in stock.
COGNAC GRANDE CHAMPAGNE RAGNAUD-SABOURIN No. 10	2	52.00	44.25	VSOP standard - much better than Remy! Usually in stock.
COGNAC GRANDE CHAMPAGNE RAGNAUD-SABOURIN No. 35	0	120.00	102.12	The best!
COGNAC GRANDE CHAMPAGNE TESSERON LOT 76 XO	3	104.00	88.50	Brilliant!