



MARTINEZ
FINE WINE

NOBLE ROT

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
MARTINEZ FINE WINE**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
1998**



MARTINEZ
FINE WINE

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XMAS TASTING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ILKLEY :Sunday 29
November from 11.00am-
4.00.pm

HORSFORTH Monday
30 November 5.00pm to
9.00pm

HALIFAX: Wednesday 2
December 7.00pm to
9.30pm at the Imperial
Crown Hotel, Halifax.

HARROGATE Sunday

FREE CHRISTMAS TASTINGS!

Whether you are buying wine for yourself, as a business gift or for a loved one (or relative), you'll find something to tickle your taste buds at our regular pre-Christmas tastings. All our shops will have at least 20 wines on tasting. We very much hope that you will be able to find the time to pop along. We can help with corporate/gift packaging, case discounts, free local delivery and much, more. And the tasting is completely free!

Among the wines on tasting will be a ripe, fat **Chablis** (Vieilles Vignes 1997 Hamelin), 2 very different white wines from Bordeaux (**Chateau Haut-Grelot and Chateua Malagar**), a superb Grand Cru from **St Emilion**, 2 excellent wines from Spain - both on special offer - **Marques de Aragon and Guelbenzu Viura**, an ultra- concentrated Rioja Reserva 1994 from **Marques de Riscal**, a splendid off-dry **Rhinegau Riesling** from Georg Breuer, a spicy, fruity Cabernet/Shiraz from Australia (**Krondorff**) and a lovely, heady and perfumed Burgundy (**Chambolle-Musigny 1996**) . Times and venues are opposite.

WORDS AND ALL.....

Beer's not just for Christmas....but to help you through the festive period we've increased our range of premier cru bottled ale. First up is HAMBLETON of Thirsk whose frisky offerings are **STUD**, a bitter bitter with good hoppy character and last years CAMRA Champion Winter Beer **NIGHTMARE**, a dream of a porter, strong flavoured malt and chocolate (but not a night-time) beverage.

CROPTON Brewery provide a wide range of styles, from the lightly aromatic **UNCLE SAM** to the strong dark and dangerous **MONKMANS SLAUGHTER**. Try their classic **SCORESBY STOUT** or for something different their new brew **HONEY-FARM**, made courtesy of Yorkshires finest bees. All Cropton beers are bottle conditioned.

From the superb MORDUE Brewery on Tyne and Wear come the even more superbly named **WORKIE TICKET** and **RADGIE GADGIE**. The former, overall Champion Beer 1997, has rich malts and citrus fruits; the latter, runner-up in 1998, is darker, spicier with a full finish. Incidentally, the first name is Geordie for an idler or loafer, the second means a mad man. The beers are particular favourites in the Martinez warehouse and office, respectively

For those on the tourist trail buying their Bronte biscuits, Bronte beetroot, Bronte this and Bronte that we are pleased to sell **BRONTE** Beer from GOOSE EYE near Keighley. Full bodied with powerful hops and a sweetish malty taste a few bottles may well Wuther your Heights.

Finally we have a couple of new beers from the award winning Cumbrian micro brewery in DENT. Crashing in through our shop windows comes **KAMIKAZE**, very fruity and not, as it's name might suggest, very bitter. Nip on down and get some. For those who prefer a different line of attack, **RAMSBOTTOM** is a complex bitter/sweet ale with an unusual aroma (which has nothing to do with it's name) An ideal present for those you know who....come from that delightful town.

Joking aside, for those with a discerning palate beers are as serious a proposition as wine. We aim to stock a range of quality ales from small independent, regional and micro breweries whose styles and flavours are as unique and multifarious as wine from top producers. So in addition to the above we try to stock a selection of fruit, wheat, smoked and seasonal beers.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

All our beers are available in gift boxes, for example a selection of 6 Yorkshire Ales in a wooden crate for £12.75, but specifically for the coming period we have SHEPHERD NEAME's and CAINS' **CHRISTMAS ALES**, and from Cropton **RUDOLPH'S REVENGE** all with good cinnamon and spice zesty flavours.

Christmas Extras Box

Many of you may not know that Vibona is a sister company to Martinez Fine Wines and that it specialises in importing High quality Olive Oils and other foods to supply Restaurants throughout the country. This year we thought we would Offer the Martinez Mailing List customers Some of the special foods Vibona has as a little something extra for Christmas.

Each box contains;

2 Bottles of L'Estornel I Extra Virgin Olive Oil ,
1 hal f Bottl e Garnacha Red Wine Vinegar ,
2 Jars Farga Aragon Olives (Bl ack) in Olive oil ,
1 Jar Manzanil la Olives (Green) in Olive Oil ,
1 Kg of Casa Gispert Wood toasted Catal an Almonds ,
500gr Casa Gispert Wood Toasted Hazl enuts,
1 hal f bottl e La Goya Manzanil la Sherry and
one Each of the Guelbenzu jardin Bottl es of Red and White wine.

Delivered to any UK address for £64.50 each

PORTS – RUBY - LBV – VINTAGE

Lots of excitement here following a recent overhaul of our Port range. We were truly amazed at the quality of the **Smith Woodhouse Fine Ruby (£7.95)**. It really is much too good to mix with lemonade! Indeed it's far better than many so-called good value LBVs that we've tasted. At the late bottled level, we selected a new vintage from an old favourite of ours, **Dirk Niepoort. The Niepoort 94 (£11.49)** can only be described as awesome. So much so that we thought he had bottled some vintage by mistake. With its incredibly rich, ripe fruit it is selling like the proverbial and we hear that stocks at the vineyard are already exhausted.

For those of you looking for vintage port , but without the wallet shrinking effect, we list 2 excellent single Quinta Vintage ports; **Dow's Quinta do Bonfim 1984 (£19.95)** and **Quinta do Malvedos 1987 (£21.95)**. The Dow's is all elegant fruitcake and mellowness whilst the Graham's is full-bodied with berried fruit, chocolate and spice. We've also secured some more of the **Ramos Pinto 1983 Vintage Port (£25.95)** which is now at its concentrated best

Finally, if you fancy that any of the following will add a little glitz to your Christmas let us know; **Warre's 83, Gould Campbell 77, Dow's 83, Croft 77 and Taylor's 70**. First come first served.

FINE WINES FOR CHRISTMAS

We've recently got hold of some very special bottles for those of you looking to be that bit more generous than usual this Christmas. From Bordeaux we have a small supply of **Ducre -Beaucaillou 1978** from this superb 2nd growth St Julien Chateau. It's now drinking at its peak at £64.95 a bottle.

From Burgundy, 2 wines from Armand Rousseau, one of the best growers in Burgundy; a **1989 Clos de la Roche (Morey-St-Denis Grand Cru)** which is elegant with sweet ripe fruit and classy concentration (£59.95) and a more muscular, dense and powerful **Mazy-Chambertin Grand Cru 1990** (£65.95). The classic iron fist in a velvet glove.

Shortly to arrive from Spain is the extraordinary **Baron de Chirel Reserva 1994** (price tbc) from the Marques de Riscal. This is most definitely not your common or garden Rioja but a cabernet/tempranillo blend of 1st growth Bordeaux quality. One to keep and savour in the years to come.

If there are other, special, wines that you wish to track down don't hesitate to give us a call. We have numerous contacts with brokers and will work hard to find the wines you want.

NEW WINE LIST

Enclosed, over the next 10 or so pages, is a copy of our latest "Sampler" wine list. As we have mentioned before, we have difficulty in keeping an up to date list of all the wines we stock; more often than not it's out of date before it comes back from the printer This is primarily because we continue to seek out small parcels of wine that come and go very quickly. What we have sought to do in this list is to provide a flavour of what we do and provide details of wines which are likely to be in stock most, if not all, of the time.

If, having had a look through the list, you can't find the wine, or style of wine, you are after then pick up the 'phone or pop in.

WINE DELIVERED ANYWHERE ON THE UK MAINLAND

If you can't be with the one you love this Christmas, perhaps because you're stuck with the family, then why not send them a bottle of wine. While we're at it why not send them a case of wine. We can send any amount of wine, from a single bottle up to a case of 12 bottles, to any UK mainland address for just £5.99. Simply let us have the address and any card you wish enclosed and we will do the rest. Last orders must be received by Friday 18th December.

CHAMPAGNES AND SPARKLING WINES

Don't forget to give us a call if you need the fizzy stuff for a party or a gift or simply to drink yourself. As you'll have seen from our list, we stock a great range of wines for the festive period. Our Champagnes also represent great value with a generous 15% case discount available on the **Claude Cazals labels**.

OFFERS ON QUALITY SPANISH WINES

If you are looking for a red and white wine that will be crowd-pleasers this Christmas, then our Special Offers on two quality Spanish wines could well be the answer. The red, from the **Marques de Aragon**, is a lovely soft-fruited Grenache based red and you get 3 bottles for just £9.99.!

The white is from Navarra and is the **Guelbenzu Viura**. The vines are some 30 years old, yielding concentrated fruit which has been left to rest on its yeast lees. The wine has a delightful lemon/grapefruit note on the nose and is exceptionally approachable. Buy 5 (at £4.75) and get a 6th bottle free of charge.

PORT AND STILTON

It's a gift that's been around since Adam was a lad but it can still be a quality product when all the component parts are just right. Choose any port you like – as an example see our note about the Smith Woodhouse Ruby on page 3 – and we will add the Stilton (in the authentic crock) and the presentation wooden box. Obviously the final price will be dictated by the amount you want to spend on the port. Please ask for further details.

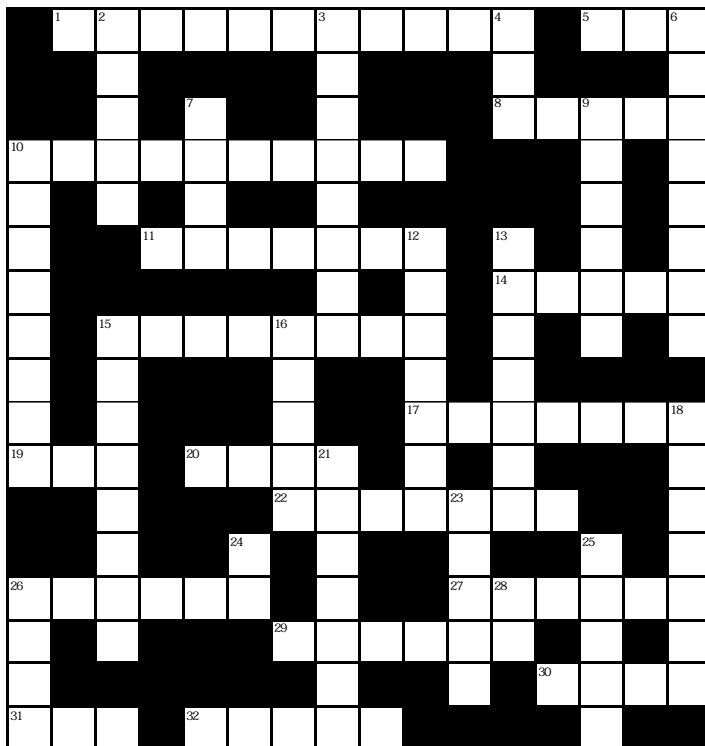
MALT WHISKY

Alongside our already extensive range of single malts, many of which come from independent bottlers, we are adding – for Christmas - **James MacArthur's Gift Set of Miniatures**. The 5 whiskies range from an 11yo Linkwood, through to a 21 yo Glen Keith. All are cask strength making this extremely attractive presentation superb value at just £29.95. Supplies are limited.

GIFT PACKAGING

We have gone to some trouble to increase the range and quality of gift packaging this Christmas. So if you want bottles in wooden boxes you can have them. We will be able to pack 1,2,3,6 and 12 bottles in wood and 1,2,3 and 6 bottles in a variety of attractive card presentations.

PRIZE CROSSWORD by Mark Lascelles



ACROSS

1. Top Bergkelder South African Wine
5. 1992 Italian classification, equivalent to French Vin de Pays.
8. Spanish sensation
10. Ridge flagship.
11. Fragrant, lush Beaujolais.
14. Small warehouse winery in California, owned by Tony Sotar.
15. Disease in the vineyard. associated with 3 down.
17. Intoxicant
19. Small region in Germany, known more for red than white.
20. Scholarly wine body.
22. Lesser known grape used in Champagne.
26. Christian, owner of important Pomerol and St Emilion vineyards.
27. Chateau Louis?!
29. Distinctive South African grape bottled by Hartenberg.
30. Hope of good Mentelle/Jaffa.

DOWN

2. Port or owl
3. A most aristocratic publication (5,3)
4. Cassis
6. Lychee flavoured grape originated from this varietal
7. Top Rhinegau producer is better than he sounds.
9. Fungal disease
10. Iberian and Italian group of grapes.
12. One of the most prized sweet wines
13. Scale measuring grape sugar intensity.
15. 225 litre container.
16. Ultimate Sauternes.
18. Fine Burgundy producer.
21. French secret – the natural vineyard environment.
23. Single malt area.
24. Dessert sherry.
25. Drunk in Oporto kayak.
26. French Grappa
28. Designated product name in France.

THE RULES: Entries can be sent to our **FREEPOST** address (**FREEPOST LS6400, ILKLEY, WEST YORKS, LS29 9BR**), or handed in at any of our shops. All correct responses will be entered in the prize draw which will take place on Friday 18 December. The name of the winner will be posted in our shops on Monday 21 December. All entries must be received by Thursday 17 December. The prize will be a magnum of Casa de Saima Garrafeira. No correspondence will be entered into!

COGNAC AND ARMAGNAC

Somehow good Cognac and Armagnac conjure up a really cosy picture of Christmas. Granny's toasting by the fire, the kids are playing with the box the presents came in and you fancy a drink - it matters not that it's 5 in the morning. In keeping with this image we can commend a new Cognac we've taken on. Chateau Montifaud Cognacs have been owned and run by the Vallet family since 1866. The style is an elegant, yet aromatic cognac made by distilling the wines on their lees. This enhances the grapi-ness of the cognac which, unusually, has 10% Colombard added to the blend. The **Reserve Speciale (aged 10 years) is £23.95** and the stunning **Grand Siecle 2000 (aged for 30 years – 5 times the legal minimum for XO) is £54.95.**

From Armagnac we have unearthed a really lovely traditional producer, Alain Loubere, who makes robust, fruity Armagnac. We list his **Vieilles Reserve (10yo)** for £24.95). All the bottles mentioned here are supplied in gift cartons.