



NOBLE ROT

OCTOBER 1999

(a sort of pre-Xmas issue issue!)
The newsletter of Martinez Fine Wine



An update of new wines...

- First up is a lovely Australian white. **Haselgrove's Semillon 1997** (£4.99) is a delicious drop of classic grapefruit-orientated wine from the consistently good value McLaren Vale region. If a quality Semillon with traditional waxy textures is your tippie then this could well be what you've been looking for.
- New Zealand's **Bradshaw Estate Sauvignon Blanc 1998** (£5.99), from Hawke's Bay is a bit of a treat. It has the hallmarks of quality Kiwi Sauvignon, but at under 6 quid it's a steal (and it won't last long).
- California's Bonny Doon winery has won many friends over the years, both for their wines and the eclectic style in which they are made. We tried 3 of their Ca'del Solo range recently, and liked what we tasted very much, so here they are. The **Big House Red 1997** (£8.99) is a blend of many varieties – Sangiovese, Syrah, Barbera, Grenache and Nebbiolo amongst others. It's a richly flavoured wine, combining full body and many of the powerful characteristics of the grapes it contains. As they say on that TV ad, it 'does exactly what it says on the tin'... **Il Pescatore 1996** (£10.99) is a similar idea to the Big House Red, in that it also contains a surprising number of grape varieties – Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Roussanne, plus a few more besides! The result is a wine with both body and elegance. It has a crisp feel, with an attractive honeyed finish. Rounding off the range is the **Malvasia Blanca 1997** (£8.99). This is a classic white with fresh fruit flavours such as lime and lychee, which combine superbly with balanced acidity to give a refreshingly dry wine that would be perfect with smoked meats or fish. Highly individual wines, and with a slight Italian accent too!
- Our Italian range will be considerably boosted by the presence of a few new wines. Firstly we have a **Salice Salentino 1997** by **La Masseria** (£4.99). This is a treat for fans of those smooth Italian reds – its got a great core of ripe fruit and is fabulous value.
- From Germany we have 2 wines from **Louis Guntrum**. His **Riesling Kabinett 1997** (£5.49) is beautifully made - clean and correct, with impeccable balance. The **Scheurebe Spatlese 1993** (£5.99) is obviously sweeter, but with the acidity to balance the wine. A grapefruit flavour runs through the wine, with a ripe finish and wonderful length. More evidence that life beyond Liebfraumilch is thriving.
- It's nice to get a brace of quality wines from the same chateau. **Les Reges Tortes 1998** (£4.99) produce both a red and a white. The red is classic Graves at a knockdown price. With great Cabernet character, plus a mineral based core, this is very nice stuff indeed. The 1998 white (£4.99) is a grassy Sauvignon based drop, with classic dry white Bordeaux aspects.
- Still on Bordeaux, **Chateau Moulin de Lagut 1998** (£4.99) is a fresh and clean tasting claret, with fine character, juicy finish and a tasty cedar wood edge. This will complement our lower-price Bordeaux range very well.
- More and more people are taking notice of the Viognier grape, and we think that's a good thing. **Domaine La Bastide Durand's Vin De Pays D'Auvergne Viognier 1998** (£5.99) shows a lot of the best characteristics of this aromatic grape. Hints of peach and apricot, with spice and a flinty feel make this terrific value compared to many Viognier based wines nowadays.
- Strapping great reds from the Rhone are just the thing as the weather starts to cool for the winter. **Gambert de Loche's Hermitage 1995** (£21.95) is a true star – Decanter Magazine described it as 'wonderful stuff', and indeed it is, with its deep velvety colour, fabulously rich nose and intense dark fruit on the palate. These super-charged Rhones are well worth the extra premium, and suit those special occasions down to the ground.

Horsforth Expansion...

Customers of our Horsforth branch will have noticed a big improvement to their local Martinez shop. The weekly jigsaw puzzle of fitting the delivery of new stock onto far too few shelves reached a head and we decided to make some more space. The shop was closed for a week or so in mid-September and a fair amount of work was carried out. The extended shop front is much smarter, and gives more scope for stocking our full range, and, of course, Tony is much happier. We hope that you find the improved shop better organised and with a more comprehensive selection of wine than before.

We're once again delighted to have some new wines from **Schlumberger**. This top Alsace producer has continually made outstanding wine, and his massive **Gewurztraminer Fleur 1997** (£10.99) is no exception. Its deeply concentrated and with its endless bundles of ripe and spicy lychees, it is just begging to be drunk with some Thai cuisine or smoked fish. We're also getting the wonderful **Muscat 'Les Princes Abbes' 1998** (£8.99). This a very dry and distinctive wine. A terrific perfumed nose and intense grapey flavours combine well with rich acidity to make an attractive wine. Elegant and with considerable style, both of these whites are truly top class.

If this has got your taste buds watering you will not want to miss the following:

ALSACE FOOD AND WINE

*evening in Harrogate on
Monday November 1st.*

We welcome Jean Marie Winter, the winemaker at Schlumberger, who will present a selection of his excellent wines. These will be complemented by a carefully assembled menu of Alsatian cuisine. It promises to be a highly interesting and tasty evening, and tickets are very limited. We're still putting together the final bits and pieces, but please contact Phil Ball on 01423-501783

Did You Know? In 15th Century Germany, hospital patients were allowed a ration of over 12 pints of wine a day!

Bin End Wines

We recently managed to pick up some small parcels of superb mature wines from Burgundy, the Loire and Germany. Quantities are on the limited side, but the quality really is superb. From Burgundy we have **Jacqueline Jayer's Vosne-Romanee 1987** (£23.99) and **Tollot-Beaut's Aloxe-Corton 1991** (£24.95), while from the Loire **Huet's Vouvray Moelleux 'Clos du Bourg' 1988** (£19.99). On the German side there's an **Ungsteiner Herrenberg Scheurebe Spatlese 1996** by **Weingut Pfeffingen** (£8.75), a **Forster Jesuitgarten Riesling Spatlese 1990** by **Bassermann-Jordan** (£11.99), and an **Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spatlese 1990** by **Weingut Monchof** (£13.95). Well worth a slurp.

Malt whisky & Calvados...

For 2 centuries specialist whisky bottler **Chalie Richards & Co Ltd** have been purchasing small parcels of fine malts from various distilleries to produce malt whisky of a consistent quality and character. We are offering their single malt of mainly Highland origin which is imbued with a smoky spicy and heather-driven flavour, which finishes mellow and long. Excellent value at £14.95 per 70cl bottle.

Many devotees of our **Daron Pays D'Auge Calvados** will be aware of supply problems we had with this product which we can now confirm have been rectified. Stocks are now available of this excellent tippie still at the old price of £17.99 per 70cl bottle (sold in an attractive gift tin).

Martinez Millennium Champagne...

With the Millennium creeping up on us many folks are starting to think about what they'll be sipping come midnight on New year's Eve. With that in mind we've sorted out some quality Champagne from **Claude Cazals**, a name familiar to most of you. We've had Cazals as our house Champagne for a while now, and the 2 new bottles we're stocking are probably the best we've tasted from this small producer. Both are made from 100% Grand Cru grapes, and taste like it too! **Naissance D'Un Millenaire** (£21.95) is a superb deluxe cuvee from the 1990 vintage. It's been specially packaged for the Millennium and will be the perfect thing to bring in the new year. **L'An 2000** (£19.95) is a blend with 5 years bottle age. It has a fantastic soft feel on the palate, with commanding presence and a rich finish. The quality of these Champagnes is really astonishing for the price (Martinez staff are **not** due to retire to the Bahamas on Millennium champagne takings!) and you'd be hard pushed to find a better value

The Ilkley Miranda Dinner

Take one laid back winemaker, great food, seven wines and 43 guests and what do you have? An excellent evening is the answer. Thanks are due to those who were prepared to forego the Thursday night fate of Ricky and Bianca and venture instead to the Farsyde Restaurant in Ilkley for a fine dinner complemented by Bob Berton's Miranda Estate wines. Stars of the evening turned out to be the High Country Chardonnay (very delicate flavours with subtle oak influence), Rovalley Ridge Old Bush Vine Barossa Grenache (and there weren't many who could still say that by the time they left!) and the Golden Botrytis dessert wine with its lovely touches of orange marmalade. Most enjoyable!

Several of the Miranda Estate wines are normally available from our shops.

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