



NOBLE ROT

September 2001

An events bulletin!

The newsletter of Martinez Fine Wine



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Welcome to an intermediate Noble Rot.

We just wanted to let you know what we've got coming up in the next couple of months and provide a few more details on the events we touched upon in the last issue. Have a peruse through the tastings, dinners and events listed here and work out just how you want your taste buds stimulated. Most of you know the value we place on providing a good night out for our customers and with that in mind we've carefully worked out a schedule to please the most prudent of wine connoisseurs, from informal tastings to sumptuous dinners. Should you need any more information please don't hesitate to contact us on the numbers listed overleaf.

The Martinez Laying Down Tastings...

Always one of the most interesting tastings we do, the laying down tastings provide a glimpse of wines that are only just beginning to show their true potential. We choose a



selection of wines that we feel will develop with a bit of age and you get the chance to taste them. It's your chance to grab a few choice bottles before everyone else hears about them (by which point the price will have gone up and the availability down). As usual we'll be on hand to assist and discuss the wines on show.

This year's tastings take place on the following dates:

Thursday September 27th – Ilkley and Horsforth
Friday September 28th – Halifax and Harrogate

Tickets are priced at £15 per person so get in touch

RIEDEL
THE ORIGINAL



A few changes to our Riedel tasting evening...

Due to circumstances beyond our control we've had to make some alterations to the arrangements for the Riedel night at Harewood House on November 13th.

We've been forced to change the winemaker, Marc Kent, for the event, but have retained his services for a South African dinner featuring his magnificent Boekenhoutskloof wines – please see elsewhere in this Noble Rot for details. Wines for our Riedel night will be now provided by not one

but *two* of South Africa's finest producers – **Hamilton Russell Vineyards** and **Vergelegen Estate**, with Anthony Hamilton-Russell himself and Vergelegen's winemaker **Andre van Rensburg** introducing the wines. Hamilton-Russell's expertise with Burgundian grape varieties is well documented – they are among the country's finest examples. Vergelegen have been making excellent wines for a number of years but Andre has added an edge to the already high quality, so much so that one of his top reds won *best world-wide Bordeaux blend* at Vinexpo this year.

Georg Riedel is unable to attend the event but is sending his "European Ambassador", **Yair Hajdu**, who will be running things on the night. Yair established Israel's Academy of Wine in 1995, is an expert on the philosophy of matching the right glass to any given wine and has spent some time spreading the Riedel word. The author of several books as well as being an experienced writer and broadcaster, Yair promises an evening to remember.

We apologise if we've caused any inconvenience and are happy to refund those who feel the changes aren't acceptable. We would say that we still believe that the event will provide a fascinating insight into the impact the right glass can make, as well as showing how magnificent the wines of the featured estates are.

As Noble Rot went to press a few tickets remain. The cost of £75 includes four Riedel glasses (worth over £60). Please drop us a line if you'd like any further details.



Beaujolais Heavyweight Taste-Off!

We're always told that the golden rule of Beaujolais is to drink it young but many people are unaware of the medium term ageing potential of high quality wines from the region and we think it's time folks realised what a little ageing can do to the great Gamay wines.

The success of the 2000 Beaujolais vintage has been much written about in the wine press and it occurred to us that here's an excellent opportunity to taste some young Beaujolais wines against their older counterparts from the 1997 vintage. We'll be comparing wines from the same village and producer from two different years to see how flavours develop with age, so vibrant villages such as Cote de Brouilly start to show richer, smoother notes, and classic bigger styles such as Chenas begin to display positive nuances of Pinot Noir when they're allowed to age. If you've never experienced mature Beaujolais this could be your chance. Wines from such enamoured producers as Andre Colonge, Domaine de la Grand Cour and Jacky Janodet will demonstrate the variety of flavours that can be found in wines of different ages.

This tasting will be held in the **Victoria Theatre in Halifax on Tuesday October the 16th**, with tickets priced at £10. If you'd like to come along why not give us a ring on any of the numbers listed below.



An Italian food and wine night in Brighouse, November 2001

We're delighted to welcome **Beatrice Bonacossi** of the excellent **Tenuta di**

Capezzana estate in Carmignano, Tuscany who will present a selection of her wines at a gourmet dinner in Brighouse. We've selected the outstanding **Brook's Restaurant** which is owned by **Darrell Brook**, a Savoy-trained chef of some renown. As usual we've carefully matched an array of dishes with the wines on show and at £45 per person this is an excellent opportunity to taste some of Italy's finer wines in an informal setting, with excellent food accompanying each bottle. If you'd like to come along give us a bell and get your name down before the **booking sheet fills up!**

A South African food and wine night in Leeds, October 4th 2001



You'll know how highly we regard **Marc Kent's Boekenhoutskloof**

wines, and how disappointed we are that we can't team up them up with Georg Riedel's glassware. What we've managed to do is arrange what promises to be a sensational taste experience. Following the success of our Alsatian evening at the excellent **Rascasse Restaurant** in Leeds we thought we'd make a return visit but this time highlighting South Africa. We've been genuinely blown away by Marc's wines – he's being touted by many as the very best winemaker in South Africa – and are very pleased to have him introduce his dazzling portfolio to a few lucky customers. Robert Joseph described the Semillon as 'arguably South Africa's greatest white', and with Parker scores of 88 for the white and 90 for both reds the world is beginning to realise the extraordinary things that are happening in the South African wine industry.

Marc Kent's attitude and approach exemplify the new wave of South African winemaking, with the accent on grape and soil suitability and little regard for trends or whims. The Boekenhoutskloof Semillon, Cabernet and Syrah will be presented with a dinner of especially chosen dishes designed to show the wines at their best (as if they don't do it on their own!), and Marc will discuss each wine as it is served. If you enjoy high quality Cape wines and good food then this is simply not to be missed. Rascasse's reputation will be known to many of you and we expect the evening to be very popular if the Alsatian event is anything to go by. Tickets are available at £59.95 per person. To ensure your place please contact any Martinez shop



New vintages of Domaine Capiion available soon...

Roll up and taste the latest releases from our favourite Southern French winery. Many of you have become somewhat addicted to these top value wines and the quality of this latest shipment is as good as ever, with the classic Old World meets New character very much to the fore. Bundles of ripe fruit mingle happily with balanced oak and round tannins. They're really quite excellent. Choose from the following 1999's: **Merlot (£6.99)**, **Cabernet (£6.99)**, **Syrah (£8.99)**, **Le Sorbier (£10.95)**. There's also the chance to taste the awesome 1998 vintage of the two biggies, **'Le Juge' (£12.99)** and **'La Garrenne' (£12.99)**. Expect all of this lot in the shops

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website: www.martinez.co.uk

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