



**MARTINEZ
WINES**

Famously Independent

NOBLE ROT

THE NEWSLETTER OF MARTINEZ WINES

AUGUST 2003

REARRANGING DECKCHAIRS ON THE TITANIC....

The first few months of this year have seen some important changes at Martinez Wines. Many of you visiting the shops will be aware of what has happened; for others the following should clarify the situation.

HORSFORTH. Unfortunately this shop is closed and may soon reopen as a restaurant. Ilkley is still able to offer the full range of wines and services that were available.

HARROGATE. Phil Ball has bought out Julian Martinez's interest in the shop and is now the sole proprietor of The Harrogate Fine Wine Company.

ILKLEY. This shop continues to trade as the only Martinez Wine outlet, backed by the comprehensive web site for mail order customers. In addition it is incorporating existing wholesale trade and the supply of olive oils, fruit juices etc. Ilkley will continue local deliveries, free of charge, to Horsforth and Harrogate customers.

NOBLE ROT will continue its erratic publication to all existing subscribers. If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list please contact or e-mail us.

These have not been easy trading times but it is our hope that this consolidation offers a way forward for all, not least for you our valued customers. With the increasing trend towards safe, mediocre brand names sold through multiple outlets, we believe there is a place for 'character' and a recognition of those willing to be "famously independent". We at Martinez remain committed to our strengths of expertise, flexibility, value for money and, above all, being something different.

So here's looking forward to seeing you on board in the Ilkley shop, or for you to contact us by phone or email; and may we take this opportunity to apologise to any customers who may have been inconvenienced by these changes.

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- **Brunello for laying down.**



new ON THE SHELF, WHITE WINES

Falerio Dei Colli Ascolani, Saladini Pilastrri, 2002. Marches, Italy. £5.25

This wine is produced from a mixture of organically cultivated grapes, Trebbiano, Passerina and Pecorino plus 20% Chardonnay and Sauvignon. Elegant and full bodied, with a nice floral nose, rich flavours and the fruit giving a long balanced dry finish.

Willandra Soft Pressed Chardonnay, 2002. NSW, Australia £5.99

Elderflower and green apples on the nose, this wine softens on opening to reveal an approachable and attractive character – nice malacto creaminess, peachy, with a floral edge. Un-oaked, the chardonnay character is rounded and with a tangy, citrus finish.

Matilda Plains Sauvignon Blanc, 2002. S. Australia. £6.99

Matilda Plains is Bremerton's new winery; 2002 its first vintage and the signs look good. This a zesty, light New World style sauvignon with a delicate lemon grass nose and good structure. Succulent pineapple and tropical fruits follow on the palate. Try as an aperitif.

Simunye Sauvignon Blanc, 2001. Coastal Region, South Africa. £9.99

An elegant nose, intense rather than powerful, where subtle fresh grass and nettles give way to asparagus. The fruit nicely balances the acidity leading to long length and creamy finish. Unoaked, it displays a fullness and ripeness that is unusual in a sauvignon that also has an abundance of the zesty gooseberryish flavours of this grape at its best.

Mt Barker Chardonnay, 2000. W Australia. £9.99

More Burgundian than Aussie in style, - we still remember Geoff Weavers effort with great affection, - this has the same lovely elegance. Fat and full with a sweet peach and melon character, and a restrained buttery oak and warm finish.

Rioja Blanco, Allende, 2000. Spain £12.99

If you are a fan of old style Rioja, this is a treat. 60% viura, 40% malvasia aged, surprisingly, only one year in oak, the lovely honey-sweet, slightly lanolin nose is followed by a cacophony of melon, ripe brie and wax. Like Bartok, producing elegance from discord.

Gewurztraminer d'Epfig, Ostertag, 2001. Alsace. £12.99

Lychee, as you would expect, on the nose and with hints of ripe pear and banana. This has a degree of sweetness well balances with good acidity. Longish length and an unusual hint of Cointreau on the finish.

Clos Cazals Grand cru, Champagne. 1995 £29.99

Coming from a small walled garden behind the chateau, planted with some of their oldest vines this is Cazals' top of the range limited edition champagne. Ripe apples and pears, buscuity and nutty, elegant and complex. Plus stylish packaging. Think Krug Clos du Mesnil at a fraction of the price

new RED WINES, ON THE SHELF

Borgo Selene Rosso, 2002. Italy.

£4.49

Made by the producers of our Villa Tonino wines, this Sicilian red is a bright vibrant quaffable little number. Surprisingly complex for its price, it manages to pack in a hint of smoke, leather and chocolate on the nose; soft raspberry and grenadine on the palate.

Forge Mill Pinotage, 2001. Franschhoek, South Africa.

£5.99

Typical berried character evident on the nose, with hints of soft dark fruit and banana; some tannins, but mellowed by the oak. Very rounded and approachable making this a good value pinotage

Urban Oak, 2001. Mendoza, Argentina.

£5.99

This wine seems to have everything on the nose - plums, raisins, smoke, chocolate, sweaty socks, kitchen sink. Rich, full and spicy, it's 90% Tempranillo is more dominant on the palate, with Malbec adding weight and depth. With Spanish producers going for a more fruit driven style, this New World wine takes Tempranillo back to its roots.

Ch Tour Boisee Marielle & Frederique, Minervois, 2001. France.

£6.99

Tar and liquorice are up front on the nose over a backing of raspberry and red fruit. Deep core of fruit on the palate, a big weighty wine with a full long length finish. Great value in a style and price where France excels.

Ram Paddock Red, 1999. Waipara, New Zealand.

£7.99

A black-cherry wine, clearly evident on both nose and palate, plus lovely hints of pomegranate and dusky pencil shavings (from the Cabernet Franc, which is blended with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot). A good soft mellow wine, surprisingly light - and even more surprising - a great value *red* from NZ. The Tup's bullocks!

Ch du Cayrou Cahors, 1996. France.

£8.99

Mahogany edge and a rustic understated nose give indication of this wine's origin and age. Chewy fruit, it's soft with some tannin still. Though this is not a classic 'Black Wine' of yore, it is a mature wine and an interesting buy.

Mas de Fournel, Cuvee Classique, Pic St Loup 2000

£8.99

A wine that stands out from the crowd. An incredibly striking nose of leather and berries with herbal undertones, progressing into mouth filling hedgerow berry fruit flavours enhanced with wood smoke at the edge. Big and brooding. And different...

Old Garden Mourvedre, 2001. Barossa, S Australia.

£15.99

An initially earthy nose opens up to reveal a lovely sweet spice and cinnamon with soft undertones of mulberry/blueberry. Classy fruit to the fore dominates wonderfully balanced by tannins. With plenty of opening (or cellaring) there is an elegant finish of warm alcohol (14.5%) again with soft spice and rich fruit. A star!

RIDGE OFFER

One of the highlights of many wine lovers year is the release of the 'Californian Classic' Ridge wines. This spring offer includes the flagship Santa Cruz and Monte Bello wines from the 2000 vintage: "celebrat(ing) the end of a century and the beginning of another." Paul Draper has been as selective as ever with each vineyard parcel, producing these very distinctive wines of great character. The following text is abridged from his notes.

2001 Lytton Springs Zinfandel **Botts £21.99 ▪ Hlvs £12.99 ▪ Mags £46.99**

76% Zinfandel, 17% Petit Sirah, 7% Carignane. (Alcohol 14.7% by volume)

A good zinfandel vintage, but with a potential problem of excess tannins. This was remedied by slow extraction from uncrushed grapes, lower juice circulation and less pressing. The wine was aged in 20% new, 30% one year and 50% two to four year old American barrels. This intense wine has more oak than usual, but it remains complementary not dominant. Drinking now, but at it's peak in five to ten years.

2000 Santa Cruz Cabernet

Bottles £21.99

64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot. (Abv 12.9%)

There was careful selection from a small crop and extended barrel ageing, from the usual 18 months to 27. This has resulted in a very structured wine, full bodied and intense with soft tannins; the extra time in wood has added a touch of cedar to the rich fruit. Enjoyable now, it will develop over the next ten years.

2000 Monte Bello Cabernet

Bottles £89.99

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc. (Abv 13.4%)

Despite it being cold and wet during flowering and a cool summer, the harvest resulted in ripe and intense fruit. Aged in 90% American and 10% French new oak, a quarter was heavily fined with fresh egg whites – the equivalent of five per barrel for the entire volume! Whilst not up to the hype (or price) of 2000 Bordeaux, Monte Bello is one of the finest of the Californian vintage. Complex and balanced it will be drinking in six years.

2000 Monte Bello Chardonnay

Bottles £39.99

100% Chardonnay. (Abv 14.7%)

Only 14% of the grapes from the harvest were selected to produce this, the 25th, vintage of Monte Bello chardonnay. After 14 months in 80% American and 20% French oak the wine was bottled, unfiltered, in January 2001. A superb wine, regarded by Ridge as one of the finest whites they have ever produced, it is for drinking now and the next five years.

**All the above wines are allocated and of extremely limited availability.
Please contact us a.s.a.p. with a view to purchase.**

1997 Monte Bello Cabernet also available at £99.99 and **1999 Geyserville Zinfandel** magnums at £49.99.

YARRA YERING OFFER



The return of Noble Rot is led by the return of a Yarra Yering offer. One of Australia's top wines, (see our website for background details) this sort-after estate has not been released for two years. No wines at all were produced for the 2000 vintage; in the unirrigated vineyards hot weather made the entire Pinot crop unusable and so affected the character of Cabernet and Shiraz that nothing was released.

Now back to form, the 2001 wines are available, and with two new additions to the range – Young Vine Cabernet and Dry Red No 3. Blessed with good weather - once again under hot but manageable conditions – and with a new approach to vinification giving a more elegant appeal from the concentrated fruit, they all make stunning buys.

The Range includes:

Young Vine Cabernet

£14.99

100% Cabernet Sauvignon matured in new French oak. Soft tannin results from a short period of maceration on the stalks.

Dry Red No3

£14.99

40% Cabernet, 20% Tempranillo, 40 % Portuguese varieties (!), aged half in new wood and with a distinctive character.

Dry Red No1

£27.99

85% Cabernet, 10% Malbec, 5% Merlot. Legendary wine, aged in new French casks giving a light to medium toast, from low yielding vines. This is a cult Bordeaux blend, with great depth of blackcurrant fruit and subtle oak. Keep 5 – 10+ years.

Dry Red No2.

£27.99

96% Shiraz, 2% Marsanne, 2% Viognier. Two years in cask – one third new, two thirds reused Pinot casks. Good Rhone style, deep and concentrated.

Underhill Shiraz

£27.99

100% Shiraz from single 10 acre vineyard of 30 year old vines. Aged one third in new wood (after an experimental period of aging for 3 years). Cool climate style exhibiting spice and pepper. Drinks young and ages well.

Pinot Noir

£28.99

100% Pinot, 100% new wood. Superbly reflects the influence of French wine-making: complexity and power. Will need keeping for a couple of years.

All the above wines are allocated and of extremely limited availability.

Please contact us a.s.a.p. with a view to purchase.

We also have limited quantities of **1998 & 1999 Dry Red No1, 1999 Pinot Noir** and also **Yarra Yering Sparkling**. Again, please contact us.

BORDEAUX & PORT 2000 - A TASTING REVIEW

The Ilkley shop was recently able to re-taste many of the Clarets and Vintage Ports that were offered En Primeur last year. It is a useful exercise to be able to reassess our initial impressions and, pleasingly, confirm our recommendations.

The following notes should be of interest to those who have purchased; and to those of you that haven't as some stocks are still available, priced accordingly, to buy 'off the shelf'. They remain, in our opinion, a good investment and great value for money for mid to long term drinking.

PORT

QUINTA DE RORIZ

Bottles £38

Soft, easily approachable and with nice complexity. The most forward and early maturing of the samples, providing good mid term drinking at a budget price. Suggested peak, *10-15 years*.

QUINTA PASSADOURO

Bottles £42

Deep purple colour, liquorice on the palate, also a touch herbal. Incredible depth of sweetness with a lighter feminine style. As usual, an early drinker, *10 – 15+ years*.

SMITH WOODHOUSE

Bottles £38

Lighter in colour, good nose of ripe fruits with softer tannins. For those preferring an attractive and silky rather than a full blown powerful port. *15-20 years*.

GOULD CAMPBELL

Bottles £38

Big depth of dark fruit, a nose full of plums and damsons. A touch more acidity than others but showing potential for greater aging. *15 perhaps 20 – 25 years*.

WARRE

Bottles £46

Lighter nose, the scent of floral petals detectable. Less integrated than others at this stage, but has both fruit and tannin in balance that will come together given time. Difficult to predict, *try 15 – 20 years*.

GRAHAM

Bottles £52

Good colour and concentration, sweeter and softer fruit with tannins already integrating. Aniseed and spice on the palate. Long length, very elegant. Highly rated. *15 – 25 years*.

DOW

Bottles £46

Dark purple colour with blackberry and apple on the nose, more closed than others. Ripe fruit and some spice but with higher acidity; a big finish on the palate shows its real weight and richness. *20 – 25 years*.

NIEPOORT SECUNDUM

Bottles £42

Dark, almost black. Tar on the nose and heavy viscous legs. Fruit content completely dominates the tannins. Very concentrated with terrific length. Massive. *20+ years*.

QUINTA DO VESUVIO

Bottles £48

Real depth of concentrated fruits, almost liquid summer pudding. Slight damp wood aspect to the tannins which are immediately overtaken by the fruit. Weighty and 'chewy'. For the long term. *20 – 25+ years.*

BORDEAUX

CH RAMAGE LA BATISSE

Bottles £12.99

Initially a very closed nose, but after a long opening the elegant cedar notes appeared with a touch of pepper and spice to balance the fruit. Not as opulent a style as many other 2000s but should give 'classical' pleasure in the next *2 – 6 years.*

CH HAUT BEAUSEJOUR

Bottles £16.99

Plenty of fruit on the nose and with a bit more earthy character. Nice touch of oak, integrated if somewhat linier. The simplest of the four tried. Still good value. *3 – 6 years.*

CH DE PEZ

Bottles £19.99

Good structure and style, typical blackcurrant nose and richness. Palate shows soft tannins and ripe fruit, and is developing well. Enjoyable youthful drinking now but would reward cellaring; *2006 onwards.*

CH HAUT MARBUZET

Bottles £35

Packed with vibrant fruit, its sweetness is backed by a touch of spice, vanilla from new oak, a cigar box nose and good tannins. A long finish complements its weight. Highly regarded, it will age well and develop to be the most complex. *6 years +.* (Parker, Apr 03, rates it 85/100 drinking *3 – 5 years.* Take your choice of advice!!)

We also have some stocks available from other chateaus in the 2000 vintage:

Patache d'Aux, (£10.99), **La Tour de By**, (£12.99), **Roland la Garde**, (£16.99), **L'Enclos** (£22.99), and **Siran**, (£22.99).

(Original reports are available on the website: Noble Rot, Summer 2001 for Clarets, Summer 2002 for the Ports.)

SUMMER DRINKING BEAUJOLAIS

We have again shipped some light easy drinking reds, suitable for quaffing outdoors in the sun, or gracing the dinner table if the *al fresco* is rained off.

Beaujolais-Village, Ch Lacarelle, 2001. £6.49. Our house Beaujolais, having moved on a vintage, good character of bubblegum and cherry.

Julienas, Dom des Mouilles, 2002. £7.75. Smooth, silky, elegant, rich and fresh. Just like we like them.

Morgon, Dom de Roche St Jean, 2001. £7.99. Slightly weightier, good fruity character and a distinct touch of class.

RISCAL OFFER

Marques de Riscal, **Rueda 2002** (Normally £5.99)

Marques de Riscal, **Rosado 2002** (Normally £6.49)

Ever popular wines, a fresh and crisp white, and a rose from 100% Tempranillo

Excellent summer drinking now comes at a great price

TWO bottles for just £10

Any combination, while stocks last

1999 Brunello di Montalcino, Poggio San Polo

We always like to include an Italian or two in our annual laying down tasting, but this is an offer that just cannot wait!

Poggio San Polo is an up and coming star in Italy; rated highly by no less than Franco Allegrini and with aspirations to become one of Montalcino's top estates. On this evidence it is. The 1999 vintage is a cracker, built on sturdy performances in '97 and '98. Part of the wine is aged for 24-36 months in Slovenian oak barrels, and the rest in new French oak. The wine is then aged in bottle for 6 months before release resulting in a wine with deep colour, great intensity of fruit and excellent length. Keep 10-15 years.

Take our recommendation and buy this wine
AT A SPECIAL OFFER PRICE of £28.99,
a saving of 10% on the list price.

Also for Italian lovers we have **Barolo Massolino, Vigna Rionda, 2001**. From a 100 year old estate which has been transformed in the last 10 years, this wine exhibits classic style with modern restraint. The body is weighty but not massive, showing good tannins along with liquorice and spice. Whilst being a powerful wine it is certainly accessible now. At last, and even at this price, a good value Barolo! **£25.99**.

WHO CARES VINS



**MARTINEZ
WINES**

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Martinez Wines

35 The Grove • Ilkley • LS29 9NJ