

## **Wine 1**

### **Viognier, Condamine l'Évêque, Côtes de Thongue, France**

Lovely, fragrant, apricotty fruit. Benchmark Viognier.

Domaine La Condamine L'Evêque is located at Nézignan L'Evêque, a village set above the River Hérault between Sète and Béziers in Languedoc, southwest France. The Côtes de Thongue consists of 14 villages who combine their grapes and expertise to provide some great value wines. Viognier - the fast rising star. In 1965 only a miserable eight hectares of Viognier (pronounced Vee-on-yay) grape existed in its Northern Rhône homeland appellation of Condrieu. Amazing, since some believe the grape had grown here for at least 2000 years, possibly transported to the Rhône from its birthplace in Dalmatia by the Romans. Since 1965 the grape and its wine has increased in popularity and in its price, which has risen to 'serious drinker' level. Viognier is a remarkably difficult grape to grow. It is prone to mildew, produces notoriously low and unpredictable yields, and needs to be picked when fully ripe. If it is picked too early it fails to develop its classic aromas and rich tastes. But despite, or perhaps because of, this precariousness it has the most amazing clear, golden colour and the aroma of flowers and fruits at their freshest. Many talk of being surprised by the taste; the colour and nose hinting at something sweeter but the actual taste being dry with a variety of nuances both on the tongue and afterwards.

## **Wine 2**

### **Picpoul de Pinet, Cuvée Bascou, Languedoc, France**

Fresh as a daisy. Pure and clean.

Picpouls are sometimes referred to as the "Muscadet" of the south due to their high acidity. In fact, the name "Picpoul" literally means "lip-stinger" in Occitan. The vineyards face the second largest lake in France, Étang de Thau (or Bassin de Thau). This salted lake is adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea and is home to a thriving shellfish industry (mainly oysters). It's no surprise that Picpoul pairs so well with the 'local fare'. It leaves you with a lengthy zing of a finish that makes you crave more. Summer's just around the corner and this is a great option for you sipping needs.

It leaves you with a lengthy zing of a finish that makes you crave more. Summer's just around the corner and this is a great option for you sipping needs. Harvest is done by night to avoid any oxidation of the grapes and to keep them cool. The colour is brilliant with pale yellow with green hues. An aromatic nose of citrus fruit and white fruits like peach. The mouth has a fresh and lively attack, notes of grapefruit and lemon. Persistent freshness on the finish. For a grape variety grown in the warm, sunny Mediterranean, inland from Sète, it has remarkable freshness and citrus-vivacity.

## **Wine 3**

### **Gavi, Balbi Soprani, Piemonte, Italy**

Fresh, zesty and mineral fruit. Intense. Often referred to as the Sancerre of Italy

A DOCG, Gavi comes from the Piedmont area of Italy, and is made primarily with the Cortese grapes grown in a limited hilly area in the Alessandria province around the town of Gavi. The elegance and the aristocracy of ancient vines, of an age-long wine-making tradition, proudly selected among the greatest Piedmontese Cru, contribute to make unforgettable wines. In each Balbi Soprani bottle, contains their love for the land, a passion for work, a care for detail, all of these contribute to create a unique product with its distinctive style. Perfect with cured meats as the zesty acidity works beautifully with the marbled fat of the hams and the subtle lightness works well with the umami in the meats.

## **Wine 4**

### **Pinot Noir, Domaine Lagrange Le Haut, IGP Pays d'Oc, France**

Clean, fresh and cherry-fruited.

The fortunes of south and south western France have been transformed over the past 25 years since the introduction of the Vin de Pays category in 1979. This led to extensive re-planting on more suitable sites, a reduction in yields, and clearer, usually varietal, labelling. Good quality is still by no means universal, with single estates such as Virginie Lagrange offering far superior wines. From the Vin de Pays D'Herault this wine is made from 100% Pinot Noir, harvested by hand and matured in Limosin oak for 6 months. Cotes de Thongue is an IGP title covering wines made in an area on the southern slopes of the Montagne Noire in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of southern France.

## **Wine 5**

### **Rioja Crianza, El Coto Spain**

Rounded, balanced and juicy fruit.

Located in the village of Oyón just north of Logroño City, the main facility has grown significantly over the past 35 years, as has their ownership and control of vineyards. The predominant grape varieties planted are Tempranillo for the reds. The Crianza is made exclusively from Tempranillo grapes grown in the Alta and Alavesa districts. The juice is fermented in stainless steel vats for 2-3 weeks with frequent pumping over (remontage) to achieve the right balance of fruit intensity, colour and tannin structure. Following fermentation, the wine is then transferred to American oak barriques, around a third of which are new, for ageing for 12 to 14 months. The barrels have received a medium toasting which gives the ideal amount of vanilla undertones to the final wine. The wine is then bottled and aged for a further period of 6-8 months before being released. This extra bottle ageing is no longer a requirement by law for Crianza but is a major contributing factor towards El Coto's quality. The final wine is harmonic and well balanced with vanilla and oak hints. It has a velvety, smooth feel in the mouth and is great on and especially good with Lamb one of the key dishes of the Rioja region.

## **Wine 6**

### **Malbec, Alta Vista Classic, Mendoza, Argentina**

Succulent and smooth with lovely freshness. (Featured in the book 1000 Great Wines that don't cost the earth)

ALTA VISTA is a family owned winery, founded by the d'AULAN Family. The wineries of Argentina's Mendoza region have abandoned the hot valley floor and taken to the hills. And the quality of their wine is rising as rapidly as the slopes to which they cling. The greater height of the vineyards, until recently seen as impractical for winemaking, offers cool nights for the vines and higher radiation from the sun that can make photosynthesis so much more effective than on the hot, clammy valley floor. Snow-capped peaks provide unlimited natural water for irrigation.

ALTA VISTA own 4 vineyards located in the high quality production areas of the provinces of Mendoza with 161 ha in production from a total of 342 ha and more than 1.000 ha of a great terroir located in the Cafayate region, north of Argentina. All of these vineyards are situated at 1,000 m above sea level with sunshine 300 days of the year. 103 acres of our total vineyards are more than 30 years old, which ensures a balanced production as to quality and quantity throughout the years

Robust red from the foothills of the Andes Mountains. Produces a classic wine that marries beautifully with beef, just as the Argentinians intended, as well as other red meats especially venison and cheese.

## **Wine 7**

### **Muscat, All Saints, Rutherglen, Victoria, Australia**

Nectar for puddings.

Established in 1864 by two Scots, who built a castle in the 1880's in the design of the Castle of May, complete with turrets and tower! The "Great Hall" at the winery is lined with 100 year old casks, filled with rare Tokays and Muscats, some of which are up to 80 years old, and will form the base of future blends. All Saints won the first gold medal for Australian wine, back in 1873, at the London International Exhibition, and continues to win trophies and receive rave reviews. The winery is now run by three siblings, Nick, Angela and Eliza Brown. Their father Peter was one of the original Brown Brothers; he tragically died in a car accident in 2005. The premium fortified range contains some of the finest wines of their kind in the world, the much loved legends of Australian winemaking. In a world first innovation, the complete range is bottled in the sophisticated 375 ml Vino-Lok bottle with glass stopper and screw cap. In a world first innovation, the complete range is bottled in the sophisticated 375 ml Vino-Lok bottle with glass stopper and screw cap. Muscat Classifications Muscats from their national birthplace in North East Victoria are revered by connoisseurs and pleasure-seekers alike. They are classified by blend age to mark the dazzling progression in richness and intensity as older stocks are blended in from barrels. Rutherglen Muscat is a young blend with lush fruit flavours and gorgeous rose-petal aromas. The fruit is allowed to become very ripe on the vine before harvest. It is picked and crushed, then macerated for up to three days. The must is pressed and the juice is fortified with spirit to 18%. The resulting wine is then aged in barrel from 8 to 15 years. Nose and palate kaleidoscope hues of amber and gold, irresistible flavours of butterscotch, raisin and treacle. Be seduced by the world's most celebrated and decadent dessert wine.

Food Matching: Rules of thumb is the wine must ALWAYS be sweeter than the dessert.

50ml £3.95