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HAWKSHEAD WINES

NEW RELEASES - MARCH 2012

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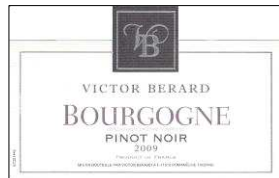
MIOPASSO Fiano 2010, IGT Sicilia, Italy 13% IT1610W £8.49



Miopasso comes from the Sicilian co-operative Santa Ninfa. This crisp dry Fiano is produced from grapes grown in the Gela region at the eastern end of the southern coast of the island. Fiano is arguably Italy's best white variety most notably in its native region of Campania but also in the hills of Sicily. High summer temperatures might appear better suited to red grapes, but on the volcanic slopes the white Fiano comes into its own. Historically the biggest issue has been the variety's susceptibility to oxidation, but this can be minimised by keeping the grapes cool and by careful handling of the juice in the winery. Santa Ninfa's investment in modern technology enables it to preserve Fiano's distinctive purity and freshness and whilst the best examples can be expensive, this well-priced wine can only help to make this premium variety better known.

Mid-straw colour and pure aromas of citrus fruits, quince, fresh herbs and a hint of gooseberry. Flavours of stone fruits, minerals and nut and a lingering finish with notes of grapefruit. At peak now or keep to 2014

Victor BERARD Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2009, Burgundy, France 12.5% FR4259R £8.99



Victor Berard is a negociant operation based at Romaneche Thorins, a small town only a couple of miles east of Fleurie. We were impressed by their Chablis from vineyards in northern Burgundy as well as their Beaujolais from the south and so we were not surprised to discover the quality and value of this Pinot Noir from the vineyards inbetween! The grapes were particularly ripe and healthy in the outstanding 2009 vintage and coupled with Berard's modern, fruit-focused winemaking style we have a wine that is pure and unoaked. Whilst it has some structure and good balance the emphasis is on fresh, vibrant fruit and a velvety mouthfeel.

Light to medium ruby purple colour with aromas of summer fruits, red cherry and a touch of exotic spice. Juicy cherry, damson, raspberry and redcurrant flavours. Fresh and fruit filled with vivid fruit flavours and soft, subtle tannins to give balance. This is a wine to enjoy now, even slightly chilled if you prefer. Enjoy now through to 2014.



Finca CONSTANCIA Parcela 23 Tempranillo 2009, Castilla, Spain 14% ES0929R £8.99

The Castilla region, south east of Madrid is fast carving out a reputation for exciting innovative wines from ultra-modern wineries. Following its purchase by Gonzales Byass, Finca Constancia is a case in point. Substantial investment in the winery has enabled the estate to make the most of its elevated vineyards, nearly 500m above sea level. These are planted to a mix of varieties according to the soils and aspect but Parcela 23 is a special release from a single Tempranillo vineyard. The grapes were hand harvested, fermented in stainless steel and the wine aged in a mixture of new French and American oak barrels. Winemaker Cesar Fernandez then made a selection of the best casks and the resulting wine won a Gold Medal at the Concours Mondial in Bruxelles. Even more remarkable is that this quality can be enjoyed for just £8.99 a bottle!

Very deep almost opaque dark red colour with aromas of cherry, damson and vanilla spice. Ripe blackberry, cherry and plum flavours with notes of creamy vanilla. Soft and supple and very drinkable. The finish is long and sweetly-fruited with aromatic life. Enjoy to 2014.

Finca LOS PRIMOS Torrontes 2011, San Rafael, Argentina 12.5% AR1101W £8.49



This is a great new arrival in the Finca Los Primos range from Valentin Bianchi. The family has 350 ha of vineyards in the San Rafael wine region, a county within Mendoza province and some 150 miles south of Mendoza city. Established in 1927 the winery is now run by the founder's grandson also called Valentin. After focusing for many years of the domestic market, Bianchi has transformed itself into a modern innovative producer. Their vineyards are at the comparatively cool altitude of over 2000 feet which makes them perfect for aromatic varieties such as Torrontes. This indigenous white variety has a distinctive perfume which is combined in the best examples with an attractive richness and refreshing acidity.

Light straw colour. Ripe peach and honey aromas with floral notes, especially rose petals. Medium bodied with a surprisingly rich, textured mouthfeel. Flavours of nectarine, lychee, honey and refreshing grapefruit notes with a hint of spice. Finishes long and dry with a delicate floral lift. This is a lively, attractive wine to enjoy to 2014.

PORTA dos CAVALEIROS Tinto 2006, Dao, Portugal 12.5% PO0246R £8.49



Porta dos Cavaleiros (Gate of the Knights) is produced by Caves Sao Joao, a family owned winery established in 1920 by three brothers, José, Manuel and Albano Costa. It is situated at Avelãs de Caminho in Bairrada but the grapes for this wine come from the Dao region. As is often the case in Portugal the vineyard is planted to a range of grape varieties, mostly Touriga Nacional (40%), Alfrocheiro (25%) and Aragones (25%). The dry climate and granitic soils produce wines that are robust and uncompromising in their youth, but blossom over time to reveal impressive character and complexity. Mature wines are rare and usually expensive, which makes this example even more remarkable and a must try.

Lovely complex aromas of autumn fruits, cigar box, tobacco leaf and exotic spices. Very smooth, elegant damson, mulberry and prune flavours with hints of cinnamon and fig. Aromatic spicy notes come through on the finish to nicely round off this medium-bodied, food-friendly wine. Refreshingly different. Enjoy now to 2014.

Stephane Vedeau 'Famille Lube' 2010, Cotes du Ventoux, France 14% FR4310R £8.49



In his search for vines with age and altitude winemaker Stephane Vedeau came across a vineyard of 50 year old vines in the hills near Carpentras, east of Chateaufort-du-Pape. The mix of Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault vines looked ideal, planted on south-east facing terraces at around 300m. The 7ha vineyard was owned by the Lubé family and after a round of negotiations Stephane was able to rent the entire vineyard from the 2008 harvest. This has allowed Stephane to manage the vines throughout the year and not just at harvest. His first vintage proved simply too good to 'lose' in a generic blend and so Stephane took the decision to release the wine under its own label. Since there is no Domaine or Chateau it is simply Cotes du Ventoux but in terms of character and flavour this is another remarkable wine from this star winemaker.

Youthful red/purple colour. Lively, spicy aromas with notes of damson and black cherry. Raspberry, cherry and plum flavours with freshness and silky tannins. Ripe yet savoury character with good ripeness and lovely mouthfeel. Finishes long and slightly spicy. Drink to 2014.

FREE DELIVERY: Make up your own 12 bottle case from any combination of these six New Releases and get free delivery