

THE WALNUT TREE WINES

We list what we taste and like, not trying to be comprehensive, and favouring artisan winemakers. The wines are grouped:

ESSENTIAL. Varietal based, available by-the-glass, and in 35cl. (about a half-bottle) carafes.

CORE. Shining stars that are good value too.

CLASSIC. Mostly top-end, but not exclusively.

We offer you too, some interesting wines from my old stamping ground, Gidleigh Park in Devon, kept by Paul Henderson. I purchased a few bottles from him, they are marked... ** in this list,

Santé, Shaun.

WINE SERVICE

Wine service in restaurants can be a bit elaborate. Not here. We offer you a taste to check the condition, pour a small glass for each diner and then we leave you to it.

SUGGESTED APERITIFS

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Morton Reserve Sec. NV | 12.5cl glass: £4.5 |
| New Zealand fizz. Dry rather than brut. Cracking estate. | |
| Peach Royal. | 12.5cl glass: £4.5 |
| Morton sparkling wine with a little peach liqueur. Bellini-like. | |
| Champagne Hubert Laurent. NV | 12.5cl glass: £6 |
| Smooth mature style, from the respected Jacquart estates. | |
| Framboise Royale. | 12.5cl glass: £6 |
| Champagne with a dash of raspberry liqueur. | |
| Kir. | 17.5cl glass: £5 |
| Dry white wine with a little blackcurrant liqueur. | |
| Chambère/Chambèryzette. | £4 |
| The original light vermouths from the French Savoie. Chambère is dry, and Chambèryzette medium-dry, flavoured with wild strawberries. | |
| Shanatuga. | £4 |
| Non-alcoholic mix of fruit juices with grenadine and lime. | |

list design and notes, and several wines:
Robin Jones, Croque-en-Bouche, Ledbury.
01531 670809 www.croque.co.uk 08/10d

SPARKLING

- 01 **Morton Reserve Sec NV** £22
 12.5cl glass: £4.5
 New Zealand. Dry rather than brut and a fine apéritif. Classic grape mix of pinot noir and chardonnay. Cracking estate.
- 02 **Rosato Spumante Sec NV** £22
 N.E. Italy. Dry, fragrant fizz from the home of Prosecco. Local wine rules don't allow for pink stuff, but it is 'Prosecco' really!
- 03 **Innocent Bystander Pink Moscato NV** Half: £11
 South Australia. Here's a bit of pink frothy fun. Low in alcohol (5.5%) with 'Turkish Delight' notes. Start with it, or drink with pud.
- 04 **St.-Péray Mousseux NV** £28
 France, Northern Rhône. Oddball sparkler. Full-on flavours with citrus edge.
- 05 **Champagne Hubert Laurent NV** £32
 12.5cl glass: £6
 N.E. France. Our house champagne has a smooth mature style. Good value from the respected Jacquart estates.
- 06 **Charles Melton Sparkling Red 2005.** £48
 South Australia. Fizzy red! May seem odd to some but cult stuff in Australia, and not cheap. 100% shiraz, rich and supple. A classy apéritif, but also very good with cheese (and chocolate!)
- 07 **Champagne Gosset Grande Reserve NV** £49
 Half: £27
 N.E. France. The oldest, and smallest, of the great houses. Well-aged complexity, but flavours still zingy fresh.
- 08 **Champagne Roederer Brut NV** £50
 N.E. France. A top property. Toasty and flavoursome.
- 09 **Champagne Gosset Grand Rosé NV** £55
 N.E. France. The perfect rosé style, with a rounded style and concentrated flavours, and a long finish. Exemplary.

ESSENTIAL WHITE & ROSÉ

- 01 **Sauvignon Blanc** Fairfields 2009. £16
 17.5cl glass: £4 25cl glass: £5.7 35cl carafe: £8
 New Zealand, Marlborough. Crisp, very dry with a cool fruitiness.
- 02 **Pinot Grigio** Quercus 2008/9. (Goriška Brda) £18
 17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
 Slovenia. Full and dry. The vineyard is right on the Italian border.
- 03 **Chardonnay** Stimson 2007. (Ste. Michelle) £18
 17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
 USA, Washington State. Definitive rounded chardonnay character with a long flavour, from the Pacific Rim.
- 04 **Rosé** Domaine Coste 2009. £18
 17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
 France, Languedoc. A modern, fresh dry rosé.
- 05 **Viognier/Grenache** Domaine Coste 2007/8. £20

ESSENTIAL RED

- 05 **Tempranillo** Campo Nuevo 2009. £16
 17.5cl glass: £4 25cl glass: £5.7 35cl carafe: £8
 N. Spain, Navarra. Bright, fruity, soft Rioja-style from nearby area.
- 06 **Shiraz** Tyrrell's Moores Creek 2008/9. £18
 17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
 South Australia. Typically big Aussie style, with a pleasant roundness.
- 07 **Merlot** Stimson 2007. (Ste. Michelle) £18
 17.5cl glass: £4.5 25cl glass: £6.4 35cl carafe: £9
 USA, Washington State. Not overtly fruity, more restrained in a 'St. Emilion' way. And a very good way too.
- 08 **Cabernet sauvignon** MAN Vintners 2008/9. £20
 17.5cl glass: £5 25cl glass: £7.1 35cl carafe: £10
 South Africa. Smooth, ripe style with plenty of flavour, and a dry claret-like finish. Regular claret does not match it!

ROSE WINE

- 121 **Domaine de Millet Rosé 2009.** £20
France, Gascogne. Very fruity, softly dry. Good summer apéritif.
- 122 **Willi Opitz Reserve Rosé 2008.** £28
Austria. Juicy, aromatic, suggestion of strawberry. Maverick winemaker, but highly respected.
- 123 **Domaine Vignelaure Rosé 2007.** £29
France, Provence. Top-ranking estate. Dry, and curvaceous!

CORE WHITE

- 10 **Etim Blanc 2005/6.** £22
N.E. Spain, Monsant. Modern, dry characterful white.
- 11 **Morton Pinot Grigio 2007.** £23
New Zealand, Hawkes Bay. Unusual, smooth, quite full and spicy.
- 12 **Picpoul de Pinet 2009. (Gaujal)** £23
Southern France. Old grape: picpoul. Light, dry and fresh.
- 13 **Vermentino Di Sardegna 2009. (Pala)** £23
Italy, Sardinia. Dry, bright with a touch of refreshing spritz.
- 14 **Saint Clair Sauvignon Blanc 2009.** £24
New Zealand, Marlborough. A really piercing, super-dry style from one the world's finest winemakers, Matt Thomson.
- 15 **Condesa Eylo Verdejo 2007/8.** £24
N. Spain, Rueda. Dry, fresh, modern with real *machismo*.
- 16 **Cazal Vieil Reserve Viognier 2008.** £25
France, Languedoc. Sweet peachy nose; bold, dry, fruity flavours.
- 17 **La Segreta Bianco 2009. (Planeta)** £25
Italy, Sicily. Fresh flavours with a lovely smooth finish. Chardonnay and local grenacico. Superb estate.
- 18 **Viñas del Vero 'Coleccion' chardonnay 2007.** £25
N. Spain, Somontano. Full, dry. Hint of oak tho' so well balanced.

- 20 **Sauvignon Blanc de St. Bris 2008. (Brocard)** £26
Central France. Saint Bris sits (geographically and stylistically) between Sancerre and Chablis. Lean, very dry; a top guy.
- 19 **Jurançon Sec 2008. (Domaine de Lahargue)** £26
France, Pyrenean foothills. Fresh, crisp with a spicy edge.
- 21 **Domaine de l'Oratoire St-Martin 2008/9.** £26
France, Rhône. A Côtes du Rhône-Villages mix of white Châteauneufy grapes. Dry, silky with pear/quince tones.
- 22 **Riesling Spätlese Halptrocken 2007. (Rauen)** £26
Germany. Softly dry and light, but with gorgeous gentle fruit.
- 23 **Vondeling Babiana 2005.** £27
South Africa. Classy dry wine. Zesty chenin blanc with viognier.
- 24 **Spy Valley Riesling 2008.** £27
New Zealand, Marlborough. Aromatic, softly dry and fresh.
- 25 **Tangent Pinot Blanc 2006.** £29
California. Really classy! Full, aromatic, but zingy too.
- 26 **Grüner Veltliner Federspiel 2008. (Donabaum)** £31
Austria, national grape. Aromatic, punchy dryness. A1 grower.
- 27 **Saintsbury Chardonnay 2006/7.** £34
Half: £18.5
USA, California, Carneros. Full, dry, balanced, buttery, tad oak.

CLASSIC WHITE

- 32 **Muscadet Domaine La Quilla 2008/9.** £23
France, Loire Valley. Bone-dry, refreshing; matured *sur lie*.
- 33 **Vouvray les Roussières 2006. (Raimbault)** £24
France, Loire. That softly dry style the French call '*sec tendre*'.
- 34 **Gewürztraminer 2007. (Kuehn)** £25
France, Alsace. Off-dry, overtly grapey. Matches spicy flavours.
- 35 **Mâcon-Fuissé 2007/8. (Thibert)** £26
Half: £14.5
France, Burgundy. Smooth chardonnay, no oak.

MORE CLASSIC WHITE

- 32 Muscadet Domaine La Quilla 2008/9. £23
France, Loire Valley. Bone-dry, refreshing; matured *sur lie*.
- 33 Vouvray les Roussières 2006. (Raimbault) £24
France, Loire. That softly dry style the French call '*sec tendre*'.
- 34 Gewürztraminer 2007. (Kuehn) £25
France, Alsace. Off-dry, overtly grapey. Matches spicy flavours.
- 35 Mâcon-Fuissé 2007/8. (Thibert) £26
Half: £14.5
France, Burgundy. Smooth chardonnay, no oak.
- 36 Riesling les Princes Abbés 2006. (Schlumberger) £27
France, Alsace. Clean dry style with focused concentration.
- 37 Saint Véran 2007/8. (Domaine Perraud) £28
France, Burgundy. Pouilly-Fuissé *wannabee*. Young Jean-Christophe Perraud makes punchy chardonnay!
- 38 Capellania Rioja Reserva 2004. (Murrieta) £28
N.E. Spain. Traditional white rioja. Harmonious and smooth with a touch of oak/dried fruit notes. Still fresh, no hint of ageing.
- 39 Chablis 'Vieilles Vignes' 2007. (Ch. de Maligny) £29
France, Burgundy. Fine dry chardonnay.
- 40 Pouilly-Fumé 2008/9. (Pabiot) £29
Half: £16
France, Loire. Bone-dry sauvignon blanc.
- 41 Riesling Kabinett Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2004. (J. J. Prum) £33
Germany. Aromatic, quite dry but very soft.
- 42 Crozes-Hermitage 'Mule Blanche' 2008. £35
France, Rhône. Spicy, full, dry. From legendary Jaboulet estate.
- 43 Soave Classico 'La Rocca' 2006/7. (Pieropan) £37
Italy, Veneto. Shocking price for Soave? But this is a '*Numero Uno*' Italian white. Opulent, dry and flavour-rich. A revelation.

PUDDING WINE

- Eiswein - Spatburgunder Weissherbst 2004. (Biegler-Müller) 10cl. Glass: £6
Germany, Mosel. Sweet, though not heavy; made from very ripe grapes harvested frozen in the early morning. Gently (and quickly!) pressed to release the concentrated sweet nectar but leave the ice crystals. Rare stuff.
- Willi Opitz 'Cuvée Beerenauslese' 2007. 10cl. Glass: £6
Austria. Very sweet, but fresh and light too. Sort-of honey and melon?
- Banyuls L'Etoile 1999. 10cl. Glass: £5
Southern France. Grenache grape. A distant relation of Port. Sweet red *vin doux naturel*.
- Dow's 10-year old Tawny Port. 10cl. Glass: £5
Quinta da Noval 20-year old Tawny Port. 10cl. Glass: £8
Portugal. Old tawnies are the favourites of the producers. Profound nutty richness from top houses.
- Matusalem 30-year old Sherry. 10cl. Glass: £8
Majestic, intense, quite sweet cream sherry, with a raisiny finish. Drink with puds that are not too sweet.
- I Capitelli 2006. (Roberto Anselmi) Half: £32
Italy, Veneto. Sweet, golden, complex beauty. Think very ripe apricots and pears together. Legendary winemaker.
- Innocent Bystander Pink Moscato NV Half: £11
South Australia. Here's a bit of pink frothy fun. Low in alcohol (5.5%) with 'Turkish Delight' notes. Enough for three glasses.
- Tokay Cuvée Clarisse 1989. (Schlumberger) £140
Sweet Alsace tokay is very rare. And in this exemplary year beyond trockenbeerenauslese in ripeness, Age has softened it.

CORE REDS

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| 50 | Côtes-du-Rhône 'St. Esprit' 2007. (Delas) | £23 | |
| | France, Rhône. Smooth strength. Junior stuff but good producer. | | |
| 51 | Candela 1884 Malbec 2007. (Escorihuela) | £23 | |
| | Argentina. Their best grape makes meaty red, and this one has a nice roundness of flavour too. | | |
| 52 | Tyrrell's Cabernet/Merlot 2005. | Half: £11.5 | |
| | South Australia. Smooth mature flavour from fine family growers. | | |
| 53 | Barbera Briccotondo 2008. (Fontanafredda) | £24 | |
| | Italy, Piedmont. Super-smooth, packed with fruity flavours. Excellent value for such a prestigious wine region. | | |
| 54 | Chocalan Reserva Cabernet Franc 2006/7. | £24 | |
| | Chile. Unusual grape, here with a smooth, ripe, classy style. | | |
| 55 | Morgon. Côte de Py 2006. (Savoie) | £25 | |
| | France, Beaujolais. The most savoury of the Beaujolais crus. | | |
| 56 | Château Grande Cassagne 2007. | £25 | |
| | France, Costières du Nimes. Traditional Côtes-du-Rhône style. Lean, dry but a good punchy flavour base. | | |
| 57 | Santa Rita Medalla Real Cabernet 2006. | £26 | |
| | Chile. Dark, dry, muscular. Real concentration. Reserve cuvée. | | |
| 58 | Saint Clair Merlot 2007. | £26 | |
| | New Zealand. Upfront New World merlot from a top grower. Bright fruit, but substance too. | | |
| 59 | Churchill Estate Red 2006. | £26 | |
| | Portugal. Polished Bordeaux style with a rounded finish. An innovative still red wine from a progressive Port house. | | |
| 60 | Zweigelt 2006/8. (Esterházy) | £26 | |
| 61 | Pinot Noir 2008. (Esterházy) | £28 | |
| | Austria. Light but lots of bright fruity character. The pinot's very Burgundian; zweigelt(Austrian speciality), more Bordeaux. | | |
| 62 | Chianti Castiglione 2007. (Frescobaldi) | Half: £13 | |
| | Italy, Tuscany. Fine berry aroma and flavour. Full and rounded. | | |
| 63 | Innocent Bystander Pinot Noir 2006/9. | £27 | |
| | South Australia. Star winemaker Phil Sexton works his magic on this difficult grape. Ultra-smooth and fruity, cool red. | | |
| 64 | Abadia Retuerta Selección Especial 2006/7. | £29 | |
| | N. Spain, Sardon del Duero. Tempranillo, cabernet, merlot. Solid ripe flavours demonstrate pukka winemaking. A Hill favourite. | | |
| 65 | Ceresuolo de Vittoria 2006/8. (Planeta) | £29 | |
| | Italy, Sicily. Ripe aroma, silky tannins and a fruity finish. | | |
| 66 | Jim Barry 'The Lodge Hill' Shiraz 2005. | £30 | |
| | South Australia, Clare Valley. Mature but still muscular with warm dark fruit, you have to love it! Outstanding Aussie estate. | | |
| 67 | Chinon Clos de Noyer 2006/8. | £31 | |
| | France, Loire Valley. Dark, supple cabernet franc grape. | | |
| 68 | Palazzo della Torre 2006/7. (Allegrini) | £31 | |
| | Italy, Verona. Allegrini is stonking good. Think posh Pomerol. | | |
| 69 | Insoglio del Cinghiale 2006. (Tenuta di Biserno) | £31 | |
| | Italy, Tuscan coast. Modern cabernet/merlot. Dark, deep, roll-around-the-mouth flavours. | | |
| 70 | Plexus 2006. (Duval) | £36 | |
| | Australia, Barossa Valley. Smooth, super-ripe. Shiraz, grenache, mourvèdre in a Châteauneuf way. John Duval used to make Grange! | | |
| 71 | Charles Melton Nine Popes 2005/6. | £39 | |
| | S. Australia. Plush, velvety Oz take on Châteauneuf (same grapes). | | |
| 72 | Willi Opitz Reserve Pinot Noir 2008. | £45 | |
| | Austria. Juicy, silky, bit of oak. Opitz is a maverick winemaker, but highly respected. | | |
| 73 | Au Bon Climat 'Sandford & Benedict' Pinot Noir 1998.** | £45 | |
| | USA, California, South Coast. Mature and polished. | | |
| 74 | Baron D'Arques Haute Vallée de l'Aude 1998.** | £46 | |
| | S. France. Very posh <i>vin de pays</i> from the Rothschild stable. Dark, rich bouquet and flavours with a firm mature finish. | | |
| 75 | Felton Road Pinot Noir 2006/7. | £56 | |
| | New Zealand, Central Otago. Bright and lively, with sweet fruit. | | |
| 76 | Long Meadow Ranch Cabernet 2000.** | £59 | |
| | USA, California, Napa. Top boutique winery. Dry but opulent style. | | |

CLASSIC REDS

- 80 Faiveley Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2006. £26
France, Burgundy. Solid traditional red burgundy character.
- 81 Château La Grande Clotte 2005. £27
France, Bordeaux, Lussac St. Emilion. Supple fruity style.
- 82 Baron de Ley Gran Reserva Rioja 1998. £29
N.E. Spain, tempranillo. Restrained power, smooth integrated oak. Nice mix of tradition and modern winemaking skills.
- 83 Buitenverwachting Christine 2006. £29
South Africa. A famous, rare red. Ultra-smooth. Outdoes Bordeaux with a similar grape style.
- 84 Gigondas 2005/6. (Guigal) £30
Half: £16.5
France, S. Rhône. Deceptively smooth with a peppered richness from the next-door neighbour to Châteauneuf.
- 85 St. Aubin premier crû 2006. (Lamy Pillot) £33
France, Burgundy. Firm pinot noir from the Côte de Beaune.
- 86 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2007. £35
(Domaine de Nalys) Half: £19
France, S. Rhône. Typically big meaty, alcoholic red.
- 87 Bandol Château de Pibarnon 2002. £39
France, Provence. Solid and luscious at the same time. Top-ranking estate in the region.
- 88 Crozes-Hermitage 2006/7. £39
(Domaine Hauts Chassis) 2005 Half: £21
N. Rhône. Meaty syrah(shiraz). Rock-solid ripe, dark red.
- 89 Chambolle-Musigny 2006. (Boisset) £46
France, Burgundy. Progressive grower, warm traditional pinot noir.
- 90 Nuits-St.-Georges premier crû 2001/2. £54
(Domaine de l'Arlet) Half: £29
France, Burgundy. Modern pinot noir. Rich fruit; star grower.
- 91 D'Arenburg The Dead Arm Shiraz 2000. £60
South Australia, McLaren Vale. Packed with chewy dark fruit, a big wine nicely softening now. An Aussie great!
- 92 Sagrantino di Montefalco 1996. (Caprai)** £66
Italy, Umbria. Powerful red, highly-rated, nicely mature.

- 93 Côte Rôtie La Landonne 1994. (Rostaing) £66
France, Rhône. Classic syrah (shiraz) from one of France's best vineyards in a good year. Rich and soft, but with backbone.
- 94 Madiran Château Montus Cuvée Prestige 1995.** £70
South-West France. Mature, but still a big wine, that's needed its years. Muscular not fat, deep colour. Concentrated.
- 95 Hermitage La Chapelle 1996. (Jaboulet)** £76
France, Rhône. Dark broody syrah (shiraz), only just mature now. Lovely balance of tannins and fruit from a star estate.
- 96 Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon 1992. £88
South Australia, Eden Valley. Maturity has softened this wine; warm and supple. Henschke is a world top five grower!
- 97 Ridge Monte Bello 1997.** £90
USA, California, Central Coast. Lithe cabernet-dominant blend, just mature. One of California's top wines.
- 98 Barolo Le Vigne 1996. (Luciano Sandrone)** £148
Italy, Piedmont. The 'modern Italian' style. Chewy and massive, but full of ripe fruit. And still tastes young after 13 years in bottle!

DIGESTIVES

- Armagnac. Casterède 10 years. £5
Armagnac. Marcel Trépout 30 years. £9
Cognac. Ragnaud-Sabourin VSOP. £5
Cognac. Ragnaud-Sabourin alliance No. 35 £9
Cognac. Delamain 'Pale & Dry' £8
Calvados. Groult 15 years. £5
Poire William eau-de-vie. (Miclo/Trimbach) £4
Framboise eau-de-vie. (Trimbach) £4
Grappa di Tignanello. (Antinori) £5