



## **Wine Talk: October 2009**

The newsletter of Terroir Wines: Edition 8

**Welcome to the October edition of Wine Talk, Terroir Wines' newsletter. During September we ran Loire regional tastings in Melbourne and Launceston and have been delighted with the reaction to our new Loire wines. It's been so good that some have sold out already. We've had to place a new order and have replacement stock leaving France early this month.**

**We have six special packs this month. These special packs have a 15% discount instead of a 10% discount so if you order a special pack you really are getting a special deal (not that a 10% discount and free freight on your own selection isn't a good arrangement too)!**

### **Exploring Cabernet Franc 6 Pack**

Our grape variety of the month is the red grape Cabernet Franc (see related story in this newsletter) so we have assembled a pack of Cabernet Franc-based wines. Some are pure Cab Franc and some are blends.

1 Domaine Stéphane Guion Bourgueil "Cuvée Prestige" 2006

1 Domaine Mosse Anjou "Bois-Rouge" 2007

1 Domaine de la Garreliere Touraine "Cinabre" 2007

1 Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine "Le Rouge" 2007

1 Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendéens "Cabaret" 2006

1 Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendéens "Reflets" 2007

We have started the exploration of Cabernet Franc in Bourgueil, an appellation that lies to the west of the city of Tours, with the amazingly good value wines of Stéphane Guion. This domaine was one of the first in the Loire to turn to organic viticulture way back in 1965. We have also just heard that the 2006 Cuvée Prestige has been named by the Revue du Vin de France in their list of Best Wines of France for 2010!



*Guion has been organic since 1965*



*In the ancient village of Benais where Stéphane lives and works*

We also have also included a blend from Domaine Mosse (the Bois-Rouge), which is a Vin de Table. It's 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Cabernet Franc. This is the baby brother, coming from the same vines, of the thrilling Anjou Rouge that is receiving such positive comments at our wine tastings. The Bois-Rouge is a lovely food wine and shows that the Vin de Table designation can include many very good wines.

From Domaine de la Garreliere in the Touraine (south of the city of Tours near the village of Richelieu) we have two biodynamic Cabernet Franc wines, their "Cinabre" and their "Le Rouge". These are lively fruit-driven wines of great charm.

We also have two interesting wines from Domaine Saint Nicolas from the Fiefs Vendéens appellation close to the Atlantic coast. Their "Cabaret" is 100% Cabernet Franc and their "Reflets" is a blend that includes 20% Cabernet Franc.

**The price for this pack is \$155, including freight (our RRP is normally \$183).**

## Wine on the Wild Side 2 Pack

Domaine du Moulin's Cour Cheverny Acacias Blanc 2006, which is made from Romorantin, is definitely wine on the wild side. The tiny Cour Cheverny appellation is the only place in France where Romorantin is grown and chances are you'll either love or hate this wine. If you try it, it's unlikely you won't have a strong opinion one way or the other. It's slightly oxidised, noticeably unfiltered and has a slightly salty tang. One of our customers (who, unlike his wife, liked it) compared it with a manzanilla and we also see some similarities between it and the Jura's nutty vin jaunes. That sits it firmly in aperitif territory, to be enjoyed with robust flavours. But, there's always a risk you'll take one mouthful and not want another. So, if you want to play a game of wine Russian roulette with your palate we've put together a two pack; an opportunity for a brief dalliance rather than a major commitment.

**The price for this pack is \$68, including freight (our RRP is normally \$80).**

## Mixed Whites 6 Pack

This pack contains a selection of affordable whites from the south of France and the Loire. It has one each of:

### From the Loire:

#### **1 Domaine St Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens "Les Clous" 2008**

A salty, seductive blend of Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay with a little Groslot gris (10%). This wine is perfect with seafood, especially oysters.

#### **1 Domaine St Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens "Cuvee Franc" 2006**

100% Chenin Blanc and aged in foudres (large old oak vats, see photo below) for 12 months. Fascinating.

#### **1 Domaine de la Garreliere Touraine "Cendrillon" 2008**

A blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Chardonnay. 30% of the Sauvignon Blanc has spent some time in 500 litre oak barrels. The essence of the Loire.

#### **1 Domaine du Moulin Cheverny Blanc 2008**

A blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Chardonnay. Light, supple and delicious, this is a perfect wine for sipping in the sun on a lazy weekend.

### From Provence:

#### **1 Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône "La Moursanne" 2006**

A blend of Roussanne, Viognier and Marsanne. Drinking beautifully right now. The vineyard is in the quaint area called the Enclave des Papes to the north east of Orange.

#### **1 Château Unang Côtes du Ventoux "Cuvee Adeline" 2006**

A blend of Roussanne and Clairette, with one fifth of the Roussanne aged in new oak. A classic wine. The vineyard is in a beautiful location at the mouth of the Nesque Gorge with sweeping views of Mont Ventoux.

**The price for this pack is \$153, including freight (our RRP is normally \$180).**



*Ancient vats at Domaine Saint Nicolas – no new oak taste from these beauties!*

### Instant Age 6 Pack

At many of the domaines we represent, they hold back wines that benefit from aging for a couple of years before release. We also still have a small number of wines that we bought last year, all of which have been held in temperature controlled storage since they arrived. You can benefit from that in this good-value 6 pack of reds, all of which are from the 2004 and 2005 vintages!

- 1 Saint Jean du Barroux Côtes du Ventoux Oligocence 2004
- 1 Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône Village Valreas 2005
- 1 Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône Village Visan 2005
- 1 Château Unang Côtes du Ventoux La Croix 2004
- 1 Château Unang Côtes du Ventoux La Croix 2005
- 1 Domaine de Cascavel Côtes du Ventoux Cuvee les Amidyves 2004

**The price for this pack is \$196.35, including freight (our RRP is normally \$231).**

### The 'I Can't Afford Châteauneuf-du-Pape' 6 Pack

This pack contains three bottles of white wine and three bottles of red wine that might just be a suitable substitute if you like drinking Châteauneuf-du-Papes.

Our 'I can't Afford C-d-P' white is a **Saint Jean du Barroux Côtes du Ventoux 2006**, a blend (in equal proportion) of Grenache Blanc, Clairette, and Bourboulenc grapes. Writing in August 2008, Brad Coelho ([unidentifiedappellation.blogspot.com](http://unidentifiedappellation.blogspot.com)) said "Philippe Gimel, an unassuming, yet passionately dedicated producer from the humble Cotes du Ventoux appellation, has crafted astonishing reds and, perhaps more interestingly, a low yielding, stony soil driven white wine that marries 'blending grapes' in a similar vein as a baby Clos des Papes [our note: one of the best Châteauneuf-du-Pape producers]. His wines are unfiltered and beautiful representations of a terroir that almost no one knows about. Profile aside, if Saint Jean du Barroux can evolve like Clos des Papes, this gem may turn into a honeyed, Meursault-like beauty just like Clos des Papes does...and its modest tariff (though obscure distribution)

seems ripe for the cellar's pickin' ...if you can find any, decant the hell out of it and see what happens."

Our 'I can't afford C-d-P' red is the **Catherine Le Goeuil Cotes du Rhone Villages Cairanne Cuvee Lea Felsch 2006**. It's made from Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, Carignan, Cinsault and Counoise – 6 of the allowable 13 grape varieties for Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Her American importer is the renowned Kermit Lynch (author of the inspirational *Adventures on the Wine Route* and all round Renaissance man) and he's just said this about her most recent vintage (2007): "Ask one of my staff what they think of this new arrival. At our tasting it blew us away. Some of you might appreciate knowing that if Châteauneuf-du-Pape has gotten too expensive for you, here, try this close relative. Nose ripe and decadent; wild thyme, stones, and loads of Grenache fruit; chewy, concentrated, great tannins, palate-staining sensations, and just a whole lot of rock 'n' roll going on. There is also a rare quality that I'd like to see in more wines, something luxurious in the feel of it on the palate."

**The price for this pack is \$242.25, including freight (our RRP is normally \$285).**

### Spring Rosé 6 Pack

This year we're ready for daylight saving, spring and summer. We have plenty of supplies of the lovely Chateau Unang rosé that was so popular last year we ran out well before summer reached its height. So ... with your clocks turned forward and your smoke alarm battery changed, it's also time to equip yourself with 6 bottles of Chateau Unang 2007 Rosé.

**The price for this pack is \$122.40 including freight (our RRP is normally \$144).**

### News from Terroir Wines

The reaction to our latest shipment of wines has been overwhelming! We have been delighted with the feedback and delighted with the many positive comments we have received at the wine tastings we have been conducting.

At a tasting for a large group in East Malvern in Victoria recently the Domaine Mosse Anjou Rouge (a Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc blend) was a favourite of many, as was the Domaine Saint Nicolas Les Clous (a delicate Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay and Groslot Gris blend).

A tasting of Pinot Noir blends at the Pinot Shop in Launceston saw the lively Pinot Noir/Gamay blend from Domain du Moulin "Les Ardilles" snapped up by the participants. Between them they ordered all the remaining stock! The 100% Pinot Noir Domain Chotard Sancerre "Champ de l'Archer" also sold out at that tasting. In fact the reaction to Daniel's wines has been overwhelming so we have ordered another immediate shipment. We are happy about this because Daniel is such a genuine winemaker and a gentle man. He deserves the accolades he is receiving.

We have arranged for another shipment to be immediately sent out from France to replace the lines that have sold out and it is leaving Le Havre next week so should arrive in mid-November. This shipment will also include some of the latest vintage of the delicious white and red wines from Chateau Unang and some more Domaine du Moulin and Domaine Mosse natural wines.

### Tasting at the Wursthau Kitchen in Hobart

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October we will be offering a chance for Tasmanians to sample some of our new wines from the Loire Valley. Drop in from late morning to mid-afternoon. Sue and Roger will

be there to talk about the wines and the family-run, mainly organic and biodynamic wines on offer.

## Latest News from Saint Jean du Barroux

In previous newsletters we have raved about the two special wines that we sell from Saint Jean du Barroux vineyard.

Click on the link below to read Philippe Gimel's latest newsletter. It's too late for this year but you'll notice that Philippe does welcome pickers at his beautiful vineyard. His next newsletter, which we're expecting late in October, should have news of the harvest and most recent bottlings.

[http://www.terroirwines.com.au/wines/Barrouxnews\\_No7\\_September\\_2009.pdf](http://www.terroirwines.com.au/wines/Barrouxnews_No7_September_2009.pdf)

## Vicarious Visit to Domaine Saint Nicolas

### *Why we love Thierry Michon's Domaine Saint Nicolas wines*

Click on the link below to watch a fantastic short video made at Domaine Saint Nicolas a couple of weeks ago, just before harvest, by Thierry Michon's American importer. Listen to Thierry's explanation of how his vineyard management ensures that his wines are able to withstand summer heat and his commitment to 'terroir' and discover his vineyard 'La Grande Pièce', the source of our 'La Grande Pièce' Pinot Noir.

<http://tinyurl.com/yCSln29>

And here's another on how Thierry eats oysters. It's with Domaine Saint Nicolas "Les Clous" 2008 of course but not entirely in the way you might expect:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8er437>

## Grape Variety of the month: Cabernet Franc

Cabernet Franc is an important red grape in some areas of France. It is also a very influential grape, being one of the parents of the famous Cabernet Sauvignon grape that has become an iconic grape for red wine production in most wine producing countries including France, Italy, Australia and the United States.

DNA testing of Cabernet Franc was conducted in 1997<sup>1</sup> and this proved that Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc were the genetic parents of Cabernet Sauvignon.

The two main areas where Cabernet Franc flourishes is the Bordeaux area in south west France and along the Loire Valley from around the city of Tours through to the Atlantic Coast where it is found in the Fiefs Vendéens appellation that hugs the ocean below the city of Nantes.

Cabernet Franc is regarded in Bordeaux as a minor adjunct to the more tannic and aggressive Cabernet Sauvignon. However some domains give it more prominence and up to 60% of the iconic reds from Domaine Cheval Blanc can be Cabernet Franc.

In the Loire region, however, it tends to be preferred over Cabernet Sauvignon especially in appellations such as St Nicolas de Bourgueil (where it was introduced by Cardinal Richelieu in the 17<sup>th</sup> century), Bourgueil and Touraine.

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<sup>1</sup> Bowers and Meredith The parentage of a classic wine grape: Cabernet Sauvignon. Nature Genetics 16, 84-87, 1997.

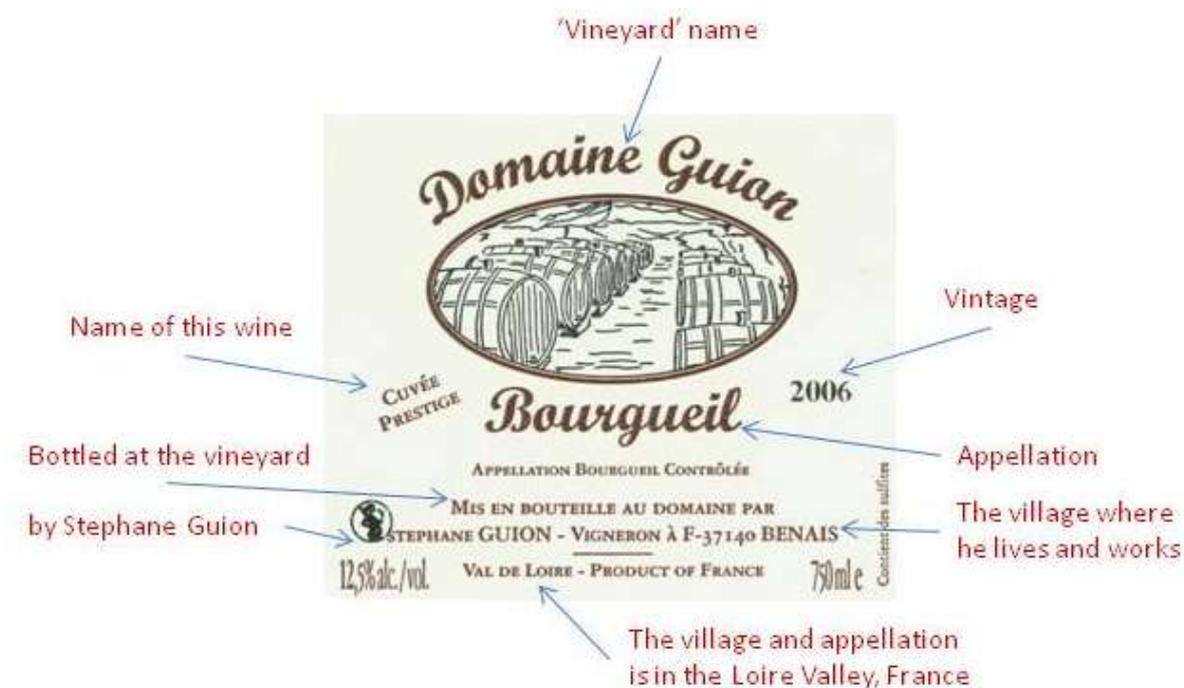
Here they are passionate about the alluring perfumes that waft up from wines made from this grape. They also love the softness of the tannins that are a relief from the tight aggressiveness of those from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. The wines provide an initial hint of ripe raspberries crossed with the taste of a sucking on a river pebble plucked fresh from a mountain stream.

## French Wine Labels Explained

This month we have used one of the wine labels from the Cabernet Franc six pack to explain a little more about French wine appellations.

We are lucky to represent Domaine Guion in Australia. This is a family-owned organic vineyard in the village of Benais in the Loire Valley not too far from Tours. The vineyard is owned by the mild-mannered Stéphane Guion whose family has been maintaining the vineyard organically since 1965!

This wine has been made from 100% Cabernet Franc. It has almost a raspberry characteristic when you try it by itself and exhibits lovely soft tannins making it a perfect match for lamb chops or roast chicken or just drinking for pleasure.



We would describe this wine as a Domaine Guion Bourgueil Cuvée Prestige 2006. Notice that we mention the domaine or vineyard first, then the appellation then the name of the particular wine and then the vintage. Sometimes we also say whether it is red or white, however since vineyards in the Bourgueil appellation are only permitted to produce red wines this would be redundant.

As we mentioned above, this wine was named as one of the Best Wines of France 2010 by the Revue du Vin de France, which says "These are not fashionable wines, due to the dynamic acidity, but for those who love the flavours of terroir they are a priority discovery... that are a credit to the Loire".

In France the grape variety is unlikely to be mentioned on wine lists so if you like Cabernet Franc it's worth remembering the Loire appellations of Bourgueil and its neighbour St Nicolas de Bourgueil.

## Order Form

Name: .....

Street: .....

Suburb: ..... Postcode: ..... State: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Special - current newsletter selection	Price inc GST	Number	Sub-total
Spring Rosé 6 pack	\$122.40		
Exploring Cabernet Franc 6 pack	\$155.00		
Instant age pack	\$196.35		
Mixed whites 6 pack	\$153.00		
The 'I can't afford Chateauneuf-du-Pape' 6 pack	\$242.25		
Wine on the wild side – 2 pack	\$ 68.00		
Compose your own selection	Price per single bottle		
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux White 2007	\$20	SOLD OUT	
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux Cuvee Adeline White 2006	\$30		
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux Rosé 2007	\$24		
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux Red 2006	\$21	LIMITED	
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux La Source Red 2006	\$31		
Chateau Unang Côtes du Ventoux La Croix Red 2005	\$50		
Chateau Unang St Gabriel (Carignan) Red 2007	\$24		
Domaine de Cascavel Côtes du Ventoux Cuvee le Cascavel Red 2005	\$23	LIMITED	
Domaine de Cascavel Côtes du Ventoux les Amidyves Red 2004	\$32		
Caravinserrail In Fine Côtes du Ventoux Red 2007	\$17	LIMITED	
Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône White 2006	\$25	LIMITED	
Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône Red 2006	\$19		
Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône Villages Valreas Red 2005	\$28		
Domaine des Grands Devers Côtes du Rhône Villages Visan Red 2005	\$26		
St Jean du Barroux Cotes du Ventoux Oligocene Red 2004	\$55		
St Jean du Barroux Cotes du Ventoux White 2006	\$66		
Jean Marc Burgaud Morgon Les Charmes 2007	\$36	LIMITED	
Jean Marc Burgaud Morgon Côte du Py Reserve 2007	\$42	LIMITED	
Jean Marc Burgaud Morgon Côte du Py 2007	\$40		
Jean Marc Burgaud Morgon Côte du Py James 2007	\$57	SOLD OUT	
Jean Marc Burgaud Bull'Go sparkling	\$ 38.00	SOLD OUT	
Domaine Catherine Le Goeuil Cairanne Cuvee Lea Felsch 2006	\$29		

Domaine Mosse Anjou Le Rouchefer 2007	\$51		
Domaine Mosse Anjou Rouge 2007	\$42		
Domaine Mosse Savennieres Arena 2007	\$66	LIMITED	
Domaine Mosse Vin de Table Bois-Rouge 2007	\$30		
Daniel Chotard Sancerre Blanc 2008	\$35	SOLD OUT	
Daniel Chotard Sancerre Cuvee Marcel Henri 2007	\$45		
Daniel Chotard Sancerre Rouge Cuvee Champ de l'Archer 2007	\$45	SOLD OUT	
Daniel Chotard Sancerre Rouge 2007	\$37		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Les Clous Blanc 2008	\$32		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Reflets Rouge 2008	\$32		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Cuvee Franc Blanc 2006	\$39		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Le Haut des Clous Blanc 2006	\$53		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Cuvee Maria Blanc 2005	\$53		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Cabaret Rouge 2006	\$39		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Cuvee Jacques Rouge 2005	\$50		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens Le Poire Rouge 2005	\$55		
Domaine Saint Nicolas Fiefs Vendeens La Grande Piece Rouge 2004	\$70		
Domaine Stephane Guion Bourgueil Cuvee Domaine 2007	\$21	LIMITED	
Domaine Stephane Guion Bourgueil Cuvee Prestige 2006	\$23		
Domaine de la Garreliere Touraine Cendrillon 2008	\$30		
Domaine de la Garreliere Touraine Gamay Rouge 2007 (Gamay Sans Tra-La La)	\$29		
Domaine de la Garreliere Touraine Cuvee Cinabre 2007	\$32		
Domaine de la Garreliere Touraine Le Rouge 2007	\$27		
Domaine de Moulin Cour Cheverny Les Acacias Blanc 2006	\$40		
Domaine de Moulin Cheverny Domaine Blanc 2008	\$24		
Domaine de Moulin Cheverny Blanc La Bodice Blanc 2007	\$33		
Domaine de Moulin Cheverny Domaine Rouge 2008	\$24		
Domaine de Moulin Cheverny Les Ardilles Rouge 2007	\$37	SOLD OUT	
		Total	

Note: Please send your order to [wine@terroirwines.com.au](mailto:wine@terroirwines.com.au), post it to GPO Box 2160, Hobart, 7001, Tasmania or fax to 03 62247552. We will then contact you to discuss payment arrangements. You can pay by credit card, cheque or direct bank deposit. If you order wine in lots of 6 (they can be mixed) we will pay the freight charges anywhere in Australia. If freight costs apply, we'll contact you and let you know how much it will be is before processing your order.