

Falernian Tasting for the Hereford Fine Wine Society

Whites

Cousiño-Macul, Sauvignon Gris Maipo Valley, Chile £8.99

Light straw in colour this rare Sauvignon Gris has aromas of white peach and tangerine as well as scents of honeysuckle, ginger and star anise. Medium-full bodied it has a rich and smooth texture with oodles of tropical fruit and some hazelnut notes. A combination of spicy fruit and unusual silky texture makes it a fine choice to pair with a wide range of well-seasoned poultry, pork and veal dishes.

Alex Gamal, Chardonnay Bourgogne Blanc £13.99

"Our Bourgogne Chardonnay continues to come from several parcels located in Meursault, Puligny, the Haute Cote and now our parcel in Volnay. When we bought our parcels of Bourgogne last year I honestly thought that the Chardonnay parcel would be the "runt" of the lot. Little did I realize that we would get such lovely juice out of it. Our parcel, as well as the others is a mix of gravel, limestone and some clay that gives the wine its rich quality without it being heavy. As usual we vinified the wine in 10% new oak and we made ~690 cases"

Reds

San Mario Rosso di Puglia Negroamaro IGT Puglia £4.99

A deep, velvety red in colour and enormously attractive on the nose, with aromas of dark, bitter cherry and mature red fruit. The palate has all these flavours and more, with deliciously earthy fruit and a wonderful vein of acidity that prevents the wine from being too heavy or overpowering. Great complexity and length show why this wine has become so popular so quickly.

Alex Gambal, Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvée les Deux Papis £16.99

"At last we have our own vines and the 2005 confirmed my instincts that the parcels we bought would make a terrific bottle of Pinot Noir. We bought the parcels in the same areas and in two cases from the same vineyards where we had been buying grapes Montpoulain, and Condemaine and picked up some Longbois and a great parcel of Les Petits Prés which was classified as Volnay Village before the AOC. The 2005 is elegant, cool, more on the dark fruit side and with a wonderful texture to the tannins. We used about 10% new oak and made ~850 cases"

Parcela #7, Cab Sauv/Merlot/Cab Franc Viña Von Siebenthal, Maipo Valley, Chile £8.99

One of the finest wine we have ever tasted, by a producer that has one again been voted Chilean boutique wine producer of the year. Intense aroma of cooked fruits that invokes nectarines, peaches and plums and that integrates harmoniously with notes of liquorice, moist soil and black olives and a touch of herbs such as rosemary.

Two Hands, Barossa Valley, Australia

Few producers in Australia can claim to have had the meteoric rise that Two Hands have witnessed. No-one could have predicted the staggering array of reviews and points that have come their way. Both the U.S and U.K markets have been blown away by the purity of fruit, concentration and attention to detail that is lavished upon every one of their bottles.

Two Hands was established in 2000 by friends Michael Twelftree and Richard Mintz and they set about sourcing high quality parcels of fruit with which to make ultra premium wines. Early successes resulted in the hiring of winemaker Matt Wenk, ex-second in command at Nepenthe and he has been instrumental in ensuring that Two Hands' reputation continues to grow. Integral to the development of the wines and profile has been the addition of the cellar door and micro winery in Marananga, Barossa Valley. This joins the main Two Hands winery at Greenock, Barossa and ensures that Two Hands have a real presence in the key Shiraz growing region of Australia.

Two Hands, 'Brave Faces' Shiraz/Grenache Barossa Valley, Australia £15.99

Lighter and brighter is the Brave Faces, a brilliant red in the glass and with an inviting bouquet dominated by the Grenache, it has lovely whiffs of burnt cola, leather, fresh cut cloves, baking spice and a meaty note all backed by some quality French oak. The palate is in a moderate power band with excellent structure and underlying integrity, the palate is long and well rounded with red fruit flavours of black cherries, rhubarb, earth and raspberries, with a touch of minty menthol.

La Brancaia, Tuscany

La Brancaia, encompassing the two estates Brancaia and Poppi, has been owned by the Swiss couple Brigitte and Brundo Widmer since 1981. It is located in the heart of the Chianti Classico area and saw a vertical take-off when its vintage 1983 won first place at a major Chianti Classico tasting. Since then, through uncompromising dedication to quality and a strong own identity, the continuous recognition of BRANCAIA was built up - spearheaded by the estates top-wine Brancaia IL BLU, being already a classic for many wine lovers all over the world.

Tre Rosso di Toscana, Sangiovese/Merlot/Cabernet Sauv Podere La Brancaia £12.99

A huge and complex wine and a truly polished and classy red. Offering complex aromas of leather and blackberries, with spice and an undertone of soft red fruit on the palate. Full-bodied and extremely well integrated tannins balancing the acidity. A very memorable long and dark finish.

La Brancaia Sangiovese Il Blu

£39.99

The aroma is both silky and seductive, yet hints at an underlying power that is the mark of Il Blu. This is characterised by dried fruit, cherry, redcurrants, and herbal aromas and a waft of spicy wood. The initial sensation on the palate is of a silky wine that develops vividly the longer it remains in the mouth. The finish is balanced and long, allowing subtle hints of the flavour profiles to linger on.

Recently voted Wine Spectator's 9th best wine in the world