



The ASSOCIATION of WINE CELLARMEN

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www.winecellarmen.com

LOCKDOWN DISCOVERIES Part 13 **BURGUNDIAN WINES – Members choices**

6pm, Monday 21st June, via Zoom

At last we have light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. The Boot & Flogger reopened on Monday 17th May, although they are still unable to host our indoor tastings there. However, this may change on June 21st if there isn't another Covid surge in London, or if we are not restricted to six per table (accommodating 18 max.). We have prepared a revised schedule for 2021 as below. Should we be unable to hold our first tasting at The Boot on 30th June, members will be advised upon hearing from our hosts. Either way we have arranged another Zoom event for Monday 21st June, where the chosen wines should be from anywhere within the Burgundy region, from Chablis to Beaujolais and everything in between.

Topic: AWC Burgundy

Time: Jun 21, 2021 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ankura.zoom.us/j/89950477544?pwd=M1Q0WkQxSF16TUNsM09xaTVkS3BPUT09>

Meeting ID: 899 5047 7544

Passcode: 552026

One tap mobile +441314601196

Provisional 2021 events –

30/06/21	CHAMPAGNE CELEBRATION marking our return to New Normal
24/07/21	SUMMER SOCIAL at Acton
06/09/21	ANNUAL A.W.C. BLIND TASTING
04/10/21	NOUGHTIE CLARET (as prepared for March 2020 pre-lockdown)
12/10/21	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SOCIAL
09/11/21	A.W.C @ 55, CELEBRATE OUR ANNIVERSARY with the President
10/12/21	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL MEAL

As our Zoom events have proved successful social gatherings for members, we hope to extend these as extra events – probably four times a year. Further details will be advised later this year.

Tasting Notes

Members held the twelfth tasting and chat, thanks to Andrew Caldwell and Zoom. The broad theme was Australian wines that had been bottled in Australia.

As recommendations, those not partaking in May should seek out the following:

John Badley – 2018 SHIRAZ, DOUBLE BARREL-MATURED, Jacob's Creek, Barossa Valley, South Australia 14.5%. An interesting take on cask-ageing where the first maturation took place in traditional oak barrels before being finished in aged Scotch whisky barrels. This unique double-barrel technique claims to impart additional layers of complexity and smoothness. Dark looker with a rich and ripe fruit nose. Soft tannins and good length. £12 from Sainsbury (25% off for any 6 bottles bought = £9). Also tasted by Roger Sanbrook.

Andrew Caldwell – Gillian Caldwell – a) 2018 RIESLING Y SERIES, Yalumba, Barossa Valley, Sth Aus. 12.5%. This is part of the Yalumba 'Y' Series of quality wines saluting the proud history of viticulture and winemaking in South Australia. The icon on the Riesling label depicts the olive tree. It is said that where grapes thrive and prosper so, too, do olives. The wine has aromas of apple blossom, lime and that elusive ageing Riesling "kerosene". Ripe lemons and grapefruit palate. All-in-all a really refreshing glass of wine. £10.79 from Australian Wines Online.

b) 2016 CABERNET/MERLOT, Paulett Wines, Polish Hill River, Clare Valley, Sth.Aus. 15%. Family owned and operated since 1983, Neil and Alison Paulett founded the winery now helmed by son Matt and his wife Ali. 70/30% blend that spends 18 months maturation in French oak. Blackcurrant, plum and herbaceous nose. Rich dark fruit flavours, fine tannins well integrated. Very pleasing mouthful. £14.49 from Australian Wines Online. 2017 available, including from Wine Society.

Les Charles – 2015 SHIRAZ, Shaw & Smith, Adelaide Hills, Sth.Aus. 14%. The company was founded by Martin Shaw, a UK flying winemaker, and Michael Hill Smith MW in the late 1980s, with the inaugural Shiraz vintage being in 2002. Overall, Australia enjoyed a very good 2015 growing year, although yields were markedly smaller than usual. Adelaide Hills saw bushfires, which did tarnish some grapes with smoke taint, so bunch-sorting was critical, leading to even lower volumes. Fragrant, intense, with medium-bodied elegance, it disproves the long-held opinion that the Adelaide Hills area is too cool to ripen Shiraz. Bought en-primeur for £22.00; now still available in magnums for £63 to £75.

Ken Claydon – 2019 ORGANIC SHIRAZ, Yalumba, Sth.Aus. 14%. Yalumba has been developing its own sustainable viticulture programme since the 1990s. This starts in the vineyard and extends to every aspect of winemaking, production, packaging and distribution. All Yalumba wines were announced vegetarian and vegan friendly in 2011. The grapes for this wine were sourced from four family-owned, organically-certified vineyards. The Carypides family vineyard located at Virginia in the Adelaide Plains, the Barich family vineyard on the Murray River at Loxton, the Palena family vineyards near Barmera in the Riverland, and the Strachan family vineyard in McLaren Vale. Crimson with violet hues, aromas of peppercorns with a savoury fruit cake finish. Didn't agree with the spiced plum comment on the label. The palate is a mix of violets and spice. A fruit-driven, medium bodied wine with fine, soft tannins and a savoury, persistent finish. Good value from Waitrose at £9.99.

Susie Cooper – 2018 SEMILLON, Brokenwood, Hunter Valley, NSW 11.5%. No recommendation here. One online comment seemed a tad harsh – "7 Up with battery acid" - but this wine was truly vile; undrinkable. Light shade, but little aroma and a hard hitting very dry palate without charm. Only saving grace is that this will be returned to Waitrose (£8.99). Amazingly the 2019 version of this wine is touted by Australian Wines Online for £22.00. Buyer beware – taste before you buy!

Trevor Cunningham – 2015 GSM NINE POPES, Charles Melton Winery, Barossa Valley, Sth.Aus. 14.5% Nine Popes GSM, a blend of Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvedre, is from old vines. Initially modelled on Chateauneuf-du-Pape, it has evolved into an internationally recognised example of this style in its own right. Yields are extremely low with often only one tonne to the acre, and the vineyards are truly old with many over 80 years. The estate only produces 15k cases per annum, this wine being its flagship. Whole bunch fermentation and destemmed but uncrushed berries during the maceration period, ensures the greatest degree of fragrance. “Sur Lie” ageing in French oak for the whole 24 month maturation period adds additional texture and smoothness. The wine is then naturally settled and bottled without any finings. Medium-deep shade, the bouquet is an amalgam of cedar oak with softly sweet Grenache perfumes and some liquorice spice in the background. Elegantly defined palate with good balance between weight and strength. Plump mid-palate with soft tannins. Some savoury grip to finish. Bought some time ago, so price unknown but the 2016 fetches £60 at Majestic, £68 at Berry Brothers. TC’s Aussie quote “Bloody nice”!

John Davis – 1994 CHARDONNAY RESERVE BIN 94A, Penfolds, bottled in Magill, Sth.Aus. 13.5%. This special wine was created during Penfold's 1992 super-premium white wine development programme, designed to culminate in the release of Australia's 'ultimate white wine'. From time to time, Penfolds release limited quantities of 'one off' wines under the Reserve Bin label. The 1994 Penfolds Bin 94A showed all the attributes of a great wine and was the first to be released under this new Reserve Bin label. Sourced from Adelaide Hills, Eden Valley & Tumbarumba, the wine was 100% barrel fermented in new, one and two-year-old French oak barrels and matured for 10 months on lees. The entire blend underwent malolactic fermentation. Shows attractive, honeyed bottle development and superb, concentrated peach and tropical fruit, integrated with a cashew nut barrel fermentation character from fine, tightly-grained, French oak and extended time on yeast lees. The palate is still well-structured and full-bodied, showing melon Chardonnay flavours with creamy butterscotch aftertaste. A real experience – best white I’ve tasted this year. Bought for £16.00 following a Penfolds tasting. Latest quote adds a zero to the 16.

Keith Eamer & Maggie Eamer – 2017 VIOGNIER, Yalumba, Eden Valley, Sth.Aus. 13.5%. Yalumba has pioneered the growing and making of Viognier in Australia since 1980. The Eden Valley Viognier is a pure expression of the variety - full of flavour and character, but finishing with a freshness. Aroma is reminiscent of fennel with fresh apricots and white flowers. The palate is long, rich and luscious, with stone fruit flavours and hints of orange peel, finishing with an alluring freshness. This wine will continue to grow and develop in the bottle. Bought from Waitrose for £9.99.

Margaret Fox – 2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, MOTHERS RUIN, First Drop, McLaren Vale, Sth.Aus. 13.5%. Early-picked fruit from a vineyard with good breeding in the Willunga foothills resulted in an elegant, varietal style with classic “First Drop drinkability”. The fruit for this was crushed then fermented for 10 days on skins. The ferment was managed by a variety of techniques, including ‘aerative pump overs’ which assisted in extracting colour, flavour and tannin from the grapes. Transferred to 10% new French oak hogsheads, and the balance to 3 and 4 year old French oak hogsheads, matured sur lie for 18 months. This restrained, well-balanced expression of McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon is an ode to the luncheon claret, but it is not as austere. Deep red berry bouquet with typical hints of eucalyptus. Black fruits with a round mid palate, an elegant core of tannins and a textured finish. Medium-bodied and delicious. £20.50 from the Good Wine Shop, and worth every penny.

Andy Grainger – 2004 HENRY’S SEVEN, Henschke, Barossa, Sth.Aus. 15%. A red blend of 60% Shiraz, 30% Grenache, 5% Mourvedre, 5% Viognier. Screwcap. Bought as a mixed lot at auction to present a tasting of aged Australian wines. All of the wines were at least ten years old and, without exception, the back labels suggested they needed to be drunk within five years. I still have two Grant Burge reds from 1993 and 1994 and, having tried two others, it is clear that the idea is to

persuade purchasers to drink the wines earlier than they need. Some of the tasting notes for this wine did suggest however that it started to fall off its perch by about 2012 so I opened it with some trepidation. I need not have worried. Although there was a brown rim, the colour was fresh. The main aromas were vanilla and red fruits. With time the wine developed the rich, perfumed aroma of white lilies that I associate with Northern Rhone rather than Australia. Although it was smooth and certainly did not possess the alcohol burn suggested by one note, I did not think it was particularly complex. As this was part of a mixed case at auction I do not know how much I paid for it but I see that the 2017 vintage is over £40. I certainly do not think it is worth anything like that. Wine Searcher has 2003 & 2005 quoted at around £28 a bottle – 2004 not listed.

Jenny Heald – 2018 DURIF, THE ORFORD, Calabria Family Wines, Riverina, South East Australia 14%. Calabria Family Wines, formed in 1945, has flourished to be one of Australia's top 20 wine producers. Durif is a cross between the Shiraz and lesser-known Peloursin varieties. Suspected to be created accidentally, the grape variety was discovered by Dr François Durif, a French botanist from the Rhone. Ironically, despite of having originated in France, it's one of the least grown varieties in that country, but is a great favourite locally in Australia, because it flourishes in dry conditions. Durif is synonymously known as Petite Sirah in some parts of the world, and is recognised for its pitch-black colour and characterful palate. This wine is dark-shaded with impressive black fruit flavours, yet, with subtle oak, this is not too hefty. Durif wines usually age well due to high tannin content and balanced acidity. Waitrose £8.99 & recommended.

Tim Jones – 2019 SHIRAZ BIN 20, Kooliburra, Sth.Aus. 14.5%. Kooliburra seems to be a South East Australian winery for whom Aldi is the sole European importer. They source and bottle wines from most Australian wine regions [as does Robert Oatley]. This is a most likeable wine. Blackberry and plum aromas, then chocolate and vanilla with black cherries on the palate with traces of eucalyptus gum so often noted in Aussie reds. A bold yet medium bodied wine; a snip at £5.99 from Aldi's Specially Selected range.

Maria Politsos – 2006 SHIRAZ, Andrew Peace Wines, Victoria 13.5%. Nurtured from the rich Murray River bank soil, the vineyard was established in the 1960's. This 'country retreat' vineyard produced its first vintage in 1995 with a grape intake of 1711 tonnes. Through three generations of Peace family toil, Andrew Peace Wines has grown to be one of Australia's largest family-owned wineries, crushing over 43,000 tonnes per year, to be consistently among the top 20 performing Australian exporters. The UK agent is Kingsland Wines. Still retained typical ripe black fruit aroma, albeit with ageing twists. Chocolate and burnt toffee flavours. Ancient purchase, so no price guide. There are now many different Peace Shiraz wines from younger vintages, including one from S.E.Australia being sold at the Co-Op for £5.50, but undoubtedly this example would have been shipped in bulk by Kingsland, so wouldn't fulfil the brief.

Nicky Rass – 2019 SHIRAZ, SPEAK NO EVIL, Fourth Wave Wine, McLaren Vale, Sth.Aus. 7.5%. Sourced primarily from mature, certified organic dry-grown vineyards in the McLaren flat sub district of McLaren Vale. The fruit is hand-harvested and sorted before de-stemming and cool fermentation in small two tonne open fermenters with regular hand plunging. Matured in seasoned French oak (30% new) for ten months before bottling with minimal filtration and sulphur addition. Loads of berry fruit; tasted very young but still enjoyable. Bought via this year's London Wine Fair in a 50ml sample bottle. Wine Searcher shows £8.40 for 75cl bottle, but FWW is seeking a UK agent, so not yet available unless you go to Australasia.

Geoff Salter & Kathy Salter – 2018 SHIRAZ, Jip Jip Rocks, Padthaway, Limestone Coast, Sth.Aus. 14.5%. Jip Jip means Pink Granite rock that dominates this area. Since 1855, five generations of the Bryson family have been involved in agriculture. Located in the Padthaway valley which comprises rich Terra Rosa soils, the estate vineyard benefits from excellent sun exposure producing grapes of optimum flavour, colour and tannin development. The warm summer days are moderated each

evening by coastal winds that cool the vines and result in a longer ripening period. This vintage was bottled on 5th June 2019. An award-winning wine, this was less spicy than most Aussie Shiraz. Will undoubtedly mature and improve. Waitrose £8.99, having been reduced from £11.99. Very mixed reviews on Waitrose site – bottle variation?

Roger Sanbrook – 2018 SHIRAZ, DOUBLE BARREL-MATURED, Jacob's Creek, Barossa Valley, Sth.Aus. 14.5%. The marketing majors on the finishing in aged scotch whisky barrels. It was produced and bottled by Jacob's Creek Wines, Barossa Valley, South Australia. A dark red colour and a nose of ripe red fruit with spice and oak. The taste also showed strong red fruit and spice with oaky flavours although whisky flavour not identifiable. It was a very enjoyable full bodied and balanced wine. It is widely available with a price range between £9-£12 - I paid £10 at Tesco. I would certainly have it again. *So would JB – see above.*

Nick Seymour – 2019 SHIRAZ, Atkins Farm, McLaren Vale, Sth.Aus. 14.8%. The Atkins Family started farming in the Adelaide Hills in 1929 when Hastings 'Bill' Atkins purchased "Yarrowee" at Meadows. Bill farmed the land until the age of 97 and 'Atkins Farm', as it is known today, continues to be managed by the family. The family vineyard is 10 km south from Atkins Farm and represents the family's continuing passion for the region, the land and the Australian Wine Industry (which included Bill's wife Gwen's father, who was one of South Australia's earliest winemakers). This hand-crafted McLaren Vale Shiraz is cherry red in colour. A classic Shiraz nose of fresh berry fruits with spicy edges and a palate of brooding briary fruits with mulberries, held together by soft, ripe tannins. Waitrose sells this at £9.99.

Doug Stoneham – a) 2019 CHARDONNAY, THE OLIVE GROVE, d'Arenberg, McLaren Vale, Sth.Aus. 13%. Since 1912 the Osborn family have tended vineyards in McLaren Vale. Today fourth generation family member, Chester, makes distinctive wines using traditional methods both in the vineyard and the winery. Small batches of grapes are crushed gently, chilled, and then basket pressed. To add complexity this wine is fermented and matured in French oak for seven months. Since European settlement in the 1840s, olive trees have thrived in McLaren Vale. They are alongside roads, in gardens and here, in the middle of the Chardonnay vineyards. Extremely pleasant and enjoyable with a plethora of flavours. Tesco purchase at £12.00.

b) 2019 SHIRAZ CLASSIC, Vasse Felix, Margaret River, Western Australia 14.5%. Dr Tom Cullity was a respected cardiologist from Western Australia. He discovered the great table wines of Europe in the 1950s while in Britain working at the National Heart Hospital. When home, Tom set himself a mission to make fine wines in WA. He searched extensively for the perfect plot of land establishing an 8 acre vineyard in Cowaramup called Vasse Felix. Tom's persistence led to the successful creation of Margaret River's first commercial wines. The Holmes à Court family purchased the estate in 1987. Although VF's commitment to Shiraz is historic, with the oldest Shiraz vines in Margaret River, the style is modern, cool climate elegance. Wild fermented in small batches, the wine's complexity is deep, yet juicy and luscious. Touch of Malbec blended in. Available at Tesco for £12.00 [£10.00 to Tesco club-card holders].

Simon Stoye – 2011 SEMILLON, STEVENS SINGLE VINEYARD, Tyrell's, Hunter Valley, NSW 11.5%. Australia's first vineyards were planted here in 1788. Today, NSW is most famous for the Hunter Valley, where Australia's most delicate, age-worthy white wines are made, and Tyrell's is its most famed producer. Picked early and light in alcohol, Hunter Semillon is delicious for its dry, tight structure and lemony fruit which becomes toasty and soft in texture with age. This example from the Stevens single vineyard is from old vines, some dating back to 1911 and has wonderful depth of flavour and impressive concentration. Gold shade hint; lemon aromas but quite light. There is a balance of freshness and maturity here, with lees texture, length and zest. Although smooth now, there is still more to give. Wine Society £31 – 36.00.

Dave Wagner – 2020 PINOT & CHARDONNAY ROSE, Bird In Hand, Adelaide Hills, Sth.Aus. 11.5%. Situated in an area of the Adelaide Hills that was littered with goldmines in the 1800s, the Bird in

Hand winery was purchased and planted in 1997 by Andrew Nugent, current Executive Director. Eclectic rosé packed with raspberry and blueberry juicy fruit, but with a very dry finish. Claimed as exclusive to Waitrose (£9.99 reduced from £13.99), but is sold by UK agent online for £14.95!

Contacting the Association

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