

The world's best wine magazine

January 2017 £4.50

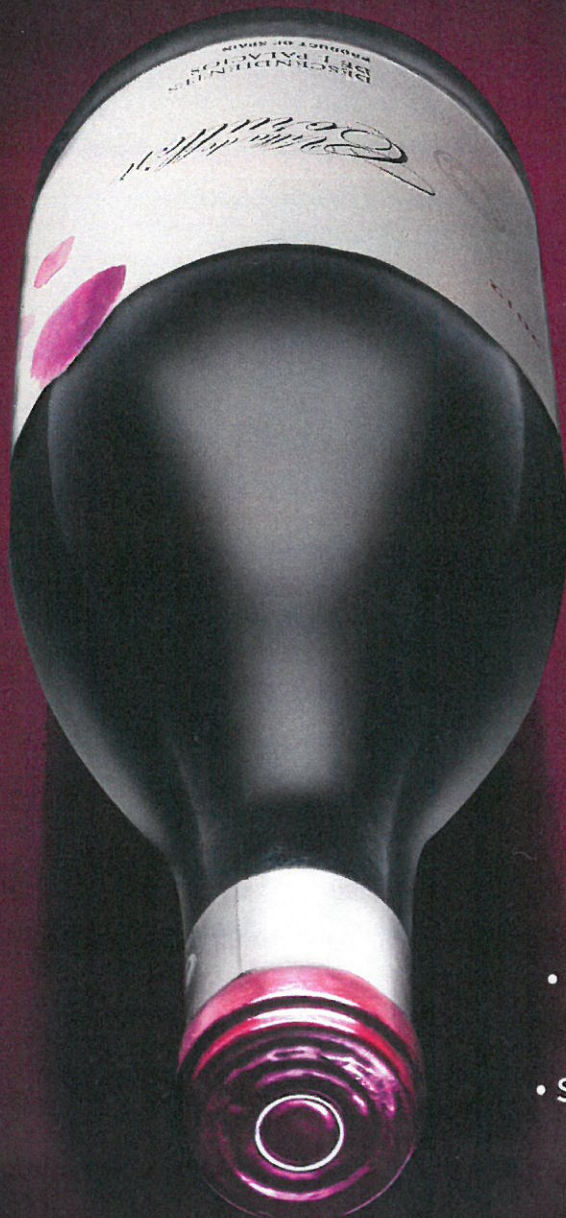
Decanter

75 STELLAR BUYS OF 2016

The most exciting wines we've tasted this year

TASTED & RATED

- Margaret River Cab
- Rosé Champagne
- Ribera del Duero



CHATEAU BATAILLEY

Behind the success
of this fifth growth

WINES TO CELEBRATE WITH IN 2017

Special wines for
significant events

ALSO

- Your guide to Hermitage
- Secrets of Swiss wine
- Stellenbosch Cabernet
- Scandinavian restaurants



Top 25 fizz, demi-sec, sweet & fortified

1 Bodegas Rey, Fernando de Castilla, Antique Palo Cortado, Jerez, Spain NV
 £30-£35/500ml D Byrne & Co, Drinkmonger, Hangingditch, Harrods, Hawkhead, Highbury Vintners, Solent Cellar, Sturp, Woodwinters

Deep in aromatic intensity and equally powerful in the mouth. Great combination of raisins, orange blossom and beeswax, with a very distinct nuttiness. Dry and pure on the palate with the driving energy of hazelnuts, mocha, liquorice and considerable zestiness. This is really terrific! **Drink** 2017-2022 **Aic** 20%

2 Szepsy, Szamorodni Tokaji, Tokaj, Hungary 2012
 £44/500ml Hedonism, Huntsworth Wine, Selfridges, Top Selection

A beautiful botrytised wine with hints of mushroom on the nose combined with orange zest, quince and marmalade. This translates through to the palate where golden peach and candied fruit are added. It is wonderfully balanced with lower alcohol and high acidity to match the high sugar levels. So fresh and alive, and most importantly, very drinkable. **Drink** 2017-2027 **Aic** 11.5%

3 Golan Heights Winery, Yarden Heightswine Gewurztraminer, Galilee, Israel 2012
 N/A UK www.golanwines.co.il

This Gewurztraminer is aromatic with classic rose petal and lychee intensity. The sweetness is balanced wonderfully by fresh and lively acidity. On the palate there are crystallised lemon and orange characters with a touch of tropical fruit, quince jelly and elderflower. Harmonious and pretty, this is a glorious sweet wine to be savoured. **Drink** 2017-2025 **Aic** 12%

4 Domaine des Chênes, Rivesaltes Ambré, Languedoc-Roussillon, France 2006
 £17.83 OW Leob

Sun-dried raisin notes and a brilliant richness – such a glorious balance between high sugar and acidity levels. The walnut and vanilla flavours from the oak are intense and complex, followed by a lovely lift of acidity. There is an enjoyable oxidative character resembling a sweeter Sherry style making this individual and hugely interesting. **Drink** 2017-2022 **Aic** 17%

5 Quinta do Crasto, Late Bottled Vintage Port, Portugal 2011
 £14.95-£15.95 Great Western Wine, Hawkhead, Just in Cases, Slurp

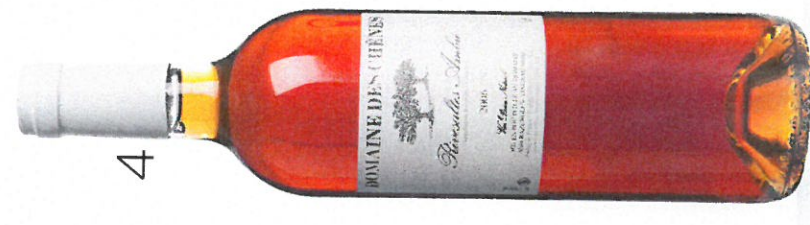
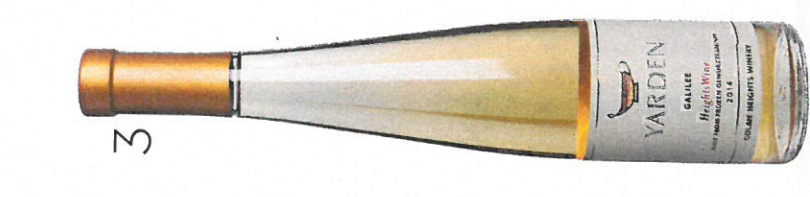
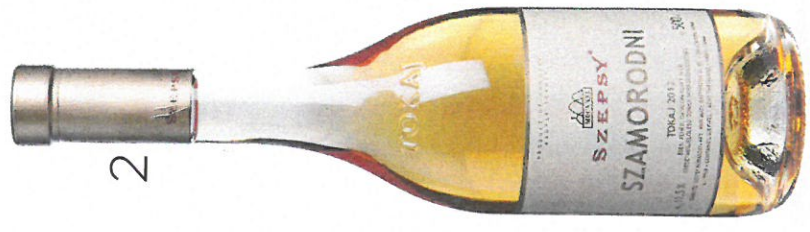
Chocolate, morello cherry and black fruit notes are complemented by liquorice, clove and sweet baking spices. A really luscious example of LBV that has sumptuous complexity and balance. Very approachable now but it has plenty of years ahead of it as it is harmonious and structured. High-class stuff. **Drink** 2018-2030 **Aic** 20%

6 Equipo Navazos, La Bota de Amontillado 58, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Spain NV
 £46-£48.50 Alliance Wine, Solent Cellar, The Sampler, Uncorked

A very stylish, multi-layered amontillado. Quince and orange blossom aromas with a distinct smokiness on the deep and complex palate. Expressive walnut and grilled almond flavours give a lovely intensity on top of the candied apricot fruit. There is a silky richness here with great balance between concentration, freshness and lively acidity. **Drink** 2017-2022 **Aic** 18.5%

7 Gusbourne, Blanc de Blancs, Kent, England 2012
 £36.95-£39.99 Berry Bros & Rudd, Drinkmonger, Goedhuys, Gusbourne, Sandeman, Secret Cellar, Selfridges, Tanners, Uncorked

Lots of complexity on the nose and palate: refined broche aromas and white fruit intensity in a powerful, focused style. It is thrillingly zesty, structured and weighty so it has the ability to age well. There is a hint of wood ageing on this savoury, textured style. Fine mousse and excellent length too. **Drink** 2017-2020 **Aic** 12%



8 Mullineux, Straw Wine, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2015
 £27.95/375ml Berry Bros & Rudd, Vincognito

There's quite a savoury note to this sweet dessert wine, where all the elements are in equilibrium thanks to great finesse from the high-toned lemon acidity. It delivers beautifully honeyed aromas and real focus and power of sweet quince fruit, rich and luscious marmalade characters and a hint of mushroom on the finish. Will age beautifully for many years. **Drink** 2017-2030 **Aic** 10%

9 Yalumba, Museum Muscat, Rutherglen, South Eastern Australia NV
 £13-£16/375ml Amazon UK, Fraziers, Harrogate Fine Wine, Just in Cases, Love Wine, ND John, Stone Vine & Sun, Virgin Wine

So aromatic! This is full of raisins, prunes and dried figs with a hint of burnt sugar and roasted nuts from the integrated oak. Luscious and luxurious with muscovado sweetness and a seam of lime running through, giving just enough acidity to balance. Extremely concentrated and treacly, it is a delicious drop to drink in small doses. **Drink** 2017-2025 **Aic** 18%

10 Henriques & Henriques, 15 Year Verdelho, Madeira, Portugal NV
 £19.95-£24.50 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Drinkmonger, Hard to Find Wine, Nickolls & Peaks, Soho Wine Supply, Waitrose

A splendidly intense walnut nose with a flash of marmalade and caramel flowing effortlessly onto fresh flavours of lemon and orange zest. Brown sugar and raisin notes lie underneath the vibrant and fresh palate and there's candied fruit and lime lingering on the finish. It is everything you want from a Verdelho Madeira, with a long life ahead. **Drink** 2017-2025 **Aic** 18.5%

11 Graham's, Quinta do Malvedos, Vintage Port, Portugal 2004
 £23.99-£31.50 Fortnum & Mason, Harrods, Majestic, Solent Cellar, Tanners

Heaps of prunes and black fruit enveloping the nose and palate. Sweetness mingles with spices in a swirling mélange of complexity, supported by crisp acidity and structured tannins. This is truly delicious now but could age well for 10 years and more.
Drink 2017-2030 Alc 20%

12 Veuve Clicquot, Champagne, France 2008
 £43.33-£54.99 Drinkmonger, Harrods, Millésima, Selfridges, Tanners

Elegant and complex Champagne with plenty of fine mousse and flavours of toast, smoke and roasted fruit notes to balance the fresh acidity. A refined and refreshing full-bodied wine in a gastronomic style with the potential to improve for several years.
Drink 2017-2024 Alc 13%

13 Domaine Huet, Le Mont Demi-Sec, Vouvray, Loire, France 2014
 £30 Hard to Find Wine

Classic Chenin aromas of wet wool and beeswax with great concentration of exotic and candied fruit on top of honey and acacia on the palate. The fresh, orange zest acidity balances the touch of sweetness. This will evolve and improve for several years.
Drink 2017-2024 Alc 13%

14 Donnafugata, Ben Ryé, Passito di Pantelleria, Sicily, Italy 2012
 £32-£37.60/375ml Drinkmonger, Harrods, Hedonism, Liberty Wines, WineTrust100

Intense aromas of burnt marmalade with a lusciously textured, limpid palate of raisined fruits, prunes and smoky walnuts. A rich, showstopping style with memorable appeal.
Drink 2017-2025 Alc 14.5%

19 Henriot, Champagne, France 2006
 £38.33-£55 Latitude Wine, Millésima

Burgundian-style aromas of struck match followed by fresh pastry notes on the palate. This is a finely balanced and elegant Champagne that has great vivacity without being overly intense. A delicious vintage Champagne with the right amount of dosage and incredible tension.
Drink 2017-2018 Alc 12%

20 Château Doisy Védrières, Sauternes, Bordeaux, France 2009
 £48.20 Haynes Hanson & Clark

This is a really enjoyable sweet wine with plenty of attractive botrytis elements. Beeswax and marmalade permeate the nose and palate, while apricots and quinces dance daintily on top. There is real purity and great intensity of fruit, with a touch of spice on the finish.
Drink 2017-2024 Alc 14%

21 Framingham, Select Riesling, Walro Valley, Harborough, New Zealand 2015
 £18.49-£19.99 Excel Wines, Les Caves de Pyrene

Intense, precise and with lovely purity, this is a smashing Riesling. There is a slight petrol character on the nose tinged with floral notes and white stone fruits. The palate boasts crystalline sweetness allied with glorious acidity. Lovely now but will age well.
Drink 2017-2027 Alc 8.5%

22 Weingut Max Ferdrichter, Brauneberger Juffer-Sommehur Riesling, Aulse, Mosel, Germany 2015
 £26-£27 Drinkmonger, Monarchet Fine Wines

Delicious honeyed sweetness balanced by thrilling acidity, this is a refined and refreshing Riesling that is concentrated and long. Beautiful drinking now but this has some serious potential to age very well.
Drink 2017-2026 Alc 7%



15 Dr H Thansch, Erben Müller-Burgaef, Berncasteler Doctor, Riesling Spätlese, Mosel, Germany 2014
 £42.50 Cewite, New Generation McKinley

A lovely wine with a stone fruit character and floral intensity. It unfolds in layers of lime zest, candied fruit and honey, with minerality running through it. The acidity cuts through the honeyed richness and marks this out as great quality.
Drink 2017-2025 Alc 8%

16 Tomac, Pjenusac, Amfora Brut Nature, Plesivica, Croatia 2010
 N/A UK www.tomac.hr

There is a rustic and oxidised note here with hints of burnt orange caramel, savoury toasted notes and flecks of autumn fruits enlivened by crisp acidity. It is a complex style, pushing the boundaries and giving a fresh attack of liquorice and marmalade and finishing with a grip of tannin.
Drink 2017-2020 Alc 12.5%

17 Weingut Dönnhoff, Norheimer Dellchen Riesling Auslese, Nahe, Germany 2013
 £26.45 Amis, Berry Bros & Rudd, Bi Wine, Cru London, Four Walls Wine, Howard Ripley, Justerini & Brooks, Seckford Wines, Uncorked

Pure apple charm, together with botrytis notes of candied apricot, honey and delicate elderflower. The beautiful and precise lime acidity slices through the sweetness and leaves your palate fresh as a daisy.
Drink 2017-2026 Alc 8%

18 Wiston Estate, Blanc de Blancs, South Downs, Sussex, England 2010
 £39.95 Comey & Barrow, Wiston Estate

This enchanting, slightly rustic sparkling wine has hints of wet apple fruit. Underneath there is an intriguing savoury broche note entwined with roasted golden peaches. Very stylish and sweetly spiced, this is enormously enjoyable.
Drink 2017-2019 Alc 12%

23 Pereira D'Oliveira, Colheita Malvasia, Madeira, Portugal 1990
 £55 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Divine, Good Wine Shop, Handford, Noble Green, Oxford Wine Co, Sampler

Appetising dried fruit and walnut aromas with a woody intensity in the background. Raisin and caramel flavours come to the fore with the finesse of roasted almonds. Ultra-dry and crisp on the finish to refresh your palate.
Drink 2017-2020 Alc 18.5%

24 Equipo Navazos, La Bota de Manzanilla 55, Jerez, Spain NV
 £23.80-£26 DBM Wines, Springwell, Solent Cellar, The Grog, Handford, Noel Young, Wadehill Wines, Weavers of Nottingham, Wine Utopia

Enticing, toasty brioche notes spring from the glass. Red apple flavours and fine acidity join creamy, floral notes and a persistent mousse. A lovely Champagne of high quality.
Drink 2017-2018 Alc 12%

25 Gosset, Grande Réserve, Champagne, France NV
 £45-£49 Amps Fine Wines, Berry Bros & Rudd, Bon Coeur, Great Grog, Handford, Noel Young, Wadehill Wines, Weavers of Nottingham, Wine Utopia

Enticing, toasty brioche notes spring from the glass. Red apple flavours and fine acidity join creamy, floral notes and a persistent mousse. A lovely Champagne of high quality.
Drink 2017-2018 Alc 12%

21 Framingham, Select Riesling, Walro Valley, Harborough, New Zealand 2015
 £18.49-£19.99 Excel Wines, Les Caves de Pyrene

Intense, precise and with lovely purity, this is a smashing Riesling. There is a slight petrol character on the nose tinged with floral notes and white stone fruits. The palate boasts crystalline sweetness allied with glorious acidity. Lovely now but will age well.
Drink 2017-2027 Alc 8.5%

22 Weingut Max Ferdrichter, Brauneberger Juffer-Sommehur Riesling, Aulse, Mosel, Germany 2015
 £26-£27 Drinkmonger, Monarchet Fine Wines

Delicious honeyed sweetness balanced by thrilling acidity, this is a refined and refreshing Riesling that is concentrated and long. Beautiful drinking now but this has some serious potential to age very well.
Drink 2017-2026 Alc 7%

For full details of UK stockists, see p94