



White

Sensale Grillo 2017 - Sicily, Italy

- Named after a delicate Sicilian barbecuing technique, this is light, pretty and floral with ripe stone fruit notes.

Picpoul de Pinet Prestige Foncalieu 2017 – VdP d'Oc, France

- How long can a variety remain trendy? Is trendiness a paradox with time? Does it matter when it's this fresh, balanced and a match made in heaven for seafood? Fetch me a bottle of your finest Pickers!

Mayfly Sauvignon Blanc 2017 – Marlborough, New Zealand

- A propensity for naming their Sauvignon after animals has been well documented in New Zealand and they've conjured up another spurious connection with this wine. Luckily, whilst the marketing department have taken an early lunch, the winemaking team didn't. Great zippy fruit with asparagus notes and a delicious finish.

Novas Gran Reserva Riesling 2016 – Bio Bio Valley, Chile (Vegan/Organic)

- Reeessling is the greatest white grape in the world. This expressive little number from Chile is all about citrus and honeysuckle – perfect with fish. A touch of lees ageing (no need for boring technical explanations) gives it lovely texture and extra depth.

Luzada Albariño 2017 – Rías Baixas, Spain

- If you've never seen the vines in Rias Baixas then you're missing out on a viticultural treat. The cool sea air means that damp is a real issue for winemakers so they trellis the vines up high and spread them out overhead to maximise air flow and sun exposure. This cool air isn't all bad – the wines are fantastically mineral driven and fresh.

Luis Cañas Barrel Fermented Blanco 2017 – Rioja, Spain (Vegan)

- Luis Canas is a force of nature and legend in Rioja. Born in 1928, you'll still find him at his winery's tasting bar with a glass of this and a bowl of olives. Clearly this wine is tapped directly from the fountain of youth so is guaranteed to prolong life [not a guarantee]. A destroyer of white Burgundy.

Gavi del Comune di Gavi Nuovo Quadro 2017 – Piemonte, Italy (Vegan)

- Cortese, the grape and not some underworld Colombian don in hiding, is the star grape here. This is top-notch single estate Gavi that is hand-harvested and spends six months ageing on its lees. White peach and pear with hints of lime and balanced by lovely acidity.

Albourne Estate White Pinot Noir 2017 – West Sussex, England

- White wine made from red grapes? What the actual? Not that unusual as it happens – Champagne has been doing it for centuries. Lightly press the grapes, take the juice off the skins ASAP et voila! Fabulously delicate with a lovely peach and apricot nose.

Holden Manz Chenin Blanc 2017 – Franschhoek, South Africa (Vegan)

- Elegant and perfumed with jasmine and peach. This has spent a bit of time in oak so it has some great depth to it along with quince and melon flavours. Perfect with beetroot, goats cheese and smoked fish – not necessarily at the same time though.

Chablis Domaine Alexandre 2016 – Burgundy, France

- I've always loved the fact that Chablis is a puritanical outpost of Burgundy for white wine. You'll find it roughly halfway between the Cote d'Or and Paris – it's closer to Champagne than it is Burgundy. It should always be mineral focussed, refreshing and have a rapier like acidity. Nowhere else in the world can do this with Chardonnay.

Sancerre La Guiberte 2016 – Loire, France

- Classic and clichéd but who cares when it is as pure and beautiful as this? This will school [apologies for using this as a verb but it sounds 'street'] other Sauvignons in the art of what this grape can achieve. Direct, linear, driven and lots of other ambiguous wine terms apply here. All you need to know is that it's made by a small family (number not height) and is utterly brilliant.

Red

Cent'Anni Baccolo Appassimento 2016 – Veneto, Italy

- The Renaissance, the 'floating city', Napoleon's victory in 1797...all faded into insignificance as notable in the history of the Veneto region when this wine was created. The grapes are partially dried to increase flavour. Think of it as a light, baby Amarone with less alcohol and less damaging to your bank balance.

Nostros Carmenère 2017 – Maipo Valley, Chile (Vegan)

- Made by a young and dynamic team this is intense, almost black, with berries, truffle, paprika and pepper notes. Carmenere was presumed extinct following the phylloxera outbreak in France. Luckily, some was being grown in Chile, having been exported from Bordeaux, although they thought it was Merlot...[wake up]...this is delicious!

Clos des Vieux Marronniers VV Loron 2016 – Beaujolais, France

- Yes, you should. Forget *Nouveau* and all that, Beaujolais is a brilliant and undervalued area. Lyon is the modern capital of French gastronomy and Beaujolais is the nearest region to it – this is no coincidence. Loron are a great negotiant and this wine represents them perfectly.

Verne Malbec 2017 – Medoza, Argentina (Vegan)

- A deep dense blockbuster from 40+ year old vines. Blackberry plum fruit and sweet spice. Silky, warm, juicy and fruity, it's probably impossible to dislike this – go on, have a few bottles and try.

The Scoundrel Shiraz/Grenache 2017 – Barossa Valley, Australia

- Ooh, you cheeky little magpie pinching all those juicy grapes. Wait until Mr Binder, Barossa legend, catches you. *No, don't Rolf, it's just a magpie, what are you...oh the humanity.* I'm assured no magpies were harmed in the making of this red fruit and spice laden wine.

Mirador Reserva 2011 – Rioja, Spain

- Just like a Christmas episode of Eastenders, you know exactly what you're getting when you have a bottle of Mirador. Their Reserva is almost unbeatable; spice and dried fruit, it's like your favourite old jumper and there's nothing wrong with that.

Holden Manz Visionaire 2013 – Franschhoek, South Africa (Vegan)

- A 'fluid' Bordeaux blend (it's got some Syrah in it) that is absolutely belting – spice, red fruits, dark fruits and graphite – this is seriously grown up stuff. *Franschhoek* always looks misspelt to me.

Coyam by Emiliana 2014 – Colchagua Valley, Chile (Vegan/Organic/Natural)

- You're in true Icon territory with this predominantly Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon blend. Named after the oak forests that surround Emiliana's Los Robles home, it is a triumph of winemaking and, to borrow from the great mind of W. Pooh, worth every *pound, shilling and ounces*.

Clos des Menuts Saint Emilion Grand Cru (Vintage to be confirmed) – Bordeaux, France ,

- Not many parts of the world can claim to be both a UNESCO World Heritage site and named after a monk. This Merlot and Cabernet Franc blend is deep red, powerful and complex with cherries, red fruit and a touch of wood.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Colombo 2015 – Rhone, France

- Everybody grab a partner...*Sur le Pont d'Avignon, L'on y danse, l'on y danse*...Châteauneuf, pontiffs and Avignon are a happy trio hence the requirement to do a little dance on a bridge/chair/table when this brooding, silky, ripe fruit number is ordered.

Rosé

Campo Castillo Garnacha Rosado 2017 – Campo de Borja, Spain

- Delicate pink with delicious ripe berry fruit and strawberry aromas. This is not your typical Spanish rose as it's dry and well-balanced! Perfect if you don't want to go the full Provence dryness and would like a bit more fruit.

Château de Cavalier Cuvée Marafiance 2017 – Provence, France

- One of the highlights of the 2017 harvest, Cavalier's Marafiance has received investment recently that would make Manchester City fans envious. This is a dry, delicate, spicy, moreish and serious little number from a Château that has its sights set at the very top.

Whispering Angel 2017 – Provence, France

- Whispering Angel is at the top of the Provence pyramid and the musings on the back label alone are worth the purchase (what on Earth are they talking about?). Luckily, when you strip back the marketing it's a truly delicious wine that deserves its cult following.

Sparkling

Lunetta Prosecco Spumante 20cl NV – Veneto, Italy

- Need a little pick-me-up or perhaps the other half won't share a whole bottle with you. I'd order half a dozen and show them you're not to be messed with.

Passaparola Prosecco Spumante NV – Veneto, Italy (Vegan)

- To the tune of Escape (The Piña Colada song) by Rupert Holmes. *If you like Pass-a-parola | Having fizz in the sun | Gentle apple and peach flavours | Should be enough just for one...*

Bella Modella Prosecco Spumante NV 150cl – Veneto Italy

- Whoah! Look at the size of that! If there's more than one of you drinking Prosecco you might want to consider this more environmentally friendly option (less glass?). Crisp with ripe apple and citrus. Magnums are a bit trickier to open so it's probably worth ordering to watch the team struggle a bit.

Vilarnau Brut Reserve NV – Peñedes, Spain

- Good Lord, don't let the packaging put you off. Cava is a great region and its wines are so unfashionable it means many a bargain can be had. Made in the same way as Champagne, it has lovely balance and autolytic (bread, nut, butter, brioche etc.) notes.

Squerryes Sparkling Wine – Kent, England

- The original vineyard was planted by squirrels (the name is olde English for squirrels) who would hoard their grapes by burying them for the long winter ahead. Invariably some were left in the ground and the vineyard grew as it stands today. Complex and deep with a great balance of fruit and yeasty characters.

Wiston Estate Brut Rosé NV – West Sussex, England (Vegan)

- The best NV rosé in England, there, it's been committed to paper. This is almost entirely top notch Chardonnay (96%) with a splash of Pinot Noir thrown in for good measure. Notes of rhubarb, raspberry, strawberry, redcurrant, wild roses, lemon zest and a touch of sherbet on the finish. Awesome stuff.

Autréau Premier Cru Brut NV – Champagne, France

- Ooh la la, Premier Cru sounds rather flash doesn't it? This is a lovely and soft fizz from excellent vineyards and has some nice fruit thanks to it being mainly Pinots Noir and Meunier.

Ruinart Blanc de Blancs Brut NV – Champagne, France –

- 100% Chardonnay predominantly from the Côte des Blancs in Champagne (i.e. the best part of Champagne to grow Chardonnay – the soil is very chalky, just like Wiston's vineyard in West Sussex!). This is elegant and quite intense. Top notch Grande Marque from one of the oldest names in Champagne

Dessert

Eugene Reuillier Sauternes Château des Arrieux 2015 – Sauternes, France

- Sauternes, along with Tokaji, produces the finest sweet wines in the world. Great balance between honeyed fruit and acidity is so important and this has it just right. Just ask for Sauternes so you don't have to cope with the ludicrously long name.

Pinceszet Tokaji 5 Puttonyos 2005 – Tokaji, Hungary

- Tokaji is made from *Furmint* grapes through the process of *botrytis*. These two words alone should render it undrinkable but it's a jewel in the world of wine and is utterly unique.

Kopke 10 year Tawny Port – Duoro, Portugal

- Kopke is the greatest Port house you've never heard of. Founded in 1638 – only 33 years after Mr Fawkes and his crew were caught and a full 167 years before Waterloo (battle not Abba's Eurovision triumph in Brighton). This is a fine, fine Tawny Port laden with spice, wood and fruit.