

White

125ml 175ml 250ml Bottle

Sauvignon Blanc Santa Costley, Santa Ema (Chile)

£4.15 £5.50 £7.95 £21.00

After a trip to the Loire Valley in France we couldn't secure a good Sauvignon, so we looked further afield. It arrived, wrapped safely, from Santa Ema. It was the 'Goldilocks' - Not too much acidity, not too much fruit, not too much minerality, just right.

Chardonnay Castillo De Monjardin (Spain)

£4.50 £5.75 £8.25 £23.50

Driving up to the Castillo, trees in blossom, Pyrenees framing the vista, stunning. The vines for this un-oaked Chardonnay circle a great cherry tree. We first met Victor, the son of the wine maker, who'd returned from living in the USA. As well as becoming a formidable wine maker he's a bit of an entrepreneur and we enjoyed riding his electric bikes (before we'd tried the wine of course!)

Pinot Grigio Tolloy Alto Adige (Italy)

£5.25 £6.75 £9.95 £26.7

Tolloy make one of the best Pinot Grigio's in my book, up there with Jermann, if not better! For me, Pinot Grigio is either fantastic or poor, there's no middle ground. Souter's has converted a number of Pinot Grigio 'deniers', from people who loath the grape to loving it!

Viognier Le Versant Vin De Pays (France)

£26.50

Viognier originates from the northern Cotes du Rhone region and is gaining worldwide notoriety after almost disappearing in the sixties. Le Versant, is part of Les Vignobles Foncalieua, a union of cooperatives anchored in the heart of Languedoc. We drank this wine as we dined in the Old city of Carcassonne. We had to ask for the table decoration to be moved, a live goldfish in a glass, bizarre!

Macon Uchizy Domaine Talmard (France)

£37.75

Like all Burgundy this is 100% Chardonnay made in Cluny, where in 910 William Duke of Aquitaine 'The Pious' and Count of Auvergne founded the Benedictine Abbey. Closer to home, in 1200 Crossraguel Abbey was founded in the outskirts of Kirkoswald. Here for 400 years, the Cluniac Monks christened Robert the Bruce and served the good people of Carrick.

Pouilly Fumé Corty Moreux (France)

£39.95

Julien and Arnaud Moreux have a winemaking history dating back to 1677. They own the monopole La Loge Aux Moines, which lays claim to being the first recorded planting of Sauvignon Blanc and is the foundation of Pouilly-Fumé. Arnaud is a passionate musician and Julien a keen angler. Music... fishing... an incredible Pouilly-Fumé. Heaven in a glass.

Meursault Domaine Du Pavillon Albert Bichot (France)

£84.00

Albert Bichot's office is in the old part of Beaune and all senior members of the Costley Group have visited Beaune on numerous occasions. Eric, Linda Leckie's husband, said his fondest memories of Beaune are of the hospitality he received from Albert Bichot. The finest Burgundy wines, Michelin Star food and fine company, truly a recipe for great memories.

Pinot Blanc Les Crustaces Gustave Lorentz (Alsace)

£28.50

The passing ownership of Alsace between France and Germany over the centuries is a bit like the Hokey Cokey 'in, out, in, out, you shake it all about...', however, the majority of grapes grown in Alsace are Riesling. Pinot Blanc: in German 'Weißburgunder', in Italian Pinot Bianco. With Shellfish and Whole Sole, this wine is exceptional.

Sauvignon Blanc Amisfield (New Zealand)

£41.50

Sauvignon Blanc is the flagship grape variety of New Zealand and accounts for 60% of production. The infamous Marlborough in the north of the South Island. Otago in the south centre of the Island enjoying higher altitudes and therefore cooler climates. For me this creates a better wine with fantastic mineral qualities.

Red

125ml 175ml 250ml Bottle

Merlot Costley Santa Ema (Chile)

£4.15 £5.50 £7.95 £21.00

Pedro Pavone Voglino: Italian immigrant, athlete and businessman, discovered the Isla de Maipo while driving his trusted motorcycle and sidecar through Chile. Four generations later they supply wine to 30 countries. Costley Group were one of the first to adopt Santa Ema and this great Merlot as our fine House Wine.

Crianza Castillo De Monjardin (Spain)

£4.95 £6.50 £9.50 £25. 75

Before we visited, watching the infamous bull-run in Pamplona on TV, I imagined Pamplona as a tiny village with cobbled streets and narrow roads. However, over 200,000 live there, as the Capital of the ancient kingdom of Navarre. Normal Crianza has to be aged for a minimum of one year in a barrel and one year in bottle, however, Monjardin do theirs for a few months longer. As a result this is a wonderful example of Navarre Crianza.

Domini Veneti Appassimento Veneto IGT Passito (Italy) £5.25 £6.75 £9.95 £26.75

'Appassimento' is the process of natural partial dehydration of grapes and this generates greater colour, aromas and flavours and with a higher concentration of sugars it gives this wine 14% ABV. My family in Italy produce a white wine in this way. I think they do this for storage purposes and add water to the wine as we eat as a family. The younger members get more water, less wine, but no one is left out at the table.

Beaujolais Villages Henry Fessy (France)

£29.50

As a child star of 'The Emperor's New Clothes' where a marketing Guru convinced the Emperor he had wonderful clothes on when actually he was naked. Some people compare the Saatchi and Saatchi's championing of the YBA (Young British Artists) to this fable or have they found the best of British art? The unlikely rise to fame of a tepid and unimposing wine. Beaujolais Nouveau arrives every third Thursday in November just weeks after the Grapes are picked. Just before Americans

enjoy Thanksgiving, promoted as the ultimate wine with Turkey. In the UK, Restaurants raced to be the first to have it on their tables. Out of this nonsense people started to enjoy the real quality of the Gamay Grape a modern day Monet.

Malbec Reserva Centenario Goyenchea (Argentina)

£28.50

Some songs are covered by artists that 'make them their own' such as Leonard Cohan's 'Hallelujah' covered by Jeff Buckley or 'Hurt' by Johnny Cash, originally written by The Nine Inch Nails. Malbec is a challenging grape to grow, one of the six grapes used in Bordeaux, but now arguably synonymous with Argentina where it thrives. As round as Humpty Dumpty with a flavour deeper than Geoff Bezos' trouser pockets, this is a really robust wine, but not overpowered by tannins.

Primitivo Critera Schola Sarmenti (Italy)

£31.50

Made to the north of Gallipoli (Italy) on the heal of the country, the Americans stole this Croatian grape and called it Zinfandel in much the same way as Marconi stole the Radio patents from the great Croatian Tesla. The label could be at home in the Vatican as a communion wine. However, those five farmers that created Schola Sarmenti are adamant it's the Holy Grail of wine. Our Croatian Chef, Miran, agrees!

Marques De Murietta Reserva (Spain)

£47.50

From Castillo Ygay, surprisingly their top wine is a 35 year old white, priced at £797.00. More modestly priced, this Marques de Murietta Reserva is a fantastic Rioja. Combining Garnacha, Graciano, Mazuelo and Tempranillo grapes. The critic James Suckling scored this wine 95/100 and Robert Parker 96. Just like Nadia Comaneci 'The Big White', got full points all round.

Pinot Noir Amisfield (New Zealand)

£44.75

We think its very difficult to get good Pinot Noir without breaking the bank and buying one of the big Burgundy's. However, this offering is exceptional and not entirely typical of New Zealand Pinot Noir. Again Central Otago and the Pisa mountain range have excelled themselves in providing the heart and soul of this fantastic wine. Tested extensively by the Souter's Team, this had to be on the list.

Orange (Yes, you read that correctly)

125ml 175ml 250ml Bottle

Cramele Recas Orange Wine (Romania)

£4.50 £5.75 £8.25 £23.50

Wine was first made in Georgia, across the Black Sea this Orange or Amber wine is made from white grapes where the skins are not removed but instead left for days or months. This method has actually been around since Moses was a boy but it went out of fashion in the 50s. However, like all fashions, they all come around again. With the exception perhaps of Mr Browns wardrobe.

Rosé

125ml 175ml 250ml Bottle

Zinfandel Rosé Costley, Borrego Springs (USA)

£4.15 £5.50 £7.95 £21.00

Some may be 'mature' enough to remember the arguably over-popularity of Lambrusco in the 1970s. However, a well-made Lambrusco can be full of fun. This White Zinfandel as it's widely referred to, for me is most entertaining. For me, this offering from Borrego Springs, is by far the finest example of this party wine. Pinkies up!

Garnacha Rosado Bodegas Campillo (Spain)

£5.25 £6.75 £9.95 £26.75

Bodegas Campillo has always been revered in the promotion of the visual arts. It's involvement in the genesis of the Guggenheim Museum project in Bilbao and Campillo Creativo exhibition inside this winery. I believe making rosé wine in particular, to be an art, and this one is truly a masterpiece of subtle flavours and joy in every glass.

Domaine Haut Gleon (France)

£45.75

Arriving at Chateau Haut Gleon, Bill and I immediately went walking around the wonderful gardens. Losing track of time, when we eventually entered the Chateau the only rooms left were in the stable block! We slept well but other guests spoke of strange creaking floorboards during the night. Maybe it was the ghost of the last Marquis de Gleon and his son who were murdered in their bedrooms! One of the jewels in the Languedoc's Crown, this wine is so light in colour that the bottle is frosted to save light taking colour from the wine. Hands up, this is probably one of the best rosé I've ever tasted, and its revered by regulars to Souter's.

Sparkling and Champagne

Whilst giving a talk to a woman's group in Symington, the subject of Glassware came up. The question of the Champagne Flute versus the Champagne Coupe. I explained the legend claims Marie Antoinette heard the story of Helen of Troy, who after a great battle formed clay cups moulded of her breasts for her Soldiers to drink from the river. From the bust of Marie Antoinette, it's claimed a glass maker formed the coupe. Immediately a hand was raised from the crowd... "So how did they form the flute Michael?", with rose coloured cheeks I replied, "I've no idea madam".

	Flute Bottle
Prosecco Santi Nello DOC Veneto (Italy)	£6.25 £27.50
Moet & Chandon Brut (France)	£11.00 £63.00
Moet & Chandon Rosé (France)	£78.00