



WINE LIST

White Wine

Tempus Sauvignon Blanc, Valle Central, Chile, 2010 [13%, SC]	£17.95
This is a fantastically well balanced wine showing classic lemon and lime characteristics with a fresh, zesty, mouth-watering finish.	
Blenheim Point Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2009 [12.5%, SC]	£20.00
This has the classic varietal flavours of cool climate Sauvignon but with a distinctive nettley edge to it and it is this subtle infusion that makes it really tasty, really refreshing and lightens the concentration and intensity of the wine. So often have we heard the comment 'I couldn't drink more than a glass of it' when discussing the drinkability of New Zealand SBs...well, here's one that you can.	
Gavi "Mezzana", Dezzani, Piemonte, Italy, 2010 [12%]	£22.00
There comes a point when the economies of scale kick in and being able to knock nearly a third off the price of our Gavi 'Mezzana' by bringing over 'significant' volumes made absolutely perfect sense to us. Along with Luccio and Lugana, here's another light, slightly spritzy and wonderfully lively and uplifting white made from Italy's Cortese grape. Fragrant and delicate and another perfect Jascots Blanco to keep in the fridge now that Spring has sprung. Bring on the sunshine.	
Simonsig Barrel Fermented Chardonnay, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2008 [13.5%]	£22.00
The '06 and '07 developed into fabulous Côte d'Or lookalikes on a par with Philippe Chavy's best Bourgogne Chardonnay of yesteryear, and now the 2008 has developed a similar depth and character with all those generous and rich, integrated, creamy flavours - in the style of a fine Burgundy and NOT something hideous like a 1980s Australian.	
Maison de la Paix Marsanne Viognier, Pays d'Oc, France, 2009 [12.5%, SC]	£18.50
Having been absolutely bowled over by their reds, it was surely stretching the bounds of possibility that we could find a Maison de la Paix white wine of equivalent quality, but that is exactly what has happened. This beautiful blend of 60% Marsanne and 40% Viognier has a smooth, rich texture and good length.	
Reichsrat Von Buhl Dry Riesling, Trocken, Pfalz, Germany, 2009/10[11.5%, SC]	£23.00
We've now listed VB's dry Riesling for three vintages over three years and I don't recall a single person saying anything else but they loved it. This is a scintillatingly crisp, dry (trocken) wine with piercing intensity of stone fruit, lime and peaches that thrills the palate all the way through to a long, clean finish.	
Brandal Albariño, Adegas D'Altamira, Rias Baixas DO, Spain, 2009 [13%]	£23.00
A light, refreshing and vivid white wine, with apple and citrus fruits on the palate and lots of minerality on the finish, which gives lovely depth. A great wine with starters.	
<i>Chablis</i>	
Chablis, Domaine Louis Robin, 2009 [12%]	£24.00
You could almost believe that this cracking wine was a Premeur Cru. A modern, voluptuous wine packed with fresh fruit layered with mineral and spice giving it a fantastic smoky finish.	
Chablis Premier Cru 'Vau de Vey', Romain Bouchard, 2008 [12.5%]	£29.00
Romain is son of the legendary Pascal Bouchard, and having served a long apprenticeship under his father, bought a parcel of Vau de Vey to show what he could do in his own right. This is his third vintage, and again the balance of the wine is perfect, demonstrating a combination of elegance, precision, complexity, minerality and delicious texture. Ideal for drinking with smoked salmon.	

Macon

Pouilly-Fuissé 'Vieilles Vignes', Jean-Paul Paquet, 2009 [13%] £29.00

The old vines used here bring additional weight of lovely fruit and complexity to Paquet's very impressive Pouilly-Fuissé. The super-ripe juice of this fantastic vintage was barrel fermented before aging in French oak barrels so it is elegantly infused with oaky flavours rather than dominated by them, relying on vibrant and sumptuous, complex fruit.

White Burgundy

Puligny-Montrachet 'Les Noyers Bret', Jean-Marc Pillot, 2008 [13%] £39.00

Over a period of several months, we tasted a vast number of 2008s, and the best white wine of the lot, by far, was by our old chum, Jean-Marc Pillot whose Puligny from the lieu dit, 'Les Noyers Bret' is breathtaking! The name might not trip off the tongue but, oh my, this is truly brilliant stuff. Medium rich, beautifully balanced and really well crafted with the weight of the white fruit so perfectly complimenting the oak and acidity. Try this - I think it just might be one of the greatest we have ever had.

Meursault 'Les Grands Charrons', Bachez-Legros, 2008 [13.5%] £39.00

'Les Grands Charrons' has already taken the market by storm. Just a two minute walk to the north of illustrious Premiers Crus like 'Les Poruzots', the wine has a fantastic and refreshing acidity that perfectly compliments the weight of ripe Chardonnay fruit from this tremendous vintage. Not yet buttery and 'classic' of course but this big, luscious and seriously good white wine is drinking beautifully already with youthful, vivid, concentrated fruit.

Chassagne-Montrachet, Jean Marc Pillot, 2006 [13%] £39.00

Richer top soils yield seductive and opulent fruit in Chassagne. This is a hugely impressive wine, complex and impeccable but must have the most flavoursome of dishes served with it. All of Pillot's wines bear his hallmark of great balance, good freshness, rounded texture and, of course, power.

Nuits-St Georges Premier Cru 'Les Terres Blanches', Bertrand Ambroise, 2006 [13.5%] £50.00

'Bertie's' organically-farmed Nuits St Georges is an amazing white Burgundy. It is a massive, full-throttle wine, very full with a gorgeously rounded palate, rich, smoky and luscious Chardonnay flavours all wrapped up in an oaky envelope. Rare and sensationally impressive.

Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru 'Les Folatières', Corton-André, 2006 [13%] £60.00

The Folatières is exquisite! Feminine and utterly seductive with a supremely classy texture, a lovely weight and medium intensity but a wine that very much relies on its femininity to charm the drinker.

The Loire Valley

Pouilly-Fumé 'Les Duchesses', Domaine Laporte, 2009 [13%] £29.00

Dry with classic smoky, lime flavours and great minerality. Elegant and well balanced on the palate with kiwi fruit and gooseberries that leap into a fresh and clean tang with a delicious zesty citrus finish.

Sancerre 'Le Rochoy', Domaine Laporte, 2009 [13.5%] £29.00

A very defined, delineated palate possesses flavours and textures of pure, crushed green apple flesh, slate and wet stone notes, prominent grapefruit and a sensation of cream and silk throughout. The richness of this wine is highlighted by the honeyed undertone to its flavours, especially as it develops in the glass, building a very complete expression of gorgeous balance

Rose Wine

Mon Rosé de Montrose, Pays d'Oc, France, 2009 [12%] £18.95

The 2010 vintage of Mon Rosé is right up there with the best. Mainly Grenache, but with generous additions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, this has a lovely freshness on the nose while the palate has strikingly pure strawberry fruit and really good length.

Sancerre Rosé Pinot Noir, Vincent Grall, Loire, France, 2010 [13.5%] £23.95

Vincent's organically farmed, delicate yet full-flavoured, immensely tasty Pinot Noir rosé is soft textured and gentle with red summer fruits...a sort of strawberries and cream in a glass!

Spain

Valserrano Reserva Bodegas Marquesa, Rioja DOC, 2005 [14.5%]

£29.00

Opulent, warming, rich Reserva Rioja that is classic in its appeal with both 'New' and 'Old World' enthusiasts, this is a perfectly balanced example of strawberry-scented, soft and mellow Tempranillo.

Australia

Angus 'The Bull' Cabernet Sauvignon, 2009 [14.5%, SC]

£25.00

Dark purple, juicy, slightly smoky and spicy red but with lovely, pure Cabernet flavours and generously swamped in blackberries and cherries and that wonderful rich, creamy envelope. This is another Howitzer in a succession of blockbuster Cabernets by young winemaker Hamish McGowan and what a thumpingly fabulous wine this is.

Rhone Valley

£29.00

Gigondas, Bertrand Stehelin, 2006 [14.5%]

Punchy, powerful, dense and extroverted Gigondas with bright fleshy fruit and spice. This is predominantly made from the Grenache grape, with a little Shiraz as well. Gigondas is a well-known village in the southern section of the Rhône valley, near to the more famous area of Châteauneuf du Pape and produces wine in a very similar, rich style.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2007, Domaine Porte Rouge, 2007 [14.5%]

£36.00

Just when we thought we had seen the last of any affordable examples from the fabulous 2007 vintage, up popped this little treasure. Made only from Grenache, the nose is laden with blackberry and spice aromas, while the palate is silky smooth, rounded and bursting with fruit.

Red Burgundy

Auxey-Duresses, Vincent Prunier, 2005 [13%] £29.00

The village of Auxey-Duresses, hidden round the back of Meursault, is little known outside the wine trade. The advantage of this is that every now and then, when we stumble upon a superb example, it is invariably very reasonably priced. The great 2005 vintage was one such time, and Vincent Prunier's wine has a rich nose of plums and spices, while the palate is concentrated, lush and sensual. The wine would go well with roast meats, especially game.

Beaune 'Les Blanches Fleurs', Domaine Raphaël Dubois, 2007 [13%] £32.00

This is a pretty and charming red burgundy with ripe fruit, wonderful texture and soft tannins. Made for early drinking this takes Raphael's Bourgogne rouge up a notch revealing a slightly fleshier wine with all the softness and charm

Volnay, Maison Raphaël Dubois, 2007 [13%] £34.00

A serious and well structured red Burgundy, spicy with a lively impact, soft and seductive texture and a rich, fleshy finish. Like many of the '07's this is generously approachable young and will improve over the next two to three years.

Gevey-Chambertin 'Les Crais', Gérard Seguin, 2007 [13%] £36.00

Gérard's wines possess true elegance in spades. This, majestic and rich, is one of his more smoky, concentrated cuvées. Combined with the fresh, perfumed and occasionally delicate 2007 vintage this delivers a wine of brilliant balance: refreshingly flavoursome and reassuringly satisfying.

Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru 'Aux Champs Perdrix' £42.00

Domaine Chevillon-Chézeaux, 2008 [13%]

Ripe, refined, gentle and harmonious on the nose, the palate is beautifully supple, elegant and ripe, with complexity, texture and a certain quiet opulence.

Volnay Premier Cru 'Santenots', Corton-André, 2005 [13.5%] £50.00

Beautifully mature Pinot Noir from a stunning vintage. Creamy and amazingly soft, this is a very aristocratic, expressive wine of crushed raspberries, touches of black cherry and savoury notes. 2005's latent power underlies the wonderful complexity here.

Bordeaux

Château Pavail de Luze, Cru Bourgeois Margaux, 2006 [13%] £29.00

With its beguilingly fresh, aromatic, cassis and cedar nose, and pure, curranty fruit on the palate, this is classically refined claret that is beginning to drink really well now.

Château Haut-Veyrac, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru, 2005 [14%] £29.00

An early drinker from Bordeaux's greatest ever vintage and such a pure, bright, polished and lovely glass of wine, it will probably going to be one of the best Grand Cru Saint-Emilions you'll taste for years. The property is sandwiched between Valandraud and La Fleur Cardinale, so one would expect great things. Haut Veyrac's '05 really does deliver here with lovely concentration of black fruits, a spectacular texture, ultra supple tannins and very good length. Perfect with roasted red meats particularly beef, lamb and duck.

Château Beaumont, Cru Bourgeois Haut Médoc, 2005 [13.5%] £32.00

Bold, broad and rich. This is structured, delicious Claret from a prime harvest. Cassis and cedar wash across the palate with very dark plums and a burgeoning sense of silk coming through as it opens further in the glass.

Château Poujeaux, Cru Bourgeois, Haut Médoc (90 RP), 2004 [13.5%] £42.00

A sophisticated wine from a superb Bordeaux estate, this is a Cabernet/Merlot blend made with consummate skill and passion. A fine, firm red with immensely full, broad and majestically powerful black berry and currant fruit, lined with a perfect sense of cedar-spice elegance

Château Lagrange, 3ème Cru Classé, Saint-Julien (91 RP), 2003 [13%] £60.00

A year of great heat, 2003 delivered wines of immense power and, for Bordeaux, earlier accessibility in the ripe, dense, velvety textures. Lagrange got the balance in this challenging yet rewarding year just right and the dark chocolate notes supporting black currants and cherry liqueur fill this full-bodied wine with immense class and pleasing weight. It is sensual and warm, thoroughly deserving of serious attention.

Red Wine

- Tempus Merlot, Valle Central, Chile, 2010 [12.5%, SC]** £17.95
If you don't count yourself amongst the multitude who will happily buy Chilean Merlot until the cows come home, give this one a chance. It's a more serious wine than you might expect, with spicy background and smoky aromas reminiscent of claret to go with the ripe black fruit.
- Maison de la Paix Old Vine Carignan, Pays d'Oc, France, 2009 [12.5%, SC]** £18.50
Ever since we completely fell in love with the Carignan in our sensational Priorat from Northern Spain, we have wanted to bring one or two more onto the list and a meeting with an old mucker has given us this opportunity. Fabulously luscious and spicy with red fruit flavours, this is punchy stuff, with the old vines yielding less volume and higher concentration. This gem could be the best value red on the list.
- La Chamiza 'Polo Amateur' Bonarda, Mendoza, Argentina, 2009 [13%]** £18.95
Bonarda is a native Argentinian grape variety that is fast becoming the sommeliers' choice on any good wine list. This version has great concentration of blackcurrant and raspberry fruit, lovely structure with great rustic charm.
- Château La Croix du Duc, Bordeaux, France, 2009 [13%]** £20.00
We taste more wines from Bordeaux than any other region, and probably reject 99% of the samples that we see. So when we buy one, you can be sure that it's worth trying. From the superb 2009 vintage, and 90% Merlot, this is classic, refined, ripe, soft, luscious and hugely generous.
- La Chamiza 'Polo Professional' Reserve Malbec Mendoza, Argentina, 2009 [14%]** £23.00
La Chamiza's Reserve Malbec is a fabulous wine of extraordinary class and polish. Extremely refined rather than brash, this is elegant yet broad, rich and reminiscent of Malbec's origins in Bordeaux and South-West France. A huge success and a huge wine.
- Côtes du Rhône, 'Rascassas', Domaine Berard, France, 1998 [13.5%]** £23.00
Non! Not some rusty old bin-end that we scavaged from the dankest hole in Berard's cellar but a wonderful Rhône from a friend of twenty years, Robert Dahm, who specialises in selling unobtainably mature Rhône Valley wines. Of course, all those frivolously delicious youthful fruits are long gone but this wonderful 'good ol' boy' has fabulous flavours of tar, spice and leather...it has sensational complexity, wonderful red fruits and what could be more glorious than drinking a fully mature wine whose age someone else has bankrolled?
- The Charge, La Bascula, Rioja DOC, Spain, 2008 [13.5%]** £22.00
We're so smitten with this sensational wine that we have just bought the lot and driven down the price to make it THE top value wine of the list! This is a properly powerful, modern, sexy, dark and very concentrated kind of New World style of Tempranillo/Grenache/Graciano blend crammed with briary but sweet black fruit flavours with tones of spicy chocolate. One hell of a wine, and the 2008 is all the way up there with the 2006. PERFECT with lamb or beef.
- Terrafina Chianti Superiore, DOCG Tuscany, Italy, 2008 [12.5%]** £23.00
This is a great red and just so completely different and way, way better than those nasty, mean, tight Chiantis which can find their way onto supermarket shelves. It's much fleshier than one might expect with none of that linear leanness that a dry old gnarly Chianti can sometimes have but brighter and more generous and has an irresistible toasty, polished roundness to it. This has become a big favourite!
- Leylines Shiraz, Songlines Estates, McLaren Vale, Australia, 2007 [14.5%]** £24.00
One of the stars of our list, the 2007 Leylines has a wonderful silky texture, richness and power, with beautiful balance. It's showing super-ripe black cherries, blackcurrants and focused spicy flavours, and is now developing more complex, tobacco tones. This is brilliant stuff and very, very good value indeed.
- Fleurie, Jean Pierre Large, Beaujolais, France (Gold Medal), 2008/09 [12.5%]** £25.00
What a relief to have found a Fleurie that we can be proud of and sell for the right money. A gold medal winning wine, this is exactly what we were searching for amongst the twenty or so Fleuries we tried. Pure and fresh with expressive cherry fruit on both the nose and palate.
- Castle Rock Pinot Noir, Mendocino, California, USA, 2008 [13.5%]** £25.00
A superb example of Californian Pinot but at a price that should make some Burgundians blush. Strawberries and rose-petals combine with redcurrants and raspberries in this silky, vibrant wine.