

Mark Savage wine selection

White

SAGESSE - France / Languedoc

£19

The wise little owl on the label tells you that this is a thinking drinker's wine for all seasons, fresh dry white, intentionally understated, consistently refreshing. The grapes are grown on the volcanic soils of a family estate close to the old Mediterranean port of Agde.

CLAUDEVAL Organic - France / Languedoc

£22

A special selection of organically grown grapes from the vines of Jean Claude Mas in the South of France, a clever balance of traditional French style with a gentle nod to the New World yet with a modest 12% alcohol.

SANCERRE Chavignol - France/Loire

£40

Sancerre sets the stylistic goalposts for great Sauvignon Blanc, hallmarked by the strong flint and limestone soils of steep hillside vineyards, bone dry, with a cut of acidity and subtle nuances of gooseberry and red currant.

BEAUJOLAIS BLANC Chardonnay - France/Burgundy

£34

Everyone wants to find affordable white Burgundy and the best place to track it down is in the golden limestone soils of southern Beaujolais, a perfect home for the Chardonnay grape. This wine sees no wood whatsoever and provides a beautifully balanced expression of the grape, light in structure yet generous in flavour.

PAX, Dveri-Pax Estate – Slovenia

£25.5

A fine introduction to the world of fresh dry white Slovenian wine, combining the structure of Pinot Gris and Furmint grapes with the gentle aromatics of Riesling and Traminer.

GRUNER VELTLINER Am Berg – Austria

£31.5

Bernhard Ott is synonymous in Austria with great Gruner Veltliner, grown here biodynamically on gentle slopes on the north bank of the River Danube. Intensely refreshing and very food friendly, the style has become a strong favourite in recent years with hints of fresh pear and white pepper.

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Red

SAGESSE - France / Languedoc

£19

No single grape variety is ever allowed to dominate the character of this careful blend, but the base is currently provided by the ever-friendly Merlot, so lovers of Claret should feel at home with this delicately understated wine from volcanic soils of a family wine farm in the Languedoc.

CLAUDEVAL Organic - France / Languedoc

£22

A stylistic synergy combining the best attributes of both Old and New World wine, this is a harmonious blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre and Merlot grapes all organically grown in the valley of the river Herault in the heart of the Languedoc. The fruit flavours are generous without being jammy.

CHATEAU DES GRAVIERES – France/Bordeaux

£25.5

Young claret can be austerely astringent, but can also be smoothly refreshing and immediately delicious as is the case with this cabernet and merlot blend from light sandy and gravel soils to the south of the city of Bordeaux itself. It is good that there are still very affordable wines offering wonderful value with the enduring appeal of this famous region.

COTES DU RHONE – France/Rhone

£27

The Grenache grape comes into its own in these southern Rhone valley vineyards, in this case being grown organically by a family whose roots in the region are so deep that they share a name with their village. One could hardly ask for more from a basic Cotes du Rhone, generous fruit flavours, real vinosity with refreshing vitality.

FLEURIE Clos La Roilette – France/Burgundy

£38

This warm site below the famous village makes a rich spicy expression of its well-known appellation and the Gamay grape that excels there, somehow managing to invite comparisons with both Northern Burgundy and the Rhone as it develops. This is a Fleurie with obvious guts.

2015 PARADYSKLOOF – Africa/Stellenbosch

£27.5

An ideal Mediterranean climate and perfect decomposed granite and shale soils of Stellenbosch result in generous wines and great value. This is a Rhone-like blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre grapes produced at Vriesenhof estate under the watchful eye of owner and former rugby legend Jan "Boland" Coetzee.