

Gilbey's

WINE LIST

My wine blog!

We continue to list our wines by grape variety as well as country and region. Grape variety is always the key to what you might expect from any given wine, but here is an aide-memoire of what to look for, with the summer in mind:

WHITE WINES

We have two excellent House Wines, one from South West France and one from South Africa. If you are looking for dry Atlantic refreshment it has to be our Muscadet, then if you want a little more varietal flavour Le Versant Chardonnay and the Touraine Sauvignon are good choices, my preference being for the Sauvignon at this time of year. Not quite so dry? ... look for the Anjou Blanc or the very flavoursome Chilean Riesling, oh and the Italian Pecorino of course. Back to the sea, well the Albariño is a great choice and if you want to go a bit more off-piste then the Sicilian Funaro Pinzeri is well worth trying. White Burgundy Chardonnay lovers are well catered for: Bourgogne, Montagny and Chablis, right up to a fine Meursault. Loire Sauvignon: you cannot do much better than our Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé, imported direct from two talented winemakers ... both wines lip-smackingly delicious from either side of the river.

RED WINES

Again, a choice of South-West France or South Africa for house wines. Then a light red from Anjou and a slightly bigger but very fruity French Malbec. If you are looking for bigger flavours, there are quite a few: the Le Versant Cabernet-Sauvignon and La Vigie Corbières, both from South West France; moving a little towards the East there is our new Côtes du Rhône. Bigger still, then the Pyros Barrel-Fermented Argentinian Malbec fits the bill, the Crozes-Hermitage in France's Northern Rhône is among the best I have ever tasted, then there is the Rosso di Montalcino from Northern Italy and a seriously good Rioja from the Bodega Lanzaga. Bigger still is our Châteauneuf-du-Pape. There is a good clutch of wines from Bordeaux, as well as a single variety Merlot from New Zealand. With summer upon us though, a slight lightness of touch may be preferred, so you will want to look at Gamay, Cabernet Franc and Pinot Noir. Here are a few: Gamay de Touraine, Bourgueil, Bourgogne, Morgon, Auntsfield New Zealand Pinot Noir, Mercurey and Savigny-lès-Beaune.

GIN

All the rage ... and we are playing our part. Two new Gins to the list this month: Gilbey's is back, this Gin was first distilled in the 1860s by Walter and Alfred Gilbey, our great great grandfathers. There is a prize for working out how they could be our great-great-grandfathers. The answer will be in my next blog. As my father used to sing all over the world: "Don't say Gin, say Gilbey's!". He would be horrified to see how much competition there is now: over 300 Gin distilleries in the UK alone. Well, one of those competitors comes from the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides which we have just visited: this new Gin features local, hand-harvested Sugar Kelp which speaks of this island's obvious connections to the sea ... and they also work with eight other carefully chosen botanicals. We do get about in our search for excellence!

Michael
June 2019

Gilbey's

WHITE WINES | SPARKLING WINE BY THE GLASS | CARAFE

	125ml	175ml	500ml	Bottle
LA BASTILLE 2018, Vin de France Ugni Blanc, Colombard 11% Peach aromas, crisp refreshing green apple flavours	3.60	5.00	13.35	20.00
MUSCADET de Sèvre et Maine 'sur lie' 2018, Dom de la Vinconnière, L. Perraud, Loire Melon de Bourgogne 12% Fine, dry, refreshing	4.80	6.70	17.85	26.75
TOURAINE SAUVIGNON 2017, Dom Desloges, Loire Sauvignon 13% Zippy, citrus fruit flavours	5.70	8.00	21.30	32.00
BOURGOGNE CHARDONNAY 2018, Nuiton-Beaunoy, Burgundy Chardonnay, 13% Dry, fine, mineral	6.60	9.20	24.50	36.50
PROSECCO Extra Dry, Guerrieri Rizzardi, Veneto, Italy Glera 11% Piercing clarity of fruit, stirringly fresh	6.00			33.00
CHAMPAGNE JANISSON BRUT TRADITION 70% Pinot Noir, 30% Chardonnay 12.5% Crisp and fresh, flavours of marshmallows and almonds	10.50			54.00
			half bottle	30.00

WHITE WINES BY THE BOTTLE

with Michael's tasting notes

LA BASTILLE 2018, Vin de France Ugni Blanc, Colombard 11% Peach aromas, crisp refreshing green apple flavours				20.00
BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF WOLFTRAP WHITE 2018, Franschoek, South Africa Viognier, Chenin Blanc, Grenache Blanc 13.5% Peach and yellow apple fruit The rich yet lively nose shows white peach, apricot and apple blossom aromas. The palate is packed with juicy fruit flavours : peach and yellow apple follow-through with hints of nettle, lemon grass and lime. The wine is generously textured with slight oak nuances, a weighty mid-palate, balanced, integrated acidity and a lingering fruit finish.				25.00
MUSCADET de Sèvre et Maine 'sur lie' 2018, Domaine de la Vinconnière, L. Perraud, Loire Melon de Bourgogne 12% Fine, dry, refreshing 'Sur lie' are the key words here: this means that the wine stays in contact with the lees (dead yeast cells left over from fermentation) right through until bottling (usually March). The wine must be bottled directly off its lees and not go through any filtration process either. This gives the wine a really creamy 'mouth-feel' which together with its fresh fruity flavours makes this one of the all-time greats with seafood.				26.75
ANJOU Blanc 2017, Domaine de la Treille, Gabriel Taillée, Loire Chenin 11% Medium dry; a hint of sweetness Situated South of Anjou, where the clay and sand soils seem to work so well with the highly versatile Chenin Blanc grape, this wine has distinct white flower and peach characteristics. Softer in style than the Muscadet above, not quite as uncompromisingly dry, but the grape's natural acidity ensures a clean crisp mineral finish. There is a soft unctuous element on the palate that will appeal to those who like their whites 'off-dry'.				27.75

LE VERSANT CHARDONNAY 2017, IDP Pays d'Oc, South West France **28.00**

Chardonnay 13%

Honey, pineapple, almonds, toast

These grapes are grown in the warmth of South West France, but the vineyards face North and maintain maximum freshness, which makes this wine a cracking alternative to a good Mâconnais white. A very aromatic nose with hints of white flowers, honey and pineapple, the wine is then quite full on the palate and has a long tropical toasted finish. Delicious on its own but will show even better with a bowl of moules marinières.

TOURAINES SAUVIGNON 2018, Domaine Desloges, Loire **32.00**

Sauvignon 13%

Zippy, citrus fruit flavours

Typically aromatic with a quite complex note of hawthorn, elderflower and boxwood. Its crispy herbal texture and sheer refreshment value make it a bit of a crowd-pleaser. Always delicious as an apéritif and a good match for lighter fish and poultry dishes. It cannot match the steely gooseberry grip of a great Sancerre ... but, for the price it does get pretty close! It definitely zings.

COUSINOL MACUL ISIDORA RIESLING 2015, Maipo Valley, Chile **33.00**

Riesling 14%

Green apple, jasmine and pineapple fruit-driven flavours, medium acidity

A true Riesling from Chile's oldest wine-producing region ... and from a winery that is still 100% in the hands of the original founding family. It is crisp and fruity on the palate with steely mineral tones giving citrus and melon flavours with a long finish, which even features a hint of ginger. This is a particularly good food wine which works brilliantly with traditional pork or seafood dishes.

SOAVE CLASSICO 2018, Guerrieri Rizzardi, Veneto, Italy **34.50**

Garganega, Chardonnay, Trebbiano di Soave 12%

Cool citrus and pear flavours

The wine is a blend of grapes from two of Soave's Cru vineyards, Costeggiola and Ferra. This gives fresh, cool climate fruit on the nose, leading into a palate which is light in body but with good density of fruit with a refreshing mineral character. Drink with shellfish soup, egg based dishes, grilled sardines .. even a vegetable risotto.

FERRUM ALBARIÑO 2018, Bodegas As Laxas, Rias Baixas, Spain **36.00**

Albariño 12.5%

Clear, brilliant, straw yellow-coloured with green nuances

This wine has that freshness on the palate, so typical of Albariño, and coming from the coast of Galicia in the Rias Baixas region of Northern Spain it cries out for seafood dishes. It has that salty tang which is so reminiscent of another wine from the other end of Spain, Manzanilla. The nose is quite intense with fruity and floral notes, especially apple and stoned fruit ... but most of all it makes me want to go fishing!

BOURGOGNE CHARDONNAY 2017, Nuiton-Beaunoy, Burgundy **36.50**

Chardonnay 13%

Dry, fine, mineral

Nuiton-Beaunoy is the only cooperative in the Côte d'Or and takes grapes from 140 different domaines. Everything rather came good for Burgundy in 2017. It's easy to forget that Burgundy is still quite far North and is subject to the same sort of weather patterns as we are. 2017 was great though ... and this is a delicious wine, full of typical chardonnay tropical fruit flavours, but with real grip on the palate. Great winemaking by Sebastien Sauvageot.

TENUTA ULISSE PECORINO 2018, Terre di Chieti IGP, Abruzzo, Italy **37.00**

Pecorino 13%

Medium acidity, delicious tropical fruit flavours

Pecorino is an ancient grape variety undergoing something of a revival, here in the hands of the Ulisse brothers in Southern Italy. The wine has medium acidity: it won't ever make your eyes water! Lots of charm, fresh, fruity aromas with citrus and tropical flavours of white peach and papaya. It partners all fish dishes and drinks well as an apéritif. The medium acidity certainly makes it an attractive all-rounder as there is a hint of sweetness.

FUNARO PINZERI 2016, Sicily **37.00**

Grillo 14%

Soft citrus blossom and peach flavours. Organic

Here is something completely different: a really delicious white made with the Grillo grape which thrives in Sicily's bakingly hot summers. Sometimes comparisons are helpful: whereas many sauvignons are a little like diving into a cool pool on a hot summer's day, ie, quite bracing, this wine is more akin to diving into a lukewarm pool, ie. not as bracing, but luxurious nevertheless. Helpful? Probably not! It is certainly elegant and flowery with a long finish.

SANCERRE Les Beaux Regards 2018, M. Girauld, Loire **39.00**

Sauvignon 13%

Dry, gooseberry and nettle flavours

Sancerre is such a well-known wine, but it's not always as good as you might expect. So much depends on the skill of the grower and it is very important to pick the grapes at the right time: too early and the wine will be unpleasantly acidic, a little too late and the grapes might ripen too much and produce a rather flabby wine. Get it right and you have a wine like this which we have only recently imported: it is very delicious indeed!

MONTAGNY Tête de Cuvée 2017, Domaine Berthenet, Côte Chalonnais, Burgundy **39.00**

Chardonnay 13%

Round and smooth with sustained mineral flavours

The Côte Chalonnais still provides the best Burgundian flavours for the money, a fact which has not changed since we began importing from the Berthenet family in the 1980s. The vinification is traditional, a small part is aged in oak barrels to give that Burgundian depth of flavour, but most of the wine is restricted to stainless steel tanks in order to maintain maximum freshness of flavour. Fish, poultry, creamy dishes, goat's cheese: great with all these.

CHABLIS 2017, Domaine Séguinot-Bordet **39.50**

Chardonnay 13%

Uniquely steely, dry, cool climate grip

Jean-Francois Bordet's vines are situated on the right bank of the River Serein where the rich Kimmeridgian soils give the wines the minerality so typical of great Chablis. Unlike chardonnay grown further South, we get green lip-smacking flavours, freshness and essential acidity. Added to this is considerable complexity, derived from the use of horizontal fermentation tanks that allow the wine greater lees contact. Cool choice.

POUILLY- FUMÉ 2017, Domaine du Bouchot, Loire **40.00**

Sauvignon 13%

Dry, perfumed, whiff of gun-flint

Pascal and Rachel Kerbiquet work on a 10 hectare vineyard in the commune of Saint Andelain ... and are exactly the type of growers we like to deal with. They are completely passionate about every facet of the production of this very delicious Loire Sauvignon. The hard calcareous and flint soils ensure good minerality and liveliness as well as that famous gun-flint aroma which smells exactly as though two flints are being rubbed together. Pouilly Fumé is made just across the bridge from Sancerre, but has a typically 'fatter' style.

MEURSAULT 2015, 'Cuvée Saint Jean', Vincent Latour, Burgundy **58.00**

Chardonnay 13%

Very fine with excellent richness and minerality

This is definitely one of Burgundy's most celebrated white wines. In almost all instances I like these wines to have a bit of nervosity, so I do like them still to be quite young. It is important to choose a good winemaker too because white Burgundies are about the most variable of all. The use of oak has to be judged perfectly; it should not mask the fruit or conceal the essential acidity. Vincent Latour has really excelled here: very delicious indeed and worth the money. Expect to pay at least £25 more per bottle in most other restaurants!

ROSÉ WINES

	125ml	175ml	500ml	Bottle
LA BASTILLE 2018, Vin de France	3.60	5.00	13.35	20.00
Carignan, Merlot 11%				
Dry, lip-smacking refreshment				

CHINON Rosé 2018, Domaine des Clos Godeaux, France **31.00**

Cabernet Franc 13%

Fleshy redcurrant fruit with balancing acidity

Deliciously dry cool climate Loire rosé –this is a rosé to be enjoyed throughout the year.



RED WINES BY THE GLASS / CARAFE

	125ml	175ml	500ml	Bottle
LA BASTILLE 2017, Vin de France Carignan, Merlot 12% Ripe fruit delivers a soft, yet flavour-packed Southern French red	3.60	5.00	13.35	20.00
ENSEDUNE MALBEC 2018, IGP Coteaux d'Ensérune, SW France Malbec 13.5% Vivid sweet berry fruits, strong finish	4.80	6.75	18.00	27.00
GAMAY DE TOURAINE 2017, Dom Desloges, Loire Gamay 12.5% Crunchy refreshing fruit	5.60	7.80	20.85	31.25
THE FOXMOTH MERLOT 2015, Alpha Domus, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand Merlot 14% Dark plums, chocolate and spice	6.70	9.40	25.00	37.65

RED WINES BY THE BOTTLE

with Michael's tasting notes

LA BASTILLE 2017, Vin de France Carignan, Merlot 12% Ripe fruit delivers a soft, yet flavour-packed Southern French red	20.00
BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF WOLFTRAP RED 2018, Franschoek, South Africa Syrah, Mourvedre, Viognier 14% Dark berry fruit, spicy tannins, silky texture Alcoholic fermentation takes place in stainless steel, but with partial French oak maturation for nine months. Dark berry fruit follows through onto a juicy, vibrant and mid-palate with svelte tannins and a silky texture. The wine shows exceptional balance with fresh, integrated acidity. Plummy fruit and spice linger on the finish. This mouth-filling wine is likely to become a very popular all-rounder.	25.00
ENSEDUNE MALBEC 2018, IGP Coteaux d'Ensérune, South West France Malbec 13.5% Vivid sweet berry fruits, strong finish Best known in Argentina, the Malbec grape comes from Cahors in France. The winemaker of this wine is an Argentinian who searched all over the Languedoc for a place that could produce the bright, intense wine he wanted. He found his possibility in partnership with a group of French winegrowers on the Montardy plateau outside Béziers. Unoaked with fresh, vivid soft berry fruits and floral flavours. Shouts out for big meaty dishes.	27.00
ANJOU ROUGE 2016, Domaine de la Treille, Gabriel Taillée, Loire Cabernet Franc 12.5% Fairly light, very easy drinking This wine seems to appeal instantly. The Cabernet Franc grape gives very fresh red fruit flavours on the nose. It is soft and elegant rather than attacking and has an earthy, smoky finish. The green and vegetal flavours, again so typical of Cabernet Franc, add crispness and raciness. The wine feels very genuine, un-mucked-about-with, natural, unforced ... charmingly uncomplicated.	27.50

LE VERSANT CABERNET-SAUVIGNON 2017, IDP Pays d'Oc, South West France 28.00

Cabernet Sauvignon 13.5%

Powerful aromas and gentle on the palate.

These vines are situated on south-facing hills near Ensérune (Languedoc Roussillon). Many of us choose our wine by grape variety now and Cabernet Sauvignon, the flagship of Bordeaux, is the most popular black grape variety in the world. Not surprising really: this example has powerful aromas of red fruits and spice, together with strawberries, sweet peppers and eucalyptus on the palate ... and it's great with all meat dishes.

LA VIGIE 2012, Corbières Cru Boutenac, Languedoc 30.00

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, Carignan 14%

Distinctly rich and herb-scented

Corbières-Boutenac, created in 2005, is a new red wine appellation of the Languedoc region in Southern France. It covers ten communities clustered round an elevated ridge of limestone about 20m from the Mediterranean Coast. The land is Provençal in character and the soils are poor in nutrition ... excellent; the less fertile the soil the deeper the roots of the vines have to go for water and nutrients. This breeds character and real 'goût de terroir'.

GAMAY DE TOURAINE 2017, Domaine Desloges, Loire 31.25

Gamay 12.5%

Crunchy refreshing fruit

Every Wine List should feature the vibrant gamay grape. This is the sort of wine you want in your picnic basket on a cycling trip down the Loire Valley: uncomplicated but packed with juicy flavour, this is a good choice as a lunch time red to accompany one of our delicious set lunches, with a bit of sunshine thrown in as well hopefully. Goes with almost any dish, including fish. Light on its feet and light on your head.

CÔTES du RHÔNE 'Le Perussier' 2017, Domaine Plantevin, Southern Rhône 34.00

Grenache, Syrah 14%

Red fruit aromas, rich style.

Typical young Rhône red fruit aromas, quite an exotic rich style, full-bodied with firm tannins and a cocoa finish. Good palate attack. The vines are situated just outside the very beautiful village of Séguret, where the cool nights and warm days really help the development of complexity and the all-important aromatics. This is a good match for rich dark meats with peppery or fruit-based sauces.

BOURGUEIL 2016, Domaine des Mailloches, Cuvée Vieilles Vignes, Loire 35.00

Cabernet Franc 12.5%

Quite light in character, typically vegetal flavours

The Loire, being in the Northern half of France and therefore a cooler climate, is never going to produce blockbuster reds, but this Bourgueil nevertheless has quite rich tannins, very distinct cassis fruit flavours with mushroom and cracked pepper aromas. There are times when I am looking for a wine's fruit to dance on my palate and this wine does deliver that delightful softness of touch, with a verdant spring-like crunchy character.

BOURGOGNE PINOT NOIR 2017, Nuiton-Beaunoy, Burgundy 37.00

Pinot Noir 13%

Earthy soft red fruits

Cedarwood spice on the nose with fine fruit focus. Lovely and crunchy in taste: the crunch is so important, we sometimes call it a wine's grip, which this wine definitely has. No hint of sickly jamminess, so often a pinot noir fault, especially in very hot growing summers. The palate of ripe cranberry and redcurrant fruit, with some creaminess on the finish, make for attractive drinking which marries well with lighter meat dishes.

CHÂTEAU DES DEMOISELLES 2015, Castillon, Côtes de Bordeaux 37.25

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon 14%

Big, weighty and unashamedly wood-dominated

This wine packs quite a punch. At its prime now and coming from an excellent vintage, this wine has some power and the finish is long and rounded. The name dates back to the Middle Ages when this property was managed by a congregation of nuns – small historical note – you get it all here! This wine does open up well in the glass and is very much an all-rounder in term of food matches.

THE FOXMOTH MERLOT 2015, Alpha Domus, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand **37.65**

Merlot 14%

Dark plums, chocolate and spice

Complex bouquet with a combination of earthy stony soils, toasty oak and dark red fruits. Appealing, rich and mouth-filling. The Alpha Domus winery was established by two generations of the Ham family in 1990 and all their wines are single vineyard, estate grown and vinified in their purpose-built winery. I have never been a great enthusiast for merlot on its own, but this wine stopped me in my tracks.

MORGON Domaine de la Tour des Bains 2017, Cru Beaujolais **38.00**

Gamay 13%

Very typical Beaujolais silkiness, soft, delicious Beaujolais fruit

Morgon is often described as the most 'Burgundy of the Beaujolais Crus' ... it is also one of my favourite areas of France so I would never write a wine list without a good Cru Beaujolais, they do make such wonderful restaurant wines too. Very charming and approachable, rather like the staff here ... hopefully! Black fruit flavours with spice on the nose, the wine pairs particularly well with meat-in-sauce dishes such as 'coq au vin' or 'boeuf bourguignon'.

PYROS BARREL-FERMENTED MALBEC 2016, Pedernal Valley, Argentina **40.00**

Malbec 14.5%

Rich and spicy, dark plum flavours

The Pedernal Valley is an isolated self-contained region about 100km north of Mendoza, in the foothills of the Andes, where they produce some of the country's most aromatic reds, this wild herb-scented Malbec being a prime example. Grippy, savoury and dense with violet, damson and dark plum flavours. Malbec has become very popular of late and this is largely due to some great Argentinian wine-making. Rich and spicy.

AUNTSFIELD Estate Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2016/17, Marlborough, New Zealand

41.00

Pinot Noir 14%

Ripe cherry and spicy tannins

Very good. This wine has pronounced aromatics, silky mouthfeel with pure pinot noir fruit, ripe tannins and balanced oak. Briary black raspberry, wild herbs, a distinct whiff of mint on the nose. Juicy and spicy. It finishes with a firm spine of chewy tannins and a lightly savoury quality. The Cowley family are passionate about their pinot noir and unusually for New Zealand are better-known for this than their sauvignon.

CHÂTEAU PATACHE D'AUX 2014, Cru Bourgeois, Médoc, Bordeaux **42.00**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot 13%

Robust, fruit driven claret

Consistently one of Bordeaux's best value and much-loved clarets. Aged in 30% new oak which gives an attractive, spicy, vanilla nose and adds to the general opulence of the wine. The cabernet sauvignon is the most dominant grape, which gives juicy, grassy blackcurrant fruitiness and deep colours. Anise, gravel, smashed rock and black tea flavours, minerals on the finish. Needs a bit of time but drinking very well now.

CROZES-HERMITAGE Signature 2015, Domaine Michelas St. Jemms, Northern Rhône **42.00**

Syrah 14%

Long rich style

I keep being asked for food matches: poultry, game, goat's cheese are three for this wine. This is 100% syrah from the Northern Rhône, which has a continental climate, so the wines tend to be 'tighter' than their sun-blessed Mediterranean cousins in the Southern Rhône. Spicy blackberry nose, blueberries and plums on the palate, lively attack, mint and pepper on the aftertaste. The vineyard is run organically; horses are even being used in place of machinery in certain parts of the domaine. Genuine, family run ... rather like our restaurants!

ROSSO DI MONTALCINO DOC 2016, Castello Tricerchi, Italy **42.00**

Sangiovese 14%

Fresh cracked pepper

The Castello Tricerchi estate is situated a little to the north of Montalcino, right in the heart of Tuscany. This wine is the junior partner of the famous Brunello but tends to be much more approachable in its comparative youth. Barrel-aged for ten months in small oak barrels, the wine is really herbaceous on the nose and then shows excellent black cherry and wild berry fruit flavours. An excellent all-rounder for hearty meat dishes. Long finish.

BODEGA LANZAGA 2012, Telmo Rodriguez, Rioja, Spain **44.00**

Tempranillo, Graciano, Garnacha 14%

Succulent black fruit flavours

Telmo Rodriguez is at the forefront of a new wave of Spanish winemakers, fighting against the ubiquitous commercial style Rioja. He grows the grapes bio-dynamically on traditional bush vines, hand picks the grapes, uses indigenous yeasts and no chemicals. The wine has rich black fruit and spice flavours and fantastic backbone. Great freshness and length. Ideal with game, duck, goose, steak and other red meats. Worth decanting.

MERCUREY 2016, Domaine du Meix-Foulot, Côte Chalonnaise, Burgundy **44.00**

Pinot Noir 13%

Silky, earthy pinot noir flavours; lightness of touch

The Meix-Foulot estate, now run by Agnès Dewé de Launay, has been in the same family's ownership for 200 years. Here there is a very real sense of terroir, the essence of which is soil, climate and grape variety. This wine really expresses the pure fruit characteristics of pinot noir, but the wine has a very clear sense of place too. It's not just a French pinot noir; it comes from one of the best placed and most important domaines in Mercurey, certainly one of the most picturesque of Burgundian domaines too. Feel the pedigree.

SAVIGNY-LÈS-BEAUNE 2015, Domaine Jean-Jacques Girard, Burgundy **45.00**

Pinot Noir 13%

Gloriously aromatic and fruity

The Girards are one of the oldest winemaking families in the village of Savigny-Lès-Beaune and produce gloriously aromatic, fruity, Savigny. Jean-Jacques and his son Vincent use a combination of modern and traditional techniques to produce wines of great purity and elegance. The wine is distinctly spicy, with almost explosive black and red currant fruit. This wine is already very accessible in its comparative youth. Smooth supple fruit.

CHÂTEAU LE CROCK 2014, Cru Bourgeois Supérieur, St Estèphe, Bordeaux **50.00**

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot 13.5%

Rich, lovely freshness and perfume

2014 was a very successful vintage for this wine. It is certainly full-bodied, elegantly styled with freshness and layers of verdant, juicy red berries and wild herbs. There is a lot of wine here and it really tastes like claret should: it is spicy with dark fruit and lovely poise. Crème de cassis, cloves and leather meld into the inviting finish. I bought this wine three years ago but kept it back until now. I really hope you like it; I think it's a classic.

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE 2016, Domaine Bosquet des Papes, Southern Rhône **52.00**

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre 15%

Big, bold, long, delicious depth

Full sun-baked flavours. Juicy and layered, with raspberry, plum and blackberry fruit flavours, also a polished and persistent grip through a spice-laden finish. Rich yet lively in style. Fabulous floral and herb nuances too. Is it worth the money? Frankly yes, especially as any other restaurant will charge you upwards of £90. All the grapes are hand-picked; well of course, you would not entrust a picking machine to these little beauties.

CHÂTEAU DE FIEUZAL 2010, Pessac Léognan, Bordeaux **67.00**

Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon 14.5%

Softer and enveloping as opposed to more aggressively mouth-filling

This is a keeper, for two decades or more, but the fleshy, silky finish ensures that it is already very approachable. The depths of taste ... liquorice, black cherries, earth, smoke and spicy aromatics ... make this a polished, soft textured yet persistent wine ... with well-integrated vanilla oak flavours. A great accompaniment to classic Bordeaux meat dishes.



SPARKLING WINE | CHAMPAGNE

PROSECCO EXTRA DRY, Guerrieri Rizzardi, Veneto, Italy Glera 11% Piercing clarity of fruit, stirringly fresh	6.00 125 glass	33.00
JENKYN PLACE BRUT CUVÉE 2013 Chardonnay, Pinot noir, Pinot Meunier 12%		48.00
English Sparkling Wine from Hampshire, replacing our own Pheasants Ridge Brut which is finally all sold. It is quite a wine too: the freshness and precision of flavour is enhanced by a beautiful balancing acidity.		
CHAMPAGNE JANISSON BRUT TRADITION 70% Pinot Noir, 30% Chardonnay 12.5%	half bottle	54.00 30.00
Champagne Janisson in the Grand Cru village of Verzenay has one of the most prestigious terroirs in the Champagne region. This champagne shows great class. It is the perfect apéritif: crisp and fresh with flavours of marshmallows and almonds.		
CHAMPAGNE JANISSON BRUT ROSÉ 70% Pinot Noir, 30% Chardonnay 12.5%		57.00
A brilliant rose, strawberry and spice on the nose, a soft creamy palate and an explosive redcurrant finish. A wonderful apéritif, but very good with food too.		
CHAMPAGNE LAURENT PERRIER NV BRUT Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier 12%		67.00

PUDDING WINES BY THE GLASS 100ml

CHÂTEAU SIMON 2014, Sauternes 375ml bottle France 13.5%	7.50	30.00
Fairly dense nose, honey and acacia flowers. Full-bodied, generous, well-balance palate, with a clean sweet finish.		
CHÂTEAU TIRECUL LA GRAVIÈRE 'Les Pins' 2015 500ml bottle Monbazillac, France 13.5%	8.00	40.00
Distinctly silken texture with multiple flavours, from apricots, to mango, to honey and so on! Monbazillac ... the classic of all pudding wines.		
VON BUHL UNGEHEUER RESERVE, Auslese, Pfalz 2013 375ml bottle Germany 7%	16.00	60.00
Pale yellow in colour, elderflower on the nose, sugared candied lemon on the palate. Good acidity, well-balanced floral ending.		
ANTIQUÉ PEDRO XIMINÉZ, Fernando de Castilla 500ml bottle Jerez, Spain 15%	13.50	67.50
These PX grapes are dried on straw in the sun and then pressed. The wine is unbelievably sweet having spent three decades in sherry casks. Aromas and flavours which are truly unique.		

GILBEY'S DRINKS LIST

LAGER ALE CIDER

abv		LAGERS
4.6	4.50	Estrella Damm – 330ml
0.0	3.00	Estrella Galicia – alcohol free – 250ml
		WINDSOR & ETON BREWERY
4.8	5.95	Republika, British Craft Lager – 330ml
3.8	6.25	Knight of the Garter, Golden Ale – 500ml
4.2	6.25	Guardsman, Best Bitter – 500ml
5.0	6.70	Uprising Caught by the Fuzz, Pale Ale - 330ml
		CIDER
5.5	4.95	Aspall Draught Suffolk Cyder, dry – 330ml
3.8	8.00	Aspall Isabel's Berry Suffolk Cyder – 500ml with redcurrant & raspberry juice

SPIRITS

25ml measure

abv		GIN
37.5	5.00	Gilbey's
40.0	5.00	Bombay Sapphire
20.0	5.00	Edinburgh Raspberry Gin Liqueur
43.0	5.00	Elderwood English
26.0	5.00	Plymouth Sloe
40.0	6.00	Martin Miller's
41.4	6.50	Hendrick's
40.0	7.00	Williams Chase Seville Orange
45.0	7.00	Isle of Harris
00.0	4.00	Seedlip Garden (non-alcoholic spirit)
00.0	4.00	Seedlip Spice 94 (non-alcoholic spirit)
00.0	4.00	Seedlip Grove 42 citrus (non-alcoholic spirit)
		VODKA
40.0	4.00	Smirnoff, Red Label
43.0	5.00	Elderwood English Vodka
40.0	5.50	Sipsmith Barley
40.0	6.50	Grey Goose
		WHISKEY WHISKY BOURBON
40.0	4.00	Scotch, Bell's
40.0	4.00	Irish, Jameson
40.0	4.00	Tennessee, Jack Daniel's
40.0	6.00	Bourbon, Woodford Reserve Premium
40.0	6.50	Scotch, Single, The Macallan
40.0	7.50	Scotch, 16 Year Old Single Malt, Lagavulin
		RUM
37.5	3.50	Rum, Bacardi
40.0	4.00	Rum, Captain Morgan
		SHERRY – 100ml
15.0	6.50	Tio Pepé, Gonzalez Byass
15.0	13.5	Antique Pedro Ximénez, Fernando de Castilla
		VERMOUTH – 50ml
15.0	4.00	Martini Extra Dry
15.0	4.00	Martini Rosso
15.0	4.00	Campari
25.0	3.60	Pimms No 1

SOFT DRINKS

		LUSCOMBE FARM – 240ml
3.95		English Apple Juice
		Organic Orange Juice
		LUSCOMBE FARM – 270ml
3.95		Sicilian Lemonade
		Cool Ginger Beer
		St. Clements
		Wild Elderflower Bubbly
		PAGO JUICES – 200ml
3.25		Cranberry
		Tomato
		SOFT DRINKS – 330ml
3.50		Coca Cola / Diet Coke
		FEVER TREE – 200ml
2.50		Indian Tonic / Naturally Light Tonic
		Lemonade
		Soda Water
		WATER
3.50		Belu Sparkling / Belu Still – 750ml
1.90		Belu Sparkling / Belu Still – 330ml

DIGESTIFS LIQUEURS

25ml measure

abv		COGNAC – 25ml
40.0	5.50	Hennessy 3 Star
40.0	17.5	Hennessy XO
40.0	5.50	Armagnac, Janneau VSOP
40.0	5.50	Calvados, Boulard VSOP
		PORT – 100ml
20.5	9.00	Quinta de Val Da Fuguiera 10yr [bottle 60.00]
20.0	6.50	Churchill's Reserve, Douro
		LIQUEURS – 25ml
28.0	5.50	Amaretto
17.0	5.50	Baileys Irish Cream - 50ml
28.0	5.50	Cointreau
40.0	5.50	Frangelico
40.0	5.50	Grappa
32.0	5.50	Limoncello
40.0	5.50	Sambucca
40.0	5.50	Tequila
40.0	5.50	Tia Maria

