

OZCLARKE'S TOPTENPICKS

Singing Grüner Veltliner, Laurenz V - Kamptal, Austria

How to describe Grüner? Think of the floral perfume of a German Riesling, the refreshing zip of a Loire Sauvignon Blanc and the lusciousness of a Northern Italian Pinot Grigio, all in great harmony. Lenz Moser is on a dedicated mission to bring Grüner to a wider audience – this is his most accessible wine and is a great introduction to the changing wine culture of Austria.

97526

35

Viña Esmeralda Bianco, Torres - Penedes, Spain

The visionary head of the family owned Torres winery, Miguel Torres cleverly describes Esmeralda as a 'ladies wine for intelligent men'. It's a grapy and spicy blend of Muscat and Gewürztraminer with incredible perfumed and floral aromas. A lovely burst of juicy melon and pineapple runs across the lush palate, quickly followed by a terrific streak of citrus fruit. Brilliant value and a great all-rounder.

7583

37

Riff Pinot Grigio, Alois Lageder - Veneto, Italy

In a sea of mediocrity only a few examples of Veneto Pinot Grigio stand out today, Alois Lageder's Riff is one such wine. Light, dry and intensely fresh, with spice and plenty of fruit - a Pinot Grigio with real flavour. Lageder have used all their know-how from their outstanding single -vineyard wines to produce a real winner for everyday drinking.

96906

45

Pinot Gris Reserve, Domaine Trimbach - Alsace, France

In a world where too many white wines are becoming fatter, broader, less focussed and fine, Trimbach stand aloof, superior, and supremely confident in their traditional ways of making the most elegant, incisive wines in Alsace. Pinot Gris is a lush grape, a honeyed grape. Trimbach keep the honey but coil sinewy steel through the fruit creating a wine that's marvellous young but even better with a little age.

8776

79

Wild Ferment Chardonnay, Viña Errazuriz - Aconcagua Valley, Chile

Chile produces wonderful Chardonnay, full of juicy melon fruit, crisp apple freshness. But this wine goes a step further. It uses wild yeasts from the virtually organic vineyards, and the wine is fermented in new oak barrels, adding a nutty richness and creamy depth to the melon and apple fruit.

98436

79



Goats Do Roam Red, Fairview – Paarl, South Africa

Best known for his many wines from Rhône varieties, owner Charles Back's restless ambition keeps Fairview among the most interesting of South African wineries. The red Goats do Roam, (a spoof on Côte du Rhone) features Pinotage with Rhône grapes such as Grenache, Mourvedre, Cinsaut and Syrah – delightfully ripe, spicy and packed with luscious red and black fruits.

7596

35

Classic Rouge, Massaya - Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

No one's quite sure where the first wines were made, but I'm pretty certain it was in the Middle East and Lebanon's claim is as good as any. There's been a resurgence in Lebanese wine-making in the last 10 years, with Massaya leading the way. Massaya is a French-Lebanese partnership, the French being from Bordeaux and Chateauneuf du Pape, and the wine combines the scent of the Kasbah, with the sensual power of France's Rhone Valley, and the restrained beauty of Bordeaux.

7459

39

Shiraz, Voyager Estate - Margaret River, Western Australia

Australian Shiraz has earned itself a bit of a reputation as a brawny, muscular bruiser – admittedly delicious, but heady and intoxicating. Voyager Shiraz is different. It comes from the Margaret River in Western Australia. It's really cool there, but the sun still shines relentlessly, and the grapes creep to a thrilling ripeness of blackberry and plum, just touched with eucalyptus, deep and satisfying, but wonderfully balanced and fresh.

E036303

86

Château Patache d'Aux, Medoc 2003 – Bordeaux, France

2003 was the warmest Bordeaux vintage in living memory. That suited Patache d'Aux just fine because the vineyards are in the cooler northern part of Bordeaux's Medoc and the extra blast of heat brought the grapes to perfect ripeness. Dry, stony, reserved with a subtle suggestion of blackcurrant and cedar wood. Perfect for drinking now, but you can keep it if you like.

850803

95

Clos de Los Siete, Tunuyan, Argentina

Clos de los Siete is an inspired creation. A vineyard on virgin rocky land dominated by the towering might of the Andes and managed and master-minded by Michel Rolland, the world's most famous winemaker. He marries French sophistication with an unashamed hedonism to produce a dense, rich red, powerful yet scented, super-ripe but perfectly in balance.

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