



# TAURUS

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W I N E S

## SPRING SALE LIST 2018

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Welcome to our 2018 sale list. Like many wine merchants, our annual New Year's sale is a hardy perennial: it helps clear out some overstocks and makes space for the arrival of new wines. Many bottles on this list are old staff favourites and are only 'on the way out' to give us some room, so there are some genuinely good bargains to be found. As you know the sale list tends to sell out rather quickly, so swift ordering (in-store or by phone) is recommended.

But that's not all... As we are gearing up for our impending move into the new shop, we will be offering 20% off (as a separate sale) any remaining loose of wines instore from February 26th - March 3rd. Think of it as a fond farewell to some of your old vinous friends and a hearty hello to both the East Barn and the new additions to our range!

Happy drinking...

A few gentle Ts&Cs...

You all know the rules by now:

- No sale or return (that's how half these lines got on this list in the first place!)
- No reserves without payment. Payment in full is needed at time of ordering.
- No further discounts apply – no haggling!
- First come, first served.
- 1% surcharge on AMEX purchases (no prizes for guessing why).
- Offers are only available in-store or on the phone.

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## SPARKLING WINES

### CHAMPAGNE

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Gremillet Blanc de Noirs NV (12%)</i>	WAS £29.99	NOW £23.99 (20% off)	31 btls

You may remember trying this at the Christmas shows in 2016 when it went down a storm. We didn't, however, show it again this year and as a result there is a small overstock - quirky, pure Pinot Noir fizz presumably needs to be tasted before people buy it. This has "power, poise and potential in equal measure" to quote Decanter's recent tasting. Will drink to 2021.

<i>Veuve Clicquot Rosé NV (12.5%)</i>	WAS £49.99	NOW £34.99 (30% off)	23 btls
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We got well and truly stuffed on sale or return from a big event with this one, which means you get a bargain. For whatever reason, our customers seem to prefer Billecart Salmon rosé, Laurent Perrier rosé or the bargainous Mandois rosé. So this is going out below the current cost price! Pair with smoked salmon for a decadent weekend brunch.

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Louis Roederer Brut Vintage 2009</i>	WAS £64.99	NOW £49.99 (23% off)	12 btls

Have you ever heard of portfolio selling? If not, it's a sales technique whereby a rep makes you buy more than one line from their range, in order to get a better price on another. Typically, as a store, you don't want the other line as you know you can't shift it, so generally the unfortunate account manager is shown the door when this gets suggested. Often with their briefcase thrown after them and boot up the derrière! However, in this case it meant we could not only offer the NV at £29.99 over Christmas (a deal a lot of you very sensibly took us up on), but frankly Roederer Vintage is cracking stuff, so I thought it might be worth giving it a go. Needless to say, we still have the 12 bottles and they are just collecting dust... so deal ahoy!

## SPARKLING

<i>Côte Mas Piquepoul Frisante Southern France 2015 (12%)</i>	WAS £11.99	NOW £9.59 (20% off)	200+ btls
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A delicious, dry alternative to Prosecco that did well until cost price increases meant that we had to make it over a tenner - its fans went straight back to Prosecco! This picpoul (or piquepoul as they spell it) has the floral, fruity charm of Prosecco with the edge of salinity you get from Picpoul de Pinet - delicious with oysters and shellfish. It also took home the trophy for Best Value Sparkling in the Wine Merchant Top 100 again this year: the judges said it had "nice, delicate yeasty notes, green apples, creamy mousse and a fresh, easy-drinking feel."

## WHITE WINES

### CHILE

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Rio Alto Sauvignon Blanc 2016 (12.5%)</i>	WAS £7.49	NOW £6.74 (10% off)	200+ btls

A mild discount to help balance out stocks. We ship the Rio Alto wines directly from Chile, so they take 15+ weeks to get here from time of ordering (this includes 9 weeks on the high seas, then customs flapping at either end), so it is very hard to balance red to white correctly - especially when there has been an unscheduled delay due to South American beurocracy. We have a few pallets arriving at the end of the month but are currently out of the red and have a little too much white left over... This captures the expression of Chilean Sauvignon Blanc to a tee: fresh Granny Smith apples mingle with gooseberry and lime, making this a very reliable house pour.

### FRANCE - ALSACE

<i>Hugel Classic Gentil 2013/2014 (12.5%) [Magnum]</i>	WAS £29.99	NOW £20.00 (30% off)	2 btls
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There's one simple reason for these great matches to Chinese and Thai food to be going - we only have space to display one Alsace magnum on the shelves in the new store and the Hugel Riesling sells better. A shame because this is the perfect introduction to the region, which blends the suave, spicy flavour of Gewurztraminer, the body of Pinot Gris, the finesse of Riesling, the grapiness of Muscat and the refreshing character of Sylvaner. Rich and aromatic, yet dry on the palate, this would be an ideal companion to a range of typically difficult-to-match dishes from the Orient.

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Katz Gentil 2015 (13%)</i>	WAS £19.99	NOW £14.99 (25% off)	17 btls

Bought in for the 2016 winter shows (where it did well) sadly this wine has fallen victim to the cycle of being a little quirky, so not ordered unless people taste it. Yet we don't have enough left to make it viable to open tasting bottles... Either way, it's a bin-end, as being part of the Vindependents group we might (fingers and toes crossed) be about to sign an exclusive distribution deal with one of Alsace's top wineries and need the shelf space. Peach and rose petal on the nose with a rich textured core, and yet tantalisingly dry. Another wine for Asian fare.

## FRANCE - BORDEAUX

<i>Château Montlau Entre-Deux-Mers 2016 (12.5%)</i>	WAS £10.99	NOW £8.79 (20% off)	40 btls
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A really lovely Sauvignon Blanc - fresh and aromatic, with pear and grass notes - but unfortunately it would seem more traditional (or should that be popular?) areas for the grape (Loire, New Zealand etc) are better accepted by our customers, leaving this worthy fella slightly languishing. A steal at this price - and cracking with fish and chips!

## FRANCE - LOIRE

<i>Château de Vallagon 2015 Touraine Sauvignon Blanc (12.5%)</i>	WAS £9.99	NOW £7.99 (20% off)	200+ btls
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A Taurus staple for over a decade, this wine has suffered from some fairly sharp price rises over the last three years, which have slowed sales dramatically. It is still a highly competitive product for its quality level in the Loire, it's just that the £8 Sauvignon buyers were loyal to the price point, not the wine, so have moved across to more affordable Chile. This is your typical herb-tinged Loire Sauvignon Blanc with a subtle underlying mineral flavour that could make it a ringer for many a Sancerre in a blind tasting.

## ITALY

<i>Triade Bianco della Campania Fiano 2015 (12.5%)</i>	WAS £9.99	NOW £7.99 (20% off)	47 btls
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We get a lot of customers whose first words as they come through the door are "what's new?" and this wine was bought in with precisely that sort of adventurous punter in mind. Sadly, this tends to be bought by the bottle rather than the case, so sales have been a little sluggish and with space on the Italian shelves being so competitive, this had to get the chop. This is a pretty little thing: there's almonds, herbs and nectarine, and a subtle creaminess from the slight oak ageing.

## GREECE

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Papagiannakos Retsina (12%) [500ml]</i>	WAS £6.99	NOW £3.49 (50% off)	12 btls

Described on the label as a “fine resonated wine,” this 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s bottle of Greek Retsina might bring back some memories of fun holidays in the Aegean. Woody, herbal notes of rosemary and thyme mingle with characteristic notes of pine and lemon citrus - in the words of one Amazon reviewer: “surprisingly delicious!” Currently collecting dust on the shelves like an unloved holiday souvenir, this could make a rather nifty white wine spritzer.

## NEW ZEALAND

*Villa Maria Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2016 (13.5%)* WAS £13.99 NOW £9.79 (30% off) 200+ btls

A one-off parcel that is currently £13.99 in Majestic, so being able to offer this at less than a tenner really is nuts! It's amazing what deal you can extract from a rep when you genuinely don't need something... Released deliberately young, this bursts with trademark passion fruit, grapefruit and grassy notes before an intense, zesty palate and that love-it-or-loathe-it Kiwi gooseberry flavour. I suspect this will somewhat flatten our sales of the ever-reliable Taringi this month...

*Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2016 (13.5%)* WAS £23.99 NOW £21.59 (10% off) 60 btls

A decade ago, Cloudy Bay in the sale would have been unthinkable. In fact, it was on allocation! However, as production volumes (and prices) have increased, we are finding we don't get through our whole allocation by the end of the year and 2017 is now en route. Not a huge discount as the margin is tiny and, frankly, as it's the most iconic Sauvignon Blanc in the world, it will sell anyway.

## JAPAN

*Grace Kosu Kayagatake 2016 (11.5%)* WAS £19.99 NOW £14.99 (25% off) 60+

Declared “Best Asian Dry White” by Decanter magazine, this really is as good as Kosu gets. A number of influential members of the wine trade (including Jancis Robinson MW OBE) are hugely keen on Kosu and keep saying it's the next big thing, and I'm reliably informed it's on almost every London restaurant wine list worth its salt - but possibly a little too trendy for this part of Surrey...

## ROSÉ WINES

*Provençal rosé prices are high this year, as supply is so low. To put that into perspective, one of the estates we ship from produced 80,000 bottles in 2016 and sold out. They could see where the demand was heading so bought a neighbouring estate with the aim of producing 120,000 bottles in 2017, but the weather was so bad, all they got was 55,000. We are doing our best to secure allocations, but like last year the big names will inevitably sell though by the end of the season. As part of our drive to give people options other than Minuty, Whispering Angel etc we tried a few wines from other well-regarded Provençal estates at a similar quality level. They weren't a great hit despite being just as delicious.*

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Secret de Léoube Provence 2015 (12.5%)</i>	WAS £29.99	NOW £19.49 (35% off)	23 btl

This was very interesting, as it wins more or less equal amounts of awards as the Château D'Esclans Garrus rosé (£79.99 RRP). But where we can sell Garrus with relative ease, there is no interest in the less well-marketed Léoube. A shame, as the wine is made by Romain Ott (a member of Provence's most famous rosé-producing dynasty) and has a welcomingly soft texture and a delicious peach-filled palate.

<i>Rose de Nymphé Emue Château Maris 2016 (13.5%)</i>	WAS £15.99	NOW £12.79 (20% off)	34 btl
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Brought in as an alternative to Minuty, this pale pink number looks and tastes great, it just doesn't have the magic M on the label... Purchased by British expat Bertie Eden in 1997, the domaine is 100% organic and biodynamic. Pure and fresh, this is a delicate, yet complex rosé with flavours of apricots, eucalyptus and raspberry brambles.

*M de Minuty 2017 (13%) "en pinkeur" (for delivery mid-March) WILL BE £13.99 NOW £144 for 12 x 75cl*

Our first few M de Minuty pallets of the season (2017 vintage) are on order and will arrive mid-March. Due to short harvests, the price will be £13.99. However, if you want to **pre-order** and **pre-pay** by the end of February, we are offering an "en pinkeur" deal rate of £144 for 12 bottles (i.e. £12 per bottle). It's sure to sell fast - you lot just can't seem to get enough...

## RED WINES

### AUSTRALIA

<i>Willunga 100 Grenache 2014 (14.5%)</i>	WAS £12.99	NOW £10.39 (20% off)	43 btl
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A successful part of last year's Winter Wine Tastings, however we have been left with a bit too much stock post-Christmas. This will keep quite happily for the next few years. Fresh red fruit aromas and flavours and silky tannins combine on a palate that has great substance and structure - this is a splendid, perfumed, spicy expression of Grenache.

<i>Langmeil Three Gardens SGM 2013 (14.5%)</i>	WAS £14.99	NOW £11.99 (20% off)	15 btl
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One of the biggest and richest red wines that we've sold - you could almost eat it with a knife and fork! It doesn't, however, have seemed to appeal to you, the Taurus faithful, so we are reluctantly delisting in search of something different. This has a bright nose of dark cherry, raspberry, pepper and spice, with a generous, juicy, mouth-filling red berry and savoury flavour.

### CALIFORNIA

<i>Edmeades Zinfandel 2013 (15.0%)</i>	WAS £16.99	NOW £15.29 (10% off)	48 btl
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Nowt wrong with this, just a little stock-heavy as we had to buy a large amount to get a strong Christmas deal. This oozes character (unlike the majority of Californian Zin) and is layered with wild blackberries, spiced plums, cherries, cracked black pepper and clove spice. Round and lush it will continue to improve until 2019.

# CHILE

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Errazuriz Carmenere 2015 (13.5%)</i>	WAS £9.99	NOW £6.99 (30% off)	200 btl

In one of those moments when you need more stock like a hole in the head, an unbeatable deal comes along to which you can't say no. Clearly this was an account manager who was struggling to hit a target, so threw at it their entire promotional support budget for the month... but really I should learn not to buy pallets of Chilean red seconds before Christmas, as everyone has done their shopping by then! Fill your boots with a bargain house wine before it disappears.

<i>Tabali Pinot Noir Reserva Especial 2015 (13.5%)</i>	WAS £12.99	NOW £9.99 (23% off)	60 btl
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A lovely drop from an underrated Pinot region... just a little over-stocked. Intense and elegant with aromas of redcurrant and strawberry, soft tannins and toasty hints of 10 months barrel age. With La Niña bringing frost and then drought in 2017, the resulting price increases mean you aren't going to be seeing Chilean Pinot of this quality going for a tenner for a very long time.

# FRANCE - BORDEAUX

<i>Château Beauregard Ducourt 2014 (13.5%)</i>	WAS £10.99	NOW £9.89 (10% off)	200+ btl
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We have been using B-D as our house claret for years and regular purchasers will know what a bargain the 2012 was just before we ran out. As always with wines like this, it really drinks at its peak just before vintage change-over. We skipped 2013 because it wasn't a great vintage in Bordeaux, and whilst the 2014 is every bit as good as the 2012, the vintage skip has meant it's a little young. Grab a few cases and sit on them for great value drinking next winter.

<i>Château Lamothe Cissac Haut-Médoc 2012 (13%)</i>	WAS £19.99	NOW £17.99 (10% off)	120 btl
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A lovely bramble-styled, classic Haut-Médoc. However, we rather shot ourselves in the foot with this one, as after shipping the bottles we came across a parcel of the same wine in magnum, only 2010 – being perfectly ready to drink, these were an instant hit and hurt the sales of the 75cl 2012 bottles. A slight overstock, but they will only get better in time, so no drama if they don't sell.

# FRANCE - LOIRE

<i>Domaine de Val Brun Saumur-Champigny 2014 (12.5%)</i>	WAS £11.99	NOW £8.39 (30% off)	120 btl
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This has a lovely purity and lightness that is unmistakable as Loire Cabernet Franc, despite having a more lifted weight of raspberry without the overt savouriness of the region. Technically excellent, but totally uncommercial, hence its inclusion on our sale list. Wonderful ever so slightly chilled on a warm summer's evening

## FRANCE - RHONE

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Coudoulet de Beaucastel 2014 (13.5%)</i>	WAS £21.99	NOW £19.79 (10% off)	200 btl

The original “baby Châteauneuf-du-Pape,” Coudoulet always represents great value and with 10% off even more so. Slightly overstocked, as the only way to buy this in bulk is en primeur, which is a great way of securing wines from top producers but nightmarish for cash flow! Full to the brim with dark berries, wild herbs, leather, pepper and liquorice, there’s something palate-caressing about this silky juice. Will drink nicely over the next 5+ years.

*Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2014 (14.5%)* WAS £64.99 NOW £58.49 (10% off) 100+ btl

Beaucastel needs little introduction. Overstocked for the reasons above, so shifting a few cases would be nice, but not a disaster if it doesn’t go right this minute. Still in its youth, this is already sweetly seductive, but its backbone and structure both convey a promising future. Drink through to 2030.

*Boutinot “Les Coteaux” Côtes du Rhône Villages 2014 (13.5%)* WAS £9.99 NOW £8.99 (10% off) 200+ btl

This is a continuation of a Christmas offer, rather than a true sale in itself, but once this half pallet sells through the wine will be £10+. Elegant berry-fruit aromas backed with a hint of cedar and spice, soft supple tannins marrying into the cherry-fruit flavours result in a wine that is rich and smooth - and a real Taurus favourite.

## FRANCE - SOUTH

*Domaine de L’Hortus Grand Cuvee Pic Saint Lup 2015 (13.5%)* WAS £24.99 NOW £19.99 (20% off) 48 btl

Hortus, it would seem, is one of those wines known only to people in the trade – I was really excited when we got the opportunity to stock this as Hortus’s wines are really hard to find; perhaps because they are really hard to sell! This is still in its infancy, but is already proving to be a serious wine that demands as much respect as good claret. Will be on taste in the Enomatics in the new store, so not a problem if it doesn’t shift.

## ITALY

*Le Volte Dell’Ornellaia 2015 (14%)* WAS £24.99 NOW £19.99 (20% off) 48 btl

Not a jot wrong with Le Volte - it’s the second wine of one Tuscany’s big names (Ornellaia) after all. We’re just making space for a fantastic new Italian agency that the Vindependents have signed-up. This combines the softness of Merlot, the firm structure of Cabernet Sauvignon, and the vivaciousness of Sangiovese: intensely fruity and spicy, full-bodied and rich, with a lively finish.

*Masi Amarone Riserva Costasera 2011 (15.5%)* WAS £54.99 NOW £43.99 (20% off) 24 btl

The wine is fantastic, but we ended up with a few cases more than needed as the result of a winemaker’s dinner. The Masi family are the experts of the *appassimento* winemaking process, whereby grapes are picked and laid out on bamboo racks in lofts at the end of September. By February, the grapes have lost 35% of their original weight and have a high concentration of sugars. This concentration can be witnessed first in the inky black appearance and thick texture in the glass and then in the powerful aromas of dried black fruit, barbecue smoke and charcuterie. Full-bodied, ripe and rich, lovers of big wines should be in no hurry to drink this: will age for 30+ years.

## NEW ZEALAND

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Craggy Range Te Kahu 2013 (13.5%)</i>	WAS £18.99	NOW £15.19 (20% off)	18 btl

Hidden away in New Zealand, which is probably why we've got a bit more than we'd like, Craggy Range is one of those producers where it's hard to find fault with any of their wines. This Cabernet/Merlot blend has lovely notes of dark cherry, plum and dried herbs and a lithe, rich palate that provides a youthful backbone to the lovely sweet fruited core.

## SPAIN

<i>Tomas Postigo Tinto 2015 (15%)</i>	WAS £34.99	NOW £31.49 (10% off)	60 btl
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We visited this winemaker last summer and were so impressed that we took the 2014 straightaway. This year, we're lucky to have 20% of the entire UK allocation of the 2015. It's a beautiful cherry-red colour and the nose is filled with perfectly ripe red and black fruit. Sweet notes of plum, cherry, wood, and vanilla spices, as well as that very southern European aroma of garrigue - heathland. Intense and downright tasty, the wine is perfectly balanced and structured. This wine can be cellared for a few years, but can also be enjoyed now, preferably decanted and served with slow-cooked lamb (what they served it with when we visited!)

<i>Marqués de Murrietta Rioja Reserva 2012 / 2013 14%</i>	WAS £21.99	NOW £17.59 (20% off)	100+ btl
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Great Rioja from a well-respected, modern-styled producer. We ordered a load on a very kind Autumn ship-to-order deal from the UK agent so as to be competitive at Christmas. This pre-order then got delayed, so we topped-up from UK-held stock (normally expensive). Then the delayed order arrived, meaning our cup runneth over. There are two different vintages - the 2012 having the slight benefit of an extra year's bottle age; the 2013 coming in shiny wooden cases of 6 - your shout.

## SWEET WINES

*Dessert wines are often the most interesting bottles in a merchant's range: they will certainly get more than their due share of attention from any true wine geek and they always sell well when we have them open for a show. However, as true wine lovers, we can get a bit over-ambitious on how much we can actually sell through on a day-to-day basis... hence the huge selection below. Kicking off the sale list are two Alsace Vendages Tardives. Having just one of these on a wine list might be seen as being very 'thorough,' but when we have stock of two separate lines it's definitely overkill!*

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Hugel Gewurtztraminer Vendages Tardive 2008 (11.5%) [37.5cl]</i>	WAS £24.99	NOW £19.99 (20% off)	60+ btl

I found this at an exceptional tasting last March and was so impressed with the 2008 that I bought the entire production so that Taurus could have both exclusivity and continuity of supply. I had also expected it to be the star of the show at the Christmas wine tastings... Then Andy discovered Sepp Moser's Austrian Schilfwien, which was so good that it hoovered-up the sales of all other sweeties. (P.S. There are two cases of Moser's wine left which are not being discounted!)

NAME	RRP	SALE PRICE	STOCK
<i>Cattin Gewurtztraminer Vendages Tardive 2007 (14%) [37.5cl]</i>	WAS £19.99	NOW £14.99 (25% off)	19 btls

Award-winning (“Best Alsace Sweet Wine” in Decanter) Grand Cru Vendages Tardive for £15. Serious bargain klaxon. Although it does not say Grand Cru on the label, the fruit comes from the Hatchbourg vineyard - one of the highest Crus in Alsace and perhaps part of the reason for its lip-smacking freshness. This is all orange marmalade, tangerine and honey. Open on the tasting counter... until it's gone.

<i>Cantina di Negrar Recioto della Valpolicella Classico (12.5%) [50cl]</i>	WAS £18.99	NOW £15.19 (20% off)	19 btls
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In a similar way to the Vendages Tardives, we don't need two Reciotos on our shelves and the Masi seems to be more popular. This is a generous sweet red wine with a highly aromatic nose - intense with invitingly warm red fruit. We serve this with dark chocolate or with a cheese board, but it also goes very well with spiced fruit dishes (or so my mother-in-law found out with a slice of Cheddar on some fruit cake!)

<i>Masi Recioto Classico (14%) [50cl]</i>	WAS £24.99	NOW £22.49 (10% off)	24 btls
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As you may have noticed, reps with over-complicated deals are the bane of our life. One of the classics is tying the purchase of a cross-section of stock to the appearance of a winemaker to talk at a dinner. Some suppliers are reasonable agreeing a price, allowing you to order with them based on orders received on the night. Others are a pain the backside and make you order before the evening to get a promotional price/sample support on the night. This is one of them. The wine is great but we ended up with more than we need. It won't go off on us but sometimes cash is more useful. Deep ruby red, bursting with cherry blossom, kirsch, and sweet vanilla, with age this will acquire spicier, Port-like characteristics.

<i>Château La Bertrande Summum 2001 (14%)</i>	WAS £49.99	NOW £44.99 (10% off)	48 btls
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Regulars will know the story behind this wine: in a very serious tasting of Bordeaux sweet whites by the French sommelier's association, Summum came top. This was all the more remarkable as 2001 was not only a great vintage for botrytis (the 'Noble Rot' that encourages sweetness), but it beat the legendary Château d'Yquem! Yquem 2001 was awarded 100 points by Robert Parker and costs £5,500 - £6,000 a case! This will basically keep forever, however, our stock levels of it are still a little high, so losing a few cases would do wonders for cash flow in the short term. If it doesn't go we won't cry, as it will only continue to become more collectable and appreciate in value.

<i>Domaine de Durban Muscat Beaumes de Venise 2014 [37.5cl]</i>	WAS £9.99	NOW £8.49 (15% OFF)	200+ btls
<i>Domaine de Durban Muscat Beaumes de Venise 2014 [75cl]</i>	WAS £17.99	NOW £15.29 (15% OFF)	80 btls

When it comes to Beaumes de Venise, it is widely regarded that in terms of rankings there is Durban - with its stand-out orange marmalade flavours - and then all the others, which makes buying very simple in terms of choice. However, we have to ship this directly and, being a dessert wine, that means buying a couple of years' stock at once. Currently, we are a little heavy on stock, but as it keeps 20+ years it won't go off and with Stirling continuing to weaken it should only get more expensive.

## PORT

<i>Graham's Late Bottle Vintage Port 2011 (20%) [75cl]</i>	WAS £11.99	NOW £9.59 (20% OFF)	72 btls
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Big name LBV going cheaper than bog standard ruby? That has got to be worth stocking-up on! This will easily keep for a few years. And, bonus, no need to decant. Recommended with strong cheeses or with quality dark chocolate.

# EN PRIMEUR

*En primeur rarely hits the sale as the margins are tiny and are often single digit in the first place. However, as sale customers love a bargain (who doesn't?), I thought I would remind you of a few lines from our Bordeaux 2016 campaign that are still available.*

***Please note – these wines will not arrive until sometime between December 2018 and February 2019. The prices are in bond. Duty and VAT will be charged at time of delivery. Delivery local to the store is included, but further afield and under bond delivery charges will be applicable on delivery as well. These wines will be landed at Seabrooks bonded warehouse, so onward delivery under bond will be possible. However, we do not have storage for you once they arrive. If you have any questions regarding en primeur purchases do give us a call to discuss.***

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*Château Pontet-Canet 5ème Cru Classé 2016 (Pauillac)*

£685 for 6 x 75cl (in bond)

7 cases remaining (6 x 75cl)

***Arriving March 2019***

The wine of the vintage if you ask me - and many others. Purple-black in colour, a generous nose of graphite and mineral aromas. Massive amounts of seriously dark, sweet and juicy red fruit and liquorice flavours on the palate, with an amazing length. I loved the barrel sample I was lucky enough to try and it would seem the journalists did as well as they have consistently scored it highly. Our initial offer matched the cheapest deal on the market and still does.

98/99 points James Suckling

97 points Decanter magazine

99 points Antonio Galloni

95/97 Neal Marton (Wine Advocate)

18/20 Jancis Robinson MW

Drinking 2022 – 2035

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*Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé 2016 (Pauillac)*

WAS £1,400 for 12 x 75cl (in bond)

NOW £1,300 (in bond)

5 cases remaining (12 x 75cl)

***Arriving March 2019***

Yes, it's not exactly priced for everyday drinking, but at £1,300 this is actually the cheapest Comtesse on the market. We had a cancelled order, which, when combined with stock already purchased for the store, makes us a little long on it and - being one of the grandes of Bordeaux - the Comtesse price was released very late into the en primeur campaign, thus by the time the order was cancelled the en primeur energy had very much faded. Very deep colour and intense dark fruits aromas. On the palate silky tannins surround sweet pure dark fruit flavours with mouth-filling and complex spicy notes. The darkly fruited finish has great length and a brilliant freshness. A wine of superb elegance and power. Jurno scores are what you would expect from a well-regarded second growth in a top vintage.

96/98 Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

98 Tim Atkin MW

98 Decanter magazine

97 James Suckling

Drinking 2026 - 2040

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*Château La Confession Grand Cru 2016 (St Emilion)*

£300 for 12 x 75cl (in bond)

5 cases remaining (12 x 75cl)

**Arriving March 2019**

Absolutely nothing to do with the French arthouse film “La Confession,” which came out in 2016... Red and black fruit with a touch of cedar wood, thanks to the Cabernet Franc. This cracker from the Jean-Philippe Janoueix stable is a medium-bodied wine with light spice on the palate. Will be a guaranteed dinner party pleaser in a few years’ time. Initially discovered for us by our roving MW Rob MacCulloch, we are now huge converts to all wines in the JPJ stable.

93 Points James Suckling

90 Points Antonia Galloni

Drinking 2021 - 2031

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*Croix Mouton Bordeaux Superior 2016 (St Emilion)*

£85 for 12 x 75cl (in bond)

20 cases remaining (12 x 75cl)

**Arriving March 2019**

A pure Merlot from a cult St Emilion producer (Jean-Philippe Janoueix). this wine will be almost ready on arrival. A replanting program in 2016 meant they only produced half of their normal yield of this wine and that was followed by the crop being wiped-out by frost in 2017. As a result, the only way to secure stock at all was to buy en primeur. Bargain St Emilion.

Drinking 2018 - 2025

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*Château D’Aiguilhe Castillon 2016 (Côtes de Bordeaux)*

£190 for 12 x 75cl (in bond)

20+ cases remaining

**Arriving March 2019**

I was blown away by the level of dark mineral and graphite aromas on the nose followed by the huge concentration of brambly dark fruit (blueberry/sloe) on the palate. I’ve asked for a large allocation as I don’t think a pallet of this will last long on our shelves when it comes of drinking age. Ranked fifth in Matthew Jukes’ best value buys of 2016 Bordeaux. I was with a trade friend of mine (who used to be the ex-buyer at Oddbins) when I tasted this and he remarked, “this would have been awesome back in the day; I would have simply taken the lot!”

Drinking: 2022-2027+

END