

THE LOIRE

Our Loire section has expanded over the last few years. Is this because we have bought a Chateau down there? No. Is it because Christelle comes from this region? Maybe. Mainly it is the glorious, individualistic wines.

1. TOURAINES SAUVIGNON BLANC 2010 13%ABV 22.50
DOMAINE DELAUNAY. A tropical fruit cocktail with a zingy soft finish.
2. TOURAINES ROSÉ 2010 'Les Cabotines' 12.5%ABV 20.95
A lively, extroverted pinko. Sophisticated gentle flavours & deliciously dry.
3. VOUVRAY SEC 'Domaine Rouletière' 2010 12%ABV 27.50
Jean-Marc Gillet has crafted a beauty. Elegant & complex, with a lightness of being. Chenin Blanc - perfect for the ABC (Anything but Chardonnay) brigade.

THREE CLASSIC SANCERRES FROM JEAN-PIERRE VACHER

4. SANCERRE BLANC 2010 13%ABV 29.50
Classic stuff! The ultimate Sauvignon Blanc.
5. SANCERRE ROSÉ 2009/10 13%ABV 29.50
Is this one of the world's great Rosés? Yes. Glorious ripe Pinot Noir fruit bursting with strawberries and raspberries. Like still pink Champagne.
6. SANCERRE ROUGE 2008/09 12.5%ABV 29.50
Tangy, robust, gamey cherry flavours with soft depth & lingering finish.

7. BOURGEUIL ROUGE 2009 Domaine Cabernelle 26.00
100% Cabernet Franc. Extroverted raspberry flavours with depth & zip. 13%ABV

ALSACE

10. PINOT BLANC 'RESERVE' 2010 Boeckel 22.50
Aromatic, soft, flowery and bone dry with an easy-going finish. 13%ABV
11. RIESLING 2010 Boeckel 23.50
Another aromatic, bone-dry white - as opposed to German Rieslings. Subtle nuances. 12.5%ABV
12. PINOT GRIS 2010 Boeckel 13%ABV 26.50
Just about every winemaker in the New World has discovered the virtues of this magical grape. The Boeckel family have been flaunting it since 1853! A beautifully aromatic and fulsome wine with weight and a delicate finish.
13. GEWURZTRAMINER 2010 Hugel 26.50
A one bottle example of the glories of this grape. Lychees & spice. 13%ABV
14. PINOT NOIR "Les Terres Rouges" 2006 Boeckel 30.50
One of the best light Pinots we have tasted. Zingy raspberry and strawberry fruits with a subtle, smooth & sexy finish. Best lightly chilled. 13.5%ABV

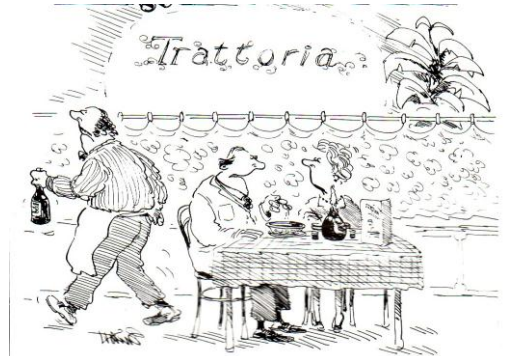
VASH'S PAGE

290. QUINTA DO CRASTO DOURO WHITE 2010 25.50
PORTUGAL. Crisp and fragrant apples and pears. Vash says, "It is like a cross between New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc and Alsace Riesling". 12%ABV
291. JEAN LEON XAREL-LO CHARDONNAY 2009 22.50
PENEDES. Not familiar with Xarel-Lo? You are not on your own! This is aromatic with a splash of citrus flavours and some gentle oak. 13%ABV

ITALY IS THE NEW BLACK

Says Vash ...

How does one understand a country that has nearly 1,000 grape varieties? Beyond most of us, but Vash is doing some of the hard work on your behalf and willing to throw in a few ideas ...



'In the time it took for me to establish whether the wine was "Denominazione di origine controllata e garantita" or not, my minestrone's gone cold!'

292. BARONE RICASOLI "ALBIA" ROSÉ 2010 26.50
TUSCANY. Sangiovese and Merlot. Strawberries and raspberries mingle nicely with a zippy clean finish. 12.5%ABV
293. PODERE MONTEPULCIANO d'ABRUZZO 2009 19.95
UMANI ROCHI. From the Marche region, adjacent to Tuscany. Vash loves the central east Italy grape Montepuciano and we all concur. It offers easy drinking with ripe plums and a soft, lingering finish. 13%ABV
294. PRIMITIVO SALENTINO BOHEME 2010 19.95
PUGLIA. Primitivo is the grape that flourishes in the foot of Italy. What a grape! Many people, including ourselves, are convinced that this is the original Zinfandel. Plums, strawberries ... you name it, they are all there. Just the wine for one of our grilled steaks. 13%ABV
295. MORELLINO di SCANSANON Fattoria dei Barbi '08 31.50
Now here's something different. "Tuscany's best kept secret", says Vash. "If you are a fan of Chianti, then this is a wine for you". Rich, ripe cherry flavours mingled with a cornucopia of black fruit. Sounds like Sangiovese? Yep. Just to confuse matters, this is a local name for the grape! 14%ABV