

WINES BY BILL



I spent many years peddling wine before becoming a publican. It is now my pleasure rather than my work, although I am happier rooting around for bargains and interesting wines than sipping fine wines. Now we are locked down once again, I thought that I would share some of my favourites for your enjoyment over Christmas.

PART 1 - Our House Wines - 6 bottle case £35.50

I tasted a lot of options before choosing these wines. It was a combination of good aromas, clean flavour, intensity of fruit that led me to picking this pair.

Tekena Sauvignon Blanc, Classic Sauvignon, zesty, crisp, citrus and tropical fruit flavours.

Tekena Merlot, Classic Merlot, soft and fruity with raspberry and blueberry fruit.

and

Rubini Pinot Grigio Rosato Venezia £42/6 btl, Crisp dry and pink, a real crowd pleaser.



PART 2 – fool proof wines! All £47/6 btl Or £90 for a mixed case of 12, 2 of each red, 3 of each white and rose

Some 30+ years ago when as a student I worked in an independent wine shop, it was all about Europe, New World wines were only just appearing. Since then I feel like we have drunk our way around the world, but I make no apologies for returning to France. During that time a lot changed in the Old World and their wines are now modern, and deliciously drinkable. I always recommend these wines on our list, and customers are never disappointed, so why not try them for yourselves.

Rare Vineyards Malbec, true Malbec, overtly fruity, with some structure.

Rare Vineyards Cinsault Vieilles Vignes Rose, Classic pale, dry “Provençal” style rose.

Rare Vineyards Carrignan Vieilles Vignes, Perhaps my favourite, it’s like a juicy Rhone

Élevé Eleve Pinot Noir, Lighter but not wishy washy, lots of sweet cherry and some spice.

Élevé Marsanne Viognier, unoaked, fresh and dry with a little richness, really lovely!



PART 3 Wines on-trend Mixed case 2 Bottles of each £120

So trends come and go, but these are currently some of the big sellers.

Vinuva Organic Pinot Grigio, Terre Siciliane £7.20

Pinot Grigio just won’t go away! Much of it is bland, but this is however so good I can’t recommend it highly enough. It is refreshing and flinty, delicate, but with a just enough fruit and a hint of pear drop.

Picpoul de Pinet, Réserve Mirou, £8.35

Picpoul grape has been grown in the village of Pinet, near the Mediterranean coast, for centuries. Bright and fresh, it’s rather like a fuller bodied Muscadet with plenty of citrusy fruit. Great with seafood.

Mirabeau Belle Année Rosé, Vin de France £9.50

Another great southern French “Provençal” style Rose. Beautiful pale pink in colour, dry, refreshing berry fruit.

Feudi Salentini 125 Primitivo del Salento, Puglia £9.95

Puglia is in the heel of Italy. Primitivo is the grape taken to the US and called Zinfandel. Hand-harvested, modern vinification, and a short ageing in oak lead to wonderfully balanced elegant wine. You will find ripe plum, cherry, peppery spice and cocoa in your glass!

Paz Malbec, San Juan £9.35

Everybody’s new favourite! Grapes grown in the Andes mountains from some of the oldest vineyards in the region. Some well-balanced oak ageing, full, rich and fruity with chocolate, vanilla and smoke.



Chapel Down Sparkling Bacchus £15

English sparkling wine is now super trendy. Chapel Down is one of the leading lights. This is a single variety sparkler, fine bubbles, pineapple, grapefruit and elderflower, tropical and flora, crisp and refreshing.



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PART 4 Swan Classics, £105 mixed case 2 of each:



Frascati Superiore Santa Theresa £9.50

We all love this wine. A top quality Frascati from the volcanic soils. This is the white wine of Rome. Beautifully rounded fresh & minerally, with a surprisingly flavoursome palate reminiscent of spring flowers, citrus fruits and apple.



LoLo Albariño, Rias Baixas £9.95

North-western Spain is offering another new trend. Albariño grapes from the cooler Galicia, offer a lovely spritz wine, green apples, citrus peel, and herbs. A great Sauvignon alternative.



Dashwood Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough New Zealand £9.95

Well it's not my bag, but I know many people still love it. I am more Sancerre than Kiwi! Brimming with zesty grapefruit, lime, pear and passion fruit, a good balance between refreshing and tropical, with thankfully some grassy herbaceousness!



Don Jacobo Rioja Vendimia Seleccion £8.75

A modern Rioja, 100% Tempranillo. Clean & bright, rich and fruity with vanilla from oak ageing. Its everything that you expect.



Chateau des Bardes Grand Cru Saint-Emilion £14.75

For me Christmas has always involved Claret. Mostly Merlot with 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, the resulting wine has rich, fruit aromas, juicy, sweet tannins backed by soft touches of vanilla-toastiness from time spent in oak. Truly classic.



Mionetto Prestige Prosecco, Vino Biologico Organic £9.95

The lust for Prosecco doesn't abate. While I can't compete with super cheap versions you do get what you pay for, and if its got no nasties in it then it is a bonus. Persistent bubbles, delicate fragrances of acacia blossoms and strong tastes of golden apple, pineapple and orange

Part 5 And for pudding.....



Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise, 37.5cl £7.95

And for those who like it sticky! So this is where I throw caution to the wind with a lack of subtlety. The most famous Muscat from the Rhône Valley. Rich and concentrated, with just enough citrus edge.

ORDERS Placed on a Tuesday will be available for collection on Thursday evening or local delivery on Friday.

To place your order please email info@theswaninn.co.uk