

Tate Classics



Billecart-Salmon NV £29.00

Champagne, France

Abv 12.5%

Tate's house Champagne for over ten years and choice of those in the trade. Billecart strikes just the right balance between downright drinkability (essential in a joyful glass of fizz) and seriousness (a trait distinctly lacking in many of the bigger brands).



2010 Monte Alina £6.95

Alvarez y Diez, Rueda, Spain

Abv 12.5%

A bespoke blend for Tate of Viura and the variety Rueda calls its own, Verdejo. Vibrant, fruity and refreshing – everything you could want in a 'house' wine.



2010 Picpoul de Pinet £7.95

Domaine Lauriers, Languedoc, France

Abv 12.5%

Picpoul de Pinet is a beacon of freshness in the otherwise rich, red dominated landscape of southern France's Languedoc. It is lightweight with flavours of citrus and a briny hint of the sea. Ideal with shellfish (oysters in particular) and surprisingly adept at taking on spicy, Asian food.



2010 Roussanne/Chenin 'Papegaai' £9.95

AA Badenhorst, Swartland, South Africa

Abv 14.5%

Almost a Tate exclusive (we bought 150 of the 250 case production), this is a staggering wine from Adi Badenhorst, the wild man of South African wine. He has a healthy disregard for the norms of winemaking and produces wine that are about texture and complexity, rather than immediacy. There are flavours of freshly crushed herbs, honey and spice - ideal for a roast chicken.



2010 Macon-Loché £12.50

Domaine Clos des Roccs, Mâconnais, Burgundy, France
Abv 13%

A new 'classic' as I only discovered this brilliant young Domaine in 2009, but it immediately slotted into our house Burgundy role. Too many in the modern Mâconnais search for a bruising style. This is rich but balanced by purity and elegance. A word of warning, we can rarely secure enough to last the whole year, so get in quickly!



2009 TerraVin Sauvignon Blanc £13.00

Marlborough, New Zealand
abv 13.5%.

Tate is one of the few places in the UK to get your hands on Mike Eaton's benchmark Sauvignon. It is the antithesis of big brand, low interest wine that dominate Marlborough. The 2009 is the most exuberant vintage to date, but behind all the expressive fruit lies minerality, dried herbs and wealth of thought-provoking flavours



2010 Graciano/Garnacha £6.95

El Primero, Navarra, Spain
Abv 14%

Our house red is a bespoke blend of two Spanish stalwarts. The Garnacha (a.k.a. Grenache) brings sweet, plummy fruit while the rare Graciano variety delivers, perfume, spice and glorious drinkability.



2008 Heartland 'Stickleback' £7.95

South Australia
Abv 14.5%

Ben Glaetzer is probably Australia's most hyped wine maker of recent years (it helps that he is a savvy marketer) and his top wines are rare and expensive. Luckily, he lives up to the a claim and pays as much attention to making this full-bodied, dense, spicy red as to his rarefied icon bottles.



2009 Element de Civrac £8.40
Côtes de Bourg, Bordeaux, France
Abv 12%

Cornishman Mark Hellyar has garnered his fair share of press – a surfing Cornishman making wine in one of the most staid regions on the planet has a nice ring to it. This wine is certainly mould breaking; low in alcohol, softly fruity and designed for drinking pleasure rather than cerebral stimulation. As the sun warms up, do not be afraid to stick this in the fridge an hour before serving.



2006 Trescone £11.50
Lamborghini, Umbria, Italy
Abv 13.5%

I should not really have favourites, but if I were to take one of these wines to a desert island, this would be it. The estate was created after the sale of the Lamborghini car business, but only really started to produce serious wine in the late 90's. This is a blend of Sangiovese (Chianti's main component), Merlot and Cilieggiolo. There are flavours of sour cherry, spice and meat and like many Italian reds with their bite of acid and tannin it is best enjoyed with food – slow-cooked shoulder of pork will win many admirers.



2008 'EM' Pinot Noir £10.75
Edoardo Miroglio, Thracian Valley, Bulgaria
Abv 13%

A number of pioneers are now starting to champion Bulgaria's top wines and repair the damage done by a flood of cheap bottles in the early nineties. I was a little nervous when we put this on Tate Modern's list, I shouldn't have worried as its seductive, fragrant charms have won over customers and staff alike to make it one of our best selling reds.



Stanton & Killeen Rutherglen Topaque £11.20
Victoria, Australia
Half bottle
Abv 17.5%

I have championed these glorious, underrated stickies for years and have yet to find anyone who is not hooked after one sip. Topaque is the new name for wines known as Tokay in Oz (in the EU the term is banned for fear of confusion with Hungary's Tokaji) This thick, decadent elixir explodes with soft brown sugar, citrus peel, spice and retains some of the fresh, floral character typical of Muscadelle. Serve lightly chilled and as bottle of this will happily stay fresh, open, for weeks there is no excuse not to have regular, life-affirming tippie.