

The world's best wine magazine

September 2020

# Decanter

## Lighter wines for summer

78 white and red buys under £20  
with 12.5% alcohol or less

### **14 GREAT CLARETS**

*Guide to Bordeaux's new  
crus bourgeois exceptionnels*

### **PLUS**

- Top 20 Cape Cabernets
- Chardonnay: Oregon & Montagny
- Piedmont wineries to visit



## DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS

## THE CO-CHAIRS' SELECTION

*In anticipation of DWWA 2020 results (published on Decanter.com 22 September 2020), we ask the Co-Chairs to reflect on their most memorable wines from the 2019 competition*

**ANDREW JEFFORD'S  
MOST MEMORABLE**


**Chapel Down, Kit's Coty Chardonnay, Kent, UK 2016 97 Best in Show**

£27.48-£30 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Justerini & Brooks

This super-slender but indubitably classy Chardonnay is grown close to a series of Neolithic megalith ruins. Despite its graceful outlines, the wine strikes me as something of a megalith itself: staking out the historic arrival of the UK as a producing zone for fine still wine. It may not last the full 12,000 years, but it will certainly age beautifully for a decade or more. **Alc** 12.5%



**Domaine Serene, Winery Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills, Oregon, USA 2015 96 Gold**

N/A UK [www.domaineserene.com](http://www.domaineserene.com)

Wines like this refined, poised Pinot underline how far and how fast this northwestern US state, with its red volcanic soils and complicated weather patterns, has come since we crested the millennium. **Alc** 14.1%



**Domaine Melody, Friandise, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France 2017 95 Gold**

£18.88-£19.75 Four Walls, The Good Wine Shop, Winearray

I visited Marc Romak and Marlène Durand back in 2017, and am delighted to see them among the medals two years later – and to see Crozes proving its amazing potential with a delicious, fruit-packed, high-focus red. The northern Rhône is increasingly looking like a little Burgundy, with parcelaires and prices to match. If you want value, head for Crozes every time. **Alc** 13%

**MICHAEL HILL SMITH MW'S  
MOST MEMORABLE**


**Charles Heidsieck, Blanc des Millénaires Blanc de Blancs Brut, Champagne, France 2004 98 Best in Show**

£179 Widely available

An exceptional aged blanc de blancs that has developed wonderful toasty characters. Spectacular. **Alc** 12.3%



**Dawson & James, Chardonnay, Derwent Valley, Tasmania, Australia 2016 95 Gold**

£38.15-£46.99 Christopher Keiller, Exel, Liberty Wines, Oz Wines, The Drink Shop, The Fine Wine Co I may well be biased, but I continue to be excited by Australian cool-climate Chardonnay and all things Tasmanian. An outstanding wine of great purity from this impressive duo. **Alc** 12.5%



**Henriques & Henriques, 20 Year Old Verdelho, Madeira, Portugal NV 98 Best in Show**

£64-£80.50 Cambridge Wine Merchants, Hedonism, Luvian's Bottle Shop, Simply Wines Direct, The Wine Reserve

This tiny Atlantic island produces some of the world's most fascinating, long-living and unique 'process' wines. A classic multi-layered, tangy Madeira: delicious. **Alc** 20%



**Lustau, VORS 30 Years Old, Oloroso, Jerez, Spain NV 97 Best in Show**

£65-£78/50cl Widely available  
Sherry is passion of mine and Lustau is a consistent star across all its styles. This 30 year-old Oloroso is extraordinary – nutty, hyper-complex, long and lingering. **Alc** 21%

**SARAH JANE EVANS MW'S  
MOST MEMORABLE**


**Bodgas Fillaboia, La Fillaboia 1898 Albariño, Rías Baixas, Spain 2010 97 Best in Show**

£29.95 Exel

Look at the vintage. This is what great Albariño can be about. Some wine lovers can't get their heads around Albariño with years on lees, but trust me, it can be magical. Superbly complex. **Alc** 13%



**Teliani Valley, Glekhuri Qvevri Kisi, Kakheti, Georgia 2017 97 Best in Show**

£21.25 (2019) Blas ar Fwyd, Connolly's, Hennings

Walking through the judging as a Co-Chair there was a real buzz of excitement about this Kisi, and rightly so. Bruised apple fruit, lightly textured, brilliant acidity. **Alc** 13%



**Gran Enemigo, El Cepillo Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc, San Carlos, Mendoza, Argentina 2014 95 Gold**

£45 (ib, 2016) Alex Marton, Jeroboams Cabernet Franc + Alejandro Vigil = always a winning proposition. My favourite from the winery's three 2019 Golds – all of them Cabernet Franc. **Alc** 13.9%



**Simčič, Leonardo, Goriška Brda, Primorska, Slovenia 2013 97 Platinum**

£37-£39.99/37.5cl The Salusbury Winestore, WoodWinters

There's always a 'handbag' wine – one you want to smuggle out at the end of the day. This, sadly, had to stay, but its memory lingers: great counterpoint between dried fruit and orange zest succulence. **Alc** 12%



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