

Wellington Red Case

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ACTING WINE CLUB MANAGER




This month's Wellington Red Case is a particular treat, with two super-premium New World wines for you to try. The Leeu Passant – a new label from the Mullineux – is a fascinating project, reinterpreting the Cape blends of the 1950s that made South Africa's name for fine wine; while El Molino's Pinot Noir proves what a shame it is that the Napa Valley is better known for Cabernet Sauvignon, offering a sumptuous yet elegant expression of what else is possible here. I hope you enjoy both. Elsewhere, we have a brilliant Beaujolais, a lesser-known red Burgundy, our superb own-label Brunello and Ambrosía's fantastic Malbec grown at high-altitude for freshness.

2016 GIVRY, LE CLOS DU CRAS LONG, 1ER CRU, DOMAINE DANJEAN-BERTHOUX



Danjean-Berthoux is among the top *domaines* in the Côte Chalonnaise, an area which is today the source of some of Burgundy's best-value red and white wines. Most of the *domaine's* vines fall under the Givry Premier Cru appellation. Pascal Danjean has been making the wines here since 1993.

The nose is spicy and somewhat brooding, with wild berries making an appearance alongside bramble notes. The palate offers a creamy texture and dense fruit, with supple and juicy tannins. What is remarkable about this wine, however, is the length of the finish, which lingers, carried along by the fine and polished tannins. Drink now to 2024.

Food matches	Lincolnshire sausages, mustard and mash or – for the adventurous – <i>andouillette</i>
Price	£23.50 per bottle
How to serve	Decant shortly before serving
Region	Burgundy, France
Grape variety	Pinot Noir
Product code	V3143B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Rich brown soils with lighter, limestone-rich pockets
Buyer	Adam Bruntlett

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

RED BURGUNDIES FROM APPELLATIONS SUCH AS MARANGES OR MARSANNAY

2017 MORGON, LES CHARMES, JULIEN SUNIER



Julien Sunier started out with three tiny parcels in Fleurie, Morgon and Régnié. In the decade since, the size of his holdings has increased very little, but Julien's reputation has grown considerably. He is today regarded as one of the finest makers of the expressive, mineral style of Beaujolais which is putting the region back on the connoisseur's map.

Bought specifically for Wine Club, this is the fullest-bodied and most age-worthy of Julien's wines but – like all his *cuvées* – it seduces straight out of the blocks. There's a touch of black fruit and spice on the nose, as well as lashings of strawberry and raspberry. On the palate, expect a winning combination of crisp acidity and rounded tannins (typical of Charmes). Drink now to 2024.

Food matches	Lamb tagine with couscous
Price	£29.00 per bottle
How to serve	Lightly chilled
Region	Beaujolais, France
Grape variety	Gamay
Product code	V7140B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Thin sandy soils atop granite slopes at approximately 400 metres' altitude
Buyer	Adam Bruntlett

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

MENCIÓNIA FROM BIERZO, SPAIN

2015 AMBROSÍA, PRECIOSO MALBEC, GUALTALLARY



Ambrosía was established by a group of friends who saw the vast potential of Gualtallary's vineyards. The 65-hectare estate lies at an altitude of some 1,200 metres above sea-level. Here, cool nights and sun-kissed days result in grapes that are perfectly ripe, yet high in acidity – a winning combination.

Deep ruby and oozing plum, damson and black cherry notes on the nose, this luxurious wine is lifted by subtle hints of violet and elderberry. The tannins are velvet-like and melt in the mouth. The finish is long, with exceptionally well-integrated cedar and nutmeg notes lingering on the palate alongside a refreshing minerality and core of acidity. Drink now to 2028.

Food matches	Chargrilled steak, boeuf bourguignon or stuffed aubergine
Price	£29.95 per bottle
How to serve	Serve at room temperature
Region	Uco Valley, Argentina
Grape variety	Malbec
Product code	V6577B
Style	Dry, full-bodied red wine
Terroir	Limestone over quaternary gravels
Buyer	Catriona Felstead MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: FRENCH MALBEC FROM CAHORS, CHILEAN CARMÉNÈRE OR PRIORAT REDS

2013 BERRY BROS. & RUDD BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO BY CANTINA LUCIANI



The Luciani family has been farming their five-hectare estate for six generations. Their northwest-facing vineyards are perched on the mid-slope of Montalcino at 350 metres' altitude. Their Sangiovese vines are grown on some of the region's most distinctive *terroir*, with calcareous marine fossils and clay, which gives the wines prowess and vivid minerality.

Deep red cherry in colour, bright with redcurrant, bramble and herbal aromas, this wine perfectly reflects the temperate 2013 vintage in Montalcino. Possessing refreshing acidity, mineral depth and finely integrated tannins, the wine is polished from its time spent in traditional oak *botti*. The palate is sumptuous, elegant and refined with bright cherry fruit and mineral flashes. This is an example of classical Brunello at its best. Drink now to 2030.

Food matches	Wild boar, steak, oxtail, or game paired with mushroom sauces
Price	£34.00 per bottle
How to serve	Serve at room temperature
Region	Tuscany, Italy
Grape variety	Sangiovese
Product code	V3170B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Northwest-facing, 350 metres' altitude, <i>terroir</i> of calcareous marine fossils and clay
Buyer	Davy Žyw

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: RIOJA RESERVA, BORDEAUX

2014 EL MOLINO, PINOT NOIR, RUTHERFORD, NAPA



Founded in 1871, El Molino was one of the first wineries in the Napa Valley and it is still family-owned. Unlike most of their neighbours in Rutherford who have planted Cabernet Sauvignon, they grow Pinot Noir and Chardonnay to great effect.

This Pinot is perfectly formed, with bright red fruit and rose perfume alongside well-integrated and handled tannins. There is a density that is a nod to Napa, but a measured character that is rather more "Old World" in style. Drink now to 2028.

Food matches	Pan-fried duck breast, fillet steak or lamb cutlets
Price	£63.95 per bottle
How to serve	Decant for one hour and serve at room temperature
Region	California, USA
Grape variety	Pinot Noir
Product code	V2157B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Gravel, sand and loam soils
Buyer	Fiona Hayes

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: GRAND CRU RED BURGUNDY

2015 LEEU PASSANT, DRY RED WINE



Since starting the estate in 2007, Chris and Andrea Mullineux have earned a reputation for producing wines of fine quality. Based in the Swartland, they work predominately with Chenin Blanc and Syrah from old vines. This wine is the first vintage from a sister range of wines, under the Leeu Passant label. The Dry Red is their take on 1950s and '60s Cape blends, using old-vine fruit from heritage vineyards in Wellington, Franschoek and Stellenbosch.

Deep ruby in colour, the aromas nod towards pepper and spice, with green herbs, ripe plum and black cherry. The palate is opulent with plenty of fruit, a vein of chalky minerality and impressive ripeness. It still manages to display an air of restraint and control that highlight the wine's impeccable pedigree. Drink now to 2022.

Food matches	Perfect with steak and other red meat dishes (potentially off the braai)
Price	£86.00 per bottle
How to serve	Best to decant and serve at room temperature
Region	Western Cape, South Africa
Grape variety	Cabernet Sauvignon 36%, Cabernet Franc 33%, Cinsault 31%
Product code	Y7764B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	From granite- and shale-based vineyards in Wellington, Franschoek and Stellenbosch
Buyer	Katherine Dart MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: BORDEAUX BLENDS FROM THE NEW WORLD