

Wellington Red Case

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This month's Wellington Red Case is packed full of some of my favourite styles. Syrah comes in two forms: from its heartland in the Northern Rhône and – perhaps unexpectedly – from the cool region Elgin in South Africa. Pinot Noir, meanwhile, is represented by a little-known Burgundian village, Monthélie and a superb, lesser-spotted red Sancerre. The classic Barolo offers poise, perfume and power, while Arianna Occhipinti's SP68 Rosso is a lesson in low-intervention winemaking.

2017 SP68 ROSSO, ARIANNA OCCHIPINTI



The Occhipinti family is synonymous with the Frappato grape that underpins Sicily's only DOCG: Cerasuolo di Vittoria. Historically the family made their wines in the family farmhouse before transferring in 2013 to a purpose-built winery, where the quality of wines has continued to improve. Arianna now owns 22 hectares of organic Frappato and Nero d'Avola, along with 1.5 hectares of intense Albanello and Zibibbo white grapes.

SP68 is the name of a road which leads to the winery. Vibrant and plucky, this native Sicilian red is full of character; crunchy red berries, leather, cherry wood, wild herbs and flowers, minerality and Sicilian spices. This wine is unfiltered and organic. Drink now to 2022.

Food matches	Sea bass, grilled anchovies with fennel or charcuterie
Price	£20.00 per bottle
How to serve	Cellar temperature (ever so slightly chilled)
Region	Sicily, Italy
Grape variety	Frappato 70%, Nero d'Avola 30%
Product code	V5358B
Style	Dry, light-bodied red wine
Terroir	Medium density vineyard, red sandy topsoil and chalk from Apennine limestone rocks
Buyer	Davy yw

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

AUSTRIAN BLAUFRÄNKISCH OR OTHER SICILIAN REDS

2015 SANCERRE ROUGE, CHANT DE L'ARCHET, DANIEL CHOTARD



Sancerre is best known for its white wines, but its reds, made from Pinot Noir, can also be of good quality, particularly in warmer years such as 2015. Daniel is a multi-instrumentalist musician, while his son Simon has now taken over the business and is working on converting the estate to organic viticulture.

The warm vintage has provided extra stuffing to this wine and allowed the oak to marry seamlessly in the form of subtle peppery spice notes. These sit among succulent cranberry and redcurrant fruit, all underpinned by a freshness characteristic of the cool Sancerre microclimate, giving a very elegant wine. Drink now to 2020.

Food matches	Ideal with a spicy sausage and lentil casserole
Price	£25.00 per bottle
How to serve	Try decanting for half an hour before drinking
Region	Loire Valley, France
Grape variety	Pinot Noir
Product code	V5986B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied, oaked red wine
Terroir	Old vines planted on clay soil in a southwest-facing amphitheatre
Buyer	Adam Bruntlett

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

MARSANNAY OR GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

2013 BAROLO, TREDIBERRI



A new and rising star in Barolo, the Trediberrì *cantina* of La Morra pulls together three Piedmontesi (Nicola Oberto and his father Federico, and their associate Vladimiro Rambaldi) who invested in five hectares of Berri vineyards, a hamlet of La Morra, back in 2008. They follow a low-impact, organic approach to viticulture and a traditional approach in the winery; with extended macerations and ageing in large oak. The wines of Trediberrì are expressive, generous and a genuine representation of their spectacular *terroir*.

This Barolo is right and lucid, typical of Nebbiolo. The nose is perfumed and inviting with notes of dried rose, strawberries and Assam tea. The palate is elegant and pure, with layers of crunchy red berries, minerality, spice and dried flowers, framed by vibrant acidity and fine, firm tannins. Balanced and pure. Drink now to 2030.

Food matches	Castelmagno cheese from Piedmont, roast game or beef
Price	£40.00 per bottle
How to serve	Room temperature, decanting recommended
Region	Piedmont, Italy
Grape variety	Nebbiolo
Product code	Y9635B
Style	Dry, full-bodied red wine
Terroir	Calcareous clay in an east-facing site
Buyer	Davy yw

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO OR CALIFORNIAN RED BLENDS

2013 MONTHÉLIE ROUGE, CHÂTEAU DE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET



Château de Puligny may be better known for its white wines, but owner Etienne de Montille is renowned for producing stunning reds at his family estate. Monthélie itself is located next to Volnay, and shares many characteristics with its neighbour, a village which produces some of the most elegant red wines in Burgundy.

This is pale ruby in colour with some maturity showing at the edges. The nose offers lifted red berry aromas and some spicy, floral notes. The palate is lithe and nimble, with good acidity and gentle redcurrant and cranberry fruits. A touch of subtle spice and supple tannins round things out nicely. Drink now to 2020.

Food matches	Try with pheasant or other game
Price	£27.50 per bottle
How to serve	Serve at cellar temperature
Region	Burgundy, France
Grape variety	Pinot Noir
Product code	Z9075B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied, lightly oaked red wine
Terroir	Vines planted on a stony slope in the <i>lieu-dit</i> of Les Plantes
Buyer	Adam Bruntlett

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

VOLNAY

2016 ST JOSEPH ROUGE, SILICE, DOMAINE COURSDON



Domaine Coursodon has long been one of the leading St Joseph wine estates. The youthful, intelligent Jérôme Coursodon is keen to emphasise the individuality and personality of this appellation, which is credited with producing Syrah that approaches Pinot Noir in its silky texture and refinement.

Boasting a wealth of silky red and black fruits, this wine is poised and perfumed. Underlying spice and notes of *sousbois* perfectly complement its structure. Drink now to 2023.

Food matches	Roast beef or hard cheeses such as aged Gruyère or Comté
Price	£30.00 per bottle
How to serve	Decant for 30 minutes before serving at room temperature
Region	Rhône, France
Grape variety	Syrah
Product code	V2336B
Style	Dry, medium to full-bodied red wine
Terroir	Granitic soils
Buyer	Fiona Hayes

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

CROZES-HERMITAGE REDS

2014 RICHARD KERSHAW, CLONAL SELECTION SYRAH



Born and raised in the UK, Richard Kershaw enjoyed a successful career as a chef before entering the world of wine. Now a Master of Wine turned winemaker, his aim is to produce classically proportioned wines with an innate sense of place. All his wines are produced from specifically selected French clones.

Elgin's cool climate contributes to a more mineral and restrained style of Syrah here. Add Richard's extraordinary attention to detail and you have a wine that breaks all expectations. Notes of tapenade, iodine and white peppercorn combine with a core of dark-skinned fruits, bolstered by fine tannins and a persistent finish. Drink now to 2022.

Food matches	Slow-cooked lamb shoulder
Price	£42.95 per bottle
How to serve	Decant an hour before serving at room temperature
Region	Elgin, South Africa
Grape variety	Syrah
Product code	Y5744B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Gravel-based soils
Buyer	Katherine Dart MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

NORTHERN RHÔNE SYRAH