

Wellington Red Case

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WINE CLUB MANAGER

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*This month's Wellington Red Case contains a Wine Club exclusive; we're excited to introduce 2011 L'IF, the newest venture from famous Bordeaux property Le Pin, to you. Quantities released were so miniscule we were only able to include one bottle, so to complete the case you will find **three** bottles of the traditionally styled 2002 Viña Tondonia Rioja. It's textbook in style, with lush strawberry and vanilla fruit and silky soft tannins. Drinking beautifully now, I would pair it with mint crusted rack of lamb.*

2009 PINOT NOIR, RÉSERVE MILLÉSIME, DOMAINE ROLLY-GASSMANN



Located in Alsace's Haut-Rhin village of Rorschwihr, near Ribeauvillé, lies the family domaine of Rolly-Gassmann, whose roots date back to 1661. Their biodynamic, 51 hectare estate (40ha in Rorschwihr, 10ha in Bergheim) is owned and run by Marie-Thérèse and Louis and their son Pierre Gassmann, along with a team of 17 workers.

Aided by some fine marne soils, this exceedingly elegant Alsace Pinot Noir has sumptuous fruit, charm and poise. Pierre Gassmann's read this one perfectly; pale red/rosé in colour, the delicate, bonbons and rose nose, ripe with tiny red berries, and earthed by a hint of wood smoke. The palate builds from there: swimming with pretty red fruit, yet tidy and fresh at its core too. Now-2017.

Food matches	Baked salmon fillets
Price	£34.50 per bottle
How to serve	Cellar temperature
Region	Alsace, France
Grape variety	Pinot Noir
Product code	Z1462B
Style	Dry, medium to full-bodied red wine
Terroir	Marne
Producer	Domaine Rolly-Gassmann
Buyer	David Berry Green

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

BURGUNDIAN PINOT NOIR OR DOLCETTO

2001 CH. LANESSAN, HAUT-MÉDOC



Rather an iconic château in its own way, Lanessan sits in full view of the D2, as you drive north from Margaux to St Julien. Its vineyard is superbly situated on a deep gravel croup – the perfect site for Cabernet Sauvignon. In the same family ownership for eight generations, this is a Château that thrives on its history but always with an eye on the future.

2001 was an overlooked vintage, following the hype of the 2000, but Lanessan made a fabulous '01. Showing some brick on the rim of the glass, and a touch of development on the nose, the palate is an object lesson in savoury, cedary claret. Complex, gentle and rather reassuring. Now-2016.

Food matches	Lamb tagine or Lancashire hotpot
Price	£19.00 per bottle
How to serve	Open an hour or two before serving, at room temperature
Region	Haut-Médoc, Bordeaux, France
Grape variety	Cabernet Sauvignon 68%, Merlot 26%, Petit Verdot 6%
Product code	87260B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Classic, deep gravel beds of the Médoc
Producer	The Bouteiller Family
Buyer	Philip Moulin

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

MATURE LEFT BANK BORDEAUX

2011 L'IF, SAINT-EMILION



We are extremely proud to be able to show this wine off to Club members before anyone else. L'IF is the latest venture of Jacques Thienpont, the owner of the famous Pomerol property, Le Pin. Formerly known as Château Haut-Plantey, Jacques purchased the property at the end of 2009 and changed the name to L'IF (Yew Tree in French) keeping the theme of a single tree alongside Le Pin.

With its dark purple colour and weighty nose of mocha and bramble fruit, we are clearly in Merlot territory here. The palate confirms the nose, showing rich, rounded fruit, with soft, supporting tannins and impressive length. This is still young, but such opulence is hard to resist now. Now t-2025.

Food matches	<i>Magret de canard</i> or slow roast shoulder of lamb
Price	£37.00 per bottle
How to serve	If possible decant an hour before serving, at room temperature
Region	St Emilion, Bordeaux, France
Grape variety	Merlot 79%, Cabernet Franc 20% and Cabernet Sauvignon 1%
Product code	97709B
Style	Dry, full-bodied red wine
Terroir	Chalky limestone, over clay subsoil
Producer	Cyrille Thienpont
Buyer	Philip Moulin

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: RIGHT BANK MERLOT OR JUICY CHILEAN MERLOTS FOR A CHEAPER ALTERNATIVE

2010 CÔTES DU RHÔNE ROUGE, DOMAINE DE FONTBONAU



This magnificent property is located between the villages of Visan and Valréas in the Southern Rhône. Frédéric Engerer, the co-owner, clearly has devoted a lot of energy to its promotion, despite having another somewhat demanding job as the Régisseur of a little known-property in Bordeaux called Château Latour.

The wine has a warm Mediterranean nose, with notes of garrigue and laurel confirming provenance and an impressive weight of blue and black fruits on the palate. The concentrated but not over-bearing fruit character and finely poised tannins defer to quality of vintage and winemaker alike. Now-2016.

Food matches	Lamb shanks, duck with orange, lighter game dishes
Price	£24.95 per bottle
How to serve	Decant an hour before serving at room temperature
Region	Southern Rhône, France
Grape variety	Grenache 70%, Syrah 30%
Product code	90346B
Style	Dry, full-bodied red wine
Terroir	pudding stones, alluvial sandy top soil, hard clay underneath
Buyer	Simon Field MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU PAPE, GIGONDAS

2010 BEAUNE, LES CENT VIGNES, 1ER CRU, DOMAINE DES CROIX



Domaine des Croix was established in Beaune in 2005 by American investors, with talented young winemaker David Croix in charge. His Les Cent Vignes is one of four Beaune premiers crus produced here, this one coming from the lower slopes where the grapes ripen easily. The vines were planted in 1956.

Medium colour, pretty and perfumed nose, very attractive. Smooth, dense Pinot fragrance, immediately attractive. Good weight on the palate, a mix of strawberry and raspberry fruit, quite sensual, yet lively too. Persistently charming wine, ready now but good for up to five years. Now-2019

Food matches	<i>Charcuterie</i> or gammon
Price	£29.95 per bottle
How to serve	Decant an hour in advance
Region	Burgundy, France
Grape variety	Pinot Noir
Product code	95307B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Clay-limestone with a little sand
Buyer	Jasper Morris MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: NUIITS-ST GEORGES OR GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

2002 VIÑA TONDONIA, TINTO RESERVA, BODEGAS R. LÓPEZ DE HEREDIA



Tondonia is the largest and most prestigious of four extensive vineyards owned by the ultra-traditional Rioja house of López de Heredia. Founded in 1877 in the Barrio Estación area of Haro, this delightful family, headed by the incredibly charming Maria-José, are Rioja's greatest ambassadors.

Aged for six years in American oak, the wine has an immediately recognisable nose of wild strawberry, vanillin and cream, its distinctive Rioja flavours of balsam, forest floor and crushed rock on the palate all neatly tied up with supple tannins and a protecting veil of acidity. Now-2018.

Food matches	Roast lamb, or pork, or indeed beef
Price	£29.95 per bottle
How to serve	Decant half an hour before serving, as it may throw gentle sediment; serve at room temperature
Region	Rioja, Spain
Grape variety	Tempranillo (75%) Balance shared between Graciano, Garnacha and Mazuelo
Product code	88066B
Style	Alluvial clays and limestone
Terroir	Clay/limestone, pudding stones on topsoil
Producer	Bodegas R. López de Heredia
Buyer	Simon Field MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: OTHER TRADITIONALLY STYLED RIOJAS OR REDS FROM NAVARR