



CHAMPAGNE...but not the bubbly stuff...this is abnormally without bubbles

Bouzy (100% pinot noir), Marguet, 2019, Montagne de Reims 230.

- from the vineyards *Les Hannepés* et *Les Loges* / bottled on March 25th, 2021, with 19 grams SO2 (this is essentially no SO2)
- if you love focus...and I mean the focus of a truffle hound searching for truffles...then this is the wine for you...there is no stuffing here, just crunchy acidity with the snap and crackle of a breakfast cereal without the milk

Ambonnay (100% chardonnay), Marguet, 2019, Montagne de Reims 230.

- from the vineyards *Les Crayères* et *Les Beurs* / bottled on March 25th, 2021, with 20 grams SO2 (this is essentially almost no SO2)
- well, if the above wine is about focus, then this beverage is about a pointed, tension-filled smack to the face, much like Brother Donald of the almighty De La Salle fraternity of men of the cloth, levelled against me in grade 6...he did teach me all I know about grammar and how to use a fountain pen but I still bear some psychological welts

BORDEAUX BLANC: are these even more profound than the red versions...

Entre-Deux-Mers, *Vieilles Vignes*, Château Sainte-Marie, 2023, Bordeaux 56.

- 63% sauvignon blanc, 27% sémillon, 10% muscadelle

Bordeaux Blanc, *Lions de Suduiraut*, Château Suduiraut, 2022, Sauternes 69.

"R", Château Rieussec, 2020, Sauternes 104.

- 54% sémillon, 46% sauvignon blanc; fermented in tank, then aged 50% in tank and 50% in barrel, 20% of which are new
- yes, this is a vin blanc sec from the 1st growth Sauternes château...NOTE: since the Sauternes A.O.C. does not allow for vin sec, this wine can only be addressed formally, and informally, as Bordeaux Blanc...damn those French bureaucrats!
- compared to the estate's sweet wine, the differences are these: these grapes come from a specific vineyard parcel / these grapes were harvested in August vs. the sweet wine grapes finishing harvest in October / this wine leans heavy into sauvignon blanc (that is the acid backbone) vs. the sweet wine being almost 100% sémillon

Clos Floridene, Denis & Florence Dubourdieu, 2020 71.

Pagodes de Cos (88% sauvignon blanc, 12% semillon), Cos d'Estournel, 2019, St.-Éstephe 158.

La Croix de Carbonnieux, Château Carbonnieux, 2021, Pessac-Léognan 72.

Château Carbonnieux (75% sauvignon blanc, 25% semillon), 2015, Pessac-Léognan 115.

Château Haut-Brion (50% sauvignon blanc, 50% semillon), 1998, Pessac-Léognan 1800.

- the original intention of this wine, when crafted by the Larrieu family in the 1800s, was to harness the aromatic fullness of a sweet wine but in a dry wine format...at present, on the palate, this wine is riding that wave in a manner that even Laird Hamilton would blush at

RHÔNE VALLEY: where the mistral rules the land

Hermitage (100% marsanne), Marc Sorrel, 2021 480.

Hermitage (90% marsanne, 10% roussanne), Les Rocoules, Marc Sorrel, 2021 950.

PROVENCE:

- our steamship is delayed bringing these wines across the big pond...apparently, the arrival date is now March, 2025

LANGUEDOC & ROUSSILLON:

Côtes Catalanes (70% macabeu, 27% grenache gris, 3% grenache blanc), Domaine de l'Horizon, 2018 148.



ALSACE: the blessed landscape of smelly cheese and onion tarts

-a moment of silence, please, for the farmers / producers, in Alsace, who deserve a massive kudos for all the incredible work they do, vinously expressing the most terroir-driven landscape in all of France, yet still find a way to send 70% of their production to supermarkets, very much relegating their region from the top echelon of wine areas...oi vey, why oh why?!

Ribeauvillé Village Wine (riesling, sylvaner, pinot blanc), Marcel Deiss, 2021	86.
-from the lieu-dits Gruenspiel, Hagueneau, and Weinbaum, in Ribeauvillé / limestone, clay, sandstone, gravel soils / fermented & aged for 12 months in old oak	
Riquewihr Village Wine (riesling, pinot gris), Marcel Deiss, 2020	82.
-from the lieu-dits Rosenbourg and Engelsreben, in Riquewihr / quartz and marl soil / fermented & aged for 12 months in old oak	
Schlossberg "Sous La Forêt" (75% pinot gris, 25% riesling), <i>Grand Cru</i> , Domaine Weinbach, 2020	168.
Burg Cru Wine (riesling, pinot gris, pinot blanc, muscat, the kitchen sink, my homework+++), Marcel Deiss, 2018	138.
Le Chemin d'à Côté , La Grange de L'Oncle Charles, 2019	148.
-60% Riesling, 30% pinot gris, 10% chardonnay – grown together in the Sittweig vineyard (granite soil) / northern exposition), in the town of Ammerschwihr, harvested together on September 15 th , fermented together using indigenous yeasts, aged one year on the lees in barrique, with 20mg of total SO2	
Clos du Zahnacker (riesling + pinot gris+ gewurztraminer), Cave de Ribeauville, 2010	92.
-the grapes are grown in the same vineyard and harvested separately; once pressed, though, they are vinified together	
-the grapes are grown in the Grand Cru vineyard <i>Osterberg</i> , which is composed of chalk and marl soil and faces perfectly east	
-apparently, the parcel of land was owned by the monk-knight Martin Zahn in the 8 th century... Zahn Acker = the field of Zahn	
-its prestige was permanently sealed in 1673 when the Sun King, Louis XIV, passed through the region and enjoyed a cup of the nectar	
Pinot Gris , Albert Boxler, 2016	100.
Pinot Gris, Grand Cru Brand , Albert Boxler, 2018	140.
Pinot Gris, Comte d'Equisheim , Léon Beyer, 2010	150.
Muscat, Turckheim , Zind Humbrecht, 2021	72.
-85% muscat blanc à Petits Grains (aka, muscat d'Alsace), 15% muscat ottonel	
-vines are 42 years of age, grown on gravelly silt	
Muscat, Grand Cru Goldert , Zind Humbrecht, 2017	120.
-100% muscat blanc à Petits Grains (aka, muscat d'Alsace)	
-vines are 33 years of age, grown on oolitic limestone (oolite is composed of ooids, which are hardened poop droppings from a t-rex)	
-the vineyard faces east and southeast and baths in the morning / early afternoon sun	
-the tenderloin section of the vineyard is super steep (about a 60% grade) and it is at 900'	
-the name of the vineyard comes from the golden appearance that its wines possess	
Gewurztraminer, Clos Windsbuhl , Zind Humbrecht, 2017	100.
Gewurztraminer, Grand Cru Pfersigberg , Cave de Ribeauville, 2016	74.
Gewurztraminer, Cuvée des Seigneurs de Ribeaupierre , Trimbach, 2012 --DENSITY THRU FRUIT ALERT--	144.



JURA: Jurassic treasures that have the grip of a velociraptor

Chardonnay, <i>Les Miracles</i> , Anne et Jean François Ganevat, 2017	250.
-apparently, the 2017 vintage suffered from the <i>Black Frost</i> and this was one of the only wines Ganevat produced...it was a miracle that anything was produced, according to locals and my mother / the wine remained in the cellar for 3 years just to figure out a way forward...	
Chardonnay, <i>Les Chamois du Paradis</i> , Anne et Jean François Ganevat, 2016 --NON OXIDATIVE--	475.
-grown on red marl, gravel, & limestone, the vineyards were planted in 1949 / raised for over 2 years in demi-muids	
Chardonnay, <i>Cuvée Florine</i> , Anne et Jean François Ganevat, 2016 --NON OXIDATIVE--	325.
-named after Jean François' daughter, this wine is crafted from the chardonnay vines planted in 1986, on limestone soils	
Chardonnay, <i>Les Chalasses Vieilles Vignes</i> , Anne et Jean François Ganevat, 2015 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	900.
-grown on grey marl, the vineyards were planted in 1902	
Chardonnay, <i>Domaine Pêcheur</i> , 1982 --CRAZY VINTAGE ALERT--	235.
L'Étoile* (100% chardonnay + savagnin), <i>Cuvée Spéciale</i> , Dom. de Montbourgeau, 2017 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	195.
*L'Étoile, <i>the star</i> , is so-named because of the star-shaped fossils (pentacrines) that dot the marl & limestone landscape OR because of the five hills (Mont Muzard, Monterreaux, Montangis, Mont Morin, Mont Genezet) that surround the village of L'Étoile in the appearance of a pentagram / the appellation is primarily about the chardonnay grape and it does not take a wine genius to draw a parallel with Chablis	
L'Étoile* (100% chardonnay), <i>Montmorain</i> , Domaine de Montbourgeau, 2020 --NON OXIDATIVE--	112.
-an east-facing vineyard, planted in 1956...high toned, in the style of Kate Bush in "Wuthering Heights"	
L'Étoile* (100% chardonnay), <i>Pied de Mont-Augy</i> , Domaine de Montbourgeau, 2020 --NON OXIDATIVE--	115.
-old, old, old vines vineyard planted in 1920...low toned, in the style of Kate Bush in "Cloudbursting"	
<i>Bélemnites</i> (chardonnay + savagnin), Peggy & Jean-Pascal Buronfosse, 2019 --NON OXIDATIVE--	110.
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>Domaine Berthet-Bondet</i> , 2020 --NON OXIDATIVE--	100.
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>L'Hopital</i> , Peggy & Jean-Pascal Buronfosse, 2019	108.
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>Géodes</i> , Peggy & Jean-Pascal Buronfosse, 2019 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	198.
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>Domaine Berthet-Bondet</i> , 2016 --OXIDATIVE--	112.
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>Montferrand</i> , Anne et Jean François Ganevat, 2016	345.
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>Antide</i> , Anne et Jean François Ganevat, 2016	400.
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>Petit Curoulet</i> , Anne et Jean François Ganevat, 2016	255.
-the savagnin vines are roughly 80 years of age and are planted on marl, gravel soil / it is aged 2 years in foudres	
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>L'Etrange</i> , Caveau de Bacchus, 2012	156.
-from the lieu-dit, Les Champs Maudits / the soil is schist and clay / fermentation in old oak, followed by 6 years of ageing in old oak	
Savagnin (100% savagnin), <i>Joseph Dorbon</i> , 2010, Arbois	137.
Vin Jaune (100% savagnin), <i>Château d'Arly</i> , 2013 --620ml, aka, clavelin--	188.
Château-Chalon* (100% savagnin), <i>Domaine Berthet-Bondet</i> , 2013 --620ml, aka, clavelin--	268.
Château-Chalon* (100% savagnin), <i>Domaine Macle</i> , 2011 --620ml, aka, clavelin--	285.
*Château-Chalon is the pre-eminent non-fortified, oxidative, vin jaune wine appellation on the planet. PERIOD. It MUST be composed of 100% savagnin. It MUST be aged 6 years + 3 months before bottling (the 620ml bottling is what is supposedly left from a litre of wine after that ageing period). It MUST be consumed standing up, while listening to the Cure's "A Forest." It MUST be savored.	

SAVOIE:

Vin des Albobroges Cevins (100% altesse), <i>Quartz Blanc</i> , Domaine des Ardoisières, 2021	275.
-altesse is an indigenous variety of the Savoie, whose name references the vine terraces surrounding Lake Bourget	



LOIRE VALLEY: France's garden and the site of my future tuffeau castle

Cour-Cheverny Moelleux (100% romorantin), <i>Cuvée Renaissance</i> , François Cazin, 2015	60.
Savennières (100% chenin blanc), <i>La Jalousie</i> , Domaine du Closel, 2020	112.
Anjou (100% chenin blanc), <i>Ronceray</i> , Domaine Belargus*, 2018	140.
-a collection of chenin blanc from all the vineyards (composed of loam, clay, schist, sandstone, puddingstone) the domain owns in the 1er Cru village of Chaume / aged 12 months in old oak vats and 400L French oak	
Anjou (100% chenin blanc), <i>Rouères</i> , Domaine Belargus*, 2018	218.
-Les Rouères is an east / southeast-facing lieu-dit in Chaume / the vineyard is composed of sand, clay, puddingstone and the vines average 30 years of age / it is aged 24 months in 400L French oak	
Anjou (100% chenin blanc), <i>Treilles</i> , Domaine Belargus*, 2018	398.
-the Coteau des Treilles is considered a Grand Cru, even though it is not officially one / apparently, it contains both volcanic soil (say hello to my magma!) as well as sedimentary (say hello to the sea once covering my magma!) / the vineyard faces perfectly south and to climb it is to climb a vinous K2...it is therefore obvious, even to me, that after phylloxera and two world wars, the parcel was completely abandoned / aged 36 months in 400L French oak	
*Domaine Belargus was created in 2018 with the purchase of Jo Python's Python-Paillé estate in the Anjou Noir by Parisian banker Ivan Massonnat. As we...and yes, I include YOU...no longer enjoy enough sweet wine, the new domain is going to produce 80% vin sec from a traditional sweet wine A.O.C. Regarding the name "Belargus," it most likely references the <i>Lysandra bellargus</i> butterfly, a colony of which found a most comfortable home on the Coteau des Treilles.	
Anjou (100% chenin blanc), <i>Les Faraunières</i> , Domaine Andrée, 2017	135.
Vin de France (100% chenin blanc), <i>La Lune</i> , Ferme de la Sansonniere, 2020	115.
Vin de France (100% chenin blanc), <i>Frimas</i> , Château de Bonnezeaux, 2020	112.
Vouvray (100% chenin blanc), <i>Goutte d'or</i> , François et Julien Pinon, 1989 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	375.
-SEATBELT ALERT!!! SWEET BUT BALANCED ALERT!!! DON'T ORDER UNLESS YOU ANSWER 3 QUESTIONS ALERT!!!	
-grown in clay, black flint, limestone soils, these botrytis-affected chenin blanc grapes are harvested late in the growing season, by hand, over multiple pickings	
-this was the penultimate bottling of this wine, with the final one being in 1990...aka, you will enjoy a museum wine	
-total acidity 5 grams per litre + 75 grams residual sugar + 12.9° alcohol + 3.1pH = HOLY F*#KING S*#TBALLS	
Menetou-Salon (100% sauvignon blanc), <i>Morogues "Vignes de Ratier,"</i> Domaine Pellé, 2022	88.
Sancerre (100% sauvignon blanc), <i>Les Monts Damnés</i> , Thomas-Labaille, 2022	100.
Sancerre (100% sauvignon blanc), <i>Constellation du Scorpion</i> , Vincent Gaudry, 2021	165.
Sancerre (100% sauvignon blanc), Clos La Néore (aka, Edmund et Anne Vatan), 2018 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	900.
La Pucelle de Romorantin (100% romorantin), <i>Vignes non greffées</i> , Domaine de la Charmoise, 2020	120.



BURGUNDY: Aligoté

- a natural progeny of Pinot and Gouais Blanc (much like me), the Aligoté grape was first mentioned in 1807, residing in Burgundy
- it appears to have suffered the same ignominy as Gamay, as many folks wanted it pulled out due to its supposed lesserness to Chardonnay
- in the vineyard, the best part of the slope is generally planted with Chardonnay (it being the constant and undeserved *it* grape), while the lower and upper slopes get the Aligoté; this mindset forces the wine to lead with acidity and neutrality, which is why it became the wine component of the Kir (Aligoté + Crème de Cassis = off dry, fruity aperitif)
- however, if respected by the vintner and grown in the righteous parcels, this can be a compelling grape and not just the *other* blanc grape

Aligoté, PM Jacqueson, 2022

75.

BURGUNDY: Hautes-Côte de Nuits

Galanthus Nivalis (100% pinot blanc), Claire Naudin, 2020

166.

Clematis Vitalba (100% chardonnay), Claire Naudin, 2016

168.

BURGUNDY: Marsannay

- well, damn, this is your gateway to the Côte de Nuits but its reputation is that of a thrice distant cousin to its southerly compatriots
- it only received its own AOC designation in 1987 (before that it was just Bourgogne Rouge de Marsannay, etc.)
- it was the planting of Pinot Noir by Joseph Clair-Daü in 1919 and the production of 8 barrels of rosé that initially established this appellation's reputation
- BUT, it is the only AOC in Burgundy with the ability to make a blanc, a rosé, a rouge...take that you bastards to the south
- its lack of recognition is primarily due to the alluvial top-soils that cover the more acceptable Bajocian and Bathonian limestone
- there is presently only Village level wine produced here though a movement is underway to gain some *1er Cru* status; that will most likely come for the majestic *Clos du Roy* climat, which is in the town of Chenôve...but who is keeping track of such things

BURGUNDY: Fixin

Clos Moreau, Louis Jadot, 2013

80.

BURGUNDY: Morey-Saint-Denis

1er Cru Clos des Monts Luisants Vieilles Vignes, Domaine Ponsot, 2016

385.



BURGUNDY: Chablis

Petit Chablis, Gérard Duplessis, 2020	90.
Vincent Dauvissat, 2021	152.
Laurent Tribaut, 2021	126.
Gérard Duplessis, 2020	121.
Clement Lavallee, 2020	134.
Coteau de Rosette, Alice et Olivier de Moor, 2020	152.
1er Cru Vaillons, Vincent Dampit, 2022	110.
1er Cru Fourchaume "L'Homme Mort," Domaine Jolly, 2022	116.
1er Cru Les Séchets, Patrick Piuze, 2022	172.
1er Cru Vaillons "Les Minots," Patrick Piuze, 2022	158.
1er Cru Les Roncières, Patrick Piuze, 2022	159.
1er Cru Butteaux, Patrick Piuze, 2022	173.
1er Cru Les Vaudevey, Domaine Laroche, 2021	146.
1er Cru Beauroy, Laurent Tribut, 2021	153.
1er Cru La Forest, Vincent Dauvissat, 2021	212.
1er Cru Montmains, Gérard Duplessis, 2020	134.
1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre, Jean-Marc Brocard, 2020	133.
1er Cru Montee de Tonnerre, Gérard Duplessis, 2020	136.
1er Cru Fourchaume, Gérard Duplessis, 2020	138.
1er Cru Vaillons, Vincent Dauvissat, 2020	210.
1er Cru Mont de Milieu, Corinne et Jean-Pierre Grossot, 2018	135.
Grand Cru Blanchots, Patrick Piuze, 2022	225.
Grand Cru Les Preuses, Patrick Piuze, 2022	285.
Grand Cru Vaudésir, Jean-Marc Brocard, 2020	205.
Grand Cru Les Grenouilles, Daniel-Etienne Defaix, 2011	300.



My Mom's Thoughts / Misgivings about CHABLIS

composed on February 23rd, 1972

HISTORY

- the name comes from two Celtic words: CAB (signifying *house*) and LEYA (meaning *near the woods*)
- vines were present in the region in the 9th Century
- through the Middle Ages, important families controlled the region and *NOT* the Catholic Church (unlike Burgundy proper)
- in the late 19th Century, the region supplied a sea of wine to Paris (*aka*, every Parisian was allocated 2 bottles of Chablis a day)
- in 1945, due to a severe frost and a few military skirmishes, not a single bottle of Chablis was produced
- prosperity only returned to the region with the 1970 vintage...Richard Nixon was a big consumer / supporter of this wine

TERROIR

- a base of **KIMMERIDGEAN** (named after Kimmeridge, a village in Dorset, England): relatively uniform, chalky marl and mealy limestone, containing many banks of seashells
- a **PORTLANDIAN CAP** (named after the Isle of Portland in Dorset, England): limestone from the Jurassic age
- simply put, fossilized seashells abound in this terroir, especially the *Exogyra virgule*

GRAPE

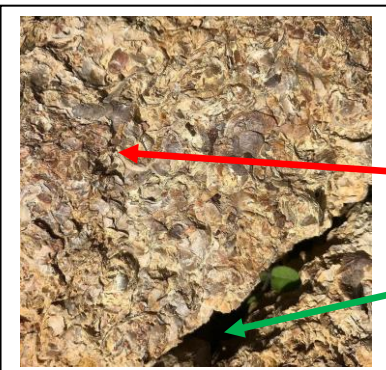
- a local rarity called Beaunois (so-named due to potential origins in Beaune, Burgundy)

A.O.C. STUFF

- the appellation of Chablis was created in 1938 (it now includes Village / 18 Premier Crus / 7 Grand Crus)
- to be a true Chablis, Kimmeridgean marl **MUST** exist beneath the Portlandian cap
- the appellation of Petit Chablis was created in 1944 (essentially flatlands existing above the hallowed slopes of Chablis).

Mom differentiated the two, in the Spring of 1978, this way:

Chablis is the Tony Manero of the region while Petit Chablis was the Joey / Double J / Gus / Bobby C. of the region



Alcide d'Orbigny (1802-1857) was the proverbial s*#t when it came to all things geology / paleontology / archaeology / anthropology / zoology in the early 19th century. In 1840, he published the *La Paléontologie Française*, the masterwork of French fossils. Wine-wise, we owe the naming of the Portlandian cap to him, as well as the reference to Kimmeridge for the underlying limestone. Unfortunately, he also believed that God created 27 catastrophes to craft the present world as we know it. Suffice it to say, though, fans of chardonnay adore him. and atheists burn his effigy every September 6th.



BURGUNDY: Côte de Beaune

Etienne Sauzet, 2021	115.
Rougeot, <i>Les Grandes Gouttes</i> , 2020	128.
Emmanuel Rouget, 2020	120.

BURGUNDY: Pernand-Vergelesses

1er Cru Sous-Frétille, Jean-Baptiste Boudier, 2020	165.
--	------

BURGUNDY: Beaune

1er Cru Les Grèves, Caroline Morey, 2020	238.
1er Cru Clos des Mouches, Billard-Gonnet, 2018	248.

BURGUNDY: Saint-Romain

Combe Bazin, François Carillon, 2020	108.
--------------------------------------	------

BURGUNDY: Meursault

- originally a Roman town called Muris Saltus (*the jump of the mouse*); the residents today are called *Murisalti*
- produces BLANC (a lot) and ROUGE (very little...and some of its Pinot Noir grapes can be bottled as Volnay)
- produces Village and Premier Cru wines; there are no Grand Crus (though *Genevrières* and *Perrières* might one day be)

Clos du Cromin, Bitouzet-Prieur, 2020	200.
1er Cru les Genevrières, Rémi Jobard, 2020	375.
1er Cru Charmes, Robert Ampeau, 2002	400.

BURGUNDY: Puligny-Montrachet

- the finest place on the planet to grow Chardonnay (well, okay, Champagne, Oregon, and Victoria also make some cool examples)
- produces BLANC (a proverbial shit-ton) and ROUGE (bottled as Blagny)
- produces Village, Premier Cru and Grand Cru wines; these wines are the perfect illustration of minor differences in distance are always trumped by major differences in soil types...and that is what is called **terroir**

Etienne Sauzet, 2021	252.
Pierre Girardin, 2020	248.
Pierre-Yves Colin Morey, 2020	330.
1er Cru Clavoillon, Domaine Leflaive, 2020	744.
1er Cru Champs-Gain, Etienne Sauzet, 2020	342.
1er Cru Les Pucelles, Domaine Leflaive, 2020	1648.

BURGUNDY: Auxey-Duresses

Domaine Roulot, 2020	258.
----------------------	------



BURGUNDY: Saint-Aubin

- located just west of Puligny-Montrachet, it is very much the wine town on the other side of the tracks
- it produces "useful" and "earlier drinking" blanc and rouge wine than its more stored neighbors
- while rouge wine was the main crop in the 1970s, production levels are now roughly 80% blanc
- produces Village and Premier Cru wines
- one would think that with the ever-escalating price of real estate in the fashionable appellations and the ever-escalating effects of climate change, this little, tucked-away gem of an AOC is going to be receiving much bigger raves in the not-too-distant future

1er Cru Murgers des Dents de Chien, François Carillon, 2020	175.
1er Cru Murgers des Dents de Chien, Domaine Larue, 2020	168.
1er Cru Les Charmois, Paul Pillot, 2020	218.

BURGUNDY: Chassagne-Montrachet

- originally known as Chassagne, it became Chassagne-Montrachet in 1879 with the appropriation of its most famous vineyard's name
- produces BLANC (quite a bit) and ROUGE (quite a bit); up through WWII, 80% of the wines produced were ROUGE
- produces Village, Premier Cru and Grand Cru wines (shares Bâtard with Puligny but solely possesses Criots-Bâtard)

1er Cru Les Vergers, Caroline Morey, 2020	396.
1er Cru Les Caillerets, Paul Pillot, 2020	498.

BURGUNDY: Saint-Romain

Henri Clerc, 2020	139.
-------------------	------

BURGUNDY: Côte de Beaune Grand Cru

Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru, Bonneau du Martray, 2007	1500.
Bienvenue Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru, Paul Pernot, 2007	800.

BURGUNDY: Côte Chalonnaise

WINE IS DELAYED DUE TO LOGISTICS ISSUES...the captain of our boat is presently praying to a god named Mbappé

BURGUNDY: Mâconnais

Saint-Véran, Famille Paquet, 2021	84.
Viré-Clessé, Les Héritiers du Comte-Lafon, 2021	115.
Viré-Clessé, Cuvée E.J. Thevenet, Domaine de la Bongran, 2019	128.
Mâcon Milly-Lamartine, Clos du Four, Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon, 2021	106.
Pouilly-Fuissé, 1er Cru Sur la Roche, Saumaize-Michelin, 2021	158.
Pouilly-Fuissé, 1er Cru Vers Cras, Saumaize-Michelin, 2021	162.
Pouilly-Fuissé, 1er Cru Les Ménétrières, Domaine Cheveau, 2020	160.

BURGUNDY: Beaujolais

Terres Dorees, 2022	62.
---------------------	-----



ITALIA: where there was once Soave Bolla, now resides glory

Brazan , i Clivi di Ferdinando Zanusso, 2019, Friuli	80.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -90% friulano, 10% malvasia istriana / grown on marl & sandstone / vines average 80 years of age -the <i>Brazan</i> vineyard is located in Brazzano di Cormons, in Gorizia, right on the Slovenian border -here, the grapes experience a humid environment, with a big swing between daytime & nighttime temperatures -fermented in stainless steel, followed by 18 months of ageing in stainless steel on the fine lees 	
Galea , i Clivi di Ferdinando Zanusso, 2019, Friuli	80.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -90% friulano, 10% verduzzo / grown on marl & sandstone / vines average 70 years of age -the <i>Galea</i> vineyard is located in Corno di Rosazzo, near Udine, right on the Slovenian border -here, the grapes experience a water-stressed upbringing and abundant sunshine -fermented in stainless steel, followed by 24 months of ageing in stainless steel on the fine lees 	
Venissa (100% dorona), 2012, Veneto --500ml--	275.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the grapes are grown on the island of Mazzorbo, in the Venetian lagoon; they are then shipped to Montalcino (yes, Tuscany), where they are macerated for 30 days on the skins, followed by fermentation and ageing in bottle 	
Sauvignon , <i>Winkl</i> , Cantina Terlan, 2022, Alto Adige	100.
Pinot Bianco Riserva , <i>Vorberg</i> , Cantina Terlan, 2019, Alto Adige	110.
Pinot Bianco , "R", Cantina Terlan, 2009, Alto Adige	410.
Nascetta (100% nascetta), <i>Vigna Lirano</i> , Rivetto, 2020, Piedmont	80.
Colli Tortonesi (100% timorasso), <i>Il Montino</i> , la Colombera, 2020, Piedmont	95.
Greco di Tufo (100% greco), <i>Stiléma</i> , Mastroberardino, 2017, Campania	128.
Fiano (100% fiano), <i>Piante ai Lapio</i> , Joaquin, 2011, Campania --ALERT: PRIMEVAL WINE--	125.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the vines are pre-phyloxera (between 80-120 years old) -the fermentation is 60 days, conducted under a veil of yeast...think sherry but not... 	
Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio , Matroni, 2017, Campania	68.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -80% caprettone, 15% falanghina, 5% Greco, grown on the southern slopes of Mount Vesuvius -the origin of the wine name, Christ's tear, is from an old myth, that at the fall of Lucifer from Heaven, Christ teared up; those tears fell on the slopes surrounding Vesuvius, making the land incredibly fertile and blessing the vines with divine divinity 	
Macerato , <i>Sfera*</i> , Polvanera, NV, Puglia	70.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -100% verdea / fermented on the skins for 20 days in stainless steel *Sfera is a fun project from the importer Portovino (they are a kick-arse importer, truth be told), focusing on organically grown grapes, indigenous fermentations, 1000ml bottlings, crown caps...all very simple and fun, which wine can & should be 	
XI Perpetuum – pre-British (30% grillo, 70% catarratto), Badaluccio de la Iglesia Garcia, NV, Sicily --500ml--	100.
Catarratto (100% catarratto), Antonino Barraco, 2022, Sicily	80.
Grillo (100% grillo), Antonino Barraco, 2022, Sicily	84.
Solfare (90% grillo & catarratto ++), Passofonduto aka. Giuseppe Cipolla, 2021, Sicily	100.
Etna Bianco , <i>Pianta</i> , Ciro Biondi, 2019, Sicily	140.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -from the contrada <i>Ronzini</i> 	
Etna Bianco (100% carricante), <i>Pietra Marina</i> , Benanti, 2018, Sicily	275.
Zibibbo (100% zibibbo), Marco De Bartoli, 2021, Sicily	114.



SPAIN & PORTUGAL... some folks cannot tell them apart... WTF!

Bierzo (100% doña blanca), José Antonio García, 2019, Castilla y León	115.
Mengoba Las Botas (100% godello), Grégory Pérez, 2017, Castilla y León	118.
Gran Reserva (100% viura + 15% manzanilla), Monopole Clásico, C.V.N.E., 2014, La Rioja	265.
-C.V.N.E. = Compañía Vinícola del Norte de España	
Pla de Tudela (100% picapolla), Anna Espelt, 2019, Empordà --CUTS LIKE A KNIFE ALERT--	145.
-one will quickly think you are going to drink a Spanish expression of picpoul; alas, that is not the case...it is more likely that this variety is related to clairette or something similar. I am presently doing experiments and tests late into the night, in the sub-basement of terroir, to determine what is what, though I am often distracted by the spirits floating above my head and the heady aromas of my mom baking bread in the sub sub-basement of terroir.	
Montsant (macabeu, garnatxa, cartoixà), Dido, Venus la Universal, 2021, Catalonia	72.
Granito (100% rufete blanca), Cambrico, 2019, Sierra de Francia --CRAZY FOCUS ALERT--	92.
-the rufete grape is a red grape, except when it isn't...and it is because of Fernando Maillo of Cambrico that we still have 11 hectares of the blanca rufete, planted on the granite soils in Salamanca	
Chasselas Doré (100% chasselas doré), Rubén Díaz, 2022, Gredos	86.
Vijariego Blanco (100% vijariego blanco), Viñátigo, 2022, Tenerife	72.
Maipé (100% listan blanco), Viñátigo, 2022, Tenerife	95.
Palo Blanco (100% listan blanco), Envinata, 2021, Tenerife	128.
-the vines are over 100 years of age, grown on the volcanic middle earth that is / are the Canary Islands; the vines are trained in the cordon trenzado system, which is less a system and more a braiding of vines into insanity	
-fermented spontaneously in concrete; aged 10 months in foudres and small barrels, with full ML; bottled with minimal SO2	
Valle de Güímar (100% listán blanco), Los Loros, Juan F. Fariña Pérez, 2021, Tenerife	92.
Vinho Verde (50% loureiro, 50% arinto), Azahar, Gota, 2022, Minho	56.
Vinho Verde (100% alvarinho), Grande Reserva, Quinta Edmundo do Val, 2008, Minho	100.
Nossa Calcario (100% bical), Filipa Pato & William Wouters, 2022, Bairrada	84.
Quinta do Ribeirinho (100% sercialinho), Luis Pato, 2020, Bairrada	125.
Vinhas Velhas (33% bical, 33% cercial, 33% maria gomez, 1% insanity), Luis Pato, 1991, Bairrada --W.T.F. ALERT--	166.
-fermented and then aged 9 months in French oak barrels AND THEN stored at the winery for 30 years...	
Partage (100% sercial), Herdade do Portocarro, 2017, Peninsula de Setúbal	138.
Colares (100% malvasia), Baías e Enseadas, 2021, Lisbon	146.



SPAIN...and specifically, Jerez...and very much a focus on súper terroir

Vino de la Tierra de Cádiz (100% palomino), <i>El Muelle de Olaso</i> , Luis Pérez, 2022	60.
Vino de Pasto (100% palomino), <i>Meridiano Perdido</i> , 2021, Andalucía	68.
UBE Paganilla (100% palomino), Cota 45*, 2020, Andalucía --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	168.
Azacanes, Barrialto, 2019, Andalucía --SKIN CONTACT ALERT--	88.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -100% palomino fino, bush-trained, 30+-year-old vines -pago: Maina (located in the Barrio Alto sub-zone) -soil is albariza barajuela -fermented spontaneously in stainless steel tanks on the skins, followed by 4 months of ageing on the skins (no malolactic fermentation) -then transferred to a former 1000 litre Manzanilla cask, for 18 months of resting and listening to Dead Can Dance records 	
Santa Brigida, Barrialto, 2018, Andalucía	80.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -100% palomino, bush-trained, 40-year-old vines -pagos: Balbaina Baja & Maina -soil is albariza tosca cerrada (Balbaina Baja) and albariza barajuelas (Maina) -fermented spontaneously in a former 500 litre Manzanilla cask -then remains in cask, with the fine lees, for 9 months 	
Macharnudo (100% palomino), de la Riva, 2018, Andalucía	165.
Agostado, Cota 45*, 2017, Andalucía	155.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -45% perruno, 45% uva rey, 10% palomino -whole-cluster pressed, spontaneously fermented in two old sherry botas, then aged for 26 months in botas (aka, barrels), with the last 4 months under flor...so, this wine underwent both oxidative AND biological ageing -during the ageing process, the alcohol increased from 13° to 14° 	
UBE Maina (100% palomino), <i>La Charanga</i> , Cota 45*, 2019, Andalucía	185.
<p>*COTA 45 is the fever dream of Ramiro Ibáñez. He is a native son of Jerez, with the sole goal of re-torquing our mindset about the potential of the almighty albariza soil (essentially 100% chalk + small amounts of clay) of his native region. "COTA 45" references 45 meters above sea level, the altitude above which Ramiro believes the best albariza is to be found...below that, you are still swimming with the fishes. Historically, while mucho sweet Sherry was being exported, the locals in Jerez were enjoying unfortified wines, fashioned from over 100 different varietals. That is also a goal of Ramiro and six mates who have created Manifesto 119, a crew dedicated to revitalizing the 119 named grapes in the region from the early 1800s.</p>	



Are you looking for **Riesling**...if so, we salute you...

the Germans salute you... the Austrians salute you... the Alsatians salute you... the F.L.X.ers salute you... the Australians salute you... the 12 Apostles salute you... Neil Armstrong salutes you from 238,900 miles above us...

please turn to page 1775 in the terroir Codices iv-vi

GERMANY

Silvaner (100% silvaner), *Iphöfer Kalb*, Hans Wirsching, 2020, Franken --3000ml aka DBL MAGNUM-- 295.

Silvaner (100% silvaner), *G.G. Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg*, Hans Wirsching, 2019, Franken 158.

Erdreich (50% muskateller, 30% silvaner, 20% pinot blanc), Schmittt, 2018 78.

-Bianka & Daniel Schmitt are part of the new wine world order in Germany...think: young and adventurous and curious / focused 100% on the methodology and 84% on the finished product / organic and biodynamic practices in the vineyard / primarily natural winemaking in the cellar / parents do not agree with their wine and music choices, so kids are going their own way / do not shave / wear Blundstone boots

SWITZERLAND

Fendant (100% chasselas), *Grand Cru*, Cave Les Ruinettes, 2020, Valais 92.

Amigne de Vetroz (100% amigne - one bee), *Grand Cru*, Cave de Vieux - Moulin, 2015, Valais 105.

GREECE...because i pray to the old gods every morning

Retsina (50% assyrtiko, 50% roditi + Aleppo Pine), Kamara, NV, Attica --500ml-- 35.

Familia (100% assyrtiko), Hatzidakis, 2021, Aegean Islands - Santorini 112.

Assyrtiko (100% assyrtiko), *Ancestral Vines "34,"* Karamolegos, 2021, Santorini 150.

Assyrtiko (100% assyrtiko), Sigalas, 2022, Aegean Islands - Santorini 100.

Assyrtiko (100% assyrtiko), *Ksera Homata*, Koutsogiannopoulos, 2021, Aegean Islands - Santorini 142.

Nykteri (100% assyrtiko), Koutsogiannopoulos, 2017, Aegean Islands - Santorini 104.

Nykteri (100% assyrtiko), Hatzidakis, 2019, Aegean Islands - Santorini 136.

-Nykteri, from *Nykta*, meaning "at night"...in that the grapes were harvested in the very early morning hours (generally the hours when I was just settling into my goth club scene). This references the preserving of freshness in the grapes, before the blaring sun would add richness and suntan lotion to everything. Things have shifted over time and now a *Nykteri* references an assyrtiko that has aged in an oak barrel for at least 3 months (I guess that might be considered a different type of suntan lotion).

Metagitnion (100% vostilidi, planted by Socrates, in 410BCE), Sclavos, 2019, Ionian Islands - Cephalonia 75.

Vidiano (100% vidiano), *Amygdalos*, Ilina Malihin, 2021, Crete 131.

CYPRUS...i will get back to you on this one

Whole Bunch (100% xynisteri), Vouni Panayia, 2018 150.



AUSTRIA... from a Viennese perspective

Gemischter Satz, Zahel, 2022, Vienna --1500ml aka MAGNUM--

144.

-grüner veltliner, riesling, pinot gris, traminer, pinot blanc, chardonnay...all grown together, then fermented together...very Viennese

Gemischter Satz, *Ringenspiel*, Jutta Ambrositsch, 2019, Vienna

95.

-a field blend of grüner veltliner, neuburger, riesling, traminer, gutedel, grüner silvaner + other known and unknown grapes, planted by the Children of the Forest, nurtured by unicorns (with drip irrigation of their tears, of course), trained-up the weirwoods, guarded by the White Walkers. Drink of this wine and you will be welcomed at the Great Sept of Baelor.

Wiener Gemischter Satz, *Ried Kaasgraben Nussberg*, Zahel, 2018, Vienna

114.

-chardonnay, riesling, grüner Veltliner, rotgipfler, zierfandler, neuberger, pinot gris, gewurztraminer, pinot blanc, roter veltliner

Wiener Gemischter Satz, *Nussberg "Ried Ulm,"* Wieninger, 2018, Vienna

--YELLOW LABEL--

105.

-weissburgunder, neuburger, welshriesling, grüner veltliner, sylvaner, zierfandler, rotgipfler, traminer, riesling

-the *Nussberg* sits on the western side of the Danube River, opposite to the *Bisamberg* vineyard

-the vineyard is composed of limestone and clay / it resides at 984', with perfect southern exposure

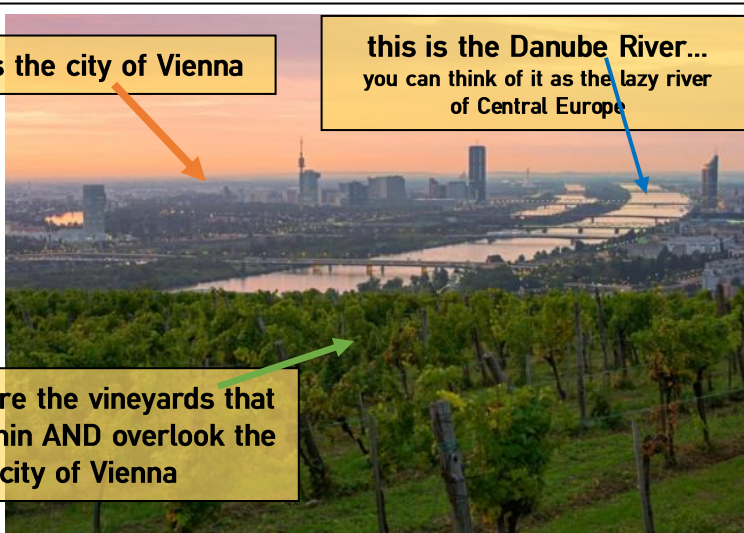
-the first vintage of this wine was 1999. This was the year that Fritz Wieninger had purchased this parcel and his initial idea was to replant it with Grüner Veltliner and Chardonnay...in a pursuit of the almighty dollar. Thankfully, he had been hearing about an historic field blend wine that was the *ne plus ultra* of the Viennese wine world, from fellow winemakers in these Vienna hills. And he decided to make a small quantity of this field blend for poops and giggles along with monovarietal expressions of Grüner / Riesling / Pinot Blanc.

The single varietal wines were tasty certainly. The field blend wine was, however, monumental...Meursault-esque without the crap Chardonnay trappings or the hook of new oak. Needless to say, Fritz does drink Burgundian vin blanc but crafts uniquely Viennese wines.

this is the city of Vienna

this is the Danube River...
you can think of it as the lazy river
of Central Europe

these are the vineyards that
are within AND overlook the
city of Vienna



Wiener Gemischter Satz (Viennese Mixed Planting)

your *Cliff Notes*:

- it is a reference to a multi-variety blended wine from vines within the city of Vienna
- at least 3 varieties must be planted in the vineyard and they must be harvested and pressed together (and therefore made into wine together)
- no one grape can account for more than 50% of the blend and the 3rd grape must be at least 10% of the blend
- the new world and its consumers are used to single varietal wines...this ain't that at all
- the rationale for this type of wine growing was risk management...Mother Nature is a b*^h and, since different grapes ripen at different times, these mixed plantings at least guaranteed some type if harvest in the worst case scenario



AUSTRIA... from a hills are alive perspective

Orange Traube (100% orange traube), Zahel, 2022, Vienna --NOT ORANGE WINE ALERT-- 75.

Frau Welt (30% neuberger, 30% grüner veltliner, 30% riesling, 10% chardonnay), Von der Vogelwaide, 2020, Wachau 133.

- the project...it is not yet an estate...is overseen by Daniel Vogelwaid & Michael Donabaum
- they have access to many a small, steep parcel in the Wachau...and those parcels total 2.5 ha...which is really not a lot
- they are crafting the wines in a French manner (lean & taut & leesy) vs. an overtly Austrian Wachau manner (ripe and rich)
- soon, they and their wines will be important, very important

Timotheus (70% grüner veltliner, 30% weissburgunder), Gut Oggau, 2020, Burgenland --NATURAL WINE ALERT-- 144.

- Eduard and Stephanie Tscheppe – Eselbock are the super cool kids of the Austrian natural wine scene
- the wine name is the creation of graphic designer Jung vom Matt...he creates fictional characters, placing each into a fictional family tree...and the wine, of course, speaks of that individual

Rotgipfler (100% rotgipfler), **Pfaffstättner Tagelsteiner**, Stadlmann, 2019, Thermenregion 110.

- this indigenous variety is a natural crossing of savagnin and roter veltliner
- it is a partner to zierfandler in the creation of *Gumpoldskirchen*, a wine from the village of Gumpoldskirchen, located in the Thermenregion (so-called because of the many spas or thermen found in this commune, which is about 20 miles south of Vienna); during the height of the Austro-Hungarian empire, this wine was revered by the royal court and officially called Gumpoldskirchen Königswein...as in *King's Wine*
- there are only 290 acres in production...roughly equivalent to 120 X Barry Diller's *Little Island*, aka Pier 54

Zierfandler (100% zierfandler), **Traiskirchner Mandel-Höh**, Stadlmann, 2019, Thermenregion 135.

- this indigenous variety is a natural crossing of roter veltliner and a relative of the savagnin grape...my mom is still trying to figure out which
- while rotgipfler brings the fat to the wine party, zierfandler brings the acid...and illuminates the disco ball at said party
- the variety is also called spätrot ("late red") as it turns red just before harvest...and is easily embarrassed when it meets other grapes
- there are only 252 acres in production...roughly equivalent to 38 X the High Line...just not planted on so narrow a parcel

Roter Veltliner (100% roter veltliner), **Ried Reienthal**, Mantlerhof, 1986, Kremstal --SUPER OLD & SCARY ALERT-- 198.

- maybe the most important thing to note is that roter veltliner has NOTHING to do with Grüner Veltliner
- in addition, we do not know which grapes parented roter veltliner...maybe it is the 8th child of the von Trapp family?!...but we do know that roter veltliner parented the neuberger / rotgipfler / zierfandler varietals
- while Grüner swings in a green bean-aromatic direction, Roter ambles in a marzipan-aromatic direction...this is yumminess personified

Grüner Veltliner, **Poysdorf**, Ebner-Ebenauer, 2021, Weinviertel 75.

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd*, **Weissenkirchen "Wachstum Bodenwein"**, Prager, 2021, Wachau 195.

Grüner Veltliner, **Unendlich**, F.X. Pichler, 2018, Wachau 434.

*GRÜNER VELTLINER is the grape of Austria, accounting for 32.5% of the vineyard plantings, but it's name was only officially recognized in the 1930s (until then, it was called weisgipfler, amongst other monikers) / its parent grapes are savagnin (lordy, what grape does *not* have savagnin as a parent!!!) and an obscure vine presently called St. Georgener-rebe (apparently, one can visit the town of St. Georgen am Leithagebirge and observe this single vine, discovered only in 2000, and apparently over 500 years old...it brings to mind the Grail Knight in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade")

*we should tip our hats to Lenz Moser who developed the *hochkultur* trellising method in the 1930s; this system essentially modernized vine training, moving from a single stake system to high trellises, ushering in greater efficiency and eventual mechanization

*funny enough...or strangely enough...GRÜNER VELTLINER is NOT part of the Veltliner family of vines (which includes roter / frühroter / neuberger+)



AUSTRIA... maybe the greatest wine you have never consumed

*Tradition, Cuvée 50 Years**, Schloss Gobelsburg**, NV, Kamptal

350.

-uhmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm...ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh...not sure where to begin here so we will begin here:

-the wine is a combination of grüner veltliner, riesling, grüner sylvaner, muskat sylvaner, riesling sylvaner, welschriesling, muskat ottonel, traminer, muskateller wines, not grapes. Bottles of these individual wines were taken from the estate's vinothèque, uncorked, tasted to ensure soundness, and then decanted into individual vessels. These vessels, of these individual, different wines, were then blended into the cuvée that you are now relishing

-these individual wines were taken from vintages of the last 50 years:

- the 1970s – 11% of total – 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1979
- the 1980s – 12% of total – 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989
- the 1990s – 7% of total – 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999
- the 2000s – 37% of total – 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009
- the 2010s – 33% of total – 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017

*if we are trying to find a model for this type of wine construction, the only place one can go is a NV Champagne. And please do not think of this (the blending of wine AND vintages) as a modern creation; this type of wine crafting was done centuries ago. It is also not better or worse, just different...and in the case of this wine, exponentially different (sort of like the Beach Boys *Pet Sounds*).

your **SCHLOSS GOBELSBURG History: the winery was established in 1171, by Cistercian monks, who were spreading their wings and influence from Burgundy. **PLEASE NOTE THIS YEAR, 2022, IS THE 851st ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTATE'S FOUNDING.** Their first donated vineyards in Austria were near the town of Langenlois, in the Kamptal. These monks tended their many vineyards until 1995, when oversight of the operation was given to Michael Moosbrugger (until this time, the operation was overseen by powerhouse Abbot Bertrand and administrator Maximilian Krausgruber; they recognized that a worthy successor could not be found in the order and therefore expanded their horizons...and a new preacher man was sent from heaven). The Moosbruggers, while of this age, are very much giving renewed voice to the multitude of traditions of the estate and finding inspiration from the generations of monks who came before.

PAUSE...

AND PAUSE AGAIN...

AND MAYBE JUST ANOTHER LITTLE PAUSE...

We need a pause after reading everything above...please tell me you read everything above...

Now a deep breath.

Put your hands above your head and reach for the heavens (tell me if you touch anything).

And please now return to the regularly scheduled episode of the *Warrior Nun*.



Sauvignon Blanc, *Grassnitzberg Riff*, Tement, 2020, Styria --1500ml aka **MAGNUM**-- 220.

Sauvignon Blanc, *Ried Zieregg*, Tement, 2018, Styria 166.

-be honest, you are saying to yourself: "how can a sauvignon blanc from Austria cost this amount of money?!"

And while I cannot provide an objective answer, I can offer an emphatic response:

"because you are drinking one of the greatest expressions of sauvignon blanc on the planet!"

You can then say: "but no sauvignon blanc is worth this amount of money." And I would say: "correct."

But you are not really drinking sauvignon blanc, per se; you are consuming the liquid expression of the *Zieregg Vineyard*, which is a glorious, coral, limestone reef, once covered by the Paratethys Sea over 15 million years ago.

Truthfully, this wine has the power of an Elon Musk tweet about dogecoin, pre-SNL

HUNGARY... we hate Orbán but we love the people of Hungary

Tokaji (100% furmint), Szepsy, 2018, Tokaj – Hegyalja 96.

-a blend of grapes from all the vineyards belonging to Szepsy, in a range of villages (Mád, Tállya, Tarcál)

-the vineyards were harvested separately, between the 21st and the 27th of August / the grapes were fermented in either tank or barrel, and then matured in new 300 L barrels for 7 months

Total Acidity: 7 grams/l - Residual Sugar: 1.1 grams/l

-the wine speaks of Veruca Salt...demanding / pestering / screaming "I Want It Now!" / there are no bad nuts here

Tokaji (100% furmint), *Úrágya*, Szepsy, 2018, Tokaj – Hegyalja 169.

-the *Úrágya* vineyard is located in the western part of the village of Máđ (apparently, all the sane people live here) / it is at an elevation of 650' and faces southeast to southwest / the vineyard was planted between 1964 to 1982 / the soil is a very hard clay, with quartz riolite tuff

-the vineyard was harvested on the 24th of August / the grapes were fermented in barrel, then matured in 300 L barrels for 7 months

Total Acidity: 7.4 grams/l - Residual Sugar: 1 grams/l

-the wine speaks of Violet Beauregarde...skillful / self-centered / competitive / it lasts as long as a wad of gum chewed for 3 months

Tokaji (100% furmint), *Szent Tamás 45*, Szepsy, 2017, Tokaj – Hegyalja 265.

-the *Szent Tamás* vineyard is located in the eastern part of the village of Máđ (apparently, all the really crazy people live here) / it is at an elevation of 550' and faces east to southeast to south / the vineyard was planted in 1954 / the soil is layered zeolite & rhyolite, very rich in tuffs and red clay

-the vineyard was harvested between September 28th and October 2nd / the grapes were fermented & aged in new 300 L barrels for 7 months

Total Acidity: 6.4 grams/l - Residual Sugar: .8 grams/l

-the wine speaks of Mike Teavee...bad-tempered / self-absorbed / intelligent / begins small...3"...then stretches out to 10'

Otto, Wassmann, 2022, Villány 70.

-100% muscat ottonel...NOTE, this is one of many members of the MUSCAT family of *Vitis vinifera*...it is related to BUT different from the muscat of alexandria (see below wine) and the muscat blanc à petit grains (think Moscato d'Asti +++)

-the vineyard is named Zuhány and is composed of clay & loess topsoil, with a limestone bedrock

-fermentation lasted 6 days, on the skins, with manual punchdowns twice a day (to better extract the flavor crystals)

-then aged in Hungarian and French oak barrels for 9 months



SLOVENIA

Ribolla (100% ribolla), *Opoka*, Marjan Simčič, 2020, Brda 164.

SLOVAKIA

Godfather (100% pinot gris), Pivnica Čajkov, 2020, Nitra --I AM REALLY CONFUSED ALERT-- 84.

GEORGIA...we should really call this country საქართველო

Chkhaveri (100% chkhaveri), Bibineishvili, 2018, Ajara 77.

Krakhuna (100% krakhuna), ANEMotion, 2019, Sveri & Imereti 86.

Tsangala, Casreli, 2021, Kakheti --ORIGIN STORY QVEVRI ALERT-- 66.

-50% chinuri, 50% budeshuri tetri, planted on rocky, silty soils, with the vineyard located on the right bank of the Alazani River, located at 1350', with the techno club Bassiani visible in the distance

-fermentation is in qvevri (these are the traditional terracotta clay pots that are used for the fermentation of wine vs. amphora, which are clay pots traditionally used for the transportation of wine...they have handles afterall), on the skins, for 3 months

-fined in qvevri but no filtering, bottled with minimal SO2 added

Rkatsiteli, Stori, 2014, Kakheti --ORIGIN STORY QVEVRI ALERT-- 68.

-100% rkatsiteli, planted on alluvial – proluvial forest soils (P.S. if anyone knows what proluvial soils are, please send me a text), located at 1500', with the Kartvlis Deda visible in the distance

-fermentation is in qvevri (these are the traditional terracotta clay pots that are used for the fermentation of wine vs. amphora, which are clay pots traditionally used for the transportation of wine...they have handles afterall), on the skins, for 6 months, with continuous ML, followed by 2 years of ageing in qvevri

LEBANON...well, one cannot feel more alive than when one parties in Beirut

Obeideh (100% obeideh), Sept +++ ||, 2018, Bekaa Valley 120.

Grand Vin (60% obaideh, 40% merwah), Chateau Musar, 2012, Bekaa Valley --WEAR A SEATBELT ALERT-- 195.

Grand Vin (66% obaideh, 34% merwah), Chateau Musar, 2003, Bekaa Valley --CALL MY MOTHER ALERT-- 284.



SOUTH AFRICA... yes, it is definitely *NOT* a s*#thole country

Semillon, <i>Magdalena</i> , Gabriëlskloof, 2018, Western Cape	88.
Chardonnay, <i>The Agnes</i> , Crystallum, 2021, Western Cape	84.
Chenin Blanc, <i>Revenge of the Crayfish</i> , Sakkie Mouton, 2022, Koekenaap	110.
Chenin Blanc, <i>Mev. Kirsten</i> , The Sadie Family, 2022, Stellenbosch – Jonkershoek Valley	425.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the Mev. Kirsten vineyard is located at the foot of the Bothmaskap / it is composed of decomposed granite atop alluvial soil -the Mev. is Afrikaans for Mrs. and Mrs. Kirsten's one hectare vineyard contains the oldest plantings of Chenin Blanc in South Africa (Eben Sadie began to work with this parcel in 2006) -the grapes are fermented and aged in an old foudre, remaining on the lees for 12 months 	
<i>Skin</i> (100% chenin blanc), Testalonga, 2021, Swartland	105.
<i>Palladius</i> , The Sadie Family, 2021, Swartland --THE NE PLUS ULTRA OF SOUTH AFRICA ALERT--	350.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -composed of grapes (chenin blanc, grenache blanc, clairette, viognier, verdelho, roussanne, marsanne, semillon gris, semillon blanc, palomino, colombard) harvested from 17 different vineyards / the vineyards are located in Paardeberg, Piketberg, and St. Helena Bay / the vineyards are composed of decomposed granite, decomposed Table Mountain sandstone and chalk -the grapes are whole bunch-pressed into concrete eggs and amphora, with each vineyard fermenting separately AND in the same vessel as the previous vintage / after 12 months, the wines are combined and aged in old foudres for an additional 12 months 	
<i>Full on Misfit</i> , Sakkie Mouton, 2022, Western Cape	115.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -54% chenin blanc, 22% colombard, 18% macabeo, 6% muscat alexandria 	



AUSTRALIA... because we have no clue how good the wines are

Arneis (100% arneis), Jauma, 2021, McLaren Vale	--FOUR WEEKS SKIN-CONTACT ALERT--	99.
Chardonnay, <i>Lenswood Vineyard</i> , Shaw + Smith, 2020, Adelaide Hills		182.
Chardonnay, <i>McIntyre Vineyard</i> , Moorooduc Estate, 2012, Victoria		148.
Semillon, <i>Handful</i> , Travis Tausend, 2018, Adelaide Hills		105.
Semillon, Happs, 2012, Margaret River		72.
Marsanne (100% marsanne), <i>FLOR</i> , Ben Haines, 2011, Yarra Valley	--OXIDATIVE ALERT--	100. 500ml

NEW ZEALND...

Chardonnay, Folium, 2021, Marlborough	102.
Chardonnay, <i>Moutere "Rosie's Block,"</i> Neudorf, 2020, Nelson	99.

CHILE... because this landscape is perfect for grape growing & winemaking

Chardonnay (100% chardonnay...just in case you were wondering), <i>Sol de Sol</i> , Aquitania, 2021, Mallego Valley	95.
<i>Piel de Arcilla</i> , A Los Viñateros Bravos aka, Leonardo Erazo, 2021, Itata Valley	70.
-100% moscatel de Alejandria, grown on quartz sand, from granitic mother rock / this bush vine vineyard was planted in 1867	
- <i>Piel de Arcilla</i> translates as <i>clay skin</i> ...the fermentation was in <i>tinajas</i> , old clay amphora, with <i>maceration on the skins</i> lasting 6-8 weeks	

ARGENTINA... because their economy needs help!

Certezas (100% semillon), <i>Finca Manoni</i> , Michelini I Mufatto, 2020, Tupungato	105.
--	------



AMERICA... please tell Mom terroir does have some American wine

Atavus VII, Tzum (aka, Hiyu), NV, Columbia Gorge --THIS IS SOME CRAZY S*#T ALERT-- 175.

- this is a field blend (grown together and harvested together), composed of gewurztraminer & pinot noir
- the vineyard, planted in the 1960s at the same time as the first pinot noir vines were hitting the landscape of the Willamette Valley BUT at 3 times the elevation, is located on a ridge above the town of White Salmon, WA (the proximity to Mt. Hood dramatically affects the climate)
- the site has been utilized since 2013 (the second vintage overall for the winery) and this origin story nature is alluded to by *Atavus* (Latin for ancestor)
- the grapes are fermented together, with some skin contact, and the finished wine is placed in a solera (a fractional blending system)
- from this solera, the 7th edition was taken and is combination of vintages 2013 - 2020

*the Hiyu Estate / Winery / Commune is most likely the craziest wine place in North America...well, it is crazy to my primarily because I am old and traditional and generally gravitate to things that I can understand (aka, fit into a nice, little velvet box). This place ain't that. The creators of this wine utopia are Nate Ready (a former somm at some pretty regal joints...hello French Laundry!) and China Tresemer (an illustrator). The farm is 38 acres in total (22 owned + 16 leased); they, of course, practice organic / biodynamic / regenerative farming; in the winery, everything is by hand (and foot...some grape stomping action late at night, to the tunes of Iron Butterfly) and NO sulphur is added to the wines at bottling. Back to the vineyards: animals are employed (helps labor cost!) to control vegetation / there are over 80 grape varieties + many clones of those varieties

*the name Hiyu is Chinook for "many / much / lots of" and is used in reference to numbers specifically, not the size of something... as in, "we have a hiyu of Depeche Mode records, for some insane reason!"

*if a bottle has HIYU on the label, the wine is an estate wine / if a bottle has TZUM on the label, the wine is from a leased parcel AND is a deep dive into a particular parcel of land...a terroir exploration through the lens of grapes and Mother Earth

Pinot Gris (100% pinot gris), Jolie-Laide, 2022, Sonoma County	78.
Grüner Veltliner (100% grüner veltliner), <i>Freund</i> , Brij Wines, 2022, Santa Barbara County	118.
<i>Côtes de Tablas Blanc</i> , Tablas Creek, 2020, Paso Robles	125.
-38% viognier, 32% grenache blanc, 22% marsanne, 8% roussanne	
Chardonnay, <i>White Buffalo Land Trust</i> , Sandhi Wines, 2021, Santa Barbara	120.
Chardonnay, <i>The Root of the Wind</i> , Trippers & Askers, 2021, Santa Rita Hills	154.
Chardonnay, Hanzell, 2018, Sonoma Valley	159.
Chardonnay, <i>Estate</i> , Mount Eden Vineyards, 2016, Santa Cruz Mountains	218.
Chardonnay, <i>The Terraces</i> , Mayacamas Vineyards, 2013, Napa Valley --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	338.
Chardonnay, Woodward Canyon, 2006, Washington	125.