



CHAMPAGNE: it ain't just with bubbles... sometimes there are no bubbles... WTF?!

Rosé des Riceys (100% pinot noir), <i>La Forêt</i> , Alexanre Bonnet, 2019	164.
Coteaux-Champenois (100% pinot noir), <i>Ambonnay</i> , Marguet, 2019	248.
Coteaux Champenois (100% pinot noir), <i>Cuvée des Grands Côtes</i> , Egly-Ouriot, 2018	412.
-from a single parcel, containing a metric s*#t-tonne of clay, located below <i>Les Crayères</i> , in Ambonnay, these 60-year-old vines face directly south, reveling in the warmth of Helios / the wine is fermented and aged in 30% new oak barrels, crafted by the 8 th grade class at the Lycée Descartes in Tours	
Coteaux Champenois (100% pinot noir), <i>Cuvée Athénaïs</i> , Gonet-Medeville, 2018	194.
-the vines are 97 years of age, planted by Napoleon's grandson on the steepest slope vineyard in Ambonnay, tended to by the Hunchback of Notre Dame (when he is not busy tormenting tourists)	
-SPECIAL NOTE: we have another wine from this exact same lieux dits, <i>La Grande Ruelle</i> , and it has bubbles and being from Champagne, we are allowed to call it Champagne (please turn to page 7 of the Sparkling Codex)	
-INTERESTING IDEA: enjoy the sparkling and then the still expression of this terroir...you mother will think you are the bestest!	
Coteaux Champenois (100% meunier), <i>Confiance</i> , Franck Pascal, 2014	234.

BEAUJOLAIS...of the Philip the Bold "i banish you" persuasion

Fleurie (100% gamay), <i>Mon Petit Chéri</i> , Yann Bertrand, 2022	103.
Fleurie (100% gamay), <i>Cuvée Tardive</i> , Clos de la Roilette, 2022 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	172.
Fleurie (100% gamay), <i>Griffe du Marquis</i> , Clos de la Roilette, 2021	105.
Fleurie (100% gamay), <i>Vieilles Vignes</i> , Yann Bertrand, 2021	114.
Fleurie (100% gamay), <i>Cuvée du Chaos</i> , Yann Bertrand, 2021	116.

ALSACE...because the rouge juice is just as compelling as the blanc juice

Pinot Noir, <i>Clos de la Faille</i> , Albert Mann, 2020	168.
Pinot Noir, <i>Altenbourg</i> , Domaine Weinbach, 2019	174.
Pinot Noir, Marcel Deiss, 2022, Alsace	100.
<i>Burlenberg</i> , <i>La Colline Brûlée</i> , Marcel Deiss, 2018	147.

-composed mainly of pinot noir + a smattering of pinot beurot, meunier, pinot blanc, pinot gris
 -*Burlenberg* is a single site in the village of Bergheim / the name translates as "burned hill" / the vineyard is southeast-facing and is composed of limestone...apparently a similar composition to the GC vineyard of *Clos de Bèze* / fermentation involved 15% whole clusters, followed by 24 months ageing in barrel (30% new)



LOIRE VALLEY & ENVIRONS

Reuilly (100% pinot noir), <i>Les Lignis</i> , Valéry Renaudat, 2020	64.
Sancerre (100% pinot noir), <i>Cuvée Prestige</i> , Lucien Crochet, 2015 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	362.
Grolleau Noir (100% grolleau noir), <i>Baliverne</i> , Deboutbertin, 2019	95.
<i>Sergent Pepper</i> (100% pineau d'aunis), Anne-Cecile Jadaud, 2022	76.
Coteaux du Loir (100% pineau d'aunis), <i>Hommage à Louis Derré</i> , Domaine de Bellivière, 2020	144.
-Louis Derré was a friend and neighbor of the Domaine de Bellivière clan and this wine was first produced in 2000 in his honour. The vines are over 100 years of age and were planted just after phylloxera ravaged the landscape. The soil is composed of clay, flint, limestone. The wine has the tension of me, on the phone, on permanent hold, screaming "HELP" as the folks at AT&T never actually help me.	
Chinon (100% cabernet franc), <i>Les Picasses</i> , Olga Raffault, 2014 --3000ml aka BIG F#@KIN' BOTTLE--	550.
Chinon (100% cabernet franc), <i>Les Picasses</i> , Olga Raffault, 2009	152.
Saumur-Champigny (100% cabernet franc), <i>La Grande Vignolle</i> , Filliatreau, 2020	70.
Saumur-Champigny (100% cabernet franc), Clos Rougeard, 2017	388.
Saumur-Champigny (100% cabernet franc), <i>Vieilles Vignes</i> , Filliatreau, 2010	114.
-grown on tuffeau (limestone)...I will one day dig a cave into this hillside and live an hermetic life, focusing only on the music of Voivod, the writings of Mordecai Richler, the humor of Eugene Levy, the food of Matty Matheson	
Saumur-Champigny (100% cabernet franc), <i>Vieilles Vignes</i> , Filliatreau, 2001	132.

SOUTHERN RHÔNE VALLEY

Côtes-du-Rhône Villages - Saint-Maurice, Domaine La Florane, 2020	60.
-95% syrah, 5% grenache / vines are 45 years old / grown on chalky, clay soils / whole-cluster fermented in foudres, then aged 18 months	
-the Guillaume de Rouville (referenced on the label) is a family ancestor and former mayor of Lyon in 1586	
-the Echevin (referenced on the label) is a reference to this ancestor's time in public Service	
-simply put, there are too many references on the label...and I am THE biggest fan of as many references as possible	
Beaumes de Venise, <i>Yvon Soard</i> , de Fenouillet, 2012 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	129.
-50% syrah, 35% grenache, 15% mourvèdre	
Gigondas, du Gour de Chaule, 2018 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	165.
-80% grenache, 10% syrah, 10% Mourvèdre	
Gigondas, Domaine Les Pallières, 2006	165.
-85% grenache, 5% syrah, 3% cinsault, 5% mourvèdre, 2% calairette	
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine Charvin, 2010	235.
-85% grenache, 5% syrah, 5% mourvèdre, 5% vaccarèse	
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine du Banneret, 2005 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	455.
-85% grenache, 5% syrah, 5% mourvèdre, 5% vaccarèse	
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, <i>La Crau</i> , Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe, 2004 --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	575.
-65% grenache, 15% syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 5% cinsault	
Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Cailloux, 1998	265.
-90% grenache, 5% syrah, 5% mourvèdre	



NORTHERN RHÔNE VALLEY... but **NOT** St. Joseph

- Côte-Rôtie (100% syrah), Bernard Burgaud, 2019** 174.
- Côte-Rôtie (100% syrah), *La Landonne*, E. Guigal, 2013** 1025.
- first released in 1978, it took roughly 10 years to assemble the parcels, from 17 different stakeholders, on the Côte Brune...originally 1.8 hectares, it has now settled into its 2.1 hectare frame; the vines average 35 years of ageing
 - the wine underwent a 4-week maceration, followed by 42 months of ageing in new French oak
 - STYLE: well, it is the most brooding and meaty of Guigal's *LaLa*'s...very much an early Black Sabbath wine
- Côte-Rôtie (89% syrah, 11% viognier), *La Mouline*, E. Guigal, 2012** 995.
- the first vineyard / vintage release of the "LaLa" series was in 1966, from a 1 hectare parcel of land, located on the Côte Blonde, originally owned by Joannes Dervieux; the vines' ages vary from 60 – 100 years, all planted post-phyllloxera; the soil is composed of gneiss with silica and limestone
 - the wine underwent a 4-week maceration, followed by 42 months of ageing in new French oak barrels
 - STYLE: well, it is the most approachable and floral of Guigal's *LaLa*'s...very much a Katy Perry wine
- Côte-Rôtie (93% syrah, 7% viognier), *La Turquie*, E. Guigal, 2012** 1050.
- well, well, well, Santa came early and brought us a kind present. Truly, this wine has never crossed our threshold before and I am not sure how I ended up with this bottle...it might actually have fallen off the back of truck in Soho, to be honest. All in all, **terroir** is a better wine joint because of this iconic wine and **terroir** is a better joint overall because you have decided to read this list...and you must be crazy!
 - the single vineyard, located on Côte Brune, was planted in 1980 (it was certainly cultivated beforehand but was abandoned in the 1960s / 70s and then acquired by Guigal in his purchasing of the Vidal-Fleury holdings). The vineyard is super steep, between 60° to 70°.
 - the first release was in 1985 and it became of the 3rd BIG WINE of the LaLa series by Guigal
 - STYLE: well, it rests nicely in the middle of Guigal's *LaLa*'s...*not too bright, not too dark*...very much a Lorde wine
- Côte-Rôtie (93% syrah, 7% viognier), *Château d'Ampuis*, E. Guigal, 2011** 410.
- first bottled in 1995, this wine is history...at least, Northern Rhône history...in a bottle
 - the grapes come from both the Côte Blonde and the Côte Brune sites, a combination of seven lieux dits:
 - Côte Blonde: *Le Clos / La Grande Plantée / La Garde*
 - Côte Brune: *La Pomièrre / Le Pavillon Rouge / Le Moulin / Viria*
 - the grapes, from the different parcels, are vinified separately and then aged separately, in new barrique, for 28 months
 - once combined, the completed wine is serenaded by angels and looped recordings of Amy Winehouse
- Hermitage (100% syrah), *Le Gréal*, Marc Sorrel, 2019** 750.
- the bottling is a combination of .8 hectares of vines in Le Méal and 1 hectare of vines in Greffieux and Bessards
 - the vines were planted in 1928 by Félix Sorrel, the present vigneron's great grandfather (Henri Sorrel died in 1984)
 - Marc Sorrel took over from his papa, Henri, in 1982; Marc was previously a notary, his father was a notary and I think his grandfather was a notary; Marc's son, Guillaume, now (as of 2018) oversees things...we fully expect him to maintain the poignancy of this classic estate
- Hermitage (100% syrah), *La Chapelle*, Paul Jaboulet Aîné, 1996** 650.
- La Chapelle is NOT a vineyard but a brand, and what a brand it is! It is a selection of the best wines coming from the hill of Hermitage, with the grapes coming from a selection of vineyards: Méal – generally 1/3 of the final blend / Bessards / Greffieux / Rocoules / La Croix / Murettes, aged in oak (roughly 20% new) for 13 months
 - the wine is named after the chapel of St. Christopher, located on the top of the hill (*L'Hermite*); the family purchased the chapel from the French state in 1929; and when was the first bottling of this legendary wine (the 1961 is considered one of the greatest wines produced in the entire 20th Century)...uhmmmm, no one bloody well knows!



NORTHERN RHÔNE VALLEY... but *ONLY* St. Joseph

- if Hermitage & Cornas are the Johann Sebastian Bach & Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart of this wine scene, then St. Joseph is the Depeche Mode
- the name. St. Joseph, refers to a hillside near the town of Tournon (which is opposite the village of Tain l'Hermitage)
- in the 15th century, when kings stilled ruled the land, there were three royal vineyards: Beaune & Chenove (in Burgundy) and the esteemed Clos de Tournon (in the Northern Rhône)
- the original appellation, when created in 1956, was composed of 6 villages (Glun, Mauves, Tournon, St.-Jean-de-Muzols, Lempis, Vion)
- in 1969, the A.O.C. was expanded to include 25 villages, from an original área spanning 6 miles to one encompassing 40 miles
- granite is the underlying theme of this appellation, though there are small seams of limestone and clay silt popping up

Saint-Joseph (100% syrah), *Clos des Cessieux*, Domaine Romaneaux-Destezet, 2022 148.

-of course, you might know the Domaine Romaneaux-Destezet better as...Hervé Souhaut

Saint-Joseph (100% syrah), La Ferme de L'Arbore (aka, Christian Lericq), 2021 131.

Saint-Joseph (100% syrah), René-Jean Dard & François Ribo, 2020 128.



NORTHERN RHÔNE VALLEY...but **ONLY** Cornas

Cornas (100% syrah), Michaël Bourg, 2021	174.
Cornas (100% syrah), <i>sans soufre a jouté</i> , Franck Balthazar, 2020	192.
Cornas (100% syrah), <i>Chaillot</i> , Franck Balthazar, 2020	328.
Cornas (100% syrah), <i>La Geynale</i> , Vincent Paris, 2015	265.
Cornas (100% syrah), <i>Empreintes</i> , Domaine Durand, 2014	216.
Cornas (100% syrah), <i>Billes Noires</i> , Domaine du Coulet, 2014	251.



SOUTHERN RHÔNE VALLEY: the Châteauneuf Master Blaster

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, **Cuvée Marie Beurrier**, Henri Bonneau*, 2013 **-VERY GOOD CUVÉE ALERT-** 325.

- 90% grenache (generally late harvested) + 10% mourvèdre, syrah, counoise, vaccarèse
- the whole clusters are crushed, then fermented for 3 weeks in concrete vats, followed by 2-4 years ageing in dank, old barrels

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, **Réserve des Célestins**, Henri Bonneau*, 2012 **-GRAND VIN CUVÉE ALERT-** 799.

- 90% grenache (generally late harvested) + 10% mourvèdre, syrah, counoise, vaccarèse
- the whole clusters are crushed, then fermented for 3 weeks in concrete vats, followed by 2-4 years ageing in dank, old barrels

*Why Henri Bonneau is *THE* master blaster of Châteauneuf-du-Pape:

- Henri is the 12th generation of his winemaking family (vines were first ended by the family in 1667)
- Henri was born on October 1st, 1938, in Provence...and remained Provençal in all his attitudes and appetites
- Henri's first vintage was 1956 (the estate started bottling their own wine in 1927)
- Henri's best friend was Jacques Reynaud, of Château Rayas...Henri was the talker, Jacques was the wallflower
- Henri learned to make wine from his father and grandfather...and the Time Life series of *How To* books
- Henri served in the Algerian War...and his national duty accounts for the only vintage he ever missed
- Henri has 6.5 hectares of vineyards, composed of 13 different plots
 - the largest parcel is in La Crau, followed by Grand Pierre
- Henri is not a believer in vieilles vignes...the average vine age is 30 years and nothing is older than 50 years
- Henri pursues super low yields in his harvests
- Henri dislikes the Syrah grape...apparently, they got into a bar fight one night over a song on the jukebox
- Henri likes to pump over his wine a shit-tonne at the beginning of fermentation
- Henri always blends his press wine back into the free-run juice...nothing goes to waste
- Henri only racks his wine once a year
- Henri separates his vineyard parcels into different vats BUT combines the various varietals
- Henri's barrels are so damn old that Jean-Baptiste Colbert actually felled the trees that were cut into the staves to make these barrels
 - the old barrels are actually from Burgundy...the home of all old stuff
- Henri's cellar is filled with mold and mildew that even Alexander Fleming could not identify
- Henri probably keeps his wine in oak for such a period so that the damn fermentation can finish (please reference the late harvesting)
- Henri only decides what the composition of the cuvées will be long after the vintage...they are not vineyard parcels nor is there a recipe
 - okay, not entirely true...the Célestins generally comes primarily from the La Crau parcel (a boulder strewn, sunbaked vineyard) AND the supposed better barrels in the cellar while the Cuvée Marie Beurrier comes from the clay, sand, limestone parcels
- Henri first produced the *Cuvée Marie Beurrier* in the early 1980s; it was named after his wife's aunt, who was a kick-arse cook
- Henri was not alive when the first vintage of the *Réserve des Célestins* was produced in 1927
- Henri apparently makes a 4th cuvée, called *Cuvée Spéciale*, which has higher alcohol and some residual sugar (it is not meant for kids)
 - this wine has only been made in 1990 and 1998 and was apparently the result of barrels bound for the Célestins cuvée that did not finish fermentation...Henri suggested matching these with a chocolate mousse, as if the wines were more Madeira-like (they are 17°!!!)
- Henri's cellar door is located at 35 Rue Joseph Ducos
- Henri Bonneau passed this mortal coil in March 21st, 2016.
- Henri's son Marcel (born 1971) inherited the estate but was unfortunately not able to run it. It is now overseen by Daniel Combin, who served as the commercial director of the property during Henri's life. Régis Charmasson oversees the vineyard work (there is greater neatness in the vine rows now) and the cellar work (still an insane mind-meld of anti U.C. Davis stuff going on)



JURA & ARBOIS & SAVOIE

D.D. (40% trousseau, 15% poulard, 45% pinot noir), Bénédicte & Stéphane Tissot, 2022, Arbois	108.
Trousseau (100% trousseau), <i>Nonceau "Cuvée des Géologues,"</i> Caveau de Bacchus, 2020, Jura	149.
Trousseau (100% trousseau), <i>"Cuvée des Géologues,"</i> Caveau de Bacchus, 2018, Jura	142.
Trousseau (100% trousseau), <i>Poussot "Cuvée des Géologues,"</i> Caveau de Bacchus, 2018, Jura	164.
Trousseau (100% trousseau), <i>Marne Rouge "Cuvée des Géologues,"</i> Caveau de Bacchus, 2018, Jura	146.
Trousseau (100% trousseau), <i>Rosière "Cuvée des Géologues,"</i> Caveau de Bacchus, 2017, Jura	145.
Trousseau (100% trousseau), <i>Ruzard "Cuvée des Géologues,"</i> Caveau de Bacchus, 2016, Jura	139.
-Bacchus was the Roman god of agriculture, wine & fertility...Lucien Aviet is the Bacchus of the Jura, a man who loves a good story, a good joke, a warm fire, a big piece of cheese. And damn can he make compelling and intoxicating grape juice.	
Pinot Noir, <i>Sous la Tour</i> , Bénédicte & Stéphane Tissot, 2018, Arbois	142.
Pinot Noir, <i>en Barberon</i> , Bénédicte & Stéphane Tissot, 2018, Arbois	162.
Vin de France (gamay, mondeuse, pinot noir), <i>Frisson des Cimes</i> , Marie & Florian Curtet, 2020	105.

BORDEAUX ROUGE... Thomas Jefferson oversees the curation of

this collection... he is easily distracted but he does have a keen palate

please turn to page 118 in the Codex Leicester

SOUTHWEST... the days of Musketeers and cassoulet

Côtes du Tarn (100% jurançon noir), Domaine Philémon, 2020	55.
--	-----

The Real BURGUNDY ROUGE... yes, yes, we have a boatload

please turn to page 322 in the Terroir Codices i-ii

THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF FRANCE... or, at least nearby

Bandol (95% mourvèdre, 5% grenache), Château Pradeaux, 2015, Provence --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	245.
Bandol (98% mourvèdre, 2% grenache), <i>Longue Garde</i> , Le Galatin, 2005, Provence --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	264.
Bandol (92% mourvèdre, 6% syrah, 2% cinsault), <i>Cabassau</i> , Domaine Tempier, 2004, Provence	375.
Pic Saint Loup (60% syrah, 35% grenache, 5% Mourvèdre), <i>Grande Cuvée</i> , de L'Hortus, 2020, Languedoc	70.
Cabardès (60% syrah, 40% cabernet franc), <i>Vent d'Est</i> , Domaine de Cabrol, 2019, Languedoc	84.
<i>Flower Power</i> (aramon noir, oeilade noir, muscate, clairette blanche +++), Mas Coutelou, 2021, Languedoc	96.
Patrimonio (100% niellucciu), <i>Cantina di Torra</i> , Nicolas Mariotti Bindi, 2020, Corsica	70.
-predominantly limestone soil / fermented & aged in cement	



THE IBERIAN PENINSULA... of Spain

Ribeiro (caiño redondo, brancellao, caiño tinto, ferrol), <i>A Torna dos Pasas</i> , L.A. Rodríguez Vázquez, 2017, Galicia	158.
San Paio (30% mencia, 30% mouraton, 30% bastardo, 10% garnacha tintorera), Muradella, 2012, Monterrei	199.
Castrillón (30% mencia, 30% mouraton, 30% bastardo, 10% garnacha tintorera), Muradella, 2012, Monterrei	199.
Corbrana (mencia, palomino fino, godello, doña blanca), Veronica Ortega, 2021, Bierzo	128.
Kinki (mencia, palomino, godello, doña blanca), Veronica Ortega, 2021, Bierzo	110.
Valbuena 5° (94% tinto fino, 6% merlot), Vega-Sicilia, 2017, Ribera del Duero	482.
-I guess one might consider this a baby <i>Unico</i> . Let's just say that it is a separate and completely unique <i>Unico</i> , as its grape sources are completely different from the <i>Unico</i> (but no less representative of the estate's terroir) and its barrel / bottle ageing regime is 5 years total	
Unico (95% tinto fino, 5% cabernet sauvignon), Vega-Sicilia, 2012, Ribera del Duero	1195.
-there is Spanish history...hello Columbus (ah shite, he was Italian)...and there is Spanish food history (a cloud that is a ravioli that is a cloud - my nonna's brain just exploded)...and there is Spanish wine history, and you can drink it now! Yes, <i>this</i> is the estate that showed the country of Spain that tempranillo is maybe even better than cabernet sauvignon at expressing the terroir of Castilla y León. It began in 1864 when Don Eloy Lecanda Chaves returned home from a trip to Bordeaux armed with Bordeaux grapes, Bordeaux barrels, and Bordeaux winemaking skills. His goal was to make a Bordeaux-styled wine at his estate, Pago de la Vega Santa Cecilia y Carrascal. Don Eloy certainly lavished care upon his newly planted cabernet and merlot vines, but he also included the local tinta del país in his loving embrace. And damn...or "whammy" as they say in Peñafiel...the local underdog thrived and even bettered its French counterparts, especially in the drier years. And there began the evolution of tinta del país to tinto fino to one of the wine world's great grapes, tempranillo.	
-of the many parts of the Unico story, the ageing process is pretty paramount: 6 years in a combo of French and American oak, new and used, followed by 4 years in bottle...so yes, this 2012 is the newest release from the winery	
La Bruja (100% garnacha, grown on granite), Comando G, 2021, Sierra de Gredos	100.



Rioja Reserva (80% tempranillo, 9% garnacho, 11% graciano), Remelluri, 2015, La Rioja --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	264.
Rioja Gran Reserva, El Puntido, Viñedos de Páganos* , 2008, Rioja Alavesa	140.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -100% tempranillo, grown on calcareous clay soil, influenced by continental AND Atlantic weather systems -fully de-stemmed, then fermented in large vats, with a 20-30 day maceration, followed by 28 months ageing in new French barrique *owned by Sierra Cantabria, the winery was created to highlight the unique single cruz in the village of Páganos, El Puntido & La Nieta 	
Rioja Reserva, Viña Tondonia, R. Lopez de Heredia , 2001, La Rioja	255.
-75% tempranillo, 15% garnacho, 5% graciano, 5% mazuelo	
La Servil (100% monastrell – pie franco), Stratum Wines, 2021, Jumilla	86.
Misturado de Abeleda , Envínate, 2021, Ribeira Sacra	105.
-85% mencia, brancellao, alicante bouschet +++ & 15% godello, torrontes +++	
Albahra , Envínate, 2021, Castilla – La Mancha	68.
-70% garnacha tintorera, 30% moravia agria	
Benje , Envínate, 2020, Tenerife (Santiago del Teide)	84.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -96% listán prieto, 2% listán blanco, 2% tintilla / vines range from 75-120 years of age / the various vineyards range in altitude from 225' to 900' / the fermentation includes 50% whole clusters and 10 days of maceration, followed by 8 months ageing in old barriques -Benje is the name of the volcano on the west side of Tenerife...if it was me, I would have called the volcano Sam 	
Táganan, Vinos Atlánticos , Envínate, 2021, Tenerife (Táganan)	125.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -listán negro and negramoll, with mulata, listán gacho, malvasía rosada / vines range in age from 50 -150 years of age / the vineyards range in altitude from 600' to 1200' / each parcel is vinified separately, with 50% whole clusters, followed by 12-15 days of maceration / the wines are blended and aged for 1 year in neutral barriques -táganan is the local word for slope...and these vines grow wild on super steep slopes of pure volcanic rock 	



THE iBERIAN PENiNSULA... of Portugal

<i>Nossa Missão</i> (100% baga), Filipa Pato & William Wouters, 2016, Bairrada --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	625.
<i>Primeiras Gotas</i> , Gardunha Sul, 2022, Beira Interior	66.
-55% rufete, 25% carrega burros, 10% marufo, 10% alfrocheiro	
<i>Quinta do Moinho</i> (100% baga), Luis Pato, 2000, Beiras	171.
-the quinta was planted in 1989, on clay soils and surrounded by a eucalyptus forest	
-the Night's Watch oversee this vineyard to ensure that rampaging Spainards do not infiltrate its environs	
Alentejo Portalegre (100% field blend), <i>Vira Cabeças</i> , Cabeças do Reguengo, 2021, Alentejo	80.
Clarete (100% castelão), Herdade do Cebolal, 2021, Setúbal	74.



GERMANY...

Spätburgunder (100% pinot noir), <i>Buntsandstein</i> , Enderle & Moll, 2021, Baden	134.
Spätburgunder (100% pinot noir), <i>Ardoise</i> , Daniel Twardowski, 2019, Mosel	240.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -these pinot noir grapes are grown in the <i>Dhroner Hofberg</i> vineyard, planted originally in 2006, with clonal material from Burgundy -Ardoise is the French name for slate...and lordy, as far as we know, there is no pinot noir grown in France on slate -the fermentation saw 35% stem inclusion, followed by 16 months ageing in barrique, 20% of which are new -all of this is to say that hey...maybe the Mosel is the new Burgundy...bite your damn tongue you heretical arse! 	
Spätburgunder (100% pinot noir), Meyer-Näkel, 2019, Ahr	108.
Lemberger (100% lemlberger), <i>G.G. Lämmle</i> , Schnaitmann, 2019, Württemberg	145.

AUSTRIA...

Indigo N°1 (100% blauer wildbacher), <i>Trauben, Liebe und Zeit</i> , Strohmeier, 2017, Styria	135.
Rotburger (100% rotburger, aka, Zweigelt), Umathum, 2020, Burgenland	64.
Sankt Laurent (100% st. laurent), Johannes Gebeshuber, 2020, Thermenregion	67.
Blaufränkisch (100% blaufränkisch), <i>Ried Gemärk</i> , Ernst Triebaumer, 2019, Burgenland	66.
Blaufränkisch (100% blaufränkisch), <i>Saybritz</i> , Weninger, 2018, Burgenland	106.
Blaufränkisch (100% blaufränkisch), <i>Ried Dürrau</i> , Weninger, 2016 Burgenland	114.
Blaufränkisch (100% blaufränkisch), <i>Ried Oberer Wald</i> , Ernst Triebaumer, 2012, Burgenland	164.

SWITZERLAND...

-the wines are presently in transit but since my watch is broken, I have no idea when they will arrive...please help.



SLOVENIA...

Pinot Noir, *Cru Selection*, Marjan Simčič, 2020, Brda

140.

-firstly...and foremostly AND officially, we are in Slovenia, in the region called Brda. BUT, since we are officially abutting the border of the Friuli region in Italy, you unofficially might have a vineyard that spans the border OR have the vineyards in one country and the winery in another. And there are some out there who might say that the best vineyards in this dual international zone are in Slovenia, in this glorious appellation called Brda (our apologies to the Collio zone in Italy). It The area is surrounded by the Julian Alps and the Adriatic Sea, providing protection from the cool northern wines and ensuring a moderate growing season...some say the Alps & the Mediterranean shake hands over this landscape. The soil is called Opoka, which is composed of marl, sandstone, limestone.

-the vineyard source for these 25-year-old pinot noir vines is called Madana Jama / it faces northeast / the maceration / fermentation lasts 14 days in stainless steel, followed by 24 months ageing in oak



ISRAEL... it ain't all sons of Abraham++... there is kick arse wine, too.

Shores, Tzora Vineyards, 2021, Judean Hills

115.

-35% syrah, 30% merlot, 25% cabernet sauvignon, 10% petit verdot



LEBANON... the land of milk and honey

<i>Hochar Pere et Fils, Chateau Musar, 2016, Bekaa Valley</i>	--1500ml aka MAGNUM--	218.
-50% cinsault, 35% syrah, 15% cabernet sauvignon		
<i>Grand Vin (33% cabernet sauvignon, 33% cinsault, 33% carignan, 1% love), Chateau Musar, 2012, Bekaa Valley</i>		260.
<i>Grand Vin (33% cabernet sauvignon, 33% cinsault, 33% carignan, 1% love), Chateau Musar, 2004, Bekaa Valley</i>		337.

The Facts:

- the vineyards are located in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon (gravelly soil with a limestone base; the area is frost and disease free)
- the winery is located on Mount Lebanon; the Road to Damascus connects them
 - the first vineyard was planted in 1930 by Gaston Hochar
 - as the French controlled Lebanon at the turn of the 20th Century, the French influenced the grapes planted and the winemaking practices
 - the Barton family of Bordeaux, owners of Langoa Barton, taught the Hochars about the ageing of wine in barrique
 - the French army were the first real customers of the wine; they departed the country after WWII taking the majority of the customers away
- the next 30 years, however, were a golden period for Lebanon as it became a cosmopolitan sanctuary
- the Civil War, from 1975 to 1991, decimated the country but ever resolute Serge Hochar (son of Gaston) and his crew only missed one vintage, 1976
- the Tipping Point for Chateau Musar came in 1979 at the Bristol Wine Fair in England when the illustrious Michael Broadbent tasted the 1967, 1961, and 1959 vintages and declared:

"hard to describe, full, soft – a bit of claret, a touch of Burgundy."

An Ode to Serge Hochar...because he is my spirit animal:

Simply put, the world of wine had never before seen a Serge Hochar
(and I am going back to Noah and his boat filled with vinous wonders).

Born into a family whose roots extend back 800 years in Lebanon
(they came originally from France as Templar Knights to purge the Holy Land of infidels),

Serge became history manifest, fully understanding / exhibiting / expounding the glories and wonders of his land. Lebanon, and its Bekaa Valley, were a wonder to Serge, and he reveled in the energy of the people and the bounty of the terroir.

Why his father, Gaston, started the winery in 1930, Serge never understood.

But, in 1959, after studying engineering, Serge joined the winery as an aspiring winemaker.

It would take about 20 years and the unlearning of techniques taught by Emile Peynaud at the University of Bordeaux before Serge fully realized the wine he wanted to craft. For such a man of the world and a partaker of all of its joys, he was also a man of God and felt that wine was God's gift to us...and that, through wine, we could sense God's humanity.

God must truly be a crazy cat because Serge created wines that arrested your senses and were sometimes completely insensible. But, boy, those wines had vim and vigor...and a life force that touched your heart, your mind, your toes and your soul. Serge did not want us to dwell on his passing as the absence of life was of completely no interest to him.

He demanded that we continue to live life and to relish all its vagaries.

And to taste wine...yes, we must taste wine so that our hearts can be filled with joy.

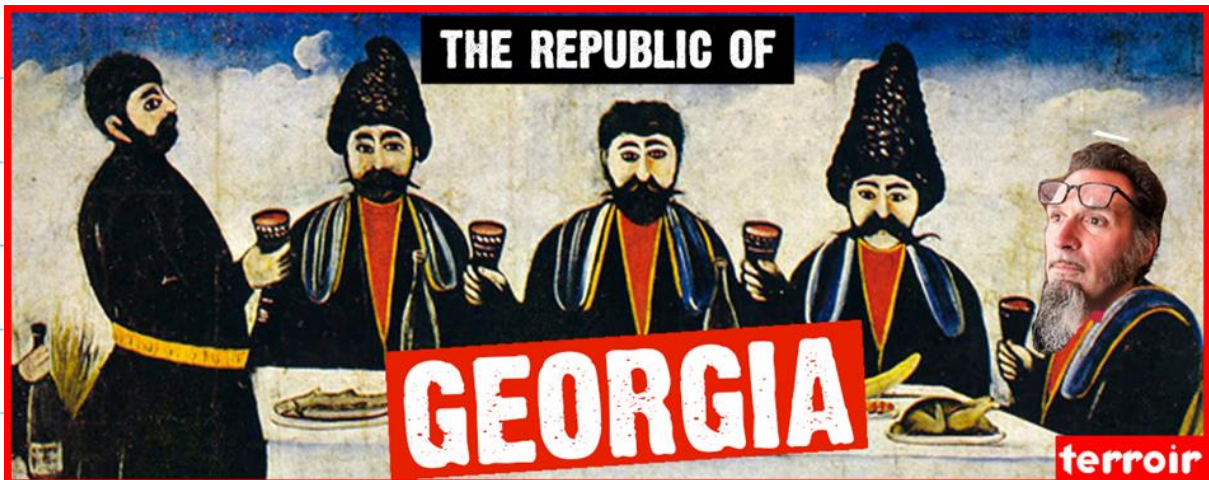
Serge Hochar, we raise a glass of wine to you nightly, because it is the righteous thing to do.



terroir voyage to
GREECE
NOVEMBER 22ND, 2021

GREECE... because before the Romans, there were the Greeks...
and they taught the Romans E-V-E-R-Y-T-H-I-N-G

Tsigello (100% tsigello), Rouvalis, 2021, Aigialeia	72.
Siatista (100% xinomavro), <i>Magoutes</i> , Diamantis – Papageorgiou, 2017, Macedonia	150.
Goumenissa (65% xinomavro, 35% negoska), Domaine Tatsis, 2009, Macedonia	92.
Limniona (100% limniona), Zafeirakis, 2018, Thessaly --1500ml aka MAGNUM--	152.
<i>Klima</i> (90% kotsifali, 10% mavrotragano), Karavitakis, 2021, Crete	64.
-the <i>Klima</i> translates as inclination / latitude and these vineyards are located at 1300'...one can literally talk to Zeus at this altitude	
-the mavrotragano contributes color and structure while the kotsifali adds vim and vigor and a Jackie Moon-esque punch to the jejunum	
<i>Antigone</i> (100% liatiko), Kthma Oikonomoy (aka, Domaine Economou), 2004, Crete	352.
Lefkosia (100% mavro), Aepys, Vinea Ardua, 2020, Cyprus	70.
-the indigenous mavro vines average 120 years of age and are grown on <i>elevated, steep slopes</i> ...aka, Aepys	



THE REPUBLIC OF

GEORGIA

terroir

GEORGIA: yep, this is *that* Georgia and not the southern state of...

Saperavi (100% saperavi), Casreli, 2020, Kakheti	68.
--	-----



SOUTH AFRICA

Pinot Noir, Moya Meaker, 2021, Elgin	104.
Pinot Noir, <i>Mabalel</i> , Crystallum, 2021, Elandskloof	120.
Pinot Noir, Teselaarsdal, 2021, Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge	114.
Syrah, Porseleinberg, 2020, Swartland	194.
Pinotage (100% pinotage), David & Nadia, 2021, Swartland	68.
Pinotage (100% pinotage), Ashbourne, 2019, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley	110.
Cinsault (100% cinsault), <i>Geronimo</i> , Lukas van Loggerenberg, 2020, Stellenbosch	76.
Cinsault (100% cinsault), Pofadder, Sadie Family Wines, 2020, Swartland	195.
Grenache (100% grenache), Raaigras, A.A. Badenhorst, 2019, Swartland	142.
Tinta Barocca (100% tinta barocca), Treinspoor, Sadie Family Wines, 2020, Swartland	185.
Tinta Barocca (100% tinta barocca), Sk'Windjiesvlei, A.A. Badenhorst, 2018, Swartland	146.
Cabernet Franc, Raats, 2018, Stellenbosch	108.
<i>Paul Sauer</i> (75% cabernet sauvignon, 14% cabernet franc, 11% merlot), Kanonkop, 2019, Stellenbosch	168.

JAPAN

Pinot Noir, <i>Nana-Tsu-Mori</i> , Domaine Takahiko Soga, 2021, Hokkaido	265.
--	------



ARGENTINA... a lesson in how to live life, without a functioning economy

- Parcela Los Nidos* (85% bonarda piedmontese, 15% barbera, grignolino +++), Cara Sur, 2021, Calingasta Valley 118.
 -the vineyard, *Los Nidos*, is planted at 4500' and measures 0.5 ht (roughly ½ the size of Gramercy Park) / the vines are 80 years old
- Malbec, *La Cautiva*, Michelini I Muffato, 2019, Gualtallary --IMPORTANT WINE ALERT-- 165.
 -100% whole-cluster fermented, then macerated for 1-4 months, followed by ageing in foudres larger than my bathtub, this expression of Malbec is as important to the conversation of wine in general as is the presence of Lionel Messi on the Argentine National Football Team
- Malbec, *La Cautiva "Oleo"*, Michelini I Muffato, 2020, Gualtallary --IMPORTANT WINE ALERT-- 212.
- Malbec, *Iubileus*, Per Se Vines, 2019, Gualtallary / Valle de Uco --VERY IMPORTANT WINE ALERT-- 568.
 -okay, first of, this wine has nothing to do to the gastronomic temple located at Columbus Circle (are we still allowed to call it that?!)
 but permission had to be given by Thomas Keller & crew to allow this wine into America...no kidding
 -the estate was created in 2012 by David Bonomi, Edgrado del Popolo and Santiago del Popolo; their sole intention was to plant the Malbec grape as close to heaven as they could get; they enlisted the help of the monks of the Monasterio del Cristo Orante (I am not kidding!!!) and grapes went into the ground at 4500', in the northwest corner of the Uco Valley (apparently, God spends some weekends here to get away from the Holy Spirit, who can be a little too dogmatic at times...wait, that is Joseph Ratzinger)
 -spontaneous fermentation in neutral oak, with 40 days of maceration / extraction by rolling those barrels around the cellar, then aged for 16 months in those exact same barrels
- La Craie*, Per Se Vines, 2019, Gualtallary / Valle de Uco --VERY IMPORTANT WINE ALERT-- 618.
 -70% malbec + 30% cabernet franc, co-fermented in neutral oak, with 40 days of maceration, then aged 16 months in those barrels

URUGUAY...

- Folklore* (80% tannat, 20% petit manseng), Castel Pujol, 2021, Rivera 64.

CHILE... they do not have a coffee culture (truly, this land still thinks Sanka is the epitome of the *Coffea arabica*) but the grape juice is pretty damn awesome

- País (100% país), *Aurora*, Carter Mollenhauser, 2022, Itata Valley 66.
- País (100% país), *Segundo Flores*, Macatho, 2020, Maule Valley 74.
- País (100% país), *Santa Cruz de Coya*, Roberto Henriquez, 2020, Bío Bío --1500ml aka MAGNUM-- 168.
- Pinot Noir, *Coteaux de Trumao*, 2020, Austral 76.
- Carignan (100% carignan), P.S. Garcia (a VIGNO wine), 2015, Maule 124.
- Carménère (100% carménère), *Viñedo Escorial*, Antiyal, 2019, Maipo Valley 142.



PEDRO PARRA...the only dr. of terroir that we know of...AND he is a rock star (as in a star of rocks) AND a rock whisperer AND a psychic to soil

Cinsault, NEWK, Pedro Parra y Familia, 2020, Valle del Itata

136.

- 75 year old , dry farmed vines
- vineyard is all stone, all sand, all silt, all granite
- fermented in concrete, followed by long maceration, & aged in untoasted oak barrels
- the NEWK is **Sonny Rollins*** - now we are entering crazy town, with pure and manic and focused energy

Who is this Pedro Parra?

He is: the **Master Blaster** of Terra Firma / the **Father** of Dragonstone / the **Breaker** of Soil Stereotypes,
the first **Doctor** of Terroir / the **Khal** of the Great Terrestrial Sphere

Okay, for real now, he:

- is a man from Chile, presently living in Concepción
- has a Ph.D. from the Institut National Agronomique de Paris-Grignon...and that Ph.D. is in TERROIR!
- studied rocks...and only rocks...he does not have any degrees in winemaking
- consults with winemakers all over the world, helping them to craft terroir-expressive wines
- does not like Coca Cola wines

***Pedro Parra loves jazz and I mean LOVES jazz.**

Pedro LOVES jazz like I love coffee.

Pedro LOVES jazz like Ronaldo loves showing his gleaming abs after every goal scored.

Pedro LOVES jazz like Alex Morgan loves taking a sip of tea.



OCHOTA BARRELS is here to save your wine life

Botanicals, Ochota Barrels, 2022, Adelaide Hills --CRAZY F*#KED UP DRY, ROUGE VERMOUTH ALERT-- 100.

-so, please take notes on what I am about to write: the liquid part of this vermouth is composed of 50% pinot noir & 50% meunier (this is from the pressed juice of the grapes, as the free run juice is used to make the varietal wines) / the botanical part (sage, wild fennel, wormwood, elderflower, lemon balm, bay leaf, river mint, thyme, lavender, rosemary, lemon verbena, rose petals, marigolds) of this vermouth are grown in the garden around the family home and were collected by Amber and the kids and added to the grape juice, fermented together, with 2 weeks of maceration, the wine was then racked off the greenery and aged for 5 months in old barriques.

PLEASE NOTE: this could be truly the most terroir-fixated wine on the list! DRINK CHILLED

Pinot Noir, *a Forest*, Ochota Barrels, 2022, Adelaide Hills 135.

-the clones of pinot noir (ahhhhh, yes, pinot noir clones...as fascinating a conversation as that of the veracity of the various live recordings of Bauhaus "Bela Lugosi") are MV6 (the "mother vine" of Aussie pinot noir, apparently taken originally from Clos Vougeot), UC Davis D5V12, and Dijon 777, (that is the mark of the Burgundian devil) / they are from two separate vineyards, composed of ironstone and clay-loam / the grapes are 2/3 whole-bunch fermented, in large plastic tubs, with 10-20 days of skin contact; then aged 6 months in old barriques and puncheons (total SO2: 35 ppm)

-*a Forest* is a reference to the Cure's *A Forest*...the opening bass lines are haunting and alluring...like me reading you a bedtime story

Pinot Meunier, *The Mark of Cain*, Ochota Barrels, 2020, Adelaide Hills 112.

-these meunier vines are the oldest meunier vines in the Adelaide Hills, planted in 1985, in Sam Vigara's Uva Vineyard, on heavy red clay over granite / primarily de-stemmed, the grapes started fermenting immediately and enjoyed 15 days of skin-contact (with some grape stalks being thrown back in for good measure); then aged 4 months in old barriques (total SO2: 50 ppm)

-*The Mark of Cain* are a heavy metal / hardcore band from Adelaide (Taras' band, Kranktus, played an opening set for them... Taras was the bass player and he apparently only used the "G" string...less is more, People of America)...listen to *Battlesick* and you will know who influenced Helmet & Type O Negative

Gamay, *The Price of Silence*, Ochota Barrels, 2022, Adelaide Hills 134.

-the 19-year-old *Eureka Vineyard*, composed of clay - loam, with some quartz, is the source of these grapes after the previous vineyard source was destroyed in the 2020 wildfires / 50% of the grapes were whole-cluster fermented in the ubiquitous plastic tubs, while the other 50% was fermented carbonic-ly for 3 weeks; then aged 5 months in old barriques (total SO2: 40 ppm)

-*The Price of Silence* is an Australian hardcore band and *not* the song released in 2008 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Syrah, *Where's the Pope*, Ochota Barrels, 2023, McLaren Vale 110.

-sourced from *The Green Room Vineyard*, planted on heavy schist soils, these vines average 26-years of age / the grapes were entirely whole-bunch fermented, in small plastic tubs, with 7-10 days of skin contact; then pressed into old barriques for 5 months of ageing (total SO2: 50 ppm)

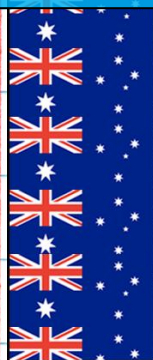
-*Where's the Pope* were a hardcore band from Adelaide, formed in 1985...they are to skater punks as Madonna was to my early 80's fashion sensibility

Texture Like Sun, Ochota Barrels, 2022, Adelaide Hills --WARNING: BLINDING LABEL-- 98.

-49% gamay, 5% gewurztraminer, 4% pinot noir (ALL from the *Eureka Vineyard* - clay & schist - in the Adelaide Hills) & 41% grenache (from the *Endersby Vineyard* - quartz & sand - in the McLaren Vale) / the grapes are harvested separately, utilizing only the best fruit and then cold-soaked separately for a few days, with fermentation beginning by its lonesome (at some point, the skins of the gewurztraminer grapes were tossed into the pinot noir vat, because...why not); each wine was then aged in old barrique before being blended in tank; it is only 11.5°! DRINK CHILLED (total SO2: 61 ppm)

-*Texture Like Sun* is a lyric from the song "Golden Brown" by the Stranglers, released in 1981...there is a harpsichord, played masterfully by David Greenfield, in this song...it could have been originally released in 1681! (P.S. Amber & Taras danced to this song at their wedding)

This is a fever dream...
but one I have harbored since 1978



AUSTRALIA
terroir



This is reality...
Amber & Taras Ochota

OCHOTA BARRELS is still here to save your wine life

Grenache, *a Sense of Compression*, Ochota Barrels, 2015, McLaren Vale 165.

-a combo of 98% grenache, 2% gewurztraminer...apparently, the addition of gewurztraminer to anything improves that thing (this is the mindset of Sam Hughes, an important fixture in the Sydney natural wine scene in the early years of the natural wine scene) / this wine is a colab* between Taras Ochota & Maynard J. Keenan, two musicians who became winemakers who became friends who decided to make wine together after a night of drinking wine and talking about making wine. Supposedly, the idea of crafting a grenache with something else was Maynard's (the first vintage of this wine was 2013) / the grenache is from *The Green Room Vineyard* and the gewurztraminer is from a mythical land in Middle Earth; they co-fermented together / beyond that, I have no clue what happened...the night was foggy
UPDATE: the pressed skins of the gewurztraminer grapes (used to produce the *Weird Berries in the Woods* wine) were frozen, crafted into a giant ice cube, and then added to the fermenting grenache grapes as they were approaching dryness
-a *sense of compression* aurally references a density of sound...listen to *Pneuma* on Tool's *Fear Inoculum* to better understand
*apparently, the original colab was going to happen at Maynard's winery in Arizona, blending garnacha with albariño or...alas.

Grenache, *Fugazi*, Ochota Barrels, 2022, McLaren Vale 138.

-the dry-farmed, bush vines were planted in 1947, on ironstone infused with some sweet red clay...the vineyard is called *Fugazi*...and needless to say, this vineyard ain't a f**king fugazi! / there was a cold soak for 24 hours, followed by 80% whole-cluster ferment / 20% hand-destemmed ferment in the almighty plastic fermenters; the fruit was hand-plunged...by hand...and spent between 8-80 days on the skins; then aged 6 months in old barriques (total SO₂: 38 ppm)
-yes, this *Fugazi* is the D.C. band *Fugazi*...and their music was playing on the stereo when Amber & Taras first arrived at this vineyard

Grenache, *The Green Room*, Ochota Barrels, 2022, McLaren Vale 105.

-a combo of 92% grenache vines (80 years old) + 8% syrah*, from the *Grancari Vineyard*, in the Onkaparinga Hills; the soils are clay over schist / 85% of the grapes were whole-cluster fermented after a 5-day cold soak, with 88 days of skin contact...WTF?!; then pressed and aged 4 months in old barriques (total SO₂: 62 ppm)
-*The Green Room* is the vineyard name OR a wine incubator OR a 2015 punk rock horror movie, with Patrick Stewart...he is a bastard
*the syrah got so damn yummy that it was spun off into its own grape juice, to be called *Where's the Pope*

Grenache, *186*, Ochota Barrels, 2022, McLaren Vale 278.

-well, not even sure how to *address* this wine because...words will fail / the easy peasy stuff is that the grapes are from the same Blewitt Springs vineyard that gives us the above *Fugazi* / the grapes are whole-cluster fermented in an old Vosges barrique / now, things go askew...this wine remains on the skins for 186 days...that is a massive WTF!?! / apparently, the mythology is that Taras would lose this barrel in the back of the shed and then on International Grenache Day (the 3rd Friday of September...roughly 186 days after the ferment began), Taras would locate the barrel, remove the head of the barrel, and then press the wine through a vintage pillow case / because Taras would then eat the grape skins and quench his thirst with the wine during this process, so little of this wine exists

OCHOTA BARRELS* NOTES + PHILOSOPHY:

- less is more...aka, hands-off winemaking with meticulous attention to detail
- grapes are picked based on acidity, not intensity of flavour...though the Ochota Barrels wines are as yummy as a first kiss in an Adelaide bar
- the wines spend quite a bit of time on the skins, for textural purposes...sort of like mic-ing the crap out of your drum kit
- Ochota Barrels started in 2008...but it really began on a surfing trip along the Mexico coast in 2000 when Amber & Taras decided winegrowing, back home in Aussie Land, was their mutually assured destination (Taras did graduate from Oenology School at Adelaide University / Amber made wine in Italy and oversaw production at the Nordic Sea Winery...in Sweden!)
- championed the revival of the Basket Range of the Adelaide Hills
- the logo creation was nourished by Calvados and symbolizes "the labyrinth of flavour, texture, and emotion"
- Ochota is Ukrainian for "willingness, desire" and Barrels is a surfing reference (it is where you want to be inside of!)
- the music you like directs the type of wines you make (aka, these wines are *not* made by fans of stadium rock from the 1980s)
- "wine produced with none of the nasties and more of the love"

*Taras Ochota passed this mortal coil on October 12th, 2020, at an exceptionally young 49 years of age.

Amber Ochota is continuing to craft the wines, with the help of Louis Schofield (a mate and cellar hand of Taras' for a bunch of years)



The AMERICAN ANTIPODES... i think...

Pinot Noir, Quartz Reef, 2022, Central Otago	82.
Pinot Noir, <i>Summertown</i> , Frederick Stevenson, 2020, Adelaide Hills	115.
Pinot Noir, <i>Sexton Vineyard</i> , Giant Steps, 2020, Yarra Valley	121.
Pinot Noir, <i>Mature Vine</i> , Rippon, 2019, Central Otago	138.
Syrah, Ben Haines, 2022, Grampians	80.
Shiraz, <i>Hearts Will Repair</i> , The Other Right, 2021, Adelaide Hills	102.
-sourced entirely from the <i>Sparrows Vineyard</i> in the northern Adelaide Hills, composed of loam, red clay and granite / the grapes went through semi-carbonic maceration, with 50% whole cluster and 50% destemmed fruit / the ferment went dry and the wine was aged in old barrique for 5 months / zero SO2 added / only 10.9°...what?!?!	
Shiraz, <i>O' Riada</i> , Clonakilla, 2021, Canberra	125.
-named after the Irish singer, Sean O' Riada, famous for taking traditional Irish music from the pub to the concert stage...and singing at my funeral...it was a beautiful affair...we drank 2 entire kegs of Guinness	
Shiraz (95%) / Viognier (5%), Clonakilla, 2021, Canberra --A NEW CLASSIC AUSSIE WINE--	235.
-from the <i>Murrumbateman Vineyard</i> , this co-ferment lasts roughly 3 weeks, followed by 12 months ageing in barrique	
Syrah, <i>Two Terraces Vineyard</i> , Amoise, 2021, Hawke's Bay	80.
Shiraz, <i>Brooks Road</i> , Hickinbotham, 2018, McLaren Vale	155.
Shiraz (95% shiraz, 5% malbec), <i>Stonegarden</i> , Eperosa, 2017, Barossa	180.
Shiraz, <i>Brookman Vineyard</i> , Clarendon Hills, 1998, Clarendon	270.
Grenache (97% grenache, 3% carignan, cinsault, mourvèdre), <i>Sands</i> , Geyer, 2020, Barossa Valley	90.
-85-year-old grenache vines, grown on sand...apparently, sand and grenache in Aussie Land are as magical a combo as the Toecutter & Bubba Zanetti...& ironstone, in the <i>Griggs Vineyard</i> / the fermentation was 100% whole-cluster, with 4 months of skin contact (not sure I understand this math but I never disagree with Ronnie Sanders); then aged in neutral oak for 9.5 months (added SO2: 0) (alcohol: only 11.8%...I have enjoyed many a kahlua & coffee that have had more alcohol than this)	
<i>Keyneton Estate</i> , Henschke, 1995, Barossa Valley & Eden Valley	275.
-71% shiraz, 21% cabernet sauvignon, 8% merlot	



AMERICA...and yes, that means the United States of America

Pinot Noir, <i>Bloom's Field</i> , Domaine de la Côte, 2021, Santa Rita Hills	234.
Pinot Noir, <i>Oregogne</i> , Maison Noir, 2021, Willamette Valley	112.
Pinot Noir, <i>Heron Lake Vineyard</i> , Enfield, 2019, Wild Horse Valley	109.
<i>Moon Dog</i> , Hiyu, 2019, Columbia Gorge	325.

- well, well, well...this is going to be a roller coaster, literally on your palate and absolutely on your brain
- a combo a 30 different heirloom clones of pinot noir (90%) + pinot gris, pinot blanc, pinot chardonnay, aligoté (10%)
 - the pinot noir is actually pinot fin, a pre-industrial clone of the grape that was brought to California / the bunches have tiny clusters, a very diverse shape of berries, berries that never touch, and the vine is very low yielding
- the vineyard is composed of sandy loam and basalt and is in the shape of an amphitheatre, capturing mucho amounts of sunlight
- the grape bunches...it is a co-ferment...are trod by foot and then begins a 2-week maceration / fermentation in an open-top wood fermenter / once fermentation is complete, the next stop is an olde wooden press followed by 2 years of ageing on the fine lees in olde oak
- as Nate Ready & China Tresemer state themselves, this wine potentially harkens back to how a 15th century Cistercian might have made wine in Burgundy (and yes, there is NO added sulphur). I hesitate to describe a flavor profile because my palate stopped evolving after my 13th Fuzzy Navel consumed on an historic night in 1998 but...the wine is transportation / it is not so much yummy as it is enthralling / it is a pinot noir and therefore like every pinot noir you have enjoyed before BUT it is unlike every pinot noir produced in America

Pinot Noir, <i>Hope Well</i> , 2018, Eola – Amity Hills	184.
Pinot Noir, <i>Mimi's Mind</i> , Lingua Franca, 2018, Eola – Amity Hills	210.
Pinot Noir, <i>Louise Vineyard</i> , Cristom, 2018, Eola – Amity Hills	148.
Pinot Noir, <i>Toluca Lane</i> , Brooks, 2016, Eola – Amity Hills	140.
Pinot Noir, <i>Kutch</i> , 2008, Sonoma Coast	135.
Pinot Noir, <i>Mills Vineyard</i> , Calera, 2007, Mt. Harlan	275.
Pinot Noir, <i>Winery Hill</i> , Domaine Serene, 2004, Willamette Valley	198.
Syrah, <i>Rim Rock Vineyard</i> , Piedrassi, 2019, Arroyo Grande Valley	131.
<i>Primer Paso</i> (85% syrah, 10% durif, 5% malvasia bianca), Caduceus, 2020, Verde Valley	108.
Grenache (100% grenache), <i>Cuvee Spéciale</i> , Railsback Frères, 2020, Santa Barbara	90.
<i>Le Cigare Volant</i> , Bonny Doon Vineyards, 2014, California --375ml aka ½ bottle--	48.
-39% grenache, 17% syrah, 35% mourvèdre, 7% cinsault, 2% viognier, 5% resistance...is futile	
<i>Chupacabra</i> , Merkin Vineyards, 2022, Cochise County	68.
-13% grenache, 44% syrah, 25% mourvèdre, 12% cabernet sauvignon, 4% carignan, 2% merlot	
<i>Orion</i> , Sean H. Thackrey, 1994, California	175.
Merlot, <i>Seven Hills Vineyard</i> , L'Ecole N° 41, 1999, Walla Walla Valley	182.
Zinfandel, <i>Jack Rabbit Flat</i> , Renwood, 1998, Amador	132.
<i>Benchlands</i> , Martha Stoumen, 2021, Mendocino County	88.
-38% zinfandel, 21% petite sirah, 17% nero d'avola, 16% carignan, 4% valdigué, 4% colombard	



THE PRESENT & FUTURE of CALIFORNIA WINE

<i>Revolution Red</i> (70% zinfandel, 30% palomino), Scythian Wine Co., 2022, Cucamonga Valley	84.
<i>Mission</i> (100% mission), <i>Lone Wolf</i> , Scythian Wine Co., 2022, Temecula Valley	120.
<i>Autremont</i> (25% gamay noir, 25% mondeuse, 50% pinot noir), Phelan Farm, 2021, San Luis Obispo 12.5°	122.
<i>Poulsard</i> (100% poulsard), Phelan Farm, 2021, San Luis Obispo 12.5°	138.
<i>Mondeuse</i> (100% mondeuse), Phelan Farm, 2021, San Luis Obispo 11.5°	138.
-this wine was "blinded" by T.J. Cole on January 6th, 2023, at 10:38pm...just saying	
<i>Trousseau</i> (100% trousseau), Phelan Farm, 2021, San Luis Obispo 12.5°	138.
<i>Syrah</i> , <i>Bassi Vineyard</i> , Parr Wines, 2021, San Luis Obispo 13.5°	168.

- the Bassi Vineyard is located 1.2 miles from the Pacific Ocean, in the southern part of the SLO appellation, in the Avila Valley
- the soils are marine in origin (sandstone & sandy loam); the underlying bedrock is hard sandstone, through which nothing can pass, including the Holy Spirit; the Vineyard is farmed organically with biodynamic inputs
- the syrah parcel is 7.29 acres, divided into 5 blocks / the clones of syrah are Noir and Estrella
- the grapes are fermented whole-cluster in a wooden tank and macerated for 16 days; then pressed and aged in 500L puncheons

PHELAN FARM AESTHETICS:

- in love with the cool, maritime climate of the San Luis Obispo coast (they are located 3 miles from the beach)
- Raj Parr loves acidity in his wines as much as Albert Hofmann enjoyed acid on the tip of his tongue
- the work in the vineyard is a combo of:

Permaculture (**permanent** + **agriculture**): create a system that is self-sustaining, supporting the earth and the people who live there

Biodynamics; manage the land as if it is a living organism

Regenerative Farming: don't till the goddamn soil...tilling destroys biodiversity and releases carbon

-employ whole-cluster ferments, with 14 day macerations, in stainless steel...just not Brooklyn Steel

-only indigenous yeasts for fermentation...the cultured yeasts are saved for students at U.C. Davis

-only neutral oak...save the new s*#t for those folks in Bordeaux

-no SO2 added...this is sacrilege, especially to every winemaker pre-2000

PHELAN FARM STUFF:

- the origin story of this land goes back to 1851 and the creation of the Phelan Family homestead
- in 2007, Greg Phelan decided to plant Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, all on original rootstalks
- in 2019, Raj Parr assumed stewardship of the farm and, seeing a similarity between this canyon and the Jura / Savoir regions of France, decided to graft the vines over to some pre-Alp varieties (and mencia, from the Ribeira Sacra región of Spain)



AMERICAN ZINFANDEL... it is our grape and we love it!

<i>"Buck" Cobb Vineyard</i> , Turley Wine Cellars, 2014, Amador County	152.
<i>Dogtown Vineyard</i> , Turley Wine Cellars, 2006, Lodi	155.
<i>Grist Vineyard</i> , Turley Wine Cellars, 2005, Dry Creek Valley	157.
<i>Hayne Vineyard</i> , Turley Wine Cellars, 1997, Napa Valley	295.

In 1993, Larry Turley established **Turley Wine Cellars**. His goal in establishing the winery was to search out and bring to bottle some of the great, old zinfandel vineyards that he had seen throughout California during his days at Frog's Leap Winery (he started this winery in 1981, along with John Williams). And the rest is history.

Larry and his initial winemaker, Ehren Jordan

(Helen Turley made the first two vintages) and present winemaker, Tegan Passalacqua,

have crafted some of the greatest wines made in America that just happen to utilize America's grape, **Zinfandel**.

Zinfandel is no less great than Cabernet Sauvignon or Chardonnay or Pinot Noir or...and it should be respected as such.

The Turley Wine Cellars approach is simple: find the great old vineyards (which are hopefully organically farmed);

harvest by hand; de-stem but do not crush; cold soak for 5 days;

ferment using indigenous yeast, in stainless steel; let the fermentation take its merry time;

age in American (20%) and French (80%) oak, 80% of which is old and innocuous; and bottle unfiltered.

Sounds simple...like bowling 300...or batting .500...or dating Taylor Swift.

These wines have received 113 points on Robert Parker's 100 Point Scale.

Pliny the Elder presaged their creation in his *Natural History*.

But who gives a damn about critics or scores or pundits.

Drink the juice and understand history and the artisan method of making great wine.



AMERICAN CABERNET... Steven Spurrier, we owe you big time!

Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Peter Martin Ray Vineyard</i> , Jaimee Motley, 2018, Santa Cruz Mountains	187.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Family Estate Grown</i> , Spottswode, 2004, Napa Valley	525.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Lamb Vineyard</i> , Fisher Vineyards, 2002	210.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Sheridan Vineyard</i> , Andrew Will, 2000, Yakima Valley	162.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Renaissance Vineyard</i> , Taken from Granite, 1999, Sierra Foothills	175.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Gravelly Meadow</i> , Diamond Creek, 1999, Napa Valley	925.
<i>Affinity</i> , Robert Craig, 1998, Napa Valley	195.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Dunn Vineyards</i> , 1995, Napa Valley	450.
Cabernet Sauvignon, Ric Forman, 1993, Napa Valley	540.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Eisele Vineyard</i> , Araujo, 1992, Napa Valley	846.
Cabernet Sauvignon, A. Rafanelli, 1988, Dry Creek Valley	200.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Vintage Selection</i> , Burgess, 1985, Napa Valley	265.

NAPA VALLEY CABERNET... as it tasted when i started drinking wine

Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Georges de Latour Private Reserve</i> , Beaulieu Vineyard, 1975, Napa Valley	455.
Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Georges de Latour Private Reserve</i> , Beaulieu Vineyard, 1970, Napa Valley	485.
Cabernet Sauvignon, Inglenook, 1967, Napa Valley	450.