

WINES from Australia

The sudden emergence of Australian over the last twenty years, consequence of the dynamism of the local viticultural scene and the benevolent complicity of the British wine merchant, is without doubt the most significant event to have occurred in the world of wine in recent times despite the country's modest overall production (barely 5% of the world total.)

Australia has succeeded in establishing a new style of wine by means of innovative and revolutionary vignification methods, but thanks also to its microclimate, terroir and knowledge learnt from France, Italy and Napa Valley.

Australia is the number one to supply in the UK.

The current vogue in Australia is the emergence of wine from cooler climate regions, these embody finesse and elegance (copying the old world model.), so you can begin to wave goodbye to dry overblow, oaky chardonnays of yesteryear. Even the famous, huge porty red wine of the Barossa Valley are being pegged back for fine tuning, lowering alcohol levels and endeavouring to introduce less barrel influence to the resulting wines.

When century old wine regions like Barossa listen, you can be sure the message is getting through, .and you can now drink world class Cabernet, Shiraz, Chardonnay and even Riesling at reasonable prices.

Western Australia.

With a superb climate, somewhat cooler than the rest of Australia, is a wine drinker paradise, it is split into different region, the hottest and driest being swan valley area.

Margaret River hundred and seventy miles south from Perth, have a microclimate similar to Bordeaux weather which is good enough to make the nicest Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz and Chardonnay wines.

Clare Valley is seventy five miles from Adelaide, has a warm, sunny climate and cool afternoon breezes and cold night. It is the oldest wine producing area (150 years of continuous vine growing), there you can find awesome value dry Riesling and beautiful Shiraz that a good balance and complexity.

Barossa Valley is one of the most famous wine regions in Australia, it produces powerful spicy red wines with a good capacity for ageing, the famous grapes are the meaty trio, Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvèdre.

With its legendary Penfolds winery, the Barossa Valley is set to continue in its position of "King of Oz".

Eden Valley, has a much cooler climate,(400meter in altitude), here Shiraz and Riesling perform well.

Adelaide Hills, only 20minutes from Adelaide, this warm region is ideal for Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, the wines made there are European-shaped, and they also produce Sparkling wines.

Mac Laren Vale is situated east of Adelaide Hills and benefits from a maritime climate, it is a premium red wine region based on classic wine making.

Coonawarra is situated 230miles north of Adelaide. There you will find some of the best Cabernet Sauvignon, no wonder some French Chateau have bough some land to plant some vines on, like Chateau Lynch-Bages from Pauillac..

Victoria

Yarra Valley is situated 25miles from Melbourne; there the main grapes are Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. With a climate between Bordeaux and Burgundy, this is regarded as a cool climate region, the wines are stunning.

Rutherglen. This region produce great Muscat and Tokay with phenomenal power and lenght on the palate, and also good value for money.

King Valley (north east Victoria). This superstar estate makes one of the finest Chardonnays, awesome Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz and some extraordinary collectable Pinot Noir.

New South Wales

Hunter Valley, 80 miles north of Sidney, famous for its dry Semillon.

My wine Choices:

Cabernet Sauvignon "Cover Drive" Jim Barry 2004, Clare Valley £6.78

Info@Berkmanns.co.uk

Sauvignon Blanc, WoodyNook Winery 2006, Margaret River £11.95

info@woodynookatwoodcote.co.uk

Shiraz, Woody Nook Winery 2002, Margaret River £15.45

info@woodynookatwoodcote.co.uk

Chardonnay, M3 Vineyard 2006, Adelaide Hills £12.15

Nigel.gilling@libertywine.co.uk

From up and above,

Xavier Le-Bellego
Forbury's Restaurant

Cheers....