Bourne Mixed Case

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This month's Bourne Mixed Case is filled with wines ideally suited to spring drinking. An Alsatian Pinot Blanc kicks off the selection with a saline minerality and citrus freshness perfect for lighter chicken dishes. The mineral theme continues with the vibrant, clean and verdant Desierto Sauvignon; a brilliant match for new season asparagus dripping in butter. A perfumed Pecorino completes the whites and for me, is the perfect sipper for balmy evenings. On the reds, I'm delighted we are pointing the focus on the under-rated grape, Gamay with two selections: one from Beaujolais, Gamay's heartland, and one from the Loire.

2013 PINOT BLANC, DOMAINE ROLLY-GASSMANN



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

The nose pings with racy, tonic-fresh, lime water and pear flavours. It is very to the point, with a distinct whiff of sea salt a result of the strident 2013 vintage. Citrus pith, along with white stone-fruit, characterise this wine; the product of marl soils that surround the vineyard of Rotleibel, close to Rorschwihr. Drink now-2020.

Food matches Poultry

Price £13.95 per bottle
How to serve Chilled to 11°C
Region Alsace, France

Grape variety Pinot Blanc 95%, Auxerrois 5%

Product code Z5295B

Style Off-dry, light-bodied white wine

Terroir Calcareous clay **Buyer** David Berry Green

Tasting notes

2014 DESIERTO 25 SAUVIGNON BLANC, BODEGA DEL DESIERTO, LA PAMPA



Bodega del Desierto (literally 'winery of the desert') is located in the Patagonian desert in a town called '25 de Mayo'. It is a long way from any other wineries in the new viticultural region of La Pampa. Here, the extreme climate and strong winds result in distinctive and elegant wines.



Exclusive to Berry Bros. & Rudd, this is a restrained Sauvignon with a wet-stone quality, reminiscent of the Loire Valley. There is greengage fruit, but it is the texture that marks this out as a great food wine. It is a more subtle and mineral alternative to most New World Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now-2015.

Food matches Sea bass, goats' cheese, sushi

Price £11.95 per bottle

How to serve Serve cold from the refrigerator

Region Patagonia, Argentina
Grape variety Sauvignon Blanc
Product code Z4631B

Style Dry, crisp, restrained, minerally white wine

Terroir Deep sand with stones **Buyer** Catriona Felstead MW

Tasting notes

2014 ABRUZZO PECORINO, COSTA DEL MULINO, CANTINA FRENTANA



You may know Pecorino as a hard Italian sheep's cheese, not unlike Parmesan in style. Meaning 'little sheep' and linked only etymologically, it is also the name of a grape variety from central Italy, currently enjoying a modest, modish revival, having been ousted by Trebbiano. It is now found in Abruzzo, the Marche, Umbria and Tuscany.

Typically Italianate in its minerality, this has a delicate, summery perfume with hints of apricot and jasmine, and a herbal element akin to fennel or liquorice; not too full-bodied and definitely offering something a little unusual. Ideally drink this as young as possible, but it will last a year or two.

Food matches Good with Pecorino cheese and plain meats or fish

Price £8.85 per bottle

How to serve Cool at 11°C or the subtle aromas won't emerge

Region Abruzzo, Italy
Grape variety Pecorino
Product code Z5475B

Style Dry, medium-bodied white wine

Terroir Thrives in higher *terroirs* away from the coast

Buyer Mark Pardoe MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: SOAVE CLASSICO OR FIANO DI AVELLINO

2013 BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES, LE TRACOT, DOMAINE DUBOST



Jean-Paul Dubost (pronounced 'Dubo' locally) is a fourth-generation *vigneron* taking over the family's Le Tracot *domaine* in 1993. This is one of the best spots for Beaujolais Villages, just outside the appellation of Regnié. The wine is made in the classical Beaujolais *maceration carbonique* fashion.

Dense purple in colour, with immediately explosive fruit on the nose, backed up by some very pretty floral notes, and an attractive mouthful behind with good crunchy fruit. This Beaujolais is ready to go now but is capable of growing further. Drink now-2016.

Food matches Pork chops, roast chicken, mushroom risotto

Price £11.95 per bottle

How to serve Serve cool

Region Beaujolais, France

Grape variety Gamay
Product code Z2845B

 Style
 Dry, medium-bodied red wine

 Terroir
 Red sandstone on granite

 Buyer
 Jasper Morris MW

Tasting notes

2013 OLD PLAINS LONGHOP SHIRAZ, MOUNT LOFTY RANGES



Old Plains is a joint venture between school friends Tim Freeland and Domenic Torzi (of Torzi Matthews). The Longhop range was created when large conglomerates cancelled contracts in the Adelaide Plains, leaving growers facing ruin: some turned to Domenic and he helped by securing excellent sales for these wines.

The nose is full to the brim of blackberry fruit, mingling with hints of cinnamon and sweet spice. Layers of creamy, rich blackberry fruit follow on the palate, complemented by notes of chocolate and a hint of warm liquorice. This is a generous, rewarding and concentrated wine, exclusive to Berry Bros. & Rudd. Drink now-2016.

Food matches Steak and kidney pie, roast lamb, chilli con carne

Price £14.95 per bottle

How to serve At room temperature

Region Adelaide Hills, Australia

Grape variety Shiraz
Product code Z5098B

Style Full-bodied, rich, easy-drinking red wine

Terroir Red clay over limestone with ironstone and quartz

Buyer Catriona Felstead MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

ST JOSEPH OR CROZES-HERMITAGE

2014 GAMAY DE TOURAINE, JEAN-CHRISTOPHE MANDARD



Jean-Christophe inherited his father's estate in 1993 and is the fourth generation of his family to work the *domaine's* 17 hectares of vineyard located on a plateau above the village of Mareuil-sur-Cher. On the south bank of the Cher, vineyards are planted on a plateau of clay, limestone and silex.

Deep blush, purple-red, soft, delicate, red and black berried fruit; this is a nose to drink in! The palate is as succulent and fruity as you might expect and hope: no tannins, soft acidity, preppy red fruit, along with a precise mineral-rich core. It is no pushover; real wine, sensitively and well-made. Drink now-2020.

Food matches Salads, ham and cold cuts

Price £10.95 per bottle

How to serve Chilled to 12°C
Region Loire, France
Grape variety Gamay
Product code Z5303B

Style Dry, light-bodied red wine
Terroir Clay and silex/flint
Buyer David Berry Green

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: MORGON OR FLEURIE