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# HAWKSHEAD WINES

## NEW RELEASES - DECEMBER 2009

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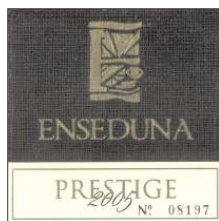
**Domaine STE MICHELLE Cuvée Brut NV, Columbia Valley, Washington State, USA 12% US0310S £11.49**



Domaine Ste. Michelle (as distinct from its neighbour Chateau Ste. Michelle) was founded in 1974 with the aim of making contemporary, stylish and world class sparkling wines. Situated in the cool climate district of Columbia Valley in Washington State, the vineyards are in the rain shadow of the Cascade Mountains to the West. Long gentle summers with cool evenings ensure ripeness but more importantly fresh acidity. From the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines, winemaker Rick Casquero uses the traditional Champagne method to produce European styled sparkling wines. The total commitment to quality includes ageing the wine on its lees for up to eighteen months before release. Yet despite the award-winning quality the price of this delicious wine is incredibly reasonable.

*Aromas of apple, lemon, brioche and a touch of spicy pear. Very well integrated mousse with fine bubbles and flavours of apple, hazelnut, lemon and biscuit notes. Long, flavoursome yet refreshing finish. Really quite Champagne-like with good complexity and finesse. To 2011*

**ENSEDUNA Prestige Chardonnay 2005, Coteaux d'Enserune, Languedoc, France 13.5% FR3155W £6.25**



Foncalieu is a fine example of the best co-operatives making premium quality wine at a good price. The wide scope of their operations near Carcassonne has enabled them to release a small but distinctive range of wines. This Prestige Chardonnay arrived too late to be featured in our recent Languedoc offer, but was simply too good to miss out. It is a bold, ambitious wine aged in French oak barrels and since the limited production comes from a single vineyard just west of Beziers, it can use the local Vin de Pays appellation of Coteaux d'Enserune, rather than the all encompassing Vin de Pays d'Oc.

*Deep yellow colour and subtle aromas of spicy vanilla, mango and honey. Full-bodied and viscous with plenty of tropical fruit flavours, toasty vanilla and notes of butterscotch and caramel. Finishes dry and surprisingly fresh. Almost New World-like in its overt oaky character and a silver medal winner at the Concours General Agricole. To 2011*

**AZAMOR Estate Tinto 2005, Alentejano, Portugal 14.5% PO0135R £8.49**



Alison and Joaquin Luiz-Gomes purchased the Azamor estate in 1998 and planted their first vines in 2001. From the outset, the aim has been to produce one of the region's, and indeed Portugal's, best wines and they have enlisted the help of consultant winemaker David Baverstock to achieve this. The Azamor vineyards are unique, situated at over 1000 feet and with breathtaking views. The 27ha are the most densely planted vineyards in Alentejo and include a mix of traditional and native Portuguese varieties, the main ones being Syrah, Touriga Nacional, Merlot and Trincadeira. This new release of Azamor Tinto is an astonishing wine from such young vines. It shows exactly why Portugal is such an exciting place for rich, fruit-filled reds.

*Deep and youthful purple colour - though the wine is over 4 years old. Complex, lifted aromas of bramble fruits, sweet liquorice and vanilla spice. Soft, ripe plum and blackberry flavours with notes of mocha and exotic spices. Lovely rich and silky mouthfeel, rounded tannins and an impressively long finish. A delicious, fruit-filled red to enjoy to 2012.*

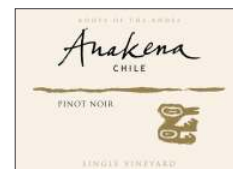
**TOHU Kono Sauvignon Blanc 2008, Marlborough, New Zealand 13% NZ0428W £6.99**



Tohu (pronounced Tor-who) Wines are produced by the world's first Maori-owned wine company. True to Maori culture, there is a strong spiritual aspect to everything grown and produced. We sometimes speak of wines having 'integrity'. This usually means that a wine seems to reflect its *terroir*, but at Tohu integrity applies in its widest sense, from the vineyard all the way through to the wine in the bottle. As custodians of the land and its vines, the company's sensitive and long-term commitment to the environment has been recognised by Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand. You can now enjoy the fruits of their land and their labours with the first release of the pure and refreshing Kono Sauvignon Blanc.

*Bright straw colour. Lively aromas of gooseberry, nettles and freshly cut grass. Crisp and refreshing on the palate with integrated acidity and a gentle creaminess. Lingering finish with citrus and herbal notes make this classic Marlborough Sauvignon very drinkable. Enjoy now to 2011.*

**ANAKENA Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2008, Bio Bio Valley, Chile 13% CL1068R £7.95**



Based in Requinoa in the Rapel's Cachapoal Valley, Anakena is a modern winery created by Chilean entrepreneurs Felipe Ibanez and Jorge Gutierrez. They have over 400ha of vineyards throughout the country with specific varieties planted according to the local conditions. The varietal range consists of multi-region blends, which are generally good value. The real excitement however is in their premium wines. We were particularly taken by the superb Pinot Noir from a single vineyard in the Bio-Bio Valley. This is the most southerly and so coolest of Chile's wine producing regions. Ungrafted vines are planted on the phylloxera-free soils and though not fully organic, sustainable viticulture is practised with minimal intervention and no use of chemical pesticides.

*This is a real find: A characterful New World Pinot Noir that tastes as if it should cost a lot more. Ripe cherry and raspberry fruit flavours with a touch of vanilla spice. There are lovely silky tannins and a lingering finish with a touch of strawberry. Enjoy through to 2012.*

**VESEVO Aglianico 2007, IGT Beneventano, Campania, Italy 13% IT1047R £10.49**



The Irpinian hills, situated inland from Naples, are potentially one of Italy's most exciting wine producing areas. Home to a number of famous producers, the area has usually promised more than it has delivered. The Vesevo wines have changed this. Winemaker Marco Flacco selects only the very best wines from this modern co-operative for release under the Vesevo name. Aglianico (pronounced *a-LYA-neeco*) is, alongside Sangiovese and Nebbiolo, one of Italy's three greatest varieties. It is relatively unknown, perhaps because it flourishes in the poorer, southern part of the country, but Aglianico can produce a wonderfully aromatic and richly flavoured wine. Wines made from Aglianico, like Taurasi, are highly sought after in Italy, Vesevo's, from near the town of Benevento, is a very fine and affordable example.

*Ruby red colour with violet rim. Complex and intense aromas with red berry fruits and vanilla spice. Good structure and concentration with soft tannins and a lingering, gently spicy aftertaste. This is a powerful, age-worthy wine, approachable now but can be kept to 2014.*

**NEW RELEASES CASE: 2 bottles of each wine - just £99.31 with FREE DELIVERY – save up to £10**

**Ref: NRC019M**