

Tel: 01604 497928

Fax: 01604 497744

HAWKSHEAD WINES

FRENCH NEW RELEASES

E-mail: sales@

Hawksheadwines.co.uk

This year we have already featured several European estates including Von Schleinitz from Germany, Navajas from Spain and most recently Italian innovator Orion Wines. However this does not mean that France has been ignored. In fact we have tracked down a number of exciting new wines and to introduce them to you, this month's New Releases is devoted to France, with wines from the length and breadth of the country. In common with our Focus Offers you can make your own 12 bottle selection from amongst the wines below and enjoy free delivery or save even more with our French New Releases Case, which includes two bottles of each wine.

Chateau de GOULAINE Muscadet Sevre et Maine sur Lie 2010, France 12% FR0760W £7.49



The Goulaine family have been making wines on their estate five miles east of Nantes since the 10th century. Not surprisingly they are well known for the quality of their Muscadet, a tradition continued by Mathieu, son of the 11th Marquis, who now manages operations. This un-oaked white is a great introduction to his wines. It is fermented in stainless steel and left in contact with the yeast (sur lie) to give additional complexity. The 2010 is a great vintage, producing a wine with an almost Burgundian weight.

Crisp, fresh dry white aged on its lees for added flavour and complexity. Citrus and mineral flavours with a touch of grapefruit, lemon zest, melon and biscuit notes. Attractive, modern style with pure fruit flavours and good persistence on the finish. Enjoy to 2013

Marcel MARTIN 'La Chenaye' Sancerre 2010, France 12.5% FR4090W £12.49



Marcel Martin is a small negociant firm based at La Sablette, a village near Mouzillon in the Loire. We discovered them thanks to the Marquis de Goulaine who, finding that visitors to his 15th century chateau were not keen on sharing the grounds with tractors and delivery vehicles, decided to move his winemaking to this modern and efficient operation. They had clearly impressed the Marquis and so we included one of their wines in a tasting of Loire Sauvignons. It proved the most popular even against more expensive wines. So now we are delighted to be the first to offer this Sancerre in this country.

Light straw colour and intense gooseberry and lemon aromas with cut grass and floral notes. Fresh and vibrant on the palate with leafy, herbaceous notes to the fore and a background of nectarine and tangy lemon. Good intensity and impressively long finish. Enjoy to 2013

Chateau PONTET NIVELLE 2010, Bordeaux, France 14.5% FR4110R £7.99



The house of Dulong was founded by Eugene Dulong in 1873. Today it owns a number of châteaux including Pontet Nivelle. The wine-making operation is run by Jean-Marc Dulong and his policy of rigorous selection and attention to detail really shows. In fact we were simply astonished at the quality of this Merlot based wine. Whilst Bordeaux at this price point can often disappoint, this is a beautiful combination of the perfect 2010 vintage and Jean-Marc's winemaking skills.

Youthful crimson/purple colour. Aromas of plum, blackberry and cassis. Medium to full-bodied with bramble fruit flavours and mocha and a hint of tobacco leaf. Lovely rich style with great ripeness but also lovely underpinning freshness that could only come from Bordeaux. A soft, accessible wine with only gentle tannins coming through on the finish. Delicious now but has the structure and balance to keep to 2015.

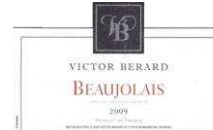
Chateau La BORNE Blanc Sec 2010, Bordeaux, France 12.5% FR4140W £8.99



This 19ha estate, owned by the Cardarelli family, is situated 20 miles south west of St Emilion. Both red and white wines are produced, but it is the refreshing dry white that most impressed. A blend of Sauvignon Blanc with 20% Semillon from 40 year old vines, grown on calcareous soils. But what makes this wine different is how meticulous care in the vineyard and modern wine-making techniques have captured the purity of the grape flavours. This is the perfect example of how Bordeaux can best respond to the popularity of New World Sauvignons.

Strongly aromatic with the Sauvignon character of gooseberries, lemon and floral hints to the fore. Crisp and refreshing on the palate with additional notes of melon, pear and white peach. Long clean finish. Overall not that powerful but very attractive. Enjoy now to 2013.

Victor BERARD Beaujolais 2009, France 12.5% FR4139R £6.99



Victor Berard is a negociant operation based at Romaneche Thorins, a small town only a couple of miles east of Fleurie but just outside the appellation boundaries. For some time we have been searching for an entry-level Beaujolais that delivered the unique and characteristic flavours of Gamay from this part of France and Berard's Beaujolais proved perfect. This is partly because the 2009 vintage was so good and partly since they select only the healthiest grapes, rejecting any that are unripe or rotten. This extra effort is more unusual than you might think and you can certainly taste the difference in the finished wine.

Raspberry, redcurrant and cherry aromas with a touch of pepper and wild strawberry. Attractive red berry fruit flavours with good purity and refreshing acidity. Clean and fruity, perfect for summer sipping, and best enjoyed lightly chilled now through to 2012.

Ch. d'ANGLES Syrah Grenache Mourvedre 2006, Languedoc 13.5% FR3426R £8.99



Former Ch. Lafite winemaker Eric Fabre first released his Ch. d'Angles wines with this label before moving to the 'Classique' name that we currently sell. So the 2006 is not exactly a new release, but it is new to us in that we were offered a small parcel of this unoaked red to show how well the wine ages. We were delighted by the pure, vibrant fruit and leapt at the chance to offer a more mature example of Eric's superb winemaking skills.

Spicy black fruit aromas that develop on airing. Plenty of powerful cassis, cherry and spicy liquorice flavours on the palate with notes of black pepper and garrigue. Lovely freshness, purity of fruit and fine tannins. An attractive aromatic dimension comes through on the finish. Smooth, savoury and rather elegant given the intensity of the fruit flavours. Drinking well now or Eric suggests cellaring up to 2016.

The French Sampler Case is **£99.87** with Free Delivery **saving £13** www.hawksheadwines.co.uk/offers.php?id=FRC033M
Alternatively, make up your own 12 bottle case from these wines and receive Free Delivery on your order – saving £6.99