

	Welcome: Small World, Big Wines	Grape Varieties	Cost £/Where from
White	<p>Riesling Chateau Ste Michelle – Columbia Valley, Washington State, Pacific North West USA 2020 Despite its very French/ Alsace looking label and name and slender Germanic bottle shape, this wine comes from Washington State USA and amazingly Chateau Ste Michelle is the largest single producer of Riesling in the world and Columbia Valley is renowned for its high quality Riesling (correctly pronounced “Reesling”).</p> <p>The grape is widely grown in NZ, NY state, Pacific North West, Ontario, South Africa, South Australia as well of course in Germany, Austria and Alsace. The grape variety offers style from steely to voluptuous, always perfumed. In fact, Riesling has a trademark “nose” of aviation fuel – try swirling it round in your glass and taking in a good sniff and you should detect a hint of petrol!</p> <p>This should be a nice dry start to get our palates ready – apple, white peach and minerality and crisp acidity with sweet citrus aromas ! – suggested as a good match with Indian curries – always a hard food to match – and great with crab and scallops and grilled fish. An absolute bargain at £6.87 and an alternative from some of the more ubiquitous grape varieties – don’t be deterred by the thought that this might be a return to some of those dodgy, sickly sweet German table wines of the late 1970s and 80s - very few of those were made with Riesling and the grape variety has been unfairly tarnished – and it is true to say the German wine industry has never fully recovered either for that matter as its wines are never as popular with consumers as those of just about everywhere else in the world!</p>	Riesling	Waitrose £9.16 but £6.87 on 25% off all wines offer
White	<p>“The Curator” AA Badenhorst White blend Swartland, Western Cape, South Africa 2020</p> <p>At our first Wine Discovery of this season, I mentioned that I went looking for a wine recommended by Will Lyons of the Sunday Times in his weekly column called “The Curator” – it was out of stock at that time but the Chenin Blanc we tried instead was an absolute hit.... and a bargain. Well luckily “The Curator” is back in stock and even more fortuitously was in the 25% off all wines offer so came in at £6.18. So we continue an unintentional theme of trying bargain South African white wines</p> <p>Again, not surprisingly for South Africa this has a high Chenin Blanc component as it is South Africa’s “signature” and for all intents, indigenous grape variety but it also has a fair bit of Chardonnay and Viognier and a hint of Semillon and Colombard. This is from the very highly respected wine makers Adi and Hein Badenhorst who makes each vintage’s blend unique with grapes from Swartland (Western Cape). They specialise in “Mediterranean” style blends and epitomise new South Africa dynamism</p>	Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay, Viognier, Semillon, Colombard	Waitrose £8.25 but less 25% on Waitrose all wines offer so £6.18

	<p>We should get great texture and aromas of peaches, apricots and citrus with some spice an length on the palate from the Viognier. The vineyards are mostly gnarled bushvines on granite and slate soil with grapes picked by hand. The ultimate blend of the proportions of grape varieties used in the wine is determined by a series of dinners with the blend options – apparently the blend that is finished first at one of these dinners is the one chosen as the blend for that vintage! – any volunteers, form an orderly queue!</p>		
White	<p>Malagousia – Domaine Zafeirakis , Thessaly, Central Greece 2021 The Zafeirakis family has carried out winemaking for 100 years and Christos Zafeirakis is the 4th generation and studied at the University of Athens and Turin and Milan to get a Master’s degree in Winery Management as well as working for several years in Italian wine regions and in 2005 planted his first organic vineyard – he is a young, pioneering Greek winemaker and credited with reviving the fortunes of various indigenous varieties to produce world class wines, including Malagousia which produces gloriously perfumed wine.</p> <p>We should get peachy, citrussy fruity and white flowers, depth of flavour and long finish and good structure making it a match with chicken or fish. This is the ethos and fun of the Wine Discovery! – trying a wine you are unlikely to have had or heard of before! No bargain basement wine but the wine offer helped us to bring this along for a bit of fun!</p>	Malagousia	Waitrose £11.91 but £8.93 on 25% off all wines wine offer
Red	<p>Sacchetto Pinot Nero 2021, Veneto, Italy Pinot Nero This is, not surprisingly, the grape we know better as Pinot Noir. Pinot Noir is the grape behind all the great Burgundy red wines but it is a fickle grape to cultivate – Pinot Noir is also grown in New Zealand with some top examples from Central Otago but at prices not dissimilar to those of Burgundy – Germany also produces some good Pinot Noir – this grape is less common in Italy where it would struggle with the temperatures further south but this example comes from the Veneto in North Eastern Italy and is an unoaked juicy example with plenty of raspberry and cherry fruit and a light wine ideal for lunch. The Cantina Sacchetto was founded in 1920 and is run by the founder’s son and daughter.</p>	Pinot Noir	£8.00 to group – from the Wine Alley
Red	<p>Cinsault – Stellenrust Wines, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2021 Stellenrust is one of the largest family owned wine estates in South Africa with a French influence. The family has made its 70 workers majority shareholders in a quarter of its vineyards and is Fairtrade certified. It was established in 1928 and half of its estates are in the Golden Triangle area of Stellenbosch, some of the best red wine soil in SA – it has a cool climate and sea breezes to nurture the wines. The wine has some oak ageing but should still be fruity and spicy.</p> <p>Cinsault is very much a French grape variety of the Rhone and Languedoc but also historically linked closely with South African wine – it was historically known as “Hermitage” and the grape was crossed with Pinot Noir to give a new grape variety in South Africa – “Pinot-age” which remains a USP for South Africa – it is a grape variety in its own right and the wine is not a blend of the two varieties. Some have commented on line that this wine has a Pinot Noir feel to it – maybe that’s why historically someone thought of crossing the two varieties!</p>	Cinsault	Waitrose £9.16 but £6.87 on 25% off all wines offer

Red	<p>Rosso Verona IGT – by Masi “Campofiorin” 2018 Masi is long established and top quality producer of Amarone wines in the Valpolicella region of the Veneto, west of Venice and near Verona in the foothills of the Italian Alps.</p> <p>Amarone (or to give it its full name, Amarone della Valpolicella) is produced using the Appassimento method by which the grapes are dried after picking on bamboo racks, before pressing, which intensifies the flavour – it also means an expensive wine, as the drying process means far less juice is extracted from the grapes!</p> <p>This “Campofiorin” wine is best thought of as a “baby Amarone” as it uses a double fermentation method that Masi invented combining both Appassimento grapes with ordinary wine. Although a long established producer, it is very innovative and is led by the current generation of the Boscaini family</p> <p>This should give us ripe cherries, plum and sweet spice – Amarone is often drunk by Italians at the end of a meal and is thought of as a contemplative wine that you might simply sit and savour - in a similar way to which we might enjoy a Port, so this seems a fitting final wine.</p> <p>You may also see wines called Valpolicella “Ripasso” – in this case the basic Valpolicella red table wine of this region has been “passed over” the remains of the grapes used to produce Amarone, again giving the wine added complexity but Campofiorin uses a different method to produce this modestly named “Verona Rosso”. The Italians are quite keen on wines using dried grapes and there are a number of methods used to achieve a similar style of wine.</p>	Corvina, Corvinone, Rondinella.	Waitrose normally £11.91 but 3 bottles at £8.93 on their 25% off all wines offer and one bottle at £10.00
-----	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------