

HAZLITT'S
1718

Batty
Langley's
—1724—

THE
ROOKERY
1764

Wine List

Our 'Theatre of Wine' list takes us on a journey through Georgian London, from the virtuosi of the Royal Society to the aristocratic dilettantes of the Grand Tour, and back to the bustling ale and chophouses of the city. The best wine carries with it a sense of place and of memory that connects past and present, near and far, and brings us back to the time when our three charming little hotels were built.

Brisk and Sparkling

Vignoble Guillaume Flute Enchantée Brut NV

£48 Btl | £15 175ml | £12.50 125ml

Superb Crémant made the same way as Champagne and using the same grape varieties, this is rich and generous but fruitier than its cooler cousins in Champagne.

Champagne André Thomas Cuvée Prestige Brut NV, Champagne

£90 Btl

A dangerously drinkable blanc de blancs from the Cotes de Sezanne. Long lees ageing gives depth of flavour and a low dosage makes for a crisp finish with a salty note that plays brilliantly against the lightly creamy palate.

Herbert Hall Brut Rosé 2019, Kent, UK

£95 Btl

A very limited production of some 2,500 bottles, this rosé focuses firmly on providing a bright, fruit-driven yet coolly restrained wine. Expect fresh strawberry, white peach, and a seamless, dry palate with a delicate note of rhubarb.

Champagne Philipponnat Royale Réserve Brut, Champagne, France

£120 Btl

The Philipponnat family have been making wine in Mareuil sur Aÿ since the 16th century and the pedigree shows. Lemon meringue and red apple show the elegance of this Pinot Noir led Champagne.

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Portugal: The Old Alliance

The alliance between England and Portugal is the world's oldest. Thanks to the treaty between Lord Methuen and the Marquis of Pombal in 1703, Portuguese wine was exempted from the heavy tariffs that burdened other continental imports, and not only did the English begin to settle in Porto as wine shippers but the wines of the Douro valley rapidly became the national tippable of the English. When Pitt the Younger was a boy his doctor prescribed him a pint of Port wine a day to strengthen his sickly constitution. Indeed, the red-faced, three bottle a day man became a stock figure of 18th-century literature.

Fresco Vinho Verde, 2024, Minho, Portugal

£35 Btl | £10.50 175ml | £8.50 125ml

A zesty blend of Alvarino and Trajadura bottled with Vinho Verde's signature spritz, this is wonderfully lively and revitalising. Fresh and direct, it shows clearly the Atlantic influence of the vineyards in the far North of Portugal and makes for bright, sunny drinking.

Niepoort Ruby Dum NV, Port (37.5cl)

£35 Btl | £9 100ml

A world away from generic ruby Ports, this is a beautifully fruity, juicy, plush wine that is all about plum and cherry fruit from old, low yielding vines in the heart of the Douro valley.

Barbeito Rainwater NV, Madeira (50cl)

£52 Btl | £14 100ml

Legend has it that this off-dry style of Madeira was first created when an open cask was filled with rainwater on a quayside. Centuries later no water is involved but the lightly nutty, tawny, raisin-filled style endures and is equally perfect as an aperitif or something to meditate on late into the evening.

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France and Spain: Noisy Neighbours

The first Bordeaux Chateau to bottle and market its own wine set up an ale house in London in 1666, the Pontac's Head, and here it was that the diarist Samuel Pepys first tasted Haut Brion, one of the finest wines of Bordeaux then as now. The wines of Spain had an even older reputation for their robust headiness, amply praised by Shakespeare's Falstaff, who declared, "If I had a thousand sons, the first human principle I would teach them should be to forswear thin potations and to addict themselves to sack [Sherry]". For much of the 18th century, Britain was at war with France and Spain. The famous wines of both countries were in short supply and usually subject to hefty duties that made them the preserve of the well to do. Consignments were sometimes seized as prizes on the high seas and sparked lively rivalry between bidders when they were auctioned off in London and Bristol.

Ferran Pradets Sauvignon Blanc 2024, Cotes Marmandais

£35 Btl | £10.50 175ml | £8.50 125ml

The high country behind Bordeaux offers some of the best value wines in France and the Sauvignon here has a note of sage and quince that should please lovers of Sancerre and white Bordeaux alike.

Domaine Verret Chablis 2023, Burgundy

£78 Btl

The unmistakable aroma of fresh, crusty bread, just-churned butter, and meadow flowers can only be Chablis. Pure, gentle and refined, this is a perfect treat.

Sous la Voute Merlot Cabernet, 2024 Côtes du Marmandais

£35 Btl | £10.50 755ml | £8.50 125ml

Plummy Merlot and peppery Cabernet Franc combine in this satisfying blend from deep South West France, just down river from Bordeaux.

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St Beatrice Rosé, 2024, Côtes de Provence

£35 Btl | £10.50 175ml | £8.50 125ml

An effortlessly elegant Côtes de Provence that transports us to the crystalline waters and picturesque villages of the Côte d'Azur. Quintessential, lightly coloured and delicately flavoured rosé that reminds us why Provence is often imitated but seldom bettered.

Estola Crianza, 2022, La Mancha, Spain

£35 Btl | £10.50 175ml | £8.50 125ml

This hearty blend of Tempranillo and Cabernet from La Mancha is full of creamy dark fruit, plum and blackcurrant.

Vignoble Guillaume Pinot Noir 2023, Franche-Comté

£55 Btl

60 miles east of Burgundy's Cote d'Or in the village of Charcenne, the Guillaume family are making wines that no lover of Burgundy should miss. Transparent, refined and poised with pretty redcurrant fruit alongside an autumnal tang.

Château Moulin de Grenet 2019, Lussac St Emilion

£65 Btl

Quintessential, comforting right bank Bordeaux. Although this estate is in the neighbouring commune of Lussac, it shows much of the class and breeding of top St Emilion. Ripe and plummy, the fruit is generous but lively, with fine acidity complemented by supple tannins.

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Italy, Greece and the East: The Grand Tour

No Georgian gentleman's education was complete if he had not undertaken the Grand Tour. Perhaps in the company of a tutor or a cultured, older friend he would set off on a pilgrimage to the centres of European art and civilisation. Italy was a must, with the ruins of Rome and the renaissance masterpieces of Florence the lodestars of the grand tourist, but the more ambitious struck out across Croatia and Styria, the Holy Roman Empire as it then was, and into the Balkans to venerate the marble remains of Greece. It was among the ruins of Greece and Italy that the romantic poets found the taste of the exotic that gave new life to the stern classicism of their schooling.

Jasci Marchesani Pecorino 2024, Abruzzo, Italy

£42 Btl

Lemon scented with generous pear fruit, this medium-bodied dry white hints at fennel and recalls the coast of the pearlescent Adriatic from which it hails.

Rosner Gruner Veltliner 2024, Kamptal, Austria

£55 Btl

From a young organic producer in Langenlois, at the heart of Kamptal, this is an absolutely classic expression of Gruner with notes of dill, dried grass and lifted light herbal pepper notes leading into a long salty finish.

Jasci Marchesani Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2024, Abruzzo, Italy

£42 Btl

From organic vineyards in the South of Abruzzo on the coast at Vasto, this is full of black cherries and rich, generous southern spice, but with real lift and a hint of violet to keep everything in balance.