



# the bullionaire

BULLION 21A

## Welcome to 2021 Bullion Style

Well it looks like COVID will be with us for another year, but I sense we are heading into a "New Normal" with life moving on as we deal with vaccines and random, sudden lock downs. One thing we can look forward to however is good wine. The current selections offer some great escapes.

First up is an aged Tempranillo from Rioja in Spain. There is no need to cellar the wine, for the winery has already done the job. Just open it up, decant for a little and then enjoy. You will love this wine.



Alsace has always had a soft spot in my heart. I visited the region several years back and it is just beautiful. Medieval villages dotting the landscape, with cobble stone streets, thatched roofs and vineyards rolling down the hills to the back doors of the houses. The wines are sensational being led by their crisp aromatic white wines. Think Riesling, Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc. We have chosen a Pinot Blanc and it is a real crowd pleaser. The last 2 red wines are from Victoria, a sensational Pinot Noir from the Mornington Peninsula and a Shiraz from Heathcote.

So here are 4 wines, perfect for you, your family and friends.

### Matt the Bullionaire



#### 2012 LAN RESERVA TEMPRANILLO / MAZUELO *Rioja, Spain*

Bodegas Lan is one of the younger wineries of Rioja, established in 1972. Tempranillo is the king of Rioja and makes up 92 % of this wine, with the balance being Mazuelo, the local name for Carginan. It makes sense that I liked this wine, for I just love Carignan. It is a variety you seldom see by itself, but when you look at the great red wine blends of Europe, you will find Carignan in the mix.

The wine reveals a lovely bouquet of dried blueberry, raisin, black pepper, cigar box and oak. Sensual tannins, with well-integrated acidity finish off the palate. It is medium bodied and utterly drinkable. You don't sense this wine is nearly 10 years old, for it is still dynamic and engaging. But you do get a lovely sense of time when you drink this wine, with its velvety smooth lushness.



#### 2019 KIENTZLER PINOT BLANC *Alsace, France*

The Kientzler domaine is a small family-run estate consisting of just 14 hectares of vines, of which 3.7 hectares are classified Grand Cru. The total output is a tiny 6000 cases, so as you can imagine their focus is very much on quality.

For the past 30 years this Domaine's passion has been for dry and gastronomic wines. This Pinot Blanc is a great example. An unoaked style of wine which is all about mineral freshness and floral aromas. The full-bodied nature of the wine is brought together with this lovely nuttiness and cracking acidity. You also get a touch of apple and pear aromas with a juicy and refreshing palate. I can see why this winery is regarded as one of the region's top producers.



#### 2019 KERRI GREENS FOOTHILLS PINOT NOIR *Mornington Peninsula, VIC*

The Kerri Greens winery was established in 2013 when two friends and winemakers - Tom McCarthy and Lucas Blanck decided to invest in a neglected vineyard. The Kerri Greens philosophy has become entrenched in the vineyard ever since, as they have gone on to purchase 2 more sites across the Mornington Peninsula.

Viticulture and winemaking are very hands on and low fi. The wine is brimming with plush ripe fruit, think cherries, strawberries, spice and some dried herbs. The oak is subtle but frames the wine, combined with fine tannins and a silky elegant finish. The wine offers great complexity and texture.



#### 2018 PAUL OSICKA SHIRAZ *Heathcote, VIC*

Established in 1955 by former Czech vigneron Paul Osicka, this is Heathcote's oldest producer; 2021 marking the 66th anniversary of the planting of the vineyard. Heathcote is a smallish region in Victoria and it is all about Shiraz. It has a dense, inky black core with a deep dark purple hue. There are these lovely aromatics of freshly crushed blackberry, dark plum and liquorice tinged by slight floral tinges of violets. But it is on the palate where the wine really shines. Rich, velvety and juicy. Red berries dominate, with a touch of liquorice and a touch of elegant oak. Silky smooth with a powerful yet elegant finish. This is a great combination in a wine and I challenge you to open only one bottle at a time.

Enjoy the wines! **Matt**



Stu Freeman and Matt Eagan, The Bullion Cellars Team



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