



# the bullionaire

BULLION 210

## Fine Wines for the Festive Season

2021 will not go down as a great year, but it will certainly be remembered for a lot of negative reasons. A "Lock Down" is something I hope to never experience again. I have however enjoyed a lot of wines over this year and want to thank you for your continued support. We love what we do and offer at Bullion Cellars so don't be afraid to spread the word, as a recommendation from you will go along way to convincing your friends and family to also gain access to these great wines.

We finish the year with a great couple of Aussie wines, a Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir and a South Australian Cabernet Sauvignon. We then have a very on trend Tempranillo based wine from Rioja in Spain. The white wine is something a little special and different, it is a Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire Valley from one of the great white winemakers in France. It is Sauvignon Blanc, but not as you know it. I am sure you will love it as much as do.

I hope you will enjoy the silly season and we will touch base again in 2022 - Let's hope for the Roaring Twenties to really kick in.

### Matt the Bullionaire



#### 2019 QUEALY MORNINGTON PENINSULA PINOT NOIR VIC, Australia

A winery created from Mornington Peninsula royalty. Kathleen Quealy and her husband founded the very successful T'Gallant wine in the 1990's, being the first winery to plant Pinot Gris in Australia. They were so successful they were purchased by the largest wine company in the land. They were always going to get back into the vineyard and soils of the Mornington and Quealy is that new winery.

The fruit was selected for ripeness and this is the most generous of the Estate's Pinot Noirs. A big sweet, sexy Pinot with generous middle palate and excellent length. Aromas of cherries and plums are matched with silky tannins and a generous mouthfeel.



#### 2017 SALOMON ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON Finnis River, SA

A fantastic example of a South Australian Cabernet from the masters of Gruner Veltliner in Austria. Through a love affair of Australia and Penfolds, this winemaking family, with over 220 years in Austria, purchased a block of land near McLaren Vale and planted a vineyard in 1995.

There is a richness to this wine which is so enjoyable. It is very deep red in colour, with expressive aromas of blueberry and blackcurrant, with hints of dark chocolate. However, it is on the palate where this wine really shines, as it is just so drinkable. It finishes with lovely velvety tannins. Like most Cabernets, there is always another variety blended in to help fill out the middle palate, in this case 10% Merlot.

The wine is barrel aged for 18 months in 300-litre hogsheads (approx. 50% new French oak). A very classy, elegant, moorish glass of wine.



#### 2019 BODEGAS EXOPTO BOZETO DE EXOPTO Rioja, Spain

Bozeto means 'sketch' or 'outline' and as the name implies, this is the winemaker's entry wine, but that is a disservice to this wine, or more accurate, an indication of the high quality of all his wines. It's a delicious wine and a blend of three varietals: Tempranillo (50%) from a selection of mature vines in Álbalos (high county Rioja Alta). Abalos Graciano (10%), adding freshness and finesse. Grenache / Garnacha represents 40% of the blend, from sandy, river stone terroir of El Agudo, a 60-year-old plot at Alfaro on Monte Yerga (in Rioja Oriental).

2019 was a warmer Mediterranean vintage, and the wine is soft and approachable, juicy and fruit driven with creamy, full-bodied plum and berry characters. There is a lovely purity to this wine that is polished and elegant. The wine also shows excellent tannin and oak integration, unusual for a youngish Rioja.



#### 2019 FRANCOIS CHIDANE SAUVIGNON TOURAINE Loire Valley, France

François Chidaine is revered for his pristine Chenin Blancs from Montlouis and Vouvray in the Loire Valley. However, for a fraction of the price of those wines, you can get this touch of Chidaine magic made from Sauvignon Blanc. The viticulture here is strictly organic and biodynamic. The 2019 is a brilliant vintage; pure, delicious, layered with pulpy, melon type characters, with the fruit clearly picked fully ripe. The wine finishes with stone fruits and gentle spice rather than any of the stereotypical characters we often associate with the variety. It is very clear this wine is not from Marlborough NZ. A great wine with a depth of flavour and complexity you expect from wines significantly more expensive.



Stu Freeman and Matt Eagan, The Bullion Cellars Team



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