



the bullionaire

BULLION 228

Everything gets better with age



It is a little unusual to be able to purchase wines in Australia with a bit of age. Most wineries are selling their wines from 1-3 vintages back, so whenever we are offered some older wines we jump at the chance. We were lucky enough to find 2 great wines from the 2015 and 2016 vintage. First up we have a great Alsace wine from 2015 and the ancestral home of Pinot Gris. Then one of the better wines I have tried this year, a 2016 Shiraz from Great Western in Western Australia. The last 2 wines come from the 2020 vintage, we have a great GSM (Grenache Shiraz Mouvedre) blend from the Barossa and a unique slant on Tempranillo and Grenache from McLaren Vale.

Enjoy these wines during the cooler months, I know we will.

Matt the Bullionaire



2016 FLUX I SHIRAZ, GREAT SOUTHERN *Western Australia*

Flux is the experimental side of the Harewood winery in Western Australia. It allows the winemaker a little more freedom in the styles of wines he wants to produce. We loved this wine when we first tasted it, as it is a very sophisticated take on Shiraz, with a lot more than just primary fruit. The palate is plush and moreish with bright crunchy berries leading to a complex mid palate of chocolate and more liquorice with a long finish of fine velvety tannins. This wine will easily handle another 10 years in the cellar. But why wait?



2020 MINISTRY OF CLOUDS TEMPRANILLO GRENACHE *McLaren Vale* **75% Tempranillo 25% Grenache**

Ministry of Clouds is the creation of Bernice Ong and Julian Forwood who decided to leave the security of the corporate wine world for the adventure of their own wine venture. They have quickly become the darling of the Sommelier set. This wine is mainly Tempranillo; however, the 25% Grenache really adds a lift, especially knowing that parcels come from vineyards that are over 100 years old. This is a seriously good wine with intensity and harmony. It combines the bright notes of dry grown Tempranillo, with the perfume and succulence of old vine Grenache; medium bodied and deliciously moreish.



2020 MASSENA MOONLIGHT RUN *Barossa Valley* **Grenache 36%, Mataro 34%, Shiraz 30%**

THE BAROSSA VALLEY AT ITS BEST

Massena are one of the young guns in the Barossa and are making some sensational wines. This wine is an equal blend of Barossa Valley Mataro (Mouvedre), Grenache, and Shiraz, with the Grenache coming off extremely old vines, well over 100 years (but more like 150). This is a beautiful red wine, full of energy and precision. Intensely aromatic, youthful, with an energetic nose that dishes up scents of Christmas cake like plums, blueberries and liquorice followed by subtle incense infusions of vanillin cedar and spice. And yes, the colour is as dark as a midnight run through the vineyards.



2015 ANDRE KIENTZLER PINOT GRIS *Alsace, France*

The Kientzler domaine is a small family-run estate consisting of just 12 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. An unoaked style of wine which is all about mineral freshness and floral aromas, all 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.



Stu Freeman and Matt Eagan, The Bullion Cellars Team



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