



the bullionaire

BULLION 24A

A GOOD MIX FOR THE NEW YEAR



Photo supplied by Jasia Allen – December 2023

For the first selection of the new year, we have decided to mix it up a little. As we are still getting some warm weather, we have decided to supply 2 white wines. When we started Bullion Cellars, it was always our intention to select 2 reds and 2 whites. However, I quickly discovered that most of our customers prefer to drink red wine, especially as the wines get a little more expensive. This has never surprised me, but it has always disappointed me a little. You see I love white wine as much as I love Red and Rose wines, and I have always found the white wines in our selections to be of the highest quality, offering very distinctive and interesting wines.

So, let's start with the 2 white wines we have chosen. A Chardonnay from the cool climate of Orange in NSW, and a very lovely and enticing white wine from Piemonte in Italy from the Gavi region, famous for its white wines from the Cortese grape variety. Australian Chardonnay has become my go to wine at the moment; plus, it is my wife's favourite wine, so I am always on the lookout for great Chardonnay.

We then move to the reds, a Shiraz Cabernet blend from the Margaret River and a Grenache based wine from one of our favourite regions, the village of Lirac in the Cote Du Rhone in France. The wines of the Margaret River rarely disappoint and the wine in our selection is no exception and the wines of Lirac always offer some of the best quality and value in wine today. They are always a joy to drink.



2021 CHATEAU DE MANISSY LIRAC ROUGE *France*

Chateau De Manissy is in the region of Lirac, Cote Du Rhone France, tracing its history back to the 17th Century. Fast forward to the early 20th Century and the estate was bequeathed to a religious order of monks. Then in 2003, the estate was purchased by Florian Andre who has taken the wines to new levels. The vineyards are worked organically and biodynamically throughout.

This wine is quite intense, yet also elegant and smooth at the same time. You get lovely aromas of red fruit, intermingled with the very distinctive "Garrigue" aromas that are a feature of this area. Garrigue is a term for the wild hill side vegetation of the Mediterranean Coast that instead of describing a single aroma in wine, refers to a mix of lavender, juniper, thyme, rosemary and sage. Once you taste and smell this you cannot get it out of your head. A great example of the region and style.



2021 WINES OF MERRITT ROUGE (CABERNET SYRAH) *Margaret River, Australia*

Wines of Merritt is a relatively new winery in the Margaret River taking advantage of their contacts in the area to source small volumes of high-quality fruit from vineyards, some of which they have worked for before. They make small batch, non-intervention wines from unusual varieties.

This is 50:50 blend with Syrah sourced from a vineyard in Rosbrook and Cabernet Sauvignon from Willyabrup. The wine is aged in older barrels to ensure the fruit shines through onto the palate. There is a freshness and lightness combined with a generous palate that makes this wine really stand out. It has lovely cool climate, spicy peppery aromas, with bright plum, red cherry fruit and a stunning weight.



2022 RENZAGLIA CHARDONNAY *Orange NSW Australia*

Renzaglia is a small family-owned winery based in a small town South of Bathurst, called O'Connell, very off the beaten track. They source their wines from this home vineyard, as well as a number of vineyards from the close by region of Orange.

The fruit for this wine has been sourced from the See Saw Balmoral Vineyard in Orange. This wine ticks a lot of boxes and has a lot of winemaking techniques synonymous with fine wines. (Barrel Fermentation 20% new oak, Partial Malo Lactic Fermentation, Lees stirring etc) All these things take time and money and a sign of great confidence in the vineyard and the wine by the Renzaglia family

Expect melons and orchard fruits on a full-bodied palate. What is nice is the touch of oak and butterscotch that comes through at the end of palate. This is a serious Chardonnay and a joy to drink.



2021 LA RAIA GAVI DOCG *Piedmonte, Italy*

The grapes for this delicious white wine are grown biodynamically without any herbicides or pesticides on the Ravi estates which is set in the heart of the Gavi's rolling hills. The Estate was purchased in 2003 by the Rossi Cairo family who have worked hard to restore biodiversity and nurture the local eco system. They have taken huge strides in improving the quality of the wines.

Gavi is a DOCG region in the northern Italian region of Piemonte and in my opinion the most traditional of the white wines from this region, and in most cases, also the best. Clean, clinging, and vibrant, it evokes the orchard in its aromas and flavours of fresh herbs and green apples, with compelling notes of minerality, lemon zest and sea salt.

Enjoy the Wines,
Matt, The Bullionaire



Stu Freeman and Matt Eagan, The Bullion Cellars Team