

# Decanter

PASSIONATE ABOUT WINE SINCE 1975

228  
wines tasted  
in this issue

## Vintage Tuscany

Chianti Classico & Brunello new releases, plus the beauty of Siena

## Grapes & gales

Exploring South Africa's southernmost wines

## Relaxing reads

Hugh Johnson, Andrew Jefford, Summer cocktails, Wine wisdom



# the taste of SUMMER

Sunshine in a glass: Provence rosé, Albariño & Alvarinho, Pouilly-Fuissé, Asti & Moscato d'Asti



of kirsch, a touch of toast and smoke, some chalky minerality all wrapped in smoky opulence. Vibrant sour cherry and saline minerality give a long, mouthwatering, edgy finish. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Alc** 13%

**5** **Château Gasqui, Silice, Côtes de Provence 2019** 93

£25 OWT Leeds  
Pale red-copper. Perfumed, almost grapey, red fruit aromas. On the palate a beautiful explosion of ripe red fruit, creamy apple compote, a touch of orange peel, marmalade, crushed citrus and some pretty leafy acidity. Quirkily different, intensely fruity and fresh. A gorgeous wine from a biodynamic producer, who is not afraid of ripe fruit and who makes wines which age with ease. **Drink** 2021-2029 **Alc** 14%

**6** **Château la Gordanne, Le Cirque des Grives, Côtes de Provence 2019** 93

N/A UK lagordonne.com  
This pale pink rosé has delicate notes of nuts, buttered toast and a whisper of rum and raisin ice cream. Intensity and confidence to handle sweet ripe fruit, bruised ripe apples, buttery almost toffee-biscuity ripeness with great intensity, power and long fresh acidity giving beguiling length. Not enormous depth or complexity, but so beautifully delicious, it can be excused. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Alc** 13.5%

**7** **Bernard Magrez, Le Clos des Grands Muraires, Côtes de Provence 2020** 92

N/A UK bernard-magrez.com  
Pale salmon. Red fruit on nose, with juicy cherries. Creamy red fruit on the palate, barely ripe raspberry, juicy red gooseberry, fresh peaches and perfumed, floral notes. Nice weight and outstanding structure, luscious yet discreet. Epitome of a rosé, rather than a white, with abundant red fruit. Elegant, delicious and incredibly drinkable. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Alc** 14.5%

**8** **Château de l'Escarelle, Les Deux Anges, Coteaux Varois en Provence 2020** 92

£15.78-£17 Alliance Wine, Iron & Rose, Vindinista, Waistcoat Wines  
Pale pink. Although not massively expressive on the nose, this wine has powerfully intense fruit. Vibrant raspberries, cranberries and lingonberries behind barely ripe apricots and pears, with mouthwatering acidity and mineral core. A seriously delicious rosé, which combines fruity delicacy with extremely well-balanced, crisp and zingy acidity and structure. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2023 **Alc** 13%

**9** **Château de Roquefort, Corail, Côtes de Provence 2020** 92

£16-£16.95 (2019) AdVinture, Terra Wines  
Slightly darker pink, although it's paler than in previous years. Lots of juicy red berries on the nose, spilling over on the palate with incredibly opulent, rich, juicy fruit. Structured, with brambles, crisp redcurrants, slightly floral (tobacco flowers!) – a proud proclamation of a fruity rosé style wine with a mineral core, vibrant fresh acidity and a long, creamy finish. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2023 **Alc** 12%

**10** **Château Maravenne, Don de Dieu, Côtes de Provence La Londe 2020** 92

£25 The Solent Cellar  
Pale pink. Floral and red berry aromas. On the palate, crisp red fruit, redcurrants and dried cranberries layered with intensely ripe cassis, peaches and a touch of orange, held beautifully together with creamy acidity of a chalky texture. Real La Londe character coming through here, with a dark mineral inner core and some saline notes. This wine keeps the Provence character with some serious, well-integrated weight, complexity and lovely depth. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2025 **Alc** 13%

**11** **Estandon, Légende, Côtes de Provence 2016** 92

£23 Matthew Clark  
Golden yellow. Supple, subtle, gentle oak on the nose. The palate starts with creamy richness and ripe, juicy redcurrants supported by long, fresh citrus acidity, crunchy green apples and delicate leafiness. The whole is balanced by nicely integrated oak with inner black fruit structure, texture and a grippy phenolic finish. Stylish, and the flagship wine of a major cooperative. **Drink** 2021-2023 **Alc** 13%

**12** **Château Aspras, Tomares Ballus, Côtes de Provence 2020** 91

£18.49 Bancroft  
Pale pink. Mineral, floral and lavender aromas. The floral notes, so typical of Cinsault (50%), open out to vibrant redcurrant fruit, some bitter almonds and creamy white acidity. The fruit is ripe and weighty,



Château Pas du Cerf (see p24)

with lovely creaminess that just melts in the mouth. The serious structure is elegant and shows the delicacy typical of the vintage and the freshness from a cooler site. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2023 **Alc** 13.5%

**13** **Château Léoube, Secret de Léoube, Côtes de Provence 2020** 91

£23.68-£32 Exel, Farthinghoe Fine Wine, Fine Wine Direct, Lockett Bros, Millésima, The Fine Wine Co  
A classic, pale pink rosé with crisp, perfectly ripe white peach aromas. Lacy creaminess continues on the palate with unctuous ripe peach, hints of fresh orange, crunchy red apple, perfumed exotic fruit and zesty citrus acidity. This is a classy, structured and well put-together wine with vibrant, mouthwatering, saline length. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Alc** 13.5%

**14** **Château Minuty, 281, Côtes de Provence 2020** 91

£43.33-£62.80 Fine Wine Direct, Hedonism, Millésima, Roberson, Saxty, Vinvm  
Really lovely. Very pale watery pink. Red apple and blossom nose, the perfumed, floral notes spilling over onto the palate before abundant notes of fresh redcurrants, ripe cranberries, crisp red apples and a touch of sour cherry chime in. Lots of extraction but not a fruit bomb. Boundless freshness with a hint of maritime minerality, mouthwatering bite and length. Beautifully packaged with a bright blue neck and shoulder. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Alc** 12.5%

**15** **Château Roubine, Inspire, Côtes de Provence Cru Classé 2020** 91

£49.99 The Grapevine  
While many rosés suffer from over-reductive winemaking, giving fresh if somewhat monotonous wine, it takes a confident winemaker to play with the fruit. This rose-gold rosé is full of soft, honeyed peach, dried Hunza apricots, creamy butteriness. A delicious juxtaposition of sweet ripe fruit with saline minerality and a vibrant, crisp mineral finish. Atypical of many straight, crisp, fruity rosés, this is intriguing and delicious. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Alc** 13%

**16** **Château Saint-Maur, Clos de Capelune, Côtes de Provence Cru Classé 2020** 91

£34.25 Astrum Wine Cellars, 8 Wines, Sociovino  
Pale pink gold. Crisp white fruit with slightly leafy freshness on the nose hints at an elegant, classic rosé. On the palate there is an explosion of ripe richness with juicy and perfumed peaches, violets and cherries. Vibrant acidity and saline length remind you that this comes from the hills overlooking St-Tropez. Not perfumed, but beautiful complexity of fruit and flowers, with a fine chalky acidity and long, fresh acidity. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Alc** 13.5%

**17** **Château Tour de l'Evêque, Pétale de Rose, Côtes de Provence 2020** 91

£18.50 Corney & Barrow, Hic  
Very pale pink. Buttery red fruit aromas. Rich and silky with peach, ripe raspberry jam and cherry fruit, blue flowers, hints of bitter almond, sweet spice and white pepper. Long, vibrant, fresh minerality and clean, chalky acidity. Rich and intense, shyly opening up to some vanilla. Unctuous and full-bodied, fresh and crisp with a perfect balance of fruit. This is the original pale, fresh rosé since the late 1980s. Organic. **Drink** 2021-2023 **Alc** 13.3% ▶

