

Grandjó Vinho Branco 2021

Portugal - Douro Region

ABV 12.5%

A blend of Gewurztraminer, Voisinho and Moscato Bianco grapes, producing a light, soft wine with hints of citrus fruits, peach, melon and honey.

Serve very chilled with shellfish, cured meats and tapas.

Priced around £5.70 and available from portugalvineyards.com

WINES FROM WALES

Chateau Caronne St. Gemme 2006

I have, its true, previously stated that I would be presenting “Wines from Wales”, but I have to admit to you that they aren’t actually Welsh (as if you didn’t know already). But of that, more anon.

I first became aware of Caronne St. Gemme in 2001. I know that it was that year because it was the time of the foot and mouth outbreak, which especially hit the north of England.

Walking was not altogether banned and I recall on one occasion planning an away weekend setting forth to our favourite Yorkshire Wolds. But frustratingly we were unable to walk some of the routes and made it up as we went along.

And of course when we were furthest from the car, it rained, and it rained. It rained a lot.

And, so well-soaked, we decided to cut our losses and dry out at our hotel for the night, the Londesborough Arms at Market Weighton. There, our welcoming room had a big log fire, and Shakespear's words from Hamlet "to sleep, perchance to dream" were etched on the headboard. Before dinner we asked for a bottle of wine in the room, and you've guessed, it was CSG.

And so, over many years, whenever I have perused the catalogue of Straker Son and Chadwick in South Wales, the best wine auctioneers outside London, I would notice if CSG was listed.

I've bought the odd bottle, and was lucky to acquire a case of this 2006 vintage in Abergavenny the best part of 10 years ago.

Sadly, after tonight, I will no longer have any left.

As for the wine.

The vineyards of CSG are located on the left bank of the Gironde in the Central Medoc, near St. Laurent-Medoc and not far from The Ch of Gruaud Larose, Camensac, La Tour Carnet and Belgrave. The Estate was established in its present form 1900. It is not large, extending to only 45 hectares, planted with approx. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. The vines are grown on a good gravel plateau over an iron-rich sandstone base.

The vines of this highly regarded Cru Borgeois wine are typically 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot. Later wines than this one have tended to have a lower % of CS to M.

The Chateau's owner, Jean Noney, has recently introduced the inovative process of "green harvesting", where unripened grapes are removed during the hand picking with the aim of balancing leaf

area and fruit weight, a sort of thinning, which allows the remaining clusters to fully ripen.

The wine is fermented in S/S or epoxy-lined concrete tanks, and held in barriques for 12 months. It is a medium bodied wine and tasting notes for later vintages suggest :baked cassis, kirsch, stewed plums and rose hips. As somewhat of an expert on the taste of stewed plums, I have not detected any in this wine.

It is difficult to find out just what have been the best vintages for this CSG. 2006 was not a memorable vintage in the Central Medoc, but who knows for this 16 year old wine.

It has an abv of 13.

19 Crimes.

DENOMINATED SINGLE FELONIES; PUNISHABLE BY TRANSPORTATION,

Whipping, Imprisonment, the Pillory,
and Hard Labour in Houses of Correction,
according to the Nature of the offence.

the PRINCIPAL of which are the FOLLOWING:

- 1- Grand Larceny, Theft above the value of One Shilling.
- 2- Petty Larceny, Theft under One Shilling.
- 3- Buying or receiving Stolen Goods, Jewels, and Plate...
- 4- Stealing Lead, Iron, or Copper, or buying or receiving.
- 5- Impersonating an Egyptian.
- 6- Stealing from Furnished Lodgings.
- 7- Setting fire to Underwood.
- 8- Stealing Letters, advancing the Postage, and secreting the money.
- 9- Assault with an intent to Rob.
- 10- Stealing Fish from a Pond or River.
- 11- Stealing Roots, Trees, or Plants, or destroying them.
- 12- Bigamy.
- 13- Assaulting, Cutting, or Burning clothes.
- 14- Counterfeiting the Copper Coin...
- 15- Clandestine Marriage.
- 16- Stealing a Shroud out of a Grave.
- 17- Watermen carrying too many passengers on the Thames, if any drowned.
- 18- Incurrible rogues who broke out of Prison and persons reprieved from Capital Punishment.
- 19- Embeuling Naval Stores, in certain cases.