

white

to order email wine@swig.co.uk

£5.95

13% alc.

Cape Chamonix Blanc, Franschhoek, South Africa 2009

There's no escaping it, this is the cheapest wine on the list. We could put a positive spin on it and call it the least expensive or the best priced or we could dress it up in political correctness and call it differently-valued or price-impaired. The fact remains that people avoid the cheapest wine for fear of being tarred by association. Pity, because there's a lot of fun to be had with this perky blend of Sauvignon, Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay. It has a fresh crisp taste, which doesn't mean it tastes of fresh crisps, and offers a lively burst of apples, pears and chopped herbs. Personality is usually the first casualty of economically-challenged wines, but this one has plenty on offer.



£7.95

12.5% alc.

Pinot Blanc Philippe Zinck, Alsace, France 2008

'Keep it simple' should be the byword for Pinot Blanc and this subtly underworked example is full of sprightly lemon and quince flavours, held within a dainty, creamy, perfectly-proportioned body. It is dry and as fresh as a daisy.



normally £8.95 **SAVE 12%**

£8.95

13% alc.

Sauvignon de Touraine, Domaine Mardon, Loire Valley, France 2008

Did you know that the A-Z maps of London contain deliberate mistakes as a proof of copyright to prevent unauthorized duplication? Well, we have taken a leaf out of their book and put what might outwardly appear like howling cock-ups into a number of our offers and labels. You will notice on the back of this Sauvignon de Touraine, for example, that the wine has been imported by Swing wine merchants. Rest safe in the knowledge that this is a deliberate mistake and not an oversight by the label designer, who is currently seeking employment elsewhere. Anyway, the wine itself is a sensational bargain, really bright and aromatic, and alongside the usual notes of lime and apple has a delicious hint of passion fruit and soft strawberries. This fleshes it out into something with juicy weight and breadth as well as race and verve.

Make no mistake, this is fabulous value!



£9.95

13.5% alc.

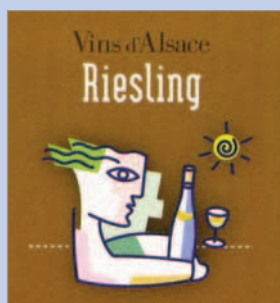
Cape Chamonix Sauvignon Blanc Reserve, Franschhoek, South Africa 2008

It has been a long time since any of us were able to make someone go "ooh" so we leave it to our wines to perform that trick for us these days. This bright young Sauvignon, which spent its gap year in French oak, has the power to make you go weak at the knees without even touching you. The aroma alone is enough to make your heart skip a beat. In there you will find ginger, lime, galangal, coriander and grapefruit; allow it closer and lemongrass and apple sorbet will emerge. There's a wonderful flow of delicate, tantric flavours that caress the palate with the nimblest and deftest of touches. It seems vulgar to speak of money in these circumstances, so please just leave £9.95 on the bedside table before you leave. A wine of easy virtue.



£8.95

12.5% alc.



Riesling Philippe Zinck, Alsace, France 2007

It has been a long time coming but The Age of Riesling is now upon us. This most noble of grape varieties has finally gained acceptance beyond the cabal of enthusiasts who have, until now, met in secret to indulge their guilty pleasure. This zingy number from just outside the absurdly beautiful village of Eguisheim in Alsace is wonderfully crisp and dry, yet with plenty of sappy stuffing suggesting limes and green mango.

white to order call freephone **08000 272 272**

£9.95 13.5% alc.

Tamar Ridge 'Devil's Corner' Pinot Grigio, Tasmania, Australia 2008

It says a lot about the state of Italian Pinot Grigio that we have had to go all the way to Tasmania to find one we like. Italian versions are normally fermented in steel tanks before passing through a charisma bypass machine that rids them of any personality whatsoever. This cheeky little Tasmanian example is much more fun. It's so pert and peachy that you want to squeeze its bum. It displays a juicy character full of nectarine and candied lemon with a little bit of texture leaning slightly towards the style of a New Zealand Pinot Gris, but without the weight or thickness of fruit. More of an everyday quaffer than a vinous masterpiece, but very lovable.



£9.95 13% alc.

Blanc de Noir Edoardo Miroglio, Thracian Valley, Bulgaria 2008

A white wine made from a red grape variety by an Italian based in Bulgaria. It sells itself really. Making white wine from Pinot Noir is hardly breaking news, as Dom Perignon would tell you if he were still alive, but it's the first time we've tried one from Bulgaria and it's very decent.

Bright, crisp and packed with pithy citrus flavours, it has a chalky seam running through it much like one would find in Chablis. For something refreshingly different to accompany shellfish and simply cooked seafood dishes, this is just the ticket.



£9.95 12.5% alc.

Gruener Veltliner, Jurtschitsch Sonnhof, Kamptal, Austria 2008

A very polite wine that suits an evening of lively banter because it's more of a listener than a talker. It's light and bright with a lovely lift to the palate displaying simple pear, apple and white pepper flavours. It's one to have in the fridge for when the neighbours pop round. They'll be suitably impressed but they won't outstay their welcome.



£9.95 13.5% alc.

Flagstone Two Roads Icon White, South Africa 2005

This is like drinking a circus! It's a fantastic spectacle of flavours, with lime oil, tangerine, lemongrass, lavender honey and fresh thyme juggling for attention on the nose. On the palate it is whipped into shape by bright, tangy citrus notes and a grassy herbaceous edge, then tamed by creamy, toasty oak, vanilla and burnt caramel. Bruce Jack, the ringmaster, has assembled a fabulous troupe of performers, including Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Semillon and a little sideshow act called Morio Muscat. It's an admirably creative, complex wine that flies across the palate with the greatest of ease.



£11.50 12.5% alc.

Chateau Turcaud Blanc 'Futs de Chene' Bordeaux Sec, France 2007

Like a placebo drug, the price of a wine exerts an 'expectancy effect' and in the case of this awesome Sauvignon/Semillon blend, we could have doubled the price and, in a funny way, you might have liked it more. It has a classic, wooded white Bordeaux nose, combining rich and vibrant fruit flavours of grapefruit, lime cordial, dried apricots, white flowers and candied lemons with a host of warmer notes from the barrel-ageing such as smoked almonds, toast, vanilla and creamy wood which lie harmoniously on top. It has an intense concentration of tangy lime and lemon fruit at its core, from which all these other glorious flavours fan out. It's full-bodied and wonderfully complex and refreshing.



£11.50 13.8% alc.

Thelema 'Sutherland' Barrel-Fermented Chardonnay, Elgin, South Africa 2007

Exclusive to Swig and not to be confused with Thelema's better known 'Stellenbosch' Chardonnay, this wine comes from their new estate in Elgin, the booming region to the south east, where wine farms are popping up faster than travel agents in Warsaw. It's a really smart little barrel-fermented Chardonnay, with bright citrus and honeysuckle notes and delicate hints of oatmeal, nuts and vanilla. It stands out for the purity and clarity of the fruit and the subtle integration of the toasty oak. We are proud to be its sole importer into the UK.



white

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£11.50 12% alc.

Riesling 'Trocken' Weingut Stefan Winter, Rheinhessen, Germany 2008

We have such an intolerance to compound nouns that the sight of an old-fashioned German wine label brings us out in hives, so it is with some relief that Stefan Winter has bucked the trend and produced a 'no nonsense' label announcing nothing other than the grape, the vintage, the region and the producer. This refreshingly clean approach carries through to the wine itself, which is fiendishly pure, linear and refined. Packed with shiny lime and ripe peach flavours it is wonderfully racy and zesty. Drink it now or wait three years for it to reach peak fitness.



£12.50 12.5% alc.

Lilium Chardonnay, Gelso della Valchetta, Rome, Lazio 2008

From vineyards planted within Rome itself, this elegant, aristocratic Chardonnay is delightfully different. No oak is used in its vinification, so it is a pure expression of fruit. The particular clone of Chardonnay that they use is quite unusual and brings delightfully gentle notes of lilies, jasmine, lemon and spice. Added to that is a hint of the volcanic rock, on which the vines grow, which adds a degree of smoky complexity and intrigue as it intertwines with the lemon-coated acidity. For anyone used to fat, oaky Chardonnays, this is the polar opposite and a wine to be enjoyed as an aperitif or with light fish dishes.



£12.50

14% alc.



Tamar Ridge Kayena Vineyard Gewurztraminer, Tasmania, Australia 2007

There's no point in holding back Gewurztraminer for the sake of fashionable restraint. It's like trying to fit Brian May's hair into a fez. It's an exuberant variety and should be enjoyed for its pungent aroma of lychee, rosewater and spice, which can be found in abundance in this Tasmanian example. Rich, full-bodied and slightly waxy in texture, it shows the freshness of its maritime climate in the blade of citrus that cuts through it and, despite the richness and opulence on show, it finishes dry and crisp so it can be enjoyed with spicy, aromatic south east asian dishes.

£12.50

13.5% alc.

Tokara Elgin Sauvignon Blanc, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2008

Sometimes when we are offered exclusivity to import a fantastic wine like this, we experience a rapid emotional reversal. The initial burst of euphoria is immediately dampened by self-doubt and the nagging question as to whether nobody else actually wanted it. This time, however, our enthusiasm was immediately backed up by a Five Star rating in the John Platter Guide, so we're feeling pretty smug to have nabbed it for Swig's customers. It's a cracking Sauvignon Blanc, proudly wearing its name-badge, with wonderfully bright fruit in a style that best expresses Elgin's cool climate and rich soil.



Overtly fruity and mouthwatering, with an expansive array of ripe green fruits it thoroughly deserves its place on the high table.
only 30 cases

£13.50

13.5% alc.



Macon-Vergisson 'La Roche' Domaine Corinne & Thierry Drouin, Burgundy 2007

Here's a wonderful alternative to expensive white Burgundy. Cheap white Burgundy! We didn't have to venture very far to find this one as one of our favourite pedlars brought his wicker basket full of samples into our office and we made him an offer he couldn't refuse. You can't have everything for £13.50, so you sacrifice a little bit of complexity, but otherwise it has all the attributes you would expect from a more celebrated name. The nose has a bright citrus lift as well as creamy and toasty notes, leading to a palate that smacks of Rose's lime marmalade, grilled bread and white flowers. It spent 10 months in 25% new French oak. Really harmonious and absolutely delicious.

white

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£13.50

13.5% alc.

Mullineux White Blend, Swartland, South Africa 2008

After failing to secure a reputation based on a single grape variety, South Africa might just have stumbled upon its unique selling point unintentionally, because some of its experimental white blends are causing a stir around the world. Get it right and the interplay between the component grape varieties creates a wine that is greater than the sum of its parts. Get it wrong and it tastes like the grapes are having a food fight in your glass. This wine, from South Africa's most pioneering region, Swartland, is a blend of 86% Chenin Blanc, with equal parts Clairette and Viognier, and it is a very fine debut from Chris and Andrea Mullineux. Its impact isn't immediate, as the flavours are subtle and understated, which is partly due to the absence of any new oak. The overall character suggests yellow stone fruits, white flowers, grapefruit pith and muffled spice.



"Very special wine. Firm and bone dry with lots of honey and interest tucked in there. ...
 "Rich and tangy and SO full of life! Wonderfully long. Exceptional." **Jancis Robinson.com**

£13.50

12.5% alc.

La Fleur de Cailloux, Domaine Padié, Vin de Pays des Cotes Catalanes, France 2008



Enjoying a wine on holiday and bringing some bottles home in the hope that it will taste as good as it did in the Mediterranean sun is a path littered with regret, backache and excess baggage charges. I (James, that is) bought this wine while browsing around a wine merchant in Nimes and it tasted amazing later that day with barbecued merguez sausages and ratatouille. I'm pleased to say that it also lived up to my memory of it when tasted back in England and I can highly recommend it. It's a scintillating blend of Grenache Blanc, Grenache Gris and Macabeu, from low-yielding, biodynamically-farmed vineyards near Perpignan. Brilliantly named, it displays an intense concentration of white flowers, stony minerals and bright citrus flavours with a touch of crème fraiche.

£13.50

13% alc.

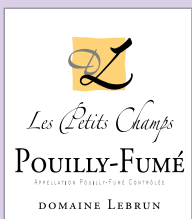
Cape Chamonix Chardonnay Reserve, Franschhoek, South Africa 2008

Unsurprisingly, we tend to glaze over when a winemaker proudly tells us that their wine has just won a silver medal at some agricultural show in Leipzig, so we can't exactly expect you to light up like a pinball machine when we tell you that this wine has achieved a Five Star rating in the latest John Platter Guide. Neither will it alter the chemical balance of the wine itself, so let's just move on and talk about how delicious it is. A little masterpiece of overachievement, it offers classic citrus, apricot and crème fraiche notes tautened by a thrilling combination of acidity and minerals more commonly associated with northern Europe. In terms of value for money this is unsurpassable.



£13.50

12.5% alc.



Pouilly-Fumé 'Les Petits Champs', Domaine Lebrun, Loire Valley 2007

Launch into a conversation on the subject of flint in most social situations and you'll be able to hear the sound of your own breathing within a matter of seconds. Take that same conversation to the town of Pouilly-sur-Loire, however, and it will be met with unbridled enthusiasm. The surrounding region has made its name thanks to the flinty soil on which the vines grow, sharpening the taste of the wines to a tapered point. This version is fine, incisive and diamond-cuttingly precise, with cool lime and ripe grapefruit flavours whittled to a sharp edge. Perfect with smoked salmon.

£14.50

14% alc.

'Red Claw', Yabby Lake Chardonnay, Mornington Peninsula, Australia 2008

You mustn't let Chardonnay dawdle. It needs to be chivvied along like an idle child. Leave it to its own devices and it will stare at the cracks in the pavement or wander off into the nearest sweet shop. Here's an example of good parenting by Tom Carson, whose coaxing and cajoling has kept this young Chardonnay on its toes. Wonderful flavours of lime cordial, lemon cream, hazelnut and stone fruits plus a squeeze of grapefruit juice to make it pick up its feet. Seriously good value. Entirely barrel-fermented in French oak.



"Made by Tom Carson, a massively talented winemaker, Red Claw is a brand new wine to the UK and it is utterly amazing. The depth of fruit and sheer class will take your breath away." **Matthew Jukes, The Mail**

white

to order email wine@swig.co.uk

£14.50

12% alc.



Fié Gris Domaine de l'Aujardiere Eric Chevalier, Loire Valley, France 2008

If you buy wine from an independent merchant, then you probably enjoy wandering off the beaten path. It's in your blood. Why take the path of least resistance, when it only leads to spiritual ruin? You can see your opposite numbers in the supermarket aisles putting industrial plonk into their trolleys with all the enthusiasm of a Russian circus bear choosing a new ring for its nose. Who amongst them would pick a wine like this? Fié Gris, a cousin of Sauvignon Blanc, is a grape variety that few people have heard of, yet it produces a scintillating wine, packed with expressive floral notes of lemongrass and nettles with a fine, silky, perfectly proportioned palate of grapefruit and gooseberry. **As expressive as a New World Sauvignon Blanc, yet with the verve and tension of a Loire Valley white.**

£14.95

13.5% alc.

Mount Horrocks Semillon, Clare Valley, Australia 2008

Semillon wears different outfits depending on where it is grown. In maritime climates such as Bordeaux, it tends to wear a stiff collar and tie, whereas in Australia's hot Hunter Valley it has its shirt unbuttoned down to the navel. This example comes from Australia's Clare Valley, north of Adelaide and the dress code is smart-casual. There's a fantastic ensemble of flavours including lemon barley, fresh herbs, lime cordial, warm hay and some savoury, toasty characters from the extended barrel fermentation in French oak. The finish is delicately mineral and flutters away like a silk scarf in the breeze. Both playful and serious, it is a sensational wine to match with seared scallops or grilled fish.



£14.95

14% alc.

Cotes du Rhone Blanc 'Les Gendrines' Pierre Gaillard, France 2007



Had the cartographer responsible for mapping out the Condrieu region been of a nervous disposition, it would have required no more than a twig snapping outside his studio window and the

'Gendrines' vineyard would have ended up within the Condrieu boundaries. So close is it that you can pick Condrieu grapes with your left hand while picking humble Cotes du Rhone grapes with your right. Consequently, this lowly Cotes du Rhone, made entirely from Viognier, is about half the price of a typical Condrieu, yet displays all the delicate orange blossom, honeysuckle and acacia persuasion on the nose, with a pure and refined lemon butter and tangy nectarine palate.

£15.50

13% alc.

Sancerre Blanc 'Chavignol', Franck and Jean-Francois Bailly, Loire 2008

Everything you want in a Sancerre, crisp, pure and invigorating with an underlying limestone coolness, which gives definition and minerality. The vineyards sit on the same shelf of chalky soil that stretches south from the white cliffs of Dover.



£17.00

13.5% alc.

Kumeu River 'Estate' Chardonnay, Auckland, New Zealand 2006

Made by New Zealand's first Master of Wine, Michael Brajkovich, this has consistently fought off challengers for its crown as the nation's best Chardonnay. Sophisticated, richly-textured and thoroughly irresistible.



£17.50

14.5% alc.

Ken Forrester FMC Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, South Africa 2007

This wine is off-dry. Ok, now that we are alone, let's talk about the pleasures of a little residual sugar (in this case 10 grams per litre). It's all about balance and as long as the acidity matches the ripeness of the fruit, then the wine will sing, as it does with this consistently brilliant wine from Ken Forrester. It is made from hand-picked Chenin Blanc grapes sourced from old bush vines harvested at full maturity with noble rot present in the some of the bunches. It is a rich, multilayered white, exhibiting classic notes of apricot, lime, vanilla, caramel, oatmeal and a for-god's-sake-stop-I-can't-take-any-more-pleasure finish.



white

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£17.50

13% alc.

Riesling Trocken Leckerberg Stefan Winter, Rheinhessen, Germany 2008



This Riesling is serious! Like a German joke, it's no laughing matter. It is one of Stefan Winter's severe 'single vineyard' bottlings, made from 40 year-old vines, whose roots penetrate deep into the limestone soil, drawing up stony minerals from several layers of rock strata below. These imbue the wine with a certain rigour, creating an almost unbearable tension, as the acidity goes about tickling its sides in an attempt to make it giggle. It's not even cracking a smile at the moment as it is tightly packed with vivid citrus fruit flavours and ferrous minerals, so drink it now for a whiplash experience or wait a year for it to unclench and open up into something even more impressive.

£18.95

12.5% alc.

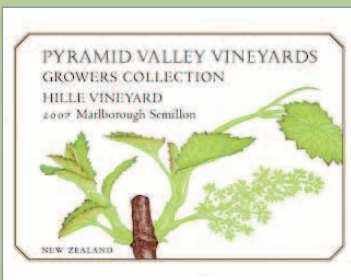
Bourgogne Blanc Domaine Roulot, Burgundy, France 2007

Like an Escher cube, this alternates before your very eyes between an expensive Bourgogne Blanc and a good value Meursault. The trick we are asking you to perform is to concentrate very hard until all you can see and taste is good value Meursault, because this wine is a Meursault in all but name. If you are having trouble keeping focus, perhaps this quote from Jancis Robinson will help: "definitely a baby Meursault!" Still having trouble? Then try this quote from Matthew Jukes: "Roulot's Bourgogne Blanc is finer than most domaine's Meursaults such is the attention to detail here". The wine itself is wonderfully sleek and bracing, with bright notes of lime sherbet, quinine, grapefruit and quartz-like minerals underscored by subtle hints of hazelnut and lightly toasted bread.



£19.50

13.5% alc.



Pyramid Valley 'Hille Vineyard' Semillon, Marlborough, New Zealand 2007

Comparing a wine to a grasshopper almost certainly deserves a red card and a three-week ban from making tasting notes, but there's something in the urgent, chirpy, attention-grabbing character of this wine, together with its insistent grassy disposition, that brings to mind the sound of hind legs rubbing against abdomens. It's a wonderfully vibrant, thrilling expression of Semillon that offers fresh aromas of chervil, fennel and lovage followed by richer notes of lemon curd, gooseberry and board wax. To balance its herbaceous edge, there is a touch of toasty warmth from the 13

months spent in French oak, primarily 500 litre puncheons, of which half were new. It's a stunning, complex wine that requires careful food-matching. Try it with challenging ingredients like capers, preserved lemons and anchovies.

"NZ's best Semillon" Steven Spurrier, Decanter

£21.00

13.5% alc.

Yabby Lake Chardonnay, Mornington Peninsula, Australia 2006/7

Now that Australian Chardonnay is back in fashion, its followers are coming out of hiding, blinking at the sunlight and looking to reclaim their fallen idol. Gone are the dark days of ochre wines reeking of sweaty oak. There is a new dawn and the wines are cleaner, brighter, fresher and more refined. This example from the Mornington Peninsula outside Melbourne is cool and elegant and very comfortable in its own skin, offering beautiful waves of subtle flavour. There is harmony in the rise and fall of bass and treble notes and the central theme of stone fruits, crème brulée and nutty oak is wonderfully enticing.

A complex white wine to rival fine white Burgundy.



£28.00

13% alc.

Meursault Clos du Cromin, Domaine Debray, Burgundy 2007

Bright and mineral-rich on the nose with just a faint hint of toasted nuts and white butter, this gives the impression of being tightly wound and ready to release



greater complexity over the next couple of years. It's a very, very fine Meursault, riddled with shimmering citrus fruits, briny lemon, oatmeal and some of the gunpowder notes found in the wines of Domaine Leflaive. To love this wine is to love our taste in white Burgundy, which favours mouthwatering scintillation and sherbety brightness understudied by subtle oat and biscuit notes. Fans of traditional, full-bodied, buttery Meursault should keep moving, there's nothing to see here.

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£28.00

13.5% alc.



Condrieu Pierre Gaillard, Northern Rhone, France 2007

A bottle of wine is supposedly the distilled expression of four seasons under vine, but this one tastes like Summer, Autumn and Winter passed it by and it just decided to concentrate the joys of Spring. It frolics with flavours of honeysuckle, apricot, vanilla and jasmine. The mineral effects of the granitic soil on which the Viognier vines grow combine with the lemony acidity to give it a long, clear path to skip along.

£32.00

13.5% alc.

Saint Aubin, 1er Cru 'Clos de la Chatenière' Domaine Hubert Lamy, Burgundy 2007

Apparently one is not supposed to blow one's own trumpet, which must create logistical nightmares for touring orchestras, so it only remains for us to let someone else sing the



praises of this wonderful white Burgundy. Allen Meadows is widely regarded as the world's leading authority on Burgundy and he writes: "An elegant, pure and ultra refined nose of freshly sliced lemon and rose petal nuanced with hints of wood spice that are also reflected by the equally pure and delineated cuts-like-a-knife medium-bodied flavours underpinned by a firm acid spine and an almost pungent minerality on the bone dry finish. This is a wine of finesse and understatement as well as perfect harmony." We couldn't have put it better ourselves.

£32.00

14.5% alc.

Hatzidakis 'Pyrgos' Assyrtiko, Santorini, Greece 2004

They say that winemakers are cowards because they are always bottling it, but this wine shows a winemaker with nerves of steel. It undergoes a fantastically slow fermentation of two years using only the natural yeasts found in the winery and on the grape skins, before maturing in oak for a further two years. With the possibilities of a stuck fermentation and/or over-oxidation, Haridimos Hatzidakis constantly runs the risk of losing a vintage, but the prize makes it all worthwhile. It's the sort of wine that excites us because it sits off the beaten path, with some of the yeasty, nutty flavours of fino sherry, but not as dry and with more of a citrus fruit intensity. Oxidised wines are generally thought to

be faulty, but when the oxidation is deliberate and carefully managed it adds a whole gamut of new and exciting flavours. This turns wine appreciation into an extreme sport.



rosé

£9.50

13.5% alc.



Vina Leyda 'Loica Vineyard' Pinot Noir Rosé, Leyda Valley, Chile 2008

They say that rosé should only be drunk with sand between your toes, but we're suggesting that you try it with snow between your toes this year, because this brilliant pink from Chile will beautifully complement winter dishes like turkey and ham.

Pale coral colour with a gentle aroma of strawberries and lemons, it balances the suppleness of squidgy red berries with the perkiness of citrus. At once bracing and soft - a clever trick that makes this wine so appealing. Incidentally, it was **voted Decanter Magazine's top rosé** selected from over 200 rosés from around the world.

Voted Decanter Magazine's top rosé

