

Wellington Red Case

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ACTING WINE CLUB MANAGER

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July's Wellington Red Case is perfectly suited to summer drinking, combining lighter fresher styles with bolder reds that will make good partners for barbecued feasts. At the lighter end of the spectrum, we've chosen a dark-fruited and almost Burgundian Beaujolais, as well as two Pinot Noirs. Both of the latter are elegant and complex expressions of the grape, and should make for an interesting comparison if you can justify opening them both at once. Richer reds include a classic Claret, a mini "Super Tuscan" and a bold-flavoured Gigondas that showcases the value on offer beyond Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

2017 GIGONDAS, LA BASTIDE ST VINCENT



Flanking the evocatively named Dentelles de Montmirail, with vines on the equally evocative Plateau des Garrigues, La Bastide St Vincent is a delightful, family-owned *domaine* with 17th century origins. Laurent Daniel farms the famous trio of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre grapes, vinifying them separately in a combination of cement and stainless steel to maximise their true expression.

This is a wonderful example of what good value Gigondas can offer. The intensity of aromatics with liquorice, kirsch, rosemary and thyme is inviting and persists on the finish. While the fruit concentration is powerful, there is a touch of sweetness and spice on the mid-palate, the tannins powdery and firm, providing balance and focus. Drink now to 2024.

Food matches	Lamb grilled with herbs or aubergine parmigiana
Price	£22.75 per bottle
How to serve	Decant for 30 minutes and serve at room temperature
Region	Rhône, France
Grape variety	Grenache 65%, Syrah 30%, Mourvèdre 5%
Product code	V9993B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Clay and limestone
Buyer	Fiona Hayes

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

VACQUEYRAS, VINSOBRES OR RASTEAU

2017 BOLGHERI, ROSSO, GRATTAMACCO



Founded in 1977, Grattamacco was one of the first estates to plant Cabernet Sauvignon in Bolgheri after Tenuta San Guido, the estate behind Sassicaia, the first "Super Tuscan". The estate is situated on top of a hill, facing the sea between Castagneto Carducci and Bolgheri, overlooking most other Bolgheri wine producers.

This has a deep core of black cherry and cassis with balsamic flashes, showing an enticing fruity evolution. Layers of sweet spice, smoke and oak emerge from the glass, thanks to 10 months in oak, framed by firm, yet silky tannins. Mineral and saline. Drink now to 2026.

Food matches	Slow-cooked beef ragù with pappardelle
Price	£24.00 per bottle
How to serve	Serve at ambient temperature, from the bottle
Region	Tuscany, Italy
Grape variety	Cabernet Sauvignon 60%, Cabernet Franc 20%, Merlot 10%, Sangiovese 10%
Product code	V6855B
Style	Dry, full-bodied red wine
Terroir	Rocky and calcareous soils
Buyer	Matt Smith

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like:

RED BORDEAUX

2011 CHÂTEAU POTENSAC, MÉDOC



Château Potensac is a leading Cru Bourgeois estate located between the villages of Blagnan and Ordonnac in the far north of the Médoc. Quality at Potensac has been on the up ever since Michel Delon (of Léoville Las Cases fame) took over the property in the 1970s. He passed away in 2000 and Potensac is now run by his son Jean-Hubert, with the assistance of *maître de chai* Bruno Rolland.

Now pleasantly mature, the nose shows lots of dark fruit with inky blackberry and blackcurrant intertwined with classic pencil lead. There is some sweet fruit on the palate, leading to a well-balanced, long finish, with earthy spice, fresh acidity and fine tannins. Drink now to 2023.

Food matches	Perfect with a cottage pie or steak and chips
Price	£27.00 per bottle
How to serve	Decant for 30 minutes and serve at room temperature
Region	Bordeaux, France
Grape variety	Merlot 40%, Cabernet Sauvignon 39%, Cabernet Franc 18%, Petit Verdot 3%
Product code	88553B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Gravel and clay
Buyer	Oliver Barton

Tasting notes

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2014 DOMAINE THOMSON, SURVEYOR THOMSON PINOT NOIR



This property is named after the owner's great, great-grandfather and New Zealand's first Surveyor General, John Turnbull Thomson, who carried out a marathon reconnaissance survey of Otago in 1857. The vineyard practises biodynamic viticulture and the wines are made by prominent local winemaker Dean Shaw of the Central Otago Wine Company.

The Surveyor Thomson Pinot is immediately soft and appealing on the nose, with generous red and black berry fruit. There is a lovely depth to the fruit but it is not lush at all. Instead this is a tight, focused Pinot Noir with an herbal twist and a crunchy, fresh, black-fruited finish. Drink now to 2024.

Food matches	Beef carpaccio, game terrine or wild mushroom risotto
Price	£29.95 per bottle
How to serve	Serve slightly cool to maximise aromas
Region	Central Otago, New Zealand
Grape variety	Pinot Noir
Product code	V7736B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied, elegant, Burgundian-style Pinot Noir
Terroir	Northeast-facing terraces on deep gravel with loess and clay
Buyer	Catriona Felstead MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: RED BURGUNDY – TRY GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN FOR A SIMILARLY STRUCTURED STYLE

2016 MOULIN-À-VENT, LES BRUSSELLIONS, LOUIS BOILLOT



Clément Boillot, son of Louis Boillot and Ghislaine Barthod, today heads up the family's operation in Beaujolais. Clément's wines are typically made in Burgundian fashion: the grapes de-stemmed, and the wine aged in oak barrels. They provide positive proof that Beaujolais can be a source of complex, concentrated wines, with the capacity to age.

Even in a cool, classic vintage like 2016, this is rich and structured, with assertive tannins and an emphasis on black fruit and herbal aromas – a million miles away from the stereotypical Beaujolais-Villages. This is a hugely impressive wine which will stand the test of time. Drink now to 2027.

Food matches	Lamb's liver and bacon
Price	£27.50 per bottle
How to serve	Decant for maximum effect
Region	Beaujolais, France
Grape variety	Gamay
Product code	V3570B
Style	Dry, medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Grey, sandy soils and frequent outcrops of reddish granite
Buyer	Adam Bruntlett

Tasting notes

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2017 STORM, VREDE, PINOT NOIR



Hannes Storm had been working in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley as a winemaker for 12 vintages, when he came across some exceptional vineyard sites that tempted him to strike out on his own. Storm Wines' maiden vintage was 2012. Hannes's goal is to express the purity of the site and the variety, working meticulously in the vineyard and keeping intervention during winemaking to a minimum.

The Vrede vineyard is situated on steep north-east facing slopes and is the embodiment of Pinot Noir. The fruit is ripe and juicy, but it is not too overt and remains elegant, nodding towards dark berries with floral undertones. The tannins are fine and woven with the fruit and fresh acidity. Drink now to 2021.

Food matches	Perfect with poultry and game dishes
Price	£38.50 per bottle
How to serve	Room temperature
Region	Hemel-en-Aarde, South Africa
Grape variety	Pinot Noir
Product code	V8731B
Style	Dry medium-bodied red wine
Terroir	Bokkeveld shale with clay
Buyer	Katherine Dart MW

Tasting notes

If you like this, you might like: CALIFORNIAN PINOT NOIR