

OX MAGAZINE

“SUMMER SPARKLE”

Jansz Tasmania, Premium Rosé - ‘An A-list Australian fizz to capture the imagination, this delicate New World pink speaks with a French accent. Jansz are cited as one of the best sparkling wine producers Down Under. Full of strawberry scented charm with hints of rose petals and Turkish delight, it offers soft, creamy, strawberry flavours accompanied by hints of brioche, all beautifully balanced by a fresh, clean, elegant finish... sheer sunny deliciousness.’

1st August 2019





JOANNA SIMON WINE AND FOOD

“ROUND THE WORLD IN ROSÉS”

Guigal, Côtes du Rhône Rosé 2018 - ‘Southern Rhône rosé from the famous Guigal family. Grenache-based with some Cinsault for perfume and a smidgen of Syrah to fill it out. Medium-bodied with strawberry and redcurrant fruit, a hint of cranberry, fresh herbs and citrus acidity.’

Joanna Simon - 2nd August 2019



INDEPENDENT

“WINES OF THE WEEK: 8 SUMMER REDS FOR CHILLING”

Hugel, Classic Pinot Noir 2015 - ‘Another excellent vintage which imparts a real pure freshness and acidity to the bright and light red fruit and cherry flavours; lighter salads and grilled oily fish dishes, like salmon or tuna again.’

Terry Kirby - 2nd August 2019





Jancis Robinson

“PENEDÈS REINVENTS ITSELF”

Torres, Mas de la Rosa 2016 - ‘Very fresh and sumptuous. Very unlike most Priorats. Polished. Very long and exceptionally fresh. Miguel Torres Maczassek is clearly very proud of this new, fresh style: ‘it’s all about fruit character’.’

Jancis Robinson – 2nd August 2019

17 + / 20

Jancis Robinson

“PENEDÈS REINVENTS ITSELF”

Torres, Celeste Crianza 2014 – ‘Very bright, glowing crimson. Big and slightly dusty. 2014 was, exceptionally for Spain, a good vintage here. Big and beefy and youthful. Lots to chew on. Hot and dryish. More powerful than my ideal style.’

Jancis Robinson – 2nd August 2019

16 / 20





Jancis Robinson

“PENEDÈS REINVENTS ITSELF”

Torres, Purgatori 2014 – ‘Glowing crimson. Rich, almost chocolatey nose. Lots of life in here! Slightly bitter finish.’

Jancis Robinson – 2nd August 2019

16 / 20

Jancis Robinson

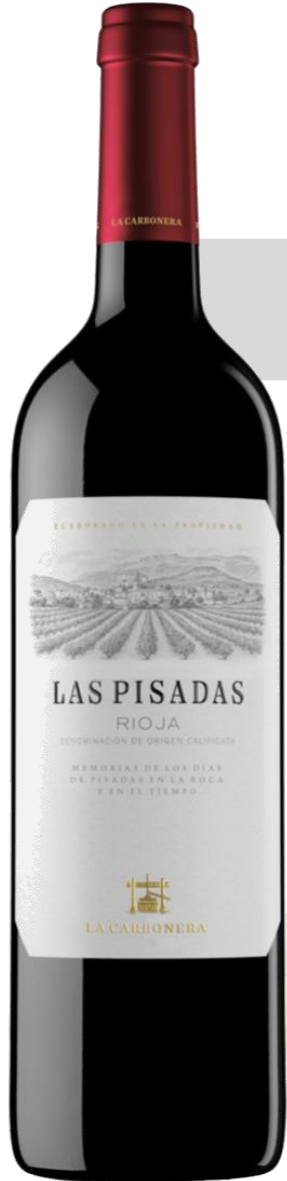
“PENEDÈS REINVENTS ITSELF”

Torres, Grans Muralles 2014 – ‘Very complex nose. So far unyielding. Very firm with a real spread of flavours. 2015 was a very good vintage for Catalunya, apparently.’

Jancis Robinson – 2nd August 2019

17 + / 20





Jancis Robinson

“PENEDÈS REINVENTS ITSELF”

Torres, Las Pisadas 2015 – ‘Bright crimson. Real energy. Great balance and very ready. Admirably fresh. Very open nose.’

Jancis Robinson – 2nd August 2019

16.5 / 20

Back to Bacchus: The 2017 Port declaration

The high-quality 2017s are sufficiently different in style from the 2016s to justify a rare back-to-back declaration, says Simon Field MW

The Tate Modern in London is, in a sense, part of the establishment, yet not without an iconoclastic twist. Here, in the Blavatnik Extension, sit three wise men of the Port trade—establishment to a fault, one is tempted to surmise—failing to offer the slightest twist of anything remotely iconoclastic, other than a healthy dose of well-bred English irony. Our Port authorities—messrs Symington, Bridge, and Seely—are here to promote the 2017 Vintage and to explain why they have collectively agreed to declare back-to-back years, unheard of in the canon of The Flaggate Partnership (now owner of Taylor's, Fonseca, Croft, and Krohn) since 1846/47, and not since 1872/73 for Symington

Family Estates (Dow's, Graham's, Warre's, Cockburn's, Quinta do Vesuvio). Universal declarations, for all that, are becoming relatively more frequent, the brace of 2016 and 2017 the fifth and sixth since the turn of the century—in fact, Quinta do Vesuvio declares even more often. Is this rather too frequent for a phenomenon that has historically prided itself on rarity? And if so, why flirt with hubris and declare in consecutive years? Can one achieve perfection quite so often? Or from another angle, what is the commercial justification for such ambition, and how does it play to the market?

Herein the kernel of the discussion: qualitatively both vintages are superb and yet stylistically different, so there is no

inherent reason not to elevate them both commercially, however, the category still struggles more than it should as an investment wine—somewhat ironically one might surmise, given both its superlative inherent quality and its unsurpassed capacity to age. The UK, USA are still the major buyers, but at until relatively recently, the wines have proved stolidly reluctant to appreciate significantly in value, and there is still seemingly a surplus of stock stored with such traditional bastions as the Oxbridge colleges and the London City companies. In a more health-conscious age, it is generally the potent wines at the end of the meal that are forsaken, Champagne sacrosanct at its beginning



2017 Graham's

Despite the current size of the fleet, this is probably the Symington flagship, with Quinta dos Malvedos its Commander and Quinta do Tua the Master. A particularly successful year here for Touriga Franca, which makes up half the blend. The result is a tight-knit hymn to complexity and potential; more floral than sometimes, but as richly rewarding as always. 2027-67. | 93



2017 Cockburn

Cockburn's was "rescued" by the Symingtons in 2010, its reputation soon rekindled, its dominant Touriga Nacional from Quinta dos Canais resplendent in 2017. Signature grip writ large, then blackberry and kirsch enticingly layered and polished, terraced and textured. 2026-46. | 90



2017 Graham's The Stone Terraces

Only 600 cases have been made from these sturdy schistose vineyards, photogenic plants and stressed vines conspiring to fashion one of the greatest wines of the vintage. A sermon in stones. Edited highlights would include the distinct aromas of bergamot, the fine line of acidic beauty, and the discreet power on the finish. And then some. 2028-70. | 96



THE WORLD OF FINE WINE

2017 Dow's

The proud edifices of 2007 and 2011 chronicle a triumph foretold; the Quintas at Bomfim and Senhora da Ribeira at its heart as usual. The 2017 is divided between precociously attractive floral aromatics, roses and gum cistus, but then a fiercely tannic core, faithful to vintage and house style alike. A dramatic Ribeira painting wrought in the finest velvet. 2027-60. | 93



2017 Quinta do Vesuvio

If we are lucky, we get to try the grape-treading at the great estate of Vesuvio, which produces, for me, the most hauntingly aromatic wine of all. The 2017 is no exception: cassis and rosemary from its 300ha (750-acre) kitchen garden, then pepper and bilberry, gloriously sweet and giving on the palate, with chalky tannins and no sense of an ending. 2028-66. | 92



2017 Warre's

Sometimes overlooked in the Holy Trinity it graces with Dow's and Graham's, Warre's comes into its own in 2017. In a sturdy vintage, it is maybe counterintuitive that a wine celebrated for its floral aromatic and poetic harmony should triumph, but this is a world of beguiling contradiction, and here the blackberry and rockrose freshness cleave a perfect counterpoint in glorious defiance of the solidity of the sculpture. 2026-66. | 94



2017 Capela do Vesuvio

Some 90-year-old vines honor Vesuvio's chapel, their field blend including significant contributions from both Sousão and Alicante Bouschet, the first contributing a spicy seasoning and freshness, the latter muscular weight and irredeemable power. 2028-68. | 94



The SUNDAY POST

“QUICK BITES”

Symington Family Estates, Altano Douro White – ‘So long overlooked for Spanish reds, this shows what we’ve been missing. Brambles, spices, and a smoky character.’

4th August 2019





THE YORKSHIRE POST

"JUST TASTED"

Barbadillo, Manzanilla Solear - 'Stick a bottle of this in the fridge and bring it out as the sun heads over the horizon. You'll need a bowl or two of salted nuts and a few slices of dried ham to accompany it, then its bright and salty flavours with crisp apple freshness and a long, beach-pebble crunch will set the world to rights.'

10th August 2019

Decanter

“TASTING TORRES MAS DE LA ROSA AND OTHER WINES”

Torres, Mas de la Rosa 2016 - ‘It has an intense and heady nose of black fruit and notable liquorice spice, with perfumed black cherry and violet floral notes. There's a real vibrancy to the silky, black-fruited palate, with lovely balance between fruit, spice, acid and tannins. Deftly judged oak wraps everything beautifully and should ensure longevity - it will be interesting to see how this matures.’

Julie Sheppard - 12th August 2019

95 / 100





Decanter

“TASTING TORRES MAS DE LA ROSA AND OTHER WINES”

Torres, Reserva Real 2015 – ‘Aged for 18 months in new French oak, it boasts an enticing nose of black cherry, baking spices and black pepper, with a savoury edge. More black fruit and black pepper appear on the juicy palate, joined by fresh acidity and a firm, tannic backbone with leather and dusty spice notes. Concentrated and structured, this will age well.’

Julie Sheppard - 12th August 2019

95 / 100

Decanter

“TASTING TORRES MAS DE LA ROSA AND OTHER WINES”

Torres, Grans Muralles 2015 – ‘An aromatically appealing wine, with fruity notes of mulberry, blackberry, cherry, plus warmer stewed plum, herbs and spice. The approachable, fruit-driven palate has a wild Mediterranean herbal character, with a smooth black-fruit attack, light spice and well integrated tannins. Distinctive and original.’

Julie Sheppard - 12th August 2019

95 / 100





Decanter

"TASTING TORRES MAS DE LA ROSA AND OTHER WINES"

Torres, Mas La Plana 2015 – 'Enticing aromas of red and black berries with deeper cassis notes are joined by hints of spice, leather and cocoa nibs. In the mouth, crunchy tannins offer a firm framework for the big, spicy black fruit palate. Already poised, this will age beautifully.'

Julie Sheppard - 12th August 2019

94 / 100

Decanter

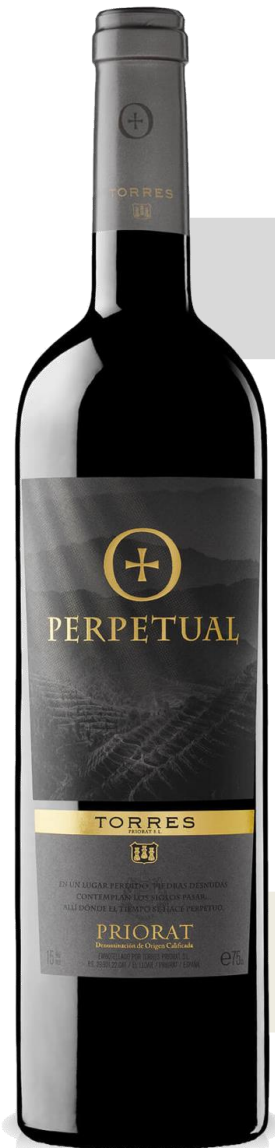
“TASTING TORRES MAS DE LA ROSA AND OTHER WINES”

Torres, Milmanda 2016 – ‘A lovely silkiness to the mid-palate, cut through with laser-sharp acidity. There's an attractive tautness here, with fresh grapefruit and lime balancing the ripe citrus and preserved lemon notes, plus an underlying mineral backbone. Mediterranean aromas of honeyed citrus and dried herbs with fresh thyme add further appeal.’

Julie Sheppard - 12th August 2019

92 / 100





Decanter

“TASTING TORRES MAS DE LA ROSA AND OTHER WINES”

Torres, Perpetual 2016 – ‘A dramatic, dense and layered wine that still retains an engaging freshness and benefits from thoughtful use of oak: 70% of the blend is aged for 18 months in new French oak barrels and 30% in foudres. Notes of bilberry, mulberry and red currants sit alongside dried fruit and savoury notes of spice and leather. There's some fruit pastille juiciness and mouthcoating tannins. More to come with time in bottle.’

Julie Sheppard - 12th August 2019

95 / 100

Mirror

“BEST BRANDY BRANDS IN THE WORLD THAT EVERYONE SHOULD TRY ONCE”

Torres, 10 Gran Reserva Imperial Brandy - ‘This top quality brandy takes a rich and rounded flavour with a cinnamon spiciness and smooth lingering finish. Dark in colour with fine gold tints.’

Mica Anthony - 14th August 2019





SPECTATOR
LIFE

“WINES OF THE WEEK: TRY A VOLCANIC RED”

Torres, Viña Sol 2018 - ‘The Torres family has been making first rate wine in Spain since 1870. This, their entry level white, made in Penedès from Parellada, is crisp, clean and fresh, simple and undemanding and is about as reliable a bottle as you’ll find. I always have a few bottles tucked away especially at this time of year when it’s ideal impromptu picnic fare.’

Jonathan Ray - 16th August 2019



INDEPENDENT

“THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS”

‘Seifreid Estate Nelson Gruner Veltliner 2016 is about as true to its origins as it can be, with splash of Kiwi zest to give it some extra vivacity. A wine for all kinds of substantial fish dishes as well as lightly spiced Asian foods. The Seifreid Estate Nelson Riesling 2014 is also exceptionally good, with bracing minerality offset by juicy tropical fruits.’

Terry Kirby - 17th August 2019





Decanter

"TOP 12 STELLENBOSCH CABERNET SAUVIGNONS TO TRY"

Vergelegen, Stellenbosch 2012 – 'Red and black fruit, a certain green olive quality and an attractive oak-derived character. Medium bodied with fresh acidity and a savoury finish. Quite old fashioned in style but deftly made making for a complex and balanced drop.'

Christian Eedes - 17th August 2019

93 / 100

Decanter

Torres, Reserva Real 2012 – ‘The idea for Reserva Real came about following a visit to Torres by King Don Juan Carlos in 1995. It is now the premier wine of Torres Bodega Waltraud winery on its Pacs del Penedés estate, only using the best parcels of fruit.’

17th August 2019





Decanter

"TOP 12 STELLENBOSCH CABERNET SAUVIGNONS TO TRY"

Warwick, The Blue Lady Stellenbosch 2013 – 'Red and black fruit, a subtle herbal quality and vanilla oak on the nose. Pure fruit, tangy acidity and fine tannins. Rich and creamy in texture, this is very polished.'

Christian Eedes - 17th August 2019

93 / 100

THE YORKSHIRE POST

“THAT WHICH WE CALL A ROSÉ”

Guigal, Côtes du Rhône Rosé 2018 - ‘Guigal makes terrific wines and this blend of Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah is packed with crunchy, vibrant, crushed raspberry fruit.’

Christine Austin - 24th August 2019

