

ESTD 1842



TANNERS

WINE MERCHANTS



Lurton's Southern French vineyards, from where Tanners Sauvignon is sourced

For the Love of Languedoc

Mixed Six

INTRODUCTION

Patchworks of gnarled vines, maritime pines and Romanesque churches sitting against backdrops of rocky hillsides are the archetypal views of the Southern French wine regions. It's a landscape that has attracted tourists, artists and winemakers alike, the last of which have brought invaluable expertise from the more classic areas of France and even the New World! When it comes to wines from the South of France, and in particular the Languedoc, there are two quite distinct categories, firstly as a source of well-made varietal wines and then as top-quality estate wines. The latter are often overlooked but they can easily rival wines from classic regions, especially the Rhône as the grape mix and climate are often very similar.

The Languedoc is a source of some of our own label varietal wines, and two of the best sellers are the Sauvignon and Merlot. Tanners Sauvignon (1) is made for us by François Lurton, a member of the famous Bordeaux winemaking family. He sources the grapes from vineyards which provide the characteristics he is looking for, with some from parcels nearer the sea which give rich, almost exotic fruit which is balanced by grapes sourced from cooler areas to provide great freshness. The result is a classic, balanced Sauvignon. Tanners Merlot (2) is sourced from the Aude Valley. We work with winemaker Marie Julian to ensure that it is soft, fruity and easy drinking while still maintaining weight and depth. Hopefully you will agree that we have succeeded!

Domaine la Cendrillon, in the Corbières appellation, where the Fontfroide Hills meet the Aude Valley, is owned by the Joyeux family. They have been in the area since the 17th century with father, Robert, returning to the estate in 2000 after a career in industry, reinvigorating it by cutting production and bottling their own wine. Son Hubert

continues this quality outlook, looking after the day-to-day running and winemaking. They are fully converted to organic viticulture and make a variety of wines – there is even some Albariño in their vineyards, and this forms a part of the first wine we offer here, Nuance (3). Petit Manseng and Verdejo make up the rest of the blend giving a wine with wonderful fruit and great freshness. The reds include the Syrah-based Essentielle (4), which is designed to be forward and open. This is a wonderful domaine making wines of great character.

The next producer we love is Frédéric Albaret at Domaine Saint Antonin in Faugères, in the foothills of the Black Mountains up beyond Béziers. This is fairly unforgiving country, but Frédéric saw the potential and started the estate from scratch in 1994 with 13 ha which he and his wife have now expanded to 26. They too have become certified organic along the way, something which was seen as a bit odd when they began conversion in 2005 but now over 90% of their neighbours make organic wine. The deliciously forward and fruity 'Les Jardins' (5), is mainly Syrah and Grenache and made to drink young. A classy, well-made wine.

Our final estate is Domaine le Galantin (6), just over the border in Bandol, overlooking the sea east of Marseille. It's a very chic area and the small harbour is full of expensive yachts and people drinking the rosés from the Provençal hinterland. Galantin was created in 1972 by the Pascal family and is now run by brother and sister Jérôme and Céline who have expanded the domaine and modernised the winery. Mourvèdre is the key variety here and Céline and Jérôme take care to age the wine before release so, although still typically full bodied, it can be approached much earlier than many of its neighbours. It has real depth and succulence.

THE WINES

1. Tanners Sauvignon, Pays d'Oc

Bin No: FW019

A superb, fresh, grassy Sauvignon with good fruit and crisp acidity which bears testament to the dramatic improvements in modern French winemaking, and in particular the famous François Lurton who now makes wine worldwide.

2. Tanners Merlot, Pays d'Oc

Bin No: FR008

Deliciously soft and fruity with lots of juicy, plum flavours. This is attractive and characterful with no hard edges, just plenty of succulent fruit, making it perfect for easy drinking on its own or with food.

3. La Cendrillon, Nuance, Vin de France (organic)

Bin No: FW080

A lovely nose of fresh citrus fruit and white peach with floral notes. Elegant on the palate with perfect balance between freshness and weight. A touch of vanilla spice emphasises the minerality and delicacy on the finish.

4. Domaine de la Cendrillon 'Essentielle', Corbières (organic)

Bin No: FR104

Smooth and elegant with juicy black fruits and hints of liquorice, herby with notes of spice. From an estate which has been in the same family since the 18th century.

5. Faugères, Les Jardins, Domaine Saint Antonin (organic)

Bin No: FR101

Liquorice and herb flavours with plenty of soft fruit and ripe tannins balanced with lovely freshness. Frédéric Albaret runs this 26 hectare estate.

6. Bandol, Domaine Le Galantin


Bin No: FR042

A wonderfully intense aroma full of dark fruit character with a more gentle floral note too. Rich and supple on the palate plenty of weight but also elegant with terrific length.

Ordering from Tanners

For up-to-date pricing and additional wine information, please visit our website and type the Bin No. of the wine you're interested in, into the search box.


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 We accept all major credit & debit cards.

 FREE express delivery on orders of £150 or more to a single address in Mainland UK (£9.95 delivery on orders under £150). In addition you are welcome to collect from any branch of Tanners.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Tanners Sales Team

Bin No: ZS2575