

The world's best wine magazine

September 2018

Decanter

NAPA'S NEW FACES

And 30 delicious Californian
whites for summer sipping

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PLUS • New Zealand and Rioja whites • Loire and Austrian reds



STEVEN SPURRIER'S fine wine world

Decanter's long-standing consultant editor and 2017 *Decanter* Man of the Year hand-picks fine wines for drinking now and recommends others to lay down, all priced from £25 upwards

From the cellar Kopke Colheita Port

Established in 1638 by Cristiano Kópke and his son Nicolau, the house of **Kopke** is the oldest of all exporters of Port. While the British houses dominate our Port market, Kopke came to my attention in the past few years due to its extraordinary range of colheitas: single-vintage, wood-aged Ports. I had of course known about this style, and was first properly introduced to it through those of Quinta do Noval, another historic house. I have notes in my 2016 Dorset tasting book for the 2003 (a wonderful wine, very vigorous and long) and 2000 (totally hedonistic with marvellous energy); but the year before I had attended a vertical tasting of Kopke



colheitas ending on the 1937, and including my birth year **1941**. With great generosity the importer sent me a bottle and this was opened at a dinner in June, following the launch of my memoirs (*Wine – A Way of Life*: see *August Issue*), with another 1941-er present and a dozen other guests. Amber-hued, with an orange peel and nutty nose, still-youthful concentration, quite superb and unsurprisingly a 2016 DWWA Platinum award winner. Vintages **1998** (£39.95), **1978** (£129), **1966** (£179), **1958** (£295), **1937** (£525) available from Vintage Wine & Port; the **1941** (£553.35) from Portugal Vineyards.

For the cellar 2017 Priorats from Alvaro Palacios

In 1989, **Alvaro Palacios** (*Decanter* Man of the Year 2015) arrived in Gratallops, determined to extract the very best from the old Garnacha and Cariñena vines that are blessed with/suffer 4,000 hours of Mediterranean sun and less than 380mm rainfall a year on the steep terraces of llicorella slate Priorat soils. Mountainous topography has ensured cultivation methods have remained unchanged over time, with horses being more present than tractors in the vineyards. Four wines are produced: **Gratallops** – 13.66h/ha, 80% Garnacha, showing black autumn fruits, tannin and acidity for a fine future (92/100pts, 2020-2030); **Dofi** – single-vineyard,



91% Garnacha on an iron-base soil, fine florality, structure and polish, concentrated and expressive (95, 2020-2035); **Les Aubaguetes** – a blend of 75% Garnacha, 23% Cariñena, 2% white Garnacha and Macabeo planted in 1901 on north-facing slopes, still more structure with florality and freshness, reminding me of a Bonnes-Mares or Richebourg (96, 2020-2035); finally **L'Ermita** – northeast-facing single vineyard on a cool granite soil, very concentrated in colour and fruit, incredible structure and length, just pure, natural vineyard power (98, 2022-2040). (*Wines available through Berry Bros & Rudd from September 2019*)

The Spurrier selection



Le Vieux Pin, Ava, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada 2017 93
£42 **Stannary St Wine Co**
Languedoc-raised winemaker Severine Pinte has made a speciality of Rhône grapes at Le Vieux Pin, with resounding if discreet success. This 53% Viognier, 27% Roussanne, 20% Marsanne blend is everything it should be and more, in florality, flavour and finesse.
Drink 2018-2021 **Alc** 13.5%



Painted Rock, Red Icon, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada 2015 93
£49.50 **The Wine Treasury**
Owner John Skinner, with the hands-on help of a Bordeaux viticulturist, has brought his vineyard to peak production quality in quick time, witnessed by this stunning Meritage blend: dense ripeness, oak blending in, and a great future.
Drink 2019-2030 **Alc** 14.5%



Equipo Navazos, La Bota No74 Oloroso, Montilla-Moriles, Spain NV 95
£44 **Virgin Wines**
Jesus Barquin has taken single-cask selection from ancient soleras to the highest level, their astounding quality fully justifying the price. More than 30 years old, this rich, amber-coloured Montilla has mouthfilling nutty flavours, vibrant energy and a long, dry finish. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Alc** 21%