

THE GROSSECKER CELLAR

7 August 2022. We wanted to reflect on the enriching experience of working with Tobias and thank him for assembling our team and bringing us along on his journey.

We asked a wine consultant (OK, we asked Nicki, Dug's wife) to assemble a coordinated set of wines that reflect the four elements of engagement: The importance of game-changing insight in choice of grape and choice of method; the importance of following the evolution of the vintage over time with frequent decisions based on this constant reassessment; the importance of providing pro-active care and support to the vines as much as the humans working them; and the importance of considering not just the grapes, not just the vines, but the picture of the whole terroir...

Thank you Tobias!



SCALA DEI SANT ANTONI PRIORAT

Bottle number one: Scala Dei Sant Antoni, Priorat

Grape: 100% Garnacha

Producer: There have been grapes cultivated at Scala Dei in Priorat since 1200 when Carthusian monks built a monastery at the prompting of a hallucinating shepherd who claimed he saw a stairway to heaven sprouting from a pine tree. The monks carved the terraced vineyards into the steep, slate hillsides and planted the vines which were neglected over time, until the late 1980s, when a teacher, a winemaker and a priest collaborated on a project to rescue the vineyards. Now, they make wine to great critical acclaim from the very low-yielding vines, many of which are more than 100 years old.

Tasting note: Bright flavours of concentrated raspberry and wild strawberry fruit with aromas of thyme, rosemary and white pepper. Powerful, yet lifted with refreshing acidity and graceful tannins.





PHEROMONE NV

DOMAINE UCHIDA

CISSAC-MEDOC

Bottle number two: Pheromone NV, Domaine Uchida, Cissac-Medoc

Grape: Cabernet Sauvignon

Producer: Osamu Uchida is the son of a Japanese farmer who cultivates 0.6ha of vines in the Haut-Medoc just beyond the limits of Pauillac and St Estephe. Tilling the land with a horse plough and never using chemicals, he produces just 2400 bottles in a good year in his garage located just behind Mouton Rothschild. A true artisan, he harvests all his grapes by hand and creates wines with purity, simplicity and great expression. These wines are sold strictly on allocation - we pulled some strings!

Tasting note: Ripe blackberry and blackcurrant, crunchy, fresh, complex and bright, with an ethereally light touch of smoke from beautifully integrated oak, and a long, evolving finish.

CUTIS DEVINER 2019

SLOBODNE

SLOVAKIA

Bottle number three: Cutis Deviner 2019, Slobodne, Slovakia

Grape: Devin & Traminer

Producer: Slobodné Vinárstvo is a dynamic family estate in Slovakia run by the fifth generation who rebuilt the winery in 1997 after the political upheavals of the 20th century. They replanted with local varieties and make wine with minimal intervention using time-honoured techniques. From the beginning, they have focused on producing orange wine (white wine made by leaving the grape skins in contact with the juice), fermenting and ageing it in traditional clay amphorae.



Tasting note: This is an unbelievably complex wine. It is intensely aromatic and floral, with flavours of lychee and tropical fruit, juicy grapefruit zest with spicy notes of paprika and a long, complex finish.



OCCHIPINTI

IL FRAPPATO 2019

VITTORIA, SICILIA

**Bottle number four: Occhipinti Il Frappato 2019,
Vittoria, Sicilia**

Grape: 100% Frappato

Producer: As a child, Arianna Occhipinti used to walk the family vineyards with her uncle and dream about making wine. At the age of 16, she left her home in Vittorio, Sicilia, to go to winemaking school. She returned six years later and planted half a hectare. Now 34, she has 22 hectares of local varieties which she farms biodynamically and has gained international renown as a producer of wines that reflect their terroir. Arianna sees this wine as most like herself: brave, original and rebellious.

Tasting note: ruby red, this wine is rich with hints of iris, blackcurrant, ripe black plum and sweet tobacco. It has refreshing acidity and an elegant, persistent finish.



