

THE MASTER'S NOSE CLUB

“Swiss wines –
quality, diversity
and Alpine purity”

THE QUALITY OF SWISS WINES
HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER!

SPECIAL SELECTION OF OUR
FAVOURITE SWISS PRODUCERS

WINES FROM EACH OF
SWITZERLAND'S MOST
IMPORTANT WINE REGIONS

ONE WHITE WINE FROM
THE HIGHEST VINEYARDS
IN SWITZERLAND

MNC-EXCLUSIVE BARREL
OF GEORG FROMM'S
SELVENEN PINOT NOIR!

Real Wines 




ST. JODERN KELLEREI
VSEPERTERMEN


WEINGUT FROMM
MALANS


Hans Cavadon
VIGNERON


Hans Cavadon - Vigneron - Selvenen


LA MAISON
CARREE
REVERDIL
CHAM


Pellegri
JEAN-PIERRE PELLEGRIN

BACKGROUND

SWISS WINES – QUALITY, DIVERSITY AND ALPINE PURITY

I moved to Switzerland in 2005. When I first arrived, I knew very little about Swiss wines, except for a general notion that they were cool climate, made in small quantities and relatively expensive!

I have regularly visited Swiss wine tastings and producers ever since and each year I am more impressed by what I see and taste. Now, after 18 years of researching, tasting and enjoying Swiss wines, I feel that our 18th Master's Nose Club wine packet is the ideal time to introduce you to this very personal selection of six of my favourite Swiss producers!

The quality of Swiss wines has never been so high!

This is due to a combination of factors.

1. Climate change is, so far, playing a mainly beneficial role. There is now enough warmth and sunshine most vintages to ripen the grapes fully and naturally. Because of Switzerland's northerly latitude and relatively high altitude vineyards, the growing season here is long, often extending well into October. This long, gradual "hang time" is perfect for producing high quality grapes with a lovely balance of ripe fruit, fresh acidity and gentle tannins. Higher average

temperatures and longer sunshine hours are particularly beneficial to the quality of Swiss red wines. You now regularly find Pinot Noir, Merlot and Cabernet based reds of serious quality, which was not the case 20 years ago. The newly-released 2022 vintage is perhaps the most exciting "globally-warmed" vintage yet for Swiss red wines!

2. Swiss farmers are surely amongst the most environmentally-friendly and sustainable in the world, and winegrowers are at the forefront of this. Many of the country's vineyards are small and planted on steep hillsides. These require a lot more human effort and care than larger vineyards planted on flatter land, which can more easily be mechanised. The result is that Swiss wines, like Swiss watches, really are "hand made", by a multitude of small, quality-focussed producers who genuinely care for their environment. They are also more expensive to make!

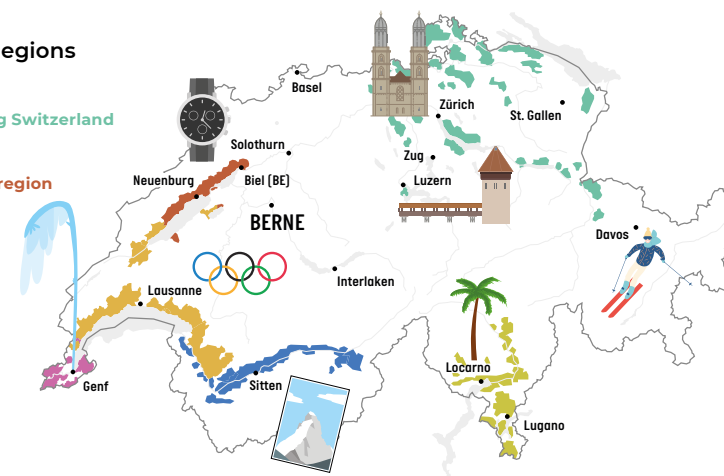
3. Finally, grape-growing and winemaking techniques here, as in many other wine producing countries, have improved vastly over the past 30 – 40 years, which has resulted in cleaner, purer, better-made wines.

THE REGION

WHAT MAKES SWISS WINES SPECIAL?

Swiss Wine Regions

Valais
Vaud
German-speaking Switzerland
Geneva
Ticino
The Three Lakes region



Switzerland has a unique geographical position in the heart of Europe. Her climate, geography and geology are dominated by mountains, lakes and rivers.

The Alps cover over 60% of Switzerland's territory and give the country's wines a unique "mountain" purity and freshness. They overlook the vineyard areas of the Valais, Graubunden and Ticino wine regions, creating a myriad of different soils and microclimates, and providing vineyards with many different slopes and exposures to the sun.

All Switzerland's major lakes have vineyards on their shores, as these large bodies of water help to regulate local temperatures, often preventing frost in the winter and reducing heat in the height of summer. Lake

Geneva has a significant impact on the vineyards of La Côte (between Geneva and Lausanne), Lavaux (Lausanne to Montreux) and Chablais (from Montreux to Valais). The Three Lakes play a similar role in Neuchatel, Biel and Vully (on the shores of Lake Morat). And the two big lakes of Ticino – Maggiore and Lugano – help moderate the warmer Mediterranean climate of Switzerland's only canton south of the Alps.

Major rivers play a similar temperature-moderating role and significantly impact the geology of the soils along their banks. It is no coincidence that the best Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays of the Bündner Herrschaft are grown within view of the Rhine, whilst the Rhone River significantly influences the local terroirs of the Valais region.

THE REGION

SWISS WINE REGIONS AND GRAPES

Switzerland is divided into 6 key wine regions.

Valais is the most important, accounting for 32% of the country's vineyard territory. Here, vineyards are planted on terraces on steep Alpine slopes. St Jodern Weinkellerei in Visperterminen at 1200m altitude, whose "Heida" is the only white wine in this packet, has the highest

vineyards in Switzerland (and Europe, except for one winery in Italy's Aosta region!) Valais is the driest (only 650mms of rainfall p/a) and sunniest (2,500 hours of sunshine p/a) wine region in the country, and home to many of Switzerland's most exciting indigenous white grape varieties, such as Heida (aka Païen or Savagnin Blanc), Petite Arvine and Amigne.



Vaud takes up 26% of Swiss vineyard land. The vineyards here cover the northern slopes of Lake Geneva between Montreux and Nyon and are most famous for the gently fruity, crisp white Chasselas grape, as well as some very good Pinot Noirs.

German-speaking Switzerland covers 18% of Swiss vineyards. It comprises the sub regions of Zürich (607ha), Schaffhausen (490ha), Graubünden (410ha) and Aargau (400ha) amongst others, and is famous for producing Pinot Noir, Müller Thurgau and other aromatic white varieties. Graubünden, whose scenic wine villages are collectively known as the Bündner Herrschaft, produces

some of the country's finest Pinot Noirs – Gantenbein being the most famous (and expensive!)

The wine region of **Geneva** is responsible for 9% of Swiss vineyard land, followed by **Ticino** (8%) and lastly **The Three Lakes region** (7%), but don't underestimate the quality of any of these three wine regions! Geneva makes some of Switzerland's finest Bordeaux-style reds, whilst Ticino is famous for its excellent mountain Merlot. The Three Lakes region produces some surprisingly "Burgundian" Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays; the limestone soils in this region are very similar to those of Burgundy, which is less than 200kms to the west.

PRODUCERS AND WINEMAKING

ST JODERN WEINKELLEREI, VISPERTERMINEN, VALAIS



St Jodern is surely one of the most impressive wine cooperatives in Europe! Founded in 1979, it is a collection of around 600 small growers who tend their tiny vineyards on the steep, terraced slopes leading up to Visperterminen. The average slope gradient is 36%, making vineyard work here extremely physical and time consuming. Most of the vineyards are located between 650 – 950m altitude, but the highest ones are at 1150m, the highest in Switzerland! The Vispental is the driest part of Switzerland, and also one of the sunniest. The mountain soils are mainly sandy with some slate, meaning

that irrigation here is essential. The local white Heida grape is the speciality of this winery. This is a fascinating grape which naturally retains high acidity even in warm vintages. It is the job of talented winemaker Michael Hock to select and vinify the grapes each year from the cooperative's many small growers in order to optimise the quality of the cooperative's wines. In the warm 2022 vintage, a higher proportion than usual of grapes from the cooperative's higher altitude vineyards were retained in the final blend to give the wine maximum freshness and acidity.



DOMAINE HENRI CRUCHON, LA CÔTE, VAUD

Henri Cruchon
VIGNERON

This charming, family-owned domaine is situated just outside the village of Morges to the west of Lausanne. Their biodynamically certified vineyards are situated on limestone and clay soils overlooking Lake Geneva. Pinot Noir was first planted here over 600 years ago, when it was known as Servagnin. Today, only this small region is still entitled to use the name Servagnin. The winery was founded in 1976 by Henri Cruchon, alongside his two sons, Michel and Raoul, and their respective wives, Denise, Amparo, and Lisa. The winery is now in the

hands of Henri's granddaughters, Catherine, Laura and Yaëlle, as well as Catherine's wife, Margaret. Everything here is done naturally; the grapes are hand harvested, then fermented using wild yeasts from their vineyards. One part of the harvest is vinified with the stalks (whole grape) whilst the second part is vinified without. The wines are then left to mature in Burgundy barrels for 12 months followed by a further six months in cask. They are bottled with minimal filtration to maintain maximum personality.





DOMAINE DE LA MAISON CARRÉE, AUVERNIER, NEUCHÂTEL



This excellent, biodynamically certified domaine in the quaint village of Auvernier, just up the hill from Neuchâtel, comprises ten hectares of mainly old vine Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Savagnin Blanc. It has been owned by the Perrochet family since 1827; current owner Jean-Denis and his wife Christine are the 6th generation to make wine here. They make some of the very best Pinot Noirs in Switzerland, so we are extremely honoured to have been allocated one of their precious barrels of "Auvernier" Pinot. We are also the first in Switzerland to receive their

fantastic 2022 vintage!

The grapes for this wine come from five separate parcels of vines around the village, grown on deep limestone and clay soils. After a manual harvest, they are 80% destalked then gently pressed in an amazing 200 year old press, before being fermented in open top casks. The wine is then matured for one year in large casks (85%) and used barrels (15%) before being bottled, then aged for another 12 months or so in bottle. The result is a wonderful, Burgundy-style Pinot Noir of extremely high quality!



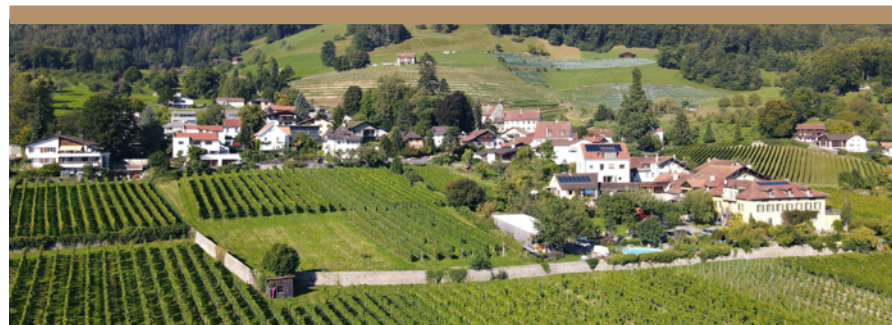
PRODUCERS AND WINEMAKING

WEINGUT FROMM, MALANS, GRAUBUNDEN



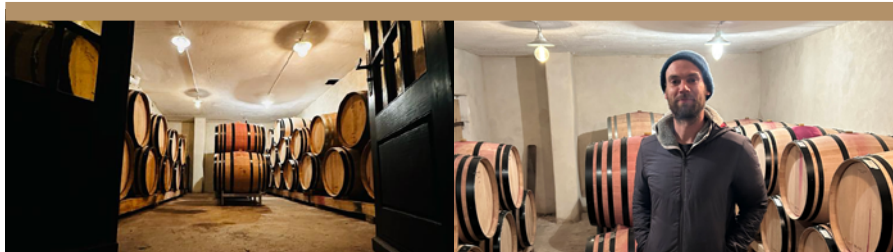
Situated in the beautiful Alpine village of Malans in the Bündner Herrschaft, Georg Fromm is one of Switzerland's top Pinot Noir producers. He farms his vines biodynamically with the aim of expressing the terroirs of each of his single vineyard Pinot Noirs to the maximum. Georg is one of the most humble, knowledgeable and gifted wine producers I have had the pleasure to get to know. When he says that the 2022 vintage in Malans was one of the very best years for Pinot Noir in his 55 year winemaking career, I take this seriously! In this great vintage, Georg was kind

enough to let us select our favourite barrel of his Selvenen Vineyard Pinot Noir, exclusively for our Master's Nose Club. I tasted ten different barrels in total, but for me there was one which stood out for its extra freshness, purity and structure in this warm vintage. This barrel of Burgundy-clone Pinot Noir was vinified using a very high proportion (80%) of whole bunches – that is grapes which had not been destalked. This is how several top Burgundy growers retain freshness and moderate alcohol levels in warmer vintages, and it has worked like a dream for Georg this year!



PRODUCERS AND WINEMAKING

ADRIEN STEVENS, MONTEGGIO, MALCANTONE, TICINO



Adrien Stevens is a rising star on the Ticino wine scene who has just been awarded “Swiss wine rookie of the year for 2024” by Gault Millau. He is 40 years old and has had fantastic previous winemaking experience at Domaine Nicolas Joly in the Loire Valley, and more recently with Christian Zündel in Ticino. Perhaps no surprise then that he produces his wines biodynamically and vinifies them with as little intervention as possible. His recently-purchased winery sits on top of a sunny hill in Monteggio, Malcantone, but his flagship wine, “Blu di Notte”, comes from old vines planted on limestone and clay soils

in Castel San Pietro in the Mendrisiotto. These special soils are very similar to those in Pomerol, Bordeaux, and give his Merlot a wonderful mix of freshness, opulence and structure.

Also important to his style is the long, slow (60 day) maceration and fermentation he gives his Merlot grapes, without crushing them first. This gives maximum purity and depth of flavour without releasing any bitter tannins into the wine. His Blu di Notte Merlot is then matured for 14 months in Burgundy barrels and bottled with no filtration and very little SO₂.



DOMAINE GRAND'COUR, SATIGNY, GENEVA



I discovered this producer last year at a large, generic tasting of Swiss wines, and from the moment I first tried Jean Pierre Pellegrin's Grand Cour Rouge I was hooked! These are for me the most exciting Bordeaux style red blends in Switzerland. The winery is located 1km from Switzerland's most westerly border with France, in a valley between the Jura and Salève mountains. There is a special microclimate here; in the past 20 years or so a “foehn” style wind blows up from the south in the Autumn giving a warm, sunny

October which is perfect for ripening Cabernet grapes. The vines were sourced from pre-phylloxera planting material, unique in Switzerland. His 1.5 hectare Grand Cour vineyard is planted to a very high density, so that the many small vines grow only a few, perfectly-formed bunches of grapes. His Grand Cour Rouge spends two years maturing in smaller Burgundy barrels (which is most unusual for a Cabernet – dominated wine). Jean Pierre believes this is one of the key reasons for the silkiness of his wine's tannins.





ABOUT THE WINES

OUR EXQUISITE SELECTION



**St Jodern Weinkellerei
Heida Visperterminen
2022, Valais**
CHF 26.90/bt
(one bottle)

This uniquely Swiss white wine is packed with Alpine freshness and clear mountain air intensity! The warm 2022 vintage has given impressive concentration of ripe apricot and stone fruit flavours, together with a gentle nuttiness and hints of white flowers. This is dry, medium bodied and finishes with a refreshing bite of acidity. It has the ability to age in bottle for eight to ten years; the fruit should become more exotic over time.

7,000 cases were produced.

Enjoy with pasta in a salmon sauce.

Drink now – 2030.



**Domaine Henri Cruchon
Servagnin 2022, Vaud**
CHF 26.90/bt
(one bottle)

This deliciously fresh and spicy red is made from the local Servagnin grape, a relative of Pinot Noir which is grown only around the village of Morges near Lausanne. It is wild and floral and bursting with red forest fruit flavours. The warm and sunny 2022 vintage has added extra depth and structure, whilst the maturation in French barrel gives gentle hints of vanilla oak. The wine remains beautifully elegant and balanced however, with a refreshing bite of spicy acidity on the finish.

460 cases were produced.

Enjoy with rib of beef with grilled vegetables or a tabbouleh with peas and feta cheese.

Drink now – 2029.



**Domaine de la
Maison Carrée
Pinot Noir
Auvernier 2022,
Neuchatel**
CHF 39.90/bt
(one bottle)

From old Pinot Noir vines grown biodynamically on some of the best terroirs for this grape in Switzerland, this is a wonderful, Burgundy-style Pinot Noir from a fantastic vintage! Medium to full-bodied, intense and generous with firm but silky smooth tannins and ripe, dark cherry fruit and spice flavours. Despite the heat of the 2022 vintage it retains wonderful freshness and purity. Very fine already, this would benefit from another year or so in bottle before opening.

Approximately 1,100 cases were produced.

Enjoy with red meats, game or hard cheeses.

Drink 2025 – 2030.



Picture credits: The wine producers

ABOUT THE WINES



Weingut Fromm Pinot Noir Selvenen 2022, Malans

Master's Nose Club
Special Selection

CHF 45/bt
(one bottle)

Specially selected for our Master's Nose Club, this single barrel was fermented using 80% "whole bunch" Pinot Noir grapes from a mix of vines averaging 40 years old grown on slate and limestone soils.

Packed with delicious dark cherry and forest fruit flavours, this Pinot Noir has charming floral, spice and herbal notes. Medium bodied and firmly structured, it has excellent weight of fruit, yet at the same time remains fresh, pure and supremely refined. Dujac meets the Bündner Herrschaft!

Approximately 500 cases of Selvenen Pinot Noir were produced, although this single barrel of approximately 20 cases is exclusive to our Master Nose Club.

Enjoy with rack of lamb served with chargrilled vegetables and oven potatoes.

Drink 2025 – 2040.



Adrien Stevens Blu Di Notte Merlot 2022, Ticino

CHF 39.90/bt
(one bottle)

From 47 year old Merlot vines planted high up in the Mendrisiotto region of Ticino, this is a true Alpine Merlot. Deep and dark in colour, it has delectable rich, ripe mulberry fruit flavours and hints of violets. Despite the heat of the 2022 growing season, the low-pH limestone soils and high altitude of the vines have given elegance and freshness to the wine, so that you barely notice its 15% alcohol. There is a very gentle hint of vanilla from its time in oak barrels, and extremely fine tannins. This is without doubt one of the most pleasurable Ticino Merlots I have tasted!

225 cases were produced.

Enjoy with roast lamb with thyme.

Drink now – 2029.



Domaine Grand'Cour Rouge 2021, Geneva

CHF 45/bt
(one bottle)

Made from very low-yielding vines planted in 1985, this is a blend of 70% Cabernet Franc, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot. It has an attractive, deep crimson colour and aromas of dark cherry and ripe blackberries. On the palate it is wonderfully silky in its tannins and has amazing fruit depth for this cooler vintage. Its two years in Burgundy barrel have added a spice and vanilla complexity. It is fresh and well structured, and although perfect to drink already, will no doubt age beautifully over the next ten years or more. This is extremely classy and one of the finest Bordeaux-style reds I have tasted from Switzerland.

400 cases were produced.

Enjoy with roasted meats (lamb, beef or game).

Drink now – 2035.

THE MASTER'S NOSE CLUB

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SWISS WINES – QUALITY, DIVERSITY AND ALPINE PURITY

Enjoy with moderation

Switzerland. Naturally.



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Real Wines

