

Introduction to the BRASSICA RESTAURANT WINE LIST

The Individual Wine Merchant, Graham Chidgey
Brassica's Wine Consultant

My credentials for choosing the Brassica Wine List are twofold...firstly I am co-owner, Louise Chidgey's father and secondly I joined the Wine Trade in 1953. With rising costs in wine production, the erratic value of sterling with the euro and the high import duty - the sadness is that we cannot avoid price increases. Our challenge therefore remains finding the best ratio quality to price.

Autumn 2018 - A daring approach, changes to the list...

Over recent years it is apparent many passionate winegrowers have challenged static local wine laws. Winemaking has moved faster than law changes leaving many wines bereft of an appellation. Brassica Restaurant wants to give both the growers and our customers the benefit of some organic wines, some lower in sulphur and to offer the interest of wine discovery. Organic wines are chosen, not because they are organic but because these new wines have 'a freshness' we can enjoy. Please do not fear ordering wines unknown to you.

Graham Chidgey

Graham Chidgey entered the wine trade in 1953 and so far still active...being described by wine critic and journalist, Jancis Robinson as the 'Veteran Wine Merchant'.

In 1965 he took over a small London merchant Laytons Fine Wines that he sold in 1997. During those 32 years Laytons not only covered the classic French wines but also were innovative in their sales by introducing Bordeaux sales "en primeur", Domaine bottled Burgundies. Laying down Vintage Champagne for Late Degorgement and the introduction of Brunello and Piedmont wines to a wider audience. Following the sale of Laytons Graham moved to Tuscany where he began helping to extend the sales possibilities for Montalcino, Chianti Classico and Piedmont.

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Wines by the Glass & Carafe

Sparkling Wines

Glass **Bottle**

125ml 750ml

n/a 55.00

Aubry, Brut, Premier Cru à Jouy-lès-Reims, NV Champagne, France

The Aubry Brothers have gained a rapid reputation by virtue of Premier Cru vineyards planted with the 3 permitted grape varieties that constitute the almost ideal blend. Pinot Meunier, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Crémant de Loire Brut, Langlois-Château, NV, France

7.75 35.00

Under the auspices of Bollinger, Langlois has augmented the regulations to equal, and even exceed, those of Champagne: A majority of chalky soils, very favourable to elegant wines.

White Wines

Glass **Carafe** **Bottle**

125ml 500ml 750ml

*Les Petites Perdrix, Chateau Grinou, Sauvignon Blanc, 2017, France 12.5%

5.50 17.00 22.00

Close to Bergerac these Grinou vines show what the region can do as long as farming intelligence defies "laws" dating from the 1950's.

**Almansa Bodegas Piqueras, Verdejo y Sauvignon, 2017, Spain 13.5%

5.75 18.00 23.00

SE Spain. Desert-like terrain. Don't worry Piqueras vines are planted 2500ft above sea level And benefit from cool nights. This white, with the red, show exactly why we should seek out wines rarely seen. Delightful.

**Rural Par Nature, Domaine Paul Mas, 2017, France 13%

6.25 19.00 24.00

A blend of four grape varieties - Viognier/Chardonnay/ Grenache/Colombard.
An example of winemaking ignoring both the local bureaucratic & out of date controls.
Dry though, but not rasping.

Gavi 'Ke Bontà', Cortese, 2016, Italy 12%

6.75 21.00 26.00

Gavi made from the Cortese grape provides Piedmont with a white wine able to flow easily with fish or poultry. A bit short of flavour for spicier dishes.

Red Wines

Glass **Carafe** **Bottle**

125ml 500ml 750ml

*Les Petites Perdrix, Ch. Grinou, Merlot/Cab. Sauvignon, 2016, France 12.5%

5.50 17.00 22.00

As with the white wine, 'Small Partridges', the benefit of organic farming is apparent. Fresh. Low sulphur.

Palazzo del Mare, Nero d'Avola, Terre Siciliane IGP, 2016, Italy 12.5%

5.75 18.00 23.00

The Nero d'Avola grape has been at the forefront of Sicily's swift recognition as a 'serious' wine country. Quite full and direct; ideal easy style for a 'by the glass' wine and then another...

**Almansa Bodegas Piqueras, High Alt. Garnacha Tintorera, 2017, Spain 14.5%

6.25 19.00 24.00

The High Altitude is partly the secret but so is the new vineyard which allows the grapes to ripen healthily. More sophisticated than imagined.

*Old Vines Merlot, Domaine Py, Languedoc Roussillon, 2015, France 12.5%

6.75 22.00 27.00

30 year old Merlot with soft heart and long finish in the mouth.

* Organic

** Vegan

White & Rosé Wines

- *Les Petites Perdrix, Chateau Grinou, Sauvignon Blanc, 2017, France** 12.5% **22.00**
Close to Bergerac these Grinou vines show what the region can do as long as farming intelligence defies "laws" dating from the 1950's.
- **Almansa Bodegas Piqueras, Verdejo y Sauvignon, 2017, Spain** 13.5% **23.00**
South east Spain. Desert-like terrain. Don't worry Piqueras vines are planted 2500ft above sea level And benefit from cool nights. This white, with the red, show exactly why we should seek out wines rarely seen. Delightful.
- **Rural Par Nature, Domaine Paul Mas, 2017, France** 13% **24.00**
A blend of four grape varieties - Viognier/Chardonnay/ Grenache/Colombard. An example of winemaking ignoring both the local bureaucratic & out of date controls. Dry but not rasping.
- **Bouches du Rhône Rosé, Domaine de Costebonne, 2017, France** 12% **25.00**
Towards Provence but not quite! Not sure one could tell the difference except on normal bottle and not fantasy shape. Grenache and Caladoc grapes. Pale giving more flavour than expected.
- **Rioja Blanca Genoli (Viura), Vina Ijalba, 2017, Spain** 13% **26.00**
White Rioja once to be avoided is replaced by vibrant fresh whites thanks to latest vineyard work and enthusiasm for bio culture. 90% almost extinct Viura grape and totally modern floral smells.
- Gavi 'Ke Bontà', Cortese, 2016, Italy** 12% **27.00**
Gavi made from the Cortese grape provides Piedmont with a white wine able to flow easily with fish or poultry...bit short of flavour for spicier dishes.
- *Muscadet Sur Lie 'Les Coteaux', Domaine des Baluettes, France** 12% **29.00**
More natural wine can hardly be imagined. Organic with no chemicals or fertilisers. 'Sur lie' means wine rests on fermentation lees for 8 months.
- **Facile Sauvignon Blanc, Brochet, 2017, France** 12% **30.00**
Another example of how wine laws don't keep up with progressive growers...total passion behind this wine that would challenge a Sancerre.
- Vacqueyras Blanc, Domaine de Cazaux, Rhône, 2017, France** 13.5% **30.00**
A wine grower known to myself for over 40 years. His white wine is a rarity...pity, as it is so delicious! For those who seek a refined dryness with gentle fruit.
- **Côtes du Rhône Viognier, Ch. Rochecolombe, 2017, France** 14% **32.00**
To those who know the Viognier grape Condrieu in Northern Rhone is wonderful. This Viognier also from the Rhone, but lower down, gives you some of the exquisite smell and taste so cherished by wine merchants.
- *Sauvignon Bianco, Castello di Argiano Sesti, 2017, Italy** 12% **33.00**
Quite how Sesti manages to produce a zippy Sauvignon Bianco from Montalcino is a mystery except they do have cooling air from the sea at night. **Biodynamic.**
- *Rosato, Castello di Argiano Sesti, 2017, Toscana IGT, Tuscany, Italy** **34.00**
Italian Rosé can be a mixed blessing. Sesti takes it seriously to produce a pale wine with a proper taste of wine from Sangiovese grapes that otherwise would be used for a Montalcino. **Biodynamic.**
- Meursault Les Narvaux Domaine Boyer-Martenot Chardonnay, 2106, France** **65.00**
Outstanding class from fine vineyard and fine grower.
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*** Organic ** Vegan**

Red Wine

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The Nero d'Avola grape has been at the forefront of Sicily's swift recognition as a 'serious' wine country. Quite full and direct; ideal easy style for a 'by the glass' wine and then another...	
**Almansa Bodegas Piqueras, High Alt. Garnacha Tintorera, 2017, Spain 14.5%	24.00
The High Altitude is partly the secret but so is the new vineyard which allows the grapes to ripen healthily. More sophisticated than imagined.	
**Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Jasci, 2016, Italy 12.5%	25.00
Organic farming started here in 1980 long before most growers in this Adriatic region. The volume of flavor expresses itself with proper charm.	
**Fiesta de Azul y Garanza, Navarra, 2016, Spain 13.5%	25.00
North west of Barcelona in dry arid region with sharp contrast between day and night temperatures. Low yields lead to concentrated balance fruit and acidity.	
**Vina Ijalba Rioja Livor Tempranillo, 2017, Spain 13.5%	26.00
New style Rioja leaving behind the past and aiming for clean, fresh fruit-driven personality. Low sulphur.	
*Old Vines Merlot, Domaine Py, Languedoc Roussillon, 2015, France 12.5%	27.00
30 year old Merlot with soft heart and long finish in the mouth.	
Pinot Noir, Puy de Dome, Auvergne, 2015, France 13.5%	29.00
A real 'Chanson d' Auvergne'...a small co-op rivalling Burgundy at this price level.	
**Domaine de Brau 'Pure' Cabernet Franc, Pays d'Oc IGP, 2015, France 13%	30.00
Sense of ripeness. Full on first taste yet smooth style never too full.	
*Quinta do Romeu Colheita DOC, Douro, 2012, Portugal 13%	31.00
Organic five grape blend. The Douro River steep vineyards are ideal for quality red wines. Using traditional grape varieties the final sweet tannins lengthen the friendly flavours.	
**Côtes du Rhône Villages, Ch. Rochecolombe, 2016, France 14.5%	35.00
Detectable finesse because the Grenache and Syrah combine gracefully. Low sulphur.	
Côte de Nuits de Villages, Aux Faulques, Domaine Jean-Marc Millot, 2014, France (Pinot Noir)	58.00
Cote de Nuits Villages is a most useful appellation as it covers those villages of the Cote de Nuits without their own appellation. Millot has supplied me with delicious wines (all Pinot Noir) from great vineyards... Clos de Vougeot, Vosne Suchots and Echezeaux and Grands Echezeaux. This wine is made in the same manner with softish and tender flavours.	
*Brunello di Montalcino, Castello di Argiano Sesti, Toscana, 2008, Italy 13.5%	72.00
Recently shipped direct from Sesti. Not often will you see a Brunello with 6 years in bottle having spent 4 years in the large oak barrels called "botte"...superb richness.	
Château Haut Batailley, 5th Growth Pauillac, 2000, France	95.00
In a sense this Claret speaks of the past more than the present...the reason is the maturity opens out into finesse more than blasts of fruit-laden oakiness (many chateaux fell into the trap of concentrating their flavours to please newer wine lovers).	

* Organic ** Vegan

Digestifs & Pudding Wine

Digestifs

Somerset Cider Brandy, Five Year Old

35ml 6.00

Burrow Hill Cider Farm have been pressing cider for the past 150 years and distilling cider brandy since 1989, who were granted the licence – the first cider distilling license in recorded history. The brandy has a velvety palate and a sweet, spicy aftertaste.

Angostura 1919 Rum, Trinidad & Tobago

35ml 6.00

Angostura 1919 is specially blended award-winning rum, which celebrates a particular date in the development of the rum industry in Trinidad & Tobago, as well as the Caribbean. After a fire in 1932, which destroyed the Government Rum Bond, Fernandes Distillers bought the charred casks, only to discover they had been filled in the year 1919. The prized rum was skillfully blended and called "1919 Aged Rum." Beautifully soft, revealing a generous and long-lasting array of toasty flavours as a result of long ageing in charred barrels.

Ardbeg Ten Years Old Single Malt Whisky, Scotland

35ml 7.00

Ardbeg Ten Years Old is revered around the world as the peatiest, smokiest, most complex single malt of them all. Yet it does not flaunt the peat; rather it gives way to the natural sweetness of the malt to produce a whisky of perfect balance. Ardbeg Ten Years Old is non chill-filtered and has a strength of 46% ABV, thus retaining maximum flavour, at the same time giving more body and added depth. A whirlwind of peat and complex malty flavours.

Louis Roque La Vieille Prune, France

35ml 7.50

Louis Roques La Vieille prune Reserve L.O.R. This is a plum brandy from Southwestern France: plums are crushed, their juice fermented then distilled and aged in oak. It has become somewhat of a cult item, and combines the pit fruit aspect of cherry eau de vie with the oaky aspect of brandy.

Chateau de Lacquy, Bas Amagnac, France

35ml 7.00

Since the 17th century, this estate, situated at the heart of the "Golden Triangle" known as the Grand Bas-Armagnac in Gascony in south-western France, has been dedicated to the production of Armagnac: a very fine and complex spirit, renowned for being long on the palate and highly fragrant. Fresh, round, well-balanced flavor leaves an incredibly long and pleasant aftertaste.

Porto Cruz Vintage 1996, Portugal

35ml 9.00

The company Porto Gran Cruz was founded in 1887 by entrepreneurs who had stockpiles of old port. This ten-year-old port has a velvety sweet flavor with hints of red fruit and caramel.

Quinta do Portal, LBV Port, 2008, Portugal

35ml 7.50

A wonderfully harmonious Late Bottled Vintage Port from this highly respected producer. Rich, silky and complex with lots of crushed berry fruits, plum, fruitcake and warming spice flavours. A lovely smooth and long finish.

Pudding Wine

Glass **Bottle**

70ml 500ml

Château Dudon, Sauternes, 2015, France (Semillon/Sauvignon)

8.50 45.00

The history of the Château goes back to 1789...presumably before heads were rolling! Today's vines are 30 years old giving that superb weight of wine in the mouth. Whatever claims other parts of France and the world make for sweet wines personally to me Sauternes and Barsac are the tops.

Spirits, Mixers, Beers & Ciders

Black Cow Vodka, Dorset 35ml 4.50

The creation of West Dorset dairy farmer Jason Barber, Black Cow claims to be the world's first pure milk vodka, made from nothing but pure whole milk.

William Chase Gin, Hereford 35ml 4.50

A lighter but more powerfully flavoured gin from the folks at Williams Chase - an extra dry designed with the G&T-loving Spanish in mind, this is a juniper-led gin that makes great long drinks. Dry juniper with zesty citrus (orange) and then some warm, spicy notes, making this complex and full.

Old Pulteney Single Malt, Scotland 35ml 4.50

Matured in ex-bourbon casks for 12 years, this Old Pulteney malt was a Double Gold winner at the 2006 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

Fever Tree Indian Tonic Water 200ml 2.50

Fever Tree Ginger Ale 200ml 2.50

Fever Tree Naturally Light Tonic Water 200ml 2.50

Fever Tree Spring Soda Water 200ml 2.50

Coca-Cola/Diet Coke 200ml 2.50

Bullbeggar Cider, Lamyatt, Somerset 330ml 4.50

Made by Brassica's great friend, Nick Smallwood in the village of Lamyatt Somerset where he formed a co-operative to produce their own dry and medium cider. It's named Bullbeggar after the Spirit that's said to roam Creech Hill at night. It is matured in old rum and whisky barrels to create its distinctive flavour.

Luscombe Organic Cider, Devon 330ml 4.50

A blend of rare English apple varieties make up this organic Devonshire tippie: Tail Sweet, Sugar Bush, Devon Crimson and Slack-Ma-Girdle. The complex and sweet flavours really come through as this lovely cider lacks harsh chemicals or preservatives.

The Wild Beer Co., Epic Saison, West Country 330ml 4.95

A Farmhouse Ale that's a transcontinental fusion of Belgium's eclectic beer culture and the feisty hops of North America brought to life with the aid of West Country artisanal brewing wizardry and judicious use of the US-grown Soriachi Ace hop.

Camden Town Brewery, Camden Pale Ale, London 330ml 4.50

This American style pale ale is bright gold, big hops and white foam, it's packed with citrus and tropical fruit, there's a round body and a drink-me-faster bitterness.

Camden Town Brewery, Camden Hells Lager, London 330ml 4.50

A nod to our hometown. A classic lager that's exactly what it should be: easy-drinking, crisp and dry with beautiful bubbles. Clean and refreshing with a dry hop finish, you can taste the great depth of flavour, which comes from the long, slow maturation in tank.

Bristol Beer Factory, Milk Stout, West Country 500ml 5.00

This is a beautifully creamy, full-bodied stout, the likes of which were brewed nearly a century ago on the very site of the Bristol Beer Factory today. Does not contain milk. Invigorating & stimulating for workers (or so they used to say). Brewed from local raw materials.

Soft Drinks, Water, Tea & Coffee

Homemade soda of the season	330ml	3.50
Luscombe Hot Ginger Beer	330ml	3.75
Fresh Cloudy Apple Juice	330ml	3.25
Fresh Orange Juice	330ml	3.25
San Pellegrino Sparkling Mineral Water	500ml/750ml	2.75/3.50
Espresso	single/double	2.50/2.75
Macchiato		12.00
Cappuccino		2.75
Flat White		2.75
Latte		2.75
Americano		2.50
Pot of tea (English Breakfast or Earl Grey)	1 pers/2pers	2.50/5.00
El Canario Spanish hot chocolate		3.50
Pot of fresh mint tea	1 pers/2pers	2.50/5.00