

WINE COLUMN

By Graham Simpson, Whitmore & White

Festive Favourites

There's a crispness in the air and summer seems but a distant memory. So we can pack the rosé wines away for the winter and dig out the big wines, because Christmas is just around the corner. Below are six wines which are always yuletide favourites at Whitmore & White.

Vilarnau Cava Brut £12.95

With its Gaudi-inspired bottle design, this wine catches the eye. Once opened though there's the double delight in that it tastes absolutely heavenly. Made in the same way as Champagne, this is a richer style compared to Proseccos and a more serious wine overall. Great to open up on Christmas or Boxing Day morning.

Casa Silva Angostura Chardonnay £15.95

A full bodied, rich and ripe style of Chardonnay. Not like the oak monsters they used to make in the late 1980s up to the late 1990s, but a more rounded, voluptuous style. Toasty and buttery with layers of tropical fruit. This goes very nicely with turkey or goose if you aren't a fan of red.

Chateau La Croix de Grezard £16.95

A classic and classy Christmas claret. Medium – full bodied, with blackberry and blackcurrant fruit, cedar wood notes and fine tannins. This is lovely with the richness of a Christmas dinner. Moreover with those delicious pigs in blankets.

Beronia Rioja Reserva £16.95

Our most popular Rioja by far since we opened almost five years ago. It's smooth and ripely fruited with strawberry and raspberry notes. If a wine can be described as lush then this is it. If you were foregoing the standard turkey or goose this year, then lamb would be the perfect partner at the Christmas table.

Charles Smith The Velvet Devil Merlot £16.95

Probably our best selling red wine. It is quite literally velvety smooth. This makes it very versatile; it can be drunk on its own or with food and wouldn't look out of place on any festive table. Personally I would suggest leaving it until Boxing Day to have with whatever can be cobbled together after Christmas Day. Turkey and ham pie for example. A great match.

Quinta do Noval Late Bottled Vintage Port £24.95

There are many ports out there over the festive period from most of the well-known port shippers. Most have a certain style which is reflected in the price you pay. This Quinta do Noval Port though is a serious port. Almost a vintage port in character, but at half the price. Top-notch port is well worth paying that little extra for. And why not at this time of year. Have this with a mature Cheddar, if there's any room after the Christmas pudding.

Best wishes from all at Whitmore & White over the festive season.

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Established for over 9 years, The Gift Room Heswall has recently changed hands. Paul Gray and wife Vivienne are the new owners with sister-in-law Diane Dalton operating the day to day running of the shop.



The business is very much family run and offers a wide range of luxury cards and gifts, many of which are hand crafted by local and national suppliers, all exclusive to the Heswall area.

Their extensive range of Joma jewellery, Katie Loxton bags and luxury candles make the perfect and affordable gift for any occasion.

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