

The Royal Oak  
— DOWNTON —

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WINE LIST

## WHITES

### ~ SAUVIGNON BLANC ~

Sauvignon Blanc's greatest attributes is its fabulous array of aromatic qualities, which vary according to growing location and its treatment in the cellar. From the Loire Valley the style is reminiscent of cut-grass, gooseberry, flint & nettles. In the New world, particularly New Zealand it produces a stunning array of pungently assertive characters, from the green grass, green bean, tinned pea & asparagus flavours to the more tropical, ripe spectrum of grapefruit, guava, passion fruit & mango.

### ~ CHENIN BLANC ~

A classic grape variety from the Loire where it exhibits floral & honeyed aromas, apple and quince flavours & zippy acidity. Think Vouvray. From the New World it can be quite 'pear droppy', becoming more peachy in some of the fuller wines, sometimes a hint of fruit salad. It's the most widely planted South African white varietal, they call it 'Steen'.

### ~ CHARDONNAY ~

The most popular of all white grape varieties! As the grape of white burgundy it produces a variety of flavours, from minerally unoaked Chablis, to complex, nutty dry whites of Meursault, Chassagne & Puligny. In the New World, and warmer climes of Europe it produces opulently & exotically flavoured whites. Chardonnay varies from the melon, apple & grapefruit cool climate styles to more tropical fruit styles with flavours of peach, mango lime & pineapple. With oak aging, you get a buttery roundness as well as smoky, toasty, and nutty features. Interestingly, where you get Pinot Noir successfully planted you also tend to get Chardonnay!

## ROSÉ

When rosé wine is the primary product, it is produced with the skin contact method. Black-skinned grapes are crushed and the skins are allowed to remain in contact with the juice for a short period, typically one to three days. The must is then pressed, & the skins are discarded rather than left in contact throughout fermentation (as with red wine making).

The longer that the skins are left in contact with the juice, the more intense the colour of the final wine.

## REDS

### ~ PINOT NOIR ~

Pinot Noir is the red grape of Burgundy. It is a very difficult variety to cultivate & is susceptible to numerous viticultural hazards. Perhaps this is why many wine makers consider it the 'holy grail', and want to make it. Remember it is brick red in colour, a good indicator in 'blind tastings'. It produces red fruit aromas of cherries, raspberries & strawberries. It then can produce those 'barn yard' characteristics. Vanilla clove, licorice, mushroom, tobacco, sometimes 'sweaty leather'!

### ~ MALBEC ~

Responsible for the so-called 'black wine of Cahors' in South-West France. Malbec is also a minor partner among the five red varieties that make up the Bordeaux blend. In France it can be harsh & rustically tannic. However it is the red grape par excellence in Argentina, where it makes a softer, juicier style of red, with raspberries, mulberry blackberry allied to tar & game-like undertones. We are also seeing Malbec in Chile, Australia & California.

### ~ MERLOT ~

For long considered the junior partner in the great Bordeaux duo of grape varieties, it has more recently almost achieved 'cult status' thanks to certain Merlot based Pomerols & St Emilion in Bordeaux, as well as its lusciously plummy styles from California & Chile. It's soft textured producing plummy fruit, and almost fruit cake flavours & mellow tannins. From the cooler climates you might get a little grass & bell pepper as it develops blackcurrant, blackberry, blueberry chocolate & spice characteristics when fully ripe.

## PROSECCO

Prosecco is an Italian white wine. Prosecco DOC can be spumante, frizzante, or tranquillo, depending on the perlage. It is made from Glera grapes, formerly known also as Prosecco, but other grape varieties may be included.



## ROSÉ WINES

125ML 175ML 250ML CARAFE BOTTLE

- 19 ZINFANDEL ROSÉ, BERINGER **£4.25 £5.75 £7.65 £15.00 £22.20**  
*California, United States*  
 Fruity aromas and flavours of ripe strawberries and some spicy clove notes. Soft, well-rounded palate, in a medium style.
- 20 PINOT GRIGIO ROSÉ, POGGIO ALTO **£4.25 £5.75 £7.40 £14.50 £21.95**  
*Veneto, Italy*  
 With a delicate pale pink colour and an elegant nose of acacia flowers, this light-bodied dry rosé is delightfully refreshing.
- 21 CÔTES DE PROVENCE ROSÉ, CARTE NOIRE **£27.95**  
*France*  
 Very refined dry rosé, with an attractive floral aroma, redcurrant fruit, and excellent length in the mouth.

## SPARKLING WINES & CHAMPAGNE

125ML BOTTLE

- 22 PROSECCO EXTRA DRY, CA' DEL CONSOLE **£4.60 £25.00**  
*Veneto, Italy*  
 A classic Prosecco with aromas of white peach, pear and flowers. The palate is fresh, not too dry, and clean as a whistle all the way through to the sparkling finish.
- 23 CHAMPAGNE DRAPPIER BRUT 1ER CRU **£8.25 £44.95**  
*France*
- 24 CHAMPAGNE BOLLINGER SPECIAL CUVÉE **£69.75**  
*France*
- 25 CHAMPAGNE LAURENT-PERRIER ROSÉ **£85.95**  
*France*



*Our wines are carefully selected and supplied by Berkmann Wine Cellars.*



## WHITE WINES

125ML 175ML 250ML CARAFE BOTTLE

- 1 **BIANCO (GRECANICO, INZOLIA), PIENO SUD** £3.95 £4.95 £6.50 £12.60 £18.20  
*Sicilia IGT, Italy*  
This delicately perfumed blend of native Sicilian grape varieties offers ripe pear and red apple fruit, a hint of spice, and lemony crispness on the finish.
- 2 **SAUVIGNON BLANC, ETNIA, MANCURA** £3.95 £4.95 £6.85 £13.95 £19.80  
*Central Valley, Chile*  
An elegant yellow colour with vibrant greenish hues. The nose offers tantalising tropical fruit aromas and white flowers. The palate is clean, and fresh, balanced and with a refreshing finish.
- 3 **CHENIN BLANC/ROUSSANNE, FRONT ROW** £3.95 £5.35 £7.10 £14.95 £20.95  
*Swartland, South Africa*  
A nose of melon, flowers and savoury notes with some honey—spiced fruit leading to a tropical palate that combines depth of fruit with a bright, crisp finish.
- 4 **PINOT GRIGIO, TERRE DEL NOCE** £4.50 £5.75 £7.55 £14.95 £21.80  
*Vigneti delle Dolomiti IGT, Italy*  
Elegant, dry Pinot Grigio with apple and banana fruit aromas, floral lift in the mouth, and a clean, crisp finish.
- 5 **PICPOUL DE PINET BEAUVIGNAC** £4.65 £6.30 £8.80 £17.45 £26.35  
*Languedoc Roussillon, France*  
Elegant aromas of citrus, pear and white flowers, and a crisp, mineral palate ideally suited to seafood.
- 6 **GRUNER VELTLINER, ZERO-G** £26.99  
*Wagram, Austria*  
Light in body yet intensely flavoured, this Grüner Veltliner offers the typical white pepper and crisp green fruit aromas of the variety, allied to a creamy texture particular to the Wagram region. The balance is really satisfying, the wine refreshing from start to finish!
- 7 **SAUVIGNON BLANC, MAHI** £5.25 £7.15 £9.95 £19.45 £28.95  
*Marlborough, New Zealand*  
Musky aromas and flavours of lemon-lime, pepper and herbs, plus a subtle suggestion of ripe peach. Plush and broad but with harmonious spicy, grapefruit notes giving the wine lift. Fresh but fully ripe and nicely tactile, even plush, and long on the aftertaste.
- 8 **PETIT CHABLIS, JEAN-MARC BROCARD** £35.55  
*Burgundy, France*  
White fruit and crystallized citrus aromas on the nose, then a lively palate with notes of flowers leading on to a mineral finish.
- 9 **RULLY 1ER CRU MARGOTÉS, JACQUESON** £49.95  
*Burgundy, France*  
Richly vibrant white burgundy, offering characteristic aromas of red apple and grilled nuts, a creamy texture on the palate, cut with some citrus freshness. Lovely balance and length!

## RED WINES

125ML 175ML 250ML CARAFE BOTTLE

- 10 **TEMPRANILLO, VALDEMOREDA** £4.15 £4.95 £6.25 £11.95 £17.95  
*Spain*  
Impressive concentration, loaded with lush rhubarb and strawberry fruit, velvety soft tannins.
- 11 **SHIRAZ, FIRST FLEET** £4.25 £4.95 £6.55 £12.95 £19.00  
*South-Eastern Australia*  
A vibrant Shiraz that captures the pioneering spirit of the first voyages to Australia in a modern, easy-drinking style. Mulberry and plum fruit mixes with spice on the smooth-textured palate, making this a versatile accompaniment to food.
- 12 **MERLOT, D'ALAMEL BY LAPOSTOLLE** £4.25 £5.75 £7.25 £14.50 £20.95  
*Central Valley, Chile*  
A round, voluptuous Merlot with plum and cherry aromas, a juicy feel in the mouth and a long, smooth finish. The oak adds a touch of spicy complexity.
- 13 **PINOT NOIR RESERVA, PIONERO, MORANDÉ** £4.95 £5.45 £7.50 £14.95 £22.95  
*Casablanca, Chile*  
A pure and elegant Pinot Noir with notes of raspberry and gentle spice on the nose. The palate is light and silky in texture, allowing the beautiful summer fruit flavours to shine through.
- 14 **MALBEC, PORTEÑO, NORTON** £4.95 £6.75 £8.95 £17.45 £25.25  
*Mendoza, Argentina*  
This luscious Malbec has aromas of violets, strawberries and black cherries, leading to a smooth, full-bodied palate with a hint of peppery spice.
- 15 **CABERNET SAUVIGNON/MERLOT, BUITENVERWACHTING** £4.65 £6.30 £8.80 £17.45 £26.99  
*Constantia, South Africa*  
Bright, stylish aromas of cassis, plums and pencil lead give way to a complex, structured palate that marries ripe fruit with mineral nuance, with a well-tuned, fragrant finish.
- 16 **FLEURIE, 'CLOS DES QUATRE VENTS'** £6.30 £8.55 £12.00 £23.70 £34.95  
*Burgundy, France*  
Full-bodied for Fleurie, with plenty of oomph to match the trademark floral character, and complex nuances, both savoury and fruity, on the palate.
- 17 **BOURGOGNE PINOT NOIR, PRESTIGE, HENRI DE VILLAMONT** £41.95  
*Burgundy, France*  
Henri de Villamont's "junior" red burgundy is in fact a rather sophisticated affair, showing real depth of fruit and a fine silky texture. The balance between berry-floral flavour, medium-bodied structure and gentle oak is absolutely spot-on.
- 18 **RIOJA GRAN RESERVA, CONDE DE VALDEMAR** £45.75  
*Spain*  
On the nose, it shows spicy aromas of black pepper and vanilla combined with ripe black fruit. Round and full-bodied, good balance between the fruit and the oak with a persistent finish.