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...d news keeps coming – there has probably never been a time when you could **save so much** as now by buying from Boursot's Wine Collection in France. Read on...!

Wastot's Wine Dinners and Events

It is still time if you should wish to **escape for next weekend's fun Burgundy dinner** at the **Chateau des Tourelles** in Le Wast, near Ardres. The food there is of exceptional quality and the whole relaxing experience offers great value. David Charlut will be talking about "Burgundy" and showing off a selection of six contrasting wines. If you enjoy the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes but don't want to pay some of Burgundy's exorbitant prices, this is for you; there is good value still to be found. Bedrooms are currently available and the ticket price is 89€ per person to include all food and all wine. If you should like to book, please let me know as soon as possible.

As I plan to host our traditional **January Blues Buster** on **Saturday 21 January**.

For those of you who have not experienced this previously, the title says it all: many of us need cheering up at this dark time of year and this event has been designed to do just that. There will be a **tutored tasting** at the hotel (probably La Tour de Saint-Omer but still to be confirmed) that afternoon, followed by a four course dinner, served with six wines.



Best Offers

Eurotunnel has released three days of **£60 day returns**. Available on 15, 16 and 17 November. Go directly to eurotunnel.com to book your day trip. The rest of the time Eurotunnel seems to have reduced its rates to £10 per day.

At the end of December, **10% off** for wine orders paid for but collected whenever you like, with free storage for up to 3 months in our cool underground cellars. This cannot be combined with any other Offer and replaces the recent Eurotunnel 10% off.

5% off your wine orders over 300€ value
10% off your wine orders over 600€ value
Collected from Ardres. Wines offered subject to remaining unsold

There is a new way to **reclaim your VAT** on your French purchases. Over the last 20 months, VAT refund schemes have been available and some of our customers who have used these services have expressed complete satisfaction. Zapptax and Zaptax seem to be the main providers and are of course approved by the relevant French and UK authorities.

It is quite simple to understand that the process is simple: you go to the provider's website and download a free app, buy your wines from Boursot's Wine Collection at the French 20% VAT inclusive price, but at the moment of invoicing you ask us to show the name of Boursot's Wine Collection or any of the other refund companies on the invoice. You then either take a picture of your invoice or scan it on a mobile phone in the VAT refund area of your point of departure. Your spent VAT less a service charge is then refunded to your account. It seems to be that easy to reclaim the VAT that you have paid in France with no contra liability in the UK.

As these operators are France based, UK customs would not be interested in whether the French VAT has been reclaimed. Some people use this only for the amount covered by that so-called "personal allowance" of 24 bottles of still wine and 12 of sparkling per person, whilst others have charged all of their wine purchase to the provider. If you were simply to buy your wine from Boursot's Wine Collection you can put the most expensive wines of your purchase on a separate invoice for VAT reclaim and still attract substantial savings.

Previously you were already **saving a fortune** by buying your quality wines from Boursot's Wine Collection in Ardres. It is true to say now that with these additional Offers you have never been able to buy your quality French wines at such a low price. What you are paying £10 for in the UK is typically the euro equivalent of £5 in France – **half price**. You really should take advantage of this once-in-a-decade opportunity now.

imits

to what was published two years ago on the UK government's website, there continue to be no customs checks for travellers returning to the UK. There is also no red channel. Two years after Brexit, it is still the case that not one of our customers has been asked for any tax or impeded in any way when taking large quantities of wine back from Calais to the UK. In all the cases are clearly visible in the car. Happily, many of you have experienced this for yourselves and so have been asking for even larger quantities.

If you had not heard about this previously, UK customs decided not to take on the aggravation of confronting travellers returning to the UK. It, could only ever be a comparatively minuscule tax take.

Thank you for asking. We are sending back many customers with plenty more than their supposed allocation and not one person has had any problem. Let's face it, we would be the second to know!

Well, this is the perfect time to stock up for your Christmas, New Year party or wedding requirements and when the news is less-than-cheering around, we hope that you might profit from this conjuncture of offers.

ing Gifts across the EU

As we move into the Christmas season, may I remind you that if you should wish to send gifts of wine to friends or family in other EU countries then we will happily arrange this for you and because we are based inside the EU, there will be none of the additional charges that you would have to pay if exporting from the UK.

Go to www.boursot.co.uk/buy.html and choose the appropriate option. The whole process is straightforward and we will also type a note to accompany your bottles and delivery will be made anywhere across the EU within a few days.

News on the World of Wine

100 hectares of vines **Château Lascombes**, classified as a 2ème Cru Classé in the still relevant 1855 classification has been bought by a US venture capital outfit that includes the prestigious Heitz Cellar in its portfolio of California vineyards. The price paid was thought to have been in the region of a mere 350m€!

Château Lascombes has had a chequered ownership – it was owned by the charismatic Alexis Lichine from 1951 to 1971, then by the Borsot family from 1971 to 2001, by an American venture capital specialist from 2001 and now in 2022 it has moved once again. It is hard to say that until 2001, the wine was less than spectacular. Recent vintages have provided some excellent wines. From time to time we list the château's second wine, Chevalier de Lascombes. (A second wine is made from younger vines and does not have quite the concentration of the illustrious parent, the wine does retain some filial character and elegance and thereby can often offer good value.)

There is no let-up of wealthy buyers eyeing up the quality wine producers all over the world.

In Argentina, 10,000 hectares of vineyards have been badly affected by an unexpected frost at the end of October. The local government has declared a state of agricultural emergency. If you enjoy Argentinian wines, it could be prudent to buy some before wines disappear from the shelves or prices start to rocket.

I happened recently to discover that I had missed the news that an old and very dear friend in the champagne business had died in August at the grand age of 93. To my mind **Christian de Billy**, head of Champagne Pol Roger in Epernay was a man I could not fail to like. The true gentleman, he was charming and always made the time to help others. My father and I spent many happy hours with him and his family. One amusing conversation comes to mind when I sought his advice on a potential candidate for supplying my then-house champagne. He responded "bien sûr, that producer is ok if you want to 'keep your stomach!'".

I have known him since I was a child for the simple reason that he married Chantal Budin the girl next door at Maison Perrin Boursot & Co was the UK agent for over 130 years. Sadly Chantal died a couple of years ago, ultimately from cancer and the firm was never quite the same afterwards.

I was part of that generation in which all the Grande Marque champagne producers were friendly competitors and appeared to be very uncommercial. Back in 1976 he instructed my then-employer Berry Bros & Rudd that I attend L'Académie de Champagne and that there were many others ahead of me. Result: I did attend in 1976 and became such a mouthpiece for the industry that I was elected chairman of L'Académie in 1995. Christian de Billy was probably the last great character of that generation in Champagne.

Hope to see you again very soon for a fun day out in Ardres and in the meantime keep enjoying our wines – in moderation!

best wishes

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