

SWISS BLISS

HOME TO A LARGE REPERTOIRE OF INDIGENOUS GRAPE VARIETIES BARELY KNOWN OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY, SWITZERLAND OFFERS EXTREME DIVERSITY IN THE CHARACTER OF ITS WINES. SWISS OENOLOGIST MARTA ARRANZ PICKS FIVE OF HER FAVOURITES FROM OVER 100 SWISS WINES AVAILABLE AT OENOtheque — THE WINE CELLAR OF NEWLY OPENED RESTAURANT AND BAR, WINE UNIVERSE

GIROUD VINS PETITE ARVINE

The white grape varietal Petite Arvine is the pride of all Swiss citizens and is a great symbol of local viticulture. You will only find this grape in the Valais canton where it was planted centuries ago. Originally from the Aosta Valley, this grape arrived in Valais at the end of the Middle Ages. Not very easy for cultivation, the vines demand great care. Straw yellow in appearance, this wine has a subtle fruity nose with grapefruit aroma. On the palate, it is full of fruits and rhubarbs, with a good structure, giving way to a final salty note typically found in Petite Arvine wines. You can also find a sweet version of Petite Arvine — the grapes are harvested late in December and made into dessert wine.

GIROUD VINS HUMAGNE BLANCHE

One of the oldest grape varieties of the Valais region — it was mentioned in treatises from the 14th century that the vines were brought over by the Roman empire. The Humagne Blanche grape had low production and was so sensitive to insect attacks that it almost disappeared entirely. With technology advances, wine growers in Valais managed to replant this grape with surprisingly great results, returning its status to its former glory. This grape has the reputation of containing a good quantity of iron and was actually proposed for pregnant women's consumption. The wine is golden yellow with honey and fruity aromas; it has hazelnut and pastry touches on the palate but with good acidity for that refreshing impression.

GIROUD VINS CORNALIN D'ARDON

Another grape varietal found only in Switzerland and exclusively in Valais.

There are documents proving that this grape existed in the 14th century. However, it was a difficult grape to cultivate hence it was almost forgotten until the 20th century. Now, it has been replanted with success and is a typical viticulture representation of the region. Intense red in colour, the wine has expressive aromas of black berries with a pepper touch. On the palate, you will find a jammy taste, full body structure and smooth texture. It finishes with a spicy note. Open and pleasant.

DELEA CELLAR CHIAR DI LUNA BIANCO DI MERLOT

This wine comes from the region of Ticino, the part of Switzerland near Italy. At the beginning of the 20th century, wine growers planted lots of Merlot vines, making it the leading wine varietal of the Ticino region. Chiar di luna is a white wine made by Delea Cellar using the red Merlot grape. It is made by going through a soft pressing, without 'cuvage' (maceration

with skin) to obtain a white must and thereafter, a white wine — one with a very original character. Pale white with slight green tones, the wine has a fresh and vivacious aroma. The taste is dry, savoury, intense and persistent.

LES PERRIERS CELLAR GAMARET DE PEISSY

Gamaret is a new Swiss grape varietal created in the '70s by the Agronomy and Oenology School of Switzerland, through crossing Reichensteiner with Gamay. Gamaret is enjoying a growing popularity among producers, especially in the Geneva canton. This wine comes from the Les Perriers Cellar, located in the Geneva countryside of Peissy, and is made in traditional fermentation followed by 12 months in French oak barrels. The wine is deep, dark violet with aromas of red fruits on the nose. In the mouth, it presents apparent blackcurrant notes with soft tannins and ends with an elegant structure. [a](#)



Oenotheque by Wine Universe is located at #01-109 Millenia Walk. This joint venture between local restaurateur Magdalene Tang and Swiss winery Giroud Vins is the first cellar in Asia to feature an extensive list of over 100 labels of Swiss wines. Oenologist of Giroud Vins and Wine Consultant for Oenotheque, MARTA ARRANZ has over 20 years of wine making experience. She will be based in Singapore till the end of the year to introduce Swiss wines to the locals.