

CA' DEL BOSCO Franciacorta DOCG, Lombardy, Italy Model estate, headed by Maurizio Zanella, making some of Italy's finest and most expensive wines: outstanding sparklers in FRANCIAORTA Brut★★, Dosage Zero★★, Satén★ and the prestige Cuvée Annamaria Clementi★★; good Terre di Franciacorta Rosso★, remarkably good Chardonnay★★, Pinero★★ (Pinot Nero) and a BORDEAUX blend, Maurizio Zanella★★.

ROSE D'ANJOU and generally slightly sweeter than a rule. Best producers: Bertrand, C Daviau, Ogereau, Tigné★.

CABERNET FRANC Often unfairly dismissed as an inferior Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc comes into its own in cool zones or areas where the soil is damp and heavy. It can have a grassy freshness linked to raw but tasty blackcurrant-raspberry fruit. In France it thrives in the LOIRE VALLEY and BORDEAUX, especially ST-EMILION and POMEROL where it accounts for 19% of the planting. Italy has used the variety with considerable success for generations in the north-east. Experiments with Cabernet Franc on CALIFORNIA's North Coast and in WASHINGTON STATE show promise in blends and as a varietal. There are also some good South African and Australian examples.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON See pages 86-7.

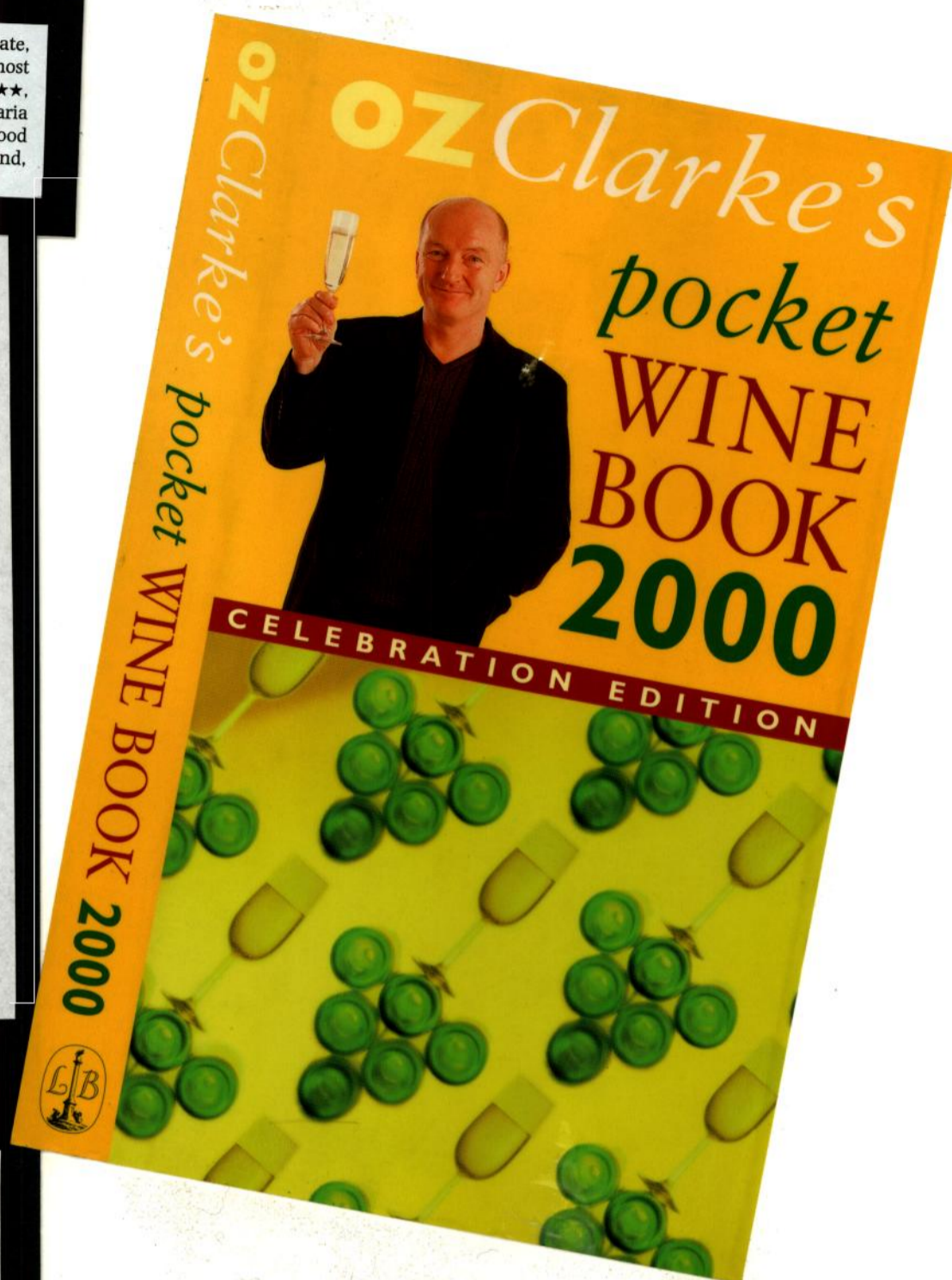
CADILLAC AC Bordeaux, France A sweet wine produced in the southern half of the PREMIERES COTES DE BORDEAUX in close proximity to LOUPIAC and STE-CROIX-DU-MONT. Disappointing in the past, the wines have greatly improved in recent vintages. Styles vary from fresh, semi-sweet to richly botrytized. Drink young. Best producers: Berbec, Carsin, Cayla★, Ch. du Juge (Dupleich), Manos★, Mémoires, Renon, Ste Catherine. Best years: (1998) 97 96 95 90.

CAHORS AC South-West France Important South-West red wine region. This dark, often tannic wine is made from at least 70% Auxerrois (Bordeaux's Malbec) and has an unforgettable, rich plummy flavour. Ages well. Best producers: la Caminade, Cayrou★, Cèdre★, Clos la Coutale★, Clos de Gamot★, Clos Triguedina★, Côtes d'Olt co-op, Gaudou, Haute-Serre★, Lagrezette★, Lamartine★, Quatre. Best years: (1998) 97 96 95 92 90 89 88 86 85.

CAIN CELLARS Napa Valley AVA, California, USA This Spring Mountain estate appears to be solidly on track. The Cain Five★★ is a particularly pleasing BORDEAUX blend, which can be a bit slow off the mark but is worth waiting for. Also a lower-priced Cain Cuvée and strongly flavoured Sauvignon Musque are regular items. Best years: (Cain Five) (1996) 95 94 93 92 91 90 87 86 85.

CALABRIA Italy One of Italy's poorest regions. CRO, Donnici, Savuto and Scavigna reds from the native Gaglioppo grape, and whites from Grecco, are much improved thanks to greater winemaking expertise.

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F FONTODI

FONTODI Chianti Classico DOCG, Tuscany, Italy The Manetti family has steadily built this superbly sited estate into one of the most admired in the CHIANTI CLASSICO area, with a consistent normale★, richer Riserva★★ and fine Riserva Vigna del Sorbo★★. Exemplary SUPER-TUSCAN Flaccianello della Pieve★★★ is produced from a single vineyard of old vines and though now better than ever, it has served as a shining example to other producers of how excellent Sangiovese can be when it stands alone, without the addition of other native or foreign varieties. Two varietals are made under the new Case Via label; of these, the Syrah★ is most promising. Best years: (Flaccianello) 1995 94 93 91 90 88 86 85.

FORST Pfalz, Germany Small village with 6 individual vineyard sites, including the Ungeheuer or 'Monster'; wines from the Monster can indeed be quite savage, with a marvellous mineral intensity and richness in the best years. Equally good are the Kirchenstück, Jesuitengarten, Freundstück and Pechstein. Best producers: von BUHL★, BURKLIN-WOLF★★, Georg Mosbacher★★, J WEGELER ERBEN★, Werlé★, WOLF★★. Best years: (whites) (1998) 97 96 95 94 93 90.

FOX RUN VINEYARDS Finger Lakes AVA, New York State, USA The Reserve Chardonnay★ produced here is very attractive, with well-integrated oak and fruit in an elegant style. The just off-dry Riesling is also a treat, as is the vintage-dated Brut bubbly. Merlot and Pinot Noir both show great promise. There was a good Meritage★ (red wine produced from classic BORDEAUX grape varieties) made in 1996. Best

FRANCIACORTA DOCG Lombardy, Italy The 14th wine to achieve 'guaranteed' status is the Champagne-method sparkler Franciacorta, made from Pinot and Chardonnay grapes. The former DOC applied to still as well as sparkling wines: Bianco from Pinot Bianco and Chardonnay; Rosso from Cabernet, Barbera, Nebbiolo and Merlot. These remain DOC under the appellation Terre di Franciacorta. Best producers: BELLAVISTA★★, CA' DEL BOSCO★★, Castellino★, Cavalleri★, La Ferghettina★, Enrico Gatti★, Monte Rossa★, Principe-Banfi★, Ricci Curbastro★, Uberti★.

remarkably good-value Chardonnay from California's Alexander Valley, as well as its own Meritage★. Franciscan also owns Mount Veeder Winery, where lean but intense Cabernet Sauvignon★★ of great mineral depth and complexity is made. Best years: (Chardonnay) (1997) 96 95 94 92 91 90; (Cabernet Sauvignon) (1996) 95 94 93 91 88 87.

FRANKEN Germany Wine region incorporated into the kingdom of Bavaria at the beginning of the 19th century and specializing in dry wines. Easily recognizable by their squat, green Bocksbeutel bottles (now more familiar because of the Portuguese wine Mateus Rosé). Silvaner is the traditional grape variety, although Müller-Thurgau now predominates. The most famous vineyards are on the hillsides around WURZBURG and IPHOFEN.