Dinner Party Wines
Cave de Turckheim Crémant d'Alsace & Altano Organic Douro Red, 2019
SHORT INTRODUCTION TO ALSACE

• Bordering Germany and Switzerland, Alsace has alternated between German and French control over the centuries and reflects a mix of those cultures.

• Alsace is unusual for a French wine region in that most of its still wines are labelled by grape variety.

• Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Sylvaner, Auxerrois, and Pinot Blanc are among the notable white wines produced in the region.

• Produced since 1900, the Crémant d’Alsace AOC was recognized in 1976 by the INAO [Institut national de l’origine et de la qualité] and the designation Crémant regulated by the European Parliament in 1996.

• The AOC Crémant d’Alsace is elaborated according to the methods used for Champagne production.
Location of the Alsace region in France
MEET THE PRODUCER: CAVE DE TURCKHEIM

• The Cave de Turckheim co-operative was founded in 1955, and has been a leader in bettering the reputation of Alsace wines.

• It is now a substantial vineyard owner in the region, with 216 growers cultivating vines principally in Turckheim (a pretty village just north-west of Colmar), but also Wintzenheim, Niedermanschwihr and as far north as Riquewihr.

• Cave de Turckheim only produces wine from the grapes of its member growers, it is a récoltant not a négociant

• Michel Lihrmann is the senior winemaker for 25 years and his philosophy is to make wines with good acidity and fruit balance.

• Committed to producing the highest quality wines, growers are encouraged to keep yields low.
Cave de Turckheim
Crémant d'Alsace NV
THE WINE

Grape Varieties: 80% Pinot Blanc, 20% Pinot Gris
Non-Vintage
ABV: 12.5%
Residual Sugar: 7.30g/L

VINIFICATION

Sustainably grown Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris grapes undergo first fermentation then undergo second fermentation in bottle. The crémant is then aged on its lees for at least 18 months before being disgorged and the addition of the final dosage.

SUGGESTED FOOD PAIRINGS

This crémant can be perfectly served on its own, as an aperitif. It will also pair well with tapas such as croquetas de Jamón and patatas bravas. I also recommend it to drink with one of the most popular British dishes: fish & chips!
SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE DOURO VALLEY

• Douro is the oldest demarcated and regulated wine region in the world, declared in 1756 and made a World Heritage by UNESCO in 2001.

• The region is located 80 kilometres east of Porto [Portugal’s 2nd city] and stretches from the Marão Mountains to the frontier with Spain.

• The region is sheltered from Atlantic winds by the Marão and Montemuro mountains and has a continental climate, with hot and dry summers and cold winters.

• Wine production in the Douro is dominated by Port, but unfortified wines have always been made.

• Most of the wines made here (around 90%) are red, with the rest divided more or less equally between whites and rosés.
MEET THE PRODUCER: SYMINGTON FAMILY ESTATES

• Symington Family Estates is a wine company and Port wine house in Portugal, which owns and operates several vineyards and wineries and owns several brands of Port, Madeira wine and Douro DOC wines, including some of the oldest and most well-known Port and Madeira brands.

• The company was founded by Andrew James Symington who arrived in Oporto from Scotland in 1882, and initially joined Graham’s.

• Today, ten members of the 4th and 5th generation work across their four Port houses: Graham’s, Cockburn’s, Dow’s and Warre’s, and portfolio of Douro wine brands – Quinta do Vesuvio, Quinta do Ataíde, Altano and Prats & Symington (producers of Chryseia and Post Scriptum).

• All their vineyards are sustainably managed under a minimum intervention certification and 130 ha are organically farmed, the largest area of organic vineyard in northern Portugal.

• Symington released the first Altano red in 1999 and they haven't looked back. Today, the Altano range enjoys global distribution and the wines have received widespread recognition for their quality and distinctiveness.
THE WINE

Grape Varieties: 35% Touriga Franca, 25% Touriga Nacional, 20% Alicante Bouschet, 15% Tinta Barroca and 5% Tinta Roriz

Vintage: 2019 | ABV: 14%
Residual sugar: 0.6g/L
Vegan / Vegetarian

- This Altano Douro Organic red wine is made entirely from organically farmed grapes of a combination of several traditional Douro grape varieties sourced from the Symington family’s Douro Valley vineyards, namely those located in the Douro Superior subregion.

- This is the hottest and driest area of the Douro and is thus well suited to organic viticulture.

SUGGESTED FOOD PAIRINGS

This is a versatile red wine, with good acidity and medium tannins, that will pair very well with a Beef Wellington, a roasted glazed ham, sweet potatoes, chicken escalope and baked aubergine.
Dinner Party Wines

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