

# Steven Spurrier

Delights and discoveries  
at Vinexpo



## Spurrier's choice

### **BEST OLD WORLD WHITE COLTERENZIO**

#### **GEWURZTRAMINER 1998**

Two great Gewurztraminers I have had this year come from cooperatives in the commune of Eppan in Italy's Alto Adige: a 2000 Sanct Valentin from St Michael-Eppan, and this splendid 1998 from Colterenzio. Full, buttery yellow, classic rose petal and lychee fruit, very ripe but with a dry finish. Between Alto Adige and New Zealand, Alsace must look out.

£14.99; EnW

### **BEST OLD WORLD RED**

#### **PODERE LA BRANCAIA ROSSO DI TOSCANA 1998**

After 15 years of having its

wines made at nearby Castello di Fonterutoli, the Widmer family vinified its 1998 in its new winery to great success. This 60% Sangiovese, 35% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon blend spends 18 months in two thirds' new oak to emerge with a huge colour, deeply seductive fruit with a firm backbone of ripe tannins, meriting totally the description 'Super Tuscan'.  
£17.49; EnW

### **BEST NEW WORLD WHITE**

#### **TE MATA HAWKES BAY CHARDONNAY 2000**

John Buck has been making some groundbreaking wines on his ever-expanding Te Mata

estate for more than 20 years and he feels 2000 to be the best vintage for Chardonnay in Hawkes Bay since 1962. Vibrant yellow with green lights, with exotic pineapple and peach aromas leading into well-controlled, ripe and succulent fruit, all balanced by a zesty acidity. A very good wine now and will be for a couple of years.  
£8.49; WRa

### **BEST NEW WORLD RED**

#### **KANONKOP PAUL SAUER 1998**

Johann and Paul Krige, owners of Kanonkop, named this cuvee after their grandfather, the son of Kanonkop's original owner JW Sauer. Beyers Truter adds 10% each of Merlot and Cabernet Franc to the Cabernet Sauvignon base to create a

densely coloured, massively ripe wine with pure vineyard fruit and enough tannin to keep it developing for another decade. One of South Africa's greatest wines.  
£13.99; Odd

### **BEST SWEET WINE**

#### **JULIAN CHIVITE, VENDIMIA TARDIA, NAVARRA 1998**

From botrytised Moscatel grapes planted in its El Candelero vineyard in 1969, harvested in five tris from late October, Chivite has made a wine to match the best liqueux from Bordeaux. Golden in colour, with a heady aroma of honey and flowers, richly concentrated on the palate with apricot and peach fruit and a lanolin smooth texture, this is lovely now and

will improve if you can bear to keep it.  
£10.99 (half-bottle); R&S

### **BEST SPARKLING WINE**

#### **DUVAL-LEROY FEMME 1990**

Never one to play down her role as the woman President-Directeur-General of one of Champagne's largest companies, Carol Duval's Prestige Cuvee 'Femme' 1990 is a blend of 89% Chardonnay from the grands crus of Avize, Chouilly and Oger and 11% Pinot Noir from Ay. With all the 1990 ripeness, the floral minerality so attractively present in her Blanc de Chardonnay 1995 marries superbly with the fleshiness of the Pinot. The distinctive bottle comes with its own ice bucket.  
£120; Duv