

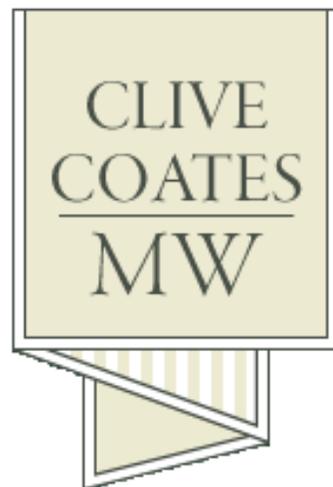
## THE WINE

*Written/published by*

**CLIVE COATES**

### ***Monte Bernardi***

It is startling to think that the first vintage at the 5.5 hectare Monte Bernardi estate was as recently as 1992. In a very short space of time he has established the estate as one of Chianti's superstars. The crop is deliberately reduced (less than 20hl/ha in 1999) and now that they are bottling early, the wines have even more elegance and intensity. The 1999's are the best that he has ever made. Bravo!



**Chianti Classico Paris 1999.** Stak is no longer producing a Riserva. Paris is his middle name taken from his father. Very good colour. Very high-class nose. Excellent depth of fruit. Profound, rich, very ripe, but excellently complex and well balanced. This is most impressive. Indeed, one of the best young Chiantis I have ever had. Full structure. Very, very long. Excellent. Drink from 2004.

**Sa'etta 1999.** A single vineyard wine. A more powerful wine than the Paris. 100% Sangiovese again. A little closed. This is full and rich. Very concentrated and quite tannic. Splendid quality here. Excellent fruit. Very profound. Very, very promising. This is really excellent. Drink from 2006.

**Tzingana 1999.** Fine colour. Very lovely fruit on the nose. This has real poise. The oak is splendidly integrated. Full body. Excellent structure. Very good tannins. Marvelous fruit on the palate. A really elegant wine. Very very fine indeed. Drink from 2006.

**Chianti Classico Paris 1998.** Good, full, youthful colour. Some oak. After many of the other weedy 1998s, this comes as a great relief. Full structure. Vigorous. Still some tannin to resolve. Ample, ripe and fruity. Long and lovely. Drink from 2003.

**Sa'etta 1998.** Very good colour. Lovely, ample, ripe, plump oaky nose. Essentially soft. Has plenty of depth and length. Like the Paris above, this is a major success for 1998. Drink from 2006.

**Tzingana 1998.** 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc, 45% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot. Good weight and good grip. This is long, consistent and fine. Drink from 2006.

**Chianti Classico Riserva 1997.** Soft and developed. It is full and ripe and succulent. Nicely oaky. It still needs a year to soften. Good vigour and personality at the end. Very good indeed. Drink from 2002.

**Sa'etta 1996.** Good colour. Soft, sweet, evolved. But not weedy or over-developed. This is a pleasant drink with a positive follow-through and finish. Very good. Drink from 2001.