



ELGATO NEGRO TAPAS

Wine and sherry list August 2014

1 Oldham Road, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX6 4DN
01422 823070 www.elgatonegrotapas.com

 ElGatoNegroTapas  @ElGatoNegroFood  +ElGatoNegroTapasRipponden

We've always been passionate about excellent wines at El Gato Negro, as I believe it's an essential part of the dining experience. For years I've been keen to develop a range of almost exclusively Spanish wines; after plenty of dedicated research we're now able to do this for the first time, expanding our range in the process.

We're proud to offer you a superlative selection of Iberian wines, focusing wherever possible on smaller artisanal producers and the very best examples of varieties. I hope you take pleasure in discovering some lesser-known gems which we've worked hard to track down.

There's a broad array of wines here, at different prices and with different characteristics to match whatever food and occasion you may be enjoying. As well as listing the wines by type, I've also highlighted some particularly special wines on the next page which are personal favourites. Our knowledgeable staff will be happy to offer personalised recommendations for your meal, so you can always enjoy the fruits of our labour... in your glass. ¡Salud!

Simon

Simon Shaw, August 2014

France

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|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Champagne Deutz Brut Classic | <i>half bottle</i> £29.50 | £55.00 |
| 2 | Champagne Deutz Rosé | <i>half bottle</i> £32.50 | £60.00 |

Deutz of Aÿ are one of the oldest Grandes Marque Champagne houses, established in 1838 and renowned for producing beautifully complex, elegant and balanced champagnes. Both the Brut Classic and Rosé are dry and have plenty of substance and character: with lemon notes in the brut and hints of red fruit from the Pinot Noir in the rosé.

Spain

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| 3 | Vilarnau Brut
<i>55% Macabeo, 40% Parellada, 5% Xarel.lo</i>
Penedes NV | <i>glass</i> £5 | £25.50 |
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A classic brut cava. Floral and green apple notes on the nose, with a well-rounded, rich, balanced flavour.

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| 4 | Vilarnau Brut Rosado
<i>90% Trepas, 10% Pinot Noir</i>
Penedes NV | <i>glass</i> £5.50 | £28.50 |
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A wonderfully creamy, smooth sparkling rosé with a delicate mousse. Soft and juicy yet refreshingly balanced, it's a perfect aperitif.

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| 5 | La Rosita
<i>100% Monastrell rosado</i>
Penedes NV | | £32.50 |
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A delightfully light, sparkling rosé from one of the smallest bodegas in Spain. Hints of strawberries and cream, balanced with a crisp acidity. All made by a lovely Scottish lady in Catalunya.

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| 6 | Sensum
<i>100% Albariño</i>
Rias Baixas | | £35.00 |
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This sparkling Galician wine is delightfully elegant and carries hints of biscuit, nuts and honey. All those distinctive, classic Albariño characteristics given extra lift with fine bubbles and a long and persistent finish.

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| 7 | La Pamelita
<i>95% Monastrell, 5% Tempranillo</i>
Penedes NV | | £35.00 |
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This sparkling red is a treat for the tastebuds; blackberry and fig notes vie with underlying hints of spice to deliver a superb flavour. Extraordinary complexity, depth of flavour and great length in this wine, which is highly drinkable with a broad range of richly-flavoured dishes.

- Trossos Sants 2012** £42
90% Garnacha Blanc, 10% Garnacha Gris
Montserrat
 A complex and fresh nose, with citrus and floral aromas, white fruits and a heady minerality. Fresh, unctuous and silky on the palate, with good structure and maturity, there are anise and fresh herb notes, pears, honey, sun-dried fruits and nuts in there, ending with a satisfyingly long finish.
- Vidonia 2011, Suertes del Marques** £55
90% Listán Blanco and 10% local varieties as Gual, Marmajuelo, Vijariego Blanco, Baboso Blanco
Tenerife
 Produced from indigenous Canary Islands varieties, this exciting wine embodies freshness, balance, purity of fruit, floral aromas, plenty of minerality and an authentic terroir character. A really versatile and vivacious white.
- Tros Blanc 2010** £75
100% Garnacha Blanca
Montserrat
 This is a truly outstanding single varietal wine from the maestro Alfredo Arrivas; complex, elegant and voluminous. Stoned fruits, floral notes and hints of herbs on the nose, with a deeply fleshy body. Citrus fruits and oak culminate in a stunningly long finish. A very limited production, and a wine to savour and remember.
- Viñas del Vero Gran Vos 2005** £45
Somontano
 Beautiful ruby red colour with cherry tones, a complex nose with aromas of ripe strawberries and raspberry, with hints of liquorice and fennel, perfectly integrated with oak nuances. Full bodied and rich, balanced by gentle acidity and harmonious tannins.
- Conde de Valdemar Gran Reserva** £50
85% Tempranillo, 10% Mazuelo, 5% Graciano
Rioja DOCa
 On the nose, this Gran Reserva shows spicy aromas of black pepper and vanilla, combined with ripe dark fruits. Round and full-bodied, with exceptional balance between fruit and oak, leading to a persistent finish.
- Negre de Negres 2012** £50
Garnacha, Carignan, Cabernet, Syrah
Priorat
 A superbly expressive, beautifully intense Priorat from Alfredo Arrivas, demonstrating a perfectly harmonious balance of fruit, creaminess and minerality, with a long, persistent finish. Dark, handsome and delicious.
- Hens and Seals (Gallinas y Focas) 2011** £55
70% Manto Negro, 30% Syrah
Mallorca
 Everything from the label to the finish suggests this is a brilliantly confident, quirky and fun wine. Lovely fruit, just the right amount of spice and a fresh and lively palate. Raises a smile every time you lift a glass to your mouth.
- Viñas del Vero Secastilla 2008** £55
Garnacha
Somontano
 A unique, outstanding wine, quite different from the usual style of Somontano. Complex, earthy and spicy fruit dominates the nose, followed by a rich and dense palate with intense fruit, and a long finish. Grown up, sophisticated and memorable.
- 4 Kilos Tinto 2010** £65
50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Callet 10% Merlot
Mallorca
 This, the top wine from this dynamic vineyard is one of the most exciting and best in Spain. Perfectly balanced and fresh, with a dense and seductively structured palate, with finely grained tannins and a beautiful toasted finish. A glorious favourite.
- Somni 2012** £65
Carignan, Syrah, Garnacha
Priorat
 This is one of the great Priorats; deep and intense yet elegant and sophisticated. Think violets, pepper, Mediterranean herbs and more, wrapped up in a silky fresh texture. Quite a showstopper and on track for our favourite red this year.

White wines

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|----|---|-------------|-------------|--------|
| 8 | Altozano Verdejo
100% Sauvignon Blanc
VdIT Castilla | 125ml £3 | 175ml £4 | £15.50 |
| | <p>Deliciously dry and zesty, with delicate tropical fruit aromas and crisp citrus flavours. Unoaked, fresh and fruit-driven with well balanced acidity.</p> | | | |
| 9 | Candidato Viura
100% Viura
VdIT Castilla | | | £16.95 |
| | <p>Aromas of green apples, grapefruit and quince as well as strong floral notes and hints of fresh breadcrumbs. Silky and smooth on the palate with well-balanced flavours and a long finish.</p> | | | |
| 10 | Plot 22 Airén Sauvignon Blanc
Airén / Sauvignon Blanc
Penedes NV | 125ml £3 | 175ml £5 | £19.50 |
| | <p>A crisp, light and refreshing blend of Airén and Sauvignon Blanc. It's a modern Spanish white that's perfect on its own or with lighter dishes.</p> | | | |
| 11 | Leira Seca
70% Alvarinho, 30% Trajadura
Melgaco, Portugal | | | £21.50 |
| | <p>This is recent addition is our only Portuguese wine - just across the Miño river from Galicia. Robust but elegant, with hints of tropical fruits and a crisp freshness that extends its aftertaste.</p> | | | |
| 12 | Finca Nueva Blanco
100% Viura
Rioja DOCa | 125ml £5 | 175ml £6.95 | £27.50 |
| | <p>This white Rioja is precise and vibrant on the nose and in the mouth, offering citrus and orchard fruits with a hint of vanilla. A juicy, firm finish, with a refreshing bitterness and a good, smokey length.</p> | | | |
| 13 | Fenomenal
Verdejo / Viura
Rueda | | | £27.50 |
| | <p>This Verdejo is a serious example of what this grape is capable of. Extended time on the lees makes it a perfect accompaniment to fish as well as white meat dishes.</p> | | | |
| 14 | Verd Albera
60% Grenache Blanc, 30% Muscat, 5% Grenache Gris, 5% Chardonnay
Empordà | | | £28.50 |
| | <p>The grapes for this staff favourite come from North-east Spain, just over the border from France. Mainly Grenache Blanc with a small addition of Chardonnay and Muscat for an extra lift. Delicious.</p> | | | |
| 15 | Casal de Paula Blanco
70% Treixadura, rest Albariño, Godello and Torrontes
Ribeiro | 125ml £5.50 | 175ml £7 | £28.50 |
| | <p>A customer favourite since we introduced this wine last year. Aromas of lemon, ripe fruit, melon and apples. A broad, round palate with fruitier flavours, good freshness and acidity.</p> | | | |
| 16 | Quinta de la Erre
100% single vineyard Albariño
Rias Baixas | | | £29.95 |
| | <p>Intense notes of nectarine, apricot and peaches mix with aromas of jasmine, orange blossom, citrus fruits and a touch of spiciness. The palate is dry, with an unctuous, oily finish and minerality, with hints of sea spray and iodine.</p> | | | |
| 17 | The Flower and the Bee (La Flor y la Abeja)
100% Treixadura
Ribeiro | | | £32.50 |
| | <p>Another customer favourite, this Treixadura has the perfect balance between opulence and freshness. It combines aromatic floral notes with some white fruit character, and just a smidgeon of honey oiliness.</p> | | | |

Rosé wines

- 18 **Bolo** £32.50
100% Godello
Valdeorras

Pure mineral character is found on Rafael Palacios's first wine. Completely unoaked, this Godello is a clear example of the terroir: granitic soils under vines grown at altitude offer fresh and clean white fruit with a cleansing acidity.

- 19 **Louro** £42.50
100% Godello
Valdeorras

A real treat; we spent ages looking for the right Godello before finding this delight. Selected from the best 40–50 year old Godello vines by Rafa. Fermented in big French oak foudres for extra texture and complexity, the resulting wine is pure, precise and it has a real finesse on the palate with mineral, melon and citrus notes.

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- 20 **Candidato Rosado** £16.95
100% Tempranillo
VdIT Castilla

125ml £3.25

175ml £4.50

A delightfully light and dry rosé, with a smooth texture, summer berry fruit flavours, and a long, refreshing finish.

- 21 **Conde de Valdemar Rosado** £25.00
85% Garnacha, 15% Tempranillo
Rioja DOPa

Intense aromas of red fruits with subtle floral notes of violet petals. The palate balances lively rhubarb fruit flavours with a delicious creamy texture.

- 22 **La Cuna de la Poeta Rosado** £27.50
100% Garnacha
Rioja DOPa

A wonderfully seductive rosé, with a delicate bouquet of wild strawberries, hints of spice and floral notes. This is followed by a delightfully fresh, refined feel in the mouth.

Red wines

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- 23 **Altozano Tempranillo Shiraz** £15.50
Tempranillo / Shiraz
VdIT Castilla

125ml £3

175ml £4

Rich ruby red in colour, with pronounced aromas of ripe brambles and warm spice. Vibrant flavours of juicy red cherries and ripe plums are complemented by soft vanilla characters from ageing a portion of the blend in a mixture of French and American oak barrels.

- 24 **Candidato Tinto Tempranillo** £16.95
100% Tempranillo
VdIT Castilla

Bursting with strawberry, raspberry and blackcurrant, and a creamy note on the nose. Full-bodied and fresh with hints of candy, and a long, complex finish.

- 25 **Candidato Barrica 3** £18.95
100% Tempranillo
VdIT Castilla

125ml £3

175ml £5

An impressively concentrated Rioja-style wine, with vanilla oak seasoning adding to the lush rhubarb and strawberry fruit characteristics.

- 26 **Finca Constanca Parcela 23** £21.50
100% Tempranillo
VdIT Castilla

125ml £4

175ml £6

Made from a selection of the best Tempranillo grapes from a single plot of the Finca Constanca vineyard, this cherry-red wine has been aged in French and American oak barrels to add warm vanilla tones to its juicy fruit flavours. Full bodied and balanced with great structure and length.

- 27 Conde de Valdemar Crianza** **£24.95**
90% Tempranillo, 10% Mazuelo
Rioja DOPa
 Complex aromas of ripe blackberries, balanced with warm vanilla notes and a subtle touch of spice. An excellent, rounded structure on the palate, with aromatic complexity lasting through to the finish.
- 28 Melior** **125ml £3.50** **175ml £5.50** **£26.50**
95% Tempranillo, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
Ribera del Duero
 Aged in oak barrels for six months, this is an excellent modern red wine, with a deep rich colour. Ripe fruit aromas, followed by a balanced mix of acidity and tannins and a dry finish.
- 29 Viña Zorzal Graciano** **£28.50**
100% Graciano
Navarra
 A really good example of Graciano as a varietal. Inky, with blackcurrant, fruit peel, jam and raspberries. A juicy structure and silky rich tannins, with slightly bitter green notes - true to Graciano - before long red fruit notes on the finish. Perfumed, chunky and with a lovely grip.
- 30 Finca Nueva Rioja Reserva** **£28.50**
100% Tempranillo
Rioja DOPa
 Modern knowledge and respect for classic techniques result in a great Rioja. Very balanced, with fresh acidity and delicate, polished tannins. Velvety, with a long ripe fruit finish and hints of wood.
- 31 Casal de Paula Tinto** **125ml £5** **175ml £7** **£28.50**
25% Mencia, 25% Brencellao, 25% Ferron, 25% Souson
Ribiero
 A decidedly grown-up, complex red; the nose is all brambles and hedgerow fruits and the palate is broad, fleshy and well-rounded, with a long finish and a hint of Atlantic sea spray. A Galician gem.
- 32 Quinta Milú** **£29.50**
100% Tinto del Pais (Tempranillo)
Ribera del Duero
 This is as honest and rustic as wine gets, from a small family operation: foot-trodden and spontaneously fermented. Full bodied with black fruit and spice and plenty of dense grippy tannins, this is the perfect for longer nights and it's organic too. A definite staff since we first tasted it.
- 33 Santa Eulalia Riberal Crianza** **£35.00**
100% Tempranillo
Ribera del Duero
 A superbly balanced wine, with beguilingly complex aromas of black cherry, vanilla and hints of spiciness and balsamic. A broad mouthfeel, with good structure and a complex mix of dark fruits, spices and subtle oak traces from the aged barrels.
- 34 Gotes** **£38.50**
50% Garnacha, 50% Carinena
Priorat
 The latest project from the influential Alfredo Arribas, showcasing the bright, fresh characteristics of two classic Priorat grapes with this blend. Lots of depth, complexity and rich fruitness, with hints of minerality and spice wrapped up in a deliciously velvety texture.
- 35 12 Volts** **£48.50**
50% Callet-Fogoneu, 30% Syrah, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot
Mallorca
 This wine from Francesc Grimalt and Sergio Caballero is a blend of grapes, including the rare Balearic Callet-Fogoneu, aged for 12 months in French oak vessels of different sizes and shapes. It's unmistakably Mediterranean, with bags of dark berry fruit, garrigue, tobacco and spices.

Dessert wines

- 36 Santa Rita Late Harvest** *75ml glass £5.00* *500ml bottle £21.50*
70% Moscatel de Alejandra, 30% Gewurztraminer
Limari Valley, Chile

A complex aroma, dominated by ripe fruits such as apricot, quince and honey, mingles with a subtle floral background. On the palate, it is delicate and elegant, with an opulent and persistent finish.

- 37 Finca Antigua Moscatel** *75ml glass £5.50* *500ml bottle £23.50*
Moscatel Morisco
La Mancha

Velvety and silky, with an unravelling, sweet body. The acidity, unusual for a sweet wine, lend freshness and energy which compensates fantastically for the sweetness of the wine. Very long and pleasant finish

Sherries

- 38 La Guita Manzanilla** *(quarter bottle) £7.50*
Jerez NV

Clear and fresh on the nose, with the green apple aroma and salty tang of Manzanilla. The palate is concentrated yet thoroughly refreshing; bone dry and savoury, with notes of almonds and a long, satisfying finish.

- 39 I Think Manzanilla En Rama** *(half bottle) £21.50*
Jerez NV

This Manzanilla is older than the usual ones, starting to turn colour and developing deeper nutty characters. It has a terrific bouquet with a saline feel, which incidentally matches any shellfish or seafood dishes.

- 40 Fino Tío Pepe** *50ml £4* *£28.50*
Jerez NV

100% Palomino. Produced from the highest quality must, the 'Yema', it has a distinctive, clean aroma and is bone dry with a savoury character. A great aperitif.

- 41 Matusalem Oloroso Dulce Viejo** *50ml £5.50* *(half bottle) £28.50*
Jerez NV

A dark 30 year old, Oloroso sherry with fruity overtones of cinnamon, dried-fruits and candied peel, and a rich, sweet finish. Delicious with dessert!

- 42 Fino El Maestro Sierra** *50ml £7.50* *£39.50*
Jerez NV

This lightly filtered Fino is muscular and textured yet it has a dry characteristic freshness. Perfect with almonds and olives as an aperitif as well as with salty fish dishes. Red fruits are complemented by soft vanilla characters from ageing a portion of the blend in a mixture of French and American oak barrels.

- 43 Oloroso El Maestro Sierra** *50ml £8.50* *£42.50*
Jerez NV

Oloroso sherries are deliberately oxidised and as such they develop flavours of caramel, toffee, orange marmalade and confit figs. They have a rich unctuous palate and go well with hearty rich food.

- 44 Amontillado Superior El Maestro Sierra** *50ml £9.50* *£55.50*
Jerez NV

Made with a minimal intervention philosophy, El Maestro Sierra work as they used to do 200 years ago. Their Amontillado is complex and textured, deep yet with a refreshing sharpness and it goes very well with red meats, mushrooms and nutty dishes.