

Unmissable events

Exhibition

Until July 13 'Arabian Horse: From the Desert to the World' (right), National Heritage Centre for Horseracing & Sporting Art, Palace House, Newmarket, Suffolk. A celebration of the world's oldest horse breed and the centenary of the Arab Horse Society, with the first mapped genome of an Arab, plus paintings, prints and artefacts (01638 667314; www.palacehousenewmarket.co.uk)

Until May 20 'Inheritance: Norwich Castle Open Art Show', Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Norfolk. A showcase of East Anglian talent comprising 129 works by 116 artists, all in response to the theme of 'inheritance' (01603 495897; www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk)

Until May 4 'The Englishness of English Painting Part III', Crane Kalman Gallery, Brompton Road, London SW3. Works by David Bomberg, Alan Lowndes, Mary Newcomb, John Piper, Graham Sutherland and many more (020-7584 7566; www.cranekalman.com)

Walk

April 26 Bat Walk, Knoll Gardens, Hampreston, Dorset. A special evening stroll using the latest technology and Jan Freeborn's expertise to identify the bats you see and hear. From 7.45pm, standard garden admission applies (01202 873931; www.knollgardens.co.uk)

Festival

Until May 6 CircusFest, Roundhouse, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1, and partner venues. Biennial international festival of contem-



porary circus, integrating theatre, dance, live art, film and virtual reality. Tickets from £5, see website for full programme (0300 678 9222; www.roundhouse.org.uk)

Cinema

April 25–May 25 Akram Khan's Giselle, various venues, nationwide. This reimagining of the classic story of love, betrayal and redemption from English National Ballet is now being shown at cinemas around the UK for the first time. Visit website for venues

and prices (www.ballet.org.uk; 020-7581 1245)

Book now

May 15 Cressida Bell Lampshade Painting Workshop, Upside Down Design, York, North Yorkshire. Create your own lampshade with the British designer's help, develop your understanding of pattern and colour and learn to use stencils and templates. 11am–5pm, £150pp including lunch and materials (01439 748522; www.priddenprandevents.com)



Broughton Poggs & Filkins Gardens, near Lechlade, Oxfordshire GL7 3JH. April 8, 2pm–6pm. Combined admission £5.50, children free

This must be the best-value baker's dozen to be found, with 13 gardens offering a rich variety in size and style, from expansive to intimate and from formal to natural. Landscape-design enthusiasts shouldn't miss Little Peacocks, which was home to Brenda Colvin and continues to house her practice, Colvin & Moggridge.

What to drink this week 2016 Rhône part two: Châteauneuf-du-Pape



Harry Eyres indulges in one of the most famous yet misunderstood French wines

I wrote last week about the 2016 northern Rhône wines, which I found thoroughly enticing in their freshness and elegance. However, the word on the street is that the southern Rhône—Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas, Vacqueyras, the Côtes du Rhône villages—performed even better than the north. I can confirm that it was a great year for Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

Why you should be buying it

Châteauneuf-du-Pape is one of the most famous names in French wine, but I've often felt it was also one of the most misunderstood. Grapes achieve high levels of ripeness on the famous plateau with its large white pebbles, but elegance is as much of a keynote as strength. Some of the wines, especially those made by Clos des Papes, are almost Burgundian.

What to buy

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition 2016, Domaine Raymond Usseglio (*below*, £102 per six IB; www.bbr.com) has an attractive bright colour, then sufficient meat and heft on the palate combined with good freshness. Now 100% biodynamic, this is, in my view, one of the best *domaines* in Châteauneuf. The Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Impériale 2016 (£198 per six IB; www.bbr.com), made from centenarian Grenache vines, has terrific concentration and intensity, with substantial tannin as well as superb freshness—don't touch for seven years. Domaine de la Janasse has risen to the very top in Châteauneuf without any great flourishes. Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge Domaine de la Janasse 2016 (£144 per six IB; www.bbr.com) is deep-coloured, beautifully fresh and pure. Even better, more refined and, if possible, even more intensely fresh is the same domaine's Cuvée Chaupin 2016 (£240 per six IB; www.bbr.com). It may seem steep, but it's worth every penny.



Country Life Picture Library; Alan Baker; Philip Viscount Kneebworth/Palace House Newcastle

Countryside clues Escapees

GARDENERS don't believe in bullying Nature, but lend a guiding hand. Wildflower aficionados accept the lottery of Nature.

There is one thing that unites them: the escapee. Many flowers are pollinated and spread by insects, birds or the wind, but some rely on bulb division below ground, which leads to very different patterns of distribution.

A plant hitching a lift might be found miles downwind of its parent, whereas dividers can

take years to travel a few metres.

Their reluctance to travel yields our clue.

The best-known escapee is probably the snowdrop, which would have been planted when it first arrived in the UK. Therefore, when we find snowdrops in a semi-wild area, we are looking at the start of a trail that will lead to civilisation—perhaps a churchyard or a garden. As we leave them behind, they pass the baton to another escapee, honesty, which bears four red-purple petals from April to June. It leads me home from many of my pre-solstice walks.

Tristan Gooley is the author of *'Wild Signs and Star Paths'*. Illustration by Alan Baker

