

University of Leicester Wine Club: Event 1 Oct 2021
Wine Discoveries in Lockdown
Tasting Wines for Thursday 7 October 2021

Crémant d'Alsace Cuvée Julien Dopff au Moulin NV
Selected by Juliet Bailey & Dai Davies

One of the 2021 Wine Society Wine Champions, this sparkling wine comes from Alsace in north-east France. Sheltered by the Vosge mountains, Alsace is one of the sunniest and driest areas in France, outside the far south. Although wine has been produced here for generations, sparkling wine arrived when Julien Dopff pioneered Crémant d'Alsace around 1905. His descendant Etienne-Arnaud now runs the company. Hand-picked bunches of grapes are gently pressed and the juice is fermented in stainless steel, before a traditional secondary fermentation of 14-24 months in the bottle. Pinot blanc (50%), an excellent everyday wine with an aromatic, clean and round profile, is blended with auxerrois (50%) with which it shares its clean scent and flavour profile. Ideal as an aperitif. Available from www.thewinesociety.com at £13.95. ABC: 12%.

Castellore Organic Pinot Grigio Terre Siciliane IGT 2020
Selected by Lucy Crouch

The winery responsible for this bottle have devoted themselves to growing their grapes without herbicides or pesticides, and to produce all their wines to strict sustainability principles. Grown using organic methods, the grapes used for this Pinot Grigio result in an intense nose of pear and green apple, followed by aromas of acacia flowers and honeycomb. Drink with light starters or great as an aperitif. Available from Aldi at £5.99 12% ABV.

Domaine Combe Blanche 'Le Four a Chaux' 2017 IGP l'Hérault
Selected by Julian Osborne

From the Côtes du Brian in the Minervois, between Toulouse and Montpellier in southern France, this 100% Rousanne white wine has had 3 months in oak. With a little air, it has a rich aroma (quince, stewed peach, almond); its weight, intensity and hint of sweetness makes it a great wine for fish in a rich sauce, paella, white meats and cheeses. This is the sole white wine made by Guy Vanlanker in La Liviniere. Originally a school teacher in Belgium, Guy moved to the Languedoc in the 1980's to make wine. Using yields half those typical of the region, wines from La Combe Blanche all have full flavours; they are usually released with 3 years ageing. Available from www.leonstolarskiwines.co.uk at £11.80. ABV: 14%.

Cabernet Franc Gran Reserva Valle de Colchagua, Chile 2019

Selected by Fernando Schlindwein

Cabernet Franc is one of the key grapes in Bordeaux and is producing exciting results in Chile - especially in the Colchagua region. Fragrant and fruity, this red shows creamy oak flavours for a firm, dry, full-bodied and flavoursome wine. With decent length, a glass of this would be a great match for a Sunday roast, steak and mushroom pie or a lightly spiced curry. Available from Lidl at £9.99

Baronesa de Vilar Port Finish 2018

Selected by Tony and Helena Abbey

A rich Portuguese red from 15th generation winemaker Alvaro van Zeller. His family have been crafting fine ports since 1715 and are most famous for starting one of the finest port houses of all time, Quinta do Noval. Subsequently, Alvaro has become famous for establishing the reputation of Douro's dry reds too. Using a trio of Douro grapes (featuring Touriga Nacional) from the Van Zellers' Douro vineyards, the grapes are hand picked and gently pressed to extract their deep colour and floral aromas and aged for 12 months in old port barrels. This red offers lavish layers of richness and spicy fruit. superb complexity and a long, velvety finish. With aromas of violets, ripe black fruit, spice and wood with velvety black fruit, lavish spice, oaky tones and grippy tannins. Available from Laithwaites/ST Wine Club (£12.59 mixed case) ABV 14.0% .

Chateau Grand Village 2016, Bordeaux Superieur

Selected by Erol Gaillard

Made by the Guinaudeau family of Chateau Lafleur fame from vines grown just outside Fronsac and in the excellent 2016 vintage. Bright crimson, heady nose with excellent concentration and complexity with well-integrated fine tannic structure. Perfumed dark berry fruit, baked plums, graphite, and great length. 86% Merlot and 14% Cabernet Franc. Available from <https://www.justerinis.com> at £20.28. 15% ABV.

Dinner Wines

Selected by Nick and Margaret Robinson

Both wines are Jane Macquitty's recommendations from Aldi

Caves Road Chardonnay, Margaret River, Western Australia 2018

Chardonnay grapes are hand selected by the winemaker from some of the finest sites in Australia's premium Chardonnay growing region, Margaret River. The even climate and proximity to the Indian Ocean allow the grapes to ripen fully but retain a natural acidity, giving a citrus twist to the soft, peachy palate. Gentle use of French oak complements the wine without overbearing it.

Notes from the winemaker Larry Cherubino: "Aromas of white peach, citrus and flint are supported by subtle oak and pure and vibrant flavours."

" Margaret River region produces some of the countries tastiest chardonnays. Made by the wine wizard Larry Cherubino and aged in French oak for a year, this rich, fruity, ricotta-stashed and cinnamon-spiced 2018 is a starry summer sip." Jane MacQuitty, The Times.

Perfect with roast chicken, stir-fried pork or seafood. ABV 13%, Price £9.99

Paraíso Sur Syrah, Casablanca Valley, Chile, 2016

Explore the terroir of the Casablanca Valley through this unique and organic wine. Notes of black olive on the nose, and a palate bursting with black cherries, with a long, refreshing finish. A beautiful accompaniment to grilled meats, lamb and pork.

" Chile's seductive, silky, spicy syrahs are among the new world's greats. Enhanced with a dash of viognier, as Rhône producers do it packs a punch with its intense, sweet, creamy, loganberry whack of fruit, aged in French oak and modish concrete eggs." Jane MacQuitty, The Times.

ABV 14%, Price £9.99

Event 2: Southern Italy Wine Tasting November 18th 2021
Presented by Dai Davies and Juliet Bailey

Tasting White Wines

1 Vescovado Guardavalle Calabria Bianco, Santa Venere 2020 (The Wine Society 13% £13.50)

The *guardavalle* grape, native to Calabria in the toe of Italy, has produced a wonderfully individual wine with a full gentle body, citrus and quince flavours and a long, spiced finish. The two beautiful organic Santa Venere vineyards overlook the sea and are based in Ciro (see map), a small town in Calabria.

2 Eruzione 1614 Carricante, Planeta, 2018 (The Wine Society 12.5% £18.50)

Bright, elegant and full of tension and verve, this Italian white comes from *carricante* vines with 10% of *riesling*. The vines are planted on volcanic, sandy soils deposited by the 1614-24 eruption of Etna. As the wine warms up its green-apple, flint and preserved lemon flavours really stand out. The Planeta family has been one of the most dynamic influences in improving the quality of Sicilian wines in the last 30 years.

Tasting Red Wines

3 Etna Rosso Monte Gorna Nicosia, 2018 (The Wine Society £11.95)

Think *pinot noir* crossed with *nebbiolo* when looking to Etna's *nerello mascalese* grape. This wine is 90% *nerello mascalese* and 10% *nerello cappuccino*. Organically grown, in volcanic soil from a family owned winery, this elegant Sicilian red has aromas of wild raspberry and dried petals, with a little spice developing on the palate. Well structured, with bright acidity, and firm tannins leading to a long balsamic finish, this is a great wine for food, be it Italian or otherwise. A fine example of Sicily's most renowned red combining richness and elegance. Decanter silver medal 2021.

4 Brindisi Riserva 1952, Sampietrana, 2017 (Evington's 13.5% £12.69)

The Cantina Sampietrana winery started as an initiative of a group of 68 vine growers in 1952: It has a history of tradition, and strong bonds with the land and is located in Salento, in the Puglia region in southern Italy. This blend of *negroamaro* and *montepulciano* is one of Evington's most popular reds. Loads of cherry fruit and spice leading to a touch of chocolate and caramel on the finish. Looks and tastes the part and is great value.

5 Carlone Primitivo di Manduria Cantina Sampietrana, 2019 (Evington's 14.5% £15.09)

Primitivo, arguably better known by its alter-ego *zinfandel*, is a huge, ripe Italian grape which is the pride of the Puglia region. The grape is thought to have originated in Croatia, it was then brought to Italy, and on to the United States in the 1800s, where it thrived in California. It gives wines that are very dark, very juicy and high in alcohol. This wine has lots of bright fruits and violet on the nose. The palate is intense and complex with jammy red fruits, sweet spice, and vanilla. Full bodied with rich, well integrated tannins. Would go well with BBQ or anything with a lot of flavour and a mild char to it.

6 Taurasi, Feudi di San Gregorio, 2016 (The Wine Society 13.5% £20.00)

Taurasi is in the province of Avellino in Campania and lies on volcanic soils where *aglianico* vines thrive and can create some of Italy's finest red wines. The wine has aromas of ripe black berries and cherries, as well as elegant floral touches and spicy notes of cinnamon, vanilla and nutmeg. The wine benefits from 18 months in French oak barrels flavours of violets, blackcurrant and liquorice with a long finish with balsamic notes.

Dinner Wines

Fiano Sicilia, Mandrarossa, 2020 (The Wine Society 13% £9.95)

This wine is made by the Settesoli cooperative the largest wine company in Sicily; the Mandrarossa wines are their premium range. This *fiano* stood out in the 2021 Wine Champions blind tasting and it's easy to see why. With peach and apricot flavours, an intense yet refreshing style, this characterful Sicilian white is easy to enjoy by the glass or with a range of dishes.

The Society's Sicilian Reserve Red, 2017 (The Wine Society 13.5% £8.50)

Smooth, generous and fragrant red from Sicily's *nero d'Avola* grape. This Italian red has been extremely popular since it was introduced to the Wine Society list because it hits the spot and is great value. The *nero d'Avola* grape produces a wine with abundant fleshy dark red fruit and with some oak influence from the 10 months in French barriques. Great, uncomplicated everyday drinking for those who like their red wines smooth, ripe and fruit forward. An International Wine Challenge and Decanter World Wine Awards bronze medal winner in 2021. The wine is made by the Feudo Arancio estate based on the south coast of Sicily.

Event 3: December 14th 2021 Wines for Christmas Presenter Erol Gaillard

All wines from Evington's Wine Merchants, 120 Evington Rd, Leicester LE2 1HH

Lyrarakis Voila Assyrtiko, Crete 2020 **13%** **£13.19**

Assyrtiko grape grown on the Voila plain in Eastern Crete. The 2020 has a sharp acidity, with robust citrus notes throughout. This is one of those lovely, crunchy white wines bursting with lemon, grapefruit, green apple and white-fleshed fruits, good acidity and a lingering taste.

Wittman 100 Hills Dry Riesling, Rheinhessen 2018 **12%** **£13.95**

Germany's signature grape. Elegant with a crush of zesty citrus, stone fruits, caramelized honey and crisp nectarine on the mid-palate. Great length with deep minerality. The finish lingers leaving a sense of steel and earth. Exceptional value.

Consensus, Pinot Noir & Touriga Nacional, Lisbon 2016 **13.5%** **£13.40**

Unique and unusual Portuguese blend with **50% Pinot Noir and 50% Touriga Nacional**. Complex nose of blueberry, blackberry, blackcurrant, anise, dark chocolate and dried fig. The palate is full bodied with concentrated fruit including plum, black cherry, hints of violet, ripe cassis, black liquorice, cocoa, and charcoal balanced by rich tannins. Persistent finish. Very tasty!

Casas del Bosque, Syrah, Valle de Casablanca Chile 2019 **14%** **£15.39**

Full bodied, with structure and freshness. The vibrant acidity is the main feature of this cool climate Syrah. Blackberries and blueberries with notes of black pepper in the nose. Black olives and meaty notes combine with tertiary scent of tar and toffee. Smooth tannins with a clean and long finish.

Urbina Crianza, Rioja 2012 **14%** **£14.90**

"Crianza" wines are required to age for a minimum of 2 years, with 6 months spent in oak barrels. Urbina Crianza Rioja has a ruby red colour with garnet hues. The nose is dominated by mature fruits. It is intense with mellow ripe strawberry, vanilla, and spices reminiscent of white pepper. The palate is well-balanced and complex with blackcurrant, spicy notes combined with more black fruit. Good structure and persistence, refreshing acidity. A firm taste, good structure and long lasting aftertaste with great persistence.

Los Haroldos, Gran Corte, Mendoza Argentina 2015 **13.5%** **£17.90**

Mixture of 7 grape varieties. 45% Cabernet Sauvignon 20% Merlot 10% Malbec 10% Bonarda 5% Petit Verdot 5% Syrah 5% Tannat. Complex and elegant aromas with notes of sweet spices, black pepper, dry figs on the nose, intertwined with touches of vanilla and cedar. Sweetness on the palate with a gentle and balanced acidity. Firm and robust tannins lead to a long finish.

Henriques & Henriques, 3 year old Full Rich Madeira **19%** **£13.15**

90% Tinta Negra Mole and 10% Malmsey. Intense flavours of caramel, raisin, dark brown sugar and fig.

**Event 5: Merlot on the Orient Express March 24th 2022
Presented by Louise Pullen and Zoe Coulson**

Tasting White Wines

- 1 Cave de Turkheim Cremant d'Alsace France 12.5% Waitrose £13.49 (£9.99 on offer)**
- 2 Krasno Sauvignon Blanc & Ribolla Gialla, Slovenia 2020, 13% Majestic (£9.99 (£8.49 in mix)**
- 3 Taste the difference Riesling Austria 2020 12.5% Sainsbury's £8.75**
- 4 Deer Point Chardonnay, Bulgaria, 2020 12.5% Duncan Murray, £7.99**
- 5 Incanta Pinot Noir Romania, 2020 12.5% Majestic £7.99 (£6.49 in mix)**
- 6 Vinkara, Okuzgozu-Bogazkere, Turkey 2019, 12.5% The Wine Society £9.50**
- 7 Mystery Wine**

Leon Stolarski Fine Wines

Event 6: University Of Leicester Wine Club – 28 April 2022 Wines from Southern France

White

Domaine de Montesquiou Cuvade Précieuse 2018 Jurançon Sec

£14.50

65% Gros Manseng, 30% Petit Manseng, 5% Camaralet, aged in oak barrels for 10 months. Jurançon is one of the hidden gems of south-west France, and Domaine de Montesquiou has been our best-selling grower for more than 15 years. Ripe stone fruit and citrus flavours, steely minerality and mouth-watering acidity. Biodynamic/organic. 14.0% abv.

Red

Prieuré Sainte Marie d'Albas Sonate 2020 Corbières

£12.25

50% Carignan, 25% Grenache, 25% Syrah, made using a semi-carbonic maceration method, and aged in vat. Sweet-sour bramble and black cherry flavours, gently rustic tannins, a touch of peppery spice and a long, cool, minty finish. From the largest, yet most underrated appellation in southern France. 13.5% abv.

Domaine d'Archimbaud Tradition 2019 Saint-Saturnin

£13.99

50% Syrah, 40% Grenache, 5% Mourvedre, 5% Carignan, aged in vat. From the hills of the Terrasses du Larzac, this is a wine that epitomises the “cooler climate” Languedoc style of red wines. Smoky, meaty, herby, tobacco-ey, floral and wonderfully fruity all at the same time. Organic. 13.5% abv.

Terre des Chardons Le Chardon Masqué 2020 Costières de Nîmes

£14.50

40% Cinsault, 30% Grenache, 30% Syrah, aged in vat. Costières de Nîmes has a climate and terroir very similar to nearby Chateauneuf-du-Pape. Yet this grower produces wines with plenty of freshness. An elegant wine, with all manner of fresh and dried red berry and currant fruit aromas and flavours. Biodynamic/organic. 12.5% abv.

Domaine de Cébène Ex Arena 2020 IGP Pays d'Oc

£16.99

90% Grenache grown on Villafranchien soil (a mix of red clay and smooth pebbles) and 10% Mourvedre, grown on a 40-metre-deep bed of sea sediment and alluvial deposits in Corneilhan, north of Béziers. Our friend Brigitte Chevalier makes some of the finest wines in Faugères, but this “mere” Pays d'Oc deserves equal billing. Elegant wine. Organic. 13.5% abv.

Domaine du Garinet Fût de Chêne 2009 Cahors

£17.95

100% Malbec, aged 14 months in new oak barrels. Traditional Cahors, made by Englishman Mike Spring, on a tiny (2.5 hectare) estate. Complex bramble, cherry and cassis aromas and flavours, with further notes of tobacco, forest floor, orange peel, and a mix of toasty oak and polished old(er) wood. 14.5% abv.

Full grower profiles, along with tasting and technical notes for all of the above wines, can be found on our website at <https://www.leonstolarskiwines.co.uk/wines-by-grower-alphabetical-c102x3785930>

Dinner Wines

A pair of wines from one of our most consistently reliable growers, from whom we have been importing since the very start of our business in 2003. Les Vignes de l'Arque is situated in the relatively undiscovered Gard region, close to the historical town of Uzès and the amazing Roman aqueduct, the Pont du Gard. The estate is named after the 9th century chateau, l'Arque de Baron, the ruins of which can still be seen atop the nearby hill. The foothills of the Cévennes are a few miles to the west, and the vineyards of the Côtes du Rhône lie to the east.

The estate has over 70 hectares under vine and was created by the Fabre and Rouveyrolles families in 1994, before which the grapes had been sent to the local co-operative. In recent years, the wines have been made by Mr. Fabre's sons, Patrick and Arnaud, under whose control they have just got better and better. Furthermore, the estate is organic, with full certification in the pipeline. If you are looking for alternatives to the better-known - and hence more expensive - wines of the nearby southern Rhône valley, the quality/price ratio that these wines offer will not disappoint.

White

Les Vignes de l'Arque Chardonnay 2019 IGP Cévennes £9.85
100% Chardonnay, aged in vat. Herbaceous, smoky, green apple and tropical fruit aromas, which carry through in the mouth, with citrus flavours also to the fore. Quite steely/flinty, with tangy fruit flavours and a nice streak of acidity and a commendable finish. 14.0% abv.

Red

Les Vignes de l'Arque Rouge 2019 Duché d'Uzès £11.50
80% Grenache, 20% Syrah, aged in vat. An old favourite, we have been buying this cuvée from Les Vignes de l'Arque for our own enjoyment for almost 20 years. Very much in the style of a Côtes du Rhône Villages, with aromas and flavours of garrigue herb-infused bramble and blackcurrant, leather, tobacco and spice. Shows some elegance, with soft, velvety tannins and mouth-watering acidity. 14.5% abv.

Event 7: A Tour Round the Commonwealth May 26th 2022 Presented by Juliet Bailey and Dai Davies

Tasting White Wines

1 Glyndwr, 2020 (Wales, Waitrose, 11.5%, £12.99)

Our first wine of the evening takes us to Dai's native Wales with a wine from Glyndwr (est. 1979), the oldest of a small but growing number of Welsh producers. This mix of reichensteiner and seyval blanc displays delicate peach and gooseberry flavours and, while rich and smooth in style, has a wonderfully refreshing feel. A pale straw colour with fresh spring flowers on the nose, floral and herbaceous with a long savoury finish.

2 Quails Gate Dry Riesling, 2020 (Canada, Simply Wines Direct, 12%, £21.99)

As many of you know, we have family in British Columbia and have sampled many excellent wines from this region on trips over, including this one. It is not easy to find Canadian wine in the UK, but this one comes from one of Canada's foremost family-owned estate wineries, situated on a south-facing slope above Lake Okanagan, near Kelowna. The vines are now over 30 years old and produce a wine with aromas of lime, green apple and stone fruit. On the palate, the wine is dry, zesty and bright with green apple and key lime, and a long, refreshing stony finish.

3..Trinity Hill Hawkes Bay Chardonnay, 2020 (New Zealand, Waitrose, 13%, £16.99)

Whilst New Zealand is well known for sauvignon blanc, vineyards there are increasingly being recognised for their chardonnay. This wine had been produced from vines grown on Hawkes Bay Gimblett Gravels under the care of award winner winemaker John Hancock (winner of Best Chardonnay in the World at Wine Magazine's International Wine Challenge in 1997). The cool climate, much like that of Burgundy, means the grapes ripen slowly and develop incredible fruit concentration, while the soil brings fresh minerality. In the mouth, the wine gives fresh citrus flavours and a long after taste.

Tasting Red Wines

4 Winbirri Vineyard Inscription, 2017 (England, Waitrose, 12%, £13.99)

Another personal connection for us with this wine from this family-run producer, overlooking the Norfolk Broads, near where Juliet's mother grew up. This wine - a blend of three grapes, dornfelder, rondo and regent - has lovely blackberry and plum flavours underscored by a pinch of black pepper and finishing with a sweet strawberry flourish. It is smooth and round on the palate with silky yet firm tannins. This full red has been barrel-aged for 12 months in old oak.

5 Kanonkop 'Kadette' Pinotage, 2019 (South Africa Majestic, 14.5%, £12.99 mix six or £14.99)

Kanonkop was named Outstanding Producer of the Past 50 Years at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in 2019. The family-owned estate is considered by many as the equivalent of a South African First Growth. Made in a soft, fruit-forward style, it spends 12 months in French oak barrels to give a silky-smooth texture. This is a complex Pinotage wine, with notes of raspberry, strawberry, red cherry and chocolate.

6 Penfolds "Max's" Shiraz-Cabernet, 2019 (Australia, Majestic, 14.5%, £19.99 mix six or £22.99)

This wine, from Australia's leading winery, delivers generosity of fruit from the shiraz together with solid cabernet structure. It's a full-bodied, elegant wine, with notes of blueberry, mulberry, mocha and almond, smooth tannins, and a silky finish.

Dinner Wines

The Society's English White, 2021 (England, The Wine Society, 12%, £8.50)

This unoaked blend of madeleine angevine, solaris, orion, seyval blanc, reichensteiner and bacchus comes from Three Choirs vineyard, one of the largest and oldest in the UK. The gentle undulating south-facing slopes are sheltered by the Malverns and the Brecon Beacons, giving a microclimate that is ideal for ripening the grapes, which are kept cool and clean by the breezes coming up the valley from the River Severn. It has aromas of white-fruits, citrus and gooseberry, and a light, structured and pure palate with just a hint of sweetness in the mouth.

Kangarilla Road Shiraz 2020, (Australia, Majestic, 14.5%, £10.99 mix six or £14.99)

This MacLaren Vale Shiraz shows exactly why the Kangarilla Road winery was given the top 'Five Red Star' rating by Australia's leading wine critic, James Halliday. It brings intense black plum and spice with subtle floral notes and nuances of perfumed blackcurrants. Multiple layers of blackcurrants together with roasted ground eastern spices that elevate the wine beyond being merely a delicious fruit bomb to a grown-up elegant wine.

Event 8: University of Leicester Wine Club
23rd June 2022

Wines from Central and Northern Italy
Presenter Ben Robson Bat and Bottle

Walk around tasting

Vicentini. Soave 'Terrelunghe' 2021
Soave DOC, Veneto

Stefano Mancinelli. Verdicchio 'Santa Maria Fiore' 2020
Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore DOC, Marche

Iandolo. Timorasso 'Derthona' 2019
Colli Tortonesi DOC

Villa Giada. Barbera d'Asti 'Suri' 2019
Barbera d'Asti DOCG, Piemonte

Le Cinciole. Chianti Classico 2016
Chianti Classico DOCG, Toscana

Righetti. Valpolicella Ripasso 'Campolieti' 2019
Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso DOC, Veneto

Dinner white

Frentana. Cococciola 'Costa del Mulino' 2020

Dinner red

Frentana. Montepulciano 'Frentano' 2020