

West Leicestershire u3a

Wine Appreciation Group meeting 27 March 2024

So, our first report without a Newsletter as target! Liz, however, holds the fort with the website, so go there to read this. Oh! Just a minute....
Liz does not act as editor so any mistakes will not be corrected so E&OE is the mantra.

Once again, soap boxes were well exercised – NHS, VED, T&CP, politicians, in fact pretty well everything and everyone not in the room. Indeed it was suggested at one stage we rename ourselves the Whine Bar. Perhaps next time we concentrate solely on happy and positive subjects?

After all, we do have a month to prepare for this!

It was not all doom and gloom. Sunday afternoon radio – ‘Round the Horne’, ‘Navy Lark’, ‘Beyond our Ken’ and Jimmy Clithero were fondly remembered. Indeed many of our number were able to name not only the actors but also the scripts! Long forgotten TV and radio programmes and shows got similar treatment by the more Compos Mentis of us. The rest admitted to a difficulty remembering names, places and dates, especially later in the evening. Whatever, there was probably more laughter tonight than back in the day.

It is a real pleasure to take part in these meetings, with laughter, jokes and stories shared around the table. It does mean that your reporter may mishear some anecdotes thus perhaps take them out of context. The rights and wrongs of marrying your 13 year old cousin came up, only later I realised music was the theme! Sorry Jerry Lee. The question of Fado singing was discussed, fortunately perhaps, without a personal rendition, besides, no one had a guitar for accompaniment.

An important element of our meetings is the wine, indeed some would claim it the *raison d'être*, just not the members of this group! A wonderful, social evening with a selection of wines to intersperse the conversation would be nearer the mark.

Our theme this week was Iberian Wines, so we started with a geography lesson (again). Fortunately Spanish and Portuguese wines did predominate. The one outlier – a South African Sauvignon Blanc – was apparently handled by a Spanish forklift driver, so that was alright then.



Our first sample was a rather nice Portuguese blush called Maria Fadista – who was of course a leading Fado singer – see, we embrace the u3a ethos of learning. A ‘Stones and Bones’ Tinto (red) from a vineyard near Lisbon is apparently made on a terroir largely comprising dinosaur bones. Yea, right, although it was judged to have plenty of body....

The overall standard of our samples was adjudged high, only one being given the accolade “it’s all right.” Roger presented an Ancient Root Reformada, a crowd funded wine of 6 grape varieties including from the oldest Graciano vineyard in the world, apparently. It was very fine although repeat orders are impossible – it has sold out.

Our next meeting will be on the 24th April at Alan’s Way 7.30pm with the theme Chilean Wines.

The room rent has been increased, probably due to Global Warming, Brexit and an underfunded Local Authority, so our subs will have to increase to £3.

John Dexter 31-3-24