

West Leicestershire u3a

Wine Appreciation Group meeting Wed 27 September 2023

Researching appropriate wines to offer our group can be an informative and interesting exercise. One web site, specialising in French wines, offers all sorts of fine wines set in serried rows on the page – £39 per bottle, £97 per bottle etc. obviously none really to the standard expected by us.

One entry did catch my eye – a snip at £450. The catch being the offering was for 300 facing bricks! How did that get there?

In truth the research is more an effort to justify the purchase already made. Is it good enough? Is there a story behind it that we can spin to the group? Was the outrageous price worth it?

Perhaps we should make more effort to give an informed explanation about the selection as sometimes it feels we do not give enough time (or attention) to justify and describe the wine on offer, even our scoring has been questioned. (I think I am totally impartial!)

The entire ethos of our meetings is to appreciate the wines in a convivial atmosphere – the conversations and anecdotes are by far the most enjoyable element. Many of which are unrepeatable and certainly unreportable. Besides, in the real world, who can remember whether the Jurancon Sec '21 was more flavourful than the Costieres de Nime '21 which followed it? Or even which was red and which white?

Roger certainly excelled in this with his tale of memories, as a 9 year old, of his late mate Les who went on to study marine biology and dolphins in particular which informed his selection of a fine Cotes du Rhone called Les Dauphins – . See the connection? Trouble is the memory was as accurate as the spiel on some of the bottle labels!

Speaking of the label information we sampled a Picpoul de Pinet 2016 – supposedly a light crisp white wine. This did not receive favourable comments, especially as the label went on to state “best enjoyed within 1 year of purchase” for once, the label did not lie.

We were offered an interesting selection of French wines, with a preponderance of reds, some were adjudged to be excellent, others less so, especially when compared with some of the New World wine we have tried previously, so some of us have been paying attention. For our next meeting – on Wednesday 25th October 7.30 at Alan's Way we propose to take Pot Luck of 'any old wine' to allow clearance of some overstocked cellars? Even some forgotten vintages?



An example of one of the many delicacies sampled at this meeting.