

## Wine Group Report June 2022

We met in Cotherstone for our May meeting, the second of two sessions looking at wines of Italy. Our focus this time was on UK supermarkets' 'best of ..' or equivalent ranges. For once all six wines were from different sources.

Our first white wine was the **Vernaccia Di San Gimignano 2020** (12.5%; £8.00) from *Sainsburys*. Made from the Vernaccia grape, this Tuscan number provided a fairly positive start; as the first Italian wine (in 1963) to attain the "Denominazione di Origine Controllata" label (subsequently raised to 'Denomination of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin, the highest Italian quality grade), expectations were high, but opinions were mixed. Your writer enjoyed the crisp mineral tones but others were more muted. By contrast wine number two, the *Morrisons Gavi 2021* (12.5%; £9.00, from their 'Best' range) found almost universal favour. Featuring the Cortese grape, this was compared very favourably with the earlier Gavi (tasted at our March meeting), suggesting that a £2.50 price premium makes all the difference. Lively and with a good finish, this wine of Piedmont lived up to its claim to be 'flavoursome and fresh.' Next came a *Tesco* offering, our **Planeta Fiano Grecanico 2020** (12.5%; £10), featuring the lesser-known Fiano grape. Originating in Sicily this was typically heavy-bodied but suffered by contrast with the easier Gavi example just enjoyed. Our final white was an **Inama Vin Soave Classico 2020** (12.0%; £12.99) from *Majestic* which was pleasant enough but perhaps rather overpriced; certainly the Gavi won the award for best white this month and we recommend an early visit to Morrisons.

Similarly with the reds, of the two classic Italian labels we tasted, *Lidl's Barolo 2017* (14%; £12.99) won the day for its 'bright cherry fruit aromas' which lingered far longer than *M&S's Baracca & Fassoldi Chianti Riserva 2018* (12.5%; £12.50). The Chianti with its very light red colour was described by one reviewer as 'not the best but not the worst' which says it all in the group's view. As so often, for best wine value head for Lidl!

There will be no meeting in June but Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July will feature our annual 'Summer Fizz' session which tradition decrees we share with Lusias Spanish Conversation Group. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Tim Meacham on [simontimothymeacham@gmail.com](mailto:simontimothymeacham@gmail.com)