

## Forum Wine Group Report August 2022

No champagne but we thoroughly enjoyed our annual summer tasting of six sparkling wines. Thanks as always to Stella and John for providing the perfect setting with the trees keeping the worst of the heat off us! We started with our only Prosecco, Lidl's **Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore 2021** (11%; £5.99). As so often with Lidl this light, fruity and floral wine belied its low price with several members voting this the pick of the bunch. This DOCG Prosecco originates from the steep hills north of Venice and went well with the cheeses and meats on offer. Our second offering, again from Lidl, was their **Pinot Chardonnay 2020** (11%; £4.99) which again brought cries of surprise when I revealed the price. I had been unable to find any information about this wine, even on Lidl's website, but again it was crisp and refreshing, perhaps with a shorter finish than the Prosecco, but still great value for a hot summer's day. Then we tried a similar style of wine from Sainsburys, their **Pignoletto** (11%; £6.75 down from £9.75), one of their 'Taste the Difference' range. An online reviewer used one word ('okay') in his review and that summed it up for most of the group. Particularly at its normal price this would have been a disappointment after the cheaper wines. For our final white we returned to Lidl and their French **Cremant De Loire** (12%; £8.49) which did not disappoint. As in previous years the Cremant style with its bubbly zest proved the perfect aperitif. Somehow there seemed more richness and body here than in any other of the wines.

We then moved away from the traditional white wines, tasting a quite unusual Argentinian **Morador Malbec Rose** (13%; £10.00) from Sainsburys. This produced mixed reactions but a number of members agreed with the producers claim that it exhibited a 'fresh and fruity character,' although again the price tag did not find favour after the Lidl bargain finds. We finished with an unusual sparkling red wine, again from Sainsburys: the **McGuigan Black Label Shiraz** (12.5%; £7.50)

from Australia lived up to its reputation ('think spiced plum, blackcurrant and chocolate') and was by some way our favourite of the Sainsburys trio. Well worth picking up if Sainsburys still have it in stock.

There will be no meeting in August but for the second year running we are planning a vineyard visit in September. This will be to one of the award-winning local York vineyards (yes, they do exist!). To receive further details, non-members may contact Tim Meacham on the email address elsewhere in this Forum.