

Forum Old World Wine Notes Sept 2022

For our September meeting we met at Judith and Phil's (thanks both!) to try out a current Majestic promotion 'Old World Wines'. Before wandering from these shores, however, we were lucky enough to sample an English wine presented to the group by a fellow U3A member; thank you Chris for the kind thought. This was a fruity '**Shawgate Jester 2019**' from one of Norfolk's oldest vineyards, a first for us from this county. One member described this Reichensteiner and Muller Thurgau blend as her 'wine of the day'; it was generally well-received.

Moving on to the main event our first Majestic white was their French '**La Belle Angele 2021**' (12% and on offer at £6.99). Named after a former muse of the French impressionists, this self-proclaimed 'elegant, refreshing aromatic Sauvignon Blanc' found favour, especially at the reduced price. In fact the long finish contrasted noticeably with our second white, the '**La Toledo Gavi 2020**' (13% and £10.99 – down from £14.99): this Italian wine, produced from the Cortese grape, was initially promising but had little or no finish; not a great example of this popular brand. Our Rose offering, Majestic's own '**Definition Provence Rose 2021**' (12.5% and on offer at £8.99), a mix of four grapes, featuring the fruitiness of Grenache alongside the floral qualities of Cinsault, all added up to an easy drinking wine which most members enjoyed. A thumbs up here.

That left our two reds, both of which were pronounced 'good' by Roger, our resident expert. The French offering, a '**Chapoutier Cotes-du-Rhone 2021**' (14% and £8.99), was both mellow and nicely lingering on the tongue. The Italian equivalent, the '**Primo Appassimento 2020**' (14.5% and £7.49) was also well-received, if perhaps not quite as warmly as the French wine. The group would recommend either of these well-priced wines to accompany Sunday lunch or simply as a glass to round off a winter evening. Overall this selection of Old World wines confirmed that while the New World continues to challenge with excellent wines, France and Italy in particular still have much to offer.

The next meeting will take place at Roger's on Tuesday 18th October. At present the group size has reached a point where we have had to bring in a waiting list. Increasing the membership would necessitate seeking an external venue which would dramatically raise the costs. Apologies for this, but for now we will continue to meet in members' houses.

Tim Meacham (Convenor).