

Wine Group Forum report, August 2023

It was July, so time for our outdoor annual Summer Fizz session – except that it poured down from start to finish! Thanks however to John & Stella we moved indoors and had a fun meeting with a nice range of sparkling wines, although my great potential discovery, a **J Vineyard California Cuvee** (12.5% and £20 but on offer at £8.99 at Tesco) from the Sonoma Valley turned out to be a damp squib! The first member declared that it tasted like essence of fish and everyone except me agreed. A more successful premium wine was our **Oyster Bay Sauvignon Sparkling Cuvee** (12.5% and a very fair £7.50 in Sainsburys' 25% off sale) with a crisp clarity befitting a New Zealand Sauvignon. At least one of my prize finds came up trumps.

We had started with a couple of Roses, of which Lidl's **Allini Pino Grigio Blush Vino Spumante 2022** (11.5% and £6.49) was pleasant enough for a sunny afternoon (if only!) but our **Cava Rosado Brut** (11.5% and £7.50 from M&S) won the contest here for being less sweet, with livelier bubbles: a typical Cava, sharp and refreshing. Our two intermediate whites were both fine. The **Valdobbiadene Prosecco Spumante Superiore 2022 DOCG** from Lidl (11% and £7.99) was a pleasant surprise. Proseccos tend to be much of a muchness but this wine had elegance and a longer than usual finish. As so often with mid-price Lidl wines it represented excellent value, the Glera grape being produced in the Alpine-Dolomite area of Veneto, home of the grape. Finally as former member Guy once taught us, 'you can't go wrong with a Cremant'. The **Cremant de Loire Brut** (12% and £8.99 from Lidl) had all the expected creamy fizz and that little extra zing that we were looking for. A pity then about the J Vineyard Californian fish sensation which followed!

However all in all this was a fine way to take our minds off the weather. We meet next time at Tim and Mandy's at 2.00 on Tuesday 15th August. Theme to be announced.