

## **Wine Appreciation Group Report June 2020**

My threat to hold a 'virtual wine tasting' came true on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June when nine of the group 'met' to taste two (real) wines. Apologies to other group members but we decided to enter this 'new real' world in a limited fashion given the number of potential hiccups (pun intended). There were only two wines, rather than the usual six, but by way of compensation each household had a full bottle of each at their mercy. The wines were supplied by Majestic in Darlington who answered my appeal for 'two distinct and distinctive white wines' by producing, firstly a French example, a 2018 Macon-Chardonnay from the Cave de Lugny vineyard; this came from the actual village of Chardonnay from which the grape takes its name. Weighing in at a strong 13% (and a higher-than-usual-for-us price of £10.99) this found almost unanimous favour – 'crisp and light', 'I'm going to buy some' etc. – and most members (so the CCTV in operation revealed) went some way towards draining their bottle, unrestrained by the usual need to share with the rest of the group. It was not quite 'downhill all the way' from here, but the second wine, this time a New South Wales Fiano (a grape more usually prevalent in the Campania area of Southern Italy) suffered by comparison – 'watery', 'nothing to it' – and despite its £3 saving over the Chardonnay fell short in the view of the group.

As for the future, something WILL happen in July, but we shall 'follow the science' as always, keeping two centimetres apart (or whatever distance the science then dictates). In the meantime, stay alert, take back control and order Macon Chardonnay.