

Forum Wine Group Report 2025.

By popular request, in October we went back, courtesy of Majestic wines, to look again at some of the recent offerings emerging from Eastern Europe. Just across the border from Italy, **Slovenia** has been producing some vegan Pinot Bianco wines which include the **Krasno Pinot Bianco 2024**, at 13%, which features a strong mineral finish. Opinions on this were divided, but moving further eastwards we were more impressed by a couple of wines from the Incanta vineyards of **Romania**. The **Incanta Feteasca Regala** (undated: 12.5% and £8.50) was a great value white wine with its very Romanian Feteasca grape complemented by its very British producer, Philip Cox. This packed real power, like its red counterpart, the **Incanta Pinot Noir** (undated: 12.5% and also £8.50). Both were full-bodied satisfying wines at a very reasonable price.

On we moved to **Greece** with its ever-improving reputation. Here the **Agapi by Kintonis Rose 2024**, 12.5% and £10.25, our second recent wine from the Peloponnese area, was rather disappointing given the £10+ price. Rather harshly criticised by one reviewer as 'quite flavourless and sour', we did find it rather unexciting compared to some of the recent roses we had tried. Our furthest venture east was to the home of wine, **Georgia**, for our last two wines. Our white, the **Tbilvino Qvevris Rkatsiteli 2022** (13% and £12.50) may have been made by an age-old process using the qvevri (a large clay amphora in which the wine was fermented underground) but the flavour was described by one of us as 'very peculiar', while the Georgian red, a **Tbilvino Saperavi 2023** (13% and £12) was a much more mainstream wine with a really full body showing off the obvious merits of the local Saperavi grape, with its 'pleasant astringency'.

All in all a pleasant afternoon but not one to make us abandon our west European favourites!

Tim Meacham