

XX CLUB
SESSION 115.5
7th FEBRUARY 2024

TASTING NOTES

WHITE WINE:

Nunzio Ghiraldi Lugana DOC 2021/22, Italy, 75cl, £16.99, ABV 14%

Turbiana

Lugana is known for the production of white wines made primarily from the Turbiana grape variety, which is genetically identical to Trebbiano di Soave. The Lugana wine region is in northern Italy, along the southern banks of Lake Garda, near Verona.

Originally, this region was swampy. It's difficult to know when it first started growing grapes. There are several legends about it, dating back to the Romans and the Lombards.

Soils in Lugana are calcareous, rich in mineral salts. The terroir is also shaped by the temperate breeze coming off of Lake Garda, which ensures a fairly constant and mild climate.

The bouquet is made up of mainly white flowers and a hint of almond. It has a particularly delicate, fresh and balanced flavour with an acidity that is reminiscent of that of young wines with stone fruit and forest scents.

RED WINE:

Masi 'Campofiorin' Rosso del Veronese IGT 2019/20, Veneto, 75CL, £15.99 ABV 13%

72% Corvina, 23% Rondinella, 5% Molinara;

Bright, concentrated, mid-ruby centre with a pale rim. Immediately expressive, with dark plums, mulberry and cherry jam in the foreground, backed up by delicate notes of sweet spices, carob and a hint of vanilla pod. Intense, vibrant fruit entry with juicy acidity and a seamless progression to a mid-palate with refined, well-integrated tannins and a finish with the



authentic bitter-sweet tang of Veronese reds. Corvina gives the dominant fruit, Rondinella the structure and Molinara the freshness in a perfectly balanced blend.

Ripasso, the refermenting of new vintage Valpolicella on the fresh, moist pomace of Amarone. The complex transformation that follows produces a wine that acquires structure and aroma from the pressed skins of the Amarone, while retaining the freshness of the younger wine: a rural practice that is, in the words of Masi President Sandro Boscaini, 'simple but at the same time ingenious.'

SWEET WINE:

Château la Rame 'Gourmandise' 2021, Sainte-Croix-du-Mont, 75cl, £13.99, ABV 13%

Sainte-Croix-du-Mont is a small appellation on the right bank of the region's Garonne river – and sweet wines are its speciality. Château La Rame's vineyards lie on south-facing slopes close to the river, and there they experience the ideal conditions for 'noble rot' to develop. This bottling is made from old-vine **Sémillon**.

Notes of lemon, pineapple and mango, with touches of vanilla and acacia flowers plus a delicate minerality.

PORT WINE:

Taylor's LBV Port, 2018, £13.99, ABV 20%

Touriga Nacional

LBV was developed as a high quality but more affordable and immediately drinkable alternative to Vintage port to be enjoyed by the glass on everyday occasions. It was first launched in 1970.

Vintage Port and LBV both present a selection of very fine full bodied red ports from a single year. The fundamental difference between the two styles lies in the way each is matured. Vintage Port is kept in wood for only twenty months or so before being transferred to the bottle where it will continue to age. Late Bottled Vintage, as the name suggests, is bottled later, remaining in wood between four and six years. During this relatively long period of wood ageing, an LBV matures and settles down - it is ready to drink when bottled, does not need to be decanted and can be served by the glass for several weeks after the cork is drawn.

Deep ruby colour. The elegant and stylish nose combines fresh, intense blackcurrant and cherry aromas with subtle notes of liquorice and spice. On the palate the rich and concentrated black fruit flavour is supported by firm but well integrated tannins. True to the Taylor's style the wine shows great balance and finesse.