

U3A ST AUSTELL WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Dear Wine Group Members

“Celebrate endings, for they precede new beginnings”

Firstly, Happy New Year and welcome to 2022.

I hope that you all enjoyed a Happy and Healthy Festive Season with plenty of wine tasting and perhaps wine and food matching too? For anyone whose family was struck by Covid or other illness, I hope recovery has taken place and that you manage a belated celebration together soon.

I am hopeful that we can look forward to a safe enjoyment of many wine tasting activities together over the coming 12 months. I would love to plan a rescheduled Christmas wine and food social evening as soon as it is safe to do so – we have the festive table coverings, napkins and plates, we have the wines, and I am sure we can all adapt our food as necessary. However, I am not sure that current infection numbers make this safely possible at the moment, but will be reviewing regularly. Similarly with the February tasting in Newquay.

As its January, I thought I would take a look at some low alcohol or no alcohol drinks which can be enjoyed during this month, perhaps after the excess of Christmas, or for a “nominated driver” to enjoy, followed by some recommended supermarket wines.

No/Low Alcohol Wines

Red Wine

Oddbird Domaine de la Prade Merlot/Shiraz 0% £8.99 Amazon

12 month aged blend is full of red fruit, with cherry plum and blackberry. Warm spice of cinnamon, clove and pepper brings balance to a convincing red wine.

White Wine

Torres Natureo Muscat 0% £8.99 at drydrinker.com

Intense palate of candied lemon, peach and orange blossom. Velvety smooth, fairly sweet, recommend a pairing with nutty cheese for post dinner treat.

Sinzero Chilean Chardonnay 0.5% £9.49 at drydrinker.com

Light gold in the glass with sweet notes of green apple, honeysuckle and lemon. Surprisingly refreshing.

No/Low Alcohol Spirits

Atopia Spiced Citrus Ultra Low Alcohol Spirit 0.5% £24.95 at masterofmalt.com

Full of mouth puckering citrus and spice with a slightly sour kick. Mix as you would a classic Gin & Tonic.

Caleno Dark & Spricy non-Alcohol Spirit 0% £17.80 at Amazon

Packed with tropical flavour of pineapple, coconut and ginger. Delicious with ginger beer for an alcohol free Dark n Stormy, replaces Rum.

AEcorn Aromatic £18.95-£20.50 AEcorn Drinks, Waitrose Cellar 0%

AEcorn is a range of herbal aperitifs based on grapes, infused with botanicals including oak, hence the name. A good choice for cold winter evenings thanks to its spicy berry aromas, similar to mulled wine. Over ice with soda, or as a warm mulled wine.

Everleaf Forest £18.75-£24.50 everleafdrinks.com 0%

Sustainable botanicals such as acacia and seaweed, used to mimic the viscosity of alcohol. The range includes seaside inspired Marine and cherry laced Mountain. The rich earthiness and spice of Forest has aromas of walking through a wood after rain, with smokiness that continues on the complex, mellow and textured palate. Vanilla, woodsmoke, spice, orange citrus, candied peel and saffron. Mix with tonic water.

Strykk Not Gin £16-£18.99 Ocado, strykk.com, Amazon 0%

Full of herbal botanicals, Strykk is a fresh green explosion with vibrant herb garden aromas – mint, sage, basil and cucumber. A taste of real spice, think green chillies and black pepper, one for fans of herbaceous gins. Good for mixing especially with Fever Tree light cucumber.

Supermarket Wine Recommendations for January under £20

Whites

Laurent Brotte, Grand Vallon Grande Reserve Blanc, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhone, France 13.5% 2020 £19.99 Aldi

Having seen this recommended in a pre Christmas newspaper article written by a MW, we did buy this and can confirm it a great example at a price not often seen. Concentrated peach, pear and white blossom notes with a zippy acidity and nutty oaty oak flavours with a fine structure.

Vergelegen, Sauvignon Blanc, Stellenbosch, S Africa 2020 13.5%, £10 Tesco

Bordeaux style white with grassy green pepper and citrus aromas, with tropical fruit.

**Les Domaines Brocard, Organic Chablis, Burgundy, France 2019 13.5%
£14.50 M&S**

Certified organic, bone dry palate has acidity, flinty minerals and bright lemon juiciness. With ageing will develop a nutty complexity.

Red Wines

Antinori, Villa Antinori Rosso, Tuscany, Italy 2018 14% £16 Tesco

Roast meat and coconut give complexity to a rich nose of dark fruits. Great concentration of fresh but ripe cherry and mulberry, spiced with liquorice and dark coffee. Dark spice and a long finish.

De Martino, Limited Release Parcela No 37, Cab Sauvignon Malpo, Chile 2019 13.5%, £10 M&S

One of the best buys from M&S Winter range, produced by one of Chile's leading winemakers. From 25yr old vines, the blackberry fruit is pure and vibrant with a blackcurrant life and tannins from 12months in used barrels.

**Waitrose, Loved & Found Castelao, Lisboa, Portugal 2019, 13.5% £6.99
Waitrose**

These L&F wines all under £10 and showcase lesser known grapes. An easy drinking wine with soft, ripe tannins and flavours of red and black plum, brambly blackberry with vanilla from time in French and American oak.

**Ravenswood, Old Vine Zinfandel, Lodi, California USA 2018 14.5% £14
Tesco**

Blueberry and blackberry aromas encased in a velvety smoky veneer. Cinnamon, plums, violets, toast and vanilla. Large and imposing, the finish has dried blackberries bitter nut skin and is delicious. (This is one of Chris' go to reds.)

That is it for now, hope to be able to come back later in the month with some positive news.

Regards

Amanda