

Newsletter

February 2019



Our Next meeting is on Monday 18th February 2019 at the Farnham Conservative Club, 7.30pm for 8.00pm.



“Occitania - wines from the Rhone to the Atlantic” presented by Simon Taylor of Stone, Vine and Sun

Occitania is a pretty big area - most of the southern third of France plus Monaco and a bit of Italy - and home to the Occitan language which is still spoken locally - however it is now officially the administrative region that succeeded the regions of Midi-Pyrenees and Languedoc-Roussillon. The region has been producing interesting and drinkable wines for some time - think Vin de Pay d'Oc - in no small part thanks to producers not being bound by the bureaucratic rules of the classic regions of France and the influence of 'flying wine makers' from the Southern Hemisphere.

Simon was Deputy MD of Sothebys Europe for many years but gave up the expense accounts to start Stone, Vine & Sun in a chicken shed (his words) near Winchester. This is at least his third visit to us, so their loss and our gain. Simon has selected a varied and interesting range of refreshing white blends, a rose from Bandol and reds that include a hefty Madiran with a sticky from Maury. He is offering a 12.5% discount for orders on the night. This will be a good opportunity to hear an excellent speaker and to discover what the French can do without rules!

Please use the website to tell us if you will be attending or not, or inform David Rathmell - but do please try to use the website first.

January Meeting Summary

An Exploration of German wines” presented by David Wright of David Alexander Wine Merchants

No input or write up received.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday 18th March 2019	South Australia - a tour of the valleys	Tim Syrad
Monday 15th April 2019	TBC	TBC
Monday 20th May 2019	TBC	Robert Boutflower, Tanners Wines of Shrewsbury
Monday 17th June 2019	2019 Fine Wine Tasting	Stephen Spurrier



With **Valentine's Day** just around the corner, we're all on the hunt for that perfectly romantic bottle to share with our significant other. Rather than reaching for your usual weeknight vino, take the romance up a notch by choosing from one of these 10 romantically named bottles to set the mood. Light some candles, pop the cork, and get to sipping, because nothing says "I love you" quite like a bottle of (romantically named) wine.

- 1 CHATEAU JULIEN FRENCH KISS 2013
- 2 BROC CELLARS LOVE RED 2015
- 3 CHÂTEAU LA TOUR CARNET MÉDOC PASSION 2009
- 4 SOME YOUNG PUNKS CABERNET SHIRAZ "PASSION HAS RED LIPS" 2014
- 5 MOUTON NOIR ROSÉ LOVE DRUNK 2015
- 6 INSPIRE MOORE LOVE RIESLING 2011
- 7 CHRISTOPHE PACALET, SAINT-AMOUR 2015
- 8 LA FLEUR AMOUR MERLOT
- 9 PASSION D'ÉTOILES POUILLY-FUISSÉ 2014
- 10 CHAMPAGNE BRUT AMOUR DE DEUTZ VINTAGE 2005

Wine
o'clock

Grenache in the Cape

Grenache only accounts for 0.38% of the vineyard area in South Africa and until a few years ago was mainly used in blends. However led by the Swartland's affinity with Mediterranean varieties there we are seeing some really interesting Grenaches appear. Top rated is the Sadie Family's Soldat from old dryland vines

in the Piekenierskloof (not tasted and very expensive). Ormonde based in Darling produces a couple and their Ondine Grenache was quite light but complex and long. Spice Route also source their Grenache from Swartland which has lovely balanced ripe fruit.

We focused our tasting on Fairview (Charles Back also owns Spice Route) which now makes 4 Grenaches. New to the range and not even on the list yet is a nice aromatic Grenache white that goes well as an aperitif or with food and the basic Grenache Noir - soft and easy drinking. A step up is Piekenierskloof Grenache (from the same area as the Sadie's) which we thought was excellent value - more intense and pleasantly grippy (yes, we stocked up). Top of the range Stok By Paaltje Grenache (means stick by post or staked vines) - our tasting notes say 'warm, smooth with fuller body and ripe fruit'.

Expect to see more quality Grenaches from South Africa, and if you see them on UK shelves do try them.

Peter and Frances



Last month's Guess the caption competition, What is being said by whom? Only two suggestions received

*Didn't know you were left handed Charles!
Time in India - you know what the right is used for....
and
Whats with the bison on your tie Charles?
Hopefully it distracts from the bull in my presentation William!*