

Meeting Notes

March 2017 Croatia Wines



Dennis Drazen Sunjic, Sales Manager of Liberty Wines, presented a wine tasting entitled 'Croatia-New' Old World' at the West Surrey Wine Society's 20th. March Meeting at the Conservative Club, Ivy Lane , Farnham. Bill Loach, committee member, introduced Dennis. Members were very impressed by Dennis's physical stature—6' 8" tall and with a strong, clear voice, it was hard to miss him! He had a good story to tell, starting with a little history of a very small country but with a very diverse, complex 'terroir' and correspondingly wide range of vines and wines. Croatia was part of Yugoslavia and became an EU member in July 2013. The capital city is Zagreb. There is a very long coast-line with 1,185 islands and a population of 4.2 million—and a seasonal tourist boost of 14 million tourists. Dennis mentioned two other features, the cleanest sea in the world and the highest proportion of emigrated people in the world.

Dennis demonstrated four white and four red wines illustrating the range of wines produced from 'native' vines and classic imported vines.

The first white wine was Grasevina "Golden Valley" Krauthaker, 2015 from Slavonia. Grape type, WELSCHRIESLING. Alcohol by Volume (ABV) 13% and £9.99 a bottle. Members liked this wine, a perfect aperitif with a fresh, almond/bitter taste and pleasant acidity and minerality.

Next came Malvazija Istarska, Kozloviv, 2015 from Dalmatia. Grape type, MALVASIA ISTRIANA. ABV 13% and £12.99 a bottle. Members enjoyed the full-bodied taste and the flavour of acacia flowers, accentuated by storage of the wine in acacia wood barrels.

The third white wine was Posip "Intrada" Krajancic Island of Korkula, 2015 from Dalmatia. Grape type POSIP: ABV 13% and £15-18 a bottle, when available. From a very hot region with temperatures above 30C. Members tasted apricot, "complex, like Viognier, good with sea bass" were some comments.

The final white wine was Rajnski Rizling "Primus", Bolfan 2013 from Zagorje, Wine type REISLING. ABV 12% and £13.50 a bottle. Members commented on a 'rich' taste but with good acidity.

The first red wine was Frankovka Premium, Llocke Podrum, 2015. From Podunavlje. Grape type, BLAUFRANKISCH. ABV 12.00%, £12.00 a bottle. A perfect summer red wine, best served slightly cool. Not universally popular, someone said "like cheap beaujolais", someone else said "light and feminine, tastes of strawberry and raspberry".

This was followed by an expensive Grimalda Red Matosevic. 2013 from Istria, Grape blend of MERLOT(75%) & TERAN (25%), ABV 13.50% and £26.99 a bottle. A classic wine but members thought "will develop, not at best now".

The third red wine was Merlot Kabola, 2013 from Istria. Grape 100% MERLOT. ABV 14% and £18.60 a bottle. Members noted a 'graphite' taste, "lovely depth & a taste of charred oak".

The final red wine was Dingac 50, Badel Peljesac Peninsular, 2012. from Dalmatia Grape variety PLAVAC MALI. ABV 14% and £17.50 a bottle. From very hot and steep vineyards, so much so that the grapes are necessarily hand-picked. Quartz in the soil reflects the sun's heat onto the vineyards. Members noted a "taste of the sea" with "dryness, fruit and anchovy".

This wine exemplified the unique character of many of the wine

from Croatia, a difference of taste and character much appreciated by members.

Dennis made a splendid job of his presentation and ended with a hearty "HVALA" to all members, who, quick on the uptake, responded "THANK YOU VERY MUCH".