

WHITEWATER VALLEY WINE SOCIETY
February 2025 Tasting
Members' Choices
Presented by Members of the Society

We have many wine enthusiasts within our Society and it's always good to taste wines which are recommended by them. That's why this month we opened the floor to eight of our Members, who each introduced a wine of their choice. Together they created an excellent tasting that included a sparkling wine, two white wines and six red wines.

Welcome wine - Presented by **Alastair Dudley - Dr Loosen Riesling Sekt Extra dry NV Mosel Germany** [11.5%, £21.00] from the renowned estate of the same name. This pale, straw-coloured wine with hints of green had refreshing, fruit notes and a lively acidity. Aromas of orchard fruits predominated, accompanied by citrus hints, floral notes and a touch of minerality.

Wine 1. Presented by **Bob Johnson - Domaine des Auibusieres Cuvee des Perruches 2023 Loire France** [13.5%, £11.99 - Majestic 6]. This pale gold wine from the Vouvray area of Chenin grapes [55 years old] had a nose of fresh quince and pear and a palate of ripe apple fruit, honeyed sweetness and the characteristic Chenin blade-like acidity and mineral grip.

Wine 2. Presented by **Alastair Dudley - Finca Allende Blanco 2020 Rioja Spain** [13.5%, £24.00] made from a blend of Viura grapes and aged for 14 months in French oak barrels, this golden-yellow wine had a subtle nose with hints of grapefruit, peach and greengage. Though light in the mouth it had good body and a persistent finish.

Wine 3. Presented by **Steve Tracey - Le Cellier de Soudan Jongieux Mondeuse 2023 Savoie France** [12%, €11.00]. Bought locally in the area on a skiing trip, this Pinot Noir style red wine, made from the Mondeuse grape grown locally, is rarely exported. It was a light in body and in the mouth, fresh, fruity and pleasant wine.

Wine 4. Presented by **Keith Cooper - Rustenberg John X Merriman 2021 Stellenbosch South Africa** [14%, £17.99 - Majestic 6] a wine created to commemorate John Xavier Merriman, the Last Prime Minister of The Cape before unification. Blended from mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with Petit Verdot, Malbec and Merlot, this wine had aromas of mint, black fruits and cigar box with black fruits predominating on the palate.

Wine 5. Presented by **Caroline Hewitt-Thomas - Herdado do Esporao Reserva 2021 Alentejo Portugal** [14%, £17.00 - Tesco Clubcard] and chosen by Caroline because of her family links with Portugal. This organic wine was made from a blend of local grape varieties and had a nose of black fruit, black pepper, cloves, spices, coffee, berries and cigars. Not surprisingly the palate reflected these elements and was complex too, with a rich and velvety texture and a lingering finish.

Wine 6. Presented by **Paul Wright - 3 Finger Jack Zinfandel California USA** [14.5%, £15.99 - Majestic 6], a wine created as homage to a 'gunslinging treasure-seeker' of the gold rush. The wine had aromas of black fruits, roasted coffee and oak. On the palate there were smooth tannins and bold jammy flavours.

Wine 7. Presented by **Nigel Downey - DV Catenary Hostorico Mendoza Argentina** [13.5%, £13.00 - Sainsbury]. Made from a blend of mostly Malbec and a little Petit Verdot and Bonardo to honour the abilities of Master Blender Don Domingo, this wine was full of black-berry-fruit aromas and flavours with a ripe and silky finish.

Wine 8. Presented by **Andy Shadbolt - Berton Vineyard The Black Shiraz 2021 South-Eastern Australia** [14%, £8.50 - Co-op]. This dark red-coloured wine had aromas of black fruit, vanilla and spice. A multi-award-winning, full-flavoured and intense, 'full-throttle' wine with which to end our evening!