

8 Wines, 8 Grapes, 8 Countries Notes 25th March 2015
presented by David Flanders

The Blind Tasting based on two concepts:

1. The wines are presented as a dinner – aperitif to digestif
2. Each wine is from a different country and is mostly (or entirely) a single grape variety

These notes are used to fill out the details to give the flavour of the tasting at a later date

Wine 1

Taylor's Chip Dry – White Port: Portugal

Chip Dry White Port is a stylish and sophisticated aperitif, the perfect introduction to a relaxed meal. It is best served chilled in a large Port glass and accompanied by marinated olives or roasted almonds.

Chip Dry can also be used to make a refreshing and original summer drink by mixing one part of Chip Dry white Port with two parts of chilled Tonic water in a tall glass, adding a sprig of mint or a twist of lemon.

Taylor's introduced Chip Dry, a new style of white aperitif Port, in 1934. Made from traditional white grape varieties, it is fermented for longer than usual to give it an appetisingly crisp dry finish. Several years of ageing in oak vat and careful blending complete the fresh fruit flavours with an elegant, complex nuttiness.

Produced in limited quantities, Chip Dry white Port is sold in individually numbered bottles marked with the name of the cellar in which the wine was aged.

20% alcohol. Purchased at Waitrose £10.59 (special offer)

Wine 2

Graham Beck Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Coastal Region – South Africa

Self-proclaimed Sauvignon fanatic Erika Obermeyer joined Graham Beck's winery in 2005, and went on to become one of South Africa's top female winemakers. This wine is sourced from 8 different vineyards, selected for their naturally cool characteristics.

Full of intense gooseberry and passionfruit flavour, offset by subtle notes of ripe figs, lemongrass and capsicum. Crisp, lively acidity and an enduring, stony finish.

13% alcohol. Purchased at Majestic Wines (in France) UK price £8.99, or £6.74 ea. for two or more (France price €4.53 – at £1.00 = €1.40)

Wine 3

Peter Lehmann Eden Valley Dry Riesling 2011 (Barossa Art Series) - Australia

On the nose, this 2011 Peter Lehmann “Art Series” Riesling exhibits youthful aromas of fresh cut limes, green apple and even a hint of melon. Zesty in style, this character is carried through to the palate where flavours are presented with just a hint of sweetness and a vivid acidity. Refreshing, stimulating and well crafted, this 2011 Peter Lehmann “Art Series” Riesling is a very good example of a youthful Aussie Riesling.

11% alcohol. Purchased at Majestic Wines (in France) No UK price - (France price €7.48 – at £1.00 = €1.20)

Wine 4

Georges Duboeuf – Beajolais-Villages 2012 – France (Gamay)

Beajolais-Villages must come from the superior vineyard sites in the hillier parts to the north of Beajolais. Master winemaker Georges Duboeuf has created this wine from the best selection of grapes.

Packed with juicy strawberry, raspberry and cherry fruit flavours. A bright and youthful wine with a fresh finish.

12.5% alcohol. Purchased at Majestic Wines (in France) UK price £9.99, or £7.49 ea. for two or more (France price €6.23 – at £1.00 = €1.20)

Wine 5

Brancott Estate Pinot Noir 2013 Marlborough - New Zealand

The fruit in this wine comes mainly from across Marlborough, with small amounts from other regions, creating a consistent benchmark Pinot. A variety of yeast strains, and ageing in a mixture of French and American oak are also used, further enhancing complexity.

Bright red cherries and summer berries characterise the fruit, highlighted by aromas of dried herbs. The sweetness of the fruit is balanced by firm tannins and a streak of taut acidity.

13% alcohol. Purchased at Majestic Wines (in France) UK price £11.99, or £10.19 ea. for two or more (France price €8.73 – at £1.00 = €1.20)

Wine 6

Terra Viva – Merlot Delle Venezie 2013 - Italy

Grapes in this wine are grown organically in the Veneto and Friuli regions of Northern Italy from a family owned wine producer – Perlage

Ripe and juicy medium to full bodied red wine with red fruit aromas and plummy flavours.

12% alcohol. Purchased from Waitrose price £7:79

Wine 7

Casillero del Diablo Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Valle Central – Chile

www.casilleroeldiablo.com

Aged in American oak barrels for 9 months

Red and intense red ruby colours

Gorgeous and lovely bright cherry, blackcurrant and dark plum with toasted oak

Medium bodied with silky tannins and long, ripe fruit and berry aftertaste, with impressive balance of fruit and polished tannins

13.5% alcohol. Purchased in Carrefour Hypermarket in Calais at

Generally available in the UK from £7 to £8 (France price €8.15 – at £1.00 = €1.40)

Wine 8

Lustau East India Solera – Sherry - Spain

Lustau East India is a carefully prepared blend of two fine quality mature wines; an aged dry Oloroso and an aged sweet Pedro Ximenez, made from sun dried grapes. Once blended the wine is returned to American oak casks to 'marry' together for a period of one year prior to bottling.

Pedro Ximénez is up front, with its thick raisiny notes and dates. However the slightly tangy Oloroso is nicely balancing this nose. Hints of toffee and walnuts. Plum jam. Chocolate and coffee. Nice hints of tobacco as well. Very thick and right in the middle between two styles.

Sweet but definitely not as syrupy as PX. Brown sugar and caramel. Prunes with a spicy background. Noble wood. Mocha. Again there's a very light salty edge and a good acidity from the Oloroso. Very long finish with hints of Turkish coffee.

20% alcohol. Purchased at Waitrose - £8.99 for 50cl bottle

East India Solera is a sweetened [Oloroso](#). The name refers to the East India Company, a British trading company that transported cotton, silk, spices, tea, saltpetre and other

commodities from the East Indies. As a fortified wine (which lasted longer), sherry was taken along as ballast and to serve the ship's crew on its transatlantic journey.

In the 1670's they started to notice that the wine actually improved after such a trip, becoming smoother and more complex. This can be explained by the constant movement (i.e. more interaction with air and wood) and by the exposure to high temperatures. **East India Sherry** which was brought back after a trip became very popular, just like East India Madeira. Even whisky was 'improved' this way.

[Lustau](#) is now the only bodega honouring this tradition with its **East India Solera**, a replica of the old profile. It is made from a selection of around 80% Oloroso and 20% Pedro Ximénez butts that have aged separately. These are then blended and matured further in a **1|33 solera** for three more years, in a specific part of the bodega that is hotter and more humid than the rest of the bodega. The result is a sweet wine that has around 130 grams of sugar, which places it in the [Cream](#) category.