

The North Hampshire Wine Society Blog



Along the Loire Valley

Presenter: Paul Carter (Majestic Basingstoke)

23 September 2015

A huge array of 12 wines brought by Paul to showcase Majestic's current extensive Loire range - mainly whites, a rose, two reds, and a rather special sticky.

Offer prices current at date of tasting in **red**

The wines

Whites

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| 1. L'Extra par Langlois Brut NV Crémant de Loire | 12.5% | £14.99
£9.99 |
| Chenin/Chardonnay blend. Really nice characterful example of sparkling Chenin with a decent biscuit nose and an appley citrus palate. 'Baked apple' was a comment heard from several members. Good at the offer price (you're unlikely ever to need to pay the full whack). | | |
| 2. Château du Cléray Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie 2014, Pierre Sauvion | 12% | £9.99
£8.49 |
| Greenish tint as you'd expect, bright lemon. Steely and lean. 2014 is a tremendous Muscadet vintage but this was not much liked in the room – many preferred Aldi's quite basic Muscadet sur Lie (2013, tasted in August). However Muscadet doesn't always need to be drunk early, especially in good vintages. Good ones age, so maybe some time in bottle is indicated here. | | |
| 3. La Grille Rose d'Anjou 2014 | 12.5% | £8.99 |
| Grolleau/Gamay blend. Vibrant colour, very upfront strawberry nose. Soft palate, decent acidity but an all-enveloping strawberry fruit character at the expense of much structure – i.e. the usual Anjou rose style. Off dry and quite sweet on the finish. A well made crowd pleaser. | | |
| 4. Haut Poitou Sauvignon Blanc 2014, Pierre Sauvion | 12.5% | £9.99
£7.49 |
| Pungent reductive nose. Palate quite mineral, grassy rather than gooseberry in the Loire style. Citrussy and herbal. | | |
| 5. Saumur Champigny 2011, Château de Targé | 13% | £10.99 |
| Red - Cabernet Franc. Super-fruity nose, characterful, palate has firm tannins and some structure. 'Smoky rather than oaky' heard in the room. Slight hint of something odd (herbal perhaps?) on the mid palate but a nice juicy example of Loire Cab Franc. Drink up. | | |

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| <p>6. Vouvray Domaine de Aubuisieres 'Cuvée de Perruches' 2014, Bernard Fouquet</p> <p>Off dry palate, creamy apples with a honeyed finish. Lovely example of (almost) demi-sec Vouvray from a stellar producer. Distinguished and long – 'a beginning, middle and end'. Showing straight after the Cabernet Franc might not have done it too many favours.</p> | <p>12.5% £9.99</p> |
| <p>7. Quincy 2013, Jean-Charles Borgnat</p> <p>Immediately obvious smoky nose, good mid-palate, full and balanced. A riper palate than wine 4 which tasted a little green by comparison. Some development on the nose, and the room was very divided on this.</p> | <p>12.5% £9.99</p> |
| <p>8. Reuilly Cuvee Nathalie 2014</p> <p>More restrained nose here, balanced palate, decent structure, pronounced acidity, leafy, all of a piece. Very 'Sancerre' in style. V good finish, longest so far of the Sauvignons. Loads of character in quite an austere Sauvignon style. Much liked in the room.</p> | <p>12.5% £11.99
£8.99</p> |
| <p>9. Definition Sancerre 2014</p> <p>Majestic's new Definition range aims to show a defining version of a number of classic wine styles. It's their first own label range, just launched Sept 2015. Fresh, fruity, perhaps a tad simpler nose than the Reuilly? Fruitier mid-palate, fuller, decent concentration, maybe just a little more 'straight up and down' than the Reuilly. But a good example and generally liked. Don't pay 17.99 though.</p> | <p>12.5% £17.99
£13.49</p> |
| <p>10. Pouilly Fume 2014, Jonathan Pabiot</p> <p>Pouilly Fume from a rising star of the Loire ('the new Didier Dagueneau' no less) and the pedigree leaps out of the glass – super-concentrated with a massive mid-palate, great length, and all that lovely smoky Pouilly Fume character. Complex and serious, loads going on. Generally liked. Not his chateau label but made from organic vines within the domaine. Offer price is a good buy for the excellent 2014 vintage. Well worth stashing away to develop (I've put six in the garage...)</p> | <p>12.5% £19.99
£13.32</p> |
| <p>11. Puy de Dôme Pinot Noir 2012 Cave de Saint Verny</p> <p>Label design 'homage to Michelin'! From far south of Pouilly and Sancerre. Volcanic soil. Raspberry Pinot nose with white pepper and some heat on the palate (alcohol also a bit noticeable on the finish). But otherwise a cool climate Pinot with pure but not overt fruit.</p> | <p>13% £13.99
£7.99</p> |
| <p>12. Bonnezeaux 2010, Château de Fesles</p> <p>Not sure how many of us would have been familiar with Bonnezeaux – I certainly wasn't – but this has everything you'd want in a sweet Loire Chenin – massive balancing acidity cutting through the honeyed slightly caramelised palate. 'Candied marmalade' was one description overheard. There's some botrytis here and it's full of lovely complex flavours running right through to a long finish. Lovely stuff.</p> | <p>13% £19.99</p> |

A lot of wine to get through in the time! - but a splendid cross-section of the Loire and a very generous selection from Majestic's current range.

The North Hampshire Wine Society Blog is by **Julia Shaw**