

WLu3a Wine Appreciation Group

Meeting 27 May 2026

We did not do so well this time, our theme was Wines of Burgundy. Only 3 turned up although the second choice – wines beginning with 'B' were better represented, especially Beaujolais, (of which Burgundy is part), and Bordeaux.

Burgundy is a large area in Eastern France associated with Route National A6. Normally wine regions tend to associate with rivers etc. Thus it may be more appropriate to reference the Rhone which happens to run alongside the A6 through this area.

Our usual suppliers tend not to display under the generic 'Burgundy', preferring instead to major on such vineyards as Nuits-St-George, Gevrey-Chambertain, Corton-Charlemagne etc. OK, maybe not the Co-op!

There are so many vineyards and estates with such a range of products it is very difficult to generalise. Many are famous, of good quality and therefore quite expensive, perhaps that limited our selection?

Our selected wines were, in accordance with the group's wishes divided equally between red and white. The suggestion the whites sit on one side of the table and reds on the other was strangely rejected. Notwithstanding, the overall quality was very good with a couple of interesting offerings. A Sauvignon Blanc from California was apparently produced from vines taken from the Burgundy region – perhaps. A Tutiac Merlot was bizarrely labelled as 'Protect the Oceans' which did prompt some discussion until we realised the 'cork' was made from recycled plastic to prevent the micro plastics reaching the sea, which will have to make do with a myriad floating and indestructible corks.

Of the more mainstream offerings a Sablet Côtes-du-Rhône Village – an actual Burgundy – was deemed excellent, albeit sweeter than the previous M&S Burgundy. Of the whites a Châteaux Galichet – a Sauvignon Blanc from Bordeaux was judged to be 'very nice' while a Bijou Viognier was just 'nice.'

Our final Minervois was excellent so the evening's sampling ended on a high note. It was noted, however, the overall strength of the wines had been compromised by the increase in duty.

Our health half hour became, apart from concern for Bob and general 'how are you' enquiries, a bit wider in scope. Encompassing discussions about hospitals and other medical matters. There was some rejoicing that 'Obesity is a disease' because the government says so. Eating too much, exercising too little is no longer the cause! Perhaps it will be designated a notifiable condition and therefore eligible for a Motability car, just saying. Eventually there was an exchange of information about symptoms and medication. It became almost competitive – 'Who is more ill' – with scores being awarded, my ingrowing toenail in 1995 did not score highly.

Did you know that tinned cherries are an acceptable alternative for avocados in Nigeria? Of course, context matters, Pat will be able to explain.

The rival benefits, or otherwise, between Sky, Virgin, EE, TNT, especially with regard to the football was a hot topic, there was a match apparently.

Bird behaviour during solar eclipses, custom greetings cards, vineyard visits and whether red/white wines should be chilled were all topics at our end of the table. I am led to believe a totally different set of discussions took place at the other end of the table! Perhaps a different set of notes would be appropriate?

Our next meeting – on Wednesday 24 June – Theme – Italian Wines.

John Dexter

