

## May 7 2024 - Wine Appreciation

All wines from Majestic apart from number 6.

### 1 Tbilvino 'Qvevris' Rkatsiteli 2020/21, Georgia

#### GEORGIA

Tbilvino is one of Georgia's most important wineries. For over 60 years, they've been dedicated to showcasing the best of their country's wines and native grape varieties, using both traditional and modern techniques to produce a wide range of delicious styles. This white is made with Rkatsiteli, believed to be one of the oldest grape varieties in the world. The juice is fermented with the grape skins in 'qvevri' –(amphora, or clay pots buried in the ground) – resulting in a beautiful amber colour and rounded texture, plus aromatic notes of apricot and pear. Thanks to its fuller body, it'll make an excellent match for smoky lamb dishes.

GRAPE	Rkatsiteli
CLOSURE	Natural Cork
COUNTRY	Georgia
UNITS	9.4
CHARACTERISTICS	Citrus Fruit, Herbal, Orange, Spice
PER BOTTLE / CASE / EACH	per bottle
TYPE	White
ABV	ABV 12.50%
REGION	Kvareli
TYLE	Ripe & Rounded
	£12-99 reduced to £11-199 Majestic when 6 or more bottles are purchaxed (mix and match)

History – The earliest archaeological evidence of femented grapes is from China 7000 BC, but those concoctions were mainly rice and other items including some grape. However all modern grape cultivars are derived from those wild grapes that grew in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and into Iran. The earliest evidence of what we would recognise as wine was found in Georgia and has been dated as from 6000 BC. The oldest winery discovered dated 4100 BC , consisting of grape press, fermentation vats, jars, and cups. Archaeologists also found *V. vinifera* seeds and vines. discovered was in Armenia. This predates the earliest wine residues recovered from t Egyption tombs by some 900 years.

## 2 Krasno Sauvignon Blanc-Ribolla Gialla 2021/22, Brda

### SLOVENIA

Brda is known as 'the Tuscany of Slovenia'. It sits between the Alps and the Adriatic, just over the border from Friuli, Italy, where similar white wines demand much higher prices. But because Slovenian Sauvignon is still relatively under the radar, you can pick it up for a bargain. This is fresh and fruity, with aromas of green apple, pear, lemon and freshly cut grass. Try its refreshing acidity with oysters.

GRAPE	Sauvignon Blanc
SECONDARY GRAPE VARIETIES	Ribolla Gialla
CLOSURE	Screwcap
COUNTRY	Slovenia
UNITS	9.8
CHARACTERISTICS	Green Apple, Citrus Fruit, Grass
PER BOTTLE / CASE / EACH	per bottle
TYPE	White
ABV	ABV 13.00%
REGION	Slovenia
STYLE	
VINTAGE	2022
	£8-99 Mix 6
	£9- 99 / BOTTLE

## 3 Lyrarakis Assyrtiko 2022/23, Crete

### GREECE

Take a sip, and you'll see exactly why Assyrtiko's known as Crete's answer to Chablis. Bone dry. Fresh. Aromatic. This is a perfect first step into the world of Greek wine. Discover wild aromas of meadow flower and yellow orchard fruit, backed by a heavy dose of minerality. Divine with oysters.

GRAPE	Assyrtiko
CLOSURE	Natural Cork
COUNTRY	Greece
UNITS	10.1
CHARACTERISTICS	Green Apple, Citrus Fruit, Floral
PER BOTTLE / CASE / EACH	per bottle
TYPE	White
ABV	ABV 13.50%
STYLE	Crisp & Zesty
VINTAGE	2023
	<b>£11.99 Mix Six</b>
	<b>£13.99 per bottle</b>

## 4. Thymiopoulos Xinomavro 2020/21, Greece

If you're looking to get into Greek wine, Xinomavro is a great place to start. It's one of Greece's star grapes. Think of it as a delicious cross between Barbaresco and Pinot Noir. This example is made by a man who's widely recognised as an expert in the art of crafting great Xinomavro. It's medium-bodied and complex, with notes of red and black fruit, a vibrant acidity and a long finish. Serve with lamb shank.

GRAPE	Xinomavro
CLOSURE	Natural Cork
COUNTRY	Greece
UNITS	9.8
CHARACTERISTICS	Earth, Red Cherry, Red Plum, Spice
PER BOTTLE / CASE / EACH	per bottle
TYPE	Red
ABV	ABV 13.00%
REGION	Greece
STYLE	Savoury & Full Bodied
VINTAGE	2021

**£13.99 Mix 6   15.99 per bottle**

Wine reached Greek Macedonia via the Persian empire by about 4500 BC

## 5 Solomonar Reserve Red, Romania

### Description

68% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon & 2% Fetească Neagră

Selected from the best vineyard parcels of the Dealul Uberland Vineyard in Recas, and the Pestera vineyard near Murfatlar by the Black Sea.

Dark violet, with notes of ripe plum and blackberry on the nose, this is a full bodied wine packed with dark fruit flavour- blackcurrant, plum and blueberry with a gentle hint of vanilla spice. Rich and soft and juicy.

Alc: 14.5%

Certified Vegan

£9-99 / £8-99

VINTAGE	2021
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## 6. Mystery Wine - Aldi Specially Selected Vin Rouge du Liban Bekaa Valley Red Wine Limited Edition 2020

Aroma: cherries, rosemary cloves

Palate: cherry, blackberry, earthy spices and fine tannins

Pair with lamb and spicy casseroles.

ABV 13.5%

Aldi - £8-49

In biblical and pre-biblical times, the area which is now Lebanon, Israel and Palestine were major wine producing areas. The Phoenicians set up trading stations across North Africa, and into Spain, bringing their wine and grapes with them. They had a strong influence on the development of viniculture in Greece, Italy and Spain, and from there across the Roman Empire into France. The modern Lebanese wine industry, exemplified by La Tourelle, established in 1868 have adopted French varieties and methods.

Label does not identify vineyards, winery, or grape varieties. This is standard practice, when a premium winery is presented with over-production. In order to maintain prices, the surplus is sold off to the supermarkets on condition that they keep the identity of the wine a secret. However, researchers claim that the supply chain is the same as for Tourelles - see no 7, and that the following is probably a description of the same wine ; that one being slightly younger with a different blend of grapes to no 7.

*"When it comes to Lebanese wines it's not only Château Musar that's worth collecting. Founded in 1868, Tourelles is Lebanon's oldest winery. It's now run by Faouzi Issa, who earned his stripes working in Côte Rôtie and at iconic Château Margaux. This experience is reaping rewards. A blend of Cabernet, Syrah, Cinsault and Carignan, this has fine aromatic morello cherry and spice aromas, a dark fruit core with layered earthy spice, and balanced tannins"*

## 7. Domaine des Tourelles 'Grand Cuvée Pierre Brun' 2017/18, Lebanon

Faouzi E Issa has a knack for making fantastic wine in challenging circumstances. After earning his stripes at Château Margaux and with René Rostaing, he's one of the world's few Lebanese winemakers. And he's guaranteed to go down as one of the country's greats. This is made from small parcels of old-vine Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. Each is picked by hand from high altitudes in the Bekaa Valley. It's savoury and full-bodied, with notes of black cherry, plum, blackcurrant, cedar and chocolate. Great with a lentil stew.

GRAPE	Cabernet Sauvignon
SECONDARY GRAPE	Syrah
VARIETIES	
CLOSURE	Natural Cork
COUNTRY	Lebanon
CHARACTERISTICS	Black Cherry, Black Fruit, Black Plum, Blackcurrant, Cedar, Chocolate, Game, Red Fruit, Spice, Tobacco
UNITS	10.9
PER BOTTLE / CASE / EACH	per bottle
TYPE	Red
ABV	ABV 14.50%
REGION	Lebanon
STYLE	Savoury & Full Bodied
VINTAGE	2018
APPELLATION	Bekaa Valley Grapw

**£20.99 Mix Six**  
**£23.99 per bottle**