

NEWBURY NEWTS WINE TASTING CLUB

BRAZILIAN WINE TASTING – 26th FEBRUARY 2016

1. MIOLO BRUT MILLESIME 2008 12.5% Abv.

Traditional 'Champagne' method sparkler from Brazil's largest and best known wine exporter, with a history dating back to the 1930s. Wine is a blend of 50% Pinot Noir / 50% Chardonnay, with minimum 1 year lees ageing. Dry, elegant and fine: ripe tropical citrus fruits overlay a fresh, brioche and biscuity palate. Balanced acidity and plenty of fine bubbles. Drink well chilled as an aperitif, or with lighter chicken dishes, salads or risotto.

2. RIO SOL VIOGNIER / CHENIN BLANC 2013 12% Abv.

50:50 unoaked blend of Viognier and Chenin Blanc from vineyards bordering the river São Francisco in North East of Brazil, at latitude 9° south of the Equator, where two harvests p.a. are the norm! Very pale yellow with greenish highlights. Citrussy aromas - pineapple and melon - with a tiny floral hint. Soft on palate, well balanced with good acidity. Refreshing, easy-drinking.

3. SANJO NOBRESE MOSCATO NV 13% Abv.

100% Moscato Giallo from Sanjo, one of the new wave of high altitude wineries (vineyard here located at approx. 1300m) in the state of Santa Catarina. Diurnal temperature differences are high, giving wine real freshness. Colour is light yellow with greenish highlights. On nose, intensely aromatic and floral – peach, lime and lychee ? Palate is not sweet, as might be expected, instead dry to off-dry, grapey and perfumed. Medium bodied, with a marked, cleansing acidity. Drink young, on its own or with salads, seafood and fish.

4. PIZZATO FAUSTO CHARDONNAY 2014 12.5% Abv.

Great example of well made, unoaked Chardonnay, with no frills attached! Tropical nose hints at melon, peach and apricot, while dry palate is soft and rich with well-judged level of acidity. A highly versatile wine, can be matched with a wide variety of dishes. Producer Flavio Pizzato is 5th generation of prominent Italian wine-making family which settled in the Serra Gaúcha region of Rio Grande do Sul state in the 1880s.

5. AURORA RESERVA MERLOT 2012 12.5% Abv.

Light to medium bodied unoaked 100% Merlot, showing soft ripe plummy and red berry fruit, produced by Brazil's largest winery (by volume). Smooth tannins, well rounded and pleasant fruit finish. Ideal everyday drinking, goes well with pizza, pasta and lightly flavoured cheese.

6. CAMPOS de CIMA ORIGEM 2014 12.5% Abv.

Intriguing unoaked blend of four red grape varieties: Merlot (35%), Tannat (35%), Cabernet Franc (15%) & Cab Sauvignon(15%). Lightly scented nose, with hints of plum and cherry. Initially sweet, dark ripe fruits on a bold palate but wine then opens up, becomes more supple and smooth. Earthy, vegetal character is also noticeable, while finish shows a sour black cherry flavour. Medium to full bodied. This is a young wine, still evolving, which will keep for at least a couple of years.

7. PIZZATO FAUSTO CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2010 13% Abv.

Bright and robust Cab Sauv, aged for 6 months in used American oak. Eucalyptus on nose, rich red plummy fruit on palate, some olive savouriness and hints of caramel and vanilla. Tannins firm but starting to mellow, acidity fresh. Serve with beef, venison or hard cheeses.

8. LIDIO CARRARO ELOS TOURIGA NACIONAL / TANNAT 2009 13% Abv.

From one of Brazil's leading and very individual boutique wineries: an intriguing and unusual blend of Touriga (77%) and Tannat (23%) from vineyard in SE Brazil. Perfumed, floral nose is reminiscent of violets, jasmine and geranium. Medium bodied, the wine is supple, showing mature tannins. As with all other wines from this producer, no oak is used. Lidio Carraro was the official FIFA World Cup 2014 wine supplier.

9. SANJO NOBRESE SPARKLING MOSCATO 7% Abv.

Lovely low alcohol digestif, produced using the Asti method by prominent Japanese-Brazilian cooperative up in the highlands of Santa Catarina, at 1400m altitude. Very pale yellow colour belies a pronounced fresh, citrusy, orange blossom nose. Plenty of small bubbles, a gentle mousse and decent acidity - not at all cloying or sticky sweet - actually light and very refreshing!