

Client: Tagus Creek
Source: The Sunday Times (Ireland) (Sunday)
Date: 23 June 2013
Page: 25
Reach: 115447
Size: 644cm2
Value: 17722.88


Tagus Creek

ON THE BOTTLE

Sink into summer

MARTIN MORAN



A mysterious orange globe has recently been spotted in the sky over Ireland, causing confusion, excitement, the discarding of clothes, impromptu raves, incredible amounts of littering and even fighting on Dublin's Portmarnock beach. Ireland's summer, it seems, has literally kicked off, and in style.

Rising mercury, of course, demands a refreshing sort of drink. Some choose a gin and tonic, others an ice-filled pint of cider. But what is the

wine lover to enjoy when there is no call for the liquid central heating most of us stay topped up on throughout the rest of the year?

In the case of whites, this is not the time for heavy oak-aged wines, principally chardonnay. Instead, you need to stock up on a flotilla of thirst-quenching, crisp varieties.

Pride of place ought to go to dry Australian rieslings such as the widely available Wakefield (€13-€14), Dunnes Stores' Mitchelton Blackwood (€11) or Tesco Tingleup Great Southern Riesling, *right*. The latter is €12.55 and shows the

requisite chalky mineral and tingling lemon zest character of the perfect dry summer white.

The tangy flavours

of sauvignon blanc make it ideal for summer drinking, too, and most shops have a deal on one Marlborough wine or another. But my choice would be for the leaner, crisper and less obvious charms of Haut Poitou sauvignon blanc from the Loire (€13-€14 and about €10 on promotion in O'Briens and Superquinn).

France also has plenty of fresh Côtes de Gascogne such as Domaine de Pellehaut, (€10.99) in Mitchell & Son's Dublin stores. France's trendiest white is picpoul de pinet and you'll find examples for €10.99 in Tesco and €12.49 in Marks & Spencer. Just don't ignore retro-trendy muscadet.

The king of Italy's citrusy crisp whites from Piemonte is

gavi, and Tesco Finest (€8) does the trick, but Aldi and Lidl also have perfectly drinkable versions.

Further south, verdicchio from the Marches region of central Italy deserves a revival. Marks & Spencer's offering is a good example (€10.99), but the Fattoria San Lorenzo Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico 2011 shows how good this appellation can be. It's €16.99 in good off-licences.

Spain and Portugal are best

known for reds, but their whites can be a revelation. Pride of place for summer goes to albariño from Rias Baixas in the green northwest of Spain. Martín Códax, (€15-€17 in independents) is popular, but the supermarkets stock a version too, including Paco & Lola in Superquinn and Dunnes for €16 or less on promotion. Not to be outdone, Portugal's Douro is making some excellent whites, including Tons de Duorum, €13.99 in O'Briens outlets.



Client: Tagus Creek
Source: The Sunday Times (Ireland) (Sunday)
Date: 23 June 2013
Page: 25
Reach: 115447
Size: 644cm2
Value: 17722.88



Glass act: vermentino

Vermentino is a late-ripening white grape variety, primarily found in Italy, writes *Ernie Whalley*. It's widely planted in Sardinia and in Liguria (under the name "pigato") as well as in Corsica. In Piedmont the grape goes under the local name "favorita", and vermentino is increasingly grown in Languedoc-Roussillon in France, where they call it "rolle". There are plantings in Australia, too. Wines made from vermentino have refreshing

acidity, a citric "lift" and a surprisingly full mouthfeel given the moderate alcohol levels. They are proving popular of late and could even displace the anaemic pinot grigio from its top-of-the-pops perch. If so, both I and Martin Moran — whose PG Mo Thóin campaign against pinot grigio was launched some weeks ago on these pages — would very much welcome the development. From a selection of 10 vermentino, these were our best four:



Cantina di Montalcino Vermentino di Sardegna Primo Bianco 2012
manningsemporium.ie, Ballylickey, Co Cork; Blackrock Cellar, Blackrock, Co Dublin; and independents; €16.99
SILVER

Ernie Whalley says: Fresh, fragrant nose. Uncomplicated peachy fruit, russet apple flavours and a weighty mouthfeel.

Martin Moran says: Appealing peach, red apple and pear fruit allied to a creamy nougat texture.

17.5/20



Poggio al Tesoro Solosote Vermentino 2011
dobbybrookfair.ie, various Dublin locations; 64wine.ie, Glashule, Co Dublin; and independents; €21.99
BRONZE

EW: Grapefruit, lime and floral notes on the nose. Flavours of white peach and apricot, and a smooth texture.

MM: Zesty orange fruit with some creamy character on the palate make this the perfect summer white.

16.5/20



Yalumba Y Series Vermentino 2011, Australia
Deveney's, D14; cheersdelgany.ie, Co Wicklow; and independents; €14.50
BRONZE

EW: Flavours of melon skin, aniseed, citrus, apple, pear and kiwi. Clean, full mouthfeel and light on alcohol.

MM: Honeydew melon character plus pear and lemon juice. Lovely, and at 11.5% alcohol by volume it must be the perfect "Wednesday night wine".

17/20



Cantina di Mesa Poggio del Sasso 2012
fallonandbyrne.com, D2; Brechin Watchorn, D6; bradleysofflicence.ie, Cork city; and independents; €17.99
BRONZE

EW: Clean, citrus and pear flavours create a zippy, appealing wine. Nice floral fragrance on the nose.

MM: Clean, with citrus flavours and a light sherbety mineral note. A white to drink with white fish or at a party.

15.5/20



Client: Tagus Creek
Source: The Sunday Times (Ireland) (Sunday)
Date: 23 June 2013
Page: 25
Reach: 115447
Size: 644cm2
Value: 17722.88


Tagus Creek



ALAMY

