

Client: Tagus Creek
 Source: The Jewish Chronicle (Main)
 Date: 01 November 2013
 Page: 41
 Reach: 24950
 Size: 224cm2
 Value: 1281.28

WINE RICHARD ENGLISH'S

Please don't mull over these red wines

► **BONFIRE NIGHT** fills me with mixed emotions. On the negative side: a deep aversion to any celebration that bears even the remotest connection with capital punishment. Negative again: the feeling that those bonfires signal the imminence of winter, a season I dislike more with each passing year.

But then I think on the plus side and brighten up. For one thing: there are few things better than a good bonfire, and one of them is a good fireworks display. Loads of infantile pleasure beckons. For another thing: when the snap, crackle and pop dis-

play is over, it will be time to head indoors for a meal and a glass.

Some people take their meal while attending the fiery festivities. They're making a mistake. Dinner is too important an event to be conducted standing up. And if you're not careful, some well-meaning but misguided

soul will force you to drink mulled wine. Bad, bad mistake.

So I hope I will be seated, and with a roof over my head, when I dine tomorrow. And when I do, I may give to charity in the proc-

ess. Whenever a bottle in the Piggybank wine range is sold, 50p is collected and stored up for donation to charity; the scheme

is explained fully at www.piggybank-wine.com. My favourite of their range is Piggybank Syrah 2010 from the Elqui Valley in northern Chile. Very Rhône-ish, Syrah and not Shiraz. Plump, juicy, irresistible. £7.99 from Waitrose and from Piggybank online, and £48 for six bottles from www.tesco.com. There's no

charitable angle to Asda's Extra Special Old Vines Garnacha 2012 (£8.25), but the wine is a cracker.

Abundant berry flavours with spicy notes and tannic heft. Lovely stuff, and fairly priced.

Moving across the border from Spain to Portugal, I would happily sit down with **Ramos**

Reserva Red 2011, a generous blend of classic Portuguese grape varieties with some of the interloper Syrah. Nice spice and unusual notes of tart plums on the palate. Get this together with a brisket and you'll be making fireworks of your own. And no mulled wine in sight. If you're lucky.

