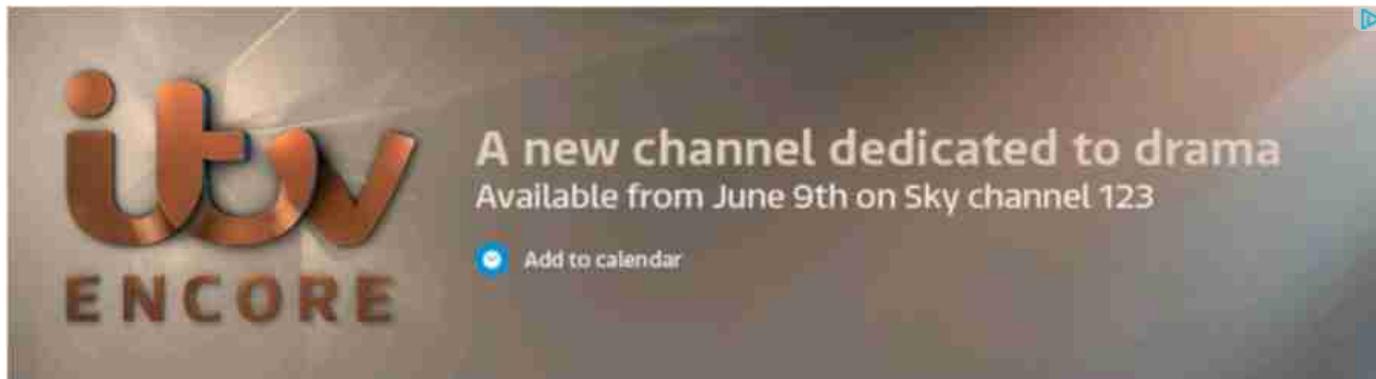


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Waitrose wines score for the World Cup

Three new bottles at the high-street retailer capture the spirit and flavour of Brazil

David Williams
The Observer, Saturday 24 May 2014 13.00 BST

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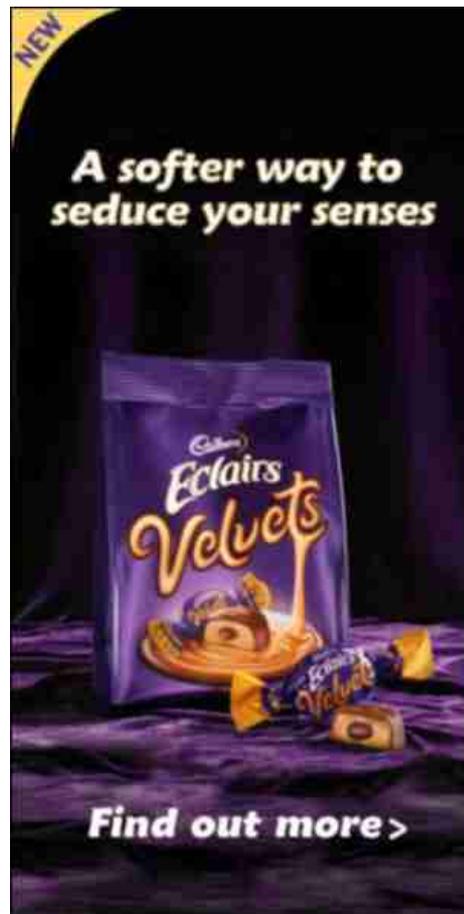
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Kicking off: three bottles to enjoy while watching the World Cup.

F'Oz Alentejo, Portugal 2012 (£8.49, Waitrose) Waitrose has added a handful of Brazilian wines to its line-up this month. Hmm, I wonder why they've done that? Actually, the move isn't as Sepp Blatter-cynical as it may seem: Brazil's wine producers have come on a long way in recent years and there's plenty of decent stuff around. However, I don't think the Waitrose selection shows either the country or Waitrose at its best. Indeed if I were looking for something with a Portuguese accent to pep up a group stage bore-draw during the World Cup, I'd go for this suave, sumptuous red bargain from the warm south of the old country instead.

Telmo Rodriguez Al-muvedre Old Bush Vine Monastrell, Alicante, Spain 2013 (£8.49, Waitrose) As eye-catching as the Brazilian wines are, when it comes to performance in the glass the most impressive new



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red additions to the Waitrose range on show at the same press tasting were from World Cup holders Spain. There's a blend of youth and experience in buyer Nick Room's selection: mellow, mature, traditional-style old Riojas from López de Heredia or CVNE, slotting in alongside deep, vibrant, spicy, and captivatingly silky new-wave bottlings, such as highly skilled itinerant winemaker Telmo Rodriguez's take on the monastrell (aka mourvèdre) variety.

Valdesil Valdeorra Mencía, Valdeorras, Spain 2012 (£11.99, Waitrose) My favourite of the new Spaniards comes from a Galician producer, Valdesil, which has consistently provided one of Waitrose's best Spanish whites with its lemon curd-rich and salty-fresh Godello. Its red from the trendy mencía variety is just as good and just as distinctive, with tangy, cherry-like freshness, succulent berry fruit, a touch of violet-like perfume and a crunchy feel. It's the kind of wine that fills the same refreshing-red role as a good beaujolais from a top village (cru) or a cabernet franc from the Loire, and, like those, is made for a plate of salty charcuterie or jamón.

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Three lovely bottles which capture their own salty environments or go well with salty food. By **David Williams**

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Three whites to go with Claudia Roden's Food of Italy recipes

A gentle white for Claudia Roden's mozzarella artichokes, and two whites for her sticky chicken – one apple-and-honey sweet and the other zesty with herbs. By **David Williams**

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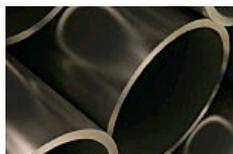


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