



# Wine Notes - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

“It's Christmasssss.....”

## Xmas Party Crowd-Pleasers

### Zibibbo Terre Siciliane 2024

#### Stats:

Price	£8.99
Alcohol	12%
Stockist	Lidl
Grape	Zibibbo (Muscat)
Country	Italy, Sicily



#### Notes:

Zibibbo Terre Siciliane is made from 100% Zibibbo grapes, also known as Muscat of Alexandria - a grape prized for its expressive aromatics. The grapes are grown in the sun-drenched vineyards of western Sicily, where sea breezes and volcanic soils contribute to purity and freshness. Grapes are harvested late summer and aged briefly in steel before bottling.

#### Described as:

- **Aromatics (Nose):** Orange blossom, jasmine, wisteria, honeysuckle, tangerine, peach, lychee, mandarin, sage, mint, citrus zest, pear skin, subtle tropical fruits.
- **Palate (Taste):** Dry, clean, crisp, fresh, mineral, saline, zesty, with flavours of mandarin, pear, stone fruits, and gentle tropical notes.
- **Acidity/Structure:** Balanced, fresh, pleasant acidity, crisp.
- **Finish:** Persistent, bright, floral, citrus, with a subtle lift.
- **Appearance:** Straw-yellow with slight green hues.

**Reviews** are generally favourable - described as expressive, aromatic, and perfectly balanced between perfume and freshness.

A great party wine because its crisp acidity and smooth palate make it highly refreshing and easy to drink.

**Food Match:** It is perfect to combine with fresh cheeses, shellfish and fresh fish and Asian dishes.

## Les Jamelles Syrah

### Stats:

Price	£8.15
Alcohol	12.5%
Stockist	Co-Op
Grape	Syrah
Country	France, Languedoc-Roussillon



### Notes:

Les Jamelles Syrah is made using traditional Languedoc methods like "la cocotte" (submerging the skins) for deep colour and flavour, plus carbonic maceration for some grapes, with a portion aged in oak barrels for spice, resulting in a rich, fruity, and spicy red with notes of violet, vanilla, and liquorice.

### Described as:

- **Appearance:** Deep, rich purple or ruby red, often with a syrupy look.
- **Aromas (Nose):** Ripe wild berries (raspberry, redcurrant, blackberry), violet, cinnamon, vanilla, and a hint of mint or even forest undergrowth.
- **Palate (Taste):** Full-bodied, rich, fruity, and juicy, with velvety or creamy texture and smooth, fine tannins.
- **Finish:** Long, silky, and satisfying, often with lingering notes of licorice or a touch of pepper.

**Reviews** of this wine describe it as a plush and rounded french syrah superbuy, praising its soft red fruit and delicate tannins, perfect for any occasion.

A great party wine because it's generally fruity, smooth, and approachable for many palates, fitting well with informal gatherings

**Food Match:** Pairs well with a variety of hearty and spicy dishes, especially lamb, grilled meats, and Mediterranean cuisine

# Christmas Day Champagne

## Les Ponniers Vintage Brut 2013

### Stats:

Price	£33.20
Alcohol	12.0%
Stockist	Co-Op
Grape	Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier
Country	France, Champagne



### Notes:

Co-op's own Champagne brand 'Les Pionniers' is in fact made by Piper Heidsieck. It is a complex vintage champagne blended from Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grapes giving it great depth and persistence and making it an ideal champagne to celebrate any occasion.

### Described as:

- Notes of toasted brioche and ripe apple on the nose
- With added layers of lemon tart, lime and white flowers, with a dollop of honey to balance the zest. This wine has long tones of apple on the palate, as well as decent minerality and a classy, long slightly nutty finish

**Reviews** of this wine - elegant and concentrated with vibrant stone fruit, ginger spice, honey and brioche - drinking beautifully now and will age

**Food Match:** A great partner for shellfish, rich fish like salmon or tuna, or mild soft cheeses.

## The difference between Vintage and Non-Vintage Champagne?

Made from a blend of still wines from a single harvest year that's considered exceptional (and from first-class vineyards), vintage Champagne spends a much longer time than non-vintage Champagne on its lees, or spent yeasts, which adds complexity and a sense of creaminess. The minimum ageing 'sur lie' for vintage bubbly is three years, as opposed to 15 months for NV.

# Wines with Turkey

## Catena Zapata 'Catena Alta' Chardonnay 22/23

### Stats:

Price	£29.00 (£21.00 mix 6)
Alcohol	14.0%
Stockist	Majestic, Ocado
Grape	Chardonnay
Country	Argentina, Mendoza



### Notes:

#### Description

It's made in vineyards up to a towering 4,757 feet above sea level. Chardonnay grapes benefit from a long ripening period at this height. This wine has complexity and balance, highlighting aromas of tropical fruit, peach, and citrus alongside buttery notes and a creamy texture. It is described as elegant with a good acidity, a long finish, and notes of vanilla, pear, and apricot. It is fermented in a mix of oak and stainless steel, with partial malolactic fermentation and lees aging to build complexity and texture. It matures in French oak barrels for 14 months.

#### Described as:

- **Fruit:** Ripe tropical fruits (like pineapple and mango), peach, pear, lemon, and citrus.
- **Other notes:** Buttery, creamy, vanilla, and subtle floral hints.
- **Texture:** Generous, round, creamy, and well-balanced.
- **Acidity:** Fresh, bright, and integrated, providing structure.

**Reviews** of this wine are very favourable – Reviewers note its versatility for both relaxed sipping and pairing with dishes like poultry or rich seafood. Experts suggest it is enjoyable now and has the potential for aging for up to two decades.

It is a good match for turkey as its subtle notes of vanilla, pear, and tropical fruits enhance the flavours of the mild flavoured bird rather than masking them. The rich body and stone-fruit flavours are also versatile enough to complement the full spectrum of all the trimmings at Christmas lunch. The crisp, zesty acidity keeps the palate fresh and cleansed as well as cutting through the richness of the meal.

It is also pairs well with Sushi.

## Jackson Estate Vintage Widow Pinot Noir 2019/20

## Stats:

Price	£23.50 (£19.00 mix 6)
Alcohol	13.5%
Stockist	Majestic, Ocado
Grape	Pinot Noir
Country	New Zealand, Marlborough



## Notes:

### Description

This wine comes from Marlborough, New Zealand, specifically the region's southern valleys. The grapes are sourced from Jackson Estate's oldest vines and the heavy clay soils of the southern Waihopai Valley contribute a distinct mineral character to the wine. Following fermentation, the wine is pressed into French oak barrels and matured for approximately 12 months. It is described as having red fruit flavours followed by textures of tannins, acidity, and wood smoke, suggesting it will benefit from aging and being consumed from 2025.

### Described as:

The wine's profile is a combination of savoury and spice notes, with rich, ripe fruit characteristics.

- **Aromas:** Notes of red and black fruits (dark cherry, plum, bramble), dried herbs, spice, cedar, and barrel smoke.
- **Palate:** Flavours of purple berries, plum, and rich cherry, balanced with hints of nettles, dried herbs, clove, and vanilla spice. The tannins are firm but integrated and silky, contributing to a lasting texture and concentration.
- **Finish:** The wine has a long, supple finish with bright raspberry fruit notes and a good acidic structure.

**Reviews** of this wine are mixed – All saying that the wine is youthful with a taut texture that needs time to mature and harmonise. Nevertheless it was awarded a Silver Medal by the IWSC, praising its "compote red fruit, damson and smoke notes" and dry finish.

It is a good match for turkey as its vibrant palette of juicy red and black cherry and berry fruit will enliven and enhance the richness and succulence of turkey and stuffing.

It is also pairs well with any roast meats, rich fish and soft cheeses.

## Dessert Wine With Xmas Pud

# Royal Tokaji Late Harvest 2018/19

## Stats:

Price	£15.00 (£12 mix 6 at Majestic)
Alcohol	12%
Stockist	Majestic, Sainsburys
Grape	Furmint
Country	Hungary



## Notes:

Royal Tokaji Late Harvest is a sweet Hungarian white wine with a pale gold color, delicate citrus, and spicy aromas. It offers a refreshing, light, and balanced palate with flavors of peach, honey, and apricot, a smooth texture, and a long, clean finish. Made from late-harvested Furmint, Hárslevelű, and Muscat grapes, it has a good acid balance. The grapes are left on the vine longer to increase their sugar content; the juice is then fermented and much of the blend is then aged in barrels for five to six months.

## Described as:

- **Aromas:** Delicate citrus, spicy notes, and sometimes a hint of apricot or orange peel.
- **Flavours:** Honey, white peach, ripe pear, and hints of exotic or tropical fruits like pineapple.
- **Texture:** Smooth and silky on the palate.

**Reviews** of this wine are mostly positive – Reviewers consistently highlight the wine's elegance, complexity, and versatility, often noting its superiority over other dessert wines in balancing sweetness with freshness.

This wine is considered an excellent match for Christmas pudding by many wine experts. Its rich, sweet profile with notes of orange peel, apricot, and honey complements the similar dried fruit and spice flavours found in the pudding

It is also good to serve as an aperitif, enjoy with fruit tarts, or creamy cheeses, and can even pair with spicy dishes like Asian food.