



Bulgaria

By Derek Smedley MW

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Tasting notes from the following growers:

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Bulgaria

Date & place of tasting in italics

Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath

Borovitza Winery
Borovitza
Belogradchik
North West Bulgaria

White Wines

Orange Chardonnay 2013 90 2015-19

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose is very expressive with dried herbs, hints of spice and tangerine freshness. Richer in the middle greengage, pear and peach a complex mix of flavours and at the back the sweetness is tempered by freshness the finish a bowlful of nuts.

Red Wines

Gamza 2013 90 2015-19

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Red fruits and bramble the nose has a mix of flavours the start of the palate vivid, fresh and spicy. Sweeter in the middle the red fruit acidity gives a lighter fresher feel at the back.

Bratanovi Winery
South Sakar Mountain

White Wines

Tamianka Single Vineyard 2013 90 2015-17

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Floral fragrant the nose has a touch of oriental spice the start of the palate fresh. Sweeter in the middle a hint of tropical fruit the freshness at the back brings out a perfumed spiciness on the finish.

Red Wines

Mavrud Single Vineyard 2013 91 2015-19

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose has a complex mix of flavours the palate black cherry richness. There is mid freshness lighter and spicy a hint of vanilla but at the back rich black fruits give depth the finish herbal and leafy.

Cabernet Franc 2011 **89** **2015-18**

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Bramble some cassis the nose is quite sweet and the start of the palate has richness and depth. Lighter in the middle herbal and fresh but it fills out on the back palate with juicy black fruits.

**Brestovitsa Winery
Plovdiv
Western Thrace**

Rosé Wines

Erigone Rosé 2013 **89** **2015-17**

Mavrud

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

The nose is fresh the start of the palate light with a raspberry and redcurrant mix. Slightly more depth on the mid palate some fleshy strawberries but at the back raspberry and redcurrant refresh.

Red Wines

Erigone Rubin 2013 **90** **2015-22**

Rubin

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

Light fresh fragrant the nose has a mix of bramble and red fruits. The start of the palate is quite light fragrant and fresh the mid palate richer red and black cherry the fruit supported by firm but fine tannins. There is a richer feel at the back nice depth of fruit with sweetness on the finish.

Maximus Thrax Cabernet-Rubin 2008 **91** **2015-21**

Cabernet Sauvignon Rubin

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

Cassis tends to dominate the nose the start of the palate firm with lots of black cherry. Quite rich in the middle the sweetness underpinned by bilberry and bramble freshness yet it finishes with depth and the sweetness of ripe fruit.

Maximus Thrax Mavrud 2010 **91** **2015-21**

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

There is a black fruited brooding power on both nose and the start of the palate. The mid palate is lighter bilberry freshness but underneath cassis and black cherry enrich the fruit ripe the back palate rich with depth of fruit on the finish.

**Château Burgozone
Oryahovo
North West Bulgaria**

White Wines

Chardonnay 2013

90 2015-20

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

Rich and ripe on the nose the start of the palate is fleshy with ripe pineapple. The sweet fruit the richness is underpinned by lime and apple a better balance citrus at the back palate giving a lighter racier feel on the finish.

Via Istrum Viognier 2013

88 2015-19

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

Fresh on the nose fragrant but the flavours are quite light. The mid palate has more depth ripe pear backed by hints of apricot. It feels very fresh at the back a light charm but lacking in real Viognier character.

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2012

90 2015-20

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

Red fruits dominate the nose light and fragrant the start of the palate fresh. The fruit in the middle is quite sweet a little more depth slightly more flesh but the back palate is very fresh very red fruit dominated.

Syrah 2011

89 2015-20

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

Firm and tight on the nose the start of the palate is quite closed. Sweeter fruit gives a richer feel in the middle quite a strong red cherry character. Fresher at the back the finish has the spiciness of black and white pepper.

**Edoardo Miroglio
Elenovo
Thracian Valley**

White Wines

BIO Viognier Traminer 2016**87 2017-20***Tasted at Swig tasting October 2017*

The nose is fruity fragrant the palate has white peach and a hint of apricot. Oriental spices and freshness at the back the finish has ripe apricot richness.

Red Wines**Soli Pinot Noir 2015****88 2017-20***Tasted at Swig tasting October 2017*

The mix of mulberry and black cherry is sweet the start of the palate has ripe fruit. There is underlying freshness lighter at the back with sweetness on the finish.

**Eolis Estate
Stara Zagora
Easter Rhodopi Mountains
Sakar**

White Wines**Eolis Sauvignon Blanc 2014****85 2016-18***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

The nose is oak dominated the palate fresh quite hard with slightly bitter acidity. There is a hint of mid sweetness but the fruit at the back is over dominated by oak.

Eolis Viognier 2014**84 2016-18***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

The nose lacks fruit very oaky and the palate is light and fresh lacking mid character and fruit richness. The back palate is firm and tight with citrus freshness quite hard with none of the peachy flavours one might expect and oak dominates the finish.

Red Wines**Eolis Merlot 2013****89 2016-21***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

The nose is bright with a mix of fresh red fruits. The palate starts sweet some rich plum and although a bit tight in the middle it fills out at the back the fruit sweet. There is a hint of oak on the finish but it seems to be well integrated.

Eolis Cabernet Sauvignon 2012**89 2016-22***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

Cassis and black cherry the nose has depth the start of the palate is rich and sweet. Fresh fruits give balance the back palate is lighter with more bramble and bilberry but it fills out at the back with the richness of ripe fruit.

Eolis Cabernet Franc 2010**91 2016-21**

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The nose has a mix of fresh black fruits of squeezed redcurrant leaves the palate bramble and bilberry slightly herbal and leafy. Ripe fruit in the middle rich black fruits chocolate the sweetness underpinned by freshness good balance. The finish is lighter quite fresh with good length.

Eolis Red Blend 2011**89 2015-20**

Merlot Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Sweet and ripe on the nose the palate has depth of fruit ripe black plum backed by fresher cassis. The tannins feel ripe the mid palate rich but the bramble at the back lightens the finish quite fresh.

Eolis Red Blend 2012**90 2016-21**

Merlot Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The fruit on the nose is sweet and ripe the palate starts with depth black plum richness underpinned by fresher bramble and cassis. There is leafy herbal excitement at the back freshness yet it fills out on the finish rich fruits depth of flavour.

Eolis Red Blend 2013**89 2016-22**

Merlot Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The nose has a mix of fruits sweet ripe plum backed by fresher and firmer red cherry. Rounded tannins add to the mid fleshiness but at the back there is freshness and firmness the finish light, bright and a bit tight.

Ivo Varbanov wines**South Sakar****White Wines****Viognier Tamianka 2013 La Belle Excentrique****89 2015-18**

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose has summer garden fragrances white flowers and the start of the palate is fresh with a citrus mix. There is depth on the mid palate ripe pears but at the back lime refreshes the finish light and fragrant.

Chardonnay 2013 Claire de Lune 92 2015-20*Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

Rich and ripe on the nose the palate has the sweetness of ripe melon. There is underlying freshness apple crispness which gives balance. The back palate has the richness of greengage the finish the freshness of crisp apple.

Red Wines**Mavrud Syrah 2010 Violet Spring 88 2015-18***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

The nose has a mix of black and red fruits the palate bramble backed by peppery mulberry. The mid palate is sweet but it feels firmer at the back and slightly dry on the finish.

Marselan 2010 Allegro Barbaro 90 2015-18*Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

The nose has an autumn hedgerow mix bramble and rosehips the palate freshness then sweetness. Rich and ripe fruited towards the back chocolate richness a nice depth of flavour but the bramble at the back gives a slightly lighter feel to the finish.

Syrah 2010 La Puente del Vino 89 2015-19*Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

Tight on the nose the palate starts with red cherry firmness but under this there is sweetness still very red fruit in character. The sweetness on the mid palate gives way to freshness at the back.

Syrah 2011 Feux d'Artifice 89 2015-19*Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

The nose has a mix of red fruits peppery and spicy with sweet black fruits giving richness on the start of the palate. The tannins give structure but are not over dominant with the ripe fruit at the back giving a sweeter feel on the finish.

Syrah 2011 Feux d'Artifice Best Barrel 90 2015-20*Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

The fruit is concentrated rich a lot of powerful flavours black fruits and red fruits a complex mix. There is an underlying freshness that brings out black pepper spiciness and gives a lighter feel to the finish.

**Kamenki Winery
Perushtitsa
Western Thrace**

Red Wines**Kamatan 2012****91 2015-20****Merlot Mavrud Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon***Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015*

The nose has a spicy freshness bramble and bilberry and the start of the palate is quite light and fresh. Sweeter in the middle richness nice depth of flavour then fresh fruits cut in the finish lighter and quite fresh.

Kamatan 2013**92 2015-22****Merlot Mavrud Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon***Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015*

The sweet fruit gives richness and depth on the nose and a fleshy start to the palate. Fine tannins the mid palate is supple lots of black plum. The back palate has black cherry firmness structured tannins but it fills out on the finish a ripe black fruited mix.

Kaynardzha Winery**Kainardzha****Silistra District****White Wines****Prosecco 2015****82 2016-18***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

Confected musty both nose and palate have a strong pear drop character the mid acidity high and there is a lack of fruit at the back and on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon Blanc 2010**82 2016-18***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

The nose lacks fruit the palate light with firm mid tannins. Hints of oxidation at the back there is little fruit showing on the finish.

Red Wines**Cabernet Sauvignon 2008****83 2016-17***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

The nose is light with a slight bitterness and the palate lacks fruit firm and tight in the middle. A hint of sweetness at the back is overtaken by the tannins and the finish is firm lacking fruit.

Château Kolarovo**Kolarovo****South Sakar Mountain**

Red Wines

Ahal 2011 92 2015-19

Cabernet Sauvignon Syrah Cabernet Franc

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Savoury the nose has a leathery spiciness the start of the palate spicy and peppery. Sweet in the middle with rich black fruits dark chocolate the sweetness and velvet richness is underpinned by bramble fresher on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 88 2015-20

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Sweet and ripe on the nose the start of the palate has a chunky jammy richness. Ripe tannins add to the suppleness velvet smooth and although there is freshness at the back it finishes with chocolate richness.

Syrah 2011 89 2015-19

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The red fruits on the nose are fresh the start of the palate light and peppery. Sweeter in the middle with juicy strawberry the sweet fruit gives a fuller feel to the finish.

Neragora Winery

Chernogorovo

Thrace

White Wines

Chardonnay 2015 87 2016-19

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

Light and bright the nose is fresh the palate has lime and lemon acidity. A hint of sweetness in the middle but the back palate has a strong citric character the finish quite firm and fresh.

Rosé Wines

Mavrud Rosé 2015 88 2016-19

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The nose has a mix of fragrances the palate is bright with red fruits freshness. Red cherry in the middle gives slightly more depth but it is fresh at the back light and floral on the finish.

Red Wines

Ares Merlot Mavrud 2013 88 2016-20

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The nose has some sweet fruit the palate starts with black plum richness. Lighter and brighter in the middle bilberry, cassis some red plum the back palate is fresh yet there is sweet fruit showing on the finish

Cherno Cabernet Sauvignon Mavrud 2013**87 2016-20***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

Black cherry, cassis the nose has a strong black fruit character the start of the palate firm and bright. The mid tannins are quite hard the back palate a bit tight but it finishes with slightly more depth and richness.

Mavrud 2013**89 2016-20***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

The nose has charm with a mix of fruits the start of the palate bright bilberry and bramble freshness. There is mid sweetness slightly richer flavours the back palate though is firm and the finish fresh.

**Orbelus Winery
Kapatova
Struma River Valley**

Red Wines**Melnik 2011****89 2015-18***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

The nose is fresh but the palate has more depth of flavour mid sweetness. Fresher at the back with a mix of red cherry and bramble the finish though has fair depth and sweetness.

Prima 2011**90 2015-21****Early Melnik Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

Cassis and black cherry give depth on the nose the palate has a mix of black fruits herbal and spicy an autumn hedgerow mix. There is mid richness sweet fruit fresher at the back but it finishes with depth of flavour.

Getika 2010**90 2015-20****Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Early Melnik Syrah Petit Verdot***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

Both nose and palate have a mix of black and red fruits the black fruits sweet underpinned by the fresher red. The layers of flavour are supported by firm but ripe tannins the fleshy strawberry in the middle backed by bramble and blackcurrant.

Hrumki 2013 90 2015-20

Syrah Early Melnik Mourvèdre Marselan

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose is sweet the start of the palate rich and fleshy. Fresher in the middle with black pepper spice but it fills out at the back with a mix of ripe black fruits.

**Rossidi Winery
Sliven
Eastern Thrace**

White Wines

Gewürzraminer 2012 89 2015-18

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Floral fragrant the nose has an oriental spice mix the palate fresh fruity and perfumed. A hint of sweetness in the middle fresher at the back there finish is perfumed and spicy.

Chardonnay 2013 92 2015-20

Egg Fermented

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose has greengage richness the start of the palate sweet lots of ripe melon. Fresher towards the back hints of apple the finish though is sweet quite rich with good depth.

Rosé Wines

Pinot Noir Rosé 2013 90 2015-17

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Fresh on the nose with a mix of summer red fruits the start of the palate is light raspberry dominated. The hint of sweetness gives a richer feel in the middle the finish fresh fragrant and long.

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2012 92 2015-18

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Black fruits and red fruits the nose has a mix of flavours the palate has sweetness yet freshness. Mulberry and bramble intermingle the back palate fragrant and fresh the finish sweeter with more depth.

Syrah 2012 90 2015-18

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose is a bit closed the palate starts quite tight with red cherry firmness. There is a richer feel in the middle some sweet fruit showing through the finish fresher with black pepper spiciness.

Rubin 2013**89****2015-18**

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

This Syrah Nebbiolo cross has a bit of both grapes on both nose and palate. Dried cherry spiciness on the nose the palate has sweeter black fruits with a hint of caramel. The back palate and finish are a touch rustic and herbal with underlying tannic firmness.

**Sintika Winery
Blagoevgrad
Struma River Valley**

Red Wines**Explosion Malbec 2008****91****2015-18**

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Smoky on the nose the palate is rich black fruited meaty barbecued steak. Sweet and supple in the middle with ripe rounded tannins the back palate has depth and the finish black truffle richness.

Explosion Cabernet Franc 2008**90****2015-18**

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

Herbal and fresh on the nose the palate has a bramble bilberry mix grassy and fresh. There is more depth on the mid palate sweetness but at the back the herbal grassiness the bramble give freshness.

Phenomene Merlot 2011**88****2015-19**

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose is rich with a strong black plum character and the start of the palate sweet but behind the sweetness there is bilberry freshness the back palate quite tight and the finish lighter and a bit short.

Le Passionel 2008**90****2015-18**

Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose has depth with lots of rich black fruits the palate ripe and sweet dark chocolate, cassis and black cherry. Firmer and slightly drier at the back the black fruits underpinned by herbal freshness the finish a bit tight.

Villa Melnik
Struma River Valley

White Wines

Orange Wine 2015 86 2016-19
Sauvignon Blanc Keratsuda

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The nose has herbal vegetal spicy nutty character confectioned sweets but the palate is fresh bright with a citrus mix. A hint of mid sweetness but the back palate is very fresh and firm the finish a touch short.

Red Wines

Bergulé Melnik Pinot Noir 2013 89 2016-19

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The nose has a mix of fragrances light and fresh with red fruits to the fore. Bright in the middle but there is sweet fruit at the back some ripe red cherry the finish though lighter fragrant and fresh with good length.

Bergulé Cabernet Sauvignon Syrah Merlot 2012 88 2016-20

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The nose is cassis dominated the palate herbal and fresh with some underlying peppery red fruits. Richer and sweeter at the back a balance of fresh bramble and ripe black plum.

AplauZ Shiroka Melnik 2013 89 2016-21

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

Bright and fresh the nose has a mix of red fruits the start of the palate light and bright. Slightly more depth in the middle bramble and mulberry but the back palate is light fragrant with fresh red fruits and the finish has length.

AplauZ Melnik 55 2011 92 2015-19

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015

The nose is rich with sweet fruit the palate has depth roasted prunes. Red cherry gives freshness on the mid palate spicy with cinnamon and cloves. The back palate is leathery with dried fruit the finish spicy and long.

AplauZ Syrah 2013 89 2016-21

Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016

The fruit on the nose feels ripe the start on the palate sweet with depth of fruit in the middle. Lighter and brighter at the back the richer red fruits underpinned by redcurrant and raspberry the finish light with peppery spices.

AplauZ Cabernet Sauvignon 2013**89 2016-22***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2016*

The fruit on the nose is sweet the palate has a mix of black fruits with cassis underpinned by firmer black cherry. Ripe in the middle the black fruits are backed by dark chocolate the finish has depth of flavour.

**Villa Yustina
Ustina
Western Thrace**

Red Wines**Pinot Noir 2013****90 2015-18***Tasted at the New Bulgaria tasting Bulgarian Embassy London March 2015*

Rich on the nose the palate has the sweetness of ripe fruit. Mulberry and strawberry the mid palate has a fleshy richness soft easy. At the back there is freshness some bramble and loganberry yet the finish is sweet fruited and fleshy.

**Yamantiev's Winery
Rhodope Mountain
Sakar**

White Wines**Marble Land Chardonnay 2010****90 2015-19***Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015*

Rich ripe fruit the nose has depth the palate the richness of pineapple and honeydew melon. There is a hint of oak but it doesn't dominate the richness of the mid palate is balanced by apple at the back the finish fresher with good length.

Red Wines**Marble Land Red Blend 2010****89 2015-19*****Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Syrah****Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015*

The ripe plum of the Merlot fills the nose the palate fleshy and supple. Fresher in the middle lots of cassis some bramble a mix of flavours. The finish has a red fruited peppery spiciness.

Villa Amira Shiraz 2012**90 2015-20***Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015*

Spicy peppery the nose has a mix of fresh red fruits and the start of the palate is quite light. Firmer in the middle the red fruits supported by structured tannins but there is sweetness at the back a richer deeper feel on the finish.

Villa Amira Cabernet Sauvignon 2012

90 2015-21

Tasted at the "Discoveries" tasting IOD London February 2015

Black cherry richness is backed by bramble and bilberry freshness layers of interest. The fruit feels ripe mid depth the richness on the mid palate backed by bramble freshness at the back the finish quite light but has good length.

Derek Smedley MW