



Macedonia

Wineries A - H

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Tasting notes from the following growers:

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**Macedonia
Wineries A - H**

The present day Republic of Macedonia was formerly part of Yugoslavia and gained its independence in 1991. This landlocked country is surrounded by countries such as Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Kosovo.

Date & place of tasting shown in italics

Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath

**Bovin Winery
Negotino
Tikvesh Wine District**

Bovin, a privately owned company since 1998, is based in Negotino in the Tikves District (the central part on the Povardarie Region) close to the Vardar River. The vineyard holding, which is sited on the Lepovo Hill, amounts today to some 60 hectares. The Lepovo Hill with its rich soils is looked on as one of the best sites standing 350 metres proud above the rolling countryside. The winery which is based in Negotino has excellent facilities and today Bovin are making some exciting wines.

Whites Wines

Dissan 2013 **90** **2014-16**

Smederevka 100%

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015

Bright on the nose there is a bouquet of spring flowers with lots of green lime refreshing the palate. The mid palate is light but has a fragrant charm with a mineral freshness on the finish.

Chardonnay 2007 **89** **2008-11**

Tasted in Lilley December 2008

The nose has appealing freshness, quite light but very fragrant. On the palate citrus is very much in evidence giving it racy freshness, towards the middle there is more weight and sweetness, grapefruit and greengage backed by fresh apple and underpinned by a hint of vanilla. The fruit carries on well and lingers on the palate.

Chardonnay 2008 **89** **2009-13**

Tasted in Lilley December 2009

There is an appealing weight of melon and greengage on the nose refreshed by the underlying citrus. The palate has weight of flavour the richness coming from the mix of greengage and

melon with behind the richness grapefruit and lemon freshness that lifts and lengthens the flavours.

Chardonnay 2009 **90** **2010-14**

Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Mrzenci Macedonia February 2010

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The freshness of greengage is backed by sweeter, fleshier melon. The mid palate has richness of flavour with towards the back grapefruit and lime freshness. The fruit lasts well on the back palate.

Chardonnay 2010 **91** **2011-14**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

Apple and greengage feature on the nose with some fleshier honeydew melon behind. There is a mix of flavours on the palate the sweet fruit refreshed by apple and citrus, flavours that linger on the finish.

Chardonnay 2011 **91** **2012-16**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

The nose has the richness of greengage backed by the freshness of apple. Sweet fruit gives weight on the mid palate ripe flavours a touch of white peach. Towards the back the fruit sweetness is balanced by citrus and apple and this lifts the flavours refreshing the finish.

Chardonnay 2013 **91** **2014-17**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

The nose is full of fruit and on the palate the fruit is rich quite sweet with lots of greengage and melon. Under the richer flavours citrus and apple refresh balance with the freshness giving brightness at the back.

Chardonnay 2014 **90** **2015-19**

Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015

Ripe greengage the nose has depth and the start of the palate is sweet and fleshy. There is mid freshness good balance the back palate and finish richer with greengage and melon.

Chardonnay 2016 **90** **2017-20**

Chardonnay 100%

Tasted aboard Esperanza A & C Dalmatian Islands Cruise June 2017

Rich ripe greengage the nose has depth of fruit the start of the palate full of flavour. The underlying apple balances the richness gives freshness towards the back brings out a hint of oak the finish fuller with rich fruit.

Chardonnay Barrique 2007 **89** **2010-14**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The fruit feels sweet giving a fleshy richness to the nose. There are hints of oak and more shows on the back palate but it tends to add complexity rather than dominate. Melon and pineapple flesh enrich the finish.

Chardonnay Barrique 2009**89 2011-15***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

There is a lot of rich charry oak on the nose backed by rich fruit with greengage very in evidence. There mid palate has enough freshness to balance all of the sweet fruited richness and the oak.

Chardonnay Barrique 2010**90 2012-16***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012*

The nose is full of rich greengage lots of powerful flavours just tinged with oak. Greengage tends to dominate the palate with the oak coming through and slightly overtaking the fruit on the mid and back palate. There is enough fruit power though to hide the oak on the finish.

Chardonnay Barrique 2011 from cask**90 2013-17***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012*

The nose has the richness of melon and greengage with the ripeness of the fruit filling it out. There is a good weight of flavour on the palate with richness and depth of fruit layers of flavour giving complexity with the freshness at the back giving a lighter more elegant feel to the finish.

*Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014***89 2014-17**

The oak has become more evident tending to overpower the fruit but there is fruit richness on the mid palate some fleshy melon and ripe greengage. The oak come through on the finish heavy quite sweet and hiding fruit freshness.

Mount Korab Barrique Chardonnay 2008**87 2009-14***Tasted in Lilley May 2009*

The melon and greengage on the nose is rather over dominated by oak at the moment. Grapefruit mingles with richer greengage on the palate, a mix of freshness and fruit power. Towards the back the oak takes over again and the nutty cedar wood tends to close down the fruit on the back palate.

Sauvignon Blanc 2006**89 2007-10***Tasted in Lilley December 2008*

The nose has a zesty fruit mix, gooseberry and guava backed by mountain herbs. Mineral and flint ensure freshness but this crispness is not over aggressive as under the mineral, gooseberry and grapefruit is some sweeter apple. This attractive mix fills the palate, layers of flavour with a fresh more mineral herbal character right at the back.

Sauvignon Blanc 2009 from tank**89 2010-13***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

There are attractive floral fragrances on the nose backed by herbs and fresh grapefruit. Sweeter pineapple gives some weight on the palate, the richness nicely balanced by citric freshness.

- Sauvignon Blanc 2010** 89 2011-13
Tasted at the winery February 2011
 The nose has a rich fruit mix lots of tropical fruits in evidence. Whilst there is some mid freshness the back palate is quite fat and fleshy with lots of ripe fruit on the finish.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2011** 90 2012-15
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012
 Lemon dominates the nose lovely and fresh and this dominance of citrus refreshes the start of the palate. The mid palate is richer with ripe tropical fruits and pineapple then citrus emerges taking over and crisping up the finish.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2013** 90 2014-17
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 The fruit on the nose is rich lots of tropical fruits and the palate has breadth of flavour. Under the rich fruit lime and lemon refresh and although quite crisp on the back palate the finish has pineapple richness.
- Rhein Riesling 2006** 89 2007-09
Tasted in Lilley December 2008
 There is a lovely fragrance on the nose, the green lime and apple given crispness by some minerals. On the palate there is the same freshness at the start, mineral flint backing the fruit. Richer, slightly sweeter flavours come through on the mid palate, more pineapple with some apricot fleshed out by a touch of residual sugar. There is enough acidity to balance the sweeter flavours all adding to the complexity and giving real length.
- Rhein Riesling 2009** 90 2010-13
Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Mrzenci Macedonia February 2010
Tasted at the winery February 2010
 The fragrance of tropical fruits gives lots of character on the nose. Lime and apple are backed by sweeter pineapple lending weight to the mid palate. Crisper citrus flavours, lots of grapefruit and apple, give an attractive freshness to the finish.
- Rhein Riesling 2011** 90 2009-12
Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Mrzenci Macedonia February 2011
 The fragrance of tropical fruits is underpinned by freshness citrus and apple. The palate is quite lush more pineapple and mango in character layers of flavour giving complexity. The freshness is there towards the back apple and grapefruit showing on the finish.
- Rhein Riesling 2010** 91 2011-14
Tasted at the winery February 2011
 There is an attractive floral mix on the nose, the fruit salad of tropical fruits backed by fresher citrus. Richer fruit is there on the palate quite fleshy pineapple but this richness is balanced by lime and apple that refresh the back palate.

- Riesling 2011** 90 2012-16
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012
 The tropical fruit salad of flavours on the nose is quite rich with behind it a citrus freshness. The sweet fruit on the mid palate is underpinned by grapefruit freshness that lifts the flavours towards the back. The finish is long with a mineral slightly herbal raciness.
- Riesling 2011 from tank South African yeast** 91 2012-16
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012
 There is a lot of white peach on the nose a bouquet of spring flowers. Tropical fruits and pineapple give some richness on the mid palate whilst the citrus towards the back refreshes.
- Rhein Riesling 2012** 90 2014-17
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 The nose has the depth of tropical fruits and white peach and although there is sweetness on the palate there is mid freshness citrus herbal and leafy. Racy acidity at the back yet the finish has fruit richness.
- Rhein Riesling 2013** 91 2014-18
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 Tropical fruits the nose is rich with white peach on the start of the palate. The mix of citrus fruits refreshes the mid palate yet at the back there is an attractive mix of tropical fruits. There is a good balance of sweeter fruit and freshness.
- Temjanika (Muscat) 2007** 90 2008-10
Tasted in Lilley May 2009
 The nose has the appealing fragrance of orange blossom and elder flower, all quite perfumed and spicy. On taste there is freshness then a touch of residual sugar sweetness, lime and apple underpinned by elderberry and pear. The residual sugar sweetness gives an attractive fullness but then the lime comes through refreshing and lengthening the finish.
- Temjanika (Muscat) 2008** 90 2009-12
Tasted in Lilley December 2009
 The nose has an attractive floral spiciness, elderflowers and honeysuckle, very perfumed. The floral spice is there on the palate overlaying the tropical fruit that fills out the middle and enhances the back palate. There is a touch of sweetness but the freshness of lime lifts refreshes and brightens, enhancing the floral perfumed character that comes through on the finish.
- Temjanika (Muscat) 2009** 90 2010-13
Tasted at the winery February 2010
 The nose is packed with perfume, fragrant elderflowers, orange blossom and honeysuckle. The mix of flavours is there on the palate, the fragrances uplifted by a touch of spice. There is some sweetness filling out the mid palate but the citric freshness that lies underneath shows through bringing out the perfumed fragrances on the finish.

- Temjanika (Muscat) 2010** 90 2011-14
Tasted at the winery February 2010
 There is a lovely spiciness on the nose backed by lots of complex exotic perfumes. The sweetness that fills out the mid palate is balanced by the freshness that lurks beneath a mix of lime and lemon refreshing and lengthening the finish.
- Temjanika (Muscat) 2011** 91 2012-15
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012
 There is an attractive mix of perfumes on the nose orange blossom honeysuckle backed by an exotic spiciness. The palate has sweetness hints of tropical fruits the lime and lemon freshness bringing out the fragrances. The finish is light floral perfumed full of oriental spice.
- Temjanika (Muscat) 2013** 91 2014-17
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 There is an oriental feel to the nose orange blossom and honeysuckle with hints of exotic spices. The mid palate is light fresh but it fills out in the middle with some spicy tropical fruits with the freshness at the back bringing out a perfumed spiciness.
- Temjanika (Muscat) 2014** 90 2015-18
Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015
 Floral scented orange blossom and honeysuckle the nose has charm the palate is exotic and spicy. Under the fresh fruits there is sweetness but the freshness the hints of citrus are there at the back the finish full of far eastern spices.
- Symphony 2006** 88 2007-10
Chardonnay Rhine Riesling Sauvignon Blanc
Tasted in Lilley May 2009
 The mix of pineapple and apricot is overlaid with floral, elderflower fragrances spiced up by mountain herbs. There is an attractive freshness to the palate, crisp lime and lemon at the start but the mid palate feels richer more of apricot and pineapple in evidence. It lacks a bit of length on the finish which would no doubt be there on the 2007 vintage.
- Symphony 2009** 89 2010-13
Chardonnay Rhine Riesling Sauvignon Blanc
Tasted at the winery February 2010
 The melon of Chardonnay tends to dominate the nose and give some flesh on the palate. Under the sweetness there are a mix of fragrances, elderflower and tropical fruits. Crisp apple and lime lifts the fruit on the back palate.
- Tasted at the winery February 2011* 89 2011-12
 Melon is backed by some fresher greengage giving a nice mix of flavours on both nose and palate. The fruit on the mid palate is rich a mix of pineapple and melon but behind there is freshness that lifts the flavours on the finish.

- Symphony 2010** 89 2011-13
Chardonnay Rhine Riesling Sauvignon Blanc
Tasted at the winery February 2011
 There is an attractive mix on the nose with the citrus freshness tending to dominate. Filling out the mid palate is the richness of greengage and melon their sweetness balanced by the lime and apple that show towards the back.
- Symphony 2011** 90 2012-14
Chardonnay Riesling Sauvignon Blanc
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012
 The nose is full of fruit with some full flavoured pineapple and white peach. The richness that shows on the nose comes through on the mid palate with towards the back the freshness of apple and citrus. There is a nice balance between sweetness and freshness.
- Symphony 2013** 91 2014-18
Chardonnay 1/3 Rhein Riesling 1/3 Sauvignon Blanc1/3
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 The nose is full of fruit tropical fruits and white peach with pineapple on the palate giving richness. The sweet fruit on the mid palate is backed by apple and lime that refreshes the back palate a nice balance between freshness and sweetness.
- Symphony 2014** 90 2015-19
Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015
 The nose has a mix of sweet fruits tropical fruits and peach. There is an underlying freshness on the palate citrusy bright but it fills out at the back and finishes with sweetness.
- Traminec 2008** 91 2009-12
Tasted in Lilley May 2009
 It is quite light but has appealing spicy fragrances, the perfumes enhanced by the underlying freshness. The mix of fruits on the palate is fresh, crisp with hints of lime and apple backed by slightly sweeter tropical fruits. The back palate has good length; the exotic perfumed spices linger for a long time.
- Traminec 2010** 90 2011-14
Tasted at the winery February 2011
 The dried fruit character and spice is very upfront packing out the nose and very much in evidence on the palate. The richness of the tropical fruit in the middle is balanced by the freshness towards the back with perfumed spices featuring strongly on the finish.
- Traminec 2011** 91 2012-16
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

The nose is spicy perfumed with rose petal fragrances but behind quite rich with a mix of dried fruits. Ripe flavours fill out the mid palate the sweetness of the fruit backed by fresher flavours. The fruit mix on the back palate is rich but the finish has an attractive exotic perfumed spiciness.

Traminac 2013 **92** **2014-18**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Pungent perfumed spicy there is a lot happening on the nose with spicy dried fruits on the palate. The mid palate has power depth of flavour the richness on the middle underpinned by freshness the back palate and finish have an explosion of exotic spices.

Gewürztraminer 2009 **89** **2010-13**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

It has all the fragrances that one expects from the grape. Perfume and spice is there on the palate, fresh citrus and apple and then fleshier tropical fruit coming through. There is an attractive spice perfume on the finish but it is quite light.

Rosé Wines

Rosé 2008 **85** **2010-11**

Pinot Noir 80 % Chardonnay 20 %

Tasted at the winery February 2010

It is very light with rose hip flavours. Sweeter fruit comes through in the middle but there is a touch of earthiness on the finish.

Rosé 2010 **88** **2011-12**

Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasted at the winery February 2011

There nose is full of rosehips and wild strawberry. Although there is a touch of residual sugar on the mid palate fresh fruits underpin balancing the sweetness. The attractive mix of fragrances the freshness yet mid sweetness makes it an ideal summer drink.

Rosé 2011 **89** **2012-14**

Sangiovese 60% Cabernet Sauvignon 40%

The colour is quite deep slightly misleading as the nose has a lovely raspberry and red cherry freshness. There is a hint of sweetness on the palate but underpinning is all the freshness of red fruits. The finish has length and a lovely mix of flavours.

Rosé 2013 **89** **2014-16**

Pinot Noir Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Light fresh fruited with red fruited fragrances on the nose a mix of raspberry and wild strawberry. There is a hint of sweetness which gives a richer feel in the middle but at the back it is light and fresh fruited.

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2006

86 2008-11

Tasted in Lilley May 2008

The nose has bramble mixed in with some mulberry, the freshness spoilt by a hint of maturity and a lack of freshness. The palate is quite red fruited underpinned by mature blacker fruits, bramble and damson. The mid palate is a touch hollow, a lack of depth and this combined with firm although not aggressive tannins shortens the finish. The maturity is showing and it lacks vibrancy.

Pinot Noir 2007

89 2009-12

Tasted in Lilley May 2008

There is a lot happening on the nose, black cherry and bramble refreshed by mulberry. The palate, although very red fruited, starts sweet but there is red cherry and strawberry freshness that lifts and lengthens the flavours. Although it is quite full bodied but there is enough freshness to balance this and ensure that the mix of fruits shows to good effect.

Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Mrzenci Macedonia February 2010

89 2009-12

The nose is very full packed with ripe fruit. The fleshiness is there on the start of the palate but lighter red fruits come through giving more freshness. It lacks a bit of length.

Pinot Noir 2008

89 2010-14

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The freshness of red fruits gives brightness on the nose with raspberry very much to the fore. Richer mulberry and red cherry come through on the palate this sweeter fruit well balanced by the freshness. The finish is long the freshness balancing the fullness and giving it a charming elegance.

Tasted at the winery February 2011

89 2010-14

Mulberry and strawberry are both very much in evidence on the nose underpinned on the palate by some richer flavours. The mid palate has lovely fresh fruit which lightens the back palate and enhances the floral character on the finish.

Pinot Noir 2010 from vat

90 2011-15

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The fruit on the nose is sweet very red fruited but with depth and richness. Under the sweet fruit there is freshness cherry and raspberry which balances the richness enhancing the flavours and lengthening the finish.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 (bottle)

90 2012-16

The mix of mulberry and black cherry is rich and the sweetness of the fruit fills out the palate. Under the rich fruit there is freshness lifting the flavours and bringing out the red fruits on the back palate.

Pinot Noir 2011 from vat 90 2013-17

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

The nose has some lovely fresh fruit quite light but full of fragrances. The mix of bramble and mulberry on the palate is richer giving more depth and sweetness towards the back. The finish though is lighter and red fruited.

Pinot Noir 2013 from Vat 90 2015-19

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Sweet on the nose the palate has depth of fruit a mix of sweet flavours. Bramble refreshes the back palate with mulberry giving more weight on the back palate yet the finish is fresh fruited.

Sangiovese 2010 from vat 89 2012-16

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The nose has a youthful freshness about it lots of red cherry. The palate starts fresh but towards the middle there are richer sweeter flavours giving a fleshier feel. The cherry stone freshness is very apparent towards the back helping to bring out the fragrances.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 (bottle) 90 2012-18

The nose is very red cherry dominated lovely and fresh although behind there are richer sweeter flavours. The mid palate is quite rich still with more red fruits than black showing. The sweetness that shows towards the back is balanced by an underlying freshness.

Sangiovese 2011 from vat 91 2013-19

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

There are lovely red cherry fragrances on the nose and freshness on the start of the palate. The mid palate is richer with black cherry behind the fresher red. Although the tannins are quite firm they do not over power the fruit and the finish has sweetness and then a cherry stone freshness.

Sangiovese 2013 from Vat 91 2015-22

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

There is red fruited freshness on the nose and a bright start to the palate. The mid palate has a greater weight of fruit ripe strawberry but at the back freshness cuts in with cherry stone bitterness and freshness on the finish.

Tempranillo 2010 from vat 91 2012-16

Tasted at the winery February 2011

Herbal forest leaf characters overlays the mix of fruits on the nose. There are layers of fruit on the palate at first lots of sweet black fruits are in evidence then fresher red take over all giving complexity. The fruit lasts well on the back palate.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 91 2012-16

The mix of black and red fruits is overlaid by a forest leaf character. The mid palate is quite deep with fruit sweetness but towards the back the bramble that is dominant has a leafy slightly herbal character. The fruit lasts well on the finish.

Tempranillo 2011 from vat**90 2014-22***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012*

The mix of fruits is overlaid with a herbal leafy character lovely and fresh but the palate although there is the same leafiness is richer with generosity in the middle. Layers of fruit give complexity and there is an attractive mix of bramble and bilberry towards the back underpinned by forest leaves.

Tempranillo 2013 from vat**91 2015-24***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014*

The nose is herbal with bramble and red fruits and the palate has the same fresh fruited mix. There is some sweet fruit in the middle more depth of flavour but at the back the fresh fruits come through the finish leafy with a hint of green pepper.

Merlot 1997**84 2011-13***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

Although the nose is very light it is fragrant with a red cherry character. The mid palate lacks weight of fruit and behind the fruit that shows are hints of volatile acidity. The fruit fades and dries on the finish.

Merlot 2004**89 2006-09***Tasted in Lilley December 2008*

The red and black plum mix on the nose is spiced up by a hint of eucalyptus. The ripeness of the fruit comes through on the palate, all rich and fleshy, black plum and black cherries yet there is some freshness coming from the brighter red fruits that lie beneath. Tannins are in evidence but they feel ripe and rounded all adding to the supple richness.

Merlot 2005**89 2007-12***Tasted in Lilley December 2008*

There is a slight herbal twist to the plum on the nose and this same herbal spice shows through on the palate. Damson is there at the start, lovely and sweet but there is lighter, fresher blueberry and redcurrant in evidence in the middle ensuring a brighter feel towards the back. It has good length with the damson plum lasting well.

*Tasted at the winery February 2011 (bottle)***89 2010-13**

The nose has a mature feel but the start of the palate is still quite fresh very red fruited then richer damson takes over giving more flesh on the back palate. The maturity that showed on the nose features quite strongly on the finish with the fruit just beginning to dry.

Merlot 2007**89 2009-15***Tasted in Lilley May 2008*

The mix of black and red plums gives a good depth of fruit on the nose and this richness fleshes out the palate. The sweet fruit is balanced by redcurrant freshness that lifts and lengthens the flavours. The plum and currant mix gives an appealing complexity, the red fruits freshness and fragrance adding brightness to the finish.

Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Macedonia February 2010 (bottle) **89** **2009-15**

Rich ripe damson plum fills out the nose and gives weight on the start of the palate. The sweetness is balanced by fresher red fruits, redcurrant and red cherry. Towards the back the fleshy fruit shows through giving richness on the finish.

Tasted at the winery February 2011 (bottle) **89** **2009-15**

The black plum is ripe and sweet giving fleshy richness. The sweetness is balanced by freshness the red fruits that come through towards the back. There are layers of fruit ripe quite lush black fruits with the red underpinning.

Merlot 2007 from cask **88** **2012-16**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

Black fruits feature on the nose and although there are hints of oak the flavours are remarkably fresh. The black plum that features on the start of the palate is sweet but there is the freshness of red plum and red cherry behind. The finish is slightly leaner and a bit tight.

Merlot 2008 **90** **2010-16**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

Ripe fleshy black plum gives a sweet richness on the nose. The palate starts fleshy and ripe but towards the middle fresher red fruits show giving a lighter feel. The black plum fleshiness is there right at the back.

Tasted at the winery February 2011 (bottle) **89** **2010-16**

There is a lot of ripe fleshy fruit on the nose with sweet black plum fleshing out the palate. Behind the richness there is freshness bringing out the fruit flavours but giving a slightly firmer drier feel on the finish

Merlot 2009 from cask (cuvée A) **89** **2011-16**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The damson plum on the nose is quite sweet but behind it is a tannic firmness. Sweet fruit gives flesh at the start but the full fruit expression is rather held back by the tannins and the red cherry that shows towards the back tends to lighten the richness.

Merlot 2009 from cask (cuvée B) **91** **2010-16**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

There is a mass of ripe fruit on the nose, all sweet and lush. Ripe black plums give richness on the palate, the sweet fruit underpinned by ripe black cherry and bramble. The tannins do give structure but they are ripe contributing to the fleshiness that fills out the back palate.

Merlot 2009 from vat **89** **2011-16**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The damson plum that dominates both nose and palate is rich and fleshy. There are tannins in evidence on the mid palate but they are rounded giving some structure but not holding back the fruit. The freshness of red fruits brightens the finish.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 (bottle)

90 **2012-17**

The nose has a lot of sweet fruit fleshy damson plum backed by bramble jelly. The mid palate has sweet fruit supple rounded tannins and this gives richness on the mid palate. There is enough bilberry and black cherry to balance with some freshness on the finish.

Merlot 2010 from vat

91 **2012-17**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

There is a good weight of fruit on the nose sweet ripe black plum. The sweetness of the fruit gives a fleshy richness on the mid palate with all the ripe power nicely balanced by the freshness of bilberry and red cherry that shows through towards the back.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

91 **2013-20**

The black plums that fill out the nose are ripe lovely and sweet. The sweetness of the fruit fills out the palate lots of powerful flavours enriching and giving flesh towards the back. Behind the richness the suppleness there is structure coming from the tannins and the firmer black cherry.

Merlot 2011 from Vat

90 **2014-22**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

Damsons feature strongly ripe sweet fruited giving richness on the nose and flesh on the palate. The sweetness of the plums is balanced by slightly firmer black cherry lovely and rich but towards the back there is some bilberry purity of fruit that gives freshness on the back palate and finish.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 (bottle)

90 **2014-22**

Sweet and ripe fruited the nose has richness and the palate depth of flavour. Ripe black plum enriches the mid palate yet at the back it is lighter fresher with more of a red fruit character.

Merlot 2012 from Vat

88 **2015-22**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Red fruits feature strongly on the nose the start of the palate fresh with red cherry and bramble. There are sweet flavours in the middle but the freshness at the back gives a leaner tighter feel to the finish.

Merlot 2013 from Vat

91 **2016-24**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Rich and ripe fruited on the nose the palate has lots of fleshy black plum with the sweet ripe fruit enriching the back palate. There is an underlying freshness but the ripe fruited power fills out the back palate and gives black plum richness on the finish.

Merlot 2013 from Vat (Late picked)

88 **2016-24**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Although the nose is rich fleshy ripe fruited the palate is fresher leaner lacking a bit of intensity. The back palate is showing spicy oak but it does fill out on the finish with a little more power and a greater intensity of flavour.

Merlot Barrique 2005 **88** **2009-14**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

Full rich ripe black plum fleshes out the nose and lends weight to the palate. Under the plum are fresher flavours more bilberry and bramble in character. The oak is there tending to slightly dry the finish.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 **90** **2012-15**

The nose has the autumn leaf nuttiness of maturity but the palate is still rich sweet fruited with an underlying freshness. The black fruited mix gives a nice depth on the back palate.

Merlot Barrique 2008 **90** **2012-18**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

The black plum that is very much in evidence on the nose is ripe lovely and rich and this sweet fruit gives fleshy richness on the palate. Damsons are backed by black cherry lots of deep flavours with the sweetness of the fruit enriching the back palate. All feels to be in balance.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 **90** **2014-20**

The nose is rich and the palate fleshy with lots of black plum. The fleshy richness is balanced by fresher flavours still quite black fruited some black cherry some bramble. There is more depth at the back with sweet quite fleshy black plum.

Merlot Superiore 2004 **84** **2006-10**

Tasted in Lilley December 2008

The black plum on the nose is backed by herbal spice with a hint of pepper.

The palate starts quite rich but is suddenly lighter and drier in the middle. There is a touch of spritz as though the malolactic fermentation is still occurring. The rich honey sweet plum and blackberry flavours have attractive spice and pepper but right at the back is a touch of grubbiness, a touch of volatile and an odd dryness.

2 bottles tasted

Merlot Superiore 2009 **91** **2011-16**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The fruit on the nose is ripe and sweet giving a lovely rich feel. Black plum gives flesh on the mid palate but behind is smoky red and black cherry that refreshes and balances. Although it is very rich the cherry freshness gives a lighter more elegant quality to the back palate.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 **91** **2012-18**

Ripe fleshy black plum packs out the nose and gives richness on the palate. There is breadth of flavour with more damsons than blackberry. The balance is good rounded tannins help the suppleness but despite it being full fat powerful the finish has an elegant touch.

Merlot 2009 (Late harvest) **88** **2014-20**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Rich on the nose the palate has the fleshiness of ripe black plum. There is freshness in the middle a slight bitterness but it does fill out at the back with a mix of richer black fruits.

Cabernet Sauvignon 1998**87 2011-14***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

The onion skin leafy nose points to maturity and the nose lacks generosity and sweetness. Although the tannins are firm there is some sweeter fruit behind then right at the back some fresh bilberry. It lacks complexity and harmony.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2003**88 2012-16***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012*

There is some lovely rich fruit at the back of the autumn leaf cedar wood nose. Cassis and black cherry feel ripe and the sloe at the back adds to the complexity of flavour. The tannins are beginning to show behind the fruit slightly drying and the finish has the nutty cedar wood of maturity.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2005**89 2007-12***Tasted in Lilley December 2008*

Both nose and palate have a remarkable sweetness, lots of ripe blackcurrants and damsons. Freshness comes through towards the back more of a bilberry character and although there are tannins their ripeness all adds to the supple lushness. The sweet fleshy ripeness enriches the finish. It perhaps lacks a bit of the classic Cabernet Sauvignon structure.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2004**89 2012-15***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012*

The nose has the cedar wood of maturity but behind it is a good weight of quite sweet cassis. The mid palate has richness of flavour a good mix of black fruits and although still quite fresh the finish has the autumn leaf of maturity.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2006**89 2008-15***Tasted in Lilley December 2008*

The nose has amazing perfume not that usual on Cabernet Sauvignon from other parts of the world. Overlaying the blackberries and cassis are herbs and hints of green peppers. The palate has fruit sweetness well balanced by the tannins, which although firm are not hard or bitter. Towards the back the mix of bilberry, black cherry and blackcurrant feels quite rich although it tends to die on the finish.

*Tasted in Lilley May 2009***90 2008-15**

Black cherry, sloe and bilberry give lots of interest on the nose, the richness of the cherry and sloe balanced by the bilberry freshness. The suppleness of the tannins enhances the fleshiness but right at the back some acidity cuts in aiding brightness and structure.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2007**90 2009-16**

Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Mrzenci Macedonia February 2010

The nose is very dominated by blackcurrant, the richness of the fruit underpinned by some fresher bilberry and black cherry. Powerful flavours lend weight to the palate, the roundness of the tannins helping to flesh out the back palate.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 **91** **2010-17*****Cabernet Sauvignon 75% Cabernet Franc 15%****Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The first impression is of blackberries but then some cassis pushes through and dominates. Green pepper spice livens up the mid palate but as the tannins feel ripe fleshy sweetness comes through helping the chocolate richness on the finish.

*Tasted at the winery February 2011***91** **2010-17**

The dominant cassis is backed by mint lovely and fragrant. The fruit is ripe giving fleshiness on the palate lots of ripe fruit and dark chocolate. The tannins are rounded firm enough to support but allowing the fruit richness to fill out mid and back palate.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 from cask (cuvée A) **89** **2011-18***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The richness of sweet cassis gives flesh on the nose; behind it is some fresher cherry and bilberry. The richness of the fruit gives power on the palate but the tannins are firm slightly holding back the fruit at this stage. It tends to lack a bit of complexity.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 from cask (cuvée B) **90** **2011-19***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

There is a lot happening on the nose, firm black cherry backed by blackcurrant. Sweet bramble shows on the palate, lots of concentration, the middle enriched by sloes, layers of fruit giving complexity. Bilberry comes through towards the back giving a lighter more elegant feel to the finish

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 from vat **91** **2011-18***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

The nose has an attractive mix of flavours with rich cassis backed by fresher blackberry. The start of the palate is very concentrated nice sweet fruit and this gives richness on the back palate. Towards the back bilberry freshness helps to balance the richness.

*Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012(bottle)***91** **2012-18**

The mix of cassis and black cherry fills out the nose and gives a rich start to the palate. Liquorice helps to enrich the mid palate the richness and sweetness of the fruit balanced by fresher bramble and bilberry that shows towards the back. The finish has a good weight of ripe cassis.

*Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 (bottle)***91** **2014-20**

Cassis and black cherry on the nose the palate starts with some sweet flavours goes firmer and tighter in the middle. There is an underlying chocolate richness but at the back it feels lighter fresher with more bramble and bilberry.

- Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 from vat** **91** **2012-18**
Tasted at the winery February 2011
 The mix of blackberry and blackcurrant is sweet refreshed by a minty herbal character that lies beneath. The tannins are firm but feel ripe not aggressive and although they hold back fruit at the moment there is plenty to show.
- Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012* **91** **2013-20**
 The cassis and bramble have a spicy minty herbal character quite sweet and ripe. The richness of the fruit is underpinned by firm but ripe tannins that give structure slightly holding back full expression towards the back. The finish has a touch of bilberry that refreshes and gives a slightly lighter feel on the finish
- Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 from vat** **91** **2014-24**
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012
 Black fruits cassis, bramble and black cherry are all there on the nose and give a complexity of flavours on the palate. The fruit feels ripe sweet in the middle the fruit backed by coffee beans. There is still the freshness of immaturity with lots of fruit still to show.
- Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 (bottle)* **91** **2014-22**
 The nose has a good depth of fruit black cherry richness and firmness. The mid palate is sweeter the cassis supported by ripe tannins. The mid chocolate richness of the fruit is balanced by bramble freshness.
- Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 from Vat** **91** **2015-23**
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 The nose has a rich mix of flavours layers of fruit complexity with fresher bramble under the cassis and black cherry. There is a good weight of fruit in the middle chocolate and coffee beans but at the back is feels fresher lighter with bilberry and bramble.
- Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 from Vat** **92** **2016-24**
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 Fresh on the nose bilberry and bramble tend to dominate the fruit supported by firm but fine tannins. It feels fresh at the back but fills out with rich fruit depth of flavour rich cassis and black cherry.
- Cabernet Sauvignon Barrique 2004** **88** **2006-11**
Tasted at the winery February 2010
 There is less fruit evident on the nose, quite fresh with more of a red fruit influence. Blackcurrant and black cherry vie for dominance on the palate, the fruit underpinned by the almond cedar wood character of maturity.
- Cabernet Sauvignon Barrique 2007** **90** **2010-16**
Tasted at the winery February 2010
 Although the oak shows quite strongly on the nose blackcurrant and sloe do come through giving richness of fruit. The layers of fruit give complexity on the palate and the suppleness of

the tannins allows the chocolate richness to show to advantage. Oak spice is there towards the back enhancing rather than dominating.

Cabernet Sauvignon Barrique 2008 **91** **2011-17**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The cassis on the nose feels sweet and this ripe fruit is very much in evidence on the start of the palate. Under the rich fruit is herbal raciness with hints of oak showing towards the back. The back palate has chocolate richness, lots of blackcurrant and some spicy cedar wood on the finish.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 **91** **2012-18**

There are a lot of black fruits on the nose all feeling ripe with blackcurrant and black cherry very much to the fore. The layers of flavour give complexity and as the tannins feel ripe the mid and back palate are quite rich and fleshy lots of dark chocolate. The finish has some oak spiciness and a good length of flavour.

Cabernet Sauvignon Barrique 2009 **90** **2014-20**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Mature leafy on the nose the palate has the richness of ripe fruit with cassis backed by black cherry. There are layers of flavour depth of fruit ripe feeling tannins the black fruited mix dark chocolate yet the finish is lighter with just a hint of oak.

Cabernet Sauvignon Barrique 2011 **91** **2015-22**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Sweet and ripe on the nose cassis and black cherry are backed by lighter fresher bramble. The mid palate has depth serious black fruited richness a touch of liquorice with the rich fruit filling out the back palate.

Cabernet Sauvignon Superiore 2004 **89** **2006-12**

Tasted in Lilley December 2008

The nose is very rich and sweet packed with blackcurrant, sloe and bilberry. The sweetness is lifted by the freshness that lies underneath. This Recioto style has lots of power, the residual sugar giving mouth filling richness well balanced by the firm but not aggressive tannins. A mass of fruit fleshes out the finish leaving lots of ripe flavours.

Cabernet Sauvignon Superiore 2008 **90** **2012-18**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

The nose is still quite firm with lots of minty cassis underneath. The black fruited mix feels ripe with cassis and blackberry backed by liquorice. The back palate is lighter still black fruit dominant with mint and bilberry giving freshness and the oak a touch of spice.

Cabernet Sauvignon Superiore 2009 **89** **2011-18**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The nose has lots of black fruit flavours backed by fragrant mint. Rich black cherry and cassis flesh out the mid palate refreshed by bilberry and bramble layers of flavour. The tannins are well handled giving structure but allowing the fruit to express itself.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

89 2012-19

There are a lot of concentrated black fruits on the nose lots of cassis and black cherry. The fruit feels ripe giving richness on the mid palate and although there is good structure the tannins feel ripe not overpowering the fruit yet behind all this there is freshness a touch bilberry that lifts the flavours on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon Superiore 2009 from cask

90 2012-17

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

There is quite a lot of oak showing on the nose slightly hiding the fruit. Cassis is very much to the fore on the palate backed by slightly firmer black cherry and sloe. The back palate has richness but the finish is showing a slight dryness with the oak coming through.

Cabernet Franc 2009 from cask

90 2010-16

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The nose has a racy green wood herbal spiciness, very red fruit influenced. The palate is fresh at the start but then rich and sweet, the eight grams of residual sugar showing. The sweetness is not over powering, not cloying as redcurrant and red cherry come through balancing and refreshing the back palate.

Tasted at the winery February 2011 (bottle)

90 2010-16

There is a lot happening on the nose with the herbal spicy bramble giving it a racy feel. Black cherry vies with bramble both enriched by blackcurrant and sloe. Although there is a touch of residual sugar the back palate has herbal freshness underpinning the rich mix of flavours.

Cabernet Franc 2010 from vat

91 2012-16

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The black fruit mix has herbal overtones giving the nose spicy freshness. On the palate the fruit feels sweeter filling out the mid palate the fleshiness helped by ripe rounded tannins. The black fruit mix that shows on the back palate is lifted and refreshed by the herbal spicy green leafy character.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

91 2012-18

The nose is leafy with bramble and hints of cassis. The fruit is ripe the tannins rounded the black fruited power filling out the mid palate. Layers of fruits all very black fruit in character give complexity with the bilberry that comes through towards the back lifting the flavours and giving freshness on the finish.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 (bottle)

88 2014-17

The nose has a leafy freshness quite light and the palate has bramble freshness. There is slightly more depth in the middle the finish lighter it seems to have lost some of its generosity and richness.

Cabernet Franc 2011 from cask

91 2014-22

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

Bramble and cassis are backed by herbal leafiness that gives a touch of spice to the nose. Although the mid palate has freshness the bramble towards the back is more concentrated. The flavours last well on the finish.

Cabernet Franc 2012 from vat**90 2014-21***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014*

The nose is fresh black fruited with herbal green peppery spiciness. The fruit on the mid palate feels ripe quite sweet but towards the back the fresh black fruits dominate the back palate lighter and the finish leafy herbal long with herbal freshness.

Cabernet Franc 2013 from vat**92 2015-22***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014*

The nose has depth and intensity of flavour black fruited slightly herbal and peppery. There is a lovely generous feel on the mid palate black fruit layers of flavour. It feels fresher at the back a mix of mainly black fruits with green pepper spice and freshness on the finish.

Petit Verdot 2010**90 2012-17***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

The nose has a lot of black fruited power with the concentrated mix of flavours backed by fresher leafy herbal flavours. Although the tannins are very much in evidence feeling firm and giving structure they are not aggressive and do not hold back fruit expression.

*Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 (bottle)***90 2012-18**

The black fruits on the nose are concentrated backed by herbal leafiness. Although at the start of the palate it is quite firm the mid palate is sweeter still very black fruit in character. Rounded tannins help to enrich the ripeness balanced by the freshness that shows towards the back the black fruits spiced up by the herbal flavours.

Petit Verdot 2011 from cask**91 2014-22***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012*

The nose has lots of spice with herbal and green leaf and although the palate is black fruit dominated underpinning is leafy herbal spicy freshness. The fruit towards the back is concentrated deep brooding with a rich mix of flavours filling out the finish.

Petit Verdot 2013 from cask**91 2016-25***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014*

Herbal leafy black fruited there is a lot happening on the nose and the palate has a mix of black fruits. There is some mid sweetness good depth of flavour the rich quite sweet fruit backed by fresher flavours and the finish leafy slightly herbal with bramble freshness.

Shiraz 2007*Tasted in Lilley December 2008***88 2009-15**

The nose has all of the black peppery spice that is Shiraz but behind this is the fragrance of mountain herbs. The red fruits, black pepper and olives that are there on the nose are very much in evidence on the palate. The mix of redcurrant and strawberry feels sweet but is brightened by some mid acidity. More weight is there towards the back with the sweetness again well balanced by freshness. There are underlying tannins but they feel ripe and do not tighten the finish which has length.

Tasted in Lilley May 2009

89 2009-15

The nose is packed with black and red fruits spiced up by cracked black pepper. Red fruits seem to dominate the palate but behind them is a complex mix of black olives and white pepper. There is enough acidity to balance the fruit sweetness giving brightness with firm but ripe tannins ensuring structure.

Shiraz 2008

90 2010-14

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The first impression is redcurrant and black pepper lots of spice. The palate has a more of a black fruit character, bilberry and bramble backed by black olives and pepper. The fruit sweetness is nicely balanced by freshness.

Syrah - Shiraz 2009 from cask

90 2011-17

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The fruit mix has a peppery spice refreshing it. There are layers of flavour giving complexity, red plum intermingling with mulberry the back palate enriched by strawberry. Black pepper gives spice on the finish.

Tasted at the winery February 2011

89 2011-17

Red fruits and spicy black pepper give a lovely racy feel to the nose. The fruit on the palate is quite light with the freshness bringing out the fragrances and peppiness. Right at the back there is more flesh more weight of fruit.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 (bottle)

90 2012-18

The nose is spicy peppery very red fruit in character and although the palate starts quite fresh there is a sweeter feel in the middle. Despite the ripeness of the fruit the depth of flavour there is a racy charm and lots of white pepper spicing up the finish.

Syrah – Shiraz 2010 from vat

90 2012-17

Tasted at the winery February 2011

Although the nose has lots of red fruits they feel sweet giving richness. Behind the fullness there is freshness the fruit given a lift by spicy black pepper. Richness on the mid palate gives way to lighter fresher flavours towards the back.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

89 2013-18

Red fruits tend to dominate the nose quite sweet and backed by a touch of black pepper. The fruit feels ripe giving sweetness in the middle but there is a raspberry and redcurrant freshness balancing. White pepper spices up the finish.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 (bottle)

89 2014-17

Red fruits dominate the nose quite fresh and the start of the palate is light. The fruit on the mid palate is richer sweeter but at the back fresh raspberry is to the fore the freshness giving a lighter feel to the finish.

Syrah – Shiraz 2011 from vat **90** **2014-22**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

The fruit is lovely and ripe giving richness on the nose and the start of the palate. Mulberry and wild strawberry both feature strongly the mix of fruits giving complexity with the white pepper that shows towards the back spicing up the finish.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 **90** **2014-20**

Fragrant and red fruited the nose has a nice mix of flavours. There is more depth in the middle still very red fruited but quite sweet. The fruit at the back the mix of bramble and raspberry is fresher the finish quite light with black pepper spice.

Syrah – Shiraz 2012 from vat **89** **2016-22**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Lean fresh red fruited the nose has a mix of flavours and the palate starts quite tight. There is more depth in the middle some richer fruit but red fruits raspberry and loganberry are very much in evidence at the back the finish light fragrant peppery.

Syrah – Shiraz 2013 from vat **91** **2016-24**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

The nose has more depth the palate is sweeter fruited more strawberry in character. There is mid freshness red fruits spicy and peppery with the richer sweeter black giving more depth on the back palate.

Vranec 1998 **90**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

It has an amazing depth of colour and although the nose has the leafy character of maturity the palate has both red fruit freshness and some black fruited richness. The fruit is sweet the ripeness showing through. Towards the back it is a touch dry but the fruit lasts and lingers on the long finish.

The second bottle did not have as much leafy maturity on the nose. The mix of fruits on the palate is quite rich but towards the back the red fruits refresh. Maturity is though quite obvious on the finish.

Vranec 2004 matured in Macedonian oak **88** **2012-16**

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

The red fruits that are very much to the fore on the palate are ripe and this sweetness of flavour fills out the mid palate. The tannins are quite firm rather holding back full fruit expression and there is an oak dryness at the back.

Vranec 2006 **90** **2008-14**

Tasted in Lilley December 2008

There is a lot of red berried fruit on the nose backed by herbal spice. The palate has real power with a rich mix of redcurrants and blackcurrants. The richness is nicely balanced by the acidity giving lots of interest, bitter sweet in flavour and the fruit towards the back has a wonderful herbal intensity.

Vranec 2007**91 2009-16***Tasted in Lilley May 2008*

It has lots of red fruits on the nose fleshy cherry backed by fresher redcurrant. The same mix of flavours is there on the palate the red fruits underpinned by racy herbal spice. The tannins feel ripe enhancing the sweetness with behind the richness a racy, herbal bitterness that adds to the complexity.

Vranec 2008**91 2010-17***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The mix of forest fruits on the nose gives lots of interest. The palate has the same mix, wild strawberry and black cherry spiced up by the herbal undertones. The fruit feels ripe ensuring sweetness towards the back.

*Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Mrzenci Macedonia February 2010***91 2011-16**

Bramble and black cherry give lots of interest on the nose and richness of flavour on the palate. Behind the black fruits there is freshness a mix of red cherry and wild strawberry but it is the black fruited power and sweetness that enriches the finish.

*Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Mrzenci Macedonia February 2011***91 2011-16***Tasted at the winery February 2011***91 2011-16**

Spice overlays the mix of fruits on the nose. At first black cherry dominates but then fresher red fruits show on the mid palate. There is an attractive smoky quality about the fruit with layers of flavour black fruit richness underpinned by more red fruit freshness.

Vranec 2008 from cask – old vines**91 2011-16***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

There is a herbal freshness about the red fruits on the nose, some smoky spice. The layers of bramble and red cherry on the palate add to the complexity. The oak is just beginning to show towards the back.

Vranec 2008 from tank same blend as the cask – old vines**92 2011-17***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The layers of flavours are all there, red fruits tending to dominate although fleshy black sweeten the back palate. The freshness blends well with this same wine matured in oak cask. The blend has an appealing richness yet a freshness that lifts the fruit and enhances the hint of smoke.

Vranec 2008 (24 months new oak)**90 2012-20***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012*

The red fruits that are to the fore on the nose are backed by spice and although the start of the palate has a racy freshness there is a greater weight of sweetness in the middle. Although the red fruits tend to dominate there are some rich black towards the back giving more weight on the finish.

Vranec 2009 from cask (cuvée A) 91 2011-18

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The fragrant red fruits are backed by spice with under lovely richness of flavour. The palate is fleshy and ripe with a fresher bramble centre, layers of flavour giving complexity. Strawberry and bramble vie for supremacy towards the back; floral fragrances give charm and elegance.

Vranec 2009 from cask (cuvée B) 91 2011-18

Tasted at the winery February 2010

There is a lot happening on the nose, mulberry and bramble enlivened by herbal spice. The palate has layers of fruit, bramble intermingling with red cherry all underpinned by mulberry. The fruit feels ripe, lovely and sweet and although the tannins are ripe they do give structure.

Vranec 2009 92 2011-18

Tasted at the winery February 2011

There is a lot happening on the nose lots of ripe black fruits. Behind the richness there is freshness more of a red fruit character given an added lift by the spices that lie beneath. The ripeness of the fruit and rounded tannins ensure a fleshy richness on the mid palate but towards the back all the racy freshness spice of the grape comes through lifting the flavours on the finish

Vranec 2010 from vat 92 2012-18

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The mix of flavours is backed by herbal spice giving both nose and palate a racy quality. The fruit feels ripe fleshing out the mid palate very black fruit in character but then towards the back raspberry and red cherry refresh lifting the flavours on the finish.

Vranec 2010 from vat 91 2012-18

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 (bottle)
Herbs spices red and black cherry all feature on the nose giving it lots of complexity. There is sweet fruit in the middle giving a softer richer quality and as the tannins feel ripe the back palate has suppleness. Spicy red fruits refresh the finish.

Vranec 2011 from vat 92 2014-22

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

There is a lot happening on the nose rich flavours all very red fruited in character. The palate has sweetness backed by racier raspberry and red cherry with a hint of spice and pepper at the back. The tannin gives structure but feels ripe not over dominating. The finish has purity and length.

Vranec 2012 from Vat 91 2015-24

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Spicy and red fruited on the nose the palate is bitter sweet with quite rich sweet black cherry and fresher bitter red. The tannins are fine the back palate rich with depth of fruit yet at the back there is a lighter feel with spice and bitter cherry on the finish.

Vranec 2013 from Vat

92 2016-25

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

There is a good mix of fruits on the nose quite firm black cherry with fresh bitter red layers of fruit interest spice. The mid sweetness the rich fruit is balanced by the freshness at the back the finish has bitter sweet excitement.

Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015

92 2015-22

Bright on the nose the palate has bitter cherry and bramble excitement a nice mix of fruits. The fruit at the back is quite sweet but it finishes with freshness spicy bitter cherry.

Tasted aboard Esperanza A & C Dalmatian Islands Cruise June 2017

91 2017-22

The nose has a mix of rich fruits first black fruit then red concentrated flavours on the mid palate the rich fruits underpinned by fine integrated tannins. Fresher at the back the finish has bitter cherry excitement.

Vranec Barrique 2008

87 2014-20

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

The nose has a mix of black fruits fresh and slightly dry. Oak is very obvious on the palate tending to dry the fruit and although there is some sweetness at the back the oak is drying the finish which is lacking in fruit sweetness.

Dissan 2000

90 2012-15

Vranec

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

Although the nose has a nutty cedar wood quality there is still a lovely red fruited freshness behind. The palate has some sweet flavours a good mix of fruits ripe black cherry with fresher red. The nutty cedar wood of the nose is there on the finish mature yet attractive.

Dissan 2004

91 2006-13

Vranec

Tasted in Lilley December 2008

The nose has lots of power a mass of red berried fruit backed by herbal spice its richness is underpinned by a racy acidity. The palate has an attractive complexity with firstly quite acidic redcurrants then sweeter blackcurrants. There is a lot of power on the palate but the racy red fruits brighten the flavours leaving the finish with a wonderful herbal intensity. It has a very individual character.

Dissan 2008

Vranec

Tasted at the winery February 2011

Two wines were tasted the first (No A) had been 50% aged in Macedonian oak and 50% in vat whilst the second (No B) was 100% aged in cask

A **92** **2011-20**
 There is a very concentrated mix of black cherry and sloe lots of power on the nose. The rich mix of fruits gives flesh out the palate. Sweet dark chocolate underpins the black fruit mix fleshly rich but towards the back tannic structure shows with the tannins tending to hold back full fruit expression at the moment but with time they will mellow and allow the fruit to show through.

B **93** **2013-24**
 Powerful black fruits fill out the nose all very concentrated. Black cherry, sloe and blackberry are all in evidence but so it red cherry, layers of flavour all very complex. The mid and end palate are tight the fruit held back by tannic power but there is so much fruit underneath that with time the richness and power will pack out mid and end palate. Oak gives spice that enlivens the finish.

Dissan 2010 from cask **93** **2013-24**
Vranec

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The age of vine (most 40 years old) and the careful sorting show in the concentration of flavour that has been achieved. The nose has a powerful mix of black fruits black cherry very much in evidence. Sloe and blackcurrant vie for dominance on the palate with the concentration of the sloe tending to win. Although the tannins are structured they are not aggressive and towards the back there are some fresh red fruits that lift the flavours.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 (bottle) **93** **2014-24**

There is a lot of concentrated fruit on the nose with black fruits intermingling with the red. The mid palate has depth of flavour lots of powerful sloe and black cherry but behind the richness is fresher strawberry and red cherry. The tannins are still very firm but not aggressive and the acidity that shows through towards the back gives a lighter fresher feel on the finish.

Dissan 2010 from cask (longer in cask) **89** **2013-24**
Vranec

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

This has been longer in oak and it shows on the nose and is very much in evidence towards the back. Although the fruit is there underneath it is rather over dominated and the spiciness tends to overpower the mix of fruits on the finish. Decanting helps but the oak is all too definite.

Dissan 2011 from cask **93** **2015-25**
Vranec

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

The nose is packed with rich flavours and the palate has a powerful rich mix of damson, black cherry and blackberry all backed by mulberry and strawberry. The ripeness of fruit and tannins gives a fleshy opulence in the middle but there is enough freshness towards the back to balance the rich power.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 **93** **2015-25**

Intense concentrated lots of black fruits bramble and black cherry all backed by bitter spicy red cherry. The mid palate is rich black fruited fleshy in the middle and then at the back there is intensity of flavour with lots of spice on the finish.

Dissan 2013 from cask**94 2016-26****Vranec***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014*

Deep brooding black fruited on the nose there is an intensity of fruit on the palate. The concentrated black fruits are backed by herbal spicy red fruits layers of flavour lots of complexity. Rich ripe powerful a big mouthful there is enough freshness herbal spicy red fruits to balance.

Dissan Barrique 2012**89 2015-22***Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015*

Bright and fresh on the nose the start of the palate has a bramble and red cherry mix. The tannins support but are fine quite rich in the middle the back palate lighter with hints of spicy oak.

Imperator 2008**92 2010-17****Vranec***Tasted in Lilley May 2009*

A rich mix of red and black fruit flavours packs out the nose and gives an exciting complexity to the palate. First cherry and redcurrant are there but behind them is bramble and blueberry. Fruit sweetness fleshes out the mid-palate but the richness is well balanced by red fruited freshness. It is lovely now but will open up more with time.

*Tasted at the winery February 2010***92 2010-17**

Red and black fruits intermingle on the nose and give an exciting complexity to the palate. Cherry and redcurrant seem to be dominant but then bramble and blueberry show fleshing out the back palate. The fruit is sweet and the tannins ripe giving a rich supple fleshiness but there is enough red fruit freshness and spice to balance.

*Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012***92 2012-18**

The mix of red and black fruits on the nose is lovely and complex with the flavours intermingling on the palate. Red cherry and redcurrant seem to dominate but behind are richer black fruits bramble, blueberry and black cherry. Although the fruit is sweet and ripe there is an underlying racy freshness.

Imperator 2009**92 2012-18****Vranec***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

It is very rich full of concentrated black fruits. The tannins feel ripe helping to enrich the mid palate and the layers of black fruits give lots of complexity. Towards the back there is lovely spice backed by red fruited freshness.

- Imperator 2010 from vat** 92 2013-20
Vranec
Tasted at the winery February 2011
 There are a lot of powerful flavours all very black fruit in character. Concentrated sloe and black cherry are underpinned by some lighter bramble refreshed by bilberry. Layers of flavour give complexity added to by the herbal spiciness that shows towards the back.
- Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012 (bottle)* 93 2013-20
 There is a richness of fruit on the nose and the sweetness fills out the palate. Lots of concentrated red and black fruits deep and complex. Layers of red cherry and mulberry overlay the bramble and black cherry. The concentration lightened to some extent by fresher bilberry. The finish is long with a lovely hint of spice at the back.
- Imperator 2011 from vat** 93 2014-24
Vranec
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012
 The nose has a lot of concentrated flavours mainly red fruit in character but behind the mulberry and red currant on the palate there is bramble and firmer black cherry. The tannins although giving structure are ripe rounded not holding back fruit expression. The back palate is packed with fruit yet the finish has elegance.
- Imperator 2012 from vat** 93 2016-26
Vranec
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 The fruit is concentrated rich black fruits with fresher bitter cherry. Lots of complexity and good balance. Sweet in the middle supple and fleshy. The red cherry refreshes lightens the fleshy richness and although bitter sweet on the back palate the finish has sweet fruited depth.
- Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015* 93 2016-26
 The nose has richness and depth a mix of black fruits and the palate is concentrated. The tannins firm but fine. Sweet and rich in the middle ripe black cherry but at the back there is the freshness of bitter cherry with a complex mix of flavours on the finish.
- Imperator 2013 from cask** 94 2016-27
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 There are a lot of concentrated flavours on the nose with the sweet rich ripe black fruit on the palate underpinned by bitter red cherry. Bitter sweet in the middle layers of flavour giving complexity. The sweetness on the back palate balanced by the red cherry freshness on the finish.
- My Way Vranec 2011 (from dried grapes)** 92 2014-24
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 Sweet on the nose the palate has power depth the richness of black fruits. The mid sweetness is backed by a touch of bitterness with a mix of mainly black fruits. At the back it feels lighter slightly fresher more of a bramble and bilberry character with lots of peppery spice and a hint of oak on the finish.

Vranec 2012 (from dried grapes)**91 2015-25***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014**Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015*

Deep brooding black fruits enrich the nose and give a fleshy richness on the palate. The mid palate is fresher red fruited with a hint of bitterness the mix of bramble and bilberry giving an attractive freshness at the back.

Alexandar 2006**91 2008-16****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Vranec***Tasted in Lilley December 2008*

The mix of black and red fruits on the nose is underpinned by mountain herbs lifting and spicing up the fruit. The start of the palate is sweet and fleshy but is lighter in the middle with towards the back some sweetness returning and filling it out. There is an attractive mix of different flavours rich black fruits, plum, cassis and bilberry underpinned and balanced by fresher reds, redcurrant and cherry. The herbal mix all adds to the complexity the underlying freshness ensuring an elegant twist on the finish.

Alexandar 2007**92 2009-17****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Vranec***Tasted in Lilley May 2009*

Blackcurrant is dominant on the nose with behind it a mix of mountain herbs and black pepper. The ripeness of the fruit gives flesh to the mid palate and a lush feel towards the back but underpinning is some fresh raspberry and herbal spice that gives a lovely racy finish. There is a great deal happening each time tasted, the characteristics of each grape seem to dominate. The black plum of Merlot and the cassis of Cabernet are backed by the herbal red fruit spice of Vranec.

Alexandar 2008**92 2010-17****Merlot 33% Cabernet Sauvignon 33% Vranec 33%***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

Black plum and blackcurrant give flesh on the nose backed by fresher red fruits with an underlying green pepper spice. There are layers of flavour on the palate, the richness of plum vying with the freshness of red cherry and raspberry. Towards the back there is green pepper spicing up the finish.

*Tasted at the winery February 2011***93 2010-18**

The black fruited mix is lovely and rich filling out the nose and giving supple fleshiness on the palate. The layers of fruit give complexity red fruits give mid freshness then the black fruits take over lovely and rich. The finish has all the richness of the black fruits with the freshness of the red and a hint of oak spice.

Alexandar 2009**95 2012-19****Merlot 33% Cabernet Sauvignon 33% Vranec 33%***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The nose is sweet fruited with a strong black fruit influence. Black cherry, cassis and damson plum dominate the start of the palate but behind there is some lovely bitter cherry. The ripeness of the tannins ensures a supple richness with towards the back red fruited freshness backed attractive racy spices.

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

95 2012-19

The nose has a lovely mix of fruits all very black fruit in character. Blackcurrant and damson fill out the palate with some firmer black cherry showing behind. The layers of fruit all add to the complexity with bitter cherry giving freshness in the middle. The ripeness of the fruit combined with rounded tannins enriches the back palate.

Alexandar 2011

93 2014-20

Cabernet Sauvignon 1/3 Merlot 1/3 Vranec 1/3

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

Rich fruit the nose has lots of black fruits and the palate is sweet with cassis and dark chocolate. The mid palate is fresher more of a red cherry character with a hint of bitterness at the back yet richer on the back palate and hints of spice on the finish.

Alexandar 2013

93 2016-23

Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015

Depth on the nose with a strong black fruit influence the palate has a rich mix of fruits and bitter chocolate. There is a balancing freshness with hints of spice and bitter cherry but it fills out on the finish with depth and richness.

Venus 2004

90 2012-15

Vranec 70% Merlot 30%

Tasted in Negotino February 2012

The nose has a good depth of fruit with a lot of rich blackcurrant and black plum. The tannins are still firm but feel ripe adding to the fleshy richness of the mid palate. There are red fruits towards the back that refresh and give the wine a remarkably youthful feel.

Venus 2006

89 2008-15

Vranec 70% Merlot 30%

Tasted in Lilley December 2008

There is real interest on the nose, the morello cherry backed by damson and spiced up by mountain herbs. The palate has a mix of flavours and fruits, sweet at first then firmer fresher in the middle, the black fruits underpinned by red, cherries and raspberries. It is lovely and herbal with a racy mineral bitter sweet finish.

Venus 2007

91 2009-16

Vranec 70% Merlot 30%

Tasted in Lilley May 2009

The red fruit influence on the nose is very strong with cherry and mulberry fighting it out for dominance. Behind are fleshier black fruits with damson very much in evidence. The sweetness

is well balanced by the mulberry and raspberry freshness, the herbal spice of the Vranec giving a racy excitement to the finish.

Tasted in Javor Joko Restaurant Mrzenci Macedonia February 2010 **91** **2009-17**

At first it seems very red fruited dominated but behind the mix of mulberry and red cherry is bramble and black cherry. The richness of black plum fleshes out the palate and as the tannins feel ripe the sweetness shows through. Red fruit freshness takes over at the back leaving the finish lighter and quite elegant.

Venus 2008 **91** **2011-17**

Vranec 70% Merlot 30%

Tasted at the winery February 2011

Fresh red fruits are backed by richer sweeter black giving an attractive complex mix on both nose and palate. Sweet ripe black plum gives flesh in the middle the richness nicely balanced by red cherry freshness.

Venus 2009 **91** **2012-18**

Vranec 70% Merlot 30%

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012

There is a lot of sweet fruit on the nose and richness powerful flavours on the palate. Damsons fill out the mid palate fleshy chunky but behind the richness there is freshness bramble, red cherry and bilberry. The finish has good depth and lots of ripe fruit.

Venus 2011 **91** **2014-22**

Vranec 70% Merlot 30%

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

The nose is red fruited spicy with a lovely bitter cherry character. There is a black fruited richness on the start of the palate mid depth quite fleshy and black plum but towards the back the Vranec dominates with bitter cherry freshness on the finish.

Venus 2013 **89** **2016-23**

Tasted at the Emerging Regions Tasting London September 2015

Bright and fresh on the nose the palate has a mix of red fruits quite light at the start. There is more mid depth ripe strawberry and cassis with black plum richness on the finish.

Venus Superiore 2004 **91** **2006-12**

Vranec 70% Merlot 30%

Tasted in Lilley December 2008

The nose has sweetness and complexity of fruit mix. It appears, at first, very red fruit, morello cherry but under this is damson. The palate is the same, lots of different flavours intermingling. Cherry is there but overtaken by rich plum and blueberry. It is lovely and lush, lots of residual sugar countered by freshness giving an exciting bitter sweet effect. The sweetness, tannins and acidity are well balanced.

- Daron 2004** 88 2006-13
Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Vranec
Tasted in Lilley December 2008
 The nose has all the fragrance of mountain herbs with underneath a mix of black and red fruits. Black plum is there on the palate giving weight at the start, cherry and mulberry come through lightening the mid palate and giving freshness to the richer black fruits. It lacks a bit of heart, there is a slight hollow, the fruit concentration tending to slide. More fruit comes through towards the back leaving cherry, mulberry and bilberry all given a spicy twist by the herbal character.
- Daron 2009** 90 2013-20
Cabernet Sauvignon 40% Merlot 40% Vranec 20%
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012
 The nose is quite firm the black cherry tending to dominate the slightly sweeter cassis. The palate starts tight with firm tannins and some fresh red fruits. Under all of this there is sweetness but the fruit is rather overpowered and held back by the structure at the moment.
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014 89 2014-20
 The nose is firm with a black fruited mix but the palate is richer with mid sweetness. Fresher at the back the finish has some bitter cherry and a hint of spice.
- Cuvée Prestige 2010** 89 2014-21
Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Merlot Shiraz Vranec
Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014
 Fresh on the nose the palate starts with sweet fruit but there is a fresher feel in the middle. Spicy with hints of pepper and some bitter cherry the finish is lighter easy slightly lacking in complexity.
- S.V.Trifun** 89 2010-12
Merlot 70% (2006) Vranec 20% (2007) Cabernet Franc 10% (2008)
Tasted at the winery February 2010
 The nose is red fruit driven, quite fresh with the spiciness of green peppers. Richer sweeter fruit fills out the mid palate and although sweet it is not over cloying as towards the back there is lots of raspberry and red cherry. It all makes for a very easy drinking mix of flavours.
- S.V.Trifun 2008** 90 2010-14
Merlot Vranec 20% Cabernet Franc
Tasted at the winery February 2011
 There is a nice mix of fruits on the nose with the ripe black plum refreshed by the red fruit mix. Oak does show at first but soon goes with air. The palate feels velvet smooth lots of lovely rich fruits and cocoa.
- S.V.Trifun 2009** 89 2011-13
Merlot Vranec 20% Cabernet Franc

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The oak is all too obvious on the nose and dominates the fruit. There is sweetness on the palate some ripe plum with racier herbal black fruits behind but with the oake comes through rather masking the fruit.

Sweet White Wines**Late Harvest Traminac 2008****90 2009-13***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The nose has the perfumed spice that one expects from the grape, elderflowers and orange blossom. It is lovely and rich, fleshy white peach and apricot backed by a touch of grapefruit that balanced the sweetness. The perfumed flavours linger on the finish.

*Tasted at the winery February 2011***91 2009-14**

Although there is rich fruit on the nose attractive floral fragrances do show. The palate has a voluptuous richness, a mix of flavours with lots of caramelised orange peel enriched by white peach and apricot. There is freshness ensuring that it is not cloying not too sticky sweet.

Late Harvest Traminac 2012**94 2014-20***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014*

Spicy fragrant there is a lot happening on the nose with the fruit at the start of the palate feeling fresh. Sweet fruits in the middle candied peel and tropical fruits give richness and depth but it is fresher at the back exotic, aromatic with a lovely mix of flavours that linger on the long finish.

Sweet Red Wines**Kleopatra Cabernet Franc 2010 Semi –Dried****91 2011-19***Tasted at Bovin in Negotino February 2012*

The nose has a lot of sweet red fruits but the palate has more of a black fruited influence. Ripe bramble and strawberry giving a nice complexity mix of flavours towards the back and the sweetness of the fruit is balanced by freshness and quite firm tannins.

*Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014***91 2014-21**

Sweet on the nose with a mix of red and black fruits and the palate has sweetness at the start. The mid palate is fresher with herbal red fruits quite firm tannins but towards the back it feels richer and sweeter.

Late Harvest Vranec 2008**92 2010-18***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The nose is packed with fleshy red fruits, lush strawberry and mulberry. There is a lovely richness of flavour on the palate, lush fruit enhanced by well managed tannins. Towards the back fresh raspberry and redcurrant cut in balancing the sweetness and adding to the complexity.

*Tasted at the winery February 2011***92 2009-17**

The fruits on the nose are ripe giving lots of sweet power. The palate has all of the fleshy ripeness of the nose mouth filling and rich. Under all of this fruit power is freshness helping to balance. The tannins are very well managed in no way too obvious. The sweet fruit lingers on the back palate.

Premier 2011 91 2015-23

Late Harvest Cabernet Sauvignon Vranec

Tasted at Bovin in Negotino April 2014

The nose is rich the start of the palate sweet fruited ripe cassis and black cherry backed by fresher spicy red cherry. There is mid structure firm tannins but the sweet fruit is there at the back giving more flesh on the finish.

**Dalvina Winery
Strumca-Radovish Wine District**

Mr Baltovski owns 370 hectares near Strumica and in 2007 started to build a winery which he soon realised was too small so extended capacity to 4 million litres. Great trouble has been taken to equip the winery with the most up-to-date ideas delestage and cap plunging.

White Wines

Astrion Rkaciteli 2012 92 2014-16

Tasted at the winery April 2014

Lime fresh on the nose the palate is richer with a mix of tropical fruits. The mid richness the mid sweetness balanced by freshness at the back giving a racy brightness on the finish.

Zupljanka 2013 92 2014-17

Tasted at the winery April 2014

Fragrant on the nose a mass of hedgerow flowers crisp and lime driven on the start of the palate yet there is mid richness a hint of pineapple some pear. The richer fruit the mid depth is underpinned by crispness an attractive citrus mix that brightens the finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2013 91 2014-17

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose is fresh the palate citrusy with crisp apple and this mix refreshes the start of the palate. There is more depth in the middle more of a tropical fruit character but at the back it is fresh fruited with flavours that linger.

Chardonnay 2011 91 2014-18

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose is fresh the palate has a mix of lime and apple yet in the middle there is more depth greengage and a touch of melon. The back palate has a mix of flavours the apple freshness backed by slightly richer pear.

Barrigue Chardonnay 2009

89 2012-15

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

The nose is very fresh with lots of grapefruit. Slightly richer sweeter fruit shows on the mid palate but the freshness is very much in evidence towards the back. Although apparently light at the back the finish has more depth and just a hint of oak.

Tasted at the winery April 2014

90 2014-16

The nose has filled out the palate fleshy with melon sweetness and richness. There is a balancing mid acidity but it is rich at the back with a nice depth of flavour full and fleshy on the finish.

Rosé Wines

Godsin Muskat Trollinger 2008

89 2011-13

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

Rose petal fragrances give charm on the nose and the palate has the same fragrances. Raspberry freshness brings out the hints of spice adding to the complexity with towards the back slightly richer strawberry flavours fill out the finish.

Godsin Muskat- Trollinger 2012

89 2014-16

Tasted at the winery April 2014

Oriental fragrances red fruits the nose is light and fresh but the palate is richer with a touch of sweetness lots of ripe strawberry. It is lighter at the back fragrant red fruited with perfumed spices on the finish.

Red Wines

Merlot 2011

91 2014-19

Tasted at the winery April 2014

Rich on the nose the palate has the fleshiness of ripe black plums sweet and supple and there is a good depth of flavour at the back. An underlying freshness lightens the back palate with sweet ripe black plum fleshing out the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

88 2011-14

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

Minty cassis is there on the nose quite light fragrant with freshness behind. The tannins are firm slightly aggressive and they tend to hold back the fruit. The mid palate is light towards the back there is a little more depth of fruit.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2011

92 2014-20

Cassis driven the nose is rich the palate has depth of flavour with the black fruits underpinned by chocolate and liquorice. Fresher in the middle more bramble and bilberry the back palate fills out with ripe cassis and damsons.

Vranec 2008 **89** **2011-14**

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

The fresh red fruits on the nose are quite fragrant with wild strawberry and red cherry very much to the fore. The freshness brings out the fragrances and although the mid palate has sweetness the finish is firm with bitter cherry excitement.

Vranec 2011 **92** **2014-20**

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The fruit on the nose is sweet the palate rich with a mix of ripe red and black fruits. The middle richness the damson plum is balanced by red cherry freshness layers of flavour that give complexity. On the finish there is just the hint of the Vranec bitter excitement.

Cuvée Barrique 2008 **88** **2011-14**

Vranec Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

The blackcurrant of Cabernet appears to dominate but behind it the richness of plum gives flesh on the mid palate and the red fruited freshness of Vranec balances. The tannins are firm and tend to dry towards the back rather closing down the finish.

Synthesis 2009 Cuvée Barrique 2009 **92** **2014-20**

Vranec 50% Cabernet Sauvignon 25% Merlot 25%

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose has a complex mix of flavours more black fruited than red with ripe black plum and cassis enriching the palate. The mid depth the rich flavours are balanced by freshness more of a red cherry character a touch of herbal bitterness all adding complexity. The finish is quite fresh long with lingering flavours.

Sweet Red Wines

Vranec 2011 **93** **2015-24**

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose has strawberry jam sweetness the palate is rich chunky fleshy with lots of powerful flavours. Rounded tannins add to the fleshiness the lushness and there is just a hint of alcohol and although the back palate has power depth fleshy richness there is enough underlying freshness to lighten the finish.

Tasted at Dalvina

Made from different countries by a group of young winemakers led by Josef Watzl

Oxhoft Syrah 2011**91 2014-20**

Red fruited peppery and spicy there is a lot happening on the nose with a mix of black and red cherry on the palate. The sweeter fruit is balanced by freshness and although quite light at the back there is more depth on the finish.

**Ezimit Winery
Ovchepole Wine District**

The original winery is close by but today Ezimit is up-to-date a very modern and eco friendly winery. With 350 hectares in production and over 30 different wines it is a sizeable operation the range stretching from Bag-in-the-Box to the Limited Edition range.

White Wines

Chardonnay 2013**90 2014-18***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Light on the nose the palate is fresh with a mix of citrus and apples. There is more depth in the middle ripe pineapple and pear but at the back the citrus dominates the finish fresh and fragrant.

Temjanika 2013**89 2014-17***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Spicy and fragrant on the nose there is a rose petal charm. The palate has a mix of oriental perfumes spicy with a mid freshness. There is more depth on the back palate but it finishes light and fresh fruited.

Red Wines

Plavac Mali 2013 from cask**93 2014-22***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Perfumed on the nose with a red fruited freshness the start of the palate has an exciting hint of bitterness. The mid palate is seductively rich a mix of black fruits and richer red layers of flavour with lots of complexity. At the back there is freshness an underlying firmness yet the finish is rich ripe with depth and power.

Vranec 2012**92 2014-22***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The nose is spicy the palate has a mix of black fruits and red fruits layers of interest. Sweet and ripe in the middle seductively lush with at the back freshness hints of spice and a touch of bitterness.

Vranec 2013 from cask**92 2015-23**

Tasted at the winery April 2014

Black fruits on the nose with black cherry giving a firm start to the palate. It is sweet fruited in the middle the richness balanced by hints of bitter cherry freshness yet at the back there is depth of fruit a mix of flavours and an underlying red cherry bitterness that excites.

Vranec Reserve 2008 **92** **2014-20**

The black fruited mix enriches the nose and gives depth and weight of flavour on the palate. The richness of the fruit is balanced by an underlying freshness red cherry slightly spicy with a hint of bitterness but it is the black fruits that are to the fore on the back palate a mix of bramble and bilberry.

Vranec Barrique 2009 **93** **2014-24***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Rich on the nose there are lots of generous flavours on the palate. The mid palate is supple with ripe black fruits the richness balanced by freshness at the back. The finish is power packed generous with a lovely depth of flavour.

Blend 2012 **92** **2015-26****Vranec Merlot Syrah***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The nose is black fruited but firm and the start of the palate a bit tight. It opens up on the mid palate with rich black plum and black cherry the richness of the fruit filling out the back palate. The finish has hints of spice and black pepper with just a touch of red cherry bitterness on the finish.

Blend 2013 from cask **91** **2015-28****Vranec Syrah***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The red fruit mix on the nose is fresh the start of the palate quite light with a black pepper spiciness. There is mid sweetness a nice depth of flavour but at the back it feels lighter fresher with spice pepper on the finish.

Blend 2013 from cask **92** **2016-30****Vranec Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The nose is fresh the start of the palate quite light lots of bilberry and bramble in the middle. The freshness is underpinned by sweetness some fleshy black plum but it is the fresher flavours that dominate the back palate quite firm light and fresh fruited.

Fonko Winery
Tikvesh Wine District

This small boutique winery is based on the Lepovo Hill near to Negotino in the Tikves region. A privately owned winery that has made a big investment in state of the art equipment and has the wine making skills to use it to the best advantage. The vineyards are around the winery on the Lepovo Hill one of the best sites in the region.

White Wines

Chardonnay 2008 89 2010-12

Tasted at the winery February 2010

Lemon fresh on the nose, the palate is richer a mix of pineapple and melon. The mid palate has an appealing breadth of flavour with towards the back citrus and mineral refreshing the finish.

Chardonnay 2010 91 2011-14

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The nose has the freshness of green limes and apples with just a hint of mineral. Greengage enriches the mid palate a lovely breadth and depth of flavour then the citrus apple mix comes through refreshing the back palate.

Red Wines

Merlot 2005 88 2008-12

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The nose is sweet but the red fruits a mix of strawberry and red cherry are more in evidence than the black. Ripe damsons give fleshiness on the mid palate, the sweetness helped by ripe feeling tannins.

Merlot 2006 from vat 91 2011-15

Tasted at the winery February 2011

Rich ripe black plum is backed by fresher bilberry. The sweetness of the fruit combined with the suppleness of the tannins gives a rich fleshiness to the mid palate but there is enough freshness to balance. The back palate is packed with fruit and the flavours linger on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 88 2008-12

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The freshness of bilberry and elderberry is very much in evidence on the nose. Sweeter blackcurrant gives some weight on the mid palate backed by chocolate richness. The finish is fresh giving it a lighter feel.

Tasted at the winery February 2011

89 2011-13

There is lots of cassis and blueberry on the nose with more of a black cherry and sloe firmness on the start of the palate. The chocolate and cocoa mix enriches the mid palate with fresher flavours coming through towards the back balancing and giving length on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009**91 2012-17***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

The nose is packed with ripe black fruits and the fleshy richness gives weight on the palate. Blackcurrant vies with black cherry both underpinned by chocolate and coffee beans. Rounded tannins emphasise the fleshy richness but towards the back the mix of bilberry and bramble balances and refreshes the finish.

Bucephall Vranec 2006**91 2011-17***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

Concentrated black fruits give lots of power on the nose and start of the palate. Underpinning the black cherry richness are fresher more red fruited flavours balancing the power. The tannins are quite firm giving structure but do not hold back fruit expression.

Vranec 2009 from cask**90 2011-17***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

There is a lot happening on the nose, rich blackberry and black plum underpinned by fresher red cherry and raspberry. The palate has layers of fruit, the sweetness balanced by freshness. Forest fruits linger on the finish.

*Tasted at the winery February 2011***91 2011-17**

On the nose rich blackberry and black cherry are very much in evidence but at the back there is red fruited freshness. The tannins feel mellow allowing the complex mix of red and black fruits to show to advantage. The back palate richness and sweetness is balanced by red cherry and mulberry freshness.

2010 Blend from vat**91*****Cabernet Sauvignon 75% Vranec 15%****Tasted at the winery February 2011*

The spicy red cherry is underpinned by richer cassis and black cherry layers of flavour. There is a good depth of fruit on the palate firm but ripe tannins and a spicy freshness towards the back.

Derek Smedley MW