



Macedonia

Wineries I - P

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Last Updated

7/4/2015

Tasting notes from the following growers:

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**Macedonia
Wineries I - P**

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

**Imako Vino
Ovchepole Wine District**

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2012

89 2013-16

Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013

The ripeness of the fruit gives richness on the nose and a fleshy feel on the start of the palate. The mid palate has the freshness of bramble and loganberry but it fills out towards the back with lovely sweet flavours.

**Château Kamnik
Skopje Wine District**

Iki Malinkovski loves wine and is dedicated to the industry so in 2004 he built a winery next to his restaurant the Hunter's Lodge close to the capital Skopje. He planted a range of vines to see which best suited the soils and climate and his investment in the future is beginning to pay off. The drive for perfection is in the hands of winemaker Sandra Krstevska supported by consultant Professor Goran Milanov.

White Wines

Cuvée Kamnik White 2011

89 2012-15

Chardonnay Temjanika Sauvignon Blanc + others

Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012

The nose is lovely and fresh with an attractive spiciness. Sweeter greengage fills out the mid palate a richness of flavour that is balanced by gooseberry and citrus freshness towards the back. It is simple straightforward not complex a jack of all trades.

Pinot Grigio 2010

88 2011-13

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

Tropical fruits feature on nose backed by smoky fragrances. Sweetness gives weight to the mid palate whilst mineral and slate refresh the back. The finish is let down by the rather obvious alcohol.

Pinot Grigio 2011**91 2012-15***Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

The nose is very lime and mineral driven fresh with smoky fragrances. Tropical fruits give a sweeter feel to the mid palate an attractive mix of flavours. Fresh grapefruit, lime and mineral give a racy freshness on the finish.

Pinot Gris 2013**93 2014-18***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Slate and mineral with lime freshness the nose has a fragrant charm. The palate has depth richer fruit an attractive mix of flavours tropical fruits, tangerine and orange peel lots of complexity. There is an underlying freshness with depth of flavour on the finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2013**92 2014-17***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The nose has lots of lime and lemon and the start of the palate is fresh but it fills out in the middle with a touch of white peach and tropical fruit. Citrus is there at the back refreshing and lifting the flavours on the finish.

Chardonnay 2011 from tank**92-94 2012-16***Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

The nose is very citrus driven lovely fresh and floral. There is some richness on the mid palate greengage and melon but it is the citrus and apple that gives the freshness towards the back the fruit underpinned by minerals.

Chardonnay 2013 from tank but is in bottle**93 2014-19***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Light fresh on the nose with a mix of fruits and although the palate starts fresh the mid palate has depth of fruit with greengage and melon. The back palate is fresh a citrus mix with some crisp apple and this gives a lovely racy freshness on the finish.

Chardonnay 2013 from cask Hungarian oak Medium toast slow**93 2015-19***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Fragrant quite light the nose has citrus freshness. The fruit on the palate is sweeter ripe honeydew melon the sweetness balanced by apple at the back. The finish has length sweetness at first yet there is an underlying freshness.

Chardonnay 2013 from cask Hungarian oak medium toast**93 2015-19***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

There is a richer feel to the nose and more flesh richness on the palate. The mid palate is buttery with a more obvious oak character the rich fruit underpinned by apple fresher at the back complex with layers of flavour. The fruit mix at the back is overlaid with vanilla just a hint of spice.

Chardonnay 2013 from cask French oak

94 2015-19

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose has the depth and power the palate starts big fat rich buttery lots of ripe melon. There is mid freshness but it is the mix of melon, pear and greengage that gives fleshy richness at the back. The balance is there between rich fruit and apple freshness

Chardonnay Barrique 2009

89 2011-13

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

Toasty charry oak rather overpowers the fruit on the nose. The structure is good with ripe melon underpinned by fresher citrus and apple. The sweetness is there at the back balanced by the freshness that underpins.

Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012

90 2012-15

There is some toasty spice on the nose but behind it some rich greengage and melon. The mid palate has sweet quite rich fruit the depth of flavour balanced by the underlying apple. There is a nice weight of fruit filling out the finish with just a hint of spicy oak.

Chardonnay Barrique 2011

94 2014-18

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The mix of fruits on the nose is sweet and the palate has depth of flavour. The richness of the fruit on the mid palate is balanced by some underlying fresh apple some citrus and although lighter at the back the finish has richness with the sweetness of ripe melon.

Chardonnay Barrique 2012

95 2014-20

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose is rich the palate has lots of ripe melon and rich greengage fruit power filling out the mid palate. There is a balancing freshness some grapefruit cut apple layers of flavour lots of complexity. There is the feeling of balance a backbone of freshness supporting the richer flavours.

Temjanika 2011

92 2012-16

Muscat Blanc à Petit Grains

Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012

The nose is very floral with a mix the white flowers backed by exotic spices. The palate is quite light at the start with lovely citrus flavours the freshness bringing out the spice and the hints of dried fruits that give a richer feel in the middle but it is the citrus mix that refreshes and brings out the perfume on the long finish.

Temjanika 2013

94 2014-18

Tasted at the winery April 2014

White flowers hedgerow blossoms the nose is full of exotic oriental fragrances. The start of the palate is fresh with hints of spice the mid palate rich a lovely melon fleshiness some dried fruits. The back palate is fresher the citrus mix bringing out exotic spices on the long finish.

Rosé Wines

Sexy Rosé 2012 **89** **2014-15**

Sangiovese Aglianico Nebbiolo Cabernet Sauvignon Primitivo

Tasted at the winery April 2014

Full on the nose there are strawberries and black fruits on the palate. The mid palate has fruit sweetness and although fresher at the back the finish is quite rich.

Rosé 2013 from tank **92** **2014-16**

Sangiovese Aglianico Nebbiolo Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose explodes with red fruited freshness and the palate is fresh fruited some raspberry some red currant and red cherry. Just a hint of sweetness in the middle the back palate has an exuberant raciness with the red fruits lingering on the finish.

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2011 **95** **2014-20**

Tasted at the winery April 2014

This is a great expression of the grape fragrant and fresh fruited on the nose the palate has more depth quite fleshy mulberry. Towards the back it feels lighter a mix of black and red fruits with the sweetness of the fruit enriching the back palate and finish.

Merlot 2011 from vat **92-95** **2013-17**

Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012

The mix of black and red plum is rich filling out the nose and giving a supple fleshiness on the palate. There is a chunky richness in the middle lovely fleshy ripe fruits with damsons backed by slightly fresher red plums. The tannins are supple and the richness of the fruit fills out the back palate and finish.

Merlot 2011 from cask new barrique **93-95** **2014-20**

Tasted at the winery April 2014

Rich ripe black plum the nose has depth and the palate the richness the fleshiness of sweet fruit. There are some red fruits in the middle slightly lighter but towards the back black plum enriches a lovely depth and sweetness of flavour. The finish is lighter with some fresher red fruits.

Merlot 2012 from cask new barrique **90-94** **2015-22**

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose is quite hot with concentrated black fruits and the palate is fleshy with ripe black plum. There is a fresher feel at the back but the back palate and finish are rich with concentrated power.

Merlot 2013 from cask new barrique

92-95 2014-20

Tasted at the winery April 2014

Although the nose is sweet rich with ripe fruit there is an underlying freshness. Fleshy on the palate opulent rich fruited ripe black plum tends to dominate but towards the back there is a balancing freshness with more black cherry and bramble.

Merlot Barrique 2007

88 2011-15

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

Rich ripe black plum gives a fleshy richness on the nose. The fruit sweetness fleshes out the mid palate and although the tannins are quite firm they give structure not aggression.

Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012

89 2012-15

Black plum features on the nose and gives a rich start to the palate. The fruit on the mid palate is sweet and ripe giving a fleshy richness and although the tannins are still quite firm they are not aggressive and do not overpower overshadow the fruit.

Signature Merlot 2008

93 2012-20

Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012

It is immense the nose full fat rich sweet fruited. Ripe damson packs out the mid palate sensuously rich the suppleness helped by rounded ripe tannins. Despite all the sweet lush fleshy power there is underlying freshness hints of bilberry and red cherry and this gives a more balanced feel on the back palate.

Merlot Single Vineyard 2010

95 2014-20

Tasted at the winery April 2014

The nose has depth and the palate breadth with fleshy black plum some black cherry a powerful mix of flavours. Supple in the middle ripe plum enriches the fleshiness balanced by fresh fruit towards the back. There is the feeling of balance rich ripe sweet fruit yet freshness all in harmony.

Ten Barrels Cabernet Sauvignon 2007

87 2011-15

Tasted at Bovin February 2011

There is too much oak on the nose and although behind is the richness of cassis and bramble the oak is still very obvious. The tannins are firm and the oak is tending to overpower and dry but there is a lot of cassis and this gives some sweetness on the finish.

Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012

90 2012-17

The fruit is rich with lots of cassis and although there is oak in evidence it does not over dominate. Ripe fruit backed by liquorice and dark chocolate fill out the mid palate with fresher bramble showing towards the back. The spice of oak does come through on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 from Vat**92-95 2013-19***Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

Blackcurrant features on the nose the richness refreshed by a touch of bilberry. The palate is like the nose quite rich very blackcurrant and black cherry with the depth of flavour balanced by the fresher fruits all still very black fruit in character. The back palate has the richness of liquorice and coffee with a touch of peppermint and oak adding interest on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 from cask new barrique**92-95 2014-20***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The nose has lots of black fruits a mix of flavours with cassis tending to be dominant. The start of the palate has a firmer fresher feel with more black cherry and bilberry but the mid palate is rich with a mix of chocolate and liquorice brooding power yet there is an underlying freshness that balances and lightens the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon from cask new French oak**92-95 2016-24**

The nose is quite light brambles, bilberry and cassis and the start of the palate is very firm the tannins quite obvious. It fills out in the middle with lots of powerful flavours but there is an underlying freshness the finish lighter stylish elegant.

Cabernet Sauvignon 60% Cabernet Franc 40% 2011 from cask**92 2014-20***Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

Cassis is very much to the fore lovely and sweet fruited with behind it bramble and bilberry backed by a herbal leafy character. The fruit feels ripe filling out the mid palate lots of black fruits, liquorice and dark chocolate. Behind the ripe fruit power bilberry gives freshness and the leafy herbal flavours of Franc come through on the finish.

Cuvée de Prestige 2009**91 2012-18*****Merlot 80% Cabernet Sauvignon 20%****Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

The Merlot certainly dominates with lots of black and red plums on both nose and palate. The fruit feels ripe filling out the mid palate the suppleness helped by rounded tannins. The underlying bilberry refreshes and helps to balance the sweetness of the fruit.

Cuvée de Prestige 2012**93 2014-20*****Merlot 79% Carménère 17% Vranec 4%****Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The nose has power depth richness and the palate has lots of fleshy black plum. The mid palate is lighter with a mix of red cherry and bramble but there is black fruited power dark chocolate at the back with just a hint of sour cherry the finish supple and rich fruited.

Carménère 2009**95 2014-19***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Fresh on the nose with a mix of black fruits there is herbal leafy excitement. The fruit in the middle is sweet a mix of black fruits bramble intermingling with black cherry. The freshness at the back brings out the herbal green leaf spiciness which lingers on the long finish.

Carmènère 2013 from tank**93-95 2015-20***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

There is lots of excitement on the nose with the mix of black fruits backed by herbal leafy spiciness. The mid palate has depth of flavour the fruit ripe with mid sweetness yet at the back it is lighter black fruited leafy and herbal with a touch of spice on the long finish.

Syrah 2009**91 2012-16***Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

Damsons dominate the nose and black plums are to the fore on the palate. White pepper gives a lovely spicy twist to the nose and is there on the finish. Although the mid palate is slightly lighter more red fruit in character the ripeness of the fruit gives more weight on the finish.

Syrah 2010 in American oak**92-95 2013-18***Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

There is a lot happening on the nose with red fruits tending to dominate at first but behind is bramble adding to the complexity. The nose has the spice of white pepper with more of a black pepper spiciness coming through at the back. The fruit is ripe giving richness in the middle the sweetness nicely balanced by the fresher red fruits that lie beneath all very complex.

Syrah 2011 in tank**93-95 2014-20***Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

Although the nose seems to have more black fruits than red there is freshness at the back. The fruit is ripe giving richness a seductive powerful mix of flavours on the start of and in the mid palate. Towards the back there is freshness more red fruits showing and lots of black pepper spicing up the finish.

Syrah 2012 from cask new American oak**92-94 2015-22***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The nose has lots of concentrated flavours a brooding power and the palate has richness and depth. The fruit is ripe sweet in the middle yet there is a red fruited freshness at the back slightly lighter on the finish with lots of spice and black pepper.

Syrah 2013 from cask new American oak**92-94 2016-22***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

The red fruits on the nose are fresh the start of the palate youthful bright with raspberry and redcurrant. The mid palate has more depth rich flavours sweet fruited the red fruits underpinned by bramble. Rich on the back palate yet the finisher is lighter fresh with length of flavour.

- Ten Barrels Syrah 2008** **87** **2011-14**
Tasted at Bovin February 2011
 The nose is quite serious very black fruit in character. The sweetness that shows on the palate is very soon overtaken by red fruited freshness and the hints of spice that linger on the finish
- Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012* **89** **2012-16**
 There is a good weight and depth of fruit on the nose more black fruit than red. The fruit feels ripe giving a fleshy richness on the start of the palate but behind all of the sweet flavours there is a red fruited freshness and the finish has the spice of black pepper.
- Ten Barrels Syrah 2010** **94** **2014-20**
Tasted at the winery April 2014
 The nose has red fruited freshness lovely and bright and the start of the palate is quite light with a mix of black and white pepper. It fills out in the middle still red fruited but the fruit sweet layers of flavour lots of complexity. At the back there is a nice balance between richness and lighter elegance with hints of spice on the finish.
- Ten Barrels Syrah 2011 from vat** **93** **2014-21**
Tasted at the winery April 2014
 Fresh on the nose with a mix of fragrant red fruits the start of the palate is quite firm but it opens up in the middle with the richness of ripe fruit. The mid palate has layers of flavour freshness yet sweetness a nice complexity black pepper giving a touch of spice on the finish.
- Vranec 2008** **87** **2011-15**
Tasted at Bovin February 2011
 The freshness of red fruits gives brightness and spice. Richer sweeter fruits give some flesh in the middle black fruits vying with red fruits for dominance. Towards the back the oak shows rather overtaking the fruit.
- Vranec 2011 from tank** **93-96** **2014-20**
Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012
 Although the nose is a bit closed there is a mix of red fruits showing slightly herbal and spicy. The fruit mix on the palate gives complexity with the red fruits appearing to dominate at first but there are black fruits in evidence slightly richer than the red. The freshness towards the back brings out the flavours.
- Vranec 2012 from cask new American oak** **92-96** **2015-22**
Tasted at the winery April 2014
 The nose has lots of rich fruit and the start of the palate has depth rich flavours. The mid palate is a bit closed at the moment the tannins quite firm but at the back there is power a brooding richness with the sour cherry so typical of the grape giving excitement on the finish.
- Terroir Vranec 2011** **97** **2014-24**
Tasted at the winery April 2014

Herbal and spicy quite fresh and red fruited on the nose the palate is richer with sweet fruit a mix of black and red fruits. The mid palate is lush sensuous fleshy supple the tannins rounded giving support but ripe. All is in harmony a great balance between richness and freshness with just a hint of bitter cherry exciting the finish.

Montepulciano 2009**91 2012-17***Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

The nose has a fleshy chocolate richness with lots of rich ripe fruits. The palate is chunky with fleshy ripe fruit and cocoa the mix of black and red fruits giving complexity. Tannins and fruit feel ripe enriching mid and back palate the sweetness well balanced by the freshness that is there at the back.

Montepulciano 2011**93 2014-18***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Red and black fruits intermingle on the nose with layers of flavour on the palate. The mid palate is rich ripe fruited chocolaty fleshy and supple. The sweet fruit is supported by freshness yet the back palate is rich and ripe fruited with some fresh reds fruits coming through on the finish.

Montepulciano 2013 from tank**92-94 2015-20***Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Bramble fresh on the nose the start of the palate has a mix of red and black fruits. There is more depth in the middle fleshy richness lots of cocoa and chocolate. Behind all of the richness there is some red cherry freshness a hint of exciting bitterness but the finish has power and depth of flavour.

Winemakers Selection 2009**91 2012-18*****Sangiovese 50% Cabernet Sauvignon 30% Cabernet Franc 20%****Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

Sangiovese features strongly on the nose very red cherry in character but behind this there is a black fruited richness with lots of blackcurrant. The mid palate is sweet with ripe fruit supple and rounded tannins yet there is a good supporting structure. The layers of flavour give complexity and towards the back there is an attractive herbal green leafiness.

Winemakers Selection 2011**93 2014-19*****Carmènère 78% Sangiovese 15% Cabernet Sauvignon 7%****Tasted at the winery April 2014*

Peppery and spicy the nose has a red fruited freshness and although the start of the palate is fresh the mid palate is fleshy sweet fruited with cassis and black cherry. The tannins give a backbone supporting the fruit the richness at the back giving way to lighter fresher flavours with just a hint of tobacco.

Sweet White Wines

Temjanika 2008 Selected Late Harvest 93 2011-17*Tasted at the Kamnik Winery February 2012*

Ripe peaches and apricots fill out the nose backed by spice and exotic perfume. The fruit on the mid palate is sweet yet there is freshness underneath hints of citrus and this balances bringing out the floral character and the perfumed spice. Although sweet it has an appealing elegance and length.

Pamela Winery
Tikvesh Wine District

Red Wines

Zoreno Micev built up the Pamela Imperium, gas station and hotel sited as you enter Negotino from the highway all that was missing from the complex was a winery. In 2011 this was added and is now in production buying in grapes from the surrounding area.

Pinot Noir 2010 84 2012-15*Tasted in Negotino February 2012*

The nose is very fresh with red fruits to the fore. The mid acidity is quite high with a hint of herbal greenness behind the red fruited mix. The finish is quite short.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 83 2012-15*Tasted in Negotino February 2012*

The minty cassis on the nose is backed by herbal freshness. There is not a great weight of fruit on the palate a lack of sweetness and the tannins that show towards the back are slightly green and the acidity on the finish quite high.

Vranec 2010 83 2012-15*Tasted in Negotino February 2012*

The red cherry and raspberry that feature on the nose are very fresh and the red fruited acidity is very much in evidence on the start of the palate. The mid palate lacks generosity and the back palate is tight with some green slightly bitter flavours.

Pivka
Tikvesh Wine District

Established in 2002 by Pane Andov and his son Kire the winery has a 300,000 litre capacity. A third of the grapes come from their own vines with the rest bought from 12 different producers. Their oenologist works closely with the growers in order to achieve quality fruit.

White Wines

Traminac 2008**84**

The nose is very fat and perfumed. Rich fat fruit fills out the palate it is all a bit heavy and sweet lacking the acidity to balance it. The perfume of the grape does not really show on the finish

Red Wines**Merlot 2005****84**

There is the whiff of oxidation; it is beginning to show lots of maturity. The fruit on the palate is sweet, black plum not that complex but some weight on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2005**87**

There is an attractive mix of fruits on the nose more black fruits in evidence than red. The tannins feel quite ripe allowing the fruit sweetness to show. The back palate is just a touch jammy and lacking structure.

**Popov Winery
Tikvesh Wine District**

This family winery in Sopot was established in 2001 with 5 hectares. Over the past few years there has been investment in the winery and vineyards with now 45 hectares in production. The winery prides itself on a blend of modern technology and traditional techniques.

Sparkling Wines**Sparkling Wine 2011 (No dosage)****88***Tasted at the Winery April 2014*

The nose is fresh the palate crisp with a lime and lemon mix. There are some richer flavours in the middle grapefruit but the finish is racy and lime fresh.

White Wines**Smolnik Sauvignon Blanc 2012****88****2014-16***Tasted at the Winery April 2014*

The nose has more depth the palate broader with a mix of tropical fruits. Fleshier in the middle there is a slight lack of the lime freshness and although lighter and crisper at the back the finish is full of tropical fruits.

Smolnik Sauvignon Blanc 2013**90****2014-17***Tasted at the Winery April 2014*

Citrusy and mineral fresh the nose is light fragrant and the start of the palate is crisp and crunchy. There are some sweeter fruits on the mid palate a hint of tropical fruit but at the back the citrus refreshes.

- Smolnik Chardonnay 2013** 90 2014-17
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
The nose is light fresh fruited floral and the start of the palate has apple freshness. There are richer fruits in the middle fleshy melon but the back palate and finish are bright with fresh fruit a lovely balance.
- Smolnik Chardonnay Reserve 2012 (Barrel fermented)** 91 2014-18
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
There is a pineapple richness on the nose the palate has breadth of flavour with the richer fruited refreshed by citrus and apple. The back palate seems quite firm but it is sweeter at the back with citrus freshness on the finish.
- Chardonnay Reserve 2012 from cask** 90 2014-18
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
The nose is broad the palate melon rich lots of mid flesh and fruit sweetness. Under the rich fruit lime and apple refresh giving a lighter feel on the back palate and bringing out a hint of oak on the finish.
- Pinot Gris 2013** 91 2014-18
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
Smoky and mineral there is a lot happening on the nose and the start of the palate is fresh. A hint of tropical fruit gives a richer feel to the mid palate but at the back it is lighter fragrant with flint and shale giving freshness on the finish.
- Temjanika (Muscat 2012) from tank** 90 2014-17
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
There is less of an exotic freshness more depth richer sweeter tropical fruit. Some lime on the mid palate does refresh and balance but the sweeter flavours give breadth and depth on the finish.
- Temjanika (Muscat) 2013** 91 2014-17
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
Spice oriental perfumes the nose has an exotic charm the palate fresh with dried fruits and spice. The back palate has a mix of fresh fruits quite light with the exotic mix spicing up the finish.
- Villa Luna Prestige 2013** 91 2014-18
Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc Traminer less than 5% Muscat
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
Despite the small percentage of Muscat the nose has a spicy oriental exotic charm. The palate is melon rich lighter at the back with citric freshness the hints of spice coming through on the finish.

Rosé Wines

Rosé 2013 89 2014-16

Pinot Gris

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

The fruit is sweet the nose fragrant but the palate rich fleshy with lots of wild strawberries. There is a balancing freshness at the back with a slate mineral finish.

Red Wines

Merlot 2009 88 2014-19

Aged in Macedonian oak

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

The nose has fleshy richness and the start of the palate has lots of black plums. It is firm in the middle a touch dry with oak showing on the back palate. There is a little more richness and depth on the finish.

Merlot 2011 from cask 91 2014-19

Aged in American oak

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

Rich on the nose the palate has depth with the sweetness of fleshy ripe black plums. The tannins feel ripe the mid palate is supple with lots of sweet ripe fruit giving fleshy richness at the back.

Merlot Reserve 2010 91 2014-21

Aged in Slavonian & Macedonian oak

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

The nose has a mix of fruits fresh red fruits with richer black and the palate has black plum sweetness balanced by bramble freshness. It fills out on the back palate fleshy supple the sweet fruit giving depth and richness on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 from cask 90 2014-20

Aged in Macedonian oak

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

The nose has a mix of black fruits with black cherry firmness and cassis and black plum sweetness. The mid richness has a balancing freshness bramble at the back but it finishes with depth and power.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 from cask 91 2015-20

Aged in American oak

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

The nose has bramble freshness yet the palate has more depth with cassis and black cherry. Whilst the tannins are firm they feel ripe the rich black fruits giving depth and weight at the back

- Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2010** 90 2015-20
Aged in Slavonian & Macedonian oak
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
Cassis on the nose is enhanced by some rich black fruits. The palate has depth of flavour the mix of black fruits backed by coffee and chocolate. There is enough bramble and bilberry to refresh to balance and slightly lighten the finish.
- Grand Cuvée Reserve 2007** 91 2014-20
Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Vranec
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
Intense and spicy on the nose the palate has a powerful mix of flavours the black fruits underpinned by bitter cherry. The tannins are firm but ripe the sweet fruit giving richness on the back palate but it finishes lighter fresher with an exciting bitter cherry character.
- Blend 2010 from cask** 91 2014-20
Aged in Macedonian oak
Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Merlot Vranec
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
Rich on the nose the start of the palate has black fruited depth the mid sweetness underpinned by bramble and bilberry freshness. The tannins are firm but not aggressive there are some rich black fruits at the back yet behind them a hint of bitter red cherry.
- Blend 2011 from cask** 92 2015-22
Aged in American oak
Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Vranec
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
The nose has depth the palate black fruited power. Cassis is very dominant but at the back there is herbal leafiness the cassis and black cherry mix underpinned by some bitter red cherry. Layers of flavour give complexity ripe cassis enriching the back palate.
- Cuvée Prestige 2011** 92 2014-22
Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Vranec
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
Bramble freshness on the nose the palate has black fruited richness and depth. Black cherry and cassis fill out the mid palate the back palate fleshy and sweet yet under this there is freshness a lighter feel with hints of spice and bitter cherry coming through on the finish.
- Vranec 2010 from cask** 91 2015-23
Aged in Macedonian oak
Tasted at the Winery April 2014
There are lots of concentrated flavours on the nose and black fruited power on the palate. Under the black fruits dark chocolate and liquorice enrich with the back palate refreshed by some bitter red cherry yet it finishes with fruit sweetness.

Vranec 2011 from cask 92 2016-24
Aged in American oak

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

The nose has a spicy excitement some herbal black fruits quite fresh yet the palate is sweeter rich flavours depth with coffee beans and chocolate. The sweetness on the mid palate is balanced by freshness at the back.

Vranec Reserve 2010 91 2014-22

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

Herbal and spicy the nose has a strong red fruited character. The palate is sweet fruited a mix of black fruits with chocolate richness in the middle. At the back it feels lighter fresher herbal spicy and red fruited.

Sweet Red Wines

Vranec Late Harvest 2012 94 2015-28

Aged in Macedonian oak

Tasted at the Winery April 2014

Lush rich ripe fruit the nose is sweet and the palate has a mass of rich flavours power concentrated richness. The sweet middle the chocolate richness is underpinned by fresher fruit a hint of bitterness with an explosion of different flavours on the finish.

Popova Kula Winery Tikvesh Wine District

The winery is sited on the slopes of Veliko Brdo (Grand Hill) close to the town of Demir Kapija which is on the edge of the Tikves Region. The winery is based in a wonderful old building and got its name from the Priest's Tower an important check point on the old Roman road. The tower and the main building have been beautifully restored and in addition to an excellent dining room there are a number of very well appointed bedrooms.

White Wines

Zilavka 2007 88 2008-11

Tasted at the winery February 2010

This exciting grape has the herbal freshness of green tea. Bitter sweet on the palate the lime is backed by sweeter greengage. Floral fragrances show towards the back and the finish has green pepper spiciness.

Zilavka 2010 89 2011-12

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The nose is a mix of grapefruit and green tea. The freshness of lime is backed by the fullness of grapefruit and pineapple. The back palate has a hint of a herbal spice and the flavours are quite long.

Zilavka 2013 **88** **2015-17**

Tasted in Lincoln's Inn July 2015

Bright fresh with a strong citrus character the start of the palate is firm the mid palate slightly richer with a hint of tropical fruits. Bright at the back the finish is fresh just a bit short.

Sauvignon Blanc 2006 **86** **2007-10**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The nose is full more tropical fruit in character than gooseberry. Ripe fleshy fruit lends weight to the mid palate with a mix of peach and apricot backed by slightly fresher tropical fruits showing on the finish..

Sauvignon Blanc 2008 **88** **2008-12**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The crispness of gooseberry is backed by floral topical fruits. Racy and fresh at the start of the palate there is more sweetness on the middle white peach and apricot. Apple freshness lengthens the flavours on the finish.

Chardonnay 2008 **87** **2009-12**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

Apple and greengage vie for dominance on the nose with the freshness of the apple giving crispness on the start of the palate. Greengage is there on the mid palate filling it out giving more weight but the apple citrus freshness wins through crisping up the finish.

Chardonnay 2010 **87** **2011-13**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The nose has a mix of fresh fruits with apple very much to the fore. There is some sweeter fruit on the palate more melon in character but it does not carry through leaving the back palate rather lacking in richness of flavour.

Muscat 2010 **88** **2011-13**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

Summer flowers and spice are very much in evidence on the nose and the perfumed flavours are there on the palate. There is some sweet fruit underpinned by freshness lots of fragrances towards the back but the finish is rather spoilt by the alcohol being too evident.

Muscat Ottonel 2008 **88** **2009-12**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The perfume leaps out of the glass, lots of floral tropical fruits. Grapefruit freshness balances the sweeter flavours and the spicy perfumed fruit lingers on the finish.

Temjanika 2007**89 2008-12****Muscat Frontignan***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The perfume of white peach is there on the nose, mandarin fruits and a slight nuttiness. The fruit on the palate is sweet, dried fruits backed by fresh tangerine. The sweetness and freshness are well balanced, the flavours linger making this a fascinating grape variety – a possible candidate for blue cheese.

Temjanika 2007 Demi-Sec**87 2008-10***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

Dried fruits fill out the nose with more of a white peach apricot richness on the palate. The sweetness tends to hide the more delicate flavours and there is not quite enough freshness to balance the sweetness.

Rosé Wines**Stanushina 2009****88 2010-11***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The nose has the fragrance of rose petals overlaying a fresh fruit salad of red fruits. Strawberry and redcurrant are there backed by rosehips. The back palate is very fragrant and fresh.

Stanushina 2010**88 2010-11***Tasted at the winery February 2011*

The nose has an attractive mix of flavours roses backed by raspberry and wild strawberry. The freshness on the palate brings out the aromas and there is on the finish a fruit salad of red fruits.

Red Wines**Stanushina 2005****86 2006-10***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The nose is light cherry stone in character. More fruit does show in the middle and although there are fragrances towards the back there is a dryness that stops full fruit expression.

Stanushina 2007**87 2006-10***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

Rose hips are the predominant character on the nose and although they are in evidence on the palate red cherry and wild strawberry come through and rather dominate. The mix of flavours has real interest held back a bit by the firmness on the finish.

Merlot 2005**89 2007-11***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The damsons that show on the nose feel ripe giving richness. On the palate there is a good weight of fruit at the start all very dark plum but towards the back the tannins show through not aggressive but quite firm. There is a mix on the finish, the freshness of red cherries backed by a coffee maturity.

Merlot 2007 **85** **2011-13**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

The fruit on the nose has a high acidity all very red plum. The richness of flavour on the start of the palate is soon overtaken by a stinky green character, the tannins feel aggressive and the finish is drying with too much oak in evidence.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 **86** **2007-11**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

Although there is sweetness to the cassis and sloe mix on the nose and the start of the palate the tannins emerge, all quite structured and hold back the fruit sweetness and expression on the finish.

Tasted at the winery February 2011 **87** **2011-12**

Vanilla and cocoa beans overlay the mix of black fruits. At first the sweetness of the fruit enriches the palate but the tannins tend to overtake the fruit their firmness holding back expression and drying the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 **87** **2011-14**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The nose is very blackcurrant driven and this cassis richness fleshes out the start of the palate. The tannins feel ripe helping the richness but towards the back the acidity becomes more obvious rather overpowering the fruit and giving hardness, hollowness on the finish.

Vranec 2006 **87** **2008-11**

Tasted at the winery February 2010

The nose has lots of attractive spice enlivening the red cherry and red currant. Sweet more black fruit flavours show in the middle giving richness. The tannins are firm tending to dry the finish.

Vranec 2010 **86** **2011-14**

Tasted at the winery February 2011

There is a lot of red and black fruit on the nose all backed by a touch of spice. The tannins are all too much in evidence on the palate quite green and aggressive overpowering the fruit on the back palate.

Vranec Reserve 2011 **87** **2015-18**

Tasted in Lincoln's Inn July 2015

There seems to be a lack of obvious fruit on the nose the start of the palate firm with bitter cherry. The obvious tannins tend to dry the mid palate and although sweeter at the back the finish is firm and dry lacking richness.

Prokupac 2007**90 2009-15***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The mix of fruits on the nose is lovely and complex leaning more to black than red. Blackberry features strongly, backed by black cherry and refreshed by bilberry. The mid palate has weight of fruit, layers of flavour giving complexity with right at the back the nuttiness of almonds.

Perfect Choice Vranec 2005**89 2008-11***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

There is a powerful mix of flavours on the nose more red fruit in character than black. Fresh red cherry comes through at first on the palate with under this is some red plum; a touch of vanilla towards the back adds spice. A hint of maturity shows on the finish.

Perfect Choice Cabernet Sauvignon 2005**90 2008-13***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

There is a mature feel to the cassis and sloe on the nose, hints of cedar wood. Ripe blackcurrant and blackberry lend weight to the mid palate with the ripeness of the tannins helping to flesh out the finish.

Perfect Choice Merlot 2007**88 2008-12***Tasted at the winery February 2010*

The damson on the nose is rather overwhelmed by vanilla and this spiciness tends to dominate the palate. Towards the back the fruit becomes more dominant, black plum and cherry filling out the finish.

Derek Smedley MW