



Azerbaijan

By Derek Smedley MW

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Tasting notes from the following growers:

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Azerbaijan

Date & place of tasting in italics

Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath

Firelands Vineyards

Baku

Absheron District

White Wines

Rkatsiteli 2011**88 2014-17**

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

Fresh on the nose quite citrusy slightly herbal but the palate is richer the fruit sweet slightly honeyed. At the back the fresh fruits show a citrus mix with a herbal twist to the finish.

Chardonnay 2012**90 2014-18**

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

The nose has apple freshness and the start of the palate is light and crisp. Greengage gives mid richness a nice depth of fruit quite full at the back some honeydew melon the finish though is fresher with crisp apple.

Viognier 2012**87 2014-17**

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

The peach apricot mix gives depth and richness on the nose and flesh on the start of the palate. There is mid freshness and the back palate is light fresh just lacking a bit of fruit depth on the finish.

Ilkim 2011**88 2014-15**

Rkatsiteli Viognier Vermentino

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

The nose is fresh the palate starts with firm acidity but it fills out in the middle peachy some tropical fruits. Quite full at the back the finish has depth but is just beginning to tire.

Red Wines

Madrasa 2011**91 2014-18**

Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014

Firm on the nose very black fruit in character the start of the palate has lots of powerful flavours. The mid palate is very fruity underpinned by firm but ripe feeling tannins and the finish has depth and black fruited richness.

Pinot Noir 2011**90 2014-19***Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014*

The fruit is fresh the nose quite light and the palate has a strawberry and red cherry mix. The mid palate is sweeter richer and although sweet fruited at the back the finish is light and fresh with nice length.

Saperavi 2011**91 2014-21***Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014*

Spicy on the nose with a mix of red and black fruits the palate is rich with a nice depth of flavour. The powerful mix is underpinned by lighter bramble and red fruits that give a lighter feel at the back and bring out white pepper spice on the finish.

Saperavi 2013**87 2014-18*****Maceration Carbonique****Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014*

The fruit mix is fresh at the start sweeter in the middle pleasant easy just lacking a bit of complexity. Sweet at the back with fresher red fruits coming through on the finish

Shiraz 2012**89 2014-19**

Red fruited on the nose peppery and spicy. The start of the palate is quite fresh redcurrant and cherry but the mid palate has more depth rich sweeter flavours the finish though is lighter quite long with lots of black pepper.

Yalli 2011**92 2014-21*****Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Madrasa Petit Verdot****Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014*

The nose has a mix of fruits lots of cassis with some fresher bramble. The palate is rich ripe and fleshy the sweet fruit supported by a firm tannic structure but not aggressive the rich mix of flavours fills out the back palate and gives depth on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2012**91 2014-21***Tasted at the LWF Olympia June 2014*

Black fruits dominate the nose packed with blackcurrant and black cherry. Sweet ripe fruit gives a fleshy richness in the middle the black fruited mix underpinned by dark chocolate with the depth of flavour giving richness on the finish.

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