

# Wine Blog according to Grumps! January 2017.

(aka Peter due to his TripAdvisor Replies)

We have been asked many times to persuade good old Grumps to delve into the world of wine and get him to share his thoughts. What he didn't want to do was just to drone on about his favourites as that has been, and is being done, by so many people over the years so here is his take.

Hello everybody. Wine bores are everywhere and it is an area where a little knowledge can go a long way so you can join this merry band!

I started my quest as an antidote to the daily grind of work and undertook a City and Guilds course on wine appreciation. Our tutor was an amazing guy who attempted to demystify what the wine bores say, by categorising wines by grape variety rather than by posh sounding names. Something I have done in my own list at Lovelady Shield.

Secondly, he took us on an adventure trip, attempting to find modestly priced wines that mimicked those very expensive ones. Something he achieved with remarkable success. This made Tuesday nights something of a highlight. Again this is something I have carried on into my own list. Yes, you can pay an awful lot of money and buy a Chateaneuf du Pape (there I go being posh already!) or, from the same producer, you can have one of his entry wines, which, although not quite the same, comes at a very affordable price. Now I wonder why he drinks it as his everyday wine? Eventually I want to share a few tips on how you can drink quality wine at affordable prices.

But before we start down this road I want you to consider things such as why do you taste wine? Do you ever send it back and for what reason? What is corked wine? Does the advent of screw tops prevent this and if so why are we still going through this ritual?

What is the role of the sommelier? Does he help, or is he a towering intimidating snob who is out to make you buy a more expensive bottle?

Why are wines so expensive in restaurants and why is it I can buy the same stuff in supermarkets only cheaper? After all they get so many Bronze, Silver and Gold awards that their products must be good mustn't they? And how can those cheaper discounters give us wine and champagne at those prices? They must be rubbish.....or are they?

And whilst on this subject how on earth do I choose a wine in a supermarket with all that choice. You see they are part of the problem too.

So before he starts talking about wines, Grumps has an awful lot of basic questions to answer.

If this is for you let him know on our Facebook page and we'll get him to explain a few things next time - otherwise we will have to let him carry on moaning!

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