Est. 2019

Wine 101: Balkans

McGill Wine Society



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Land Acknowledgement

The Wine Society and SSMU operates as part of McGill University, which is located on the unceded territories of Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe nations, which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange. The SSMU recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which it is located. It is the responsibility of settlers to work to understand and fight against the ways in which colonial violence manifests in all facets of life, including but not limited to, uplifting and amplifying Indigenous voices.

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Your Wine Society



Graham
Co-President



Charlotte
Co-President



Nicole
VP Finance



Anya
VP Internal



Benji
VP IT



Nolan
VP Oenology



Valerie
VP Oenology



Davis
VP Comps



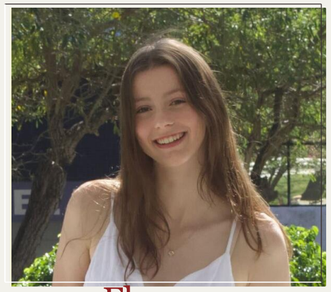
Daphne
VP Events



Finn
VP Events



Annie
First Year Rep



Florence
First Year Rep



Phillipe
VP External



Kate
Dir. of Comms



Francesco
Dir. of Comms

Balkan Terroir

- The Balkan Peninsula
- A very wide variety of climates (Mediterranean to Continental) and soil types (rocky to volcanic to limestone to clay silt)
- Wines produced use predominantly indigenous grapes
- Typical white wines are mineral-driven and crisp
- Typical red wines are fruity, earthy, and tannic







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Balkan Grapes

- A wide variety of both indigenous and imported grapes
- Indigenous grapes make some of the most interesting wines of the Balkans
- Zinfandel/Primitivo has its origins in Croatia, known as Crljenak Kaštelanski
- Greece: Xinomavro, Assyrtiko, Malagousia
- Romania + Moldova: Fetească Neagră
- Serbia: Vranac









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Tasting Tips

- Hold your glass by the stem as to not alter the temperature of your wine
- Cheers bowl-to-bowl to limit breakage
- Swirl your wine to open up more aromas for a better smelling/tasting experience
- After smelling your wine, take a big enough sip to cover your palate with the wine
- Swallow or spit your wine, think about what you tasted!
- Was it fruity? Spicy? Minerally? Talk about it!

1. 

2. 

3. 

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Romania

- Climate: Continental
- Soil: Limestone and Marl (Clay)
- 6th largest global producer of wine
- 7 major wine regions
- 37 DOCs
- Around 120 grape varieties
- Around 30 indigenous grapes
- Around 200 000 hectares of vineyard









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Wine No. 1 - Overview

: Karakter Aurelia Visinescu Sauvignon

: Sauvignon Blanc

: 2021

: Dealu Mare (Region)

: Romania



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Wine No. 1 - Slido

Join the Slido with the link or QR code to share your tasting notes!

https://app.sli.do/event/35sPJ2JeXX2JSP9QsMP6HT #2665522

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Wine No. 1 - Specifics

: Price: 19,35$

: Sugar: 2,4 g/L

: Alcohol: 13,5%

: Smoked trout, salmon carpaccio

: Grass, lime, bell pepper, white flowers



https://www.saq.com/fr/14982455

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Wine No. 1 - Vivino

What does this wine taste like?

Light	Bold
Dry	Sweet
Soft	Acidic

- **Gooseberry, hay, straw**
  14 mentions of vegetal notes
- **Lime, citrus, lemon**
  11 mentions of citrus notes
- **Mango, pineapple, tropi...**
  11 mentions of tropical notes
- **Apple, apricot, fresh g...**
  5 mentions of tree fruit notes
- **Honey, minerals**
  4 mentions of earthy notes
- **Elderflower**
  1 mentions of floral notes
- **Nutty**
  1 mentions of ageing notes



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Moldova

- Climate: Continental
- Soil: Limestone, sand, gravel
- 70% of Moldovan wine is exported
- 3 major wine regions
- 37 DOCs
- Around 50 grape varieties
- Around 12 indigenous grapes
- Around 112 000 hectares of vineyard
- Highest vineyard to land ratio in the world









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Wine No. 2 - Overview

: Crama Regala Sauvignon Blanc

: Sauvignon Blanc

: Non-Vintage

: Valul lui Tralan (Region) (Non-IGP)

: Moldova



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Wine No. 2 - Slido

Join the Slido with the link or QR code to share your tasting notes!

https://app.sli.do/event/35sPJ2JeXX2JSP9QsMP6HT #2665522

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Wine No. 2 - Specifics

: Price: 9,75$

: Sugar: 4,3 g/L

: Alcohol: 12,5%

: Sushi, oysters

: Green apple, white flowers, grass



https://www.saq.com/fr/13182018

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Wine No. 2 - Vivino

Green apple, melon, app...
21 mentions of tree fruit notes

Citrus, lime, lemon
12 mentions of citrus notes

Grass
3 mentions of vegetal notes

Pineapple
1 mentions of tropical notes

Minerals
1 mentions of earthy notes



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Greece

- Climate: Mediterranean
- Soil: Limestone, sand, clay, volcanic
- One of the cradles of viticulture
- 8 major wine regions
- 33 DOCs
- Around 350 grape varieties
- Around 300 indigenous grapes
- Around 105 000 hectares of vineyard
- Phylloxera never reached some of the volcanic islands of Greece







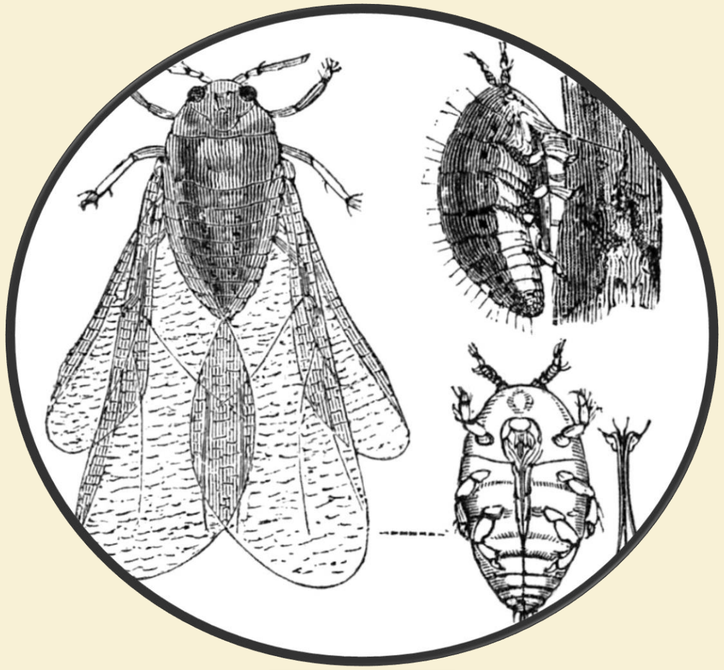


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Phylloxera

- Aphid-like insect
- “Plague” between mid-late 19th Century
- Caused a major blight to wine grapes
- Killed a majority of European grapevines
- Forced the grafting of European *Vitis vinifera* to North American *Vitis labrusca* and *rupestris*
- Almost all vines today come from grafts
- Greek Assyrtiko is one of the only naturally Phylloxera resistant grapes







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Wine No. 3 - Overview

: Domaine Papagiannakos Kalogeri

: Malagousia

: 2024

: Sterea Ellada (Region)

: Greece



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Wine No. 3 - Slido

Join the Slido with the link or QR code to share your tasting notes!

https://app.sli.do/event/35sPJ2JeXX2JSP9QsMP6HT #2665522

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Wine No. 3 - Specifics

: Price: 22,85$

: Sugar: 1,5 g/L

: Alcohol: 12,5%

: Siu mai, shrimp cocktail

: Apricot, citrus, honey, dried flowers



https://www.saq.com/fr/13110401

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Wine No. 3 - Vivino

What does this wine taste like?

Light	Bold
Dry	Sweet
Soft	Acidic

Peach, melon, apricot
156 mentions of tree fruit notes

Citrus, grapefruit, lem...
104 mentions of citrus notes

Minerals, honey, stone
76 mentions of earthy notes

Pineapple, tropical, pa...
45 mentions of tropical notes

Butter, oak, nutmeg
11 mentions of oaky notes

Honeysuckle, jasmine, a...
9 mentions of floral notes

Straw, asparagus, bitte...
8 mentions of vegetal notes



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Malagousia

- A very notable ancient Greek grape
- Was brought to near extinction
- Re-discovered in 1970s
- Widely planted today
- Highly aromatic and delicate





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Wine No. 4 - Overview

: Domaine Thymiopoulos Jeunes Vignes de Xinomavro

: Xinomavro

: 2024

: Macedonia (Region)

: Greece



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Wine No. 4 – Slido **Different Slido Link

Join the Slido with the link or QR code to share your tasting notes!

https://app.sli.do/event/dYeWg7HiC96RFDFtBg5ZQL #2521540

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Wine No. 4 - Specifics

: Price: 21,45$

: Sugar: 1,9 g/L

: Alcohol: 13,0%

: Chorizo, lamb burgers, lamb chops

: Apricot, citrus, honey, dried flowers



https://www.saq.com/fr/12212220

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Wine No. 4 - Vivino

What does this wine taste like?

Light	Bold
Smooth	Tannic
Dry	Sweet
Soft	Acidic

- Strawberry, cherry, red...
  1230 mentions of red fruit notes
- Earthy, leather, smoke
  520 mentions of earthy notes
- Pepper, licorice, mint
  319 mentions of spices notes
- Oak, vanilla, tobacco
  249 mentions of oaky notes
- Plum, blackcurrant, bla...
  216 mentions of black fruit notes
- Tomato, tomato leaf, su...
  73 mentions of vegetal notes
- Violet, dried flowers, ...
  45 mentions of floral notes
- Fig, dried cranberry, d...
  21 mentions of dried fruit notes



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Questions? Come see us!

- Looking for more Balkan wine recommendations?
  - Something red and elegant? Try Château Purcari Merlot de Purcari (21,45$)
  - Something white and crisp? Try Kalogria Assyrtiko (20,55$)

Let us know what you think!





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Let us know what you think!





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Join us at our upcoming events:

Oct. 4. Wine Tour

Oct. 22. Oxidised Wine

Thank You!

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