

October 2025

'The Kitchen', was bursting at the seams as 21 members of the wine group gathered on a temperate evening to sample six wines chosen assiduously by today's presenter Jeff. The evening began with Jeff explaining the differences between Varietal and Variety wines, how implementation varies across the world and where in some cases it is not used at all.

We started with three whites:

1. Krasno Pinot Bianco, Slovenia, 13%, RRP £10.00, we paid £9
2. Lyrarakis Assyrtiko, Crete, 13%, RRP £14.00, we paid £10
3. Tbilvino Qvevris Rkatsiteli, Georgia, 12.5%, RRP £14, we paid £12.50

Voting was 15, 6, 0; the clear winner being the Krasno, It is very rare for a wine to receive nil points but it does happen occasionally. Wines were purchased from Majestic.



Next the reds:

1. Sorcova Pinot Noir, Romania, 13%, we paid £9
2. Lentsch Zweigelt, Austria, 12.5%, we paid £10
3. The Ned Pinot Noir, New Zealand, 13.5%, we paid £10.50

The three wines were tasted blind, two were from the same grape but from different countries; we had to state which two were the same grape variety. Interestingly this challenge failed miserably as only three people got it right, wines were 1 and 3.

The Voting was 10, 5, 6. Unusually for reds the cheapest proved to be the most popular.

All of the wines were purchased from Waitrose.

Once again, a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by one and all.

The difference between Varietal and Variety wine is explained along with a detailed wine write up on the Wine Group page.