

October 2026



Autumn is on the way and we thought the best way to beat the blues is for Monty to return and grace us with his wisdom and knowledge. A really good night – very nice wines and a talk delivered in a no-nonsense and informative style.

The theme was 'France vs The New World' – Monty explained why French wine was held in such high esteem but was being challenged by producers worldwide.

In a series of three blind tastings we sampled two wines of the same grape variety and had to decide which was French, which was the best and how much did they cost. Needless to say it was a mixed result!

As a group we don't normally spend so much on our wines but luckily Monty is in the trade and we got a decent discount!

The first comparison was:

Domaine Hamelin Chablis, Burgundy, France 12.5%, RRP £22

VS

Morande Vitus Unica Chardonnay, Casablanca Valley, Chile, 13.5%, RRP £19.25

Voting was 6 to 11

The second comparison was:

Henri de Villamont Bourgogne Pinot Noir 'Prestige', Burgundy, France, 13%, RRP £23

VS

Cloudline Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA, 13.5%, RRP £27.50

Voting was 12 to 5



The third comparison was:

Ferraton Pere & Fils Crozes-Hermitage, Rhone, France, 12.5%, RRP £22.80

VS

Du Toitskloof Shiraz, Western cape, South Africa, 14%, RRP £12.80

Voting was 3 to 14

A very informative and relaxed evening was had by one and all.