

As I write this, we are warned of temperatures hitting 40 C in the coming days and I must admit that even I am thinking of beer and cider for refreshment as opposed to wine. But such thoughts never last long and, in case you too will seek out some wine refreshment in the coming weeks, here are my picks from the latest Lidl Wine Tour which will be in store for 8 weeks from Thursday, July 28th.

Whites

- **Domaine des Deux Vallons Muscadet** - £6.49 – Textbook Muscadet, dry, crisp, fresh.....and ideal with mussels
- **Pouilly-Fumé** (£11.99) and **Sancerre** (£12.99) – Two well known Sauvignon-based Loire whites – can't go too far wrong although you may feel better value lies elsewhere.
- **Côtes du Rhône blanc** - £5.99 – Great to find a dry white with genuine flavour and character at this price point.
- **Gewurztraminer** - £8.99 – If you like Gewurz, I think you will like this – bold, richly flavoured, spicy and joyous.
- **Mâcon-Lugny** - £9.99 – not easy to find a white Burgundy under £10 these days, so this is most welcome and a pretty good example.

Reds

- **Morgon** - £8.99 – Excellent Cru Beaujolais, perfect summer drinking when lightly chilled – and structured enough to merit putting away another couple of bottles for the coming months.
- **Val de Salis Grenache Syrah Mourvèdre** - £7.49 – nice rounded southern French red, easy to drink on its own and ideal barbecue accompaniment.
- **Château Martin Saint Estèphe** - £9.99 – Good, traditional dry claret, ideal with lamb chops or Sunday roast.
- **Notre Dame Collioure** - £10.99 – I'm not quite sure how Lidl come to be selling one of France's rarest reds, but I am delighted they are! Seriously classy, worth being adventurous.
- **Tuffeau Saumur Cabernet Franc** - £6.99 – So pleased we have a Loire Valley red in this selection – light, dry, fragrant, perfect summer drinking.
- **Château Lary-Lacombe** - £8.99 – if you like full-bodied red Bordeaux, this is the one for you.

Rosé

Of the 3 rosés in the selection, my favourite is the **Vallée du Sud Languedoc Rosé** at £6.99 – dry, relatively full-bodied and an excellent food match.

Sparkling

Two decent Champagnes in the selection, but by far my favourite sparkling is the **Crémant de Loire Brut Rosé** at £9.99 – lovely, flavoursome rosé with a crisp, dry finish.

I don't normally comment on wines from the core wine range in Lidl here but think perhaps I should, not least because I think there are 3 that really stand out at present.

Crémant de Loire Brut - £8.49 – As the price of Champagne is rising fast, this looks better and better value. And tastes great. As does the **Arestel Cava** at £5.29, actually.

Mosel Riesling - £4.99 – Brilliant example of German Riesling, especially at the price – just like biting into a fresh apple and superbly refreshing.

Chianti Riserva - £5.99 – Excellent, authentic Chianti, far more complex than we have any right to expect at the price.

Stay thirsty.....and hydrated!

Richard