



# Russia

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By Derek Smedley MW

**Last Updated**

**6/7/2014**



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## Russia

*See date & place of tasting in italics*

Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath

## Crimea

**Golden Gorge Winery  
Balaclava**

**White Sparkling Wines**

**Golden Gorge Special Limited Edition NV** 87

*Pinot Noir Chardonnay Rhine Riesling*

*Tasted in Sebastopol August 2013*

The nose is fresh with lemon flowers and the palate has citrus crispness. There is a sweeter feel in the middle some tropical fruits with the green lime and herbal grass refreshing the finish.

**Rosé Sparkling Wines**

**Golden Gorge Special Limited Edition Rosé NV** 86

*Pinot Noir 100%*

*Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

The nose has a mix of red fruits with raspberry giving a fresh start to the palate. The mid palate is richer with more of a red cherry character but the finish is light and very fresh.

**Red Sparkling Wines**

**Golden Gorge Special Limited Edition Red NV** 85

*Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

The nose is black fruited slightly herbal with a mix of bramble and black cherry. The start of the palate is fresh the red fruits supported by quite obvious tannins and although towards the back it feels sweeter it finishes with bitter black cherries.

**Inkerman Winery  
Sevastopol**

**White Wines**

**Château Blanc White Semi Dry 2011** 86 2013-15

*Aligoté Sauvignon Vert Rhine Riesling*

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

Spring and summer flowers abound a lovely fragrant floral nose with a light fresh start to the palate. The mid palate is sweet but there is an underlying freshness that gives a lighter feel towards the back and brings out the fragrances.

**Crimean Sauvignon 2010** 88 2013-15

***Sauvignon Vert***

*Tasted in Sevastopol August 2013*

Tropical fruits give depth of flavour on the nose and richness on the palate. Behind the sweet flavours there is lime and lemon freshness a lighter feel towards the back palate but the finish has some richness with tropical fruits filling out the finish.

**Wine Masters Selection Chardonnay 2011** 88 2013-16

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose has depth of fruit and the palate has rich greengage at the start but under the fuller flavours there is apple freshness. On the back palate melon and greengage enrich yet the finish has a racy freshness.

**Chardonnay 2012 (*Tasted from Tank*)** 93 2013-17

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose has real charm floral fragrant fresh fruited. The palate has some rich fruit ripe melon and greengage all underpinned by fresh apple. There is a lovely balance a lot of complexity sweetness yet freshness with the apple at the back giving brightness on the long finish.

**Wine Masters Selection Rkatsiteli 2010** 88 2013-15

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose is acacia scented fresh with herbal spiciness yet the palate is rich with depth of flavour. There is complexity grassy and herbal with some rich greengage and a hint of tropical fruit.

**Rkatsiteli 2012 (*Tasted from Tank*)** 93 2013-16

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose is vibrant fresh fruited with green limes slightly herbal a wonderful mix of flavours. The palate has mid richness slightly sweeter fruit yet towards the back there is leafy green lime freshness that gives the finish raciness, brightness and length.

**Muscat Kachinsky** 87 2013-15

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

There a lovely perfumed mix of fragrances on the nose with a touch of spice on the start of the palate. Sweet fruit fills out the mid palate yet it is fresher towards the back a slightly lighter feel with lots of exotic perfumes on the finish.

**Wine Masters Selection Muscat 2012** 89 2013-16

*Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

The nose is light with lots of floral fragrances and oriental perfumes with on the palate the sweeter tropical fruits refreshed by tangerine and lime. The finish has a perfumed eastern spiciness and nice length.

**Pinot Grigio 2012****91 2013-17***Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The slate mineral mix on the nose is very fresh a lovely mix of fragrances. Apple and citrus refresh the mid palate but there is sweetness towards the back richer flavours yet the finish has the raciness of the nose with slate and spice and a mix of citrus flavours.

**Rosé Wines****Wine Masters Selection Rose 2011****87 2013-15***Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

The fresh nose has a mix of bilberry and redcurrant. The palate starts with fragrance light flavours but there is more depth in the middle with some sweeter fruit but the finish is racy and crisp.

**Red Wines****Château Rouge Semi-Dry 2011****86 2013-17*****Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot & others****Tasted in Sebastopol August 2013*

Bramble and black cherry are rich ripe sweet and the palate has a supple fleshiness. There is freshness under the sweetness more of a bilberry and mulberry character and although the freshness is there on the back palate the finish is full of ripe flavours.

**Pinot Noir Semi Sweet 2012****87 2013-16***Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

It is very lush with fleshy ripeness and sweet ripe mulberry and black plum on the palate. The ripe fruit is balanced by mid freshness but the back palate is sweet fruited soft with lots of ripe mulberry.

**Wine Masters Selection Merlot 2011****89 2013-16***Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

Ripe black plums give richness on the nose and the feeling of fleshiness on the palate. There is a mid freshness red cherry and bramble and although lighter on the back palate the finish has fruit richness.

**Merlot Cabernet 2011****88 2013-17***Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

Cassis tends to dominate but there is freshness at the back more of a red cherry character. The tannins are rounded the mid palate has depth of flavour and although slightly lighter towards the back it finishes with a good weight of flavour

**Wine Masters Selection Saperavi 2011** **90** **2013-18**

*Tasted at the Winery August 2011*

The nose is rich with sweet fruit and the palate has ripe fruit all very red fruited in character. The sweetness of the fruit is balanced by red cherry freshness a slight bitterness and spiciness on the finish.

**Saperavi 2012 (Tasted from Tank)** **93** **2014-20**

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

Bramble is backed by red fruits the nose is vibrant and fresh. There are sweet fruits in the middle fine tannins a supple richness but towards the back it is racy with the freshness of bitter cherry.

**Kachinskoye Cabernet 2010** **91** **2013-20**

*Tasted at the Winery August 2010*

Black cherry gives richness fruit ripeness the sweetness and the layers of bramble and blackcurrant complexity. There is freshness towards the back more of a red fruit character the fruit supported by firm but fine tannins. The finish has good depth of flavour.

**Kachinskoye Cabernet 2011** **91** **2014-20**

*Tasted at the Winery August 2010*

There is a lot of fruit on the nose and a good depth of flavour on the start of the palate. Layers of black and red fruits give complexity supported by firm but ripe tannins. The back palate has richness but the finish is lighter with fresh bilberry and bramble.

**Wine Masters Selection Cabernet Sauvignon 2008** **90** **2013-18**

*Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

The nose is rich and there is depth of fruit on the palate. Firm black cherry and black olives are underpinned by bilberry freshness layers of flavour. The rich fruit the supple tannins give way to fresher flavours and the finish feels lighter.

**Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 (Tasted from Tank)** **92** **2014-20**

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose has a fragrant red fruited mix yet the palate is black fruit dominated with black cherries, cassis and damsons. The mid palate feels sweet and supple lovely ripe fruit and fine tannins but there is a balancing freshness more of a bilberry character on the back palate.

**Bastado Stariy Krym 2011** **89** **2013-18**

***Bastardo Magarachsky***

*Tasted in Katsively August 2013*



The mix of bramble and bilberry is fresh giving brightness on the nose and a fresh start to the palate. The mainly black fruits have herbal undertones freshness at the start yet sweeter in the middle with the richness giving weight and depth on the finish.

### Sweet Fortified White Wines

**Sevastopol 1994** 94 2013-22

***Rkatsiteli Sauvignon Riesling Kokur***

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose has charm a lovely mix of fragrances hints of sweetness. The palate is sweet lush generous with ripe fruit underpinned by freshness giving a youthful feel. Towards the back quince and melon enrich the sweetness balanced by freshness with lots of roasted nuts on the finish.

**Livadiya Winery**  
Yalta  
Owned by Massandra

### White Wines

**Aligoté 2009** 84 2013-14

*Tasted at the winery August 2013*

The nose is rich quite heavy with a hint of oxidation and the palate tends to lack freshness. Pears are backed by slightly fresher flavours but the finish is spoilt by nutty maturity.

**Aligoté Semi Sweet** 86 2013-14

*Tasted at the winery August 2013*

The nose is light fresh fruited yet the palate has a touch of sweetness ripe apple and a hint of tropical fruit. The back palate is fuller some nice fruit just lacking a bit of freshness.

### Red Wines

**Table Red Wine NV** 87 2013-15

***Cabernet Sauvignon Saperavi Merlot***

*Tasted at the winery August 2013*

The nose is redcurrant fresh quite light but the palate is richer with sweetness on the mid palate. Towards the back there is some bitter cherry with hints of hazel nuts quite light yet there is more depth of fruit on the finish.

### Dessert Wines

**Muscatel White** 91 2013-22

***White Muscat Albillo Sercial Verdelho***

*Tasted at the winery August 2013*

The nose has lots of fragrances peachy flavours spice and exotic perfumes. The palate is sweet quite rich tropical fruits and yellow peach but under the sweet fruit there is freshness that gives a lighter feel to the mid palate it finishes though with sweetness and richness of flavour.

**Your Highness Muscat** **92** **2013-24**  
**White Muscat 100%**

*Tasted at the winery August 2013*

There is a mix of perfumes, exotic spices and peachy apricot flavours on the nose and the start of the palate. The mid palate is sweet rich lots of ripe fruit but behind the sweetness tangerine and orange refresh bringing out oriental perfumes and spice on the finish.

**Muscatel Rose** **89** **2013-22**  
**Muscat Rose Cabernet Sauvignon Saperavi**

*Tasted at the winery August 2013*

The nose has delicate fragrances rose petals heady perfumes with a hint of spice. The start of the palate is sweet quite fleshy and rich but the mid palate is lighter fresher with just a hint of bitter cherry. It fills out at the back with ripe fruit peach and strawberry a hint of spice on the finish.

**Kagor South Coast** **93** **2013-22**  
**Saperavi 100%**

*Tasted at the winery August 2013*

The nose has lots of different flavours a mix of red cherry, bilberry and bramble lots of complexity. The sweetness of ripe fruit prunes and figs gives a rich feel to the start of the palate deep and lush but under this there is bitter cherry giving excitement and complexity.

**Fortified Red Wines**

**Port Wine** **89** **2013-22**  
**Saperavi Bastardo Cabernet Sauvignon**

*Tasted at the winery August 2013*

The nose is quite fresh black fruited lots of bramble and cassis but the fruit on the palate is sweet the mid palate rich fleshy full of flavour. It is fresher towards the back a hint of bitter cherry with more of a black fruit influence on the finish.

**Massandra**  
**Yalta**

**White Wines**

**Chardonnay NV (From bulk dispense)** **83** **2013**  
*Tasted in Yalta August 2013*

Heavy nose with apricots and pears and the palate is rather lacking in acidity. There is a slightly fresher feel on the back palate but the finish is a bit short and rather lacking in fruit.

**Kokour****92 2013-16***Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

A grape that has a fascinating mix of flavours on the nose chalk flowers, orange blossom and pine needles. The palate has depth of fruit with the richness of quince jam with a touch of lime bitterness at the back.

**Red Wines****Red Wine (From bulk dispense)****84 2013-15***Tasted in Yalta August 2013*

Nutty fresh red fruits are very much in evidence on both nose and palate. The mid palate is light fresh with a mix of black and red fruits yet towards the back it has a little more depth of flavour.

**Alushta Dry Red****91 2013-17*****Cabernet Sauvignon Saperavi Morastel Krasnostop Zolotovskiy Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy****Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose is cassis dominated with a nice depth of flavour and the richness gives depth on the palate. The tannins are fine well handled supporting but not aggressive and although black cherry richness is there at the back the finish is lighter fresh with more of a red cherry character.

**Saperavi****92 2013-18***Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose is fresh with a mix of red and black cherry a lovely underlying bitterness. There is a richer feel on the mid palate a mix of flavours layers of fruit with the bitter sweet mix giving lots of excitement on the finish.

**Cabernet Sauvignon****89 2013-20***Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

Bilberry and bramble give freshness on the nose and a light start to the palate. There is more of a red fruit influence on the mid palate adding to the freshness and although it fills out towards the back and there is a sweeter feel the finish is fresh fruited.

**Sherry Style****Oreandra Dry Sherry****92 2013-20*****Albillo Sercial Verdelho Aligoté****Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose has apple freshness with hints of Flor and the start of the palate is yeasty with an underlying walnut character. It fills out in the middle some sweet fruit but towards the back the salty freshness the hints of flor give lots of complexity.

**Massandra Sherry** 94 2013-28

***Albillo Sercial Verdelho Aligoté***

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose has a nutty richness and the palate is full of apricots and roasted nuts. There are layers of flavour a lovely balance of sweetness and dryness with a lot happening on the back palate richness of fruit mixed with almonds and walnuts.

#### Madeira Style

**Massandra Madeira** 95 2013-30

***Albillo Sercial Verdelho***

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The wine is made in a way similar to that used in Madeira the wine aged in large oak cask in the sun for five years. The nose has apricot and yellow peach richness and although the palate has depth and richness it is lighter towards the back with a fragrant almond and hazel nut charm. It fills out on the back palate and finishes with real depth.

**Massandra Madeira 1998** 96 2013-28

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

Roasted nuts almonds and walnuts are backed by apricots. The nose is fresh a complex mix of fragrances and the start of the palate quite rich with ripe apricots. The fruit on the mid palate is underpinned by roasted nuts a complex mix of fragrances that linger on the finish.

#### Dessert & Liqueur White Wines

**Ai-Danil Pinot Gris** 93 2013-24

*Tasting in Berkeley Square London July 2013*

The nose is rich with figs, dried fruits and apricots lots of different flavours. Ripe dates, figs and apricots are underpinned by the freshness of limes and tangerines lots of complexity. The sweetness of the fruit the honeyed richness fills out the back palate and finish.

**Surozh Kokour** 96 2013-30

***Kokour 100%***

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose has a honeyed richness with a mix of fragrances mountain flowers, hints of spice and pine needles. The palate is unctuous full of ripe melon caramelized pear and quince jam the honeyed richness underpinned by a hint of bitterness. The finish has depth sweet fruited nutty and rich.

**Lieutenant Golitzin** 95 2013-25

***Aligoté Kokour Rkatsiteli***

*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

There lots of different fragrances on the nose lots of spring flowers. The palate is quite delicate at first tropical fruits some white peach with richer apricot in the middle. There is mid sweetness richness yet the freshness with a mix of fragrances on the stylish elegant long finish.

**Seventh Heaven of Prince Golitzin** 96 2013-28  
***Kokour (10 – 60 year old) Muscat White (10 – 15 year old) Muscat Rose (10 – 15 year old)***  
*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

Spring flowers mountain flowers give lots of charm all backed by hints of oriental perfumes and spices. The palate is rich ripe fruited unctuous with white peach and apricot a touch of pear and quince. Under the sweetness the rich flavours there is citrus freshness giving a lighter feel at the back and bringing out hints of walnuts and spice.

**Red Stone White Muscat** 95 2013-28  
*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

Oriental spicy perfumes and rose petals overlay peach and apricot. The palate is sweet lush ripe fruited yet there is an underlying freshness coming from the mix of tangerines and oranges. The finish has heady exotic perfumes a spiciness fragrance that lingers on the finish.

### Port Style

**Livadia Red Port** 94 2013-30  
***Cabernet Sauvignon 100%***  
*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

The nose has richness and depth lots of black fruits with a strong cassis character. The mid palate is sweet ripe fruited fleshy with layers of blackcurrant and black plum. There is freshness some bitter bilberry that balances the sweetness yet the finish has richness depth and power.

### Sweet Red Wines

**Bastardo** 93 2013-25  
*Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

The nose is lush rich and sweet fruited with lots of ripe mulberry and coffee beans. There is a fleshy richness on the palate black plum and chocolate supple tannins an opulent mid palate. Towards the back bitter cherry dominates the sweeter flavours but the finish is lush ripe opulent.

**Kagor** 96 2013-30  
***Saperavi 100%***  
*Tasted at the Winery August 2013*

Although the mix of black and red cherry is sweet and ripe the nose has lots of spicy fragrances. The palate has richness depth opulence with lots of coffee, chocolate and prunes. Towards the back is it fresher with an exciting bitter cherry character and the finish although rich and sweet is spicy with hints of black pepper.

**Noviy Svet Winery  
Sudak Region****Sparkling Wines****Noviy Svet Brut 2008** 89 2013-17**Chardonnay Pinot Noir Rhine Riesling***Tasted in Katsively August 2013*

The nose has depth of flavour ripe melon and the palate is quite full with the richness of greengage. Under the rich fruit citrus and apple refresh and this gives brightness at the back yet the finish is fuller with richer flavours.

**Krasnodar Krai Region****Fangoria  
Temriuk Rayon**

The winery was founded in 1957 and lies in the heart of the Taman Peninsular the climate influenced by the winds from the nearby Black and Azov Seas. The estate covers some 2,500 hectares and is planted with a mix of classic and indigenous vines. The winery is state of the art.

**White Wines****NR Chardonnay 2011** 88 2012-15*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose is very fresh lots of lime and apple but the palate is fuller richer with greengage and ripe melon. The freshness at the back gives a lift to the finish.

**NR Riesling 2011** 87 2012-15*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

It is very light quite fragrant and fresh but slightly lacking depth of flavour. The mid palate is richer with grapefruit and melon but the fruit on the finish tends to fade.

**Rosé Wines****NR Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé 2011** 88 2012-14*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose has the fragrance of a summer rose bed and a raspberry freshness. The mid palate has a nice weight of red cherry but towards the back it is lighter and finishes with fresh fruit that brings out the fragrances.

### Red Wines

#### NR Saperavi 2009

90 2012-15

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

There is a lot happening on the nose with a spicy mix of hedgerow fruits. The mid palate is quite rich and sweet lots of black plum with fresher bramble showing towards the back.

#### NR Saperavi 2011

91 2012-16

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose has a spicy mix of flavours with bramble backed by fresher red cherry. The palate is wild quite exotic with a lovely mix of hedgerow fruits. The sweetness on the mid palate gives way to a fresher slightly firmer finish.

#### NR Pinot Noir 2008

86 2012-14

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose is beginning to show too much maturity a nutty slightly earthy character. Mulberry and some black cherry feature on the palate but the nutty maturity is tending to spoil the finish.

#### NR Cabernet Sauvignon 2010

88 2012-16

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

Both nose and palate is very cassis driven and as the fruit feels ripe it gives weight and richness on the mid palate. The tannins and the mix of black cherry and sloe give structure and firmness on the finish.

### Sweet Red Wines

#### Ledianoe Vino Saperavi 2010

89 2012-16

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose has the sweetness of late harvested grapes the sweetness enhanced by refrigerating the grapes so concentrating the sugar. The palate is bitter sweet rich ripe strawberry backed by bitter cherry a fruit salad of flavours. The finish has a very aromatic funky quality.

### Garage Winery Semigorie

**This boutique winery is in Semigorie near to Novorossiysk on the Black Sea. Some 24 hectares were planted by Guennadi Oparia and his wife Yulia and concentrate on Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Sauvignon Blanc and Rhine Riesling.**

## Red Wines

**Klyuch Zhizni Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 2010** 88 2012-17

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

There are a lot of powerful flavours on the nose all very black fruited. The palate is firm with slightly astringent tannins all a bit bitter sweet and towards the back there is a herbal hazel nut character that tends to overshadow the fruit.

**Château Le Grand Vostock  
Sadovy Village**

The winery which started in 2003 (first vintage 2004) has some 280 hectares sited in the foothills of the Caucasian Range in the Krymsky area of the Krasnodar Region. The up-to-date winery is based in Sadovy Village run by a team including Frank Duseigneur who trained in Bordeaux at such Château as Palmer as well as in the Rhône Valley. The vines planted range from international to indigenous varieties.

## White Wines

**Solo 2011** 89 2012-15

**Sauvignon Blanc 50% Pinot Blanc 50%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has lots of fresh limes with just a touch of gooseberry. The fruit on the palate is richer a mix of greengage and melon but the Sauvignon influence dominates towards the back leaving the finish lovely and crisp.

**Selection 2011** 90 2012-15

**Pinot Blanc 40% Aligoté 60%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is fresh, the start of the palate crisp with the richness of melon filling out the mid palate. Lime and apple give freshness on the back palate with the mix of flavours lingering on the finish.

**Cuvée Karsov 2010** 91 2012-15

**Sauvignon Blanc 95% Chardonnay 5%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Lime and apple is backed by minerals giving a lovely crispness on the nose and a fresh start to the palate. The mid palate has more weight slightly richer flavours with the lime mineral mix refreshing the finish and bringing out an aromatic quality.

**Le Chêne Royal 2010** 91 2012-15

**Chardonnay 80% Sauvignon 20%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*



Fleshy ripe melon gives richness and sweetness on both nose and palate. Behind the ripe flavours there is apple freshness balancing the richness then although the back palate has the freshness of the citrus and apple the finish is quite rich.

### Red Wines

#### Solo 2011

89 2012-17

***Cabernet Sauvignon 50% Merlot 50%***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The cabernet seems to dominate with lots of cassis in evidence and although the mid palate is quite rich with some sweet black plum towards the back red fruits come through and refresh. The finish though is very blackcurrant in character.

#### Cuvée Karsov 2010

92 2012-18

***Merlot 25% Cabernet Franc 35% Cabernet Sauvignon 40%***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has the sweetness of ripe fruit plums and black cherries. The freshness on the mid palate is still very black fruit in character bilberry and bramble both backed by herbal spiciness. There are layers of flavour giving complexity and lots of different flavours on the finish.

#### Le Chêne Royal 2010

93 2012-18

***Krasnopstop 65% Cabernet Franc 35%***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has lots of complexity bramble and sloe herbal spicy freshness yet richness of flavour. The fruit on the palate is lush fleshy black fruited, dark chocolate and cocoa but towards the back the fresher fruits come to the fore balancing the richness and helping to emphasis the herbal spices.

**Tasted at the winery from cask & tank – November 2012**

### White Wines

#### Sauvignon Blanc 2011

91 2012-15

The nose has a touch of lime but behind there are richer fruits more tropical fruit in character. There is a nice depth of flavour on the palate with the citrus freshness coming through towards the back lifting the flavours on the finish.

#### Sauvignon Blanc 2012

90 2013-16

Lime and gooseberry refresh both nose and palate. The mid palate is richer grapefruit and some pear yet the finish has all the crispness of the citrus mix.

#### Aligoté 2012

89 2013-16

The nose is apple crisp slightly herbal leafy an attractive mix of fruits. The mid palate has a little more weight but the freshness comes through at the back an attractive expressive mix of flavours.

**Chardonnay 2011****92 2012-15**

Greengage gives some depth to the nose with fresh apple showing at the back. The palate has depth of fruit ripe greengage and melon a nice breadth of flavour. There is a good depth of flavour on the back palate yet apple freshness on the finish.

**Red Wines****Merlot 2012****90**

The fruit is ripe filling out the nose with sweetness. Fleshy black plum is balanced by slightly fresher red fruits but the ripeness of the tannins helps the supple fleshiness of the back palate.

**Cabernet Sauvignon 2011****91**

The cassis that dominates the nose has a minty character just a touch of spice. Sweet fruit fills out the mid palate all very black fruit in character ripe tannins and cocoa beans add to the richness but towards the back there are fresh flavours bilberry and bramble lifting the fruit on the finish.

**Golubok 2012****89**

There is an animal quality about the nose rustic a touch of green vegetable with the mix of black cherry and bramble showing through towards the back. The fruit feels ripe with a good depth of flavour on the finish.

**Krasnostop 2012****92**

Black cherry and blackberry pack out the nose and the richness of the fruit gives a chunky feel on the start of the palate. The chocolate richness of the mid palate gives way to slightly fresher flavours red fruits, a touch of spice, dried fruits and nuts a lovely complex mix.

**Cabernet Sauvignon Saperavi Blend 50/50 2012****92**

The cabernet tends to dominate the nose lots of cassis but the palate is more red fruit in character with a mix of red cherry and redcurrant. There are layers of flavour lots of interest and a nice balance between sweetness and freshness.

**Sweet White Wines****Pinot Gris 2012****92**

The grapes were harvested on the 10<sup>th</sup> September fully ripe. There is a lovely mix of flavours on the nose tropical fruits, slate, minerals and white flowers. Sweet fruit fills out the mid palate lovely and rich with white peach and a tropical fruit mix. There is underlying freshness that helps to balance the richness.

**Kuban-Vino / Château Tamagne  
Taman Peninsular**

This is a big operation founded in 1956 with two wineries close to the Black Sea and Sea of Asov. There are 6,500 hectares planted of which 6,000 are owned and 500 rented. Sparkling wines is important with big volumes produced and one plant producing must that is transferred to the second one and made into sparkling wine by traditional and tank methods. The vines planted range from indigenous to more international varieties. A range of still wines is produced aimed at the higher end of the market.

**White Wines**

<b>Mer Noir Blanc 2011</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2012-14</b>
<b><i>Sauvignon Blanc Muscat</i></b>		
<i>Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012</i>		
There is a lime and lemon fresh mineral quality about both nose and palate. Slightly richer grapefruit shows on the mid palate but it is the citrus and apple that comes through towards the back crisping up the finish.		
<b>Traminer 2010</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2012-15</b>
<i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>		
Dried apricots give richness on the nose and depth on the palate. There are a mix of flavours apricots and fresher tangerines all backed by aromatic spice. The finish is full quite rich and sweet fruited.		
<b>Traminer 2011</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2012-16</b>
<i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>		
The nose is spicy perfumed with lots of dried fruit and the spiciness and dried fruits are very much in evidence on the palate. There is mid freshness a lighter feel but towards the back it is slightly sweeter richer although the finish has freshness that brings out the perfumed spices.		
<b>Riesling 2011</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2013-16</b>
<b><i>Fermented in oak</i></b>		
<i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>		
Oak spice is very obvious on the nose rather hiding and overpowering the fruit. The palate has freshness some leafy herbal flavours hints of lime and tropical fruits. It is richer towards the back with the flavours lingering on the finish.		
<b>Riesling 2012</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2013-16</b>
<b><i>Tasted from tank</i></b>		

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has lots of tropical fruits all quite sweet and ripe. The palate has a good mix of flavours tropical fruits and lychees with towards the back a citric freshness that brings out the aromatic spiciness.

**Reserve Chardonnay 2010****88 2012-15***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is fresh very lime driven but the palate is richer sweeter with pear and white peach. The richness of the mid palate gives way to apple and citrus towards the back that gives a lighter fresher feel.

**Chardonnay 2011****90 2013-16*****Fermented in American oak****Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The freshness of crisp apple is backed by richer fruit melon and tropical fruit. Behind all of the richness there is some lime and lemon that refreshes and gives a lighter crisper feel on the finish.

**Muscat 2011****89 2013-16***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is very spicy and perfumed and the palate starts with lots of aromatic flavours. The fruit in the middle is sweeter giving a touch more weight and filling out the back palate. There is a lot happening on the finish perfumes and aromatic spices.

**Château Tamagne Madera 2001****95 2012-22*****Rkatzitelli 100%****Tasted at the Winery November 2012**Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013*

Both nose and palate are very stylish fragrant with hazel nuts and almonds. The mid palate is sweeter apricot and peach with hints of tangerine. Towards the back there is a drier feel with the nuttiness coming to the fore. The finish is long fragrant and elegant.

**Red Wines****Young Saperavi 2012****89 2012-16***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The mix of black and red cherry is fresh quite spicy. The mid palate has a mix of flavours some mid sweetness but towards the back it is herbal, leafy, spicy and slightly rustic.

**Kpachoctor 2011****91 2013-18*****Krasnostop Anapy****Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has a mix of flavours at first black fruits but then behind fresher red. The palate is rather like the nose with rich black plum and cherry intermingling with mulberry and wild strawberry. The tannins feel ripe the chocolate in the middle helping the fleshiness.

**Syrah 2011****91 2013-16***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The red fruits that dominate the nose are fresh spicy peppery. The palate has more red fruits than black lovely and fresh yet towards the back there is more weight a sweeter feel that gives more depth on the finish.

**Saperavi 2011****93 2013-18***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is rich with ripe fruit lots of cherry and strawberry. There is depth of fruit on the palate richness of flavour the ripeness of the fruit gives an attractive succulent richness. There is enough freshness to balance with the finish having sweet fruit power yet spice.

**Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 2011****90 2013-17***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is ripe and the palate quite fleshy. Black plum is underpinned by fresher mulberry all backed by a hint of spice. The hedgerow mix of flavours has a rustic feel with lots of interest with the flavours lasting well on the finish.

**Sparkling White Wines****Château Tamagne Brut****85***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

This is their inexpensive Sparkling wines made by the Charmat (Close Tank) method. The bubbles are quite small the nose fresh and quite aromatic with slightly richer flavours in the middle and a light fresh but rather short finish.

**Château Tamagne Reserve Brut NV****88***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has some rich flavours and these give depth on the start of the palate. There is mid freshness and a good mousse that refreshes and gives a lighter feel to the finish.

**Château Tamagne Semi-Sweet NV****85*****Blend of white grapes****Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is foxy aromatic with a touch of spice. The sweetness on the mid palate gives way to fresher flavours but towards the back it is sweet and just lacking in real length.

**Sparkling Rosé Wines**

**Château Tamagne Rosé Extra Brut** **87**  
**Saperavi Krasnostop Anapi**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is fresh red fruited and slightly nutty. The mid palate is quite firm with the fresh red fruit mix showing on the back palate.

**Lefkadia**  
**Moldavanskoye**

This amazing project was started in 2007 by Mikhail Nikolaev near the village of Moldavanskoye inland from the Black Sea. So far about 24 hectares have been planted but there are plans for more. There are about 24 different vine varieties to see which really suit the various soils. The consultant wine maker is Patrick Léon. As well as vineyards there are goats and cows for cheese, newly planted oaks for truffles and a tree nursery to provide the trees that will be planted next to the planned holiday cottages overlooking the lake.

**White Wines**

**Tanaida White 2010** **89** **2012-15**  
**Sauvignon Blanc 30% Riesling 35% Grenache Blanc 25% Chardonnay 10%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has white flower perfume and spice lovely and fresh. The start of the palate has some citrus a touch of gooseberry with a leafy character. There are richer fruits in the middle but the back palate has citrus and apple freshness.

**Festeliya White 2010** **91** **2012-15**  
**Chardonnay 50% Riesling 45% Mtzvane 5%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is very lime driven slightly herbal and leafy. The mid palate has good depth of flavour with melon and greengage but this richness is balanced by fresher fruits and a herbal leafy character that shows towards the back. There is an attractive complex mix of flavours.

**Chardonnay 2011** **90** **2012-16**  
*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Although the nose is fresh the palate is richer with the sweetness of melon and the richness of greengage. There is apple towards the back a fresher feel although the finish is quite rich with a hint of oak spice.

**Sartre 2011** **90** **2012-16**

**Roussanne 20% Marsanne 30% Viognier 50%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has a mix of flavours some peach and apricot backed by herbal leafy freshness. The mid palate is rich with depth of flavour with the fresher fruits showing on the back palate. The finish has a citric mineral freshness.

**Rosé Wines****Flamingo 2011****90 2012-15****Grenache Rouge Syrah with a touch of Merlot***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Raspberry and loganberry are fresh a lovely mix of red fruits on the nose. The mid palate has more depth but the freshness comes through towards the back red fruits, spice and a hint of herbal leafiness.

**Red Wines****Tanaida Red 2010****91 2012-18****Cabernet Sauvignon 45% Merlot 25% Grenache 15% Malbec 12% Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 3%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is very cassis driven slightly minty and herbal. The mid palate is rich with a mix of black plum and cassis with some black cherry all supported by firm yet ripe tannins. There are layers of flavour chocolate richness and then red fruited freshness lifting the fruit on the finish.

**Festeliya Red 2010****93 2012-20****Cabernet Sauvignon 30% Merlot 30% Syrah 20% Malbec 12% Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 8%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has a lot of powerful flavours all very black fruit driven. Black plum, black cherry and cassis fill out the mid palate deep brooding flavours. The richness and concentration is balanced by some fresher fruit lots of bilberry and this brings out the hints of spice on the finish.

**Lefkadia 2010****94 2012-20****Cabernet Sauvignon 30% Malbec 18% Syrah 10% Merlot 6% Pinot Noir 26% Petit Verdot 10%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is rich lots of damsons and black cherry. The palate has layers of flavour the mix of black fruits underpinned by liquorice, coffee beans and dark chocolate. Black truffles show on the back palate a touch of spice lots of complexity with a good length of flavour.

**Pinot Noir 2010****92 2012-16***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is rich with black fruits, mulberry and loganberry. Although there is power on the mid palate there is a balancing freshness with the red fruits that are very much in evidence on the back palate refreshing the finish.

**Myskhako Winery  
Novorossiysk**

The winery which today owns about 600 hectares on the foothills of the Koldun Mountain dates back to 1869 and is located near the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. Of the 5 million bottle production about 2 million is still wine whilst the rest is sparkling made in both the traditional and Charmat methods. The general manager is Sergei Janov, owner of Villa Victoria, wine maker is Roman Neborsky, consultant John Worontschek. Within the winery is a small room dedicated to Leonid Brezhnev, leader of Russia 1964-82 who fought in Novorossiysk during the war was based in the winery and revisited in the 1970's.

**White Wines**

**Entry Level**

<b>Myskhako White Blend NV</b> <i>Mix of grapes</i> <i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>	<b>86</b>	<b>2012-14</b>
The nose is perfumed with hints of spice and the palate starts sweet. There are fresher flavours in the middle backing the richer fruit. The finish is exotic with strong perfumes and a spice character.		
<b>Chardonnay 2011</b> <i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>	<b>87</b>	<b>2012-14</b>
The nose has sweet fruit backed by freshness. On the palate the melon and greengage give some richness but towards the back there is apple refreshing.		
<b>Reserve Chardonnay 2010</b> <i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>	<b>88</b>	<b>2012-15</b>
The richness of greengage is backed by oak spice on both nose and palate. The fleshy richness of the fruit in the middle is balanced by apple freshness and this tends to highlight the oak spices on the finish.		
<b>Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2008</b> <i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>	<b>88</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
The nose is rich with lots of tropical fruit flavours. The start of the palate has the fleshy richness of the nose but behind the fruit power there is freshness a touch of citrus and this gives a racier feel on the finish.		
<b>Reserve Riesling 2008</b> <i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>	<b>89</b>	<b>2012-14</b>
The nose is quite rich with a herbal spiciness and the palate starts with some white peach. Towards the back it is fresher the fruit backed by green peppers and herbal spice.		



**Reserve Riesling Semi-Sweet 2010****90 2012-15***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Peaches and apricots give richness on the nose all quite sweet. The mid palate is rich the sweet fruit underpinned by slightly fresher tangerine. Although the finish is succulent lots of ripe flavours this is enough freshness.

**Cuvée White 2010****91 2012-16****Chardonnay 60% Sauvignon Blanc 40%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has the fleshy ripeness of melon but the palate shows the freshness of the Sauvignon. Towards the back there are melons and greengages richer quite fleshy lots of sweet fruit. The flavours last well on the finish.

**Grand Réserve Chardonnay 2008****90 2012-15***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The fruit is ripe giving richness on the nose and flesh on the palate. Melon and greengage fill out the mid palate a good depth of flavour with towards the back the richness giving a buttery character. The oak is quite obvious on the finish.

**Rosé Wines****Cabernet Rosé Semi Dried 2011****87 2012-16***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The cassis on the nose is minty quite rich. The palate has sweetness a mix of fruits cranberries and mulberries. The fleshy richness is balanced to some extent by freshness but the finish is sweet fruited. It leans towards an Amarone style.

**Red Wines****Entry Level****Cabernet Sauvignon 2011****86 2012-17***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is minty herbal with cassis the predominant flavour. The mid palate feels richer cassis and black cherry but the finish is fresh with the herbal mint dominating.

**Myskhako Young Syrah 2012****91 2012-16***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

There is an attractive black pepper spice on the nose with some rich red fruits. The fruit on the palate feels ripe a good depth of flavour quite fleshy in the middle. Towards the back there are some fresher red fruits that bring out the black pepper that spices up the finish.

**Reserve Pinot Noir 2009****85 2012-14**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is a touch hot with alcohol and oak showing. The palate is firm the tannins obvious and tending to overpower and dry the fruit. It is lacking in real balance.

**Reserve Merlot 2008** 91 2012-17*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is packed with ripe fruit and the black plum that dominates gives fleshy richness on the palate. There is depth of flavour yet an underlying balancing freshness and nice length.

**Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2007** 90 2012-18*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

There is a lot of mint on the nose with black fruits blackcurrant and black cherry. The fruit on the palate is rich quite concentrated underpinned by firm but ripe tannins. The cassis at the back has a minty slightly herbal character.

**Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 (Russian style – stored in large oak cask)** 91 2012-17*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is minty spicy with a rich mix of cassis and black cherry. Sweet fruit fills out the mid palate lovely and supple supported by well handled tannins. The back palate has layers of flavour quite complex and there is a good depth of fruit on the finish.

**Cuvée Red 2009** 91 2012-18**Cabernet Sauvignon 50% Merlot 50%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is rich with black plum and blackcurrant and this rich fruit fills out the palate. The tannins are ripe the mid palate fleshy but towards the back there is a fresher feel some bilberry and bramble.

**Grand Réserve Merlot 2009** 93 2012-18*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

It is fleshy and rich succulent sweet ripe black plum. The mid palate has fresher fruits all black fruits black cherry and bilberry. The freshness gives way to black plum fleshiness that fills out the back palate and leaves a lovely supple richness on the finish.

**Grand Reserve Cabernet 2008** 90 2012-17*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The cassis on the nose is backed by wild mint attractively fragrant. The mid palate has a nice depth of flavour blackcurrant and bramble with dried fruits coming through towards the back and the finish is classically farmyard.

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012* 92 2012-18

The minty blackcurrant has some oak spice quite fragrant. There is good depth of fruit on the mid palate some nice layers of flavour with the richness of liquorice and dark chocolate. The finish has good length and is a touch herbal.

**Fortified Red**

**Southern Light 2008** 87 2012-20  
**Cabernet Sauvignon**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is sweet quite black fruited in character and although the palate starts with richness and sweetness the tannins are quite obvious in the middle giving a firmer drier feel. The sweetness is there giving richness on the finish

**Sparkling White Wines**

**Modé Pearl** 85  
**Muscat**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is sweet spicy with perfumed fragrances. The palate has freshness at the start richer middle with dried fruits coming through towards the back. The mousse is good.

**Modé White** 85  
**Chardonnay 98% Pinot Noir 2%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Greengage richness is there on the nose with fresher some nice citrus flavours on the palate. The mousse is quite good and there is some nice fruit showing on the back palate.

**Myskhako Brut NV** 87  
**Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc Riesling**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has a racy freshness and the start of the palate is crisp fruited. The mid palate has quite good depth a touch of sweetness with the herbal leafy citrus refreshing the finish.

**Sparkling Rosé Wines**

**Modé Rosé** 88  
**Pinot Noir 100%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Wild strawberries and raspberries give depth of fruit yet freshness on the nose. The mid palate is fresh and fragrant with richer flavours showing through towards the back. The finish is quite long.

**Sparkling Red Wines**

**Modé Red** 85  
**Merlot 100%**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Red plum is very much in evidence on nose and palate. It feels quite fresh at the start with sweeter fruit on the mid palate but the freshness returns towards the back. The tannins are a bit obvious.

**Sweet white Wines****Riesling Late Harvest Ice Wine 2009****88 2012-17***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Although both nose and start of the palate are sweet there is an underlying freshness. The fruit on the mid palate is rich a mix of ripe pear, white peach and tropical fruits but this sweet mix of flavours is balanced by the freshness on the finish.

**South Wine Company  
Krasnodar Region**

**White Wines****Viorika Muskatnaya 2011****88 2012-14***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose is powerful perfumed and spicy and the palate is full of ripe tropical fruits. Lighter towards the back the freshness brings out the perfumes and spice mix.

**Villa Victoria  
Krasnodar Region**

**A new planting and winery in the foothills of the main Caucasian Range about 15 kilometres from Anapa a resort on the Black Sea. The vines are planted on limestone slopes and out of the 80 hectares so far 36 have been planted. The vineyard and winery is owned by Sergei Janov and his wife Victoria, Sergei is a director of the larger Myskhako Winery and both have John Worontschek as consultant wine maker. There are two ranges Bell Tree from bought in fruit and the winery range from the vineyards own fruit.**

**White Wines****Bell Tree Sauvignon Blanc 2009****86 2012-14***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is full of freshness with a touch of lime and a mix of tropical fruits. The palate has a mix of flavours is slightly reductive with the sweeter tropical fruits backed by fresh lime and gooseberry. The minerals that are there on the finish give it a lovely racy feel.

**Bell Tree Sauvignon Blanc 2011****88 2012-15***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Grapefruit and lemon refresh with some pear giving a richer broader feel on the palate. There is sweetness yet freshness a touch of pear and tropical fruit with the fresh lime and mineral refreshing back palate and finish.

**Sofia 2011****89 2012-15*****Sauvignon Blanc Chardonnay****Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is racy with lots of lime and lemon but the palate is richer with pear and apple a touch of melon. Towards the back the minerals show backed by grapefruit quite expressive.

**Bell Tree Chardonnay 2010****88 2012-15***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The fruit on the nose is ripe the richer flavours backed by citric and apple freshness. The palate starts quite light but fills out in the middle with the lime and apple mix giving a crisper racier feel on the finish.

**Bell Tree Pinot Gris 2010****87 2012-15***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Tropical fruits give richness on the nose but the palate is very fresh lots of citric fruit and minerals. Towards the back there is a herbal note and a just a hint of alcohol on the finish.

**Red Wines****Bell Tree Pinot Noir 2009****90 2012-16***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has a good depth of fruit with a mix of black plum and mulberry with this mix featuring strongly on the palate. The mid palate is rich quite supple an attractive mix of flavours and towards the back there is a red fruit freshness yet power.

**Bell Tree Pinot Noir 2010****89 2012-16***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is leaner with more of a raspberry and red cherry character. Although the palate starts quite light it fills out in the middle with more black fruits showing but towards the back the freshness of the red fruits takes over leaving the finish lacking in a little weight.

**Bell Tree Merlot 2010****91 2012-17***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has a lot of fruit ripe sweet plum and this richness of flavour fills out the mid palate. There is a supple feel, richness, ripe tannins and lots of fruit power but towards the back the red fruits give a balancing freshness. The fruit lasts well on the finish.

## Rostov Region

Tsimlyansk Wines  
Tsymlyansk

This large winery on the left bank of the River Don concentrates on sparkling wines but is working hard on the still wine both entry level and premium. They own some 1,030 hectares with a growing percentage being planted with indigenous varieties. This part of the Rostov region suffers from very hard frosts in the winter so all the Vinifera varieties have to be buried from November to March. They use 3 methods to make sparkling wine, bottle fermented, Charmat (closed tank) and Cossack (continuous)

## White Wines

**Tsimlyanskoe Reserve Rkatziteli 2011**

85 2012-13

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose lacks freshness and the palate is quite heavy with a nutty maturity showing behind the fruit. There is just a touch of freshness on the finish.

**Tsimlyanskoe White 2011**

86 2012-14

***Rkatziteli 80% Muscat 20%****Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is perfumed with lots of spice. Sweet fruit is in evidence at the start but the mid palate is slightly fresher. The finish has ripe apricot and an almond nuttiness.

## Red Wines

**Tsimlyanskoe Saperavi 2011**

87 2012-15

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Bramble and hedgerow berries are backed by herbal freshness. The mid palate is sweet with a mix of redcurrant and red cherry coming through towards the back giving a fresher feel on the finish.

**Tsimlyanskoe Red 2011**

87 2012-15

***Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 90% Cabernet Sauvignon 10%****Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

There is a mix of flavours on the nose at first red fruits red cherry and mulberry dominate but underneath there is cassis. The mid freshness gives way to sweeter flavours and the finish has just a hint of oxidation.

**Château Sarkel 2010** 89 2012-17

***Cabernet Sauvignon Saperavi Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has spice hedgerow berries an attractive aromatic quality. Black fruits on the start of the palate give richness but underneath there are fresher flavours more red cherry and redcurrant in character. The freshness on the finish brings out the aromatic spiciness.

### Sparkling White Wines

**Onegin Brut NV** 87

***Aligoté Chardonnay Rkatzitelli***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

There is a green slightly herbal freshness on the nose with the greengage on the mid palate giving a little more weight. The finish is fresh herbal with citric and apple freshness.

**Russian Champagne** 86

***Continuous Method***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has fruit richness and although the start of the palate has lots of fruit the mid palate has a balancing freshness. The back palate is richer with the feeling of fruit ripeness. The bubbles are quite small and pretty continuous and long lasting.

### Sparkling Rosé Wines

**Victoria Brut NV** 89

***Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Pinot Noir***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has the freshness of raspberry with the richness of strawberry. The mid palate has a touch of sweetness with the raspberry and redcurrant giving a fresher feel to the finish.

### Sparkling Red Wines

**Cossack Brut NV** 88

***Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy Plachistik***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

It is very rich deep black fruited with lots of power. Dark chocolate enriches the mid palate backed by firmer but rich black cherry and cassis.

**Tsimlyanskoe Sparkling Red 2011**

***Cabernet Sauvignon***

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is rich lots of cassis with behind the freshness of bilberry. The palate mirrors the nose quite rich with underlying freshness which lifts the fruit on the back palate and finish. There is a good balance between fruit richness and freshness.

### Tasted at the winery from cask & vat – November 2012

#### White Wines

**Aligoté 2012** **91**    **2013-16**  
 Apple and citrus refresh the nose and give a crisp start to the palate. The freshness of the flavours in underpinned by some sweeter tropical fruits that give more weight on mid and back palate but the finish is fresh fruited crisp and aromatic.

**Rkatzitelli 2012** **92**    **2013-16**  
 The nose is leafy with green limes and gooseberry. The palate has lots of fresh fruit then slightly richer sweeter in the middle a mix of tropical fruits and although they give a little more weight towards the back the finish is fresh and citrusy.

#### Rosé Wines

**Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé 2012** **92**    **2013-16**  
 The mix of cranberry and raspberry gives freshness on the nose and a lovely crunchy start to the palate. Redcurrant and bramble give more weight a richer feel on the mid palate but the finish has lots of fresh flavours.

#### Red Wines

**Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 2011** **88**  
*Russian oak*  
 The nose is rich quite full just lacking a bit of fruit expression. Sweet flavours fill out the mid palate the sweetness and richness of the fruit giving way to fresh red fruits that show at the back. The fruit on the back palate tends to be overpowered by firm tannins.

**Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 2012** **92**  
 The nose has the freshness of red fruits and the palate starts with lots of fresh flavours. The mid palate is richer still red fruit dominated with red cherry and redcurrant. There is a sweeter feel towards the back but the finish has freshness.

**Saperavi 2012** **93**  
 There is a powerful rich mix on the nose with the richness of the fruit filling out the start of the palate. Cassis appears to be dominant but behind there are lots of red fruits, red cherry and redcurrant. The finish has depth of flavour.



**Saperavi (Hybrid) 2012****90**

It is very deep in colour with a mix of red and black fruits all backed by herbal leafiness. The fruit is sweet the tannins rounded a rich fleshy mix of fruits on the mid palate. Towards the back there is the freshness of blackberry and red currant underpinned by minerals.

**Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 2012****93**

The nose is rich with sweet fruit a mix of black and red plum. The mid palate has power depth of flavour the fruit backed by the richness of dark chocolate but towards the back it feels fresher with more of a red fruit influence. The flavours last well on the finish.

**Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 2012****91*****Fermented in cask***

The nose has lots of rich fruit and although the fruit on the mid palate is sweet enriched by dark chocolate and coffee beans the tannins are firm and quite obvious. The back palate and finish have fruit power.

**Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 2012****90*****Fermented in cask***

The nose is very tight and the palate firm with lots of fresh red fruits. The mid palate has sweetness but towards the back the tannins tend to overpower although right at the back the sweetness of the fruit more strawberry than cherry shows through.

**Blend 2012****92*****Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy Krasnostop Zolotovskiy Cabernet Sauvignon  
American oak***

Although the oak on the nose is very obvious there is a lot of fruit behind it. The palate is rich with lots of ripe blackcurrant and black plum enriched by cocoa and chocolate. The back palate has oak spice lots of rich flavours and good length.

**Blend 2012****92*****Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy Krasnostop Zolotovskiy Cabernet Sauvignon  
French oak***

The nose is fresh with less obvious oak and although the palate starts quite fresh the mid palate is power packed with black and red fruits and a chocolate richness. The back palate is finer slightly more elegant with less oak showing.

**Blend 2012****93*****Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy Krasnostop Zolotovskiy Cabernet Sauvignon  
Blend of French & American oak***

The nose is full of fresh fruits red fruits at first with black fruits behind. There is a hint of oak spice which adds some complexity and is not too over bearing and obvious. The sweetness of the mid palate gives way to fresher flavours and the finish has lots of length.

**Vinodel'nya Vedernikov  
Konstantinovsk District**

Situated on the right bank of the River Don the winery concentrates on indigenous varieties, vines that produce really exciting flavours. The right bank of the Don was inhabited by Orthodox Christians so even when there was a split between Muslim and Christian this region continued to make wine. The 1960's saw a government programme to revive the Cossacks varieties and this continues today. Out of the 200 hectares at least 34 are planted with indigenous vines. The winters are extremely cold so 70% of the vines are covered with earth from early November until the end of March

**The 2012 wines were tasted from cask & vat**

**White Wines**

<b>Sibir'Koviy 2011</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2012-14</b>
<i>Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012</i>		
<i>Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013</i>	<b>91</b>	<b>2013-16</b>
The summer garden fragrances on the nose are refreshed by the hints of lime and lemon. Sweeter fruits white peach and nectarine fill out the mid palate with the mineral and citrus mix crisping up the finish.		
<b>Sibir'Koviy 2011 – Oak aged</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2012-14</b>
<i>Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012</i>		
There is a spice to the fruit mix on the nose just a hint of absinthe. Peach and nectarine enrich the mid palate layers of flavour giving complexity but towards the back citrus and mineral refresh lifting the flavours on the finish.		
<i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>	<b>90</b>	<b>2012-15</b>
The fruit on the nose is fragrant floral backed by the spice of oak with just a hint of absinthe. White peach and nectarines give a little more weight and depth on the palate the sweeter fruit underpinned fresh fruits and minerals lots of complex flavours.		
<b>Sibir'Koviy 2011 – No oak</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2012-16</b>
<i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>		
The nose has lots of different aromas hedgerow flowers, grasses, fennel and absinthe. The citrus mix on the start of the palate gives a racy freshness with the middle feeling richer tangerines in evidence. The finish is racy fresh fruit with a lovely mix of minerals.		
<b>Sibir'Koviy 2012 – No oak</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2013-16</b>
<i>Tasted at the Winery November 2012</i>		

This younger vintage resembles the 2011 with its floral aromatic nose its mix of herbs its spring meadow grass character. The citric freshness is underpinned by richer fruits tangerines and nectarines but it is the lime and mineral that comes through at the back that gives it an attractive zesty finish.

**Rkatziteli 2009** 90 2012-15

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

There lots of fragrances on the nose white flowers and mimosa. Grapefruit and a touch of lime refresh both nose and the start of the palate with the mid palate given a little more weight by some yellow plum. The finish is long fresh mineral driven.

**Rkatziteli 2011** 91 2012-16

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

*Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013*

92 2013-16

White flowers and mimosa are there on the nose lovely and fragrant. Although the start of the palate is quite light very fresh with lots of citrus lime and lemon the mid palate is richer with grapefruit and apple with a touch of greengage. The fresh fruits show at the back bringing out a hint of pepper.

**Rkatziteli 2012** 93 2013-16

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has a floral fragrant charm backed by citric freshness. There are richer fruits on the palate a greater depth of flavour greengage richness but is the freshness that shows on the finish citrus and minerals and they bring out hints of herbal spice on the finish.

**Gubernatorskoye Riesling 2010** 90 2012-15

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose has a grassy freshness appealingly aromatic. Melon and pineapple give some sweetness and a broader feel to the palate but the apple behind refreshes the finish.

**Gubernatorskoye Riesling 2011** 91 2012-16

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The fruit on the nose is backed by a herbal leafy character lovely and fresh. The mid palate is richer ripe pears and a touch of pineapple. The richer flavours are though underpinned by apples and limes that refresh the finish.

**Gubernatorskoye Riesling 2012** 92 2013-17

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The freshness on the nose the citrus mix brings out the floral nature lots of herbs and meadow grasses. The palate is fresh with crisp apple but then towards the back there are sweeter slightly richer broader flavours but the finish mirrors the nose herbal lime and lemon lovely and fresh.

**Riesling 2010 – Oak aged (60%)** 91 2012-15

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose is broad more pineapple driven and the palate has richness and depth. There are layers of flavour lots of complexity the richness balanced by lime and apple freshness that highlights the spice of the oak on the finish.

**Riesling 2012** **92** **2013-16**

*Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013*

There is a lovely depth and richness of fruit on the nose with pineapple and grapefruit on the palate richness yet freshness. The balance is good with the fresh fruits lingering on the finish.

**Aligoté 2011** **90** **2012-15**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

There is a lot of crunchy apple on the nose and a crisp start to the palate. There are some richer fruits in the middle just a hint of greengage but the overall feel is of racy crispness.

**Aligoté 2012** **91** **2013-16**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has some lovely fresh fruit but behind there is a little more weight some richer flavours. The palate is typical of the grape apple fresh with lime and lemon underneath all giving a racy length to the finish.

**Red Wines**

**Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 2009** **91** **2012-16**

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The aromas on the nose are quite light the black fruit backed by peppery spices. The mid palate has a good weight of flavour some nice sweet fruit black cherry and prunes all spiced up by cloves and black pepper. The finish has a leathery tobacco quality.

**Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 2010** **91** **2012-16**

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The nose is intense rich full of black fruits all spiced up by cloves and black pepper. Prunes and blueberry pack out the mid palate the ripeness of the fruit giving a fleshy richness. It is slightly lighter towards the back with a leafy leathery tobacco character.

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012* **92** **2012-17**

The nose has the intensity of black cherry and prunes and although the tannins feel ripe the mid palate rich there is an underlying red berried freshness. Both back palate and finish have a leafy leathery spice character an exciting mix of flavours.

**Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 2011** **92** **2013-18**

***Aged in new oak****Tasted at the Winery November 2012**Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013*

There are a lot of concentrated powerful flavours on the nose prunes and black cherries deep and brooding. Black fruits enrich the palate yet underneath there are red fruits some red cherry slightly lighter and fresher. The flavours are complex with spices cloves and cedar wood.

**Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 2012**

**93**

*From cask*

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Although the nose has a lot of rich fruit black cherry and prunes there is freshness at the back bilberry and elderberry and this brings out the aromatic spiciness. The mid palate is packed with rich fruit depth of flavour with towards the back some lighter fresher fruits that bring out the black pepper and the mix of cloves and spices all giving a lovely aromatic finish.

**Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 2005**

**87**

**2012-16**

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

At this time there was little or no temperature control and the nose shows this rather hot and slightly volatile. The palate has a mix of flavours some sweet black fruits backed by fresher bilberry and bramble. The tannins are quite obvious and are tending to dry the finish.

**Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 2010**

**93**

**2012-18**

*50 % new oak 50% stainless steel*

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

*Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013*

Although the nose is rich and black fruited there is an overriding summer herbaceous floral quality. Black plum richness is refreshed by bilberry and bramble layers of flavour. The tannins are well handled firm but not aggressive and there is an attractive spiciness on the long finish. This fascinating grape has lots of character.

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

**94**

**2012-20**

The nose has a floral slight herbal mix with under this rich black fruits. The palate is sweet fruited with cassis and black plum further enriched by bitter orange chocolate. The tannins although they give structure are ripe there is a feeling of balance. Towards the back there are some fresher fruits that bring out hints of spice on the finish.

**Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 2010**

**94**

**2012-18**

*No oak*

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

There is freshness yet sweetness with the vibrancy of bilberry yet the richness of black plum. The palate is deep rich lots of black fruits, a hint of liquorice and dark chocolate. The suppleness on the mid palate is helped by rounded well handled tannins. The back palate and finish have freshness of flavour and green pepper spiciness.

**Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 2011**

**93**

**2014-22**

*New oak 100%*

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

*Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013*

There is a lot of fruit filling out the nose with the black fruits tending to dominate. The mid palate is slightly lighter and fresher bilberry and bramble with hints of red cherry. The palate fills out towards the back with rich black plum, black cherry, chocolate, roasted coffee beans. The finish is long with a complex mix of fleshy fruits yet with some new oak and green pepper spice.

**Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 2012** 95**From cask – New oak 100%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose has a fragrant black fruited charm with behind the fragrance there is lots of rich fruit all very black fruited in character. The palate is deep rich the fruit underpinned by dark chocolate and roasted coffee beans. Ripe tannins help the supple fleshiness. There is balancing freshness a mix of bilberry, bramble and red cherry but the finish has all the power of the mid palate.

**Cabernet Sauvignon 2005** 91 2012-18**Cabernet Sauvignon 60% Merlot 40%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Although the nose is quite fresh there is sweeter cassis and black plum at the back. The palate has a mix of flavours rich cassis and fleshy black plum backed by the freshness of bilberry and bramble. The fruit at the back feels ripe giving depth on the finish.

**Cabernet Sauvignon 2012** 93**From tank – no oak***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

Under the herbal mint on the nose there is a lovely complex mix of black fruits. The fruit on the mid palate is sweet ripe with damson and cassis firm up by black cherry all underpinned by bilberry and red cherry. The finish has an attractive complexity the fruits backed by mint and herbal spices.

**Pravoberezhnoye 2011** 93 2013-18**Cabernet Sauvignon 50% Krasnostop Zolotovskiy 15% Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 35%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012**Tasted at the London International Wine Fair May 2013*

The nose is spicy slightly herbal with a mix of cassis, bilberry and raspberry. The palate starts rich and sweet fruited rich chocolate very black fruit in character but towards the back the red fruits become more obvious and the finish has a lovely herbal aromatic spiciness.

**Gubernatorskoye 2011** 89 2012-17**Golubok 50% Tzimlyanskiy Cherniy 25% Cabernet Sauvignon 25%***Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is minty with prunes and bramble jelly upfront and spicy. The palate has a good weight of flavour cassis, prunes black cherry with the ripeness of the tannins giving a fleshy suppleness

a mid richness. The back palate is smoky herbal spicy with fair length but just lacking a little balance.

### Sweet White Wines

**Hungarian Muscat 2009**

**88**

**2012-20**

*Made by the mutage method*

*Tasted at the Winery November 2012*

The nose is very spicy with lots of dried fruits. Rich yellow peach and apricot flesh out the mid palate and although there is a hint of freshness the back palate and finish are very sweet. A perfumed aromatic spiciness shows on the finish.

**Derek Smedley MW**