

RECENTLY TASTED

VARIETALS THAT YOU MAY NOT FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTER

2014 Abellio Albariño This dry white from the Rias Baixas region of Galicia in north-west Spain is aromatic - faintly apricot-like. The palate is rich and dry, with lively acidity. Good with shellfish. (\$24.00) ★★★★★
Incidentally, Rias Baixas is pronounced “ree-ass by-shuss”.
<http://www.winecave.com.au/white-wine/albarino/rias-baixas-spain/abellio-albarino-2013/>

2014 Agricole Vallone Fiano There are hints of tropical fruit and pear evident on this delicious Italian white that has great mouth-feel and fresh acidity, unsullied by oak. (\$38.00) ★★★★★
Raw tomatoes are a challenge for any wine, but I recently put this white on a restaurant wine list because of the harmony it created with a dish of heirloom tomatoes, buffalo mozzarella and basil. It’s from Brindisi on the heel of Italy.
<http://the-tasting-table-wine-shop.myshopify.com/collections/white/products/vallonefiano2013>

2015 Sassy The Ivor Special Release Arneis This Orange (NSW) wine is full of life and varietal character. The aromas and flavours bring to mind lemons and pears, and the textured palate finishes acid-fresh. (\$24.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.sassywines.com.au/buy-online/white-wines/34-the-ivor-34-special-release-arneis-2015-detail.html>

2014 Radio Boka Tempranillo This is typical of modern Spanish easy-drinking reds. It’s packed with raspberry and cherry, with hints of star anise enhancing the nose. (\$13.00) ★★★★★
From the Valencia region of south-east Spain.
<http://www.corkscrewcellars.com.au/onlineshop.html>

CHAMPIONSHIP WRAP-UP

While I was in the process of sending the 2016 Championship medallions to the winners, I was reminded that five producers, Josef Chromy, Saltram, Santolin, Sittella and Tyrrells, won two medallions each. That’s a magnificent feat in such a strong competition. Needless to say, if you are not already paying keen attention to the wines of the five makers, we suggest you do.

On a similar theme, of the 2016 Championship medallion winners, Bleasdale, Home Hill, Josef Chromy, Mandoon Estate, Rosemount Estate and Tyrrell’s also achieved that feat in 2015. Bleasdale and Rosemount Estate made it a hat trick, winning in 2014, 2015 and 2016. I think we’re onto something. Don’t you?

Lester Jesberg