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TESTING TIMES

XMAS NO-DEAL 2020 Edition

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THE TESTING TIMES GUIDE TO BRITISH WINE THE BEST AND WORST OF POST-BREXIT TIPPLE

After the OR-DEAL of a possible NO-DEAL, the hard facts of a Hard BREXIT and the arti-FISH-ial, super-FISH-ial, insu-FISH-ent, non-pro-FISH-ent, ultra-de-FISH-ent, non-bene-FISH-ial FISH-ing negotiations taking PLAICE with sacri-FISH-ial, GOVE-rnment offi-FISH-als and stand-of-FISH, oa-FISH politicians, TESTING TIMES offers all wine A-FISH-ionados a short overview of the British wines that the United Kingdom will unfortunately NOT be exporting to the EU as they are all unworthy of a Christmas bubbly in a Christmas bubble.

PROST! Santé! Salud! Egészségedre! Na zdraví! Sláinte! Na zdrowie! Skål! Kippis! Terviseks! Cin cin! Saúde! Будьмо! Iechyd da! Будем здоровы! i sveikata! Živjeli! ΥΓΕΙΑ! Sanatate! Na zdravie! Şerefe! Na zdravje! Gëzuar! Наздраве

The BREXIT Beaujolais (pronounced BO-JO-LAY)

Awarded the title of UK Premier wine by no more than two-thirds of the 160,000 Blue Nun Liebfraumilch-quaffing members of the Tory Party during a blind-tasting back in 2019, this wine has already proven to be a great disappointment. For many, this less than full-bodied and completely unstructured tippie even continues to lose the non-sparkling character it never had, and has already become renowned for producing same-day and morning-after headaches for the small minority of fans who only five months later regrettably gave their vote to this wine as the seemingly better but unfortunately only remaining option to the shallow, dull, uninspiring, hollow, bland, simple red that was cor-binned as the people's alternative party beverage ("A table wine for the many, not the few").

This wine is usually accompanied by a variety of fudge and 'porkies' together with a wide range of crudités, and goes inexplicably well with game birds. It is remarkably weak in connection with all forms of fish where it can easily flounder hook, Leyen and sinker.

Our TESTING TIMES Expert's Opinion: This Premier wine has failed to reach maturity; it frequently displays a distinct lack of subtlety, finesse and concentration. It is to be hoped that a BO-JO-LAY Nouveau will soon be found.

The BREXIT Mock-Riesling (pronounced "Mogg-Reesling")

Known in Westminster wine circles as the biggest plonker in town, this highly resistible, undistinguished wine, based on thick-skinned grapes, is not to be recommended for



laying down, especially as a benchmark for late-night common in-house sittings. A certain nuttiness cannot be denied. It lacks fizz, and is thus unlikely to cause the palate to salivate in expectation. With little evidence of refined richness, it is characterized by noble (and ignoble) rot, as a result of which regular pruning is a must, especially in the context of UNICEF funding for hungry children in the UK.

This wine is usually served either in a 'coq-up au mogg-reesling' (cf. UNICEF funding), or in a variety of old-fashioned, Victorian 'pie in the sky' dishes. It very frequently ends up 'in a stew'.

Our TESTING TIMES Expert's Opinion: This wine has more than fulfilled its non-potential and should be returned to the backbenches of the wine-cellar. It demonstrates a hangover from previous vintages that, having passed their best, can only be classified as stale and insipid. It should be put on limited release.

The NO-DEAL Cuvée - Sovereign Blanc (Bleu et Rouge) AND Primitivo

These two grapes are the favourite wines of all orthodox Brexiteers and have produced vigorous, robust wines. The 2016 vintage was particularly aggressive.

As a result of their lack of tolerance and neutrality, combined with their unwillingness to be a part of the 28 strong Brussels cave coopérative, as well as their thin-skinned, uniquely aggressive biochemical reaction to the overwhelming opinion of high-level management, especially in the financial sector, that any Brexit, never mind a no-deal BREXIT, will put the UK permanently in Hock, these wines should never be de-canted to avoid the pungent nationalist aromas that they have given rise to. In 2016, these grapes produced a bumper crop, since when they have made a name for themselves by constantly contradicting the principle of "In vino veritas".

Warning: These wines react violently when served together with Sauce Hollandaise, Danish pastries, Brussels sprouts, Bratwurst, Spaghetti Bolognese and similar dishes, and all such patently non-patriotic food should be avoided.

Our TESTING TIMES Expert's Opinion: The aggression developed by these wines requires that they be properly and permanently corked to remove the harsh after-taste. Their insistence on a purely British appellation - A.O.C - Absolutely Our Control - ("We want our vines back!") indicates a potential leaning towards a strict national 'viticultural terroir-ism'. Their motto and anthem says it all: "There'll be NO Blue Nuns over the White Cliffs of Dover".

