



JOHN WILSON

WINE

Garden sippers

Cool reds and fruity fizz for summer drinking that won't give you a sore head

THIS WEEK, THE last of the summer wines – a few reds as well as some fizz to keep your thirst quenched during the summer. For outdoors drinking, I tend to avoid the more expensive sparkling wines. Something simple and fruity seems to suit the mood more often, although I will search out a nice bottle of Champagne if the occasion demands it.

Unless it's a barbecue, the reds should be lower in alcohol, and lighter in tannin; 13 per cent or under is perfect. Beaujolais and the Loire are definitely worth consideration, but Italy has plenty of refreshing red wines too. If you haven't tried red wines slightly chilled, and I find most people serve reds a little on the warm side anyway, now is the time to experiment. You will find that red wines that are low in tannins and full of fruit taste immeasurably better.

BOTTLES OF THE WEEK

Moscato, Innocent Bystander, Victoria 2009, 5.5%, €6.95 half bottle. A lightly fizzy wine that is tailor-made for summer; this version uses the Gordo and Black Muscat grape varieties. The Innocent Bystander rosé is very different to Italian Moscato. Fresh and rich, bursting with vibrant red fruits, and a lovely off-dry finish. Drink well-chilled with a friend on the patio. **Stockists:** 64 Wine, Glashule; Jus De

fun glass of fizz, but with a real touch of class. Charming ripe fruits, light honey and a sophisticated note of brioche showing some bottle age. This would make an excellent aperitif, or an unusual but very effective partner for salmon. **Stockist:** Terroirs, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, terroirs.ie.

Beaujolais Les Griottes, Jean-Marie Chermette 2008, 12%, €14.85. I have been happily quaffing great glassfuls of this delicious, light, rounded red. Free-flowing and fresh, it captures the supple, vibrant flavours of the Gamay grape perfectly. Serve very lightly chilled with salads and cold meats, or drink by itself. **Stockists:** Next Door, Sundrive; Redmond's, Ranelagh; Searson's, Monkstown (all Dublin); Next Door, Enniscorthy; Callan's, Dundalk; Next Door, Salthill; Claudio's, Newtownmount-kennedy; Daly's Drinks, Boyle.

Rosso Piceno Saladini Pilastrri 2008, 13%, €11. A deeply coloured red with black forest gateaux fruits on the nose and palate. There is a light spiciness, and some furry tannins on the finish, so this isn't a wine to drink solo. However, it is light enough in body to go with white meat dishes, chicken in particular. **Stockists:** 64 Wine, Glashule; Sweeney's, Glasnevin; Lilac Wines, Fairview; Thomas's, Foxrock (all Dublin).

Chinon Les Granges, Domaine Bernard Baudry 2008, 12%, €14.99. I mentioned Baudry in passing a few weeks back as one of my favourite producers of Cabernet Franc in the



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