

# Greek reds

With a renewed focus on indigenous varieties and a move away from heavy oak, Greece is now producing a diverse range of accessible reds. Nico Manassis reports

THE LANDSCAPE OF Greece is mostly mountainous, its vineyards consisting of small plots scattered across the slopes. This means high-altitude viticulture, with sites ranging from 150m to 750m above sea level. There's also an abundance of indigenous vines, with over 150 red grapes – most of them hard to pronounce.

One name to look out for is Agiorgitiko, which makes accessible, warm-fruited wines with a distinctive black cherry character. Produced in a range of styles from young and fruity to more structured, it's the backbone of vineyards in Nemea in the Peloponnese. Also in the Peloponnese, Mavrodaphne is enjoying a revival. Originally from the Ionian island of Cephalonia and traditionally made in a sweet style, this grape offers complex aromatics with layers of velvety tannins.

In Central Greece winemakers are rediscovering Limniona, a source of light, fragrant reds that are in tune with the current international trend for lighter styles. In contrast, Mavrotragano makes compact reds with spice and leather notes. It's another island grape (hailing from the Cyclades) that's now finding its feet in Central Greece and the northern mainland.

Xinomavro is a late-ripening speciality of Macedonia, producing high-acid, tannic wines in regions such as Naousa, Goumenissa, Aminteo, Siatista and Rapsani. It shows very fine aromatics – and some examples have the potential to age for 20 years or more.

Away from the mainland in the islands, the grape to watch is Mandelari, found on Paros, Santorini, Rhodes and Crete. It makes tannic reds with a firm character, but also blends brilliantly with Cretan specialty Liatiko (usually produced in a sweet style) to make lighter-coloured, naturally luscious, bone-dry wines.

## Latest trends

Climate change has played a part in the renaissance of these indigenous red grapes, which are often drought resistant, signalling a move away from the popularity of international varieties, formerly planted to help exports either as single-varietals or in blends with native grapes.

In terms of winemaking, the introduction of whole-bunch fermentation has been useful with highly tannic grapes such as Xinomavro, resulting in wines with lower alcohol levels that are easier to drink, without compromising on flavour. Thankfully the Greek love affair with oak barriques has had its day, with most progressive wineries now preferring large oak casks, cement tanks or ceramic vessels. As this panel tasting shows, that particular trend needs to continue.

*Nico Manassis is an expert on the wines of his native Greece and the author of three wine books. He is DWWA Regional Chair for Greece and Cyprus*



Map: Maggie Nelson

## Greek reds: know your vintages

**2017** Snow followed by rain saw yields down by 30% but gave one of the finest vintages on record. Wines are slow to show their best.

**2016** Normal ripening season with no issues, giving a largely disease-free, healthy harvest. Drink or keep.

**2015** Challenging year, when late-ripening grapes fared best. Keep for two to six years.

**2014** Patchy vintage; the late-ripening grapes

struggled. But the best wines by top producers will keep for another two to four years.

**2013** Healthy harvest with some very good wines. Initially closed but now opening up. Keep for five years.

**2012** A mixed bag. Later-ripening, cool-climate styles are best. Keep for up to four years.

**2011** A cool vintage of mostly awkward reds. A few ripe, elegant wines. Drink now.

## Greek reds: the facts

**Vineyard area** 66,820ha  
White 73%, Red 27%

**Key red grapes**  
Agiorgitiko 3,500ha,  
Mavrodaphne 2,500ha,  
Xinomavro 1,500ha,  
Mandelari 800ha, Liatiko  
260ha, Mavrotragano  
50ha, Limniona 20ha

Source: VNB Nurseries 2015 ➤

# The results

Lesser-known native varieties stole the limelight in this tasting, but Greece's reds will only match the quality of its whites if winemaking improves, says Nico Manessis

THIS VARIED TASTING across regions and grape varieties proved to be a very mixed offering in terms of quality. While there were several highlights, there were disappointing performances from key regions and signs of below-standard viticulture and winemaking, with some dusty and tired wines that lacked energy and fruit.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the top vineyard sites, often with lesser-known grapes, stole the show – and Mavrodaphne certainly made its mark. The top-scoring Parparoussis Mavrodaphne is a textbook wine, with fine aromatics, ripe fruit, silky smooth tannins and deft use of oak. It also shows brilliant balance, which is a feat in the difficult 2012 vintage. Similarly the Petrakopoulos Mavrodaphne, made from 100-year-old vines planted on

their native island of Cephalonia, shows the potential of this grape, which is now also being cultivated on the slopes of Aigialia on the north shore of the Peloponnese.

The second-highest scorer was a Limniona from an area of Thessaly that's better known for its Muscat and mass-produced Retsina. In essence this grape is Greece's answer to Pinot Noir, though its rebirth story is all of 15 years old. An interesting example of Limniona from Thrace, aged in terracotta, also scored highly.

Good examples of the high-acid and long-lived variety Xinomavro came from Amyntaio in Macedonia – an impressive performance from an estate that is all of 12 years old – and Rapsani in Thessaly, showing that this under-revival region may have more surprises in store.

**Entry criteria: producers and UK agents were invited to submit their latest release of two wines made from indigenous Greek grapes, either as single varietals or in a blend. No international grape varieties were accepted for this tasting**

*'The trump card for Greek growers is their indigenous grapes and the variety of soils in their vineyards'*

Another head-turning Xinomavro came from a tiny vineyard in cooler-climate Siatista. This region of western Macedonia has previously been a source of great sweet wines, but is being re-energised thanks to its promising potential for making dry wines.

It's worth mentioning that not all flashpoints are to be found on the mainland though. The Mavrotragano grape shone on the island of Tinos, for example.

Underperforming regions included Nemea, which has the largest vineyard area in Greece and is predominantly planted with the fruity Agiorgitiko grape, marked by its soft tannins. While it was eye-opening to see how well the better-value examples of Agiorgitiko performed in this tasting, many Nemea wines were marred by 'lack of oak balance', according to Yiannis Karakasis MW.

Another lacklustre region was Naoussa, where Xinomavro showed dull wines – not usually a trait of this late-ripening variety. 'Tannin management is the issue,' observed Terry Kandylis. Crete was also disappointing: Kotsifali and Mandilaria grapes have both shown better results here in the past; even the rising star Liatiko was not on the best form, confirming that even in regions blessed with excellent climatic conditions, vintage variations exist and are significant.

While there were flickers of excitement, no regional styles emerged as such, proving that making top Greek reds is down to specific estates and rare grapes, with the best-farmed sites shining through.

In summary, this tasting showed that Greek red wine is now going through a period of soul-searching and growing-up. The trump card for Greek growers is their distinctive indigenous grapes and a variety of altitudes and soil types in their vineyards. But only if issues of viticulture and winemaking are addressed will the potential for Greek red wines match the current excellence of Greek white wines.

The scores  
88 wines tasted

Exceptional	0
Outstanding	2
Highly Recommended	15
Recommended	39
Commended	23
Fair	8
Poor	1
Faulty	0

# The judges

## Terry Kandylis



After studying in Athens, Kandylis moved to the UK and has worked at The Fat Duck, The Ledbury and 67 Pall Mall private members club. He earned the title of Best Sommelier in

Greece in 2015 and was the UK Sommelier of the Year in 2016. He has passed the advanced level of the Court of Master Sommeliers exam and is currently preparing for his MS Diploma.

### My top three

■ **Parparoussis, Taos, Achaia, Peloponnese 2012** A truly unique red from the Western Peloponnese. Has a herbal undertone that makes you wonder if this is the Mediterranean sibling of Cabernet Franc and Mencia. **96/100 Drink** 2018-2025

■ **Domaine Zafeirakis, Limniona, Tyrnavos, Thessaly 2015** When I first encountered this domaine, its wines were oak and modern. This is charming and perfumed, with very good oak integration, that lets the fruit shine. **95 Drink** 2019-2025

■ **T-Oinos, Clos Stegasta Mavrotragano, Cyclades, Aegean Islands 2015** Is this the the Greek answer to cult Ribera del Duero or premium Malbec? Shows wonderful balance and layers of complexity. A wine with soul and character. **93 Drink** 2019-2025

## Yiannis Karakasis MW



Athenian-born Karakasis attended the Hellenic Naval Academy and has 2,000 flying hours with navy helicopters. He retired as a Commander in 2011 to pursue his passion

for wine, becoming a Master of Wine in 2015. He writes the blog [www.karakasis.mw](http://www.karakasis.mw), consults for TV wine show Gefseis & Oinos and wrote The Vineyards and Wines of Greece 2017.

### My top three

■ **Parparoussis, Taos, Achaia, Peloponnese 2012** Aromas of laurel and mint around opulent black fruit. Sensual, with plenty of structure yet the tannins are ripe and juicy. A wine of class and character, delivering elegance and precision. **96 Drink** 2018-2025

■ **T-Oinos, Clos Stegasta Mavrotragano, Cyclades, Aegean Islands 2015** Perfumed with blueberry, exotic spices and violets. Velvety palate with lovely oak. An impressive Mavrotragano, full of richness, but also elegant with a lingering finish. **93 Drink** 2019-2025

■ **Dimopoulos Estate, Xinomavro, Amyndeon, Macedonia 2015** Fascinating nose, with savoury, vegetal and fruity notes. The palate is firm and taut, supported by a dense core of fruit. Terroir-driven, with tension and freshness. **91 Drink** 2019-2025

## Nico Manessis



Manessis is an expert on the wines of his native Greece and the author of three wine books. He teaches at the College of Crete and the Université du Vin, Suze la Rousse in France. He also

publishes [www.greekwineworld.com](http://www.greekwineworld.com) and has recently co-produced an award-winning documentary, Pelican's Watch about vineyards in Santorini ([www.pelicanswatch.gr](http://www.pelicanswatch.gr)).

### My top three

■ **Kikones, Limnio, Ismaros, Thrace 2015** From an artisan estate. Limnio is not the easiest of grapes to farm, so yields are low for this pale, textured red. Shows spice and herbs on the delicate palate. Simply brilliant varietal definition. **90 Drink** 2018-2024

■ **Toplou, Liatiko-Mandilari, Lasithi, Crete 2016** From organic vineyards on the windswept soils of Crete. Showcasing a vivid sense of place. Intriguing – it tastes like nothing else. **86 Drink** 2018-2021

■ **Diamantis, Xinomavro, Siatista, Macedonia 2016** Vintages are important here. A dry style from this cooler-climate vineyard. Old vines with near-lost clones offer compelling wines with high acidity. Allspice notes and mulberry-like ripe tannins bode well for ageing. **89 Drink** 2018-2022

# Outstanding 95–97pts



## Parparoussis, Taos, Achaia, Peloponnese 2012

Decanter average score: 96/100pts Individual judges' scores: Terry Kandylis 96 Yiannis Karakasis 96 Nico Manessis 96

£36 Cava Spiliadis

This small, family-run winery was founded in 1974 by Athanassios Parparoussis who is still head winemaker at the estate, working with his two daughters: Erifili, oenologist and viticulturist, and Dimitra who is in charge of the day-to-day running of the business. The estate is located at Bozaitika in Patras in the northern Peloponnese and proudly promotes indigenous Greek grape varieties. Its vineyards include Assyrtiko, Athiri, Sideritis and Mavrodaphne, planted in various PGIs around the Peloponnese. This particular wine is made from 100% Mavrodaphne and aged in French Allier oak barrels for 24 months.

**Terry Kandylis** Laurel leaves and sage complexity, with leathery notes and plummy fruit. A very attractive and unique wine, with wonderful acidity and rounded tannins, plus a herbal undertone that is evident on the palate. It's long, poised and complex, displaying an almost Cabernet Franc character.

**Yiannis Karakasis MW** This has fine aromatic complexity, with a leafy character but also funky notes on the nose. Very elegant and precise on the palate. A wine of class and character.

**Nico Manessis** Laurel aromas on the nose, with a strong gamey and botanical imprint. Classy.

Drink 2018-2025 Alcohol 13.5%



## Domaine Zafeirakis, Limniona, Tyrnavos, Thessaly 2015 95 TK 95 YK 95 NM 95

£19.50-£21.25 Clark Foyster, Exel

A relatively new winery, set up in 2012 in the Tyrnavos region of Thessaly in Central Greece. Christos Zafeirakis, head winemaker at the estate, is following in the local grape-growing tradition that was established by many past generations of his family. The vineyard has clay and flint soils and benefits from a unique microclimate, which is ideal for growing the local indigenous grape Limniona. Domaine Zafeirakis made its first vintage with this variety in 2008.

**TK** Charming and perfumed, with an elegant nature and an aromatic lift. Very good integration of the wood, great tannic management and long length, with very appealing fruit. A beautiful wine.

**YK** A very perfumed and pure nose displaying aromas of roses and cherries. Delicious! Savoury notes combine with well-played tannins on the palate. This is a great example of Limniona.

**NM** Floral complexity, with a juicy, round and complete palate. There's well-integrated oak too. This is a one-of-a-kind wine. I think of this variety as Greece's answer to Pinot Noir.

Drink 2019-2025 Alc 13% ➤

NB: the tasters' top wines are not necessarily their top-scoring, rather those which, on learning the wines' identity, they feel are the most notable given their provenance, price or other factors

## Highly Recommended 90-94pts



**Petrakopoulos, Mavro, Slopes of Aenos, Ionian Islands 2015**  
93 TK 94 YK 92 NM 93

£33 Southern Wine Roads  
Dark fruit and hints of tobacco, leather and spice. A herbal undertone of sage, bay leaf and thyme adds complexity to the long chocolate finish. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 13.5%



**Dimopoulos Estate, Xinomavro, Amyndeon, Macedonia 2015**  
92 TK 92 YK 91 NM 93

N/A UK [www.dimopoulosestate.gr](http://www.dimopoulosestate.gr)  
An appealing nose of dried tomatoes and cherries, with fig and date notes. The palate shows fresher fruit with some tannic grip and fresh acidity. **Drink** 2019-2025 **Alc** 12%



**T-Oinos, Clos Stegasta Mavrotragano, Cyclades, Aegean Islands 2015**  
92 TK 93 YK 93 NM 90

£81.99 Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent, Wimbledon Wine Cellar  
Dark fruit complexity and hints of blueberry yoghurt. Leather undertones are followed by well-integrated oak that carries a long Pu'er tea-inspired finish. **Drink** 2019-2025 **Alc** 14.5%



**Aivalis, Le Sang de la Pierre, Nemea, Peloponnese 2016**  
91 TK 89 YK 91 NM 94

N/A UK [sotirisaivalis@gmail.com](mailto:sotirisaivalis@gmail.com)  
Broad aromatics are evident with lots of concentrated fruit and a subtle mineral undertone making this an approachable, fresh and balanced wine. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Alc** 15%



**Boutari, Legacy 1879, Naousa, Macedonia 2007**  
91 TK 89 YK 93 NM 90

N/A UK [www.boutari.gr](http://www.boutari.gr)  
The nose is characterised by meaty notes, lamb broth and coffee complexity. There are prune, dried fig and black olive tapenade notes too, with ripe tannins giving power and structure. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Alc** 14%



**Foundi Estate, Xinomavro, Naousa, Macedonia 2011**  
91 TK 93 YK 90 NM 89

£20.75-£23.50 Clark Foyster Wines, Exel  
Mixed dried fruit, fig leaf and prune notes balance the savoury hints of truffle, tomato jam and dried herbs. Barolo-like character, boasting a layered palate and finish. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 12.5%



**La Tour Melas, Palies Rizes, Floiountas, Central Greece 2013**  
91 TK 90 YK 93 NM 91

£53 Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent, Wimbledon Wine Cellar  
Expressive and ripe on the nose with vanilla and sweet spice, summer fruits and cherry blossom backed by good acidity on the palate, providing a harmonious, concentrated finish. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 14%



**Moraitis, Paros, Aegean Islands 2016**  
91 TK 90 YK 91 NM 91

POA Eclectic wines  
A floral aroma from the Monemvasia grape continues on the palate, where it is joined by juicy cherries, red plums and leathery hints. Packed with tannins. This is a lovely introduction to red wines from the Aegean Islands. **Drink** 2019-2025 **Alc** 13%



**Oenops, Xinomavro (No Sulfites), Naousa, Macedonia 2016**  
91 TK 93 YK 90 NM 90

£19.90-£21.08 Clark Foyster Wines, Exel  
Charming on the nose, purity on the palate. There are flavours of blackberry, dark cherries and strawberry yoghurt, leading to a cheerful finish with fresh acidity. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 13%

## Highly Recommended (continued) 90-94pts



**Domain Mega Spileo, Achaia, Peloponnese 2012**  
90 TK 90 YK 92 NM 89

POA The Greek Delicatessen  
Cardamom and pepper spice on the nose, which develops into more earthy characteristics. Plummy fruit on the palate, plus super-fine tannins and an attractive finish with good acidity. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 14.5%



**Domaine Zafeirakis, Terracotta, Tyrnavos, Thessaly 2016**  
90 TK 88 YK 90 NM 91

£38.25 Clark Foyster Wines  
Summer fruits abound on the nose, though the palate is actually quite gamey and savoury. Fresh red cherries linger on the finish. This is an elegant style and demonstrates real precision. **Drink** 2018-2023 **Alc** 13%



**Karadimos, Vissa, Opoudias Lokridos, Central Greece 2013**  
90 TK 89 YK 92 NM 89

POA Southern Wine Roads  
A meaty, rustic nose which evolves into black fruits and tomato undertones. Full-throated on the palate; this has density and a long finish. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Alc** 14.5%



**Kikones, Limnio, Ismaros, Thrace 2015**  
90 TK 89 YK 92 NM 90

N/A UK [www.kikones.gr](http://www.kikones.gr)  
Aromas of spice on the nose, with interesting floral notes and a herbal background. These lead to an elegant palate, with well-balanced fruit and acidity, typical of this challenging grape. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Alc** 14%



**Ktima Gerovassiliou, Avaton, Epanomi, Macedonia 2015**  
90 TK 90 YK 91 NM 89

£20.49 Hallgarten  
Masterfully blended wine with a combination of meaty, smoky and roasted notes on the nose. These continue on the palate, which displays a velvety, rich but fresh finish. **Drink** 2018-2024 **Alc** 14%



**Thymiopoulos Vineyards, Terra Petra, Rapsani, Thessaly 2015**  
90 TK 90 YK 92 NM 89

£21 The Wine Society  
Exotic, perfumed nose, reminiscent of Asian spices that open up to red cherries and strawberries. The palate shows power, depth of fruit and good definition. A layered and exciting wine. **Drink** 2018-2026 **Alc** 13%

## Recommended 86-89pts

Wine	Score	TK	YK	NM	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
<b>Boutari, Grande Reserve, Naousa, Macedonia 2011</b>	89	88	91	88	Pronounced forest floor nose, with hints of jammy fruit. Tomato puree and juicy cherries dominate the palate, along with a persistent, lifting finish.	13%	2019-2025	£17.95	Aspris & Son
<b>Dalamara, Naousa, Macedonia 2016</b>	89	88	90	89	A rather wild nose; meaty with hidden fruits emerging. Mulberry fruit on the palate, which is fleshy and persistent, with a lingering finish.	13%	2018-2025	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.dalamara.gr">www.dalamara.gr</a>
<b>Diamantis, Xinomavro, Siatista, Macedonia 2016</b>	89	89	88	89	Expressive nose with floral and herbal notes. Elegant and approachable palate with a moderate finish. This is a stylish expression of Xinomavro.	13%	2018-2022	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.diamantiswines.com">www.diamantiswines.com</a>
<b>Dimopoulos Estate, Toumba, Florina, Macedonia 2015</b>	89	87	89	90	A nose of meat with lingering red fruit hints. The palate is plummy and juicy with a stylish cosmopolitan gloss. A quaffing style of Xinomavro.	13%	2018-2023	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.dimopoulosestate.gr">www.dimopoulosestate.gr</a>
<b>Dougos, Mavrotragano, Kontariotissa, Macedonia 2015</b>	89	86	93	89	Luxurious oak on the nose. Plenty of freshness and structure but would benefit from a couple of years' ageing to integrate the oak fully.	14%	2019-2024	N/A UK	<a href="http://dougos.gr">http://dougos.gr</a>
<b>Harlaftis, Grande Reserve, Nemea, Peloponnese 2010</b>	89	88	90	89	A layered, complete Agiorgitiko with juicy red fruits and excellent oak integration giving character to a spicy palate and elegant finish.	13%	2018-2023	N/A UK	<a href="http://www.harlaftis.gr">www.harlaftis.gr</a>
<b>Oenops, Xinomavro, Naousa, Macedonia 2016</b>	89	89	89	88	A floral nose with savoury, mineral notes. A delicate palate follows, with cherries, strawberries and even a touch of rose petal. Lip-smacking.	13%	2019-2024	£21.69	Clark Foyster Wines
<b>Skouras, St George Aghiorghitiko, Nemea, Peloponnese 2015</b>	89	89	90	88	An oaky nose with vanilla and milk chocolate hints. Juicy cherry fruit shines through on the palate, with coffee notes on the long finish.	13.5%	2018-2021	£14.50	Eclectic Wines
<b>T-Oinos, Avgoustiatis, Cyclades, Aegean Islands 2016</b>	89	90	88	90	A charming, high-acid wine with notes of raspberry, cherry blossom, violets and roses, plus plenty of fruit and freshness. An elegant rendition.	13%	2018-2022	£25.99	Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent, Wimbledon Wine Cellar
<b>Tsililis, Theopetra Estate, Meteora, Thessaly 2015</b>	89	89	88	89	Black fruit notes with sweet oak add gusto to the nose of this dominant wine, which follows through on the palate with a high-octane finish.	13%	2019-2023	£20.30	Ormos Trades

## CORK, THE NATURAL CHOICE

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**70% OF WINEMAKERS**  
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<sup>1</sup>From the 17,263 wines submitted, 8% did not specify the closure type. From the 15,828 wines submitted with an indication of closure, 75% of the wines are sealed from cork closure (natural cork and technical cork). <sup>2</sup>These figures are based on self-declaration of closure type by submitters and have not been verified. <sup>3</sup>[www.apcor.pt/en/](http://www.apcor.pt/en/)

Recommended (continued) 86-89pts

Wine	Score	TK	YK	NM	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Aivalis, Nemea, Peloponnese 2016	88	88	87	90	Aromas of violets and vanilla, followed by juicy plums and cherries, typical of the variety. The super-long aftertaste makes for an enjoyable wine.	13.5%	2018-2023	N/A UK	sotirisaivalis@gmail.com
Chatzivaritis, Goumenissa, Macedonia 2015	88	90	88	87	A developing nose of dried red fruits, spiced cherries and tomato confit lend gravitas to a textured palate with good length.	13%	2018-2022	N/A UK	www.chatzivaritis.gr
Dougos, Rapsani, Thessaly 2015	88	88	88	88	Cherry and strawberry fruit with notes of roses and a touch of spice provide a juicy palate. There's a focus on red fruit purity on the long, textured finish.	13.5%	2018-2023	N/A UK	http://dougos.gr
Gaia, Agiorgitiko, Nemea, Peloponnese 2016	88	88	87	89	Vibrant red fruits in the mouth with juicy plums, forest berries and hints of rose. Complexity is good and the flavours linger on the finish.	13.5%	2018-2022	£16.49	Carruthers & Kent, Corking Wines, Hallgarten, Strictly Wine, Wine Poole
Karanika, Katanika, Florina, Macedonia 2013	88	87	88	88	Freshness is evident immediately on the nose. This is a typical Limniona, which lacks some concentration but displays a lush fruity, finish.	13%	2018-2021	£11.62	Uvinum
Kir Yianni, Ramnista, Naousa, Macedonia 2013	88	90	85	89	A floral, lifted nose, with undertones of cherry. It's delicate on the palate with some orange skin complexity, plus rounded tannins and good balance.	14.5%	2018-2023	£17	Bibendum
Ktima Biblia Chora, Areti, Pangeon, Macedonia 2010	88	85	89	89	Suave aromatics; stewed fruit and balsamic notes provide a Mediterranean nose. Tea-leaf character on the finish. An old-school style.	14%	2019-2024	POA	Cava Spiliadis
Lantides, Nemea, Peloponnese 2016	88	87	88	90	Delicious black cherry fruit. Well rounded, with ripe tannins over a red fruit core. Concentrated and well made, this will age well.	13.5%	2019-2023	£10.95	Aspris & Son
Markovitis, Xinomavro, Naousa, Macedonia 2012	88	85	90	88	A meaty nose leads to a palate of grilled meat and dried red fruit, with notes of confit tomato and crunchy red cherries. Finishes well.	13.5%	2019-2021	£17	Indigo
Mitravelas Estate, Red on Black, Nemea, Peloponnese 2016	88	84	90	89	An exciting nose with a combination of savoury, vegetal and fruit notes. This is a terroir-driven Agiorgitiko with layered freshness and a fairly long finish.	13.5%	2018-2023	N/A UK	www.mitravelas.gr
Rouvalis, Tsigello, Slopes of Aigialia, Peloponnese 2017	88	88	88	89	A juicy, fruit-driven wine with herbs, violet and lavender hints. Soft tannins and a good acid balance make this a well-made, easy-drinking style.	13%	2018-2023	N/A UK	www.rouvaliswinery.gr
Tsantali, Grande Reserve, Rapsani, Thessaly 2011	88	88	89	88	Savoury hints on the palate with subtleties of smoke and leather. An international style with grippy tannins and a long, fresh finish.	13.5%	2018-2025	N/A UK	www.tsantali.com
Tsantali, Reserve, Rapsani, Thessaly 2014	88	87	87	89	Notes of coffee, leather and mocha transcend to cured meat and dark cherries on the palate, leading to a refreshing and fruity finish.	13%	2018-2024	N/A UK	www.tsantali.com
Domaine Porto Carras, LimNeon, Meliton Slopes, Macedonia 2015	87	86	89	86	Cherry compote, cinnamon and stewed strawberries on the nose. The elegant palate is dominated by fresh herbs and fleshy tannins. A long finish.	14%	2018-2023	N/A UK	www.portocarraswines.gr
Karavitakis, The Little Red Prince, Crete 2016	87	88	87	87	Plums, figs and cooked apple aromas lead to a palate of juicy red cherries and strawberry yoghurt, with a concentrated finish. Appealing and charming.	13.5%	2018-2020	£12.50	Eclectic wines
Katogi Averoff, Inima, Macedonia 2016	87	87	87	88	Floral aromas on the nose. An abundance of black fruit and spices on the palate, with meaty undertones. A well-made, elegant wine.	13%	2019-2023	N/A UK	www.katogiaveroff.gr
Ktima Pavlidis, Emphasis Agiorgitiko, Macedonia 2013	87	85	89	88	Gives a ripe impression from the outset. Plums, prunes, figs and dates lead to a minty, leafy palate. This is a dense wine with good ageing potential.	14%	2018-2023	N/A UK	www.ktima-pavlidis.gr
Oenops, Limniona, Thessaly 2016	87	89	86	86	Fruit-driven on both the nose and palate. Ripe and round tannins, fresh acidity and a supple texture packed with blueberries and spice.	13%	2018-2020	£22.13	Clark Foyster Wines
Toplou, Liatiko-Mandilari, Lasithi, Crete 2016	87	87	88	86	Smoked fish, dried red fruit, pot pourri and orange skin aromas. The palate is more focused with walnuts, a herbal undertone and a bone-dry aftertaste.	13.5%	2018-2021	N/A UK	info@toplou.gr
Vourvoukeli Estate, Limnio, Avdira, Thrace 2015	87	88	84	89	Red fruits with interesting floral characters and wood spices on the nose. Good freshness and grip on the palate, but could do with further ageing.	13%	2018-2023	N/A UK	www.TKima-vourvoukeli.gr
Avantis Estate, Falcons' Hills Red, Evia, Central Greece 2014	86	86	88	84	Aromas of chocolate, jam and leather on the nose lead to a chunky, juicy and supple palate, with hints of tea leaf on the finish.	14%	2018-2021	N/A UK	www.avantisestate.gr
Avantis Estate, Mavrokoudoura, Evia, Central Greece 2014	86	89	86	84	A subtle nose of dark berry fruit, plums and figs. A well-balanced palate with juicy fruit and well-rounded tannins, which make for a peppery finish.	14%	2018-2021	N/A UK	www.avantisestate.gr
D Kourtakis, Kouros, Nemea, Peloponnese 2016	86	86	85	88	Red fruit character. Complex notes of old wood, dried baking spices and floral hints lead to a palate of fresh red cherries, with a darker touch of currants.	13%	2018-2021	N/A UK	www.greek-wine-cellars.com
Domaine Sigalas, Mavrotragano, Cyclades, Aegean Islands 2016	86	85	87	86	Aromas of raisins and stewed prunes lead to sour cherry liqueur notes. Opulent and full-bodied style, with lots of tannins that need time to resolve.	15%	2020-2023	N/A UK	www.sigalas-wine.com
Domaine Skouras, Grande Cuvée, Nemea, Peloponnese 2014	86	85	85	89	Cherry and strawberry fruit, with floral tones on the nose. The palate shows sweet, fresh fruit which evolves into a caramel toffee finish.	13.5%	2018-2021	£22	Eclectic Wines
Tetramythos, Agiorgitiko, Peloponnese 2016	86	82	88	88	Rubber notes on the nose, alongside blueberry and cherry fruit. A vivacious palate follows, with lovely freshness and a long finish.	13.5%	2018-2021	£8.55	Eclectic Wines

Recommended (continued) 86-89pts

Wine	Score	TK	YK	NM	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Tetramythos, Phellée, Peloponnese 2014	86	85	85	89	Attractive, kirsch-like nose leads to more cherry fruit on the palate, which has good acidity. Oak tends to dominate, providing a bitter finish.	12.5%	2018-2021	£19.99	Eclectic Wines
T-Oinos, Mavro & Avgoustiatis, Cyclades, Aegean Islands 2012	86	88	86	84	Savoury and meaty style with sweet spice notes and toasted oak. It's youthful and structured, but needs time to mellow.	13%	2019-2025	£24.50	Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent, Wimbledon Wine Cellar
Tsantali, Abaton, Mount Athos, Macedonia 2014	86	86	83	89	This wine has stewed red fruit on the nose with an added edge of summer herbs. The palate is crunchy and juicy, full of red cherries and strawberries.	13%	2018-2021	N/A UK	www.tsantali.com

Commended 83-85pts

■ Acheon, iD Agiorgitiko, Peloponnese 2016 85, 13%, 2018-2019, N/A UK www.acheonwinery.gr ■ Acheon, Laura Nera, Slopes of Aigialia, Peloponnese 2015 85, 13%, 2018-2020, N/A UK www.acheonwinery.gr ■ Argatia, Naousa, Macedonia 2013 85, 13.5%, 2019-2025, N/A UK www.argatia.gr ■ Diamantakos, Naousa, Macedonia 2016 85, 13%, 2018-2022, £21 Costco ■ Diamantis, Moschomavro, Siatista, Macedonia 2017 85, 13%, 2018-2020, N/A UK www.diamantiswines.com ■ Domaine Sigalas, Mm, Cyclades, Aegean Islands 2016 85, 13%, 2018-2021, POA Maltby & Greek ■ Foundi, Naousa, Macedonia 2012 85, 13%, 2018-2021, £17.10 Huntsworth ■ Kechris, Xinomavro, Macedonia 2015 85, 13.5%, 2019-2026, N/A UK www.kechri.gr ■ Kir Yianni, Kali Riza, Amyndeon, Macedonia 2015 85, 13%, 2019-2023, N/A UK www.kiryianni.gr ■ Lyrarakis, Kotsifali, Crete 2016 85, 13%, 2018-2020, POA Berry Bros & Rudd ■ Monemvasia, Mura Rossa, Peloponnese 2010 85, 13%, 2018-2019, N/A UK www.malvasiawines.gr ■ Moraitis, Reserve, Paros, Aegean Islands 2014 85, 13%, 2019-2024, POA Eclectic wines ■ Nikos Douloufakis,

Dafnios, Dafnes, Crete 2016 85, 13.5%, 2018-2024, POA Maltby & Greek ■ Alpha Estate, Hedgehog Vineyard Xinomavro, Amyndeon, Macedonia 2015 84, 13%, 2019-2022, £16.70 Carruthers & Kent, Hallgarten Maltby & Greek ■ Dourakis, Impromptu, Crete 2014 84, 12.5%, 2018-2020, N/A UK www.dourakiswinery.gr ■ Gaia, Estate, Nemea, Peloponnese 2014 84, 14.5%, 2018-2021, £31.49 Carruthers & Kent, Great Wines Direct, Hallgarten, Strictly Wine, Wine Poole ■ Rhous, Skipper, Crete 2015 84, 13%, 2018-2020, £22 Cava Spiliadis ■ Alpha Estate, Reserve Vicilles Vignes Barba Yannis Xinomavro, Amyndeon, Macedonia 2014 83, 13.5%, 2018-2021, £21.20 Hallgarten, Maltby & Greek ■ Bizios Estate, Single Vineyard, Nemea, Peloponnese 2011 83, 14%, 2018-2021, £21.75 Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent, Wimbledon Wine Cellar ■ Lykos, Kratistos, Nemea, Peloponnese 2014 83, 13.5%, 2018-2019, £14.99 Beers of Europe ■ Mitravelas Estate, Old Vineyards, Nemea, Peloponnese 2015 83, 15%, 2018-2020, N/A UK www.mitravelas.gr ■ Parparoussis, Réserve, Nemea, Peloponnese 2013 83, 13.5%, 2018-2021, £36 Cava Spiliadis ■ Thymiopoulos Vineyards, Jeunes Vignes de Xinomavro, Naousa,

Macedonia 2016 83, 13%, 2018-2021, £11.95 Roberson, The Wine Society

Fair 76-82pts

■ Domaine Vassiliou, Nemeion Estate, Nemea, Peloponnese 2010 82 ■ Lyrarakis, Plakoura Vineyard Mandilari, Crete 2014 82 ■ Cavino, Grande Reserve, Nemea, Peloponnese 2011 81 ■ Semeli, Grande Reserve, Nemea, Peloponnese 2012 81 ■ Vriniotis, Vradiano, Evia, Central Greece 2014 81 ■ Monemvasia, Monemvasios, Monemvasia, Peloponnese 2009 80 ■ Semeli, Reserve, Nemea, Peloponnese 2013 78 ■ Lyrarakis, Aggelis Liatiko, Crete 2015 76

Poor 70-75pts

■ Karavitakis, Mandilari, Chania, Crete 2014 72

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Red Loire & New Zealand's  
other white wines

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