



Exciting new Eastern European Wines - Presented by Heather Dougherty – DipWSET

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1. Château Vartely “Totem” Viorica 2023, Moldova (13%) – The Wine Society

Viorica is a relatively new cross, only grown in from Moldova. Light, crisp and dry white wine with aromas of rose petal and orange blossom. Similar to muscat on the nose but with a more crisp and precise palate. Perfect summer evening in the garden wine.

2. Thaya Pinot Blanc 2023, Czech Republic (12%) – The Wine Society

Wines from the Czech Republic have been a revelation over the past couple of years. This is from a winery close to the border with Austria. Fresh, mountain air crispness and lightly fragrant, an ideal aperitif.

3. Peter Pince Furmint, Tokaji 2021, Hungary (12.5%)– Novel Wines

Tokaji is best known for producing lusciously sweet wines. From the same region and grape variety (Furmint) comes this delightful white wine. This wine is typical of the Furmint variety with its crisp acidity and mouth-watering notes of apple, honeysuckle, butter, brioche and white peach. The texture is full and waxy.

4. Beykush Winery Artania Rosé 2023, Ukraine (13%) – Ukrainian Wine Company

The winery is on the Black Sea, halfway between Odesa and Mykolaiv and was founded in 2010. This is 100% Pinot Grigio, macerated for 24 hours, resulting in a beautiful, delicate pink colour. It won a Silver Medal at the Decanter World Wine Awards.

5. Sanziana Pinot Noir 2023, Romania (12%) – VINVM

This is made by Cramele Recas (owned by a Brit, Philip Cox), who are responsible for most of the Romanian Pinot Noir that we see on supermarket and wine merchant shelves. It's a vibrant ruby colour, medium-bodied with aromas of red cherry, raspberry, and hints of spice.

6. Aya Early Melnik 2022, Bulgaria (13.5%) – Novel Wines

Aya is a prestigious and ambitious winery in Bulgaria's Struma Valley. Early Melnik is a cross between Melnik and Valdiguié, and is a softer, fruitier version of the winery's straight Melnik wine. Grown following biodynamic practices, it is an intense ruby red, medium bodied wine which has a distinct and rich aroma of ripe cherries and blackberries combined with soft spice and light tobacco. The palate has a hint of sweetness with well-structured tannins and a delicate and refreshing finish.