

IL-QATRA

April 2026 Session Report

Session Theme: top Maltese wines

Date: 28.04.2026

Location: Xara Lodge

Menu:

- Pan Seared Sea Bream, Dried Tomato, Leek and Spinach Fricassee, Anchovy and Potato Espuma
- Rabbit Tortellini, Root Vegetables, Stock Reduction, Jerusalem Artichoke Foam
- Roasted Rib-Eye, Porcini Mushroom Beignet, Fondant Potatoes, Green Vegetables, Thyme Jus
- Honey and Ricotta Parfait, Strawberry Compote

Food Scoring: 7.9/ 10

		Wine	Region	Vintage	Varietal	Voting Out of 20	Retail Price	Importer	Consumption
Aptf	White	Antonin Blanc	Malta	2025	Chardonnay	15.18	€20.35	Cassar Camilleri	12
A	Red	Domina	Malta	2023	Malbec	14.41	€45	Cassar Camilleri	6.5
B	Red	Philippe Villiers	Malta	2018	Syrah Cabernet Franc	14.82	€56	Ta Betta	6.5
C	Red	Contrada ta Fangu	Malta	2016	Syrah	15.21	€47	San Niklaw	6.5
D	Red	Adon	Malta	2021	Gellewsa Girgentina Syrah	15.18	€55	Markus Divinus	6.5
Average						14.96		Average per member	1 bottle

Wine: Antonin Blanc	Region: Malta
Vintage: 2025	Varietal: Chardonnay 100%
Alcohol Content: 13%	Price: €20.35
Tasting Notes Aromas of vanilla and burnt toast giving way to crisp citrus and apple notes on the palate. It is full and round in the mouth and whilst retaining a fruity Chardonnay character, the subtle nuance of oak adds finesse and complexity	
Description Antonin Blanc is produced from selected Chardonnay grapes harvested from the Ramla Valley Estate in Gozo. Barrel Fermentation and ageing on the lees for up to 12 weeks in new oak barrels contributes an important aspect to the wine’s essential character. One of the most expensive White wines from Malta (top 10) Awards: Chardonnay-du-Monde bronze in 97, 98 and 05; silver 99	



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Wine: Domina	Region: Malta
Vintage: 2023	Varietal: Malbec 100%
Alcohol Content: 14%	Price: €45
Tasting Notes Aromas of fresh fruit - plum and cherry, as well as subtle herbal nuances of fennel, liquorice and some wood, the 2020 vintage exudes elegance. On the palate, floral violets, cedar and fine-grained dry tannins add to this wine's finesse. Description Marsovin Domina 2023 is a special edition wine, produced from Malbec grapes grown in Marsovin's privately owned estates in Malta. The story of this wine began in 2013 when the first Malbec vines were planted in Marsovin's Estate in Wardija. It is only as consequence of the success of this trial that Marsovin decided to plant Malbec in four of its other estates around Malta. Domina is dedicated to Mrs. Giovanna Natalizia Cassar, the leading lady of the Cassar family and grandmother to the 4th Generation.	



Wine: Adon	Region: Malta
Vintage: 2021	Varietal: Syrah and Ġellewża.
Alcohol Content: 13%	Price: €55
Tasting Notes A dry, medium-bodied, complex ruby coloured wine. Aromas of strawberry, sour cherry and plum, oak maturation of smoke, toast, sweet spices of vanilla and coconut, and a stony mineral finish. The medium levels of acidity are in combination with the levels of tannin giving a long aftertaste. Description Markus Divinus Adon 2021 is a dynamic red wine that blends Malta's heritage with modern winemaking. Showcasing Ġellewża fermented with Girgentina skins, two of Malta's indigenous treasures, it is complemented by bold Syrah and a selection of other varieties, adjusted yearly to reflect the vintage. Predominantly aged in French oak, with a touch of American oak for added complexity, Adon represents the energy of youth and the spirit of experimentation. Seamlessly merging contemporary techniques with classic influences, this wine delivers a unique and evolving expression with every vintage.	



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Wine: Philippe Villiers	Region: Pomerol
Vintage: 2018	Varietal: Syrah and Cabernet franc
Alcohol Content: 13.5%	Price: €56
Tasting Notes Dark ruby red in colour. On the nose initial aromas of iron, dried tomato and white pepper give way to beautifully compact notes of ripe berry fruit, blackberry, forest fruit, graphite and a touch of dark chocolate. The textured palate is well balanced and flavourful with tightly woven, velvety tannins and plenty of finesse, finishing with elegance, persistence, and nice length.	
Description This robust blend of Syrah with Cabernet Franc up until 2019, had the Syrah to Cabernet Franc blend at 70% to 30%, this has since changed to 65% to 35%, the more recent vintages arguably more exotic. The vines were mostly planted in 2003 and the yield is restricted to up to 1.8kg per vine for the Syrah and up to 1.6kg per vine for the Cabernet Franc. This wine is best stored and served at a temperature of 18°C and complements strong meat dishes, stews, and lightly spiced aromatic food. From experimental vintages dating back since 2006, it is not unreasonable to expect this wine to age at least 10 years, we trust that some vintages will last a few decades. Circa 12,000 bottles are produced annually depending on yield and weather conditions. Decanting one hour prior to consumption is recommended. Falstaff Rating: 95 points	



Wine: Contrada ta Fangu	Region: Malta
Vintage: 2016	Varietal: Syrah
Alcohol Content: 12.5%	Price: €47
Tasting Notes Complex, intense ruby red with generous dark red fruit notes and elegant oak aromas. A rich mouthfeel with soft tannins expressed in a delicate balance	
Description San Niklaw Contrada Ta Fangu 2016 the family owned property is located in the South-East corner of Malta. At the centre of the estate lies a 17th century chapel dedicated to St Nicholas attached to a country residence. The estate is composed of vineyards, an olive grove and a boutique winery, including an underground cellar dating back to the late 19th century. The vineyards were established in 2005 with the sole aim of producing estate grown world class wines. Syrah was carefully chosen to obtain maximum expression within the context of the terroir. In a quest to produce limited quantities wines with an absolute inclination towards quality. San Niklaw has been renovated to accommodate a new winery with modern facilities in order to achieve these goals.	



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