

February 2026 Session Report

Session Theme: Super Tuscan 2nd wines

Date: 24.02.2026


Location: Xara Lodge

Menu:

- Poached Salmon and Cod Roulade, Savoy Cabbage, Shiitake Mushroom
- Risotto, Jerusalem Artichoke, Sage, Parmesan
- Roast Beef Fillet Medallion, French Onion Tart, Roasted Carrot
- Warm Almond and Orange Tart, Morello Cherry Compote

Food Scoring: 8.6/10

		House	Wine	Region	Country	Vintage	Voting Out of 20	RRP	Importer	Consumption
App	White	Palliser Pencarrow	Sauvignon Blanc	Martinborough	New Zealand	2024	14.7	€15.99	Kontrada	7
A	Red	Tenuta San Guido	Le Difese	Toscana	Italy	2022	14.6	€33.00	Mirachem	6
B	Red	Tenuta San Guido	Guidalberto	Toscana	Italy	2022	14.7	€58.00	Kontrada	7
C	Red	Frescobaldi	Lucente	Toscana	Italy	2022	14.9	€32.03	Charles Grech	6
D	Red	Ornellaia	Le Serre Nuove	Toscana	Italy	2022	15.8	€68.69	Charles Grech	7
				Average			14.9	€47.93	Average per member	1.03

Wine: Tenuta San Guido – Le Difese	Region: Tuscany	
Vintage: 2022	Varietal: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Sangiovese	
Alcohol Content: 13.5%	Price: €33.00	
<p>Description</p> <p>The Tenuta San Guido Le Difese 2022 is a vibrant, food-friendly red blend from Tuscany's renowned Bolgheri region. As the third wine from the makers of the legendary Sassicaia, it is celebrated for its immediate accessibility, freshness, and high price-to-quality ratio.</p> <p>From Castagneto Carducci, Tuscany wine region, Tenuta San Guido Le Difese is a fruit-driven and savoury red wine blend of Sangiovese with the balance in Cabernet Sauvignon. Look for red berry, bright cherry, rose petal, fine herbs, sweet tobacco leaf flavours spicy and zesty on the palate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasting Notes: "Light, transparent garnet colour. Juicy, accessible nose. Quite a charmer with a little Sangiovese bite on the finish for the short term. Decent, medium finish." Jancis Robinson • "Bright and appealing flavours of raspberry and cranberry with some cedar follow through to a medium body with fine tannins and a crisp finish. Fresh and crisp." James Suckling • "Bright red and violet scents with a creamy background and herbal notes lead to a soft and structured palate full of fresh, tangy cherries and dark hedgerow berries. Ripe, precise and flavoursome with a long, airy, balsamic finish, Le Difese should be enjoyed over the next ten years." Decanter 		

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Wine: Tenuta San Guido - Guidalberto	Region: Tuscany
Vintage: 2022	Varietal: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot
Alcohol Content: 13.5%	Price: €58.00

Description

Guidalberto is a highly regarded Super Tuscan red wine produced by the iconic Tenuta San Guido estate in Bolgheri, Tuscany. While often referred to as the "second wine" of the legendary **Sassicaia**, it is increasingly positioned as a distinct, independent expression of the estate's terroir.

Tasting Notes

"Lots of mint with sage and fresh rosemary to go with the redcurrants and oranges on the nose, as well as some ripe raspberries. The palate is very refined with creamy and crisp tannins that run the length of the wine. It shows a crisp and energetic personality. It should be given another year or two to develop, but it is already very good for the vintage." James Suckling

"This red wine is elegant, despite its firm structure and dense tannins. The flavours of black cherry, blackcurrant, plum, tobacco, iron and rosemary hold court, with all components balanced. The finish is long, with a salty flavour." Wine Spectator



Wine: La Vite Lucente – Tenuta Luce	Region: Tuscany
Vintage: 2022	Varietal: Sangiovese, Merlot
Alcohol Content: 14.5%	Price: €32.03

Description

As Luce della Vite, Tenuta Luce was founded in the early 1990s as a collaboration between Robert Mondavi and Marchesi de' Frescobaldi. Ownership passed entirely to Lamberto Frescobaldi in 2002. The estate is one of the highest situated wineries in Montalcino with 350 to 420 meters of altitude, located southwest of Montalcino town, and has 77 hectares (190 acres) of estate vineyards in total. At the core of Tenuta Luce's philosophy is the idea that wine should be the most natural expression of the lands where it is produced and the grapes from which it is obtained: the result of a perfect balance between grape variety and territory. Each human intervention takes place in a minimal and non-invasive form, with the main objective of protecting this harmony.

Lucente impresses for the cleanliness and intensity of its wild berry and jam bouquet with highlights of tobacco and light spices which are found again on the palate, enriched by a delicate toasted note. Measured, silky tannins provide a wonderful roundness and a persistent finish.

Tasting Notes

- James Suckling (94 pts): Described as "round and creamy" with "succulent fruit and fine tannins".
- Natalie MacLean (93-95 pts): Highlighted its "silky-smooth" mouthfeel and "concentrated" flavors of cassis and cedar.
- Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (90 pts): Noted an "international-minded" style with unique "barbecued flavors" and "hickory meat".



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- Wine Spectator (90 pts): Described a "salty cast" to its cherry and plum fruit with mineral notes of earth and iron.

Wine: Dell' Ornellaia – Le Serre Nuove

Region: Tuscany

Vintage: 2022

Varietal: 65% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc

Alcohol Content: 14.5%

Price: €68.69

Description

Tenuta dell Ornellaia is one of the foremost producers in the Bolgheri appellation on the coast of Tuscany. It is particularly known for making one of Italy's most famous and expensive wines. This Bordeaux-style blend is one of the original Super Tuscons. It is made from Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with smaller amounts of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The company was founded in 1981 by Marchese Lodovico Antinori, with the first vintage in 1985. From 2002 to 2005 the estate was co-owned by Robert Mondavi and Marchesi De Frescobaldi but, since 2005 Frescobaldi has owned it outright.

Grapes which do not make the cut for the top wine (primarily from the estate's younger vineyards) are redirected to Le Serre Nuove dell'Ornellaia, the second wine of the estate. This usually has more Merlot, and less time in oak.

The fruit is rock solid, delineated, tonic and firm. The pleasure factor awarded here is very high thanks to the wine's inner softness, silky tannins and soothing extract. The bouquet is seamless and pristine.

Tasting Notes

"A soft red wine that produces aromas and flavours of cedar, plums, blackcurrants, blackberries, vanilla and resin. Broad and dense, with accents of leather, earth and tobacco on the long finish." Wine Spectator

"This vintage is structured and rich with sweet tannins and a smooth texture. This hot vintage certainly brings more fruit weight, but the wine remains fresh and well balanced overall." Wine Advocate



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"The brightness and purity of the fruit is so beautiful here, showing flowers and redcurrants. Very aromatic. Lots of finesse and focus on the medium-bodied palate with super-fine tannins and a lovely finish. Lively. Why wait for this?" James Suckling

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