

Harpers Wine & Spirit

TRADES REVIEW

MY TASTE

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Harpers Wine & Spirit
Inter Beaujolais
Trade & Press Tasting
The Arts Club, Mayfair
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Unless you've been residing on another planet these past few weeks, it's unlikely the hype of the 2009 Beaujolais vintage has passed you by. Xavier Barbet, vice-president of Inter Beaujolais, says this is the best vintage he's ever seen. I have to say it's nice to have a Beaujolais revival because when Gamay is good it's a joy to behold. Plus it sits so well with what the consumer wants these days: it's light, not a high abv, tastes good chilled and is a great food wine. It also stands out on its own in terms of individuality and style.

All 12 appellations were on show, from the light, frivolous and fruity through to the more serious and complex. There were a couple that fell a little flat, but there were many more delightful, luscious and succulent wines on show and it's these that will have the consumer coming back for more. Some of the more complex wines were good to savour and good value on the pocket. But to me it's about making hay while the sun shines and I'd be opting for the bright-fruited fun aspect – and there's plenty of that to be had this year.

Henry Fessy Beaujolais Rouge 2009
(Louis Latour Agencies) had a colour you'd want on your palette as well as your palate. Red-purple in the glass, it had a lively nose of raspberry and violets, with upbeat, red berry fruits to taste.

