

WINECORNER

by Jacqueline Morley



IF there's one thing all the nice, if mature, girls, like more than a sailor, it's a wine in every port. Now we're turning onto port, too, rather than seeing it as an old gents' tippie, to go with cigar, and room bereft of women, *Pride and Prejudice* style.

But women have no pride where chocolate is involved. Taylor's First Estate Reserve Port, widely available for around a tenner, goes down a storm with a chunky slab of choc, or even dribbled over (from the bottle, darlings...) a rich choc dessert.

The general rule is wine should be as sweet, or sweeter, than the treat with which it is served - a drier style will just clash with, rather than complement, desserts.

Taylor's Reserve is a big luscious port which cuts straight through the bitter-sweet taste of chocolate and brims with rich blackberry aromas and dark delectable plum sweetness. Rich tannins linger on the palate with cherries coming through, and the port punches well above its weight to pair with choc, the darker the better, or a rich choccy cake.

And the reason we're telling you this? Well, national chocolate week is coming in October, but who can wait that long? You can bag a half bottle for £5.69 at Tesco. Stick with that until you know you like it.



PRICE PLEASERS:

Following on from the success of its first two vintages, Viñalba Reserva Malbec 2008 is now available in the UK at Majestic Wine. The 2008 vintage was awarded a gold medal at the 2010 Decanter World Wine Awards, further evidence of outstanding quality. Viñalba

Reserva Malbec 2008 offers intense aromas of spices and dark red fruits combined with hints of vanilla and chocolate. Incredibly rich redcurrant and blackberry fruit flavours combine with a perfect smoothness and balanced structure which end with an incredibly long and lingering finish. It's usually £9.99 but is on promotion, on buy two, save £2, bringing it down to £8.99 a bottle, until August 30.

The Co-op and Somerfield have an excellent Aussie Shiraz, St Kitt's 2008, a third off at £6.66 until August 17, for a lovely brambley red, all plums, spices, and savoury pepper notes, with well integrated oak.

Award winning Griffith Park Sparkling Rose and Sparkling Brut are both under a fiver at Asda stores until August 17. That's about £2 off so get busy with the fizzy!

TOP TIPPLE

Taste the Difference Sancerre 2009, £12.29, Sainsbury, breathes life into what can be a weary wine in the wrong hands: steely, bone dry, rich, intense, nicely citrusy yet fruitily fulsome, all fat apple flesh and apricot undertones. Absolutely delicious, and fabulous with fish.