

Harrogate Fine Wine Company Newsletter

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Equipo Navazos – Sherry but not as you know it... We cannot remember ever seeing as much good press about new sherries as what we have seen about these guys over recent years. So when we had the chance to taste through their impressive range we were pretty excited and boy they did not disappoint!

Equipo Navazos basically came about when a group of friends were routing around old sherry cellars and found casks that had maybe slipped off the solera system or showed an exceptionally interesting character. They negotiated buying these odd butts initially just for their own use and then over time small amounts have been released through the wine trade.

These are very much to be considered like a wine and drunk as such. They have the ability to age and do not need to be consumed at the same speed as many other sherries, which is especially true of the Fino and Manzanilla styles.

Many of them are made in very small quantities and new releases will keep coming as they find them.

La Bota de Pedro Ximénez (n° 11) £31.99 – From Bodegas Real Tesoro who got this amazing sherry themselves from Bodega Manuel de Argüeso. 18 years plus, this is an almost indestructible wine that will grow with bottle age. Very sweet and lush but fantastic tangy acidity.

La Bota de Fino (n° 18) “Macharnudo Alto” £23.99 – This is a new release extracted in December 2009 from the soleras that already yielded similar ventures in June 2006, April 2007, and June 2008. The essence was to capture the wide array of soleras and criaderas of the oldest and most complex fino available in the centuries-old Valdespino cellars. La Bota de Fino “Macharnudo Alto” is also a terroir wine since its refilled exclusively with musts from the Macharnudo Alto vineyard, a truly privileged terroir to the north of Jerez. It shows way more character and complex fruit than any other Fino we have tasted.

La Bota de Manzanilla Pasada (n° 20) ‘Bota Punta’ £49.99 50cl - 15 butts were selected by Rafael Rivas, cellar manager of La Guita but they did not fit the more modern fresh style La Guita was after, so it was left and not drawn upon for years. Occasionally Rafael would draw off a little but always topped up from the best La Guita barrels and not the first criadera wine. It is pretty unique and very rare so if you love Manzanilla Pasada then this is an absolute must.

La Bota de Palo Cortado (n° 21) £45.99 - Owned by Grupo Estévez and incorporating some wonderful wines from the Valdespino cellars this is a veritable old wine whose freshness and elegance combines with extraordinary power. It's a wine to savour and it will just keep drawing you in and revealing more and more layers.

Many of you will remember the tasting we did with Bodegas Tradicion and the Oriental tapas that were matched with the wines. This is something we would like to do again with these guys so watch this space.