



Jackie: Hello I'm Jackie Dalton, this is London Life. Today I'm at London's annual Good Food Show. I've tried out plenty of food already, but I also want to find out about the wine here. I'm going to talk to David, an English wine-maker – yes, there is such a thing as English wine! As we listen to him, we'll explore some wine-related language. David is going to start by talking about one of his favourite wines. What word does he invent to describe the wine that he's drinking?

David

So can you tell me about this particular sparkling wine that you've got here?

Well, this is a blend of Reichensteiner, which is a Reisling style, perhaps more similar to a Gewurz Traminer. So what you want to do when you taste a wine is to take a nice mouthful of it and breathe in air over the top of it and then breathe it out and it's your nose which actually tastes the wine. So that's what I'm going to do... If you're looking for adjectives, basically, it's 'gulpable'.

Jackie: 'Gulpable'. 'Gulpable' is not a word you'd normally find in the dictionary, but you will find the word 'gulp'. The verb 'to gulp' means to drink something very quickly, swallowing a lot at a time.

Voice: She gulped down her breakfast then ran off to catch the bus.

Jackie: It can also be a noun:

Voice: He finished his drink in one gulp.

Jackie: So 'gulp' is normally used as a noun or a verb. But what David has done, is turned it into an adjective by adding a-b-l-e on the end, describing wine as 'gulpable'. The kind of wine you can drink easily and quickly.
Next, David is going to use a word which has an opposite meaning to 'gulp'. Can you spot what it is?

David

If you're looking for adjectives, basically, it's 'gulpable'. The test of a good wine is that if you have to sip it, it's a bad wine.

Jackie: David says if you have to sip wine, it's a bad wine. To 'sip' means to drink very slowly, taking just a small amount into your mouth each time. While we can use 'gulp' when talking about both food and drink, we can only use 'sip' with liquids.

Voice: Hmm, have a sip of this, it's delicious!

Jackie: So David reckons the kind of wine that's easy to gulp down is better than the kind of wine that you would only sip.

David

The test of a good wine is that if you have to sip it, it's a bad wine. If you can actually gulp it down, then that is the indication that that wine has been perfectly made, it's easy to drink, it's soft and that is the whole key to good wine-making.

Jackie: David is going to tell us more about the wine he has. For him the wine is very 'fruity'. What words does he use which show you he thinks this?

David

So, what you notice immediately that it's got a lemony, slightly orange flavour to it. It's got masses of fruit there, that's come through initially. It's got a nice sweetness to it, but the balance and the harmony is absolutely perfect.

Jackie: David talks about the wine's flavour – what it tastes like. He uses the adjective 'lemony' to suggest it tastes a bit like lemons and says it also has an orange flavour. He also says it has masses of fruit, which means lots of fruit: 'masses' – an adjective to describe quantity which can be used in lots of contexts...

Voice: There's a huge party outside, there are masses of people in the streets.

Voice: I'm afraid I can't go out with you, I've got masses to do this weekend.

David

It's got masses of fruit there that's comes through initially. It's got a nice sweetness to it, but the balance and the harmony is absolutely perfect.

Jackie: David says it's 'got a nice sweetness to it' – it tastes quite sweet. It also has a perfect balance and harmony. By 'balance' he means no one flavour stands out; the different elements have equal strength. 'Harmony' is when things seem to work well together. So David says all the different elements of the wine come together perfectly. Now let's practise some of the new words that have come up. Over to you! What verb beginning with 'g' means to eat or drink something quickly and in large amounts? (To gulp)

What about a word that begins with 's' and means to drink something slowly and in small quantities? (To sip)

If we want to talk about what a food or drink tastes like, do we talk about its flavour or its flower? (Food and drink have 'flavours')

What word beginning with 'm' did we hear which means a lot of something? (Masses) And that's all for this week's London Life. Do join us again next time!