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Good libations: Refreshing drinks for summer picnics

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RAIN MAY CANCEL PLAY BUT AT LEAST YOU'LL HAVE GOOD WINE



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You can plan a pretty picnic but you can't predict the weather. It may be a cliché but, as anyone who's tried to plan an al fresco event in the UK knows all too well, there's wisdom in the idiom. And, while 2024 may be proving a kinder summer than most, one need only cast their mind back to the many, many drizzly picnics of years gone by to know it's unlikely to last forever. The hope that this nefarious psychosis in the London weather system will, at some point, be replaced by something more gentle, friendly and eco-conscious is what's keeping us going in the struggle against bi-polar conditions that genuinely means sun-drenched, wine-fuelled picnics can turn into a scene from Waterworld within minutes. If you should find your own al fresco celebrations being liberally doused, these are the summer drinks to save from being sucked into the nearest storm drain. All are worth getting at least mildly soggy for...

FATTORIA LA VIALLA MUSSANTINO SELVATICO

Luxury London's vineyard of the year for 2023 has not sat on its barrels and soaked up the adulation back in Tuscany. Its Mussantino Selvatico is a slight misnomer, however. 'Selvatico' means 'wild' but the Monet-esque pastel pink hue and teasingly small bubbles of this sparkling rose are far more coquettish and demure than the name suggests. Pino nero grapes tend to grow exceptionally well in the corner of Tuscany where Fattoria is located and the result is an effervescent wine with some deft touches of daisy, jasmine and banana. The most effortlessly more-ish rosé of the summer, investing in a case of this to take your barbecue to the next level.

£70.50 for a case of six