

1/2 December 2006 - many thanks to everyone who attended our Grand Tasting weekend. We hope you enjoyed some new wines and enjoyed some of our seasonal favourites. The focus was on wines for Christmas food -- Rioja Crianza from Spain for instance -- and partying with highlights from the recent round of London portfolio tastings. Thanks to all our customers for supporting us during our first year!

17 November 2006 – Thanks to Derek Langton for a fantastic tasting with the great wines of Moët Hennessy UK. We really were surprised by the new Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2006 and impressed with the complex finesse of Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin Vintage Reserve 1999 Champagne. The latter is the perfect expression of Pinot Noir in vintage Champagne. The evening was a great success and – best of all – we managed to raise £160 for Children in Need. So our thanks go to Derek and all our customers that night!

20 October 2006 - A grand South American evening with Robin Nugent. *Alliance Wine's* Robin Nugent showed us some great wines from Botalcura in Chile and Familia Zuccardi's Santa Rosa Estate situated 85km east of Mendoza City in the foothills of the Andes (Argentina). Standout wines that evening were Botalcura's "El Delirio" Reserve Sauvignon Blanc from cool-climate Casablanca in Chile and the port-style Malamado liqueur wine from Zuccardi, which sparkled at the evening's end with concentrated spicy brambles and raisins..

21 September 2006 – Italian Masterclass with Michael Palij MW. This was a stunning evening and thanks go to Michael and Paolo for a stimulating vinous trip all over Italy. It was a rare opportunity to taste a superb portfolio of Italian wines with a Master of Wine and one of the most successful launches we have had to date for a new range of hand-crafted, artisanal wines.

18 August 2006 – “Wines of Italy” by Italian specialist Simon Stagnell. Thanks to Simon from *Enotria Wine Cellars UK* for an illuminating talk on the wines of Italy. The star of the evening was the Barbera d’Alba Briccotondo from Fontanafredda and the evening began with another popular wine, the Moscato d’Asti from La Spinetta.

21 July 2006 - Wines of Bordeaux with MW candidate Mike Arditti. Possibly our best tasting yet, Mike showed an enthusiastic audience around the regions of both left and right bank Bordeaux with all the wines showing really well. Who says that you can't get value for money in Bordeaux? Star wines - Les Fiefs de Lagrange 2001 and Chateau d'Angludet 2000.

16 June 2006 - Chapel Down wines with English Winemaker of the Year, **Owen Elias**, also winemaker of the stunning **Sandhurst Vineyards 2003 Pinot Noir (£13.99)**, which has just been given top critical praise in Tom Stevenson's *Wine Report 2007* (In a previous life, in 1985, Elias, a former world music mogul, also co-founded the music label *DiscAfrique*.) Owen gave us a taste of how fine English wine is becoming with a very good range of still and sparkling wine. From the superb Bacchus (ideal for summer drinking), through the strawberries and cream rose, and a great UK Pinot Noir, and the multi award winning Pinot Reserve sparkler, this was a great evening enjoyed by all.

21 April 2006 - Wines of Spain with Richard Walley (Moreno Wines) – a very fine

tasting of wonderful Spanish reds from Guelbenzu (the Evo 2003 being the undisputed favourite) and sherry, including a sublime Pedro Ximenez.

14 March 2006 – Around New Zealand with wine educator, Brian Davis. A stunning collection of NZ wines with entertaining and informative tutor Brian Davis. Villa Maria's Single Vineyard Sauvignon and Mountford's Pinot Noir were the stars of a wonderful tasting.

6 February 2006 – Turkey Flat Wines with winemaker, Peter Schulz. We were honoured to welcome such an esteemed guest for our first Secret Cellar tasting event and we weren't disappointed. Please download The Cellar magazine for a feature on Turkey Flat