

WINE NEWS

to be more socially responsible

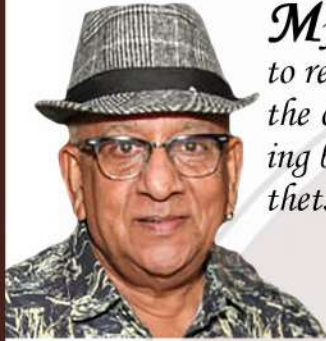


M U M B A I

Editor : Sidd Banerji | Chief Adviser : Hans Raj Ahuja

For limited and private circulation only

Fratelli, Akfuj, an extraordinary experience... - Sidd Banerji



My wine trail took me 400kms down South from Mumbai, just to rediscover the splendors and magic at Akfuj, the headquarter of the only Indo Italian wine venture in the country, Fratelli, meaning brotherhood, in Italian. A combined effort of determined 6 brothers. Mohite, Patils from Maharashtra, Seccis from Italy and Sekhris from N. Delhi.

The other name of Fratelli could be boldness, determination and absolute adherence to quality. I'm more inspired, over two night's stay at their exquisite, cute hamlet centre at Akfuj city outskirts.



FRATELLI VINEYARDS

This frame gathers the latest logo of Fratelli, just launched pan India. An extraordinary creation of excellent handwork with rusty looking metal sheets, depicting characters of each of the 6 founding brothers, with a special golden wine glass in the hand of the departed partner with untimely death last year, Kapil Sekhri. The 7th figure is of the Chief wine maker of the house, Piero Masi.



Few 100 ft I'm sure, above the ground level of Akfuj is Fratelli's larger vineyard, around 3-400 acres, about 13 kms away from the main one.

Set on a foot hill of a mountainous area, scenic all around and in the pristine surrounding you can see as far your eye sight goes, stretches of well planted and looked after rows and rows of grape plantations. An ideal sight for an artist, a photographer a romantic creator.

The tough Mahindra 4 wheeler took us above, the driver, Kshitij and myself on a rugged, stony narrow village roads. Once you are up the hilly area, a cool bench welcomes you to have a comfortable sit and view all around the vineyards of Fratelli. Often cool breeze at that height embraces you with dreams and peace. An extraordinary vineyard view I have ever come across in my experiences in India and abroad, A unique selection of the area and a mastery in maintaining it. Akfuj city outskirts and the most unforgettable experience, of 2hrs ea evening out in lawn, at the wine dinners, under the open sky, with no other than one of the most passionate wine makers I've come across in my 30 years in wine world, Alessio Secci.

They carried complete lunch with a bottle of Sangiovese too. There was nothing else needed one to just forget oother part of the world, at least momentarily. Kudos to the management of Fratelli, kudos to their farsightedness.



The splendour within limits



Alessio Secci



Alessio Secci at dinners. They were solid 2hrs wine classes, unforgettable.

(Contd. from Oct. '21 Issue)

CHAPTER- 8

The Jargon used in Wine Tasting



What happens to wine's flavour as it ages?

When wines are young, we taste their primary flavours, like grassiness in Sauvignon Blanc, plum in Merlot, apricot in Viognier or citrus in Riesling. We may also notice some secondary notes associated with winemaking techniques, like the vanilla flavor of oak or buttery nuances from malolactic fermentation. When wines age, it develops tertiary notes or flavours like honey, mushroom or earthiness.



Reasons for changes:

Wine is a live beverage. Acids and alcohol constantly react with each other to form new compounds while other compounds may get dissolved and combine to give a new flavour or texture. This is a continuous process and therefore when you open a bottle, you always catch a wine at a particular stage of evolution.

How texture develops in wine

Dry white wines may become viscous and oily while reds may become smoother.

How wine colour changes with age?

Colour is the most visible change in wine as it ages.

White wines will change from pale lemon to amber or light brown. Red wines may change from purple or deep red to brownish shades.



Brix: Brix is a universal standard to measure dissolved solids in a liquid. With ref to grapes, it means, the sugar level in grapes. 1 brix is equal to 1 gram of sugar in 100 gram of water. Generally 18 grams of sugar level (1.8 brix) will give 1% v/v. However the potential yield is about 90% of theoretical value.

Proof Strength: Now a days proof strength is not commonly used for determining the alcohol level in beverages. The common terminology used is v/v in % terms.

The system of proof strength started in UK which defined 1 Proof as 1.821 times the v/v percentage. While USA defined the proof strength simply as two times the v/v %

In order to bring uniformity and better understanding of consumers, the universal practice now is to measure and declare alcohol content as v/v %





NON ALCOHOLIC WINES

Non Alcoholic Wines are basically the wines which have very less amount of alcohol contentor moreover no alcohol content in them. True nonalcoholic / dealcoholized wine is produced from wine that has been fermented with yeasts and has undergone a vinification process, then goes through an additional process of having the alcohol removed.

All other fruit-based products marketed as nonalcoholic wine are simply juice. Non Alcoholic Wines have different health benefits also like Decreased risk of cardio-vascular disease and More on taste and less on calories for drinking people.

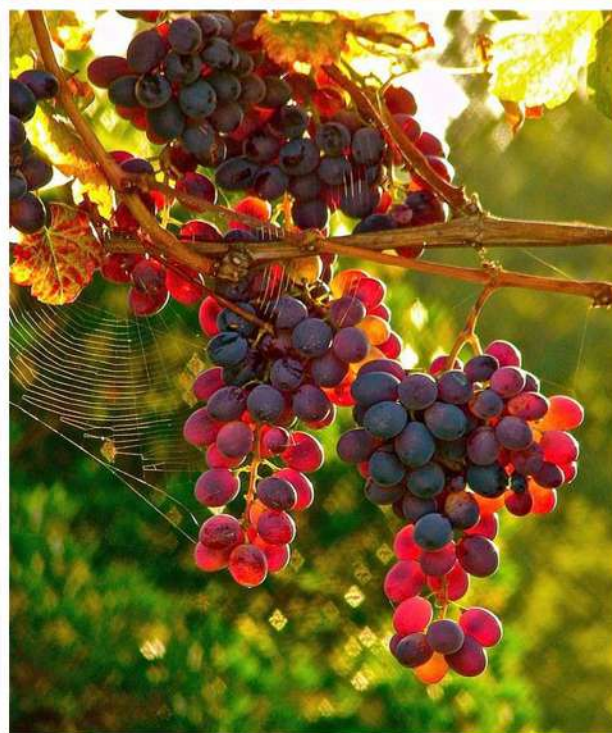
It is also observed that due to grapes content in the wine their is more health benefits in Non Alcoholic Wine which is same in Alcoholic Wine, basically because of Polyphenols present in the grapes which are the source of health benefits for the Non Alcoholic Wine.

Non Alcoholic Wines are on Low Sugar content which acts as major booster for the market, few prominent non alcoholic wines are:

1. Giesen 0% Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc
2. Newblood Shiraz (vegan)
3. Wildlife Botanicals (vegan)
4. Newblood Chardonnay (vegan)
5. Thomson & Scott Noughty (Vegan & Halal)

Non Alcoholic Wines are now gaining more popularity in the market and have taken more demand with respect to Alcoholic Wines and are ready for catering to Future Market Demands.

Source: Abkari Times, Beverage Universe.com, liquor.com, sansdrinks.com

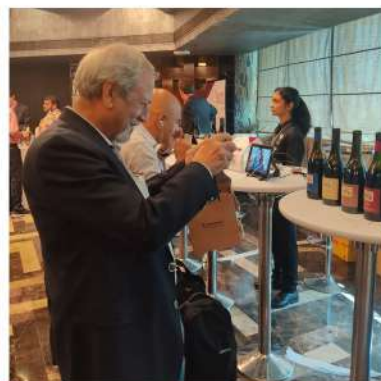


Prowine Mumbai

An extraordinary presentation with unique mastery of handling men and materials at the post, full lockdown era. An eye opener for many, watching response from the stalwarts of the country. The organisers deserve kudos, Prowine, Mumbai, All things Nice, Mumbai. Apex Wine Club India is proud to have been a part too.



Subhash Arora, Malay Kumar from North, Chinmaya Raja, Abhay Kewadkar from South, Rajesh Swarnakar from East were just a miniscule representation of the whole lot of wine leaders who took out their valuable time to must attend the unique door opening, for bilateral deals, international exposures and expanding platforms for further creations, achievements, understanding and peace. We salute the organisers!!



Organised by:



News from Regions

Guwahati, East



WSET Diploma holder, **Rajesh Swarnakar's** classes for WSET level 1 at Guwahati.

Gurgaon, North



Indian Wine Day celebrations by Delhi Wine Club at The Wine Company Cyber Hub, Gurgaon.
-**Mukul Manku**, N.Delhi



5th Edition of Indian Wine day at The Wine Company organised by Delhi Wine Club on 16th November was well attended by members, their guests, Executives of Grover Zampa, Sula, Fratelli and notes Wine Journalists. Chef Megha Kohli did an excellent job in curating tasteful menu and the Staff of The Wine Company did wonderful job for meticulous service of food and serving 10 Wines....

OUR WINDOW TO THE GOURMET WORLD

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January
28, 29 & 30, 2022
World Trade Centre
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India's First & Only Food, Wine & Travel Magazine

NAGPUR WINE CLUB

Nagpur Wine & Food Festival 2021

DATE : 4th & 5th December 2021.

VENUE : Shree Bhagwati Park, Talmale Estate, off. Trimurti Square, Ring Road, Trimurti Nagar, Nagpur.

Timings: Saturday 4th December 5.30 pm to 10.30pm
Sunday 5th December 12.30pm to 10.30pm

Organisers: NAGPUR WINE CLUB (Est.2011)

News from Regions

AURISIANS WINE PARTY
ENTRY FREE ON 20TH AND 21ST NOV

Free Wine Tasting by Top Wine Brands
 Veg & Non-Veg Food Counters
 SOUND & DJ - MARKY MARK



Rohan Sequeira
 ANCHOR • SINGER • ENTERTAINER

2 evenings of Wine, Music, Games, Masti only for Aurisians

Wine Ice Golas

At Auris Ecodeck Level, Multipurpose Hall, from 5pm to 10pm

Mumbai, West
Written on the walls...
 Society celebrating a private Wine party in Mumbai suburb. Organised, Allwyn. News report by Jeevan, Mumbai.
A noteworthy and new light in wine admiration.
 Wine comes to society events. organised by Allwyn.

Durgapur, East



Celebration for Indian Wine Day is ON. Today's wine is CAMPO VIEJO. Ashok Chandak, Durgapur, WB.

Nasik, West



Nectar Club, Nasik, of the brilliant wine maker, **Jaydeep Kudale** held wine presentation in November, of his own make, Baramati Purple (9.5% alc), at a large gathering of local doc-

First Photo- Chinmaya Raja, Chennai, Nicolas, Bordeaux, at St. Regis, Mumbai at the breakfast, post Prowine on 19th Nov.

Durgapur, East



"Wine Club Durgapur celebrated 3rd Annual Day and 5th Indian Wine Day. The celebration started on 16th November and completed last night, 21st.

Many Many thanks to Mr Sudhir Saha and team of Sula for their active participation in this program. They conducted Wine Tasting, Blind Tasting and Blind Quiz. Prizes and gifts were distributed by them."

APEX WINE CLUB INDIA

A first glimpse of Loire Valley wines - Alexis Caraux, France

(Contd. from Oct. '21 Issue)



Finally, the Cabernet Franc grape is found in the same wine-growing area as the Chenin Blanc: mainly in Touraine and in the Eastern part of Anjou. When produced on alluvial soils of sand and gravels on the banks of the Loire, the Cabernet Franc grape gives fresh and light red wines, to be enjoyed young. But as soon as these wines come from the clay-limestone slopes of the Loire hills, then, the Cabernet Franc gives more structured wines, showing more complexity and being able to age for years in a good cellar. Some of them have nothing to be ashamed of in front of the great Bordeaux or Burgundy red wines. These red wines can be found in the vineyards of Saumur, Chinon or Bourgueil.

Among the different vineyards in the Loire Valley, a few are surrounded by a growing notoriety among wine lovers. Let's mention the tiny vineyards of Montlouis-sur-Loire and Savennières, where the Chenin Blanc grape expresses itself wonderfully and offers fabulous wines.

As for the cabernet-franc, the best come from a few estates. A famous one is the "Clos Rougeard" at Saumur-Champigny, leading the way to excellence and fame!

In France and abroad, the Loire Valley is increasingly considered as a new eldorado for wine lovers. Indeed, while speculation of certain wines has invaded regions such as Burgundy, the Loire Valley remains a region offering some of the best value for money ratios in France. Some winegrowers have started to propose ranges of wines, each wine being the expression of a particular plot of vines from a specific terroir. The last years, viticulture practices have dramatically improved with the abandonment of chemicals by many estates, or hand-picked grapes during the harvests. Winemakers get inspired by Burgundian winemaking techniques. Indeed, as Burgundy, most Loire Valley wines are varietal wines.

All wine experts and sommeliers are unanimous: Loire Valley wines have never been so good, helped by some very qualitative vintages since 2014.

Today, the best estates start seeing their notoriety growing fast! What about the challenges for the years to come in the Loire Valley? Certainly, its adaptation to global warming, by keeping on improving the viticulture practices. These last 10 years have seen more extreme temperature variations, resulting in terrible frost in Springs, at the beginning of the grape growing season, and thus impacting the production. The vintages 2016, and recently 2021, were hard vintages for wine growers.

So, ready to start enjoying a few wines from the Loire Valley? Feel free to reach out for any advice or recommendation. And don't forget: there is a wine for every taste in the Loire Valley!

Alexis Caraux
CRÉATEUR DE CAVES



Email ID: contact@alexiscaraux.com

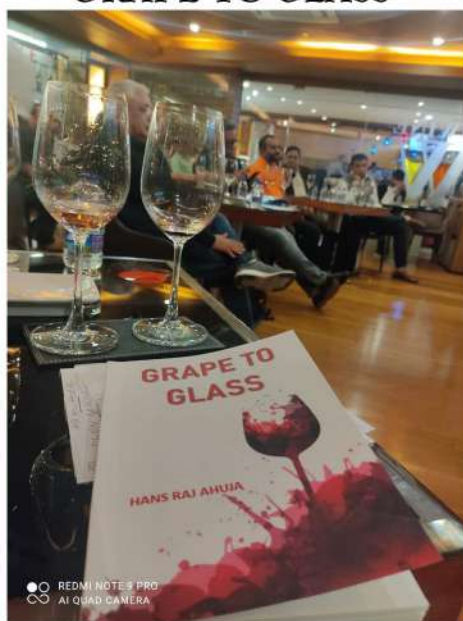
(Concluding part)

Wine and Bites with Nicolas and Philipe, France 19th Nov. Mumbai



A major wine session with matching bites from sponsor, Sahara Star enthralled the guests for over 3 hours. Wines were presented by Nagesh of Rhythm, Amit of Oakwood and Nicolas Boissonneau, Bordeaux. Reveilo was the supporting sponsor.

GRAPE TO GLASS



Message from Mr. Nicolas
Mr. Ahuja,

It was such a privilege to get your book from your hands and to write me a note on it, thanks a lot, very much appreciated.

I went through it already and I found it very pleasant to read. I am convinced people who start in the industry or who are willing to learn about wines will enjoy it! As well as people from the industry as you share detailed and important information.

Congratulations again on this beautiful book and wish you a very good success.

See you next time in India.

Nicolas Boissonneau
BOISSONNEAU WINES & SERVICES

Message from Cav. Subhash Arora ji
Hi HR,

Congratulations on the new book. It has turned out very nicely. The quality of subject and printing make for an interesting reading for novices and even some good information for people like me.

Great way of promoting wine education.

All the best,

Subhash

The great thing finally happened. HR Ahuja's book, a huge storehouse of invaluable fundamental f&f on the complete wine world, got launched at Apex Wine Club India's Wine and Bites session on Friday, 19th Nov.

Cavaliere SUBHASH ARORA
Founder Chairman E.: Delhi Wine Club,
President: Indian Wine Academy
Editor: DelWine, Awardee: Mérite de l'OIV 2011



Wine, Cheese and Bites 21st and 24th Nov., Pune

Pune adds Chapters under new Chapter Heads, **Abhishek Joshi**, WSET, Level 2 and **Mamata Bharadwaja**, Sr. Wine personality both of Pune. The spirited evening with wines of **Rhythm**, **Reveilo** and **Virgin Hill**, three sponsors, created a magic between seniors like the wine stalwart, **Dhananjay Datar** a moving directory of Indian wineries, of Chateau Indage days, now, CEO, All India Wine Producers Association, **Rajen Ganpuley** and upcoming brilliant youngsters of Pune. Sr. Chapter Head, **Vikram Shah** took all pain to join travelling 110kms from his town, only to join the meeting.



Abhishek Joshi



Akalpit Prabhune



Mamata Bharadwaj



Vikram Shah



Photo courtesy: **Vikram Shah**, Sr. Chapter Head, Pune



Lovely time spent together... Cherishing wine memories of wine industry veterans and lovers.

- **Abhishek Joshi**, Pune



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Making every business milestone a grand celebration.



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Some lovely white, rose and full bodied red was served from the house of Oakwood.

- **Abhishek Joshi**, Pune



Just launched Pune Chapter. We are soon coming with Goa Chapter, in Goa. AWCI.

A very rare moment of my Wine days in India. With Sr. faculty members, IIFM Pune, Tariq, Kunal and Navneeth.

- **Sidd Banerji**, Editor

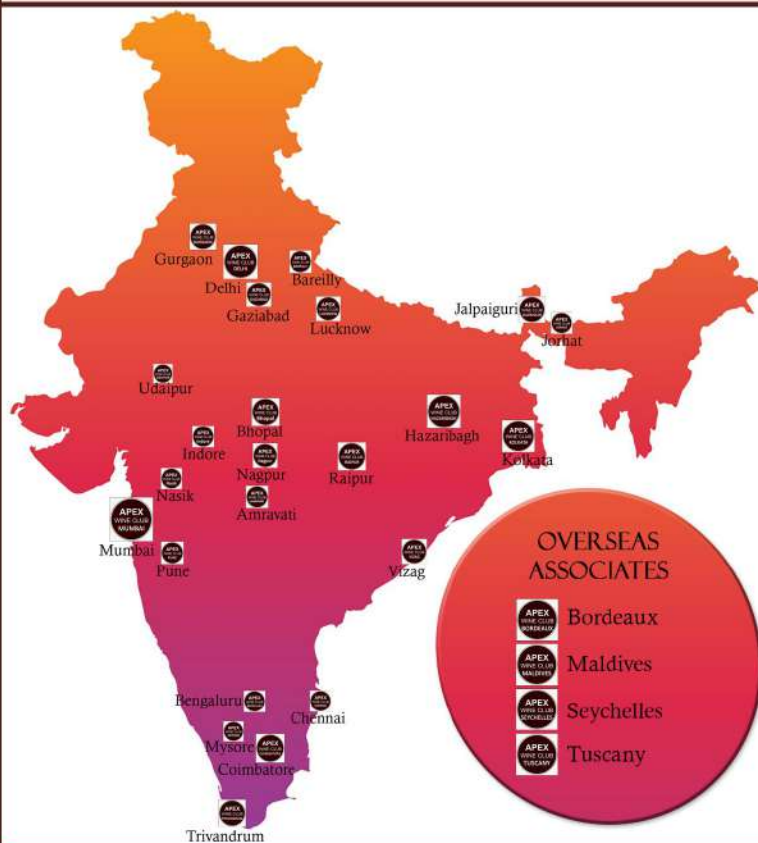
STOP PRESS

Though within a tiny attendance, Chef Rana Ghosh, Beyzaa Hotel, Kolkata, presented a smart and on time chicken dish with Cab. Shiraz and a fascinating, out of the box sweet dish with Rasgulla, creamy cheese and Rose, both wines from Good Drop Winery, Nasik/Mumbai.

The session was curated by our National Adviser, Chapter Head, **Sonali Chatterjee**, Gurugram, Haryana and supervised by National Adviser, National Chapter Head, **Gautam Banerjee**, Kolkata.



AWCI Domestic Chapters and Overseas Associates



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- Jorhat
 - Mumbai (Chembur, Thane 1, 2)
 - Pune
 - Nagpur
 - Delhi (N, S, E)
 - Gurgaon
 - Gaziabad
 - Bareilly
 - Lucknow
 - Jalpaiguri
 - Hazaribagh
 - Kolkata
 - Amravati
 - Nasik
- Overseas Associates:**
- Bordeaux
 - Maldives
 - Seychelles
 - Tuscany

AWCI has spread so far, with support, cooperation, advise and active participation, from 1600+ and growing, well wishers, positive thinkers, patrons and sponsors. ... We look forward to many more, in our 4th year.

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Contact:

Sidd Banerji, CEO

contact@apexwineclub.in

siddwine@gmail.com

+91 9321147797

For only mails

903, Maruti Tower, Nadiadwala Colony no1,

Off SV Rd, Malad(W), Mumbai- 400064



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