



wine

BY BRIAN WALSH

WOMEN AND WINE

Now I know that this is an issue devoted to the male of the species and for thousands of years it was men who traditionally made wine – it was a male thing – end of story! Believe it or not in Roman times, women were forbidden to even drink wine, on pain of death. However, in recent years, the ladies have come to the fore in the world of wine, so I would like to introduce you to three ladies (all French), who are tops in the world of wine.

Recently I attended Gilbey's Annual Wine Fair, one of the best wine tastings in Ireland and it was there that I met 'Les Trois Dames des Vins', all very French, being both elegant, eloquent and experts in the art of wine making. Tasting wine with these three ladies was for me 'inoubliable' (unforgettable, mes amis!).

CAROLINE FREY

This young lady, who came first in her class at Bordeaux University – studying Oenology of course, is a very charming young lady indeed. When she talks to you of wine, she becomes quite passionate about it. She is, after all, totally in control of making a wine that is one of the top twenty wines of Bordeaux – Chateau la Lagune. This wine is made in the Haut-Medoc. The vineyard was bought by Caroline's father in 2000 and since then, millions have been spent on this state-of-the-art, space age winery, so Caroline is in her element – a modern young winemaker in a modern winery. When she is not engrossed in winemaking, she likes to ski, when she gets the time! What I think is amazing is that this wine is up there with the best of Bordeaux's great wines, but is such great value for a classic wine.

Chateau La Lagune, 3rd Cru Classe, 2006
Woodberries and Harvest €62

ANNE TRIMBACH

Anne is one of the 12th generation of her family to be involved in running the famous winery of Maison Trimbach. They have been making some of the best wines of Alsace in the most beautiful village of Ribeauville since 1626 – beat that Arthur Guinness! Anne's great-great grandfather, Frederic Emile, was an

outstanding wine maker. She tells me that the style of this Riesling wine is truly dry as top class Riesling should be (sometimes it can be sweetish, which is not what true Riesling is all about). Anne considers this wine, named after her great-great grandfather, to be a classic Alsace wine. Alsace is one of the hidden treasures of France, in the beautiful Vosges Mountains where Anne likes to go hill climbing, when she's not selling wine of course.

Cuvee Frederick Emile, 2001 – One of the world's greatest Rieslings.
Woodberries and Harvest €37

VERONIQUE DROUHIN

The last of our ladies is also the most experienced wine maker. She is the wine maker for the family firm of Drouhin, a name renowned for good Burgundy. Her brother Philippe grows the grapes and she makes the wine under the wise eyes of her father Robert. Veronique is responsible for making over 30 different wines every year. The Pinot Noir grape is a fussy wine to make well, and here she shines. Many years of making this wine has made her one of the few of the great Pinot Virtuoso's in the world. She is also, I'm told, quite a Virtuoso on the piano. I would well believe it! She tells me that she is very proud of her Pinot Noir from Oregon, USA and having had a glass of it with her, I can see why she has this pride.

Drouhin La Foret, Pinot Noir, 2006
Woodberries and McCambridges of Galway €14



L to R – Caroline Frey, Brian Walsh, Anne Trimbach, Veronique Drouhin