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婚礼的优雅配角

Weddings & Wines

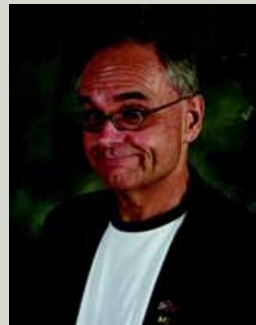
May the Tradition Outlive Us All



还有什么事情能够比婚礼更令人激动呢？不论什么肤色、什么语言，世界各个国家都在不停上演着各式婚礼，它意味着相爱的两颗心融为一体，永远相随。喜庆婚宴上，几乎共同的环节都是开启香槟或是气泡葡萄酒进行庆祝，随后便是葡萄酒配大餐，酒在浪漫婚礼上扮演了不可或缺的优雅配角。在婚礼上如何选择合适的葡萄酒，主要取决于主客们的口味喜好，当然，你钱夹的厚度也是考虑的因素之一。但不管你对品酒是否了解，也不管你的预算是多少，总会有最适合的解决方案。香槟酒和进口优质级葡萄酒，正在成为越来越多中国人举办婚宴的选择。

如果不是很在意支出的问题，那么“Club des Grand Marque”（最著名的香槟，和轩尼诗、Chandon等齐名）是一款相当不错的选择；如果预算有限，那么仍旧会有很多款性价比很高的气泡葡萄酒供您选择，迄今为止我最喜欢的一款酒是我和妻子婚宴上选用的来自泰国班菲酒庄的Rosa Regale，是一款混杂着玫瑰、覆盆子以及草莓香的葡萄酒，如果你有机会见到的话，一定会对它的性价比大加赞赏。

在接下来的婚宴上，我个人认为红葡萄酒和白葡萄酒都是必须要准备的，尽管中国人喜欢红酒的比较多，但依然会有人只偏爱白葡萄酒，如果你希望每一位客人都能尽兴而归，那就准备齐全些吧。如果预算比较富裕的话，那么你可以选择法国的Bordeaux和Burgundy葡萄酒，这些比较容易买到；如果你喜欢欧洲葡萄酒的味道和质量，那么你可以选择Red Torres Celeste，它的价钱也不算昂贵；产自新西兰和南非的品质上乘的Sauvignon Blanc白葡萄酒，一定会令那些深爱于此的客人爱不释手，并且它非常适合搭配海鲜食用。



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Fred 与他的妻子在婚礼上
Fred and his Wife at their Traditional Thai Wedding

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hat could be more inspiring and beautiful than a wedding? It matters not the splendor, the language nor the country, for universally it is about the ceremonial joining of two souls, forever more One. And once joined, even if faced with extended separation due to work or family obligations, wherever you find the one, you will always find the other.

One of the most popular traditions at weddings the world over are wedding receptions, immediately following the spiritual ceremonies. One common denominator at all of these celebrations is Champagne or sparkling wine, followed by one or more still wines with the wedding feast. The selection of just the right wines depends on your taste preferences and of course, your pocket book, but no matter how novice your wine experience or how modest your budget, there is always a perfect solution for everyone. And Champagne and imported premium wines are increasingly the choice for the best wedding parties in China.

The first consideration must be the Champagne or sparkling wine, depending on your budget. If nothing less than one of the "Club des Grand Marque" will do (The most famous Champagnes such as Moet Hennessy's Moet & Chandon, Dom Perignon or Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin), then go for it and drink among the best. If you are on a budget, there is any number of great values in sparkling wines from around the world, but my favorite by far and in



fact the one my wife and I chose for our festive wedding at Buri Ram, Thailand (See photo) is Castello Banfi's Rosa Regale, a magnificent, aromatic sparkler with a hint of rose petals, raspberries and strawberries. And you will be amazed at the price.

With respect to still wines for the wedding reception it's important to offer both red as well as white wines, because although red wines are by far the favorite in China, some people prefer white wines and you want everyone to have a wine they like with their wedding meal. Again, if money is no object, some of the finest examples of French Bordeaux and Burgundy wines are easily available if ordered well in advance from your local specialty wine merchant. A premium red and white wine that command serious prices, but far more affordable than the classic French are the Cape Mentelle Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot from the Margaret River, Australia and the famous Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough, New Zealand, both of which are on "allocation", meaning the supply is carefully regulated by the producers to allow the top capitols of the world each to have a small supply for those who truly appreciate and are willing to pay for the best from these two elite growing regions.

If you are on a budget, however, once again, there are plenty of choices that will bring genuine smiles to the faces of your guests. Examples of great values in affordable wines for your wedding would be the Chinese wines from Grace Vineyard (Any Grace Vineyard label is quality, but their "Symphony Series" is outstanding); or the Australian wines of Jacob's Creek (The "Reserves" are always a special treat, but anything Jacob's Creek won't let you down); from California two new boutique wines quickly gaining in popularity are the Daglia Canyon Merlot (Napa Valley) and the Bridgeway Zinfandel (Sonoma County) or the Frei Brothers Chardonnay (Russian River-Sonoma County) and the Frei Brothers Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley-Sonoma). If European wines are what you seek with great taste and quality at a fraction of the cost of the great French wines, the red Torres "Celeste", Ribera del Duero from Spain is heavenly and very affordable. From New Zealand and South Africa are found the best quality and values for Sauvignon Blanc, a great white wine that your guests can sip all day long and pairs well with seafood: I like the Two Oceans label from South Africa and the Montana "Classics" from Marlborough, New Zealand. And now you know the best wines with which to celebrate your wedding in China. I am **Red Fred**, over and out. ★