

CrossTalk

April CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2006

But, is it wine?!!



Oh! Mon Dieu!! C'est un Sacrilege!!!
France's wine **purists** are up in arms. They feel betrayed by their own government! What's going on?

For centuries, France, as well as most of Western Europe, has felt its status as the cultural, economic and political centre of the world **eroding**. But there has been one area where France has maintained its position as the undisputed world leader: this has been in the area of wine production. Even today, French wine accounts for 40% of total world production by value. To maintain their premier status in this world, French winemakers have carefully cultivated a wine "culture" along with the wine itself. Partly to maintain this culture and partly to protect **legitimate** wine producers from **fraud**, France has traditionally produced wine under very complicated and strict controls. As a result of all this, wine production in France has set the standard for the rest of the world – until recently...



With the **onslaught** of "globalization" and the opening of world markets, even this once **indisputable** status is beginning to erode as less costly "new world" wines start to invade.

Wines from California, Australia, S. America and even S. Africa are not only cheaper, they taste good too! Under pressure of competition the techniques that are used to produce these "new" wines are starting to be adopted by the French – much to the **dismay** of the purists! To help French wines compete, the French government is beginning to relax the rules.

The most recent **fuss** is about wood chips. Australian winemakers searching for ways to cut back on expenses and time were the first to begin throwing oak chips or shavings into the modern stainless steel **fermenting** vats commonly in use today. This saves on the costs of having traditional oak barrels made while still allowing the wine to draw flavors from the chips which work to soften and **stabilize** tannins. It also adds aromas and has the added advantage of allowing wines to mature faster. And now even the French will be permitted to produce wine using this, and other, "new world" techniques!

"It's wine for the Coca-Cola and ketchup generation!" say the purists. "It's the beginning of the end" they claim.

Ah, but Monsieur, it *is* wine!

Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

purists 純粹主義者

eroding 衰退している

legitimate 正統な

fraud 詐欺

onslaught 猛攻撃

indisputable 反論の許されない

dismay 失望

fuss 騒ぎ

fermenting 発酵(用)

stabilize 安定させる

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: I wish the scientists, doctors and other researchers would make up their minds! One day you read that something is good for you, the next, it's bad!? Take, for example, our main topic this month, wine. I have read on the internet and in newspapers that a glass of wine a day can be beneficial. OK, that good news, isn't it? Then, in a recent article I read that wine can cause cancer, even a single glass a day! If the experts cannot give us a clear idea of what is good and what isn't, I guess we'll have to make up our own minds. What's your vote, for or against a glass of wine a day?

Junko Says: Recently, I saw on TV a very interesting experiment. Two groups of children were separated and studied for their responses to praise, or lack of praise. Both groups were asked to perform similar tasks, but the adult monitors in the first group did not give the children any encouragement or praise. In the second group, the monitors lavished the kids with praise and positive encouragement. The astonishing conclusion was that the children who were receiving constant praise outperformed all expectations and developed much faster than the kids in the non-praised group.



Natacha Says: Making plans is not always easy. I'm thinking about Golden Week. I wish to do something special but everywhere we go it is always so crowded. I found it very interesting that in Japan, everyone has the same holidays at the same time. I feel it limits our freedom in choosing where we wish to go. The airfares are overly expensive during National Holidays. I wish everyone had the chance to choose their own time to take holidays. I think it would be most enjoyable to have this kind of freedom, don't you agree?

Greg Says: The EASTER season has come and gone once again in Japan. Yet again it beats me why the EASTER tradition has not caught on here. I understand from a religious view point it won't but from a commercial point of view it would be a money maker similar to Valentines and White Day. Oddly enough, I read in the newspaper how the farmers in Ehime have proposed April 14th to become ORANGE day in the future!!!! I don't know if this will catch on, but I sure hope the chocolate Easter eggs do...I really miss the traditional Easter morning egg hunt.



Iain Says: I grew up in the country side around trees and animals and throughout all of my life in that environment I never suffered from any allergies. But recently I've noticed that I get hay-fever! What a bummer!!

Marita Says: This month I'd like to recommend 2 German films: "Was nuetzt die Liebe in Gedanken" and "Sophie Scholl - Die letzten Tage", the actress in the latter film was even nominated for an Oscar. If you want to get an insight of a part of German history or everyday life pay a visit to Cinema Lunatic or Cinemasunshine Okaido. Students of German can use the opportunity to listen to their preferred language. So have fun and let's meet there.



William Says: It's a pleasure to be a part of the Crossroads' teaching staff. Teaching English and Guitar is really great fun! My guitar class is learning fast, and I am looking forward to learning classic songs together with them.

Yuka Says: The other day I had a chance to see Hayao Miyazaki's animated movie "Spirited Away" with my nephew and niece. Before that I thought animation was for children and I had no interest in it. But after watching this movie, I completely changed my mind. I really enjoyed the film which was full of rich imagination. No wonder it won the top prize at the Berlin Film Festival a couple of years ago. I'd like to see the English version of "Mononoke-Hime" next time.



A Word From You

Notice Board



* SPECIAL *

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

We are going to start up a regular movie night every month – our own “SATURDAY NIGHT MOVIE”. We will try to show the latest movies for you (some not even released in Matsuyama yet!)

The first “SATURDAY NIGHT MOVIE” will be held at the school on April 22 at 9:00pm and there will be a special repeat of this movie next month (May) on Saturday the 13th at the same time.

You will be able to watch it on “THE BIG SCREEN” in our Open House lounge.

There will be a 300yen charge for POPCORN and DRINKS. Please invite your friends to come along each month and enjoy movies with us!



* And, don't forget to pass the word on to your friends.. It's **SPRING CAMPAIGN** time again!!!

* **10% off** all tuition fees during this month and next for new students!

* Get the details from **Jurko** in the office.



Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet*! -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Learn about France's many wine growing areas at: <http://www.weimax.com/france.htm>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
1 x's 90mins / week
Private 1 x / week
Semi-Private 1 x /week

MOTHER & CHILD, group or private
KIDS, group or private

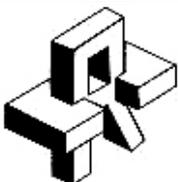
COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

“Singing in English” with William
Yoga with Natacha
Guitar with William
“Cooking in English” with Natacha
“Magic in English” with Iain
Piano with Adrienne
Drumming with William

GERMAN with Marita
SPANISH with Leo
RUSSIAN with Natasha
FRENCH with Natacha
CHINESE with Noriko
KOREAN with Kim



NETLESSONS:
group or private



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