



Cælestis charity auction for WWF UK

LONDON 27.11.12 - Speech by ALAIN MOUEIX

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Touched by the sincerity of Grazyna Lallemand 's commitment to ecological causes, I have associated Château Fonroque to the Cælestis project she has initiated, in order to produce at Château Fonroque in Saint-Emilion the wine that is going to be auctioned tonight.

Chateau Fonroque is certified for organic and biodynamic farming. Let me tell you a few words about this.

For me, this method is the logical outcome of my commitment to quality-oriented, ecological winegrowing. I am motivated by:

- The respect for the environment
- a desire to renew the soil and reflect the *terroir*
- a new way of making these wines even brighter and more balanced

Based on the principle that nature must be seen holistically, and is affected by multiple interacting influences, biodynamics takes into account all aspects of the vine's environment, including:

- The most immediate influence, the soil, whose vigour is enhanced by biodynamic preparations (developed by Rudolf Steiner¹ to stimulate microbial life and strike the right energy balance between the vines and the soil).
- The most distant influences, such as other parts of the solar system, especially the sun and the moon. Due to its proximity to the earth, the moon is of vital importance to plant behaviour, as well as for harmful fungi.

Furthermore, inspired by Goethe², biodynamics teaches the use of plant teas, decoctions, and slurries to compensate for a deficiency (generally, an inability to assimilate minerals) or to help the vine fight against diseases and insects.

Many positive effects have been observed in the vineyard of Fonroque since biodynamics was fully introduced:

- Increased biodiversity
- A more resilient soil
- Greater consistency during *véraison* (colour change) and lignification

¹ Le Cours aux Agriculteur, Rudolf Steiner, 1924

² La Métamorphose des plantes, J. W. Goethe, 1790

- Earlier ripening of the grape skins and an increased propensity to produce grapes with beautiful acidity and not too much sugar.

Above and beyond ecological concerns, my motivation to grow grapes according to biodynamic principles was to produce the best possible wines that fully reflect their *terroir*.

Biodynamics enables me to bring out the essential goodness from Châteaux Fonroque limestone soil, as well as:

- Obtain more focus in expressing the wines' intrinsic fruitiness
- Promote a finely-chiselled, almost crystalline structure accompanied by a silky mouth feel
- Give the wines backbone
- Highlight the wines' intrinsic minerality in a long, fresh, aftertaste that bodes well for long ageing

In short, biodynamic winegrowing emphasises the alive vibrant side of the wine.

In order to grow grapes biodynamically, one needs to observe and understand the vines, and then act accordingly – and at the right time – in order to find the right balance. We always follow Nature and never go against. Like all efforts to produce something beautiful, the less artifice is used, the more challenging things become, and the more important it is to concentrate on doing things with great precision. A wine's success is not measured in power, but balance.

Biodynamic winegrowing is a quest for equilibrium in the vineyard, the team and the wines.

Biodynamics brings out a vineyard's true potential and expresses it in the best possible way. It also helps man to defer to his *terroir*. Biodynamic winegrowing is demanding, but the results are well and truly worth the effort...

Knowing all this, you will understand why I am very pleased that the first bottles labeled “Caelestis” will be auctioned for the benefit of the WWF. It is a great honor and, I hope, the beginning of a long partnership to work towards the development of a new way to approach the gift that is Nature.

Because appositive energy always brings some good news, I am extremely pleased, honoured and thankful to the fact that this project is supported by the Oscar-winning composer Jan A.P. Kaczmarek.

I would like to thank Grazyna Lallemand for this great initiative that she carries with passion, Jan A.P. Kaczmarek for dedicating the first label of Caelestis and for creating a great music to support this wine, and Dreweatts for taking on board this auction, all of you for being here tonight, and I would like to thank you for your generosity to support WWF through the sale of this unique wine.

Enjoy this evening and long life to the planet...

ALAIN MOUEIX