



A toast for the flavorsome wines of Yellow Tail

THE proverbial Latin saying "In Vino Veritas," though an understatement for wines and spirits, seems an apt description of the latest wine label I have tasted in the cozy function hall of Hotel Grace Lane in the company of a band and a couple of wine enthusiasts.

It was a wine tasting night, which meant a lot of free wine (a heaven for alcoholics), hearty talk on wine trivia and good old social bonding. The toast of the night was centered on Yellow Tail, an Australian wine brand which is no foreigner to the international wine market but makes a debut in the regional wine markets here.

The social event was attended by a good number of wine aficionados, hotel managers, local businessmen and a handful of us kibitzers who were eager to sample the wine offerings of Yellow Tail. Wine connoisseur Sherwin Lao was hands-on in giving us tips on wine drinking and the Yellow Tail brand.

Yellow Tail (officially typeset [yellow tail]) is a brand of wine produced by Casella Wines Pty Ltd. Casella wines is based in Yenda, Australia, which has a population of approximately 1,000 people. The Casella family has produced wines since the 1820s in Italy. However in 1951 the Casella family, headed by Filippo Casella and his wife Maria, moved to Australia for a better life. Yellow Tail is a new wine brand and was a chance for the family winery to enter into the bottled wine market - having previously supplied bulk wine to other wineries. So popular is the Yellow Tail brand that some two million glasses are consumed around the world every day.

Lao said Yellow Tail aims to penetrate the regional wine scene in the Philippines and hopes of optimistic reception from local wine drinkers. Wine enthusiasts and collectors CIAC Chairman Nestor Mangio and LGC President Levy Laus were eager to listen to the impromptu lecture of Lao while I gulped on my third glass of Cabernet Sauvignon.

The Yellow Tail Shiraz is so far the most exquisite of the ones I have tasted under the brand. The texture is very fresh, rich and almost creamy. It exudes the aromas of spices, liquorices and sweet berries. The flavor, on the other hand, is of ripe red berries which tend to create a delectable smooth and spicy feel to the palate. Both Mr. Mangio and I toasted on the good taste of the Shiraz which we agreed "has personality" and is a good addition to the former's wine cellar in Baguio City.

The merlot, on the other hand, is best for hard meat dishes while Mr. Laus found a penchant for the cabernet sauvignon which is perfect with sweet and sour tacos and chips. Merlot is aromatic and almost leaves a sweet after taste while the cabernet sauvignon is refined and almost divine in texture.

While we sipped our way to the last drop of the featured wine of the night, most of us who attended the event were in fact convinced that Yellow Tail deserves its reputation among the best wine brands in the world.

Its unique wine selections are wonderfully delighting to the palate. Each bottle is unique and is guaranteed to satisfy the most discriminating of taste and one does not need to get drunk to know this obvious fact.

For comments, suggestions, violent reactions, invites, indignant rebuttals and what-have-you email: IANOCAMPOFLORA@YAHOO.COM (09173435197).

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