



Pictured at the *Winery of the Future* conference in Melbourne, from left, Dan Parrott, Richard Gibson, Trevor Wilson, Paul Baggio, Guiliano Boni, Tilly Bowden and Ben Shaw.

Winemakers hear of future trends at Melbourne conference

A group of 50 winemakers, mostly from Victoria - but others from West Australia and Tasmania - attended the annual *Winery of the Future* conference in Melbourne in June.

Sponsored by Australian Winemakers (AW) and presented by Nexus Events it featured guest speakers on a number of topics, including 'developments in red wine colour extraction' (Richard Gibson, Scorpex Wine Services), 'crossflow membrane filtration' (Trevor Wilson, technical and projects manager, AW), 'tannins in winemaking' (GUILIANO BONI, Vinidea, Milan, Italy), and 'developments in air bag pressing' (Paul Baggio, executive manager, AW).

A tannin workshop conducted by Guiliano Boni gave delegates a break from the conference agenda and an opportunity to taste wines which they discussed back in the conference room.

Paul Baggio said the trial of eight different tannins had been very popular and "it was good to see some top wineries involved".

Tilly Bowden, laboratory technician at AW, spoke about systems for analysing wines for *Brettanomyces* and new tests that can identify the spoilage yeast simply and quickly.

Daniel Parrot, who has just completed a vintage at Domaine Chandon and was formerly with Dal Cin and Chr. Hansen, gave a report on the use of gum arabic for red wine pigment stabilisation in winemaking.

Richard Gibson also spoke on the impacts of changes to the Australian Food Standards Code and their effect on the wine industry, particularly allergen labelling and other impacts such as approval for new materials in winemaking, such as gum arabic, lysozyme and plant proteins.

Slump in global wine consumption for third year

For the third year in a row, wine consumption worldwide fell to a new low of 3.5L per person in 2002, according to the 2002 edition of *The Global Drinks Market*, produced by M. Shanken Communications in the US.

This represents a 1% decrease in consumption from 2001 and the lowest level of consumption since recording of the data began in 1975.

The report predicts per capita consumption will fall even further to 3.3L per person by 2010, compared with 3.9L in 1995.

France and Italy, which collectively accounted for a 28% share of the world's total wine consumption in 2002, had the highest per capita intake at 56L and 49L, respectively, according to the 700-page report. By comparison, their per capita consumption in 1990 was 73L and 62L, respectively. Consumption in both markets is expected to continue to decline in the next five to 10 years.

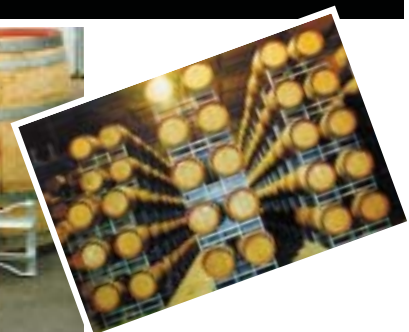
By contrast, the 13 remaining European Union markets combined posted a slight increase in per capita consumption in 2002. Together, these countries are projected to experience per capita consumption growth until at least 2010.

Outside the EU, consumption in Australia is forecast to reach more than 20L per person for the first time by 2005, the report stated, while in the United States, per capita wine consumption is expected to surpass 8L by 2010.

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