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SWISS WINES.

According to the arrangements made during the Anglo-Swiss Trade talks of February, 1948, provision had been made for importation of Swiss Wines and spirits (Kirsch).

We understand that the first consignments have now arrived, and are for sale in this country, and we deem it an opportune moment to direct the attention of our readers to the excellence of these vintage wines.

It is hoped that our compatriots living in this hospitable land, will make full use of this opportunity to toast "La Patrie" with a glass or two of Fendant, Johannisberg, Dôle, Aigle, Lavaux, Neuchâtel, La Côte, etc., etc., it is almost a patriotic duty to do so.

Sample these wines with respect, treating them as friends, so that their spirit will sing in you and the sun which is in them will put warmth into your hearts.

In order to refresh the memory of those who have been "loin du pays" for a considerable time, let us pay a fleeting visit to the various vineyards "back home."

The "Valais Vineyards" crown with their vine branches the slopes of that tremendous valley at the end of which the Rhone, descending from the glacier, flows towards Lac Léman.

The vine, that delicate and capricious plant which demands almost daily attention, seems to have found there, from the most remote antiquity, conditions particularly favourable to its cultivation and there is not a foot of ground on the mountain side where the plant does not attach itself; there to ripen a fruit of which the golden juice reflects the warm sun of the Valais. The Valais wine will give to the connoisseur diverse joys according to the variety tasted. Some of these white wines, highly coloured, have a *finesse* and a remarkable flavour; others are of a mellowness which makes them a choice drink for delicate "insides"; others again, which come from the high grounds scorched by the sun, are powerful, velvety wines with an intoxicating perfume. The red variety cultivated with success in certain regions where it was imported from Burgundy in olden times has a perfume which pleases the most exacting palates.

The vineyards of the canton of Vaud are divided into three zones of production: the "Aigle region" which comprises the vineyards to the north of the valley of the Rhone, and of which the wine has certain features in common with its neighbour and first-cousin of Valais; warmth, golden reflection, distinctive taste, in fact so many qualities that it has become a high class beverage sought after by connoisseurs.

The "Lavaux region", the most important of the Vaud vineyards, extends over the eastern part of Lac Léman, it rises from the lake in tiers separated by old walls, bathed in the mild reflection of the great reservoir of light which stretches out at its feet. Reputed wines, full flavoured, wines faithful to the image of the magnificent region of which they are the reflection.

The "Côte vineyard", extending from Lausanne to Geneva is situated in a quiet and calm countryside of noble and almost feminine aspect. Here the climate and the soil give to the wine a well-balanced, light and agreeable character.

With the "Neuchâtel vineyard", we leave the southern region to enter a more temperate country, one of shaded landscapes caressed with soft light. This vineyard, resembling a patched cloak, covers the slopes

of the Lake of Neuchâtel and the foot of the Jura. It is a living witness to the victorious struggle that has been carried on, against the elements too often of a contrary nature, by laborious generations of wine-growers. The reward of much labour is found in the bunches of grapes swollen with sugar which, every year, give a gay wine, slightly coloured, but how sparkling; a wine of freshness which caresses the palate, a wine full of roguishness.

We would also mention, in addition to the important wines of Valais, Vaud and Neuchâtel, those of the Ticino, near relations of the Italian wines, with their sonorous names and rich magnificence, juice of the beautiful dark-coloured bunches of grapes which ripen on the pergolas; and also the wines of Eastern Switzerland.

Swiss wines, of which we hope to have given a faithful description, present a collection so varied that any dish may find its indispensable complement in one or the other of them.

Having thus whetted the appetite of our readers, we hasten to acquaint them with some of the addresses, where these heaven sent beverages can be procured.

The Manetta's Wine Company Ltd., of 12B, Half Moon Street, W.1, who are the sole agents of S.A. Alphonse Orsat in Martigny (see advertisement) offer various vintage wines of the Valais, these can be tasted, together with an excellent Menu at their Restaurant, Clarges Street, W.1.

The firm of Messrs. Williams Standring, Sandeman and Heatley Ltd., of 59, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, W.1, are sole agents for Provins-Valais and they are stocking two excellent vintage wines, namely:

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The above mentioned firm was originally established before the middle of the 18th century by Benjamin Kenton at a tavern in Aldgate under the sign of the Crown and Magpie. Kenton became one of the richest Merchants in the City of London, and many Hospitals and charitable institutions benefitted from gifts during his life-time and of legacies at his death.

In the course of two centuries of trading this firm had the privilege of serving many famous persons, amongst them Lord Nelson, Queen Victoria and King Edward the Seventh, when Prince of Wales.

The writer had the pleasure to be received by Mrs. Edna Roberts, one of the Directors of this famous establishment, a charming lady, who is a great friend of our country, who assured him, that our countrymen will be catered for with special care and attention.

Those of our readers who have a particular "faiblesse" for the sparkling "Neuchâtel" should apply to Messrs. H. & C. J. Feist, Ltd., well-known Port importers of 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3, whose Managing-Director is our genial countryman, Mr. H. Speich.

Should it happen, which God forbids, that no allocations for tourists will be forthcoming this year, we have at least this consolation, that we can drown our sorrows in the lovely wines of our homeland, and to all those who will avail themselves to this heaven sent opportunity, we extend a hearty

PROSIT !

ST.

SWISS WINES

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