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SWISS WINES

According to the arrangements made during last year's Swiss Fortnight, provision had been made for the importing of Swiss wines and spirits, and consequently large consignments are now available for sale in this country; we wish 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., 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 large valley at the end of which the Rhône, 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 mountainside 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 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 Rhône, 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 region", 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 other of them.

ANNETTE WEISBROD (SWISS)

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