

I'm awfff

19 Feb 2010 by Jancis Robinson

22 Feb update - I asked for more information about the Boisset-supplied Pinot Noir chez Sainsbury's and here is what [Jean-Pierre Grangé](#) of Boisset UK has to say: "Yes we still sell VdP Pinot Noir to JS [Sainsbury's]. The wine is made by Bouchard Aîné in Beaune. It is sourced from south of France with a part oak aged in Burgundy barrels in Burgundy to add structure, complexity and a bit of burgundian style.' So there is nothing to implicate it in the Limoux co-op debacle, though nothing specific to reassure us either."

As you read this, I will be whirling around my bedroom desperately trying to pack for a two-week tour that starts today and takes me to Japan, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing and northern California. That's quite a lot of weather in there, and since I'm in China publicising the forthcoming Chinese edition of *The World Atlas of Wine*, I will have to try to look reasonably smart, whether in sultry Shanghai or freezing Beijing. Then, on to possibly warm and wet California... Oh, the wonders of black - and Issey Miyake's uncrushable Pleats Please!

My schedule is so tight, I feel as though I will not be able to fit another thing in - a bit like my suitcase. So my dispatches are unlikely to be long.

Meanwhile, I have loaded up the site with lots of goodies to be published while I'm away, including tasting notes on many a smart (and mature) red bordeaux, 100 vintages of Riesling, some great American wines, a truly mind-blowing vertical of Sassicaia and much, much more.

Needless to say, however, I will never be far from an online connection and will continue to feed my two pennyworth and more into JancisRobinson.com. I may well try to keep you posted on what I find via a more bloglike commentary than usual. Please come back often and watch this space.

PS I leave you with two things to think about. Firstly comes news that my old friend the novelist-turned-wine-writer Jay McInerney is taking over the *Wall Street Journal* wine column from April (see [What will the Journal do now?](#)), making him effectively my rival for the attention of wine-loving readers of the supposed business press on Saturdays. And he writes so well... At the moment [Will Lyons](#) is writing a wine column for the European edition of the *The Journal*.

You might also like to look at Gallo's comment on [yesterday's article](#) about the Fake French Pinot Noir scandal. The giant US company Constellation have already [admitted that they also bought](#) this fake varietal wine from the south of France and, now that Gallo say they bought only 20% of it, I should imagine there will now follow a bit of a witch hunt. I well remember tasting a range of new [varietal Pinot Noirs](#) in October 2007 at the UK supermarket Sainsbury's, including a rather puzzling one from the south of France carrying a Boisset [actually, that of their subsidiary Bouchard Aîné] label. I must enquire further....