

The! Wine Tasting of the Year

28 May 2011 by Jancis Robinson

Update 13 Sep 2011: see *The! Bern event - dinner wines* for tasting notes on some of these extraordinary wines.

In September 2009 I had the great pleasure of attending a tasting in Copenhagen about which you can read in <u>Even</u> <u>better wines of the century?</u> The organisers of this wonderful event have hatched plans for another extravaganza, this time in Bern, the capital of Switzerland, on Thursday 7 July.

Eighteen extraordinary wines are to be served, including Ch Lafleur 1950, some of the greatest vintages of Chx Pétrus and Latour, including Ch Latour 1961 (the wine sold for by Christie's in Hong Kong for more than £140,000 a case last Friday), La Romanée-Conti 1923, Vega Sicilia Unico 1962 and so on through the vinous Hall of Fame. What's more, the event is being held in association with the fastidious *Fine* magazine, well versed in wines of this quality, and we will be tasting (note that verb) from my beloved Zalto glasses.

As last time, participants can choose either to take part in the late afternoon tasting or the tasting and a very grand, but perfectly formed 11-course dinner at which other legendary wines will be served. It will all take place at the recently renovated Hotel Schweizerhof. Not surprisingly, this is not cheap. But it looks unrepeatable to me and I'm delighted to have been invited as an entirely independent guest.

I asked about the provenance of the bottles and was told that they are either from the organiser's collection or that of Fine magazine. 'The provenance varies a bit from bottle to bottle but a clear story on each bottle as checked will be given as last time.'

For more detail, visit www.vinovisitas.ch

WHEN Thursday 7 July 2011, 4 pm - 1 am

WHERE Hotel Schweizerhof, Bern, Switzerland

WHAT 'The! Wine Tasting of the Year, featuring the world's best wines', a very special tasting followed by an 11-course dinner

HOW MUCH 2,000 Swiss francs for the dinner; 4,500 Swiss francs for the dinner and tasting

HOW Book via 'Tickets and Shop' at www.vinovisitas.ch or email info@vinovisitas.ch