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BY THE WAY

Switzerland has 25,000 acres of vineyard ground. Of the twenty-two cantons, only three lack vineyards. But it is principally in the French-speaking region that the vine is queen. A poet of that region, Pierre Deslandes, acknowledges three vinous characteristics: the glowing warmth of wines from the Rhône Valley, the genial wines from the Canton of Vaud, and the spiritual wines from Neuchâtel. With the wines from Geneva and Berne, from Eastern Switzerland and the Tessin, the whole country expresses itself in a rich scale of taste nuances.

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The vineyard districts of Switzerland hold annual celebrations in early autumn to celebrate a good harvest. Besides serious wine drinking, there is dancing and music, carried over for several days.

Several cantons produce sparkling wines as well as red wines with only slight fermentation and with a light colour, such as "Oeil de Perdrix" from Neuchâtel, the "Sussabdruck", "Federweisse", and the "Schiller" from the German-speaking part of Switzerland. But they are not yet obtainable in London.

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For the people of southern lands — and, with its extremely diverse climate, Switzerland may be included in this category — wine is not a luxury, but an essential beverage accompanying at least the main meal of the day, a seasoning for meats and sauces, the most popular "drink" and appetizer. It is, in fact, that little "something" which adds to the pleasure of life. Wine, taken in moderation and with food, is health-giving; good wine is a tonic.



(Photo: Ringier Swiss Illustrated)

Seen drinking Swiss wine at a recent fair is H.E. the Swiss Ambassador Monsieur Armin Daeniker. On his left is Mr. Wooley, wine merchants, and on his right Mr. E. Bonvin, London representative of the Swiss wine growers association.