

Introduction

Changing faces

A belated welcome to three contributors who were new to *Wine Report* last year.

Ronald de Groot replaced Gert Crum as co-contributor (with Fiona Morrison) on Belgium, Netherlands, and Scandinavia. As editor of *Perswijn*, Ronald is in the ideal position to report on the fledgling Dutch wine industry, although, like his Le Pin owning co-contributor, he obviously spends most of his time tasting the great classics. With Christopher Fielden's retirement following *Wine Report 2006*, it made sense to split Chile and Argentina. For Chile I was lucky to grab Peter Richards, who has lived and worked in the country, won the first ever Young Wine Writer of the Year award in 2001, and has since blossomed into one of the UK's brightest wine writers. And, of course, for Argentina, who else could I choose but Tim Atkin MW, even though he is in such demand that I will be pulling out my hair every time he misses his deadline? An even more belated welcome to Pat Carroll, my personal editor since the second edition. Thank goodness Pat is so hawk-eyed, meticulous, and persistent; not only does she handle all the initial editing, she sometimes gets much more dumped on her when commitments to my Sotheby's wine encyclopedia take precedence. And the contributors adore her.

New this year

Charles Metcalfe takes over from Richard Mayson as the contributor for Portugal, although Richard continues to contribute on port and madeira. I am personally very sorry to lose Richard's sharp eye on all things non-fortified in Portugal, but he owns a vineyard in the Alto Alentejo region, and with his first wine, Pedra Basta, launched in 2007, he felt it would be easier to avoid any conflicts of interest. Charles Metcalfe is, however, as big a gain as Richard is a loss. One of the most genuine and immensely likeable guys in the wine-writing business, Charles has carved a reputation as an Iberian wine specialist since at least 1987, when *The Wines of Spain and Portugal*, coauthored with his wife Kathryn McWhirter, pipped my Sotheby's wine encyclopedia at the post for the Glenfiddich award that year. I couldn't have been robbed by two nicer people!

Tom Stevenson