



// I like the atmosphere of Wine Apprecio, and find it very encouraging for the NTUC Membership Department. I hope to see future collaborations with other unions. Such events can be held at other NTUC clubhouses to promote awareness. They can also be opened to General Branch members and other unions. Recruitment booths can be set up during such events to increase membership especially for the PMETs. Overall, this event is good and has attracted a great turnout."

**Tan Chai Kun, Metal Industries Workers' Union General Secretary**

// This event is very well planned and definitely different from the usual wine appreciation events which are smaller scale and have a limited programme. My favourite part of the event was the lucky draw! I would also like to compliment the thoughtfulness of the organiser in doing up the 'passport'. It not only provides useful knowledge for us about the wine we're sampling, it also includes useful tips at the back. Excellent!"

**Elangoh R.N., Manager**

// I've attended three other wine appreciation events before. This one is unique as it has a great range of wines to choose from which you usually find at wine fairs. I like the atmosphere, too. You can see everyone enjoying themselves and having a great time sampling the wines, listening to 'live' music, dancing, chatting and eating. There's only one word to describe it - Great!"

**Rick Silvagni, Computer Programmer**

# Wine, Dine And Unwind

## FDAWU And NTUC's Membership Department Uncork Signature Wine Appreciation Event



By **Nicolette Yeo**

Coming from a family of wine lovers, wine appreciation was practically part of my upbringing. While I'm not as good as my cousin who can tell an Australian Pinot Noir apart from an Austrian one with a single whiff, I know enough to be able to enjoy it with my food.

My appreciation of wine was taken to a higher level when I was invited to cover Wine Apprecio on 14 August 2010. It is the first-of-its-kind signature event jointly organised by NTUC's Membership Department and Food, Drinks And Allied Workers' Union to cater to the growing PMET (Professionals, Managers, Executives, and Technical People) members in the Labour Movement. In fact, there were two sessions on that day to allow more people to attend.

Having been to many such events in the course of my, ahem, upbringing, I was nevertheless impressed by this one. For starters, it was held at DXO Club where the plush décor created a conducive ambience for sampling the 50 exquisite wines from eight well known wine countries such as Australia and France. That said, the accompanying easy listening 'live' music and free flowing canapés put me in a good mood, enhancing the experience of the wine tasting.

I liked how there was a good variety of reds and whites which allowed me to head straight for my favourite Sauvignon Blanc (white) yet still have the choice of savouring a Merlot (red). I also liked having my own personal glass so I never had to worry about drinking from someone else's glass.

The 'passport' booklet containing the list of vineyard delights was also useful in helping me remember what I had tried and what I liked. It sure came in handy when I decided to buy a couple of bottles for the home dinner party I was hosting that evening. With huge discounts and unbeatable 1-for 1 deals, I simply could not resist!

I also learnt a lot from the two Wine Appreciation Talks conducted by Singapore's first certified wine professional, Mr Lim Hwee Peng, CSW. He engaged me on the finer points of enjoying wines with my partner and entertaining with wine.

All in all, I had a blast. And I'm sure the more than 300 PMET guests did too, judging from the frequent clicking of glasses and approving nods. While I attended the Wine Apprecio as a journalist this time, I will gladly pay for it next time around. I'll also be sure to bring along some good company so we can have a good time together.

