

Top seven emerging wine regions

Wines from the "New World," that once were the main challengers to "Old World" wines now have their own rivals, as more countries seek recognition for their wines.

Men's website AskMen.com has compiled a list of the top seven emerging wine regions, as winemakers educated globally return to their home countries to build or revive a wine industry.

1. Switzerland. This country is one of the world's great wine-producing secrets. Only one per cent of the wine produced in Switzerland makes it out of the country. Many of its wines are influenced by neighbouring France, Germany and Italy. The best wines come from the Valais region, with delicious white wines made from the chasselas grape.

2. Ukraine. Once its wines from the Crimea region were much prized by Catherine II. Now, its wines are coming back, led by bright, sweet sparkling wines from pinot blanc and aligote grapes.

3. Romania. Like Greece, Romania has a 3,000-year history of producing wines. Although many of the native varieties of grapes have been destroyed by disease, the country remains one of the world's largest producers of wine. The main regions - Cotnari, Tarnave, Murfatlar and Dealu Mare - produce modern wines that are well worth seeking out.

4. Greece. The resurgence of Greek wine is focused on regions like Peloponessos and Thessalia, and their native grape varieties like assyrtico (white) and mavrodafni (red).

5. Canada. The country's "ice wines" lead the world, but increasingly pioneering vineyards in Ontario's Niagara Peninsula and the B.C. Interior are producing excellent crisp and aromatic white wines, as well.

6. Brazil. Although the country has been producing wines for nearly 130 years, it is only in the last 10 years - after the creation of Ibravin, the Brazilian Wine institute - that its wines have become worthy of recognition. The main growing region, the Serra Gaucha, has a climate and soil that allow the cultivation of grapes like the cabernet sauvignon for reds and chardonnay for whites.

7. England. The country ranks 63rd on the list of the world's wine producers. However, warmer temperatures in parts of southern England and soil conditions similar to those found in France's Champagne region mean that the recent planting of grapes for making sparkling wine may not be as foolish as it would seem.

PETE HOSTS DIVORCE BASH

DELIGHTED Peter Andre held a family barbecue to celebrate his divorce from Kate. The upbeat singer invited friends and family to his Brighton pad and laid on a huge platter of Greek "Souvla" goodies as he hailed the end of his "marriage from hell".

He even managed to get his children Junior, four, and Princess Tiaamii, two, off his ex for the day.

He said: "It's my first day off work in ages. I've been

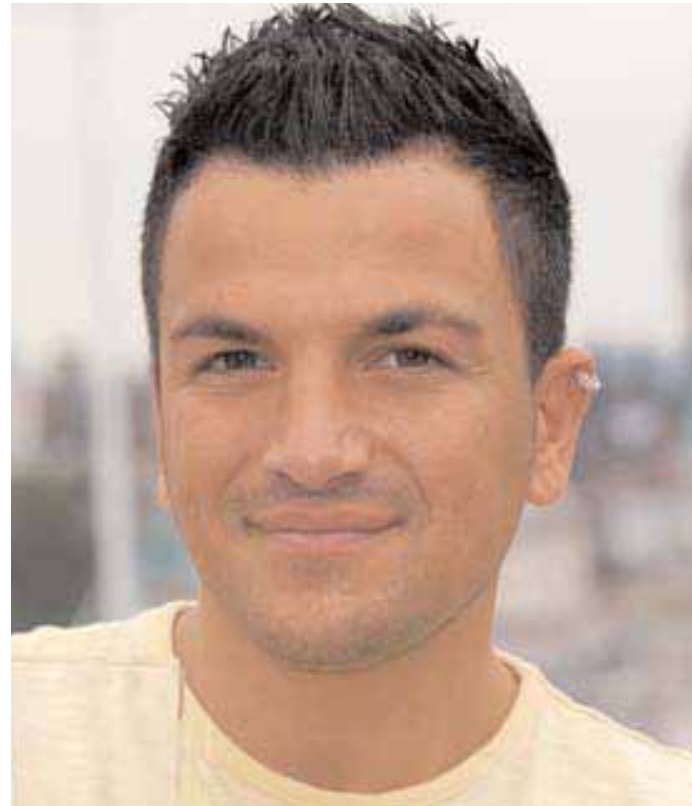
making a big lunch for family and friends.

"My friend Ryan came over to help with the cooking, making jerk chicken and lamb stew."

Friends believe the struggling star has "turned a corner" since splitting with the model in May.

One said: "He was really down for the first few months, not eating and not wanting to do anything, but he's trying to rebuild his life now." Pete's new album Revelation is out today and he has also been boosted by a surprise visit by his brother from Australia.

The singer yesterday denied claims that he has chosen a date to start having sex again after the love split. He said on Twitter: "I've never said anything of the sort. That's so wrong."



ABOVE: Pete celebrated the end of his marriage with a BBQ for his friends and family

Rivals clash in traffic dispute

THE epic Greek-Australian battle for control of Traffic Technologies has taken another twist with former managing director **Con Scrinis** offering shareholders "priority share allocations" in the upcoming float of a rival traffic management company.

Mr Scrinis is currently the managing director of The Traffic Group which competes against Traffic Technologies (TT) in the fast-growing traffic signage market in South Australia and WA.

As the largest stakeholder on the TT register he has called a special meeting of shareholders on October 14 to discuss the company's performance and to remove three board directors, including chairman Ray Horsburgh and managing director Con Liosatos.

Mr Scrinis told BusinessDaily that he wanted to merge the two businesses under his leadership.

"I think I am the best person to run the Traffic Technologies business," Mr Scrinis said.

"We have been growing the (The Traffic Group) business this year with a view to acquiring assets in Traffic Technologies or acquiring Traffic Technologies.

"They (the two businesses) need to come together -- there's no point having them apart."

Mr Horsburgh yesterday hit out at Mr Scrinis' proposals, saying that Mr Scrinis had a conflict of interest in nominating himself for a spot on the TT board. "I believe he has a clear conflict of interest in wanting to be a director of both companies," he said. "We're out there tendering vigorously against each other for contracts and The Traffic Group has taken some of

our staff."

Mr Horsburgh said the benefits of any type of merger with The Traffic Group were not apparent because the financial performance of the company was not known.

Mr Scrinis also revealed plans to raise \$5 million to recapitalise The Traffic Group which is poised for a backdoor listing on the ASX in the next month.

Traffic Technologies' shareholders are in line for priority allocations through the capital raising and have been asked to attend information sessions in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane at the end of this month to discuss the investment offer.

"We lodged the prospectus with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission last Thursday," Mr Scrinis said.

"We would expect it to go through a seven-day exposure period and then be opened this Friday."

The battle for TT has placed Mr

Scrinis on a collision course with his former colleague and friend Mr Liosatos who were joint managing directors of the company before Mr Scrinis resigned in August 2007.

Since then, Mr Liosatos has been the sole managing director and the share price has fallen from around 50 to as low as 2 earlier this year.

The company's scrip, which is now valued at 5, has been rising in recent months after Mr Scrinis began trading in the stock.

Traffic Technologies is the country's leading provider of traffic management products such as traffic lights, cameras and road signage but it has been hard hit by the financial crisis and delivered a net loss of \$5 million in the 12 months to the end of 2009. Mr Horsburgh attributed the recent underperformance of TT to decisions taken during Mr Scrinis' time at the helm.

"They haven't been performing. He paid too much for them."

Tasmanian businessman Ken Baxter and another former TT executive Andrew Harris are also eyeing spots on the board and are backing Mr Scrinis plans for the company.

The fate of Mr Scrinis' play for control could be decided by Sydney-based private equity group Equity Partners which holds 31 million preference shares in TT.

If Equity Partners elects to convert its stake into ordinary shares before the October 14 meeting it will hold an 18 per cent stake in the company.

Sources close to the situation told Business Daily that Equity Partners had not yet made a decision on whether to convert its interest.

Article from Herald Sun



The Traffic Group will create 200 local jobs as the company moves to make SA its manufacturing hub, says managing director Con Scrinis.