

# UPDATE: World Wine Tour 2010



As this issue of Brix goes to press, World Wine Tour (WWT) 2010 trekkers Anja Cheriakova and Georges Janssens are on the Asian leg of their journey. In January they traveled to Moscow and across Russia on the trans-Siberian express. After a short stay in Mongolia, they moved on to China, where they visited the first of their journey's wineries.

### Extremely old world, very new wine

While Anja and Georges will visit many of the regions wine enthusiasts know well—Australia, South America and South Africa, for example—the most interesting aspect of their itinerary is the focus on emerging wine-producing nations. Asia, which has grown dramatically as an economic power in recent years, is now also flexing its muscles in the wine world. China's intentions have been clear enough, and French, Italian and Australian wineries have taken notice and sought out partnerships. Now Vietnam, Thailand and India, among others, are also making the most of climates and soils that just might redefine terroir, or at least spell it differently.

The wines from these regions differ in many ways from those we're used to in the West; however, they are quenching growing domestic and regional thirsts. They may also serve a world wine audience that's as excited as Anja and Georges about the birth of new wines and wine markets. It would not be unlike witnessing the birth of the wine industries in France and Italy.

### A taste of China

The WWT team visited three of China's most important wineries: Fengshou, Grace Vineyards and Dragon Seal. The massive Fengshou operation, with its 200-ton vats, mass produces wines for the enormous domestic market. Grace Vineyards has opted for a boutique approach and focuses on its provincial market and high-end wines for export. Dragon Seal is notable for having been founded in 1910 by a French monk. The operation was taken over by the state in 1949 and took on its current name in 1987. Each of these wineries generously donated their flagship wines for the WWT auction. Anja and Georges were also delighted to receive the promise of a bottle from Treaty Port Vineyards' first vintage, due soon.

### Wine for a cause

WWT 2010's chosen charity is the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation. The charity works on a variety of projects, operating medical missions in remote areas and building schools and clinics. Funds raised by the WWT auction will help rebuild the Simmano school, which was destroyed by massive flooding of the Mekong River in 2008.

Anja and Georges spent most of February volunteering with the foundation. Each day, they worked side by side with school employees and students fixing desks, repainting blackboards, and helping out with other repairs.

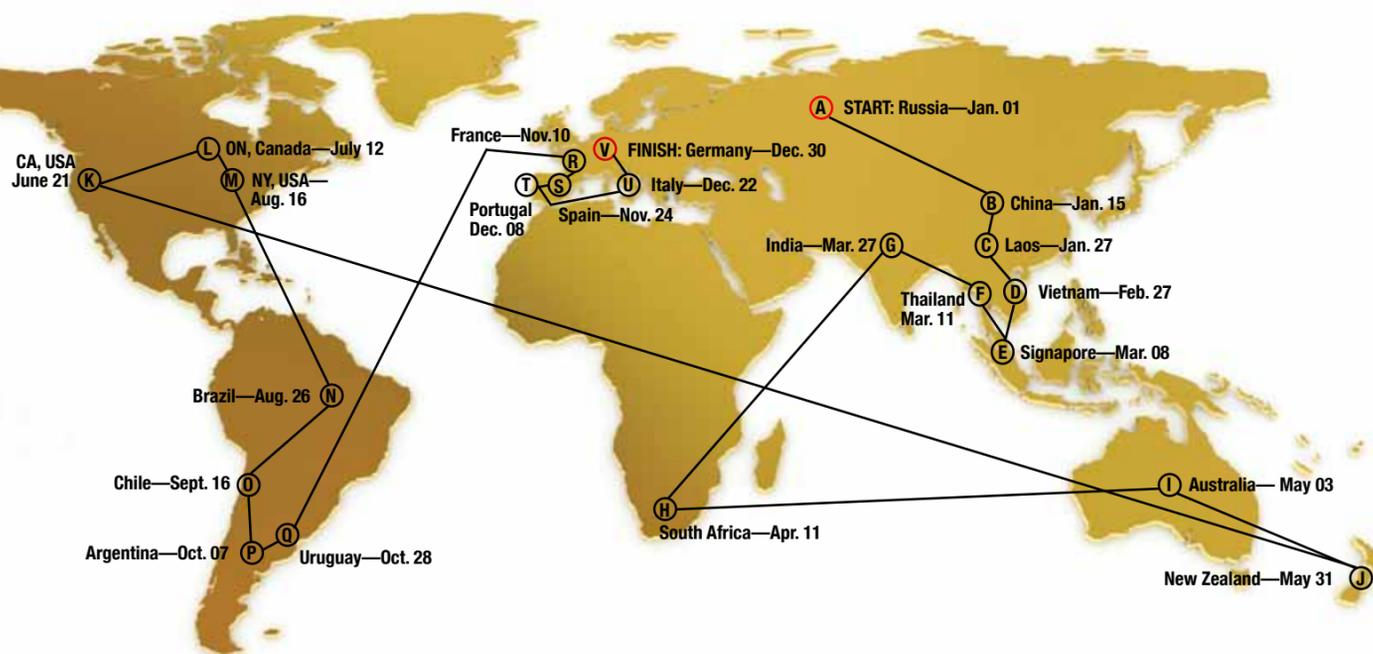
"Only one month into our wine tour," said Anja, "we were able to pause from winery sites to see what our efforts could achieve. In a country so unfamiliar with wine, we found it ironic that wine will make such an important contribution."

### Moving on

Following visits to Vietnam and Thailand, the WWT 2010 team will travel to India in March.

You can keep tabs on Anja and George's progress here in the pages of Brix magazine, on our website, and on the official World Wine Tour 2010 blog.

[www.worldwinetour2010.com](http://www.worldwinetour2010.com)



TICKETS ON SALE  
MAY 1  
2010

## NIAGARA NEW VINTAGE Festival

JUNE 12 TO 27

# TAILGATE PARTY 2010

SATURDAY, JUNE 19  
\$75 PER TICKET  
5:30-9:30PM • SCHENCK FARMS

On Summer Solstice, 25 Niagara wineries will celebrate the start of a new vintage. The New Vintage Tailgate Party includes VQA Wines and culinary from award-winning winemakers and chefs, set in the casual backdrop of the Grape Grower of the Year's Vineyard. Experience Ontario's newest releases and kick back with some casual live music.

## DISCOVERY PASS SUMMER'S OPENER 2010

JUNE 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27  
\$30 PER PASS

Tour the wine route for a fresh taste of the newest vintages! The New Vintage Discovery Pass is your ticket to six wineries to enjoy wine and food pairings throughout the 3 weekends of the Niagara New Vintage Festival.

To order tickets and passes, call 905-688-0212.

[NIAGARAWINEFESTIVAL.COM](http://NIAGARAWINEFESTIVAL.COM)  
(905) 688-0212

New Vintage Festival  
Packages starting  
from \$149.99\*

Personalize your New Vintage Getaway with Discovery Passes and Tailgate Party tickets. Stay in St. Catharines, in the heart of wine country, and experience it all.

For more information  
[visitstcatharines.ca](http://visitstcatharines.ca)

\*Available at participating hotels, rates subject to change.

