



Wine-ing for all

Wine is a living thing, it needs to be properly stored for two months and enjoyed later," revealed Ranjit Dhuru, founder and CEO Aftek Ltd during an exclusive walk-around tasting of Chateau D'Ori wines at Deccan Rendezvous on Thursday evening. Dhuru has developed a passion for wines after having lived at several wine-producing regions; it led him to set up India's first state-of-art winery incorporating features like gravity flow and a fully automated bottling plant. Living up to his keenness to

promote wine, he admits that the growing wine culture in the city makes Pune a potential market. "The wine culture in the city has finally got on. People are having more wine before dinner, after dinner, at parties and making it a habit. In fact, sipping wine is the most fashionable statement to while away one's time or sniff some."



One of the leading wine companies of India, Chateau D'Ori has been making the kind of wine that has even the French — the *badshahs* of wine making and drinking — thirsting for more. The success of the group can be measured as Dhuru imported and marked in India eight Appellation d'Origine Controlee (AOC) wines. These wines included a Bordeaux Superior, a Medoac, a Graves wine and three St Emilion including a Grand Cru.

Dismissing the belief that wines go with only Western and Mediterranean cuisines, the wine maker spoke about how to pair wine with different kinds of food. "People often wish to know which wine goes with the Indian cuisine. Generally, red meat goes with red wine and white meat with white wine. But red wine pairs well with spicy Indian delicacies. The glass used and the quantity of wine too matter," elaborates Dhuru. But wouldn't all this emphasis on etiquette put an Indian, or anyone for whom wine drinking isn't part of the culture, off the drink itself? "There was no wine culture because there was no good wine around to begin with so far," says Dhuru. With quality wines, things are changing. Women, particularly, are taking to it like never before. A woman is more comfortable with a wine glass than one of rum or whisky. And for those still uninitiated and hesitant, Dhuru has a piece of purely hedonistic advice: "Just pick it up and enjoy it, and don't think too much about etiquette."

— BARNALEE HANDIQUE

MAKING WINE POPULAR: (Above) One of the wines launched on Thursday; (top) Ranjit Dhuru