

DRINK DIARY

Designer Wines

► Boldness of expression and great structure define the wines of Il Borro and Castiglione del Bosco, Tuscan estates owned by the Ferragamo family.

BY KENNYLEONG

Did you know that Salvatore Ferragamo does not just produce luxurious, high-end shoes and leather goods? At a lunch recently held at Lawry's, hosted by Salvatore Ferragamo – grandson of the founding father – we tasted wines from the family's Il Borro estate located in a tiny Tuscan village acquired by the company in 1993.

With the help of winemaker and oenologist Nicolo D'Afflitto, Il Borro produces excellent wines, but you will never find the words "Salvatore Ferragamo" slapped on the label. This, explains Salvatore, is done so to protect and maintain the integrity of the brand of Il Borro as a competent fine wine producer.

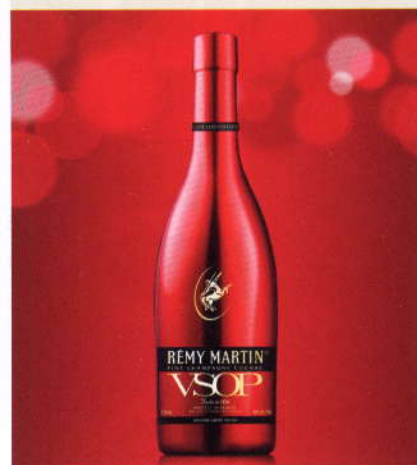
At Lawry's, we tasted four of Il Borro's wines, including the Lamelle 2008, a Chardonnay varietal made in a linear, dry crisp style with very lovely acidity; the Pian di Nova 2006 and Il Borro 2006 and 2004, both excellent



vintages for the vineyards planted in 1994. The Il Borro 2004 stood out for its sweet plum, vanilla, forest floor, dark berry and spice on the nose, with ripe currant flavours on its broad, structured palate. The finish was long and lasting.

We also sampled two wines from the company's estate Castiglione del Bosco, located in the northwestern part of Montalcino in Tuscany. The Rosso di Montalcino 2006 was delicious with a touch of meatiness though the nose was still rather closed. The Brunello di Montalcino 2004 impressed with its complex balsamic, minty nose with dried fruit characters and a rich palate with good acidity and a long finish. The wine was still rather tight, suggesting a long aging potential.

MONTHLY FEATURE



Remy Martin VSOP Exclusive Special Edition

Created specially for the holiday season, this Remy Martin VSOP comes in a striking, auspiciously coloured ruby-hued bottle to usher in the new year. Its exceptional character is a result of Cognac that's made from the finest crus. Complex in aroma with a rich, elegant and sweet palate, the Cognac finishes with good length. Available from Barworks, Bottles Shop, Hermitage, The Wine Gallery and leading bars.

Leak Proof Travel for Wine

Wine lovers checking in those precious bottles need no longer worry about leakage or breakage within their suitcases.

Two innovative packaging solutions are at hand; both are light, reusable and work for other liquids as well.

WineSkin (www.wineskin.net) is an innovative leak-proof wine bottle bag with double seals and a tough vinyl covering with bubble wrap incorporated. An alternative is the Vinni Bag (www.vinnibag.com), with its inflatable air chambers that mollycuddle the wine bottle.

