

The logo for 'quench' is written in a white, lowercase, cursive script font. It is centered within a solid black rectangular background.

A happy and joyeux Novembre happens in Montreal each year

BY TONY ASPLER / WINE + DRINKS / © NOVEMBER 18TH, 2016 / ♥ LIKE

If you love wine and you want to visit Montreal, take my advice and go in November. November is the most wine-soaked month in the calendar there.

Several years ago, the SAQ took a look at all the major wine events that happened in the city over the year and decided to concentrate them in the month of November. Playing off “Happy Christmas,” they called it “**Joyeux Novembre**.”

Kicking off the month is a three-day event called Passion Vin, which is centred at the Hotel Bonaventure. The event celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2016. Then there’s a tasting at Bonsecours Market of the association of private wine importers, whose unwieldy acronym is RASPIPAV. (Some 16,000 wines are privately imported into Quebec as opposed to the 8,000 skus offered by the SAQ.)

But the most intriguing event is Passion Vin. Martin Gauthier, president of the organization for the past four years, told me that wineries that accept the invitation to attend must provide 36 bottles from six vintages. Plus they are expected to donate bottles for the live and silent auctions that takes place during the Grand Banquet on the final night — and supply wine for this dinner.

The next morning, a tasting of six wines from **Jean-Claude Boisset**, introduced by winemaker Grégory Patriat: Beaune Les Vignes Franches 2012, Puligny-Montrachet 2011, Corton Charlemagne 2011 and three vintages of Clos de la Roche (2011, 2012 and 2008). This was followed by a lunch tasting of five wines from the Piemonte producer Ceretto — an Arneis 2014, a Barolo 2010, Barolo Bricco Rocche 2008, Barolo Cannubi San Lorenzo 2005, and Barolo Bricco Rocche Brunante 1999.

The combined live and silent auctions on that night raised \$1,041,907. These proceeds will go to the construction of an integrated cancer centre at Montreal’s Maisonneuve-Rosemount Hospital. The Quebec government has said that if the wine enthusiasts of Montreal raise \$12 million they would match the amount to finance the construction of the centre.

All it takes is wine to open people’s hearts and wallets.