

Showcasing Fine Taste

Regency Wines brings its best to Las Vegas

by Stephen Grogan / photographs by Barrett Adams



**Frank Savoy and Danien
Lebihan of Guy Savoy/
Caesars Palace with
Bruno Laclotte (center)
President/CEO of
Regency Wines.**

The best in fine wine and gourmet food were brought together for the trade recently in Las Vegas at “Showcase 2008—Where Food & Wine Meet!”

Food purveyor Praml International supplied the largest selection of gourmet foods ever presented to the Las Vegas hospitality industry, while Regency Wines provided the pairing balance with its line-up of award-winning boutique wines and spirits from around the world.

Regency Wines has successfully achieved its level of success by selecting wines not from the largest brands, but from those producers where hands-on creativity and pride result in quality and forceful presentation. Bruno Laclotte heads up Regency Wines with an unusual and convincing pedigree: He’s the son of a winemaker and a winemaker himself. Laclotte personally visits the vineyards and distilleries in making decisions on which producers he represents.

“It has been my mission,” explained Laclotte, “to seek a portfolio of small growers who produce outstanding and unique wines.

Today my company represents 650 wines from all over the world, with an emphasis on grand cru quality and bottles that restaurants and sommeliers wish to collect as much as serve.”

Bruno himself was the best salesman at “Showcase 2008,” moving quickly among the many booths, visiting with chefs and F&B directors, always with an upbeat verve, emphasizing that what was in their tasting glasses could not be found in just any liquor store or restaurant. “This,” said the exuberant Laclotte in his lyrical French accent, “is a haute cuisine trade show, where Praml and Regency demonstrate how best to harmonize flavors of food and drink.”

Attendance at “Showcase 2008” was strong during the two-day event, with chefs, F&B managers and sommeliers from most Las Vegas hotel and restaurant properties represented. Laclotte even persuaded a busload of the top chefs from Los Angeles restaurants to make a road trip to visit the show. Everyone seemed pleased with the results, especially since the wine booths were scattered strategically among the food presenters, creating natural pairings.

Regency Wines has been in business for more than ten years. Before founding Regency, Bruno had spent most of his life in France, studying enology for six years and later working at wineries in Bordeaux and Champagne before perfecting his vinification skills at Mouton-Rothschild. Today, Regency Wines has offices in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, including a 100,000-square-foot warehouse in L.A., and imports and distributes wines and spirits in California, Arizona, Nevada and some nationally.

For more information, go to www.regency-wines.com. ■■



Clockwise from Top Left:
 Jeff Divens, CEO, Bordeaux Locators. Kathleen Lemberger, Jeff Brock and Jim Frenstermaker of Blue Cellars. Rudolf Putze, President of Praml International, co-host of Showcase 2008. Toni Benhadi of Regency Wines with Ani Kevorkian of Marani Vodka. Bruno Laclotte with Mark Zimmerman of distributor Divine Wines (Arizona). Andre Angles, Frenchy's Bistro, Long Beach, CA.

