September 1, 2005

Dear Member:

Please join us for a special tasting of the wines of AXA Millésimes at The Union League Club on Wednesday, September 28. AXA Millésimes is the wine division of the well-known global insurance and financial company. For almost 20 years, they have been responsible for a renaissance of some very famous and historic wine properties. In the mid-1980's AXA began to invest in estates that had a reputation for greatness but, for a variety of reasons, had not been living up to their great quality potential.
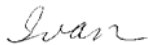
Jean-Michel Cazes of Château Lynch Bages was instrumental in finding and managing these properties for AXA in the 1980s and 1990s. The properties are now managed by Christian Seely, who made his mark at Quinta do Noval, the famous Port house, which was in a state of decline when AXA purchased it in 1993. Christian revived the under-performing Noval in remarkably short order, and it is now back stronger than ever. Other AXA turnaround examples are Château Pichon Longueville Baron, Second Grand Cru Classé of Pauillac, which had been virtually without direction for many years, and Château Suduiraut, Premier Cru Classé of Sauternes, which experienced similar problems. The properties purchased by AXA have shown an incredible surge of quality and are being recognized by top critics and wine lovers around the world.
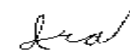
Christian Seely best sums up the philosophy of AXA Millésimes – "Being part of a large group does not mean that each property is run in a centralized way. On the contrary, our philosophy is that great wines take their character from great vineyards, from their own 'terroir', thus respecting the individuality of each one."

Board member Nancy Rugus will lead us through a tasting of several AXA properties, showing one older and one younger vintage, an interesting study in the evolution of these estates. The main tasting will include the 1996 and 2001 vintages of four Bordeaux estates (Châteaux Pichon Baron, Petit Village, Pibran and Cantenac Brown, a Third Grand Cru Classé of Margaux) and one Sauternes (Château Suduiraut). The 2001 Pichon Baron (Parker rating 93) and 2001 Suduiraut (Parker rating 98) are particularly well regarded. We will go on to taste two Hungarian Tokays – the 1993 and 1999 Disznókö Tokaji Aszu 6 puttonyos. We will also taste the 2000 Silval port from Quinto do Noval and two wines from the Languedoc – 2003 Château Belles Eaux Futs de Chene and 2003 Château Belles Eaux Ste. Helene. The reception prior to the main tasting will feature the second wines of Suduiraut, Pichon Baron, Petit Village, Pibran and Cantenac Brown.

Come join us for a very interesting and educational tasting.

Sincerely,

Ivan Thornton   Ira Greene
Co-President   Co-President

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2005
Times: Reception 6:00 PM; Tasting 6:45 PM
Location: **The Union League Club**, 38 East 37th Street (just west of Park Ave.)
Contribution: Members $75, Guests $85
Dress: Business attire (coat and tie *required* by The Union League Club)

THE WINE AND FOOD SOCIETY, INC., NEW YORK

Meeting #1057   **<u>RESERVATION FORM</u>**   **Wednesday, September 28, 2005**

TASTING THE WINES OF AXA MILLÉSIMES

Member Name(s) _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Member(s): # @ $75.00 _____

Guest(s): # @ $85.00 _____

<u>ONLY MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES MAY APPLY FOR RESERVATIONS TO THIS EVENT.</u>

Members with dues paid and Prospective Members will be given preference up to <u>TUESDAY, September 20</u>.
After that date, guests will be accepted in the order in which their reservations were received.

To make a reservation, please go online to <u>www.wfsny.org</u> and complete the process electronically.
You may pay with a Visa or MasterCard, or you may mail a check. If you need assistance, contact
rose@wfsny.org.

  Or if you prefer, you may e-mail **geri@wfsny.org** or send a fax to **(212) 297-0444** to reserve your place.
  Please indicate your address and telephone number below *if paying by check*. THANK YOU!
  Check must follow and be received within **4 days** of your e-mail or fax to validate your reservation.

Address: _____

Telephone: _____