# Here's to solutions

Jake van der Kamp is correct in his analysis "Vintage wine argument has a bouquet of questionable ingredients" (February 13). Regrettably, he chooses to focus on three easy targets – the current ad valorem wine duty, industry mark-ups and the financial secretary – rather than two simple solutions.

He might have noted your brilliant editorial suggestion that the financial secretary, who has an extensive collection of fine wines, could avoid accusations of a conflict of interests by handing over the decision on the wine tax to someone else ("Tang must face up to realities of wine tax", February 10). The legal profession is able to do this, so why not the financial secretary? Setting him up for attack no matter what he decides is not the best way forward.

Van der Kamp also regrettably fails to mention the option of a flat-rate tax – quite simply the most fair and friendly option available, aside from zero tax. This will remove any smoke and mirrors about wine pricing, maintain the current tax base, create a level playing field for all wine merchants, stop smuggling and other tax-avoidance schemes in their tracks, and simplify the import process.

More importantly, it will give Hong Kong the chance to set itself up as a fine-wine trading hub. Simple, fair and transparent – the reasons why I love Hong Kong.

**GREGORY DE'EB, Crown Wine Cellars**