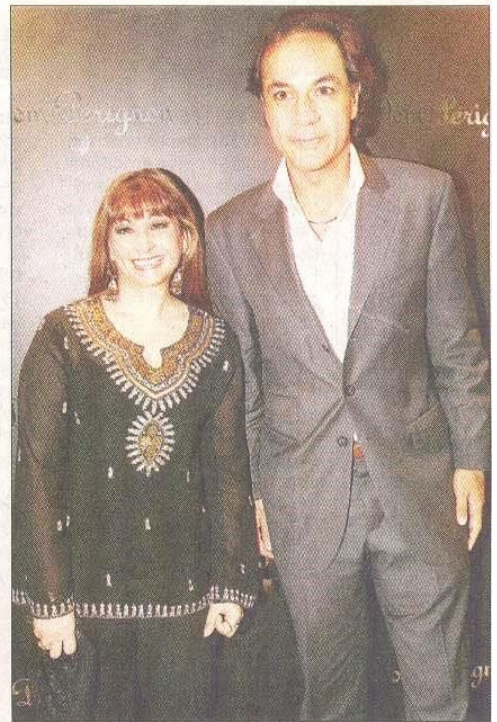


Vintage Night Out



Andrew Kinoshita, Dorothy Delage and Colette Koo



Laila and Aron Harilela



Ming Ho and Boris de Vroomen



Ruby Tang and Robert Lo

Vintage night out



William Ma
and Jean
Berchon

Champagne-maker Dom Pérignon reinforced its exclusive reputation among Hong Kong's social set with the launch of its latest vintage in a hidden war-bunker-turned-wine cellar, somewhere in Shouson Hill.

The private soiree unveiled the brand's 1998 vintage, redecorating Crown's Wine Cellar into an intimate boudoir complete with candles and red velvet curtains. The servers wearing masks also added a touch of mystery to the proceedings.

Dom Pérignon's French vice-president of communications, Jean Berchon, flew in from Paris to explain the subtlety of this new harvest as guests sampled glass after glass of it, and also tucked into a buffet of delicious canapés and snacks.

Among the lucky invitees were Aron and Laila Harilela, Yumiko Kuok Honda, racehorse owner Tony Cruz, Abbie Chan Sai-kit, Jonathan Zeman, Ming Ho, Ronald and Joanna Arculli and Colette Koo.

'SENSUAL' CHAMPAGNE

It takes a lot to force the city's A-list to trek out to a deserted wine cellar in Shouson Hill, but we suppose a new vintage of Dom Perignon is worth it. As champagne goes, Dom is the bomb. The brand's makers lavishly promoted their just-unveiled 1998 line with a swanky soiree on Tuesday night at Crown Wine Cellars' space, which itself is a converted war bunker in the middle of nowhere – well, near Deep Water Bay.

The theme was "sensual", so it was red-velvet boudoir and candles everywhere, backed by lots of Karl Lagerfeld photos from the promo campaign. Those with more refined taste buds told us they still prefer the classic 1996 vintage, but since we don't know any better we just replied, "Well, duh! As if!"

In addition to the champagne, there were plenty of other delicacies. As Dom's France-based VP of corporate communication, Jean Berchon, reminded us: "F. Scott Fitzgerald said, 'Too much of anything is not good, but too much champagne is just right'."

