

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Geologists love their beer and wine. There is abundant proof of this statement if you have ever attended an international geoscience conference. Typically, included with an attendee's registration packet received upon arrival at the conference are beer/wine tickets. Scientists may disperse through the day to attend talks, workshops, and poster sessions, but, late in the afternoons, kegs of beer and bottles of wine are rolled out and the scientists will quickly converge on the beer/wine stations. Organizers of the meetings strategically place these stations throughout the exhibition halls to encourage scientists to gather with one another, visit poster sessions, or wander amongst the exhibit booths. The lines at the stations can be very long and the beer and wine will flow nonstop during these gathering times. This culture of beer and wine extends far beyond international conferences to departmental functions and to local pubs after a long day doing field work or research.



As the topic of this thematic issue of *Elements* is on wine, the question begs to be asked, where does all that wine originate? According to the Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin (<http://www.oiv.int>), the top five wine producing countries are Italy, France, Spain, USA, and Australia. Together, these 5 countries produced 148.3 Mhl (million hectoliters; 1 hl = 100 liters) of wine in 2017, which is ~60% of the world's total wine production (250 Mhl). Who are the top consumers for wine? The USA, with consumption estimated

at 32.6 Mhl in 2017. That result may strike many wine connoisseurs as odd because wine consumption is typically associated with European culture. Perhaps a more useful statistic would be to report consumption statistics as liter per capita. Here we can clearly see our European friends topping the charts, with 20 of the top 29 wine consuming countries being located in Europe. Portugal, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Austrian residents consume, on average, 38 to 58 bottles of wine a year. These 29 wine consuming countries are also home to 13,558 of our 15,565 *Elements* members. Hence, the topic of *terroir* is quite appropriate for coverage in *Elements*.

Whether you choose to imbibe on the fermented fruits of the Earth or prefer to abstain, we hope that you enjoy reading this thematic issue on *terroir*.

DID YOU SEE IT?

To add to your reading enjoyment, the guest editors of the April 2018 issue on comets strategically hid an image of the TARDIS (from the popular BBC TV series *Dr. Who*) on the cover of the magazine. Did you see it?



Although they restricted themselves to one drink at lunchtime, Friedhelm and Bernie still found they were not at their most productive in the afternoon.

Wine Consumption in 2017*

Country	Liter/ person	Bottle**/ person	# Elements Members
Portugal	44	58	48
France	41	55	795
Italy	38	51	486
Switzerland	33	44	443
Austria	29	38	123
Croatia	26	35	11
Belgium	26	35	84
Denmark	26	35	77
Serbia	25	33	1
Hungary	25	33	29
Germany	25	33	1871
Sweden	24	32	110
Australia	23	31	564
Spain	22	30	348
Romania	21	28	17
Greece	21	28	31
Netherlands	20	27	114
Argentina	20	27	14
United Kingdom	19	25	1256
Czech Rep.	17	23	45
Canada	13	18	805
Chile	12	16	38
USA	10	13	3520
South Africa	8	10	75
Russia	6	8	112
Poland	3	4	236
Japan	3	4	1385
Brazil	2	2	103
China	1	2	817
Total			13,558***

* Data derived from the Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin, April 2018 "State of the Vitiviniculture World Market" report.

** Average volume of wine bottle is 750 ml.

*** As of December 2017, there were a total of 15,565 *Elements* members.

FAREWELL & THANK YOU



Bernard J. Wood

With this issue, Bernard (Bernie) Wood (University of Oxford, UK) completes his term as a Principal Editor of *Elements*. Bernie attended his first *Elements* editorial meeting in June 2014 and has been a vital part of the editorial team since 2015. During his tenure, he oversaw the following issues: "Supergene Metal Deposits" (v11n5), "Enigmatic Relationship Between Silicic and Volcanic and Plutonic Rocks" (v12n2), "Studying the Earth with LA-ICP-MS" (v12n5), "Sulfides" (v13n2), "Mineral Resources and Sustainability" (v13n5) and "Terroir: Science Related to Grape and Wine Quality" (v14n3). In addition to working closely with our guest editors and handling manuscripts, he has been very active in soliciting and encouraging scientists to submit proposals for possible inclusion in *Elements*. As mentioned in his editorial (see page 147), the topic you are reading in this issue of *Elements* was solicited by Bernie. He has also championed the idea of field-based thematic issues that feature iconic geologic regions, the first of which will be published in August 2018 on the Central Andes and a second to be published in 2019 on the South Aegean Volcanic Arc. Thank you, Bernie, for all your hard work and dedication to keeping *Elements* relevant and interesting to our readers.

Friedhelm von Blanckenburg, Nancy Ross, Jon Blundy, and Jodi Rosso