

July Newsletter 2026

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 7th July: 8:00pm Village Hall: A trip down the Andes

From David

Dear members and guests,

There is nothing quite like escaping the unpredictable British elements to embark on a bit of liquid armchair travel, and next month we are heading somewhere truly spectacular. Our journey, titled 'A Trip Down the Andes,' takes us to the spine of South America, tracing the world's longest mountain range

Our virtual itinerary splits across the great Andean divide, offering a fascinating look at how Andean peaks shape two entirely different viticultural worlds. On the eastern slopes is Argentina, where vineyards are at breathtaking altitude, for example the Uco Valley with vineyards at 1,200 meters above sea level.

Chile resides on the western side, where the Andes act as a protective barrier framing the wine producing valleys. Areas like Maipo and Colchagua Valleys are often celebrated as the historic heartlands for structured, blackcurrant-scented Cabernet Sauvignon and the wonderfully spicy, smooth Carménère. In these valleys, the melting Andean snow caps provide the pure glacial water that feeds the vines, while the cold mountain air rolls down the slopes each evening to give the wines their signature freshness and refinement.

We are fortunate enough to be guided by Chris Rowe from Castelnau agencies, where his expertise and choice of wines offer a thoroughly delightful evening of discovery, so do raise a glass, settle in, and let's begin our journey across the peaks of the Andes

About Chris Rowe

Chris Rowe is a highly regarded figure in the UK wine trade, currently serving as the London Sales Manager for Castelnau Wine Agencies, the UK agency arm representing Champagne Castelnau, a prominent grower-cooperative based in Reims. Known across London's premium hospitality and wine retail sectors for his expert product knowledge and approachable style, Chris has spent decades building strong commercial relationships at the top tier of the UK drinks market.

Within the industry, he is recognized for being exceptionally fast at building genuine rapport with trade and event clients, frequently delivering trade and consumer events across London. Chris regularly hosts high-profile masterclasses and tastings across London's premium districts, such as consumer Champagne & Cheese pairing events at boutique establishments like *Mouse & Grape* and tasting pop-ups at premium retailers like *Amathus Drinks* in Wimbledon Village.

When asked about his personal palate preferences within the portfolio, he frequently highlights **Champagne Castelnau Brut NV** and **Logan Chardonnay**, an acclaimed skin-contact orange wine from Orange, Australia, and has recently turned his expertise and informed presenting style to the high altitude wines we will sample.



Website Booking

All booking must be done via the website to secure your place. The number of tables (and therefore the number of tickets available on sale) will be reduced depending on the number of bookings on the Sunday just before the event - so please book early to ensure you secure your places. This is to prevent purchasing too much food for the night. There will be some residual places available, and these will be on sale right until the evening itself for any last-minute bookings. **If the event is sold out, please send an email to webmaster@chalfamwineclub.org.uk to be placed on the waiting list.**



If you have a credit note from a previous cancellation, please do remember to use this on your next booking!

Guests:

In the final week before an event, members can book additional places to bring guests (subject to there being spaces remaining!). Please do not book for guests before this time as earlier bookings are for members only – any guests booked before this time will be removed from the booking.

Refunds:

Refunds/credit notes can be issued if members (or their guests) become unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. This applies up to 24 hours before the evening (8pm on the Monday). Refunds/credit notes are not possible after this point unless there is another member on the waiting list who is able to take the place – **so please do let us know if you are unable to attend even at very short notice** as this may enable another member from the waiting list to come in your place. This is because the club will have finalised the orders for the evening. As issuing refunds to cards costs the club money, we kindly ask that if possible, a credit note is issued in preference to a full refund.

If there are any problems accessing the website or completing a booking, please email me at webmaster@chalfamwineclub.org.uk and I will do everything I can to assist.

