

TAPESCRIPT: Heaven in a glass!

(You are going to listen to the wine expert, Adam Smith, who works on the ship Azura, talking to Kim Jones about his great passions and his life's little pleasures)

Kim: Mr. Smith, how did you become interested in wine?

Adam: Well...Kim. I was at Edinburgh University... I was 20... and there was a free wine tasting at a local wine bar and the manager offered me a taste of a white wine. It was a simple bottle, but... the effect was electrifying. I had a girlfriend at the time, and..., every Saturday, I would go to the tasting, buy some wine and go to a local restaurant. Then I started mixing food and wine to share with this girl. Fifteen years later, we're married with two children.

Kim: Many people must think you have the dream job. Do you enjoy it?

Adam: I love it! It is thrilling to share something of such profound pleasure with so many people and to have the privilege of their trust. When I recommend a wine and then it sells out nationwide, I have to pinch myself. Plus... I'm working with some of the world's greatest chefs.

Kim: Do you have a favourite wine... or does it change annually?

Adam: It changes daily! I love value but also complexity. I like the wine that keeps me guessing. It really depends on what food I'm eating. So..., for example, if I'm eating... sausages with pulses, I might go for a French red wine.

Kim: Away from work, what are your favourite things to do?

Adam: I enjoy nature and I am a huge fan of the British countryside but I also adore travelling. It's the best way to broaden the mind - think of the people you meet, the new smells and flavours, the different light of the sun around the world. Leave me in the countryside or on the high seas with a dose of wildlife, my wife and kids around, and I'm the happiest man on the planet.

Kim: Have you travelled the world a great deal then?

Adam: I'm very lucky to be travelling all the time. Last year I spent nearly five months filming in South America for a new wine series called "Cheers from Chile". I was also working for two weeks in South Africa, which is now producing more modern, stylish wines. I went cage diving with great white sharks there, which was terrific! But...but the place I have returned to every year since I was 19 is Greece. It's my favourite part of the world and I've never been to the same place twice. Unspoilt Greece is unbeatable. The oceans, the islands, the huge number of secret local grape varieties producing some truly world class wine..., the simple but fantastic organic cooking... Just bliss!

Kim: Do you bring wine home with you from your travels?

Adam: Always. I buy an awful lot of wine and open as many curious bottles as I can when I have friends or family round. Wine is there to be shared. I have many varieties in my cellar.

Kim: As a wine expert, who also likes good food, do you ever think of it when deciding where to go for a holiday?

Adam: Definitely! I love exploring the food and drink of a country as much as the place and the people. And it needn't necessarily be wine - think of the tea in India and China, the coffee of Africa, the souvla of Cyprus, the aromatic ingredients of Thailand. All these have depth of culture, a wealth of history behind them and are a journey in themselves!