

## BOTTLED BLISS

# 1x Wine journalist

### Preface

Wine journalist Chandra Kurt decided that Swiss wine deserved to be better known internationally. Instead of just writing about it, she created her own collection of wines in collaboration with a local winery.

### WRITER

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## CHANDRA KURT Switzerland

Despite having a deeply ingrained viticulture tradition, Switzerland has never been well known for its wines. Often overlooked in favour of its Italian and French neighbours, the problem with Swiss wine is that it's simply not fashionable. "Our local grapes have a unique flavour but we still need to learn how to tailor our products for an international audience," says Chandra Kurt (pictured above, on left), one of Switzerland's foremost wine writers, critics and consultants.

Born in Sri Lanka to Swiss-Italian parents, Chandra's passion for wine was piqued by her first journalism project, a portrait of her grandparents' wine-producing neighbours in northern Italy. Every summer, Chandra travels around Switzerland tasting and testing over 800 local and international wines, publishing the results in her annual *Weinseller Bookproject*. Now in its 16th year, the *Weinseller* has played an integral role in placing Switzerland's wines onto the global radar.

During one of her first assignments in the ancient wine-producing region of Valais, Chandra met Madeleine



Gay (pictured above, on right), who for 16 years has been the chief oenologist at its largest winery, Provins Valais. Over the years, the women developed a close friendship and also a common goal: to create a collection of wines that would transmit the history and tradition of Switzerland's indigenous, lesser-known grapes to a wider audience. In 2008, they created the Collection Chandra Kurt in collaboration with Provins Valais. Each of the collection's eight wines is handcrafted from its own signature grape, ranging from delicate aromas of mandarin and peach with the Amigne grape to full-bodied, earthy aromas and tannins of the Humagne Rouge.

"We process the grapes using artisanal methods that ensure their flavours remain untouched and pure, a homage to the lands they're grown in. Today's wines are all too often transformed and distanced from their roots in an attempt to draw in the 'modern consumer'. We don't do that," says Gay. — (M) [provins.chv](http://provins.chv)



### Four favourite wines

#### Chasselas

From the Canton de Vaud, Switzerland

#### Barbaresco

From Angelo Gaja, Italy

#### Bordeaux

Especially from Château Canon, France (owned by the Chanel Group)

#### Colheita Port

From Dirk Niepoort, Portugal

