



JUNE COVER

Our cover picture this month shows the basic equipment required for home winemaking. Among the items shown are the "Amateur Winemaker" Country Wine labels which are mentioned in an interesting article by Richard Sherwood on page 394. Our Country Wine labels are available in six different styles for only 37½p per 100.

NEW LOOK FOR THE A.W.

In next month's magazine we take on a new look. As part of our programme the *Amateur Winemaker* is being typographically improved to produce an easier-to-read magazine which we are sure will be well received. The new layout will be appreciated by readers and advertisers, and will give more flexibility of design. Advertisers will have fractionally more area to display their advertisements to obtain the maximum benefit—at no extra cost.

SOME SEATS LEFT

At the time of going to press all but two of the seats out of 119 on our Portugal tour in September have been sold. The Black Forest tour has 49 seats left and the Rhine, 24. If you have been thinking of joining one of our tours then decide now or you may be disappointed to find that all seats have been booked. By the time you read this all seats on the Portugal tour will undoubtedly have been sold and nearly all those for the Black Forest. We would be pleased to send you a complete itinerary for either of the following four day tours:

Black Forest: departure September 3rd £28.90

Rhine Valley: departure September 4th £29.80

TREAT IN STORE

Incidentally, there is no doubt at all that those lucky enough to be going on the Portuguese trip are in for a wonderful experience. Having just returned from a Spanish-Portuguese holiday, during which we took the opportunity of checking the route and arrangements for the *A.W.* tour, we can report that this first organised trip to the land of port is bound to be an outstanding success. We spent several days on the Alto Douro, at Alijo, Regua and Vila Real, the main centres of the wine-growing district, where life is still lived much as it was in the nineteenth century, with the country folk in picturesque costume, ploughing with oxen, driving bullock-carts, and cultivating their plots with hand-hoes, scythes and sickles. Everywhere there is glorious scenery, with terraces of vines climbing up steep mountain sides, and roads bordered by flowering trees, pines and eucalyptus groves. The drive down the Douro Valley from the mountain vineyards to Oporto, following the river and the contours of the mountains, is an adventure in itself.

VINES AND WINES

We enjoyed our stay at the remotest village, Alijo, where there was an excellent *pousada*, or state hotel (hotels are scarce up-country) and it was here that we had the thrill of tasting a 100-year-old Don Carlos port; we visited a *quinta*, or family vineyard, and in Oporto were hospitably entertained at the wine lodges at Vila Nova de Gaia, on the opposite bank. Food in every hotel was abundant and good, and the wines were varied and intriguing. A wide range of ports is available, naturally, but we particularly liked, as an aperitif, Cockburn's white "Dry Tang". Everyone visits the Mateus Lodge at Vila Real, of course, and there is no need to describe the famous rosé to the English, since it is so popular in this country nowadays. We did not care so much for the rather acid Vinho Verdes, white and red (though they go well with some of the famous national fish dishes) but we *did* enjoy the Dao wines and several other purely local vintages. Yes, our party is in for a treat!

UNLUCKY NOTTINGHAM

One point we overlooked in our last month's report of the National. Nottingham Winemakers Association must have been the unluckiest circle at the National. For many years they have tried hard to win the premier National award, our Amateur Winemaker Shield, which is awarded to the circle obtaining the most points overall in all classes. In 1970 and 1971 Nottingham came second each time—last year they were beaten by only one point! At Eastbourne this year they entered 209 bottles, won 25 awards and gained 114 points, which was three more points than Epsom Downs. Unfortunately Nottingham were not eligible to take the trophy as they had, due to an oversight, forgotten to get their affiliation fee paid by the deadline of December 31st 1971. Consequently the trophy went to Epsom Downs.

We understand that next year Nottingham will be going all out to ensure success—and we wish them luck. They deserve it!

—The Editor



"Wish you would bring him grapes in their natural form"