

TALKING HEADS

RICHARD WALLEY

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What tasting note best describes you?

Medium to full-bodied. Rounded with soft tannins. Enjoy with most foods or can be drunk on its own. Drinking well now but will keep for a few more years.

Your shop is burning down, what three things do you grab as you leg it out the door?

Dom Pérignon 2002, Taylor's 85 and Highland Park 18 Year Old. Now that's a hangover I would look forward to.

Does money motivate you?

I'm in the wine trade, so probably not.

If you could swap jobs with anyone for the day, who would it be?

As I look out the window watching the rain lashing down on a cold, grey January day, I would like to swap with a scuba diving instructor in the Maldives.

Can you give us an unusual food and wine-matching tip?

Fluffernutter sandwich (peanut butter and marshmallow cream) with a good demi-sec Champagne. So bad for you.

In a nutshell my philosophy is:

Like what you do. Do what you like.

What's the most unusual thing that's happened to you in your shop?

A woman came in and asked: "Can you tell me the price of a colour TV licence?" I said that I wasn't sure. She thanked me and walked out.

Tell us something about yourself that would surprise your friends.

October 12, 2011 – went a whole day without having a drink.

What do you recommend to a customer wanting to splash out?

Buy a large house and boat on Martha's Vineyard. If they're on a budget then a case of Château Latour 2009 before prices get really silly.

Who do you most admire in the wine world?

Robert Parker. Absolutely amazing how much power and influence he has with consumers and producers alike – just by picking a number between 1 and 100.

What's your overriding ambition?

For my wife to earn enough money for me not to have to.