

MONTREAL | QUEBEC

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Better late than never, Burgundy arrives at big wine event

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THE GAZETTE

All's well that quaffs well.

Twelve cases of prestige Burgundy wine that were inadvertently left off an order for Montreal's biggest and most expensive wine event arrived on time for tasting yesterday by more than 300 oenophiles.

"It was lucky I was in Burgundy when the error was no-

ticed, because I was able to get the wine myself and bring it back here in time," said Denis Marsan, a top official at the Société des alcools du Québec, the province's wine monopoly.

The 144 bottles of Domaine de Montille wines – three premier-cru vintages of a Volnay pinot noir and three vintages of a Puligny-Montrachet chardonnay – arrived at 8 p.m. Friday on an Air France

flight, with Marsan on board.

Served 14 hours later to a packed crowd at the Montréal Passion Vin event at the Hilton Bonaventure Hotel, the wines showed no sign of suffering from the last-minute flight. They'd been well-packed as special cargo.

"My team made a mistake, but I'm responsible – I ordered one case of each vintage instead of three cases," said Marsan, who's the SAQ's

development and product research. "In the seven years we've been doing this event, it's never happened to me before. What can I tell you? That's life."

The bungle didn't leave a sour taste for the producer, Étienne de Montille, who was on hand to present the wines himself to the crowd.

"Everything worked out in the end," he said. "It makes a nice story."

A fundraiser for the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital Foundation Montréal Passion Vin is the city's priciest wine event. All 500 tickets – priced at \$750, \$1,500 and \$1,950 – were sold for the two days of tastings and meals, which concluded last night.

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