

# TittleTattle

IN THE NEWS

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## Wine Winner

HE TURNS HIS PASSION FOR WINE INTO A LIFETIME PURSUIT

Visooth Lohitnavy with Philippe Maurange and HRH Prince Albert of Monaco (behind)



international awards. With the graduation of daughter **NIKKI** as winemaker and the addition of a winery, the brand is now a major player in the industry. Visooth has taken on a leading role as president of the Thai Wine Association, and has now been inducted as a member of the Prud'hommes de la Jurade of St Emilion, an ancient wine brotherhood dating back to 1199. This honour is given each year to those who have made a contribution to the wine world and this year awardees also included **HRH PRINCE ALBERT OF MONACO** and French actor **STEPHANE FREISS**. The Thai wine industry is only about 10 years old, but through the efforts of people like Visooth, the world is beginning to take notice. Now all that is needed is for the government to reduce the excise tax and give it more support.

VISOOTH LOHITNAVY'S LOVE affair with wine started when he was a student in Germany. He enjoyed the grape drink but didn't have enough money to indulge in it, so decided instead to make it himself. This didn't happen until much later when

he started GranMonte Estate Vineyard and Wines in the early 2000s. This was in the early days of the Thai wine industry, and in tandem with its growth, GranMonte has also gone from strength to strength, creating wines that have won