

OVERSEAS NEWS

Yellow Tail shakes up the US – Yquem sale a nice little earner – Domaine Chandon a winner.

PEARLY PROBLEMS FOR WINE LOVERS

In a startling revelation in the early 1990s about wine and health, CBS's television news magazine, *60 Minutes*, coined the phrase "The French Paradox". Regular consumption of red wine, it was claimed, was the reason the French lived longer and suffered fewer cardiac problems than Americans. Since then, there has been an avalanche of epidemiological studies showing that moderate wine drinking can reduce the risk of a rash of ailments, from Alzheimer's to osteoporosis. Now, new research in North America suggests there's a medical downside for wine professionals who taste and tope regularly – tooth erosion.

According to a paper published recently in the *BC Medical Journal*, dental deterioration is an occupational hazard for frequent tasters. American winemaker Dan Kleck concurs: "According to my dentist, even though I have good dental hygiene, the acids in wine have basically eroded my teeth to the point where several are nearly gone."

There is a solution, however, says American wine judge and writer James Rodewald. "When I was in New Zealand not long ago, I noticed that two of my fellow judges doused their teeth in fluoride gel at the end of the day. They told me that this protected their teeth from enamel erosion provided they didn't brush until the next morning."

Dentists say it's a good idea to treat daily with a fluoride topical gel for a couple of weeks prior to a big tasting. AM

