

Wine connoisseur's collection up for tender

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It's a wine lover's dream.

More than 650 bottles of wine, hand picked by Frenchman Andre Teissonniere before he died, will be sold next week.

The collection has been put out to tender along with the remaining stock of alcohol from Andre's L'Escargot Restaurant.

French wine picked by Teissonniere on travels back to his home country is a part of the collection.

Spirits, beers, mixes, and wine from New Zealand are also a part of the catalogue, which will be sold intact.

The oldest bottle of wine is from 2002 and sold in the restaurant for \$135 per bottle.

Bruce Richards, the trustee for the Teissonniere family trust, said the rare sale had gained interest from across New Zealand.

"It's a great opportunity for someone to start a collection.

"Those who knew Andre know that when you came into the restaurant he always had the finest

wine," he said. Before the collection went out to tender someone offered the trust \$10,000 for Teissonniere's stock of alcohol.

"I thought if someone is going to offer me that without seeing it all, then maybe we should go to tender," he said.

The collection is available for public viewing this weekend, but there would be no taste-testing, Mr Richards said.

Before Mr Teissonniere died this year he often spoke about wine, Mr Richards said.

"He had wanted to sell up here

for a while. He always said he would take touring parties to France to visit the restaurants and the vineyards," he said.

The award-winning French restaurant was owned and operated by Teissonniere for 37 years until he died of cancer in June.

The business was closed and put up for sale soon after.

Last month New Plymouth property developer Robert Angus bought the restaurant at auction for \$570,000.

Mr Angus said he has no immediate plans for the Category A

heritage building but any development would retain the character of the building.

Potential buyers are invited to view the collection of alcohol at the Brougham St restaurant this Saturday from 10am-3pm. The closing date for submissions of tender is November 20. For more details email abbie.tebbutt@staplestaranaki.co.nz

Wonder wine: Close to 700 bottles of wine are up for sale from the former restaurant of Andre Teissonniere. Bruce Richards, trustee for Teissonniere's family trust, says the collection is gaining attention from across New Zealand. The collection includes wine like the 2007 bottle of Te Mata Coleraine, which retailed for \$135 at the restaurant.

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