

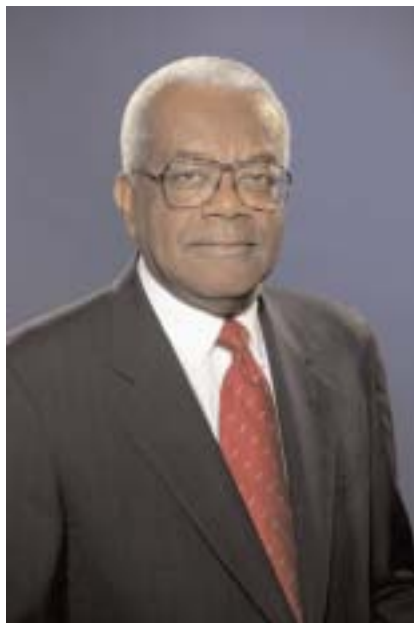
Wine

"I seriously became interested in wine when I came to the UK about 36 years ago and went to a number of wine bars and thought this was a charming way to spend one's life.

"When travelling with ITN, particularly in France, and much later in America, I think it is very difficult to go out there without acquiring an interest in wines and, principally, to discover new types of wine.

"When visiting Australia, what really fascinated me was these so called younger countries. I was amazed as to how brilliantly they had acquired the expertise to produce very fine wines.

"I remember sitting in a restaurant in Sydney one lunchtime looking out at this marvellous scene with the Opera House one side, the bridge the other



River pinot noir at Clint Eastwood's restaurant in Carmel.

"Occasionally I do look in shops for wine as I am always reading more and more about them – particularly New World wines.

"I spent quite a lot of time working in South Africa many years ago and it was wonderful to sample their wine and to read about the emergence of Chilean wines.

"I sometimes buy stuff which does not live up to expectations but I keep on trying! I have a lot of friends who have the same passion about wine as I do and we trade our notes about good wine and talk about it endlessly.

"If I was marooned on a desert island I would have to have endless quantities of vintage champagne!

"I am not a great cook so I do the

Wine at McDonald's

and a thousand small boats whilst drinking Houghtons White Burgundy with cricketer Roger Tolchard, the Leicestershire and England wicket-keeper, and I said: "I think we have died and gone to heaven!"

So what is in the fridge?

"I love great French burgundies particularly Meursault – and I love champagne, especially Laurent Perrier, Dom Perignon, Taittinger and Veuve Clicquot.

"Sometimes I buy by the case, mostly in bulk, as there are a lot of fine wine shippers I buy from. One of my favourite red burgundies is the 1998 Charmes Chambertin, Domaine Dujac.

"I have always loved travelling and for many years part of the great fun has been finding out about the local wines and trying them.

"One of my greatest discoveries was when I found how good some American wine is. My great ambition is to go on a holiday to Napa Valley and travel through the vineyards.

"One of my great memories is of a time ago travelling from San Francisco to Santa Monica – sampling Russian

Television legend
**SIR TREVOR
McDONALD**
tells Debby
Collinson how he
picked up a taste
for intriguing
wines on his
news-gathering
travels around
the globe

wine side – I discovered a lot of Italian wines on a walking holiday in Italy, wines such as Brunello di Montalcino."

What about other hobbies?

"I read constantly – almost always political biographies and I usually have several books on the go at any one time. I like poetry – John Betjeman is very good. I also play a lot of tennis and am mad keen about it.

"I began following cricket as a child – neighbours and friends took me to Test matches and then I had the good fortune to report on cricket on radio in WI and television over here.

"I covered the beginning of the Kerry Packer World Series down in Australia and have watched cricket all over the world: India, South Africa, Pakistan, Australia, West Indies and UK.

"We all played cricket, and whilst I was keen and passionate, I did not have much skill."

And what do you find to drink when you are travelling?

"Journalists may not always be good at finding the best stories but we are brilliant at finding the best restaurants!" ■