

Submission by Francois Millet, Burgundian Winemaker - English Translation

Subject: Mining Project in Bendigo, Central Otago, New Zealand

The establishment of this gold mine in the Bendigo region of Central Otago, New Zealand, would have a very negative impact on the region's image and on the integrity and authenticity of its wine-growing reputation.

A wine region producing premium, world-class wines takes a great deal of time to build its reputation, yet that reputation can be destroyed very quickly, with any return to the previous level being extremely difficult, if not impossible.

As a result, there would be a significant negative economic impact, with a decline in interest in the region's wines, reduced sales locally, throughout New Zealand, and in export markets, where these wines are now recognised worldwide.

This would also lead to job losses for permanent staff, seasonal workers and interns. These interns play an important role by enabling valuable exchanges with other wine-growing regions around the world. The impact would be felt not only in the core wine sector itself — vineyards, producers and merchants — but also across the many service industries that support it, including suppliers of dry goods, oenological laboratories and consultants, and viticulture and winemaking service providers.

Local tourism, hospitality, wine retailers and wine tourism, which is already growing, would also experience a decline in activity, adding further collateral damage.

The region would gradually decline, with its economic development falling irreversibly, as problems trigger further problems in a cascading effect. The future would become uncertain and challenging for generations to come.

It is impossible to continue to claim status as a world-class wine region producing high-quality wines with an impeccable reputation while such a mining project exists.