

FT Weekend

ON SALE (except on 1000 Islands or other dates)

EUROPEAN NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The Iconoclasts
Arts Issue
HOW TO SPEND IT



Autumn food and
drink special



ENDLESS

The Queen & Culture Exhibition



Experience a celebration of British culture through art, in the virtual and real world,
by Endless the artist. Hosted by Cris Contini Contemporary, Mayfair.



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HOW TO SPEND IT

FRAGILE

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THE ICONOCLASTS

WITH
MARINA BEKAMOVIC
LADY GAGA
ANTHONY HOPKINS
RITA KECERMAN
YAYOI KUSAMA
MARLENE TASHCHEN
PAMELA ANDERSON
DYNASTIE MC
ERIC H HACE
LORNA SIMPSON
NATASHA RAMSAY-LEVI



FINANCIAL TIMES

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SEPTEMBER 8
2010

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Spin the bottle

Somerset at one of London's most sophisticated restaurants, Domino. Smith has spun a twin career as Domino MC. After Las Vegas tracks him down

As a sommelier at London's Michelin-starred Clove Club, Domino Smith gets to perform nightly on one of the most renowned jazz venues in the world. I wonder, though, how many guests realize that the man pouring their Domino Tonic Vins Jaume is also the award-winning Domino MC, a rapper who's been whapping up crowds in clubs and bars from Berlin to LA, and Elephant & Castle to Hong Kong, for over 20 years.

Smith's Domino came to fame as a rapper on *Real Street* (1995) - whose Mercury Prize-winning album *Now Form* (1997) - whose fusion of five vocals, skittery beats and shiny strings brought down and blew out of the club and into the mainstream. If you need a refresh, dial up "Rolling" or the full vocal remix of "Brown Paper Bag" (I bet when we meet at The Cloves Butler in Corkwell) - a favorite of his - then a taste of the on-stage I associate with the MC. Dressed in a hiker-boy cap and hooded poncho, he glazes me with an almost disorienting rants. Then apologies for his live club shenanigans. Now, his, Smith is a virtuoso of the club music scene but his entry into wine was relatively recent. "I grew up in Germany, where my dad was stationed in the army, so wine was always around. My real epiphany was with a bottle of 2011 Crozes Herault de Cabres I ordered to celebrate winning MC of the Year at the FrenchChateau Awards in 2011. I tasted it and it just hit me, wine, this is so much, so much, so much. I googled it to find out more, and I was a link to the Wine & Spirit Education Trust and thought, why not go educate myself?"

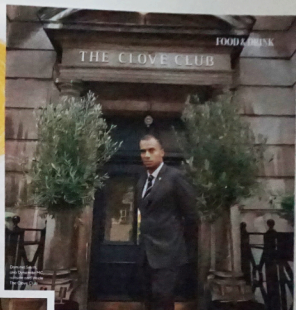
In his first year, Smith had completed WSET levels 1, 2, and 3 - enough to equip him to apply to the trade. "Thankfully, I passed it" - but it wasn't until he met The Clove Club co-founder Daniel Webb, a Michelin starred restaurant who is an avid drinker and has him for seriously overestimated the idea of becoming a sommelier.

"I'd gone to this wine and R & B event in London called Geronimo, where Dan was talking, and I saw him. He was like, 'You're Domino? What are you doing here?' I said 'I just done my WSET 1' and he said, 'I'm a sommelier, it should come with it. I'll come over to the wine'."

The experience was "completely eye-opening. I came to this thing, and I met him, and he was like, 'You're Domino? What are you doing here?' I said 'I just done my WSET 1' and he said, 'I'm a sommelier, it should come with it. I'll come over to the wine'."

There's a huge difference between being a guest and working in a restaurant, being part of this beautiful bubble that's going on off the main restaurant that is practical and laborious. The preparation and the actual that you are making a restaurant function so seamlessly is so much. I can't even say it. "Promoting wine and dishes is about the best part of my job. It's a natural performance and I love it. I'm a natural performer. And he has a fantastic palate. I often find that to work with on straight away."

Smith's love for Champagne and Pinot Noir. "I love Pinot Noir because it's so diverse depending on where it comes from. In England, Central Otago, Chile, you can have a totally different experience." He grows me a glass of 2009 Pinot Noir from the Vineyard of Pinot Noir from Marston in Lincoln, California. It's from 2009, so it's a bit of a vintage. "This was one



Drinking songs

TUNING TO TIME YOUR DRINKING HOUR

1. "You're Domino? What are you doing here?" - Domino Smith. This song is about the experience of meeting a sommelier and the importance of wine.
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