

THE NEW WINE COMPANY

by Rod

Based on Jesus' first miracle when he changed water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. [John 2 vv 1-10]

CAST

Reporter *Male or female*
Oz Scribe *Male [based on Oz Clarke]. Chirpy, cheeky, ebullient.*
Jilly Golden-Calf *Female [based on Jilly Goolden] Enthusiastic, jolly.*
Steward *Male [but could be a female waitress]*

The scene is at the wedding. Oz and Jilly are seated at a table or standing next to it.

On the table are the four wines which later will be discussed in turn.

The Reporter appears – probably with a microphone. Throughout the sketch the reporter takes every opportunity to fill up his glass and gets progressively more drunk.

Reporter Hello and welcome to Cana in Galilee where we have come to hobnob with the rich at a lavish society wedding. It's a really glitzy affair, packed with celebrities. Everyone who is anyone is here. Indeed everyone who isn't anyone is here.
[Beginning to look around] Let's see who we can spot. Over there I can see the local fishermen Peter and Andrew. And there's Mary with her son, Jesus.
Oh and right here we have those two famous wine experts, Jilly Golden-Calf and Oz Scribe. Good evening to you both.

Oz & Jilly *[Cheerfully]* Hello!

R Are you enjoying the wedding?

Jilly Yes indeed, we've had a marvellous time.

Oz Absolutely. The bride's father has been on particularly good form.

Jilly Yes, he made a hilarious speech. What was that joke he started with?

Oz It went like this: My daughter got married in Galilee?

Jilly Cana?

Oz No, I didn't have to - she went of her own accord. *[They both laugh exaggeratedly]*

Reporter Yes, very good. *[Looking round]* But he doesn't look so happy now.

Jilly *[Looking in the same direction]* No, he doesn't does he?

Reporter Why do you think that is?

- Oz It may have something to do with the wine.
- Jilly Almost certainly I would say.
- Reporter How do you mean?
- Jilly Well [*Picking up first glass – e.g. sparkling appletise*] we started with the traditional sparkling wine from Gaul. In this case a Chardonnay; [*looking at wine and swirling it*] an off dry sparkling wine, golden in appearance with a fine stream of bubbles. Quite peachy on the nose [*sniffs it*] with good Chardonnay characteristics. [*Sips it*] The palate is light and fruity with good acidity and a gentle mousse. This wine very definitely says “Hello, and welcome to the party”. It’s available from Samaria Wine at 15.99 shekels a bottle.
- Oz [*Picks up the red wine*] This was followed by a sumptuous Italian red wine with a deep ruby appearance. [*Sniffs it*] It has a distinguished Roman nose with a touch of old spice coming through. [*Sips it*] The palate is smooth and velvety with a good deal of arching structure that softens on the finish. This wine says, “Enjoy your meal”. Available from Naboth’s Vineyard Wines at 9.99 shekels a bottle.
- Jilly [*Picks up white wine*] We then moved on to this El Tel Blanco Rioja .. [*Pronounced Ricca with plenty of Spanish ‘h’ sound*]
- Oz [*Looking up from table where he has been inspecting bottles*] Bless you.
- Jilly ... from Spain. It has grassy aromas with hints of lemon and pineapple [*Sniffs it. Then sips.*] Apricots and melons then burst on to the palate leaving a round balanced finish. This wine says, “Relax, the night is but young”. Available from Jeremiah Sainsbury’s for 4.99 shekels a bottle.
- Oz But then we came to this one. [*Picks up fourth wine with look of disgust*]
- Jilly Yuk!
- Oz It has a Jewish nose – broken and squashed. [*Sniffs it*] And smells of vinedresser’s armpit. It assaults the taste buds [*Sips disgustedly*] bringing to mind lamp oil with a hint of camel sweat...
- Jilly [*Spits out wine that she has been tasting. The spray catches the reporter who has been bending over to fill up his glass*] Or worse!
- Oz I would say that this wine is available from Kwikfix at 1.99 a crateful.

Reporter And what did this wine say to you?

Oz It said, “Go home. We’ve run out of wine so it’s time to leave”.

Jilly I think we will take the hint and prepare to depart.

Oz I agree. Pity. I was looking forward to the rest of the party but I am not staying here to drink this muck – or worse still – no wine at all. *[They get up to leave. Enter Steward.]*

Steward Wait, don’t go. My master says, “Please try this wine”. *[Pours a glass for all three. It should be water. They hold up glasses and look at the wine]*

Reporter I’m no wine expert but this looks very much like water to me.

Jilly *[Doubtfully]* Yes, it does.

Oz *[Rounding on steward]* Are you taking the Michael and all angels?

Steward No, sir. My master simply asked me to say that it is a special wine made locally by The New Wine Company.

Jilly *[Sniffing wine]* It has a most unusual aroma. I can detect wood shavings; it puts me in mind of a carpenter’s workshop.

Oz Yes, and there’s a distinct smell of earthenware jars.

Jilly It’s not a wine I recognise. I wonder what it tastes like. *[All three sip wine]*

Oz *[Surprised]* Oh, yes! It’s superb. It’s beautiful. It’s out of this world.

Jilly I agree. It’s heavenly. It’s quite the best wine I’ve tasted this evening.

Oz I’d go even further than that. I’d say it was the best wine I have ever tasted. It’s quite divine.

Jilly Steward, please send my compliments to your master.

Oz Mine too. Most hosts serve the best wine first, and after the guests have had plenty to drink, serve the ordinary wine. But he has saved the best to last.

Jilly I think I am really going to enjoy the rest of the evening.

Oz Me too!

Reporter *[Appearing between Oz & Jilly. He is clearly drunk so is leaning on them for support]* So that about wraps it up from Cana in Galilee. It looks as though this is going to be a wedding that will go down in history. *[He collapses to the floor in front of the other two]*

Oz & Jilly Cheers. *[They hold their glasses up in a toast]*