The prized possession you value above all others... The prospectus for Oxford University in 2011 because the cover had a map of the city with the streets renamed after famous former students. My name is bang in the middle of the city near Sir Walter Raleigh and Oscar Wilde. To have my name among such luminaries fills me with pride.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... The years I missed not having my father, Owen, in my life. He died when he was 62 from a virus when I was in my mid-20s. It was such a tremendous shock to lose him.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd watch the sunrise from the top of the white cliffs of Dover and have breakfast in the National Trust cafe up there - fresh, local fried eggs, bacon and sausages. Then I'd arrive at Picinguaba in Brazil, a fishing village between Rio and São Paulo. It's the most spectacular spot in the world to swim. I'd have fresh fish cooked at a local bar for lunch with a few cold Brazilian beers, like Brahma. In the afternoon I'd go to Port Willunga in South Australia for another swim. I'd then go to the nearby McLaren Vale vineyard for a bottle of d'Arenberg red. I'd end the day in a hut in the Namibian desert. You can sleep on the roof surrounded by sand dunes and the most beautiful night sky you'll ever see.

The temptation you wish you could resist... I adore potatoes in all their cooked forms. Boiled, mashed, roasted and, of course, chunky chips fried in lard at an old-fashioned chip shop. The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Hard Times by Dickens. I read it when I was 12 and had a middle-class upbringing in Canterbury, Kent, and that book opened up a different world, one of suffering and endurance.

The priority activity if you were the conductor John Eliot Gardiner during a performance. He brings such emotion out of his musicians. The unending quest that drives you... To communicate with audiences.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... Charles Dickens. I'm fascinated by 19th-century Britain and I'd love to hear him talk about it and for him to tell me how he found his characters. I'd insist on having a pie and pint from his time, then let him taste them from 2013. I think he would be much tastier!

The person who has influenced you most... My father. He was very religious and he taught me to be good.

The happiest moment you will cherish... I was in my mid-20s. It was such a tremendous shock to lose him. The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I'm 64 now and just want to keep doing more – more wine, filming, writing and travelling. The order of service at your funeral... I'd like a church service with Cwm Rhondda – Bread Of Heaven – sung by a huge Welsh choir. I'd like my ashes buried next to my parents in the memorial garden at Canterbury Cathedral.

The song that means most to you... The Irish folk song She Moved Through the Fair. It reminds me of my mum, who was Irish. She died ten years ago in her late 80s and I sang it at her funeral. The happiest moment you will cherish forever... My wedding at Canterbury Cathedral, where I was a choir leader as a boy, in 1998. I never thought I'd get married, but I did and it was amazing.

The saddest time that shook your world... The events of 9/11 really shook my natural optimism and put an element of despair in my soul.

The way you want to be remembered... I'd like a church service with Cwm Rhondda – Bread Of Heaven – sung by a huge Welsh choir. I'd like my ashes buried next to my parents in the memorial garden at Canterbury Cathedral. The way you want to be remembered... As a generous, fair and happy man who helped democratise wine in Britain. The Plug... Oz Clarke's Pocket Wine Book 2014 is published by Pavilion, £11.99. Visit www.ozclarke.com.

The poem that touches your soul... The Lake Isle of Innisfree by WB Yeats always brings me a sense of peace.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm just the 'wine man'. I was an actor and a singer for ten years in the 70s and 80s and played big parts on the West End stage, like the lead in Evita.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Getting into Oxford. I was released from the straight-jacket of a middle-class upbringing. My mum, Kitty, wanted me to be a lawyer, but at Oxford I met other free spirits and it opened up the chance of making a living from my hobbies.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd dismantle all health and safety laws.

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