

Mineral water cocktail hour

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(F-15C)

By RUSTLE SHAND

Fashions in entertaining change with the seasons in much the same way fashions change in clothing. In an era of sensual, slender body awareness prompted by women who jog, swim and diet their leisure hours away, it's only natural to expect changes in party styles as well.

Cocktail parties are enjoying a revival. They serve as a natural showcase for slitted, slashed and sexy dressing. On the other hand, casual wine tasting parties and picnic box dinner parties spread on the living room carpet are old hat.

The new in way to entertain winter weary, winter-plump friends is at a mineral water tasting party. Just such a trend-setting, Sunday afternoon water sipping party was recently hosted by Fred and Janice Morganroth at their Franklin Village home.

Perrier water and its consumption by fashionable New Yorkers has been a matter of local conjecture for some time. There are those who insist upon it at every gathering. And those who consider the success of the French water merely another advertising coup. The latter point out that it is really no better than, shall we say, a bottle of Payson soda water or that old reliable

Scotch companion — Canada Dry Soda. There are even some hosts who are annoyed by guests who demand Perrier in lieu of super dry martinis or a more palatable glass of dry white wine.

When the Morganroths became aware that the twist to the latest fad was ice cubes made from the product, it seemed time for a closer look. They decided to stage a sparkling water tasting session in the privacy of their own home to see how the ubiquitous Perrier's palate appeal compared with that of its competitors.

The guest list included members of Chainedes Rotisseurs, the international gourmet dining club and wine tasting group. They bubbled, sparked or reacted with four expressions to the six sample waters.

Samplings by the area's most talked about restaurateur, Duglass, resulted in his decision that Perrier water needs theater for success. "I prefer Perrier water served in crystal, cooling in a glass, fruit garnished ice buckets," he said. "Or, bubbling water poured over strawberries or raspberries served in a fluted glass. Those," he said, "are unusual taste sensations."

Wine expert, Robert Clark, queried, "Shouldn't we rinse our mouths out with wine between sips of water?"

Dr. Phillip LaPota, who brought a hostess gift of a bottle of sterile water from his surgery, said he thought the party was great fun. "How nice," he said, "to sit around and discuss water for a change in this libertine age we are in. After two or three glasses of wine, all wines taste alike. But water varies and you can make a distinction." Of the six waters tested, Perrier water was judged best of the lot while Franklin Village well water was judged worst of the waters. Falling in between on a scale of one to 10 was French water, Vichy Celestin; America's Canada Dry Club Soda; Sweden's Ramlosa; and Italy's Pelligrino.

Although the Morganroths served an assortment of very rich pastries at their party, it occurred to me as I walked off into the afternoon sun that there might be a better formula.

How about all glasses of Perrier served, of course, over Perrier ice cubes garnished with fresh lime accompanied by Rye Crisp? Give the party on the lawn and supply each guest with a jump rope. They're sure to go home invigorated, slender and vowing it's the most fun they've had in years.

As an added bonus, suggest guests wear their golf shoes, assign them an area for jumping and get your lawn aerated at the same time.



Martin Kenealy, Carol Klein, and Ardis Kenealy were faced with the difficult task of selecting the best and worst of six separate varieties of mineral water. The sparkling affair is newest way to entertain friends and amuse onlookers. (Photo by Linda Solomon)

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