

# Taste test results can't be predicted

It is sometimes instructive and almost always a lot of fun to compare wines. Particularly true when those to be tasted are of high quality and similar in many respects.

Consistent with the American spirit of competition, it is also entertaining to induce a sense of contention by comparing wines of different regions against one another, e.g., Moselle vs. Rhine, Napa vs. Sonoma, Pomerol vs. Pauillac, etc.

While it is possible to confuse or overwhelm by comparing too many at a

time, a tasting comparison of six to 10 wines in an evening can do a great deal in one's wine instruction. The obvious route is, of course, to compare wines that are more alike than they are different, forcing concentration on the subtle differences that make wine tasting such a heady experience.

From time to time this column will report the results of locally held events under the auspices of the WineTasters. Reports will come when tastings are wholly unexpected or of high general interest.

A recent comparative tasting featured five 1974 California Cabernet Sauvignons and five 1975 Bordeaux. Both vintages are generally conceded to be the best of this decade. No wine 1970 in Bordeaux nor 1968 in California had the Cabernet produced wines of such general excellence, so the general feeling goes.

It seemed, then, reasonable to compare several of each among a group of competent wine drinkers, asking them to evaluate each before there was any indication of what was being sampled.

## Results of 1975 Bordeaux-1974 Cabernet Sauvignon Tasting

Served	Rank	Name	Score
10th	1	Robert Mondavi, Napa	15.8
6th	2	Clos du Val, Napa	15.0
8th	3	Sterling, Napa	13.9
4th	4	Freemark Abbey (Bosche), Napa	13.7
9th	5	Chateau Prieure Lichine, Margaux	13.4
2nd	6	Burgess Cellars, Napa	13.4
5th	7	Chateau Cos Estournel, St. Estephe	13.2
1st	8	Chateau Haut Bages Liberal, Pauillac	12.6
3rd	9	Chateau Malaric Lagraviere, Graves	12.3
7th	10	Chateau Leoville Poyferre, St. Julien	11.9

These results were really quite startling. What had been expected to be very close competition turned out to be extremely one-sided in favor of the California releases. Further, the two winners (results are based on the 20 pt. U-C Davies evaluation scale, to be discussed in a later article) remarkably exceed the others.

## New role for Martha Smith

Martha Smith will appear in a new CBS movie called "Ebony, Ivory and Jade," scheduled for local broadcast at 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3.

Ms. Smith, who is now Mrs. Noel Blanc and lives in Beverly Hills, Calif., grew up in Farmington and was a 1970 honor graduate from North Farmington High School. She attended Michigan State University and for some time was a model in Detroit before moving to the western state.

Her first movie role, after appearing in several TV shows, was as one of the female leads in "Animal House."

She takes the role of Ivory, in "Ebony, Ivory and Jade" with co-stars Debbie Allen and Bert Convey. The 90-minute film was made partly in the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas.

Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Smith, of 27865 Kendallwood Drive, Farmington.



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