



wine

Richard Watson

Wine report shows how tastes change

A recent issue of "Wines and Vines," trade publication of the American wine industry, carries a series of production reports. These provide interesting insights into the world of the California wine industry and, because most of the wines drunk in this area are from there, into our wine habits as well.

They report on the 1979 crush, compare the acreage in 1967 with 1979 and report wine sales volumes. What is planted is, of course, what will be available to us in the coming years.

Among wine grapes, the most heavily planted is French Colombard, followed by Carignane and Grenache — none produce wines to base a reputation on. The lowest volume planted in the state are White (Chambersburg) Riesling and Chardonnay, California's two great whites.

The combined acreage of the esteemed Pinot Noir and Petite Sirah grapes is no larger than that planted to the unglorious hybrid Rubired, a grape few of us ever hear anything about. And Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel together don't equal the amount of Carignane planted. Oh, those jugs.

THE GREATEST increase in acreage between 1969 and 1979 was real-

ized by Barbera and Ruby Cabernet. Both are up from about 1,000 acres each to about 20,000. Even with the great demand for white wine, these two grew at a faster rate than Chardonnay, White Riesling, Chenin Blanc and French Colombard.

It is interesting to speculate that while Zinfandel acreage has increased very little, in the decade it has changed from being used almost exclusively in jugs to being one of the top premium varieties.

The last set of figures reports sales of reds, whites and roses. White wines, of course, continue to dominate, up 22 percent between 1978 and 1979.

Rose has now replaced red wine in the number two position, up 4 percent in the last year, while red wine production is down 5 percent. The gallonage is 114, 53 and 49 million respectively for the three.

It seems as though the national trend toward lighter products has manifested itself in the red-rose distinction as well. Add to this the recent estimate that nearly a quarter of all wines consumed in America are drunk "on the rocks."

This suggests that a forthcoming column should discuss rose wines. And so it will.



design

Gloria Cohen

Welcome to tomorrow

In last week's column, there were predictions of what the future may hold in the world of interior design, architecture and use of dwelling space.

These predictions are well-founded. Many of the decorating trends mentioned as forthcoming for the future are already in the works. Here are more innovations we can expect to see in our lifetime.

Chemistry's contribution will be as startling as that of electronics. Synthetic materials will supply the basic structure of both apartments and homes. Plastics, stronger and lighter and more lasting than current kinds, will create new concepts of architecture. Plastic steel has already been used for more versatile building construction.

Man will be able to live in a glass house and throw all the old window panes, because exterior walls will be windows made from transparent, unbreakable plastic with one-way views. Interior walls will vanish at the push of a button, revealing the home's inner courtyard full of flowers, plants, fountains, swimming pools and game courts.

Ceilings will slide back to accommodate either dining or sleeping under starlit skies. Clear plastic domes, instead of roofs, will be an architectural option.

HOUSES AND ROOMS in them will no longer be square or rectangular. Cornerless rooms will predominate. They may be round or free-form, and they will assume their shape according to their purpose and the aesthetic desires of the individual.

The master bedroom (with starlit roof, sliding walls and one-way views) will have adjustable beds. Even double beds will allow one person to sit up or recline against a portion of the mattress while the position on the other side of the bed is unaffected.

Mattresses will be air-conditioned and made of layers of cellular plastics. They will present a continuously cool surface and absorb body heat. And that's not all — they will be supported by air pressure, a built-in variable softness adjustment so that the mattress under each person can be adjusted to the degree of firmness desired.

In addition, a pulsing cycle will produce sleep-inducing vibrations. Reading in bed will probably be called book scanning. It will originate from the oblique "brain center," where a computer will obey your reading preference and transmit type to the bedroom viewing wall. Type size and viewing speed will, of course, be adjustable. Every home will have its own lavatories with silent chemical plumbing. The bathroom, as we know it, will have gone the way of bookshelves and hi-fi cabinets. The bathtub will be a sunken pool with an adjustable recliner.

THE BATHROOM itself will be a combination solarium and sauna. The toilet and sink will disappear into the wall after use. Closet space will be forever solved. Tomorrow's closets will be simple

louver-like drawers placed in walls where clothes will be filed on computer cards according to colors and the activities for which they're appropriate.

If you can't make up your mind, an electronic scanner will show you your wardrobe so that you may decide. Your choice will be delivered electronically from a central storage area.

Flooring will be a highly resilient plastic that cushions heel shock. Carpeting will be made of porous-woven synthetics that permit built-in vacuum devices for push-button cleaning.

THERE WILL, above all, be privacy. Within the confines of man's estate, whether it be home or apartment, there will be individual privacy for family members. This will include "personal expression" rooms where each person may study, view, listen, play games, party or dine without intrusion.

An optional room, depending on how active tomorrow's family cares to be, may be a diet room. Here leisure's inevitable poundage can be electronically bombarded off while the occupant scans books, views wall-o-vision, does the day's shopping or watches and listens to stereo tapes.

Don't hush. It's only a dream away. As mystical as it sounds, I plan to be around to decorate a few of these dream houses. Young people of today who are beginning careers or education in interior design can realize their creative passions in this far out future in home furnishings.

We walked on the moon didn't we? We can certainly create new environments.

Antique show slated for holiday weekend

Old wicker furniture, a turn of the century barber pole from Marshall, a figured teakwood chest and a collection of jade are a few of the antiques that will be for sale at the Botsford Inn antique show Memorial Day weekend.

This show, an annual tradition, will run noon to 10 p.m. Sunday and noon to 8 p.m. Monday. Botsford Inn is on Grand River at Eight Mile, Farmington. No admission charge.

Particularly timely for spring will be wicker items, chairs, tables, rockers and planters.

Advertising items of many types will accompany the barber pole in the display by Gloria Murray of Battle Creek. Included, too, are some antique dolls, particularly a Bye-bye baby.

The teakwood table is among a selection of Oriental line featuring Chinese furniture offered by Margie Kullay of Farmington. Other Chinese artifacts, including the jade, will be in the booth of Sun May of Southfield.

For further information, call 591-0065.

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