



Wine

Richard Watson

Wine-making styles have decided effect

There is an aphorism in the wine world which says that wine is made in the vineyard, not the winery. There is much truth in this. Good wine cannot be made from bad grapes. Unfortunately the reverse is not true.

But a couple of California releases have just come to Michigan that show the effect a wine-making style can have on a grape. Both show clearly on their labels that they are made from the Pinot Blanc grape, the "white" cousin of Pinot Noir. It is used in France to blend with Chardonnay in making Blanc de Blancs, their great sparkling wines from regions other than Champagne.

It also plays an important part in crafting the great White Burgundies, and it is used in California both as a blending grape and, on occasion, as a varietal. It isn't spectacularly popular among winegrowers because it is difficult to grow, of low yield and ferments only with great care.

But for the wine-maker who can handle it, it produces a wine of attractive properties. It tends to be clean, crisp, somewhat acidic, generally subtle in its show of fruit. With proper ripening the flavor is elegant and genteel. Without it, the flavor tends to be thin and dry.

So you have a reasonable expectation that it will taste elegant when purchased and uncorked. And it will if you sample the recent issue by newly arrived J. Lohr, a 1977. It is a wine of interesting and highly drinkable wine

of modest price. Then there is the other, a 1978 vintage from the Monterey Peninsula Winery. Interestingly, the grapes for both were grown in the Greenfield area of Monterey County.

THE GROWERS' LABEL notes tell the story of what they did to this wine once the grapes were brought in from the vineyards.

First, they were macerated for 12 hours before fermentation, to increase the elements skin and seeds can provide.

Following that, fermentation was carried out, not in the usual stainless steel, but in new French oak barrels. Although the notes do not mention it, there had to be considerable storage in oak as well, once fermented. The resulting wine is reminiscent of acorns and oak chips, laced with glycerine and fingernail-polish remover.

While it is not an unpleasant wine, it does not taste like Pinot Blanc. Elements of this finishing process in the winery are usually reserved for big Chardonnays, not the delicate Pinot Blanc grapes.

Trying for a blockbuster, they got it. And, at 14 percent alcohol, it is a wine to be aged for a long time... a new dimension in treating Pinot Blanc. This is a wine made in the winery, not in the vineyard. There's none of nature's intent here. This is a case of creating a new dimension, one not comparable to the J. Lohr issue.

It's a good time to upgrade lawn

There is hardly a garden you visit that you don't come away with an idea you could adapt for your own garden. In Grosse Pointe I saw a garden where they had espaliered pears and apples to form a walled-in garden. These techniques are common in Europe.

To accomplish this you would establish metal poles with a height of six feet. Plan on a wire at the top, with six wires at the lower level. You won't need them near the ground. You can form a nice courtyard and I bet eventually you will have a pretty gate to welcome visitors.

Some of the best fruit trees you can secure are from Southmeadow Fruit Gardens, 2383 Tibury, Birmingham 48009. They will mail you a price list as all of their business is by correspondence. The flavorful varieties are the result of doing some detective work to secure initial cuttings from those of early times — 1790, 1817, 1825, 1804.

This focus upon fine fruit — apples, pears, cherries, plums, grapes, quinces



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

and berries — started because home gardeners began to realize fruits in the stores can't compare with those from choice homegrown stock. It is very disappointing to buy a fruit tree over the counter and then find years later the fruit lacks taste.

THIS TIME of year we have warm days and cold nights which is an excellent combination for lawn feeding and weed control. If you have an area where the falling leaves will be heavy you have to keep them raked up to allow the new grass seedlings a chance to grow.

It is tempting to buy outdoor mums in flower this time of year so you know

what you are buying. According to Kenneth A. Wilson, a commercial specialist in the growing of mums, when you plant them after purchase, plant them shallow. Good drainage is imperative.

After frost spoils the foliage in November, dig up the clump and carefully try to hold the soil together and set it on top of the ground. If you have many plants allow for maybe 12 inches apart in the placement. Place them in a sheltered location where the snow drifts aren't too high. You are doing this to assure good drainage. A few raked leaves tossed over the plants would help. Evergreen branch trimmings also allow them to breathe.

When the spring growth is about three inches high you can separate the mass and plant individually, about 18 inches apart. Once I made a handsome hedge from just three clumps.

RECENTLY, I REPORTED the success of an Ann Arbor woman having strawberries as the primary border in her garden. On a second visit to the garden, I found her at home. I wanted to know the behavior of those strawberries as a flower bed border.

Initially she said she planted Alpine strawberry seed (Burpee catalog, Warminster, Pa. 18991) six to eight weeks before our take out date and she placed the wee plants where she wanted them to grow.

They don't put out runners, the fruit is small with an appealing aroma. Berries will form all summer long in the sun.

Here you have a delightful perennial border with attractive leaves with berries peeking out. Looking over the catalog, I would order Ruegen Improved, two packets for \$1.50 plus postage.

Photographs of Japan shown at art museum

An exhibition of 150 vintage photographs of Japan taken between 1854-1905 will open at the Detroit Institute of Arts Sunday and continue through Nov. 23.

Suspended in sepiia prints, courtesans show their costumes, actors posture,

warriors flaunt arms and armor, wrestlers display muscle and villages sit placidly in the shadow of Mt. Fuji. A mix of European and Japanese photographers were eyewitnesses to Japan's transformation from an insular country to a modern world power.

Some are anonymous, a few like Felix Beato, an Italian military photographer, Baron von Stillfried, an Austrian nobleman, Kusakabe Kimbei, a Japanese photographer of tourist views and Ogawa Iashin, the most successful society photographer of the period, can be identified.

From 1630 to 1854, Japan had been closed to foreigners and the unchallenged record of everyday life was the

popular woodblock print. When Japan was opened to the West, the camera was introduced in time to capture the transition from feudal shogun rule to the Emperor Meiji and modernization.

"Japan, Photography 1854-1905" is open to the public without charge during regular museum hours, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays. Closed Mondays and legal holidays.

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