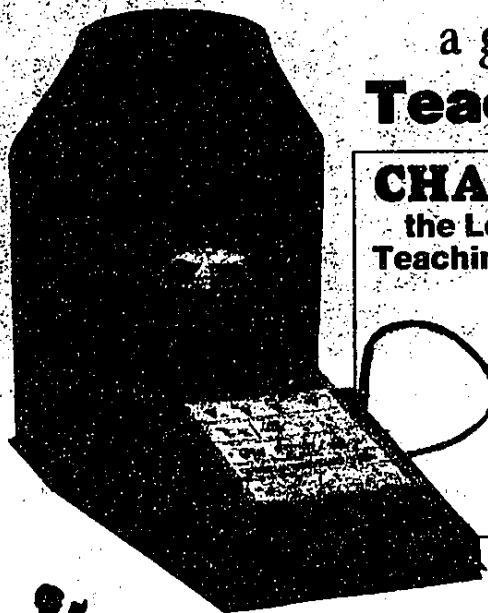


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Continued from page 61

Arctic Star: '78 beautiful package  
Cameron Creek: '77 Pinot Noir — best  
California Pinot Noir available  
Lyttel Springs: '78 Zinfandel — huge  
cannon, excellent fruit  
Calera: '78 Zinfandel: Essence — high  
alcohol, big (a tenth)

**LESS THAN \$20**

Grinch-Hills: '77 Chardonnay (Napa):  
lush and rich

J. Lohr: '78 Chardonnay Select  
Clusters: a huge dessert wine

Chateau St. Jean: '77 Johannisberg  
Reclining, Individual Bunch, Selected,  
Belle Terre Vineyard — honey and apricots  
and full richness

Martin Ray: '70 Pinot Noir — history  
from a master

Monterey: '74 Cabernet Sauvignon —  
rare, a classic

St. George: '75 Montebello Cabernet Sau-  
vignon — a giant

**LESS THAN \$15**

Chateau St. Michelle: Ice Wine — a  
rare dessert wine (brach)

Chateau St. Jean: '78 Gewurz Traminer,  
Individual Bunch, Selected, Late Har-  
vest — honeyed and spicy fruit, most  
unusual  
Christian Brothers: '75 Cabernet Sau-  
vignon — a celebration magnum  
Sterling: '75 Cabernet Sauvignon Re-  
serve — a classic  
Beaulieu Vineyards: '74 Cabernet Sau-  
vignon Latour — a great tradition

**NOW, FOR Christmas dinner.** My  
preference would be the Domaine Chan-  
don as an aperitif, the Jordan if I were  
having turkey, the Napa Valley Zinfan-  
del if it were ham, and any of the des-  
sert wines (probably the Lohr Chardon-  
nay) with some fruit and cheese.

As an addendum, if you want to  
spend more than \$25 on a gift, I would  
suggest a matched or contrasting pair  
or even larger set from the above. After  
all, the only thing better than an excel-  
lent bottle of wine is two, or three, or  
four.

Continued from page 61

date before it is drunk. It will then be  
softer but still full of character.

**CARIGNANE** — A grape of Italian ori-  
gin, in California it tends to produce a  
huge, rough, direct mouthful of wine.  
There is no subtlety here, just a straight  
forward jolt of vinous sensation.

**CABERNET SAUVIGNON** — If Pinot  
Noir is the wine of kings, this is the king of  
wines. California's finest red, this is the  
wine of Bordeaux. Usual associative terms  
are herbaceous, olive-like, and minty. It is  
a wine of great complexity, aged in oak and

beefed up with natural tannin. It should be  
allowed a minimum of five years in the bot-  
tle to age a bit; some will age well for 15-20  
years.

**CHARDONNAY** — The great white  
wine grape of Burgundy and California,  
this is usually aged in wood (oak) to make  
it more deep and complex. Mouthfilling  
and bold, a good Chardonnay will have  
overtones of vanillin and green apples su-  
perimposed as a muscular base.

**PINOT BLANC** — Usually a thin, dull  
wine of little character, its complexities  
come from the wood in which it is aged. It  
is not unlike a Chardonnay when so treat-  
ed, and this one is.

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