



wine
Richard Watson

Our wines out-perform the French champions

First, a couple of one-liners, apropos of nothing special.
Favorite recent advertisement line — "Living well is the best revenge."
Favorite attitude — "Wine improves with age. The older I get, the more I enjoy it."
And the more I think about both of those, the more I enjoy them.
Reports of structured wine tastings aren't usually reported in this column, but there was an event late last fall that was so noteworthy it deserves some comment.
Under the auspices of a local group, the Winetasters, 10 prime and great wines based chiefly on the Cabernet Sauvignon and, to a lesser extent, the Merlot grapes were tasted.
Five Bordeaux wines from the great 1975 vintage were evaluated, followed by five 1974 Cabernet Sauvignons from California. Both were, of course, considered the best vintage years from the decade of the 1970s.
Thirty-nine people participated in the tastings, which were done blind. The scoring employed a nine-point scale under optimal conditions.
The following results are given according to rank, service order and mean score: Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, rank 23, rank 1, service order 9, mean score 7.66; Chateau Petrus, rank 2, service order 5, mean score 7.56; Beaulieu de Latour, rank 3, service order 6, mean score 7.18; Sterling Reserve, rank 4, service order 10, mean score 7.00; Mondavi Reserve, rank 5, service order 8, mean score 6.95; Chateau Leoville Las Cases, rank 6, service order 1, mean score 6.82; Chateau Palmer, rank 7, service order 4, mean score 6.79; Chateau Latour, rank 8, service order 2, mean score 6.64; Heitz Martha's Vineyard, rank 9, service order 7, mean score 6.55; and Chateau Margaux, rank 10, service order 3, mean score 6.28.
There wasn't a weak wine in the group. Today, all are in the \$30-45 a bottle price range except for the \$20 Leoville and the above \$50 Petrus — hardly in the everyday fare range for any of us.
But the result are reported here for one important reason. It is frequently said that the California wine industry's greatest strength lies in its ability to produce high quality, everyday jug wines, and that the French surpass them in the world of great wines.
But here, once again, as has so frequently occurred with this tasting group of Michigianians, the best of California out-performed some of the best France has to offer.
The results are consistent enough to suggest continued evaluation of the products of the two wine producing giants.



Youngsters who attend ArtStart preschool formed themselves into the shape of a dragon and wiggled through Mercy Center halls in celebration of the Chinese New Year. Teachers (upper left) Kathy Benton, left, and Debbie Schott prepare for next September when kindergarten classes open up in ArtStart. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

ArtStart opens kindergarten class

ArtStart, a school for tots centered around the creative arts, begins a private kindergarten which will run for five mornings a week beginning in September.
Cindy Storer, who has been involved with ArtStart for the past three years, assumes the position of kindergarten teacher for the first class of 20 children.
She is a certified teacher and a graduate of Madonna College, where she studied home economics and family life with a major in child development.
"She shares our philosophy regarding child development and has grown with our program in all areas," said Sue Ingram, a director of the school.
The kindergarten at ArtStart will be the basic academic program, including physical education once a week, and supplemented by ArtStart staff in the areas of art, music and drama.
KINDERGARTEN will run from 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Daycare will be available before and after school from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. to accommodate working mothers.
In September, ArtStart programs remain the same with the addition of daycare offered through 5 p.m.
Kindergarten fee will be \$6 a session, with a \$20 registration fee.
Mercy Center is located at 28600 11 Mile Road. The new kindergarten will be housed in Room D, adjacent to the ArtStart facilities.
Mrs. Ingram will take inquiries by calling her at ArtStart, 474-7175.

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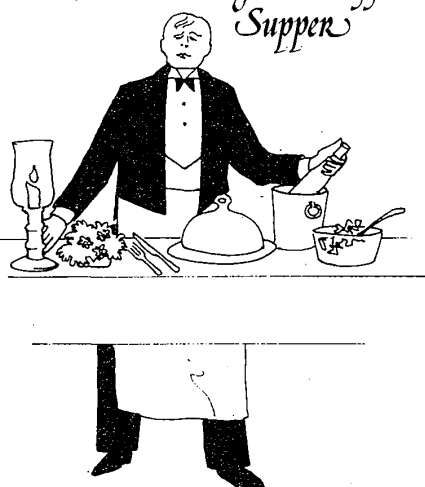
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