Frequently ignored, and sometimes naligned, among the premium appellations of Bordeaux is the region of

Graves.

This is unfortunate, for several masterful wines are made there, many of them costing less than their counterparts from the most prestigious neighbors to the north: Margaux, St. Estephe, Pauillac, St. Emilion and Pomceat.

Both reds and white are made in the region, the former generally being the more successful. The exceptions to this are found in the far south of Graves

are found in the far south of Graves where the lucisous sweet wines from Sautermes and Barsac are grown. But those are a separate issue for now.

The word Graves (pronounced with a 'short' "a") means 'gravel' in Fread, and the pebbly, hard soil of the region contributes much to the earthy, bodly nature of the reds and the tart crispness of the recent whites made there.

THE WINES come from soil not un-like that found in the Medoc and Liver-more but have a more elemental char-acter to them, robust and deep at best. Finesse is not a word usually associat-

acter to them, robust and deep at best, Finesse is not a word usually associated with Graves wine. The flagship chateau of the region is Haut Brion, one of the five First Growths of Bordeaux and the one farthest removed from all the other three in Pauliac, one in Margauxi by more than 20 kilomoters. Great as Haut Brion is, there are no financial be the statement of the first three from the first three first three from the first three first three

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earthy character, full of muscle and complexity. Named for its owner, Pope Clement V, the vineyards were pro-ducing in the early 1300s.

EVEN OLDER is Chateaux Carbon-nieux, producer of clean, steely dry whites (Sauvigon Blanc) and straight-forward reds. Not as old, but clearly superior in both red and white produc-tion, is Domaine de Chevalier. Its reds are softened by the addition of large amounts of Merlot, thus encouraging seriler consumption.

are softened by the another of magnetic sense and the sens

one shops.

Chateau Haut Bailly is distinguished for its red wine only as is Chateau de Fieuzal. The former makes no white that I know of, and the latter shouldn't.

CHATEAU BOUSCANT, a winery with American connections during the 1970s, has undergone a rapid improvement program and deserves consideration here as well.

A region of historic renown until the last few decades, Graves has fallen on hard times. Its efforts to rebuild itself consist, most dramatically, in improving its white wines. These wines had, by the middle of this century, evolved into the fat, simple wines that Semillon will produce if it is not treated well.

Now the tendency is increasing toward vinifying the dry whites to be dry and letting those in Barsac and Sauternes be the sweet, lush wines they can be. A marketing stragegy involves competitive pricing to again gain the world's attention.



Ronnie McDowell is another of the attractions.

## Picnic goes country

"Picnic in the Country" starring Ronnie McDowell, Gail Davies and Kirieran Kane, three young country music entertainers, will be presented 4-10 pm. June 19 on the grounds of the Meadow Brook Music Festival at Oak-land University near Rochester. Gates will open at 2 pm. for the corert presented by WWW-FM 106. General admission tickets at 83 are as asked at Hudson's and all CTC outlets.

Children under 12 will be admitted at half price, \$4, on show date only. Call 377-2010 to order tickets with

Proceeds will benefit the Oakland University Athletic Scholarship Fund. Also featured at the concert will be Sneaky Peat, Shot Gun Willie and Kan-sas City Southern, Detroit-area country entertainers.

Ya'ssoo IX festival

St. George's slates

Thursday, June 10, 1982 O&E

The Ya'ssoo IX Greek Festival will be held June have been busy preparing many Greek dishes for Dribotox Church, one half-mile north of Square Lake Road on the eart saide of Woodward in Bloomfield fillis.

Hours will be a mit of June 16, and 10 am. to midnight June 18, and 19 am. to midnight June 19, and 19 am. to mid

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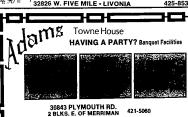
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