

Cabernet names can be confusing

It is one of life's rules that man is less than wholly consistent in most things.

Each day we see evidence of this, and in the making and naming of California wines we have a clear example that must drive a lot of consumers a bit frantic at times.

The laws governing what constitute the production of an American wine are very carefully spelled out in legislation that became effective Jan. 1 of this year. The law is specific about what kinds and amounts of grapes may be used (75 percent of the varietal name) as well as about identifying the location of the vineyard.

As in France, the smaller the region described (Charles' Chateau in the back yard) the more prestigious. Charles' spot is a classier location than Anderson Valley, Mendocino County, the North Coast, California or America, in that order.

AND THE WAY the wine came into being ("grown," "bottled," "cellared," "produced," etc.), all have very specific definitions, and the declared alcohol level must not be greater than 1 percent in error. The vintage date assures that 95 percent of the wine in the bottle was grown that year.

And so it goes. But when it comes to the matter of qualifying the nature of, say, the cabernet sauvignon in the bottle, there are no laws and a few rules. For example, Charles Krug regularly issues a vintage-dated cabernet and also releases

one called Vintage Selection and charges 50-70 percent more for the latter. Sterling issues a "Reserve," so does Mondavi. Phelps has a release called "Aiguille."

Others use terms such as Special Selection, Oak, Proprietor's Reserve, i.e., they can use any set of phrases that mean nothing inherently to describe that particular bottle quality.

Premumably these wines are a reflection of the winemaker's best shot that year. Never mind how it compares with last year's regular issue. It could be less good. But, if the image is to be maintained, the price must be at least a third higher than a standard issue. A double is not unusual.

Some of these issues are well worth the price. Some are probably not, at least every year. That is not the issue. What is important to know is that the only assurance you have before dropping \$15-35 for such an issue is the reputation of that winemaker and our faith in it.

WHILE THE EXAMPLES have concerned cabernet only, the same set of rules apply to any other wine. They are used as a rule only with the more prestigious grapes, however.

But there is a "Catch 22" about to enter our state. A new and extremely promising winery from Sonoma, the Glen Ellen Winery, will soon be marketed here and two of its issues violate the rules. It will probably send out some very fine cabernet, chardonnay



wine
Richard Watson

and sauvignon blanc, and we will be lucky to get them. However, it also will release a Dry Red Proprietor's Reserve and a White Proprietor's Reserve and both are frankly jug wines — high quality jug wines (made of cabernet and French colombarid respectively) to be sure.

However, to call them "Proprietor's Reserve" means they have turned

around the usual labeling practice. What is a customer to do? Luckily, winemakers for the most part can be trusted (and it is usually the marketing people who do the expelling), and, in the case of the two Glen Ellens, these wines are very good indeed. Let's have another glass and think about that.

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Concert offers Ellington music

Duke Ellington's birthday will be celebrated with a concert of his music at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

J.C. Heard and his orchestra will perform transcriptions of Ellington's

original big-band arrangements. Tickets at \$4 are now available through the art institute ticket office. For ticket information and a detailed listing of "Music at the Art Institute," call 632-2730.

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Consolidated Report of Condition of Liberty Bank - Oakland

of Tracy, California, at the head of business March 31, 1983, a bank having no branches, organized and operating under the banking laws of the State and a member of the Federal Reserve System. Published in accordance with a call made by the State Banking Authority and by the Federal Reserve Bank of the District.

Assets		Liabilities	
Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
1. Cash and cash equivalents	1,125,000	1. U.S. Treasury securities	1,125,000
2. U.S. Treasury securities	1,125,000	3. Deposits of other U.S. Government agencies and corporations	1,125,000
3. Deposits of other U.S. Government agencies and corporations	1,125,000	4. Deposits of State and local governments and other public entities	1,125,000
4. Deposits of State and local governments and other public entities	1,125,000	5. Other deposits	1,125,000
5. Other deposits	1,125,000	6. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	1,125,000
6. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	1,125,000	7. Loans, net	1,125,000
7. Loans, net	1,125,000	8. Loans receivable	1,125,000
8. Loans receivable	1,125,000	9. Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, and other assets representing bank premises	1,125,000
9. Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, and other assets representing bank premises	1,125,000	10. Real estate owned other than bank premises	1,125,000
10. Real estate owned other than bank premises	1,125,000	11. Other assets	1,125,000
11. Other assets	1,125,000	12. Total assets	1,125,000
12. Total assets	1,125,000	13. Total liabilities	1,125,000
13. Total liabilities	1,125,000	14. Total deposits	1,125,000
14. Total deposits	1,125,000	15. Total deposits of insured depository institutions	1,125,000
15. Total deposits of insured depository institutions	1,125,000	16. Deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States	1,125,000
16. Deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States	1,125,000	17. Deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States (other than insured depository institutions)	1,125,000
17. Deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States (other than insured depository institutions)	1,125,000	18. Deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States (other than insured depository institutions)	1,125,000
18. Deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States (other than insured depository institutions)	1,125,000	19. Total deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States	1,125,000
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