

Give a book on a loaf of bread, a jug of wine . . .

Books are the perfect gift anytime of year, but especially at holiday time. Here are reviews of some that open new paths to gastronomic adventures.

• "American Taste — A Celebration of Gastronomy Coast to Coast," by James Villas, Food and Wine Editor of Town and Country, Arbor House, N.Y.; \$15 (hardcover); \$7.95 (full-size Prim paperback).

James Beard writes in the foreword, "American Taste" makes us savor the thought of good food, good living and the joys of the good life". A delicious volume! Villas is one of a kind. Civilized yet down to earth. Perceptive, articulate and funny, too. With a mind of his own, praise be! Life's never dull when Villas is around. Having his book on hand is the next best thing."

• "The Wine Lovers Drink Book" by John J. Poister, Muncillan, N.Y.; about \$6.95 (paperback).

The "Wine Lovers Drink Book," the only one devoted solely to the use of wine in mixed drinks, is a book whose

time has come. During the past decade, the revolution in drinking habits has seen many Americans turn away from the grain to the grape. Poister's book is a treat for anyone who enjoys wine, perfect as a holiday gift. The six basic chapters, with over 350 recipes, deal with wine classics, effervescent emollients, punches, aperitifs (including vermouth), hot drinks and fortified wine potables.

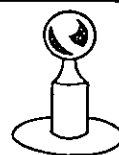
• "Cuisine Rapide — 230 Delectable Recipes for Cooks in a Hurry" by Carole Cutler, Clarkson Potter Inc.; \$8.95 (full-size paperback).

(Originally published as "The Six-Minute Souffle and Other Culinary Delights," it is the winner of a prestigious R.T. French Tastemaker Award).

Cutler's awareness of career demands today is evident in her streamlined haute cuisine; people's physical needs, in her low-cholesterol versions of each recipe. Indicative of her creativity (in addition to the six-minute souffle) is a recipe for baked grapefruit halves with a topping of chutney and brandy. Haute cuisine? Oui. Rapide? Certinement. Delicieux et different? Absolument!

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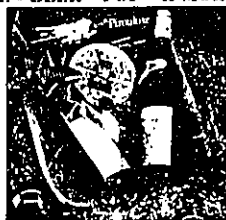
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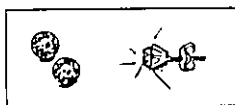
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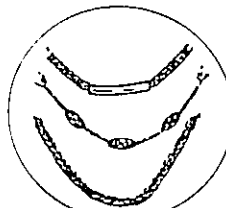
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