

Ridge Vineyards offers great view

On a clear day at the Ridge Vineyards it seems as if you truly can see forever.

By climbing a small knoll outside the ramshackle testing room set toward the top of Black Mountain in western Santa Clara county, the panoramas of San Francisco Bay spread out. To the right is metropolitan San Jose. Ahead is the complex Silicon Valley, the international airport and the city itself.

You can see the Bay Bridge run over Oakland and Berkeley and just a corner of the burnt orange of the Golden Gate with the hills of Marin beyond.

To get to Ridge is an adventure in itself. Up a tortuous drive on unpaved roads with sheer drops to the side, on to the 2,300-foot level, with occasional glimpses of the bay below. One receives some limited comfort from the realization that all the good Ridge wines are drunk in Michigan must come down this road in large trucks. It must be safe. (But it doesn't help much.)

Stanford University researcher David Bannan started Ridge Vineyards in 1959, well ahead of the new wave of wineries that began to appear in our lives some seven years later. By 1970 he had hired Dr. Paul Draper as winemaker, moved into the present fa-

cility in the abandoned Montebello Winery and begun to find his metier.

THIS WAS to be, and has since become almost wholly, a zinfandel winery. It was chiefly Ridge's efforts that made zinfandel into the premium giant it is today.

In addition to the tasting room and the winery on Montebello, there is a storage facility (a multilayered shed that feels more like an above-ground cave, holding thousands of gallons in oak casks), and some vineyards. Not the precious zinfandel: Cabernet Sauvignon Montebello comes from up here, the zinfandel from other places.

These cabernet grapes are mountain-stressed, with remarkably low yields, and produce an intense, inky, tannic substance that is usually destined to require 20 years to attain mature drinkability. Little is produced and it is always in demand and very costly.

Sources of the zinfandel grapes read like a Who's Who from California. The names include, over the years, Jim Moore, San Luis Obispo, Geyserville, Coastal Range, Lodi, Lytton Springs, York Creek, Occidental, Fiddletown, Shenandoah, Paso Robles and Amador. Each vintage sees several issues from locations such as these and each label

wine
Richard Watson

contains generous information about the viticulture as well as the viniculture of the wine in that particular bottle.

Ridge was one of the first wineries to indicate vineyard and regional designations. It has always used a wrap-around label that allows generous descriptions to those who enjoy such information.

IN ADDITION to cabernet and zinfandel, Ridge usually issues a petite sirah of real intensity, most recently from York Creek. Occasional ventures with white wines have been less successful, though there are promising reports on some chardonnay, presently awaiting bottling.

Most Ridge wines tend to be massive, intense, robust and complex, all of those big characteristics one associates with brute wines. These are not wines for the cheatin blanc and gamay drinkers. These are muscle wines that require years of age to gentle them down

a bit. But there are wine drinkers who love young Ridge wines as well; a few of these wines are allowed to reach full maturity.

Draper has long been an advocate of blending varietals. It is not uncommon for him to marry 35-percent petite sirah with zinfandel to achieve the wine he wants. Blends are boldly announced on each release.

In this era of white wine drinking, it is difficult to imagine an almost wholly zinfandel producer in the 30,000-case-per-year range making it. But it does, easily. Ridge is a successful operation because it has a proven and consistent image.



Timothy Hutton is a young crusader who takes on city government in order to help his brother in "Turk 182."

the movies

Dan Greenberg

Fighting city hall has winning ways in film 'Turk 182'

"Turk 182" is a pretty slick comedy that should entertain all and offend none, except politicians and they deserve what they get. But it's all in good fun and even the wily but errant politician, New York Mayor Tyler (Robert Culp), laughs at his own political demise and surrenders gracefully, with just a hint of "I shall return."

It all starts when off-duty New York fireman Terry Lynch (Robert Urich) is injured saving a young girl from a burning building. He's invalided out of the service. Unfortunately, his heroism was off duty and under the influence of a few beers. The bureaucracy rules, therefore, that he is not eligible for a pension. Enter aimless young brother, Jimmy (Timothy Hutton), who takes up the cudgel on his brother's behalf and becomes a mysterious crusader known only as "Turk 182." Jimmy attacks the bureaucrats — first by nicely requesting justice, and then where they live, in the public opinion polls.

IT DOESN'T TAKE long for Jimmy to learn that asking nicely won't make Mayor Tyler reverse the City Pension Department ruling.

Even Terry's engaging young caseworker, lovely Danny Boudreau (Kim Cattrall), is helpless against the faceless bureaucracy. Of course, she is winsome and lovable; Jimmy falls and she reciprocates.

Meanwhile, Mayor Tyler has his own problems with the bureaucracy and certainly won't reverse the pension ruling just because Jimmy asks politely. Mayor Tyler has to cope with the news that one of his political appointees left for Brazil under indictment.

Well, you can imagine what kind of headlines that causes. "Zimmerman Flew and Tyler Knew" — terrific during an election campaign.

Tyler's political opposition, though undefined, seems largely composed of kids and street people in sharp contrast to his honor's slick, tuxedoed appearance, reminiscent of Mayor John Lindsay.

The "little people" vs. the establishment, effectively underplayed, but played nonetheless, adds to "Turk 182's" appeal. Not only is the battle for Terry's pension the lone individual struggling against the bureaucracy, but the street-people graffiti campaign against Mayor Tyler has the same flavor — little folks expressing resentment against the swells. Tweaking the nose of authority is always fun and "Turk 182" has the good grace to do so in a benign and pleasant way, without bitterness.

AND IF MAYOR Tyler thought the street people were good at political graffiti, wait till he sees what young Jimmy can do once his dander is up.

The restraint and good humor with which Director Bob Clark beats the establishment on the head is a major plus for the film — it is a good-hearted comedy highlighted by some nice performances.

Timothy Hutton is convincingly at loose ends and unsure of himself until something really matters, his big brother needs his talent and his help. Big brother, as played by Robert Urich, is affectionately gruff and tough but tender when needed.

There are also a couple of nice cameo roles: Peter Boyle as Detective Lt. Ryan who can do no right, no matter how hard he tries and Darren McGavin as disheveled, rumpled, kindly, intelligent Detective Kowalski, the maverick brought in to solve the case when Boyle and Company continue to fail flat on their faces.

Robert Culp is debonair as the besieged Mayor Tyler while Paul Sorvino appears as himself, as does the Giants' Meadowlands Stadium.

All the film crafts and techniques are equally well done, making "Turk 182" a pleasant, romantic comedy.



Robert Culp plays the corrupt Mayor Tyler of New York.

table talk

Expanded menu

Adam Awards

A bigger, more versatile menu has been inaugurated at the Cafe Renaissance at the Westin Hotel in Detroit. More than half a dozen new dinner choices are available, ranging from filet mignon to fried tempura shrimp. Lunchtime additions include salmon burgers, several kinds of pizza, London broil and fettuccine.

Arlyn Meyerson of Buddy's Bar-B-Que in West Bloomfield and Wayne S. Gallagher, manager of the Vineyards Restaurants in Southfield, have been given Adam Awards by the American Dairy Association. The awards honor restaurants that serve dairy products.

— Ethel Simmons

YOU'RE INVITED TALLY HALL

ORCHARD LAKE ROAD AT 14 MILE

Fabrick's Thalea Inn
3315 AUBURN ROAD
Between Adams & Oakley Rds.
852-3410

Featuring Petite FROG LEGS \$7.91 per person
Monday & Tuesday nights
Complete dinner - All you can eat!
Early Bird Special Menu 3-5 p.m. \$4.95 to \$7.55

GIORGIO'S

COCKTAILS
FINE WINES
CONTINENTAL CUISINE

- Fresh SEAFOOD
- CHICKEN - VEAL - STEAKS
- COMPLETE MENU WITH EXQUISITE PASTRY TABLE

SPEND A DELIGHTFUL EVENING AT GIORGIO'S
MONDAY thru THURSDAY, WE WILL WELCOME YOU
WITH TWO DINNERS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE. JUST
BRING THIS AD WITH YOU.
(Special will be on the least expensive dinner)

CATERING 540-7940
280 N. Woodward • Lower Level Great American Insurance Building
OFFER GOOD THRU 2/27/85

VALET PARKING

HOURS: M-W 11A.M.-3P.M., 5P.M.-10P.M. TH-SAT 11A.M.-11P.M.

THE ARISTOCRAT
Featuring International Cuisine

COME JOIN THE FESTIVITIES

- DAILY FOOD SPECIALS
- DAILY DRINK SPECIALS
- WIDE SCREEN TV
- GOOD TIMES

- Monday Night - Draft Beer 35¢ Glass
- Wed. Ladies - All Well Drinks \$1.00

HAPPY HOURS: MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 4 TO 7

WED. Ladies' Night

"ALL THE CATS IN TOWN WILL BE THERE...
...HOW 'BOUT YOU?!"

4343 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield, Michigan
(In the Pine Lake Mall)
For Reservations: 551-5540

Hours: Mon-Thru Thurs 10AM-12PM, 4PM-10PM, Sat 3PM-10PM, Sun 3PM-10PM

CINEMA AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON THE TOWN

SKI THE BEST!

February Special
Candor Mid-Week at Boyne Mountain
\$75.00 per night
Sleeps As Many As Six

or
Come in March Mid-Week
Candor at Boyne Mountain
\$80.00 per night
Sleeps As Many As Six

1-800-632-7174

ATTENTION DINNER CLUB CARD HOLDERS

For the third year, Kingsley Inn of Bloomfield Hills is declaring February "LET'S GET ACQUAINTED MONTH." Your dinner club card - no matter what name or origin - will be honored for full value in our restaurant at dinner only Sundays through Thursdays in February. The card will not be punched or otherwise devalued.

It's just our way of inviting you to get acquainted and sample our interesting menu...much more affordable than you might think.

*Not valid on Valentine's Day, February 14.

Kingsley Inn

Selected to serve at the U.S. Presidential Inaugurals in Washington, D.C., 1981 and 1985

WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE ROAD
BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 644-1400

No body should miss it.

It's the Michigan Inn's exciting Let's Get Physical weekend, February 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.

Spend a whole weekend—Friday night through Sunday afternoon—in a great hotel. With a fine room. Delicious meals. Heated pool and hot tub.

Work out with the experts from Body Perfect. See what exercise and aerobics really can do for you. Learn about diet. Nutrition.

Equipment. Clothing. Stress relief. Positive thinking. Dressing for success. And more.

Meet and learn from the experts, including Judy Landers star of TV's "B.J. & the Beers," as well as her own Las Vegas nightclub act.

Call for complete information and reservations now. It's a special weekend. Dedicated to a very special body. Yours.

"Let's Get Physical"

Michigan Inn

16400 J.L. Hudson Dr.
Southfield, MI 48075 • 313-559-6500