

# New winery opens on Zug Island

Time for wine news from Michigan ("... where all the women winemakers are strong, the men winemakers good-looking and the wines all above average").

It must be reported that Bronco Nerd has left the Kalkaska Mountain Winery that he founded back in 1981. Thus far there is no news of the status of the new ownership there, the one phone line into Kalkaska having been busy for the last few weeks. It is known, however, that Bronco took the hand wine press with him last summer when he left and that no 1984 releases from KMW have appeared recently.

His newest adventure is now the Zug Island Wineworks which he began last June. He arrived in time to harvest some local, native grapes that grow in profusion on the island and vinified his 1984 crush under the name Green Wine, carrying a 1984 vintage date.

Some of this was released in late March, obviously aimed at the St. Patrick's Day crowd. That he missed by a couple of weeks he attributed to a faulty calendar on his desk as well as mammoth amounts of ice still in the Detroit River at that time.

THAT FIRST cuvee, a particularly attractive green color, was finished in bottles with corks. The next release will have screw tops and his plans for marketing it in the East Lansing area. "A really good area and market for this wine during final exams," Bronco noted, remembering his time there when he studied fertilization methodology while playing a most violent kind of football.

"(Hey, is Daryl still coaching there?" he asked

nostalgically. I told him that I didn't know.) It was simply bad luck that most of the bottles he had to use were a dark brown. He was dependent on what the repressing plant took in that day.)

Bronco's plans at Zug Island are impressive. He took with him some stock of both concord and cabernet franc, which should soon be bearing. He hopes to blend these to reproduce his Cosmopolitan Red from former days, thereby filling out his line nicely. Plans to name it "Rouge" after the city the winery is in were abandoned as too high-toned for both the Irish and the East Lansing crowd. He now hopes to combine a bottle of the green and a bottle of the red into a Christmas gift package in some special boxes he has.

The four vines of Isabella on the island will soon be torn out and grafted over to Niagara. "I plan to take another course at MSU to learn how to do this some time," he reported.

"I aim my wines at two crowds," he revealed to me recently. "The people who drink Rippelle will really like my green wine and them that like Lafite will see that they don't have to pay those big prices to get a really good, fresh wine." At \$1.69 a bottle, his wines are fairly priced. Some say appropriately as well.

THE GROWING conditions on Zug Island are, he judges, excellent for about any grape he wants to plant. Tempered by the benevolent breezes of the Detroit River, there will be little danger of summer frost there. "And the chemicals in the water really help, too. When they get to bubbling they let out a lot of hot air that really helps the grapes ripen. It doesn't smell so good sometimes but that don't hurt



wine  
**Richard Watson**

the grapes none," this wise winemaker said. "I think the French would call this 'gout de mer', or something like that."

Bronco has had a new label designed specifically for his green wine and it is memorable. It features a gray background ("for the skies above Zug") and soft green ink with a representation of the MSC Chimney belching out smoke. "It kind of reflects our city setting and still brings back memories of my college days," he noted cheerfully.

In case you haven't guessed, April Fool!



Mia Farrow is a Depression-era housewife, who finds herself in the arms of her silver-screen idol, Jeff Daniels, when he steps out of the movie in "The Purple Rose of Cairo."

the movies  
**Dan Greenberg**

## Housewife's fantasy becomes real lover, in delightful comedy

Woody Allen's "The Purple Rose of Cairo" is a warm, witty, intelligent, happy movie. See it, you'll like it.

Chief among its characteristics, "The Purple Rose of Cairo" presents a complex subject — what is real? — in terms of people, not in terms of ideas. Those people are so alive and appealing that the ideas spring to life and meaning.

Cecilia (Mia Farrow) lives in a run-down, Depression-era factory town. Her husband, Monk (Danny Aiello), is the quintessential slob who abuses his wife to make his own fear and insecurity. Cecilia and her sister (Stephanie Farrow) are waitresses. Needless to say, their drab lives are brightened by the movies. In particular, Cecilia spends every possible moment escaping into the movies, until the movies escape into her life.

"The Purple Rose of Cairo" (a film within the film with the same title) is playing at the Jewel when "The Purple Rose of Cairo" (the film we're watching) opens. Cecilia sees it five times in a row, and the passion of her attention attracts one of the characters, Tom Baxter (Jeff Daniels), who leaves the film and falls in love with her.

NATURALLY, THAT complicates matters because (1) Cecilia is already married to a jealous slob and (2) the movie on the screen at the Jewel can't go on until Tom Baxter returns to his role. All the other characters have to wait around until Tom returns so they can finish the story.

One thing leads to another and pretty soon the Hollywood moguls are involved trying to avoid scandals and fearing the worst. Every Tom Baxter is going to leave every print of "The Purple Rose of Cairo" and run around the countryside raping and looting, or whatever other evil the moguls recognize in themselves.

Pressure is applied to Gil Shepherd (Jeff Daniels in a dual role) as the actor who played Tom Baxter. Gil must go and convince Tom to return to the film or that's the end of Gil's rising career.

While this précis of the scenario may seem complicated, to writer-director Allen's great credit a philosophic question is handled in such a humane way that the story is very entertaining.

There have been many films dealing with the nature of reality, particularly films about filmmaking, with films within films, but none has been so clear in discussing the issue of whether the movies are more real than life or whether the imaginary worlds of the movies have more meaning.

ALLEN'S SCREENPLAY is simple and direct in language and character. The jobs at human flaws apparently are without malice. The laughter evoked is refreshing.

Allen's direction is also straightforward, at least in its result. No doubt it was difficult to achieve such narrative effects.

The cast works so well in confusing situations: Jeff Daniels' dual role and the cast of the film within the film, one moment playing its film roles (a silly white-telephone fantasy of the '30s) and the next playing disgruntled, bored actors and actresses who want to get on with it.

Greatest plaudits must be reserved for Mia Farrow and Jeff Daniels, all three of them. Farrow's wide-eyed excitement and enthusiasm for the movies and the movie people is as charming and believable as one could imagine.

With rare sensitivity, Daniels plays the unidimensional screen character, Baxter, who learns how to be a real person. At the same time, Daniels must mature as rising Hollywood actor Shepherd and come to grips with a very different, non-Hollywood studio environment.

The entire company does such a marvelous job that "The Purple Rose of Cairo" is the best.



Danny Aiello is her real-life husband, who terrorizes her and makes her want to seek escape into another world.

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