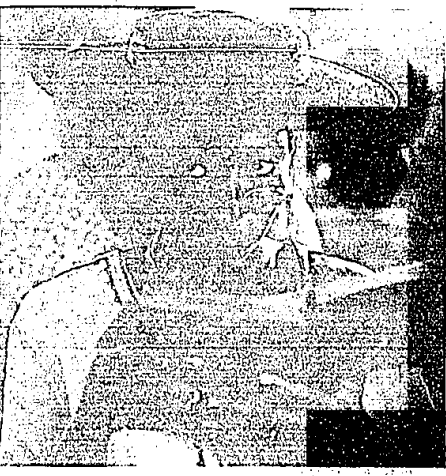


Tasters praise wine from Oregon



New movies

(Above) Yamil Borges as Morales sings "Nothing" in the movie version of the Broadway musical hit "A Chorus Line." (Below) Sam Shepard plays Eddio, the cowboy, in "Fool for Love," based on Shepard's award-winning play. Louisa Gossoll Jr. (left) and Dennis Quaid are enemy pilots fighting an interplanetary war in "Enemy Mine." Whoopi Goldberg stars as Colio, who rises above years of mistreatment, in Steven Spielberg's "The Color Purple."



A most prestigious wine event was recently held in New York City, one that may turn out to be historically significant as well. It was organized by Terry Roberts and had many of the elements of the now-famous Spurrier tasting in Paris in 1976, when California wines came of age on the world scene. That day they equalled or excelled some of the best of the Bordeaux and White Burgundy wines in head-to-head competition.

The New York tasting, reported so far most inadequately in the press, involved wines made exclusively from the Pinot Noir: 10 from Oregon and seven red Burgundies. From what I have been able to learn so far, I can get the names of only three of the Burgundies and the same of the Oregon wines.

For some time claims have been abundant about the excellent quality of Oregon wines, especially with this most difficult grape. It now seems as though they are turning out to be true. One tasting does not establish or solidify an industry, of course, but recall the Paris tasting of a decade ago to know it can help a lot if done properly, as this may have been.

THE PANELISTS were asked first to distinguish between the wines of the two regions and then to vote for their preferences. A distinguished and experienced lot, they were "amazed" at their collective inability to do the for-

mer. In voting, the Oregon wines captured first, second and third places. Most impressive!

The known wines were the 1983 Knudsen Erath Yamill Valley Vineyard, the 1983 Solari Blosser Red Hills and the 1983 Adelstein, each among the more distinguished of Oregon's Pinot Noir makers. The three known Burgundies were the 1983 Clos de Lambrays, a 1983 Domaine Comte Georges de Vogue Chambolle-Musigny and the 1983 Joseph Drouhin Beaune Clos de Mouches.

Significant? Only time will tell. But it will be difficult for us in Michigan to participate in this development. We have as yet but one distributor willing to carry Oregon wines, and that recently with only a single winery, Elk Cove. Perhaps public awareness of this event will encourage others to carry Ponzi, Eyrie, Tualatin and some of the other proud labels from Oregon.

Their wineries, small by California standards, are today making some of the finest Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays to be had on the west coast. In the region around Portland, remarkably like Burgundy viticulturally, there is a great deal of promise and fulfillment for wines of great elegance and breeding. They make no jug wines there; the grapes are too dear for bulk production. Let us hope we are given better opportunity locally to judge them for ourselves.



wine
**Richard
Watson**

ANOTHER TASTING of interest was held locally, this one featuring "inexpensive" cabernet sauvignons: the advertised cut-off being a cost of \$9 a bottle. Sponsored by the Oakland County chapter of Les Amis du Vin, nearly 100 people participated in the events of the evening. Nearly half voted their preferences from among the 37 wines entered. Most of them had California appellations. There were also entries from Italy, Yugoslavia, Roumania, France and Australia.

Co-sponsors of the event, Beverage Warehouse, announced the results of the first five positions in a non-numeric manner recently. (It should be noted, and I do not want to appear too picky, that the under \$9 was a B.W. price; many of the wines were closer to a ceiling of \$10, though many are priced well below that. Essentially this was a tasting of "everyday cabernets," not a bad idea at all.)

Chosen favorites of the evening were the 1981 Charles Le Franc (Almaden

premium label), the 1981 Beringer Knight's Valley (normally about \$10 a bottle), the 1981 Monterey Classic (most frequently found in 1.5-liter bottles), the Round Hill "House" (non-vintaged) and the 1982 Fetzer Barrel Select (usually about \$9-10 a bottle).

A YEAR OR MORE ago it was announced in this column that Oakland County had its own winery, the Sever Lakes Vineyard, in Holly. It is a testament to its success that it has shown well in the last two Michigan State Fair competitions and the wines are now being marketed locally in some of our better wine shops.

Now Wayne County, not to be outdone, has its own as well. It is on a back street in Northville (I needed a local Sierra to get me to it), in a corner of Farmington's Cider Mill. What occurs there, I gather, is that each year the equipment used for pressing the apples is turned to doing the same with "imported" grapes from California, making from these same vinifera wine as well as some local fruit wine.

NEW YEARS
At The
TROY HILTON!

Our Famous Summer Nights
Return for a
Big New Year's Eve Bash
with
The Trinidad Tripple Steel Band

Tickets
On Sale
NOW!!!

CALL
583-9000
for
information

In our Tropical Ballroom!
\$19.95 per person
includes:

- Champagne at Midnight
- Party Favors & Noisemakers
- Dancing
- Light Snacks
- Continental Breakfast
- YOU MUST BE 21

Troy Hilton Inn • 1455 Stephenson Hwy. • Troy, MI 48064

THE ULTIMATE EVENING

Experience Excitement
with Style
at the Benchmark

Our new, elegant decor serves as a dramatic setting for superb continental cuisine, fine wines, and impeccable service. The piano music is soft. The china, crystal and silver will shimmer. Cocktail and dinner service available Monday thru Saturday beginning at 5 PM.

For reservations call 559-6500.

It is a special place for very special people.

the Benchmark
1640 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield, Michigan, 559-6500

ON THE TOWN

'Midnight Magic' on New Year's Eve.

Help us ring in the New Year and you'll enjoy a gala evening of fun and music moments capped off with the romance of a kiss at midnight!

Call and ask about our "Stay Over Night" Invitation. Don't drive home after the party, spend the night with us. We're offering generous discounts on room rates.

Don't miss this exciting evening with us.

PARTY 1 - GRAND BALLROOM GALA
4:00pm Cocktail Party • Hors d'oeuvre and cash bar • 9:00pm Dinner and Dance Music 12:30pm by 15:00pm Grand, Hot & Fast! Tickets \$99.00 per couple

PARTY 2 - "SWIFT" ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS
Tuesday night deluxe room accommodations with late check-out until noon. Free 1st Day Champagne Brunch for two. Liqueur and soft drinks. \$149.00 per couple. (Only 15 available)

PARTY 3 - "HILTONS" 1985 GALA NEW YEAR'S
Follow us to Hilton • Cash bar • Open House • Toast at Midnight • Dale Horn & Sonner Buffet (5:15). Music by Famous Party Favors. Continental Breakfast (10:30). \$149.00 per couple

PARTY 4 - WICKER WORKS ALA CARTE DINNER
4:00pm and 9:00pm seating. Special Ala Carte Menu. Party Favors and Dance Tins. Champagne Toast at Midnight and Party Favors with musical entertainment.

NORTHFIELD HILTON
5500 Crooks Rd. @ I-75, Troy, MI
Call for reservations today! 879-2100

GALA NEW YEAR'S EVE BIG BAND and BLACK TIE*

Plan your evening the way you like it. Enjoy the lively Kingsley Inn complex of dining rooms, bar, party rooms and luxury hotel, ideal for celebrating.

- ★ Dancing to a 13-piece Big Band in the Ballroom
- ★ No cover charge.
- ★ Superb dining ★ Piano bar ★ Party Favors.
- ★ Live entertainment in three rooms.
- ★ Special New Year's Eve hotel accommodations package.
- ★ Black tie optional, of course.

Kingsley Inn

WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE ROAD • BLOOMFIELD HILLS
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED 644-1400