

Defining subtleties of wine varietals

Continued from Page 5

sou, Stag's Leap, Martini, Guenoc, McDowell, Sotomayor and Stonegate among them. They have been of variable interest. Some have been a bit bland (Martini and Stonegate), some deep and complex (Sotomayor, Guenoc and Freemont Abbey). And during that interval we all knew that Syrah and Petite Sirah were the same grape clone.

Then along came two winemakers who confused us with their viticultural wisdom, and we are now left less certain but more curious. Joseph Phelps announced on the release of his 1974 Syrah that he and he alone was using the "true" French Syrah grape and that all others were pretenders, that Petite Sirah, as we had come to know it, was from a lesser grape.

Had his initial efforts been more gustatorially satisfactory, we might have taken more notice, but it took him many years to produce a truly satisfying wine under that name. He has now done so. Both his 1980 and 1983 releases were excellent.

CATCHING THE NAME—that-grape bug was yet another winemaker from Santa Cruz, the creative and somewhat eccentric Ken Burnap of Santa Cruz Mountain. In 1980, he released a 1978 Durif (that's the promised three names now), a massive effort (as all his wines tend to be) that came from a grape we had thought all along to be the Petite Sirah.

Also of Eastern European origins, this has not historically been accorded the kind of status it deserves, ac-

The Syrah is also important to the great Chateaufort-du-Pape wines from Avignon. It contributes color and backbone to them, though they may contain as many as 12 other grape varieties as well.

ording to Burnap, and he has set about to correct this.

The point of all this? To encourage you, out of curiosity if nothing else, to try a "new" red wine. We in America have become a society of Cabernet Sauvignon drinkers, almost to the exclusion of other red wines. (The name of the Chateaufort whose name in restaurants is almost generic for a house white wine.) The especially venturesome will occasionally try a Pinot Noir or a Zinfandel, but not very often.

Your local wine merchant can be a source for recommending a Cote Rotie, Hermitage or Chateaufort-du-Pape. The cost range is quite wide, so buy one you feel you can afford. The first of these is usually the less expensive. Or try the Ojai Vineyards Syrah from Santa Barbara for a special treat. The Syrah/Sirah/Durif makes a fascinating change in your wine experiences.

On the Town

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

This weekend, getaway to the most fun in Michigan!



- Available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights
- Luxurious accommodations, outstanding restaurants, lively lounge
- Indoor swimming pool and sauna
- "20" "Hilton Money" to spend for refreshments and/or dinner at Hurley's, Charley's Crab and/or The Wicker Works Restaurant

24-hour advance reservations required!
NORTHFIELD HILTON
5500 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48068
(313) 879-2100

Twice a week is better • Twice a week is better •

"From the Heart of Mexico City to the Heart of Detroit"

DETROIT'S #1 MEXICAN RESTAURANT
"Like Being at the Finest of Mexico City"

El Zocalo
THE BEST IN DETROIT!
Authentic Mexican Cuisine with "South of the Border" Fish Specialties
3400 Bagley (At 23rd St.)
DETROIT • 841-3700

OPEN TO SERVE 11 AM - 1 AM
EVERY DAY
SPECIALTY DRY

upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, The Observer & Eccentric, 38251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

YOUTH CONCERTS

Eight events are scheduled in the Concerts-for-Youth Series at Oakland University for 1988-89. The concerts are suited for school-age children ages 6-12. Sponsors are Oakland Schools and the OU Center for the Arts. The third annual concert series will focus on the diverse music and literature of many nations and cultures. A special attraction will be "Babes in Toyland" during the holiday season.

Events begin Monday, Oct. 17, with magician Ronnie Cox. Others on the schedule are the Theatre Company of OU with "Folk Tales from Foreign Lands," Monday, Nov. 14; the OU Mime Ensemble with "Babes in Toyland," Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 15-17; Resistance and Baroque Musicians, a Reasonable Facsimile, Jan. 9; The Song Sisters, Feb. 6; mime, dance and music by New York actor John Patterson in "The Dream Keeper Speaks: The World of

Langston Hughes," March 13; "Carol Johnson: Music with a Message," April 17, and "Shella Dalley, Storyteller," May 15. All performances are at 10 a.m. in Varner Recital Hall on campus in Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$4; group discounts are available. For information, call the Center for the Arts box office at 370-3013 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

COUNTRY MUSIC

Larry Lee Adkins and Mary Livingston will appear from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 13, through Saturday, Oct. 8, at Silver Spur Saloon in Rochester Hills. For more information, call 852-6460.

KIDS CONCERTS

Southfield's 1988-89 Kids Concerts entertainment series opens this year from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. Saturday Sept. 24, with the Attic Theatre's "Toma Mime Time" starring Thom

Please turn to Page 7



Carl Jones and Peggy Jones co-star in "Same Time, Next Year," opening Friday, Sept. 10, at the Players Guild of Dearborn. For tickets, call 358-0951.

A special weekend.

A special rate. \$79 per night

Call (313) 593-1234 or toll free 1-800-228-9000 for reservations today!

We have a room waiting for you.

Hyatt Regency Dearborn is located in the heart of Dearborn, Michigan, just north of the Detroit River and west of the Silver Lake Road.

HYATT REGENCY DEARBORN

IN FAIRLANE TOWN CENTER, DEARBORN, MI. 48126

Let's weekend at the Hyatt \$5

Sponsored in part by:



THE CHANNEL 2 GREAT BALLOON FESTIVAL

September 9-11

Hours

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday

Over 60 hot air balloons

Balloon launches

open to the public

and a variety of other activities

Live entertainment

Chuck Berry 1:30pm Saturday

and a variety of other acts

and a variety of other acts

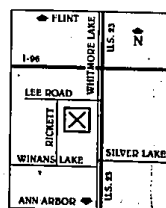
Activities

Tickets:

Friday \$10 per carload
Saturday-Sunday
\$8 for adults
\$4 for children 5-12
Free for kids under 5
\$3 for 6am launches
(per person; can be applied to full admission charge)

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster Ticket Centers and at the gate. Discount tickets available at all Auto One stores.

Detroit 2
WBK TV



DETROIT TRAFFIC Take I-96 west to U.S. 10 (north exit 88) toward Ann Arbor. Get off U.S. 10 at Lee Road (exit 91). Turn left off Lee Road onto Ricketts Road.
ANN ARBOR TRAFFIC Take U.S. 24 north to Silver Lake Road (exit 84). Go west on Silver Lake Road to Whitmore Lake Road. Go south. Turn right onto Winans Lake Road. Turn right onto Ricketts Road.