

# Chardonnay pairs well with holiday turkey

The holiday season begins with Thanksgiving. The air has turned nippy, the first snow may have fallen, and family and friends are gathered to celebrate the joy of living in America and the blessings we all appreciate.

Before you select the wines to have with your holiday meals, consider what's on your menu — not just the meat, but the side dishes as well.

Turkey matches easily with a variety of wines, but fragrant dressing, sweet potatoes, hearty vegetables and cranberry sauce make the wine choice for roast turkey and all the trimmings a relatively tough one.

Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma, Calif., which makes a full spectrum of California's most-recognized varietals, has tuned into the plight of



focus on wine  
**Eleanor and Ray Heald**

matching wines to holiday roast turkey. Its suggestion for the perfect wine with the traditional harvest holiday meal is America's favorite varietal — chardonnay.

"Pairing wine and food isn't difficult or mysterious," says Buena Vista's winemaker Jill Davis. "Chardonnay blends and complements the tastes and textures of the traditional Thanksgiving meal. We've created our 1989 Carmeneros Chardonnay with this in mind. We'd like Americans to

taste for themselves and be the judge.

"FOR ME, personally, the Thanksgiving meal is a lot of work, but it's fun. The best part of the holiday season is sharing wonderful food and wine with people you love."

Buena Vista Winery has captured its winemaker's spirit with a Wine Country Holiday Promotion to celebrate the pairing of chardonnay with America's favorite holiday meal, roast turkey.

Buena Vista is offering a \$2.50 refund for any turkey bought during the holiday season when a bottle of 1989 Buena Vista Carmeneros Chardonnay is purchased.

"I'm excited about our promotion and I hope it encourages people to try one of my favorite wine and food pairings," Davis says. Included with the promotion is an easy-to-prepare Harvest Soup recipe, one of Davis' family favorites.

We will throw our opinions in, too, but without the \$2.50 refund on a turkey. The drier styles of chenin blanc have just a touch of residual sugar to carry them off against dressing and sweet potatoes. We recommend the 1989 Chenin Blanc from Girard, Haefliger or Villa M. Eden.

If you prefer chenin's sweet edged,

there is none better than the 1989 Pine Ridge Winery Chenin Blanc. The 1988 Simi Chenin Blanc is the current release from this winery and it is drinking handsomely now.

California gewurztraminers have just the right spice accent to complement richer, spicier turkey stuffing. The recommendation here is the one from Fetzer.

LIGHT RED wines complement turkey but not sweet potatoes, so if your family is into mashed potatoes and gravy, this is the way to go. Italian chianis are versatile in this role. Ruffino Chianti Classico is always well-priced and delicious.

In the true harvest spirit, try a Beaujolais Nouveau from Georges Dubouche, France's premier negociant, who has made Beaujolais his

## WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK

1989 Buena Vista Carmeneros Chardonnay (\$11). Look for the neckband \$2.50 turkey-purchase-refund accompanying this wine deliberately styled to complement a traditional Thanksgiving feast. The pineapple-citrus, butter and oak aromas with matching flavors will enhance your celebration. Medium-full textures finish round and full. A delicious rendition.

specialty, or the always-pleasing samay Beaujolais Nouveau from California's Beringer Vineyards or Charles Shaw Winery.

## Here's a speedy way to make an Italian risotto dish

**Cook vegetables for 2 or 3 minutes, or until tender crisp. Add wine and continue to cook for 2 minutes.**

AP — The USA Rice Council says risotto can be used as an entree or side dish. Medium grain rice will result in a texture most like imported Arborio rice, the council says.

**QUICK RISOTTO**  
1 1/2 cups chicken broth  
1 cup uncooked rice  
Vegetable cooking spray

1/2 cup thinly sliced carrots  
1/2 cup thinly sliced yellow squash  
1/2 cup thinly sliced zucchini  
1/2 cup wine  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper

Combine 1 1/2 cups broth and rice in a 3-quart saucepan. Bring to a

boil, stir once or twice. Lower heat to simmer. Cover and cook for 15 minutes.

Coat a large skillet with cooking spray; place over medium-high heat until hot. Cook vegetables for 2 or 3 minutes, or until tender crisp. Add wine and continue to cook for 2 minutes. Set aside and keep warm.

rice, stir until broth is absorbed over medium-high heat. Stir in cheese, re-

served vegetables and pepper. Serve immediately. Makes 6 servings.

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