

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

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A6

SHOPPING CENTERED



Linda Ann Chomin

Hudson's shares holiday wine tips

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Wondering what wines to serve to start the New Year with style?

I learned the do's and don'ts of choosing and chilling fine wine at a day or two "All About Wine" seminar with expert Kent Oswald at Hudson's Marketplace in Lakeside Mall just before Thanksgiving.

Oswald, vice-president of Vintners, Ltd., a wine distributor in Troy, spoke about pairing wine with food as well as making wine and champagne selections for the holidays. The good news is you don't have to spend a bundle.

"You can buy a premium wine for \$7 to \$12. But it takes real technique to match good foods and good wines. The biggest mistake you can make is not asking for help. I don't want to fault consumers, but not many people know about wine. The packages may look nice, but I highly recommend you ask about the contents. Tell the retailer what your likes are and what you're having for dinner," said Oswald, who has worked in the wine business since 1978.

With hundreds of Bordeaux and vignier (a white wine with the aroma of apricot, white peach and acacia blossom) on the shelves, how does one simply select a wine for a New Year's dinner or buffet? You start by determining the menu as well as the timing. When during the meal will the wine be served: before, during or after with dessert.

"Before any dinner, sparkling wine is nice to start. For the main course, if you're serving white meat like turkey or chicken, try Alan Gorton's Chardonnay, Marshall Field's Sauvignon Blanc (available only at Hudson's) or a red like Georges Dubouef Beaujolais. Michigan wines like Summer Sunset (\$6.95), a semi-dry blush by LeeLanau Wine Cellars, go well with chicken, turkey or ham. There is a very good choice after dinner. It's a sipping wine and it goes great with chocolate," Oswald insisted.

"The general rule of thumb is red wine with red meat, white wine with white meat. Where the variance comes in, is with the particular sauces you serve, what wine will go best with a salad with creamy garlic dressing."

Of course, for every rule there's an exception. "Most people think they have to drink red wines with red meat but light red wines go well with chicken and white meats."

Oswald's advice in regards to the best age for a wine, is ask.

"I recommend the consumer check for the most recent vintage in white wine. Good quality wines are consistent over the years. However, it does vary from one year to another because wine is a fruit," said Oswald, whose company frequently holds training seminars for the staff of restaurants and retailers in the area.

"I don't want to say older is always better but as wine matures it gets softer in the bottle with a little more intense fruit. The exception to this is the 1996 George Dubouef Beaujolais Nouveau (the new wine of the year, \$9.50) just released Nov. 21 in France. It's tender, fruity, with nice hints of raspberry or strawberry."

Oh, and don't forget your manners when invited to the home of family and friends for dinner, chides Oswald. "A bottle of wine make a nice gift if you're going somewhere. German wines are always popular. Most consumers like something on the sweeter side such as Riesling Kabinett (\$11.95) by Graf von Spee," said Oswald. "If you're invited for steak dinner take a cabernet, merlot or zinfandel. Merlot is very hot now as well as pinot noir."

You can also carry along a one-pound box of Frango's new Michigan Cherry Chocolates made with Traverse City cherries (\$15) and a bottle of LeeLanau 100-percent Cherry Wine (\$7.50) for a sinful dessert.



This holiday season you figure you've been to six different malls, 20 separate shopping plazas, and at least ten gift and grocery stores, making you a shopping expert. Well, you deserve a break today! So, let's have some fun and see how much you really know about the local retail scene!

1. The color of the shopping carts at all Target stores are:

- A. Green
- B. Yellow
- C. Red

2. What retailer warns you to "Watch Out For Falling Prices?"

- A. Farmer Jack
- B. Best Buy
- C. Wal-Mart

3. What color are the famous Tiffany gift boxes?

- A. Silver
- B. Cream
- C. Blue

4. What retailer advertises its "softer side?"

- A. Crowley's
- B. Sears
- C. Hudson's

5. Which of these malls does not have a Williams & Sonoma store for cooks?

- A. Summit Place
- B. Laurel Park Place
- C. Somerset Collection

6. What color are the gift boxes at Jacobson's?

- A. Silver
- B. Red
- C. Green

7. What mall featured Santa Claus in a woodland setting complete with lifelike animals near a frozen stream?

- A. Wonderland Mall
- B. Twelve Oaks
- C. Oakland Mall

8. What two malls chose to celebrate holidays around the world with their decor themes?

- A. Lakeside and Tel-Twelve Mall
- B. Lakeside and Laurel Park
- C. Somerset Collection and Livonia Mall

9. How many body/bath product

stores are located at Somerset Collection?

- A. Ten
- B. Seven
- C. Five

10. What malls have both a Sears and Crowley's among their anchors?

- A. Lakeside and Livonia Mall
- B. Tel-Twelve and Twelve Oaks
- C. Wonderland and Oakland Mall

11. What malls have a Kohl's among their anchors?

- A. Northland and Summit Place
- B. Westland and Tel-Twelve
- C. Meadowbrook Village Mall and Lakeside

12. What color are the gift boxes from Sears?

- A. White
- B. Green
- C. Brown

13. What local city boasts it's home to three major malls?

- A. Bloomfield Hills
- B. Livonia
- C. Troy

14. What mall is the largest in terms of total retail space?

- A. Northland Center
- B. Somerset Collection
- C. Twelve Oaks

15. Which malls have three levels?

- A. Fairlane Town Center and Lakeside
- B. Somerset Collection North and Fairlane Town Center
- C. Somerset Collection North and

Twelve Oaks

16. What shopping mall is the area's newest?

- A. Livonia Mall
- B. Oakland Mall
- C. Northland Center

17. What shopping malls are the area's oldest?

- A. Somerset Collection and Twelve Oaks
- B. Somerset Collection and Summit Place
- C. Somerset Collection and Laurel Park Place

18. What malls do not have valet parking services?

- A. Oakland Mall, Twelve Oaks, Fairlane Town Center
- B. Summit Place, Westland Center, Oakland Mall
- C. Tel-Twelve Mall, Wonderland Mall, Livonia Mall

19. What malls do not have an Information Desk?

- A. Meadowbrook Village Mall
- B. Great Oaks Mall
- C. Laurel Park Place

20. What mall does not have a JC Penney anchor?

- A. Oakland Mall
- B. Livonia Mall
- C. Lakeside

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-C, 4-B, 5-A, 6-A, 7-B, 8-A, 9-A, 10-A, 11-A, 12-A, 13-B, 14-A, 15-B, 16-C, 17-C, 18-C, 19-A,B,C, 20-B.

Designer is homegrown talent

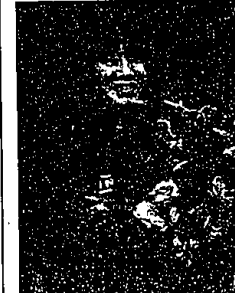
BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

New York designer Anna Sui's recent fall show at Henri Bendel's was a celebration of family, friends and fashion.

The audience was filled with the West Bloomfield High School graduate's old pals and admirers, changing routine business into a homecoming.

"It's great to be here again," said the globe-trotting Sui, just back from a visit to London and fresh from signing a major contract with the Japanese. "I feel like a kid again to have my dad wake me up at 6, and my mom put breakfast on the table at 6:30."

Sui calls herself a "designer for



Anna Sui



the times" pointing out that her clothing ranges from an affordable \$22 for a T-shirt, to her top-of-the-line, a coat for \$1,000. Her clients are "women who love fashion but don't take it too seriously." Her "thing" is combining nostalgic with hip for garments that are chic yet carefree.

"When I left Michigan for New York and Parsons School of Design, I never wanted to do the Bill Blass, Oscar, Calvin Klein thing. I always wanted to design fashions in a spirit of fun. Costly price tags did not fit this vision."

"And it was tough at first. It took from about 1981 to 1991 for the world to catch up with me because the 80's were all about the status thing - all the high price labels you could put on your back."

Sui said she's learned some important lessons: stay true to yourself; do what you love the best; master the knowledge of your craft; balance your life with your work.

Watching Anna Sui sales double from \$1.7-million in 1993 to almost \$4 million last year, the designer said she's adopted a global vision of today's fashion.

"As I travel around the world, Paris, London, Tokyo, the street fashions all look the same. That's because everyone has the same

influences - CNN, MTV, the movies, the music scene. What does everyone do these days? Come home from work. Talk to friends about rock 'n' roll, the movies, and their homes."

She also reflected on the current

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Anna Sui
designer

appeal of the 1970's.

"It is such an in-your-face-world," she sighed. "We turn on the TV and see a police beating, watch an earthquake destroy a city, see a plane or building blow up full of people. The only way we can cope is to retreat. Fantasize about a time that was more innocent. That explains the appeal of the 70's in fashion and entertainment right now. We felt safe then. After all the symbol of the decade was the Happy Face!"

Sui grew up in Dearborn Heights, the middle of three children born to Chinese immigrants. Her father Paul, is a structural engineer. Her mother Grace, is a homemaker who studied painting in Paris. She

refused to disclose her age, but insisted she would be a dress designer since age 3.

Today she counts among her closest friends, famed photographer Steven Meisel, and models Linda Evangelista, Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss. They helped her launch her company by modeling Anna Sui in exchange for originals during her first runway show in April 1991.

Sui, is single. She has an apartment in Manhattan, but longs for the day she can own a country home in England.

My favorite haunt in the world is the Victoria & Albert Museum in England. I go there twice a year and study the collections. For my fall line, I was inspired by the Bloomsbury Period and the Saville-West house in London. I hung pictures of the rooms all over my walls and the wallpaper prints I turned up in the blouses and skirts of my fall line paired with tweeds and plaids for a very sophisticated style."

Sui said she loves to shop, scouring flea markets and antique shops for ideas and inspiration from the wear and tear of bygone days.

"Sometimes when my friends and I are complaining about how tough this business is, how hard we have to work, we come across a crocheted purse or a pin cushion that can change our world," she laughed. "You get an idea and you are sailing."

Henri Bendel's in the Somerset collection North, Troy, is carrying both Anna Sui Collections for fall - Anna Sui and her Italian-made label Sui.

Parents: Clip and save these customer service numbers!

Dry the tears and end the toy assembly blues! Here are some phone numbers to customer service departments that can save you a lot of post holiday aggravation!

1. Service reps take orders for new pieces.
2. Direct callers to stores for items couldn't find before Christmas.
3. Walk callers through assembly and operation.

Fisher Price: 1-800-432-5437, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Hasbro: 1-800-752-9755

8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Kenner: 1-800-327-8264, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Lego: 1-800-422-5346, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Lionel Trains: 1-313-949-4100, Ext. 1286 or 1409 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Little Tikes: 1-800-321-0183, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Mattel: 1-800-524-8697, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Playskool: 1-800-752-9755, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Ohio Art: 1-419-636-3141, ask for replacement parts, 7:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Tyco: 1-800-423-5340, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Where can I find?

Thanks to the readers who have phoned in locations for hard to find items!

- A Birmingham tailor said she would be happy to repair laundry chute bags with zippers on the bottom. She can also sew new ones if the old bags can be used as a pattern. She reports she will "tailor" old drapes to new windows, too. Inquiries welcome at Metropolitan Tailor - 267 S. Woodward, (810) 594-8465.

We're still looking for:

- A dry bar, 3-feet wide by 15-inches deep with a cover that lifts up to replace one that is 20 years old. The caller said furniture stores only seem to carry wet bars.
- A grocery store that sells Magic Baking Powder made by Nabisco of Toronto. The caller doesn't want to travel to Canada to buy it.
- A store that sells Math To Go, Math Tutor by Texas Instruments.
- Almost hypo-allergenic all-over body splash.
- King-size flat sheets from Martex in the Trade Blanket pattern.
- A Strollchair highchair tray; Inkor stainless steel cookware.
- An April 1945 edition of Ford Times magazine.

If you've seen any of these items in your travels, let Malls & Mainstreets know and we'll print the answers. Please call (810) 901-2567.

