

New California labels arriving in Michigan

May is the time of year in Michigan when annual licenses are issued for wine distribution. As such, that month and the couple following usually see several new winery labels come onto our shelves.

And this year, because of a relaxation in our licensing procedures (no longer are out cottage industries in Paw Paw to be so pampered), we will see an unusually large selection of new California choices.

The group reported here is not comprehensive. Rather it reports on a few of the more select ones we will soon have available to us.

By far the most notable is Schramberg Vineyards of Napa, makers of the most prestigious sparkling wine in California. With expanded new facilities,

owner Jack Davies now has enough vine to send a small allotment to Michigan — blanc de blancs made from chardonnay and pinot blanc grapes and a blanc de noir from pinot noir.

BOTH ARE methode-champenoise style, vintage-dated and priced competitively with Domaine Chandon and comparable French champagnes.

Almost as significant is the arrival of Keenan Winery from the high Mayacamas Mountains above northern Napa Valley. An overnight success when the wines were first released in California a couple of years ago, Keenan is known chiefly for a luxurious chardonnay and a rich, herbaceous cabernet sauvignon.

Hopefully, we will also get its merlot

and pinot noir, both of which are also highly acclaimed.

St. Clement Vineyards, a fast-growing name from Napa also, is the crafter of a chardonnay and a cabernet sauvignon. The wines are made in a winery not unlike that of TV's Falcon Crest, in the former Spring Mountain facility and are worth the comparatively high prices.

The last new label from Napa is Robert Peccata Winery, maker of some lovely and delicate wines: grey reisling, gamay beaujolais, flora and French colombar. But Bob's big wine is his extraordinary petite sirah, due somewhat later.

EACH YEAR a local artist is commissioned to produce the wine's unique

label design. A most attractive package at an affordable price.

Lovers of big zinfandels will welcome Lee Sobon's Shenandoah Vineyards into the state, back after a disastrous distribution of its earlier releases. Sobon, who recently appeared personally, locally, under the auspices of the Winetasters to show off his wines, makes massive red wines in typical amador style as well as a crisp chenin blanc and sauvignon blanc. Look also for his port and mission d'ore in the fall. Great dessert wines.

From Sonoma, we will soon get St. Francis Vineyards. Maker of German-ly-styled wines for the last two years, it has received mixed reviews.

Two additional wines are now on the probable list and will come along



wine
Richard Watson

toward the fall. Both are from a handful of highly acclaimed new wineries that contribute greatly to the recently highly elevated status of California wines. Acacia Winery makes some of the finest pinot noirs and chardonnays from the Lotus Land, and Duckhorn Vineyards does things with merlot that make lovers of pomerol weep with envy.

Now all we need in Michigan are

Trefethan (Napa) and Kistler (Sonoma). Local distributors have, so far, been unable to negotiate those for us.

A final new arrival soon will be the "negative" calorie red wine from Kalkaska Mountain Winery in northern Michigan, not subject to the import licensing that previously protected our industry in Michigan. It should be interesting when it arrives.

'Macbeth' to open Meadow Brook Theatre's 17th year

Terence Kilburn, artistic director of Meadow Brook Theatre, has announced seven plays and one musical to celebrate the theater's 17th season, opening Oct. 7 with William Shakespeare's tragedy "Macbeth."

George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber's satire "The Royal Family," about the First Family of Broadway, will follow Nov. 4 at Meadow Brook, on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

The holiday season will be ushered in Dec. 2 with a new adaptation by Charles Nolte of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol." Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit, Mr. Fezziwig, Marley's Ghost and all the other colorful

characters will come alive for the holidays.

A Detroit premiere, "Talley's Folly," will open Dec. 30. This play about a seemingly mismatched couple who triumph over their differences won for its author, Lanford Wilson, both the Pulitzer Prize and the New York Critics Circle Award.

LILLIAN HELLMAN's drama "The Children's Hour" will open Jan. 27. Two Hellman hits, "The Little Foxes" and "Another Part of the Forest," have been performed at Meadow Brook. "The Children's Hour" tells of the devastation caused by unfounded rumor, the lie and the smear.

Meadow Brook is hoping that a recent smash hit on Broadway, "Morning's at Seven," becomes available, to follow on Feb. 24. The play is an American comedy of small-town life, involving four inseparable sisters and the men in their lives.

The Agatha Christie hit "The Unexpected Guest" will open March 24. Set in a foggy estate in Wales, this mystery opens as a stranger walks into a house to find a murder has just been committed and the victim's wife is standing over him with a gun.

Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones' musical "The Fantasticks" has been playing in New York for 23 consecutive years. This story about two young lovers is peopled with a variety of zany characters and wrapped in hit songs. "The Fantasticks" will open April 21.

Theatergoers who subscribe to next season before June 10 receive an Early-Bird discount and may see eight plays for the price of six. After June 20, season subscriptions will be available at a discount of eight plays for the price of seven.

Orders may be placed in the lobby or by calling the Meadow Brook Theatre box office at 377-3300.

Puppeteers doing 'Sorcerer's Apprentice'

Cleveland's Popinjay Puppets will perform "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" for Detroit Youththeatre's "Something Every Saturday" audiences at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. May 1 in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

Tickets at \$2.50 for children and adults and \$1.75 each in groups of 10 or more may be purchased through the museum ticket office (phone 832-2730) and at the door. A Youththeatre 10-ticket discount pass is available at the ticket office for \$17.50.

"The Sorcerer's Apprentice," a favorite childhood story, is being retold with a new musical score and

giant hand puppets in the hour-long show.

This presentation is designed for families with children 5 years of age through adults. Children younger than 5 years will not be admitted to the theater.

Youtheatre rounds out its October-May season of live, professional musicals, plays, specials and films with birthday parties, Wiggle Club shows for families with younger children ages 3-8 years, free guided "Back Stage Tours," and satellite days to focus attention on young people's service groups and community organizations.

WSU holds registration

Registration for Wayne State University's spring-summer term will be held from May 3-6 in the university's Administrative Services Building, Cass at Antioch.

Students who already have been admitted to Wayne State will be registered in alphabetical order from 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. May 3, 4 and 5. The alphabetical order will be waived on May

6, the final registration day.

Students who have not attended Wayne State before should contact the admissions office at 577-3577 for information on being officially admitted.

Classes for the spring part of the term will run May 16-June 28. Summer classes will run June 30-Aug. 18.

Screaming eagles sought

The 101st Airborne Division Association is looking for former members who wore the "screaming eagle" patch in World War II and in Vietnam for its

1982 reunion. Troop leaders should contact George E. Koskimaki, 13914 Edmore Drive, Detroit, 48205 with information.

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