

# Sauvignon blanc image improves

It is customary to begin articles on sauvignon blanc by calling it the "poor man's chardonnay." But, increasingly, that is becoming less true.

While it is not yet possible to pay the \$20 a bottle charged for some of the latter, it is now not unusual to find them at less than the cost of a sauvignon blanc. Indeed, for now, sauvignons seem to have stabilized in the \$8-12 range, none cheaper, few more.

The pleasant news is that there is no single wine in California that has improved as dramatically over the last few years. The issues that have come out since 1979 are uniformly good and some of the 1981 and 1982 releases are excellent.

The tastes of sauvignon blanc cover a narrow range on the evaluative spectrum. Most are clean, crisp and have a hint of complexity to them. Some have a vegetal taste (called "grassy"), and some, especially when blended with semillon (as is done in Bordeaux), can be opulently soft.

that being saved for chardonnay and cabernet. It is possible to allow the grapes to overripen in the field, of course, producing a musty, soft wine of less character. But these grapes seem to resist this and this is not found commonly.

A tasting of 10 recent issues illustrates the excellent quality available to us today. Indeed, another 10 or more could as well have been selected for evaluation.

The group's rating of those selected showed very little range between best and poorest, and all 45 participants commented on the uniform excellence of the lot. The difference reflects more preferences in style than wine quality. Only the last showed signs of being a bit off in its nose and aftertaste, but this is probably attributable to its presently being in a "dumb" stage.

Here are the results on a scale of 1-10 for those of you who would like to sample this wine, based on Detroit-area taste preferences. Most are currently available.

ONLY RARELY is European oak used to ferment or age these wines.

Wine	Rank	Score
Girard (Napa)	1	6.56



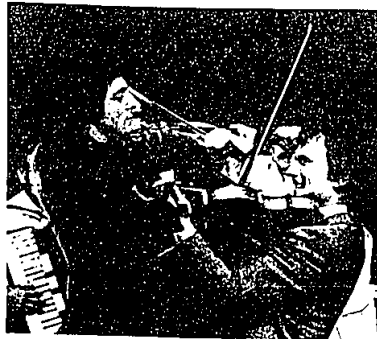
wine  
**Richard Watson**

Kenwood (Sonoma)	2	6.53
De Loach (Sonoma)	3	6.17
Pecota (Napa)	4	5.92
Flora Springs (Napa)	5	5.86
Newton (Napa)	6	5.78
Slag's Leap (Napa)	7	5.70
St. Clement (Napa)	8	5.67
Duckhorn (Napa)	9	5.44
Frog's Leap (Napa)	10	5.42

that some instrumental agents in making the winery a success were the owners' five cats. Some of their duties (vineyard patrol, housekeeping and others) were even specified.

However, not noted was that the cats receive the mail, sort and evaluate it. And reply when appropriate! This time they were ready to reconsider their contracts and file grievances, all because I had not named them. The reference to "the five cats" set badly and, considering their contribution, so it should. To rectify, they are Pincus, Bas Blanc, Baba Yaga, Sheehan and Gochan.

There, now you cats are famous in Michigan, too.



Dudley Moore as Claude Eastman (right) releases his pent-up anger by playing dueling violins with Armand Assante, who portrays Max Stein.



the movies  
**Dan Greenberg**

## Dudley Moore has captivating quality as jealous husband

"Unfaithfully Yours" is a very funny movie — 90 minutes of good entertainment.

The film is an intelligent, sophisticated discussion of marital fidelity, jealousy and the insecurity that jealousy causes, particularly in middle-aged men with sexy young wives.

Jealousy and fear have ruined better men than world-renowned symphonic conductor Claude Eastman (Dudley Moore), especially since Eastman suspects his friend and colleague, violinist Maximilian Stein (Armand Assante), has alienated the affections of his wife, young Italian screen star Daniela (Nastassja Kinski).

With the strain of jealousy at work, Moore is at his bumbling best, waffled this way and that on the winds of fear that he will lose the young wife who has come to mean so much to him. His conductorly composure and artistic discipline desert him. Once his butler/chauffeur/man-of-all-tasks Guiseppe (Richard Libertini) convinces him the duped male must have vengeance, the comic race is on.

AS WITH ALL good comedies, mistaken identities, misunderstood messages and misinterpretations complicate situations. Although almost all the situations in "Unfaithfully Yours" are quite typical, the atypical way in which they're presented make this a fresh, entertaining comedy.

Moore's comic timing and what has become his obligatory drunk sequence are delightful. Whether alcoholically askew as in "Arthur" or tranquilizers-first, alcohol-later as in "10" and "Unfaithfully Yours," Moore stumbles through to victory in the very best comic tradition with an added plus, a touch of warmth and humanity at the end.

"Unfaithfully Yours" has sparkling humorous contrast. The drunk scene follows an imagined sequence wherein Moore does everything with the precision possible only in heroic fantasy. But in his drunken reality everything goes wrong, much to his consternation and the audience's amusement.

Nastassja Kinski is at her indolent and sensual best as the loving young wife with a career. She has lots of positive pizzazz in this role, which she claims reflects the contrast after performing in two serious films.

Kinski comments: "I really needed a light movie. You can't take these roles off like a coat, they stay with you. My last two films ("Exposed" and "Moon"), were so serious."

KINSKI AND MOORE perform well together, playing off each other's style within the romantic, upper echelons of New York's artistic society. Director Howard Zieff exerted sufficient restraint so that the pseudo-sophistication and phony routines so widespread in New York did not emerge blatantly. Rather, New York is presented as the pinnacle of romantic sophistication. The city and lifestyle we know isn't true, but we'd certainly like to become accustomed to it anyway.

The fine ensemble of supporting actors reinforce the comedy. Richard Libertini as Moore's general factotum plays the ludicrous Italian with just enough restraint to make the impossible true and very funny.

The accidentally hired private detective, Jess Keller (Richard B. Shull), would rather listen to symphonic music than detect. His impatience is one of the many mistakes upon which the humor turns.

Every good theatrical comedy must have a wise-cracking agent. Norman Robbins (Albert Brooks) is Moore's manager. His constant flow of New York patter as he banisters his way through life are part and parcel of the image we all have of the New York show-business world. He truly is a rejoinder for all seasons, except that the joke is on him. Ask his wife Carla (Cassie Yates).

In addition to all that, "Unfaithfully Yours" has enough well-done slapstick to delight every audience and should emerge as one of the most successful romantic comedies of the year.



Nastassja Kinski is Daniela, the gorgeous young wife whose husband suspects she is having an affair.

## table talk

### Raising funds

Raising money for the "Culinary Olympics" — where the chefs, rather than sports stars, compete — is a project in which the National Restaurant Association is participating. In the Detroit area, the Meeting Place in Orchard Lake is the first restaurant to get in on the fund-raising campaign, general manager Rick Harrison said. A wine-tasting featuring fine German wines including Prock, Oberhausen will be held 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Meeting Place. Price is \$10 per person, and proceeds will benefit the "Culinary Olympics." For reservations, call 551-0050. The restaurant, which has already been awarded a Silver Medal plaque for its contributions and pledges of \$2,500, is "going for the gold." It hopes to raise \$5,000, get a Gold Medal plaque to hang in the restaurant but, particularly, help the U.S. Culinary Team in its bid for honors in the 1984 International Culinary Arts Competition in Frankfurt, West Germany, in October. Individuals or groups who donate to the "Olympics" also may receive decals and pins, based on their contributions ranging from \$25 up to \$500. The Meeting Place plans two other wine-tastings, of French wines on March 19 and American wines on April 30, to benefit the "Olympics" and also will hold special dinners.

### Wine tasting

An "Evening of Wine Tasting" celebrates the opening of Benjie's Wine Bar at 8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, at Benjie's Fish and Seafood Restaurant, 2650 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake. Wine importer Leon Bramley, who was born and raised in Kent, England, will present the wines of Burgundy and Bordeaux. Hors d'oeuvres follow the wine tasting, which is priced at \$15 per person. For reservations, call by Wednesday, call 682-7730.

### New officers

The 1-800 member Michigan Restaurant Association has announced its officers for 1984. Jerry L. Hill, president of Bill Knapp's Inc., was named chairman, at the recent MRA meeting at the Michigan State University Management Center in Troy. Knapp's operates 52 restaurants in four states. Other MRA officers are Jon Gould of Point East in Jackson, vice chairman, and John Correll of Pizutti's in Canton, treasurer. Among those elected to the board are Tom Hansen of the Pine Lake County Club, Orchard Lake, and re-elected, Reid Ashton of the Golden Mushroom, Southfield; John Correll of Pizutti's, Canton; and Jorkild Nielsen of Needham & Nielsen, Ltd., Farmington Hills.

### Cherry pie day

"Cannot Tell a Lie Cherry Pie," in honor of George Washington's birthday Wednesday, Feb. 22, will be sold for 50 cents a slice, \$1 ala mode, this week at the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills. Other items prepared by Chef Dennis Lindinger for the menu Monday, Feb. 20, include Flaming Cherry Blossom Chicken Breast, Roast Pork Loin with Sweet Cherry Bread Dressing, Broiled Shrimp with Cherry Wine Sauce and a Flaming Hot Cherry Sundae.

### Name changes

Gus' Steak House in Lake Orion undergoes a name change Wednesday, when it will be called Vannelli's and complete a transition that began in 1977. It was then that Dante Vannelli, son of Sam and Alba Vannelli (who ran the old Vannelli's on north Woodward Avenue in Detroit until it closed in 1970), bought the steak house. Gus' has evolved since 1977 into its present full-service "fine dining" restaurant. The new Vannelli's is at 801 S. Looper, phone 693-8882.

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