

Tasting, sharing bring pleasure

Learning about wine is, blessedly, a never-ending mission. Whether it be facts about grape growing, taste processes, its history, its serving, viticulture, marketing . . . it is all a complex mosaic of knowledge, taste, values and sensitivity that can be summed under the rubric "wine appreciation."

The facts and information are, of course, the easiest for the learner to acquire. For the price of a few sound bottles of burgundy or riesling, one can acquire several well-written and informative books by such notable authors as Hugh Johnson, Maynard Amerine or Leon Adams.

Their authoring efforts provide endless hours and days of beneficial study. The topic in general is well served in its literature. And there are magazines, journals and periodicals reviews published by societies and individuals that are extremely informative.

But learning the facts of wine, its geography, creation and attributes in no way helps an individual in that most important single component of wine enjoyment: drinking the stuff.

AND FOR THAT, only experience will do. To develop a set of values, to know why a wine is as good as it is, to have a benchmark for evaluation, all this requires a fair amount of consumption. (Such a burden!)

But there's a caveat here. Drinking alone, not gaining the perspective of others, not sharing observations about a wine's attributes, can be extremely insular. There may or may not be a personal danger in drinking alone (there is that 12 percent alcohol to take into consideration always), there certainly is an intellectual component to wine that benefits from discussion with others, from shared observations.

Whether a wine is liked or not is only part of the issue, whether it is well made and representative of its origins is also important. A wine can be considered and described without necessarily being liked especially.

What do you like about a wine? What are its weaknesses? How could it be improved? What does it lack? With what food would it best go? Does it stand well alone? What about its color, texture, acidity, balance? These questions can best be addressed through discussion with others equally serious about wine. They may "know" more or less than you do about wine, but all can discuss its components and joy to some extent, thereby learning from others as one increases one's own knowledge and broadened experiential base.

upcoming things to do

● COSTUME PARTY

The "Imagination Celebration" — a way-out costume party — will be held at 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23, at Confection in West Bloomfield, as a fundraiser for the March of Dimes. WHIC radio personality Mike Bradley, producer of "Harper and Company," will be on hand. Partygoers are being encouraged to dress in their wildest possible attire to compete for prizes. Cover charge is \$2.

● CHILDREN'S THEATER

A theater classic for children, "The Emperor's New Clothes," will be presented Friday-Sunday, Aug. 23-25, at Winchester Mall in Rochester. The show, adapted and directed by Henry K. Martin of Bloomfield Hills, tells the tale of a vain and foolish emperor who is tricked by two very clever tailors. The emperor happily learns the meaning of truth from a child. Free performances are at 1 and 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday.

● CARILLON RECITAL

Roland Richter, associate carillonneur of Kirk in the Hills, will give two 30-minute concerts at 10 a.m. and noon Sunday, Sept. 1, at the church in Bloomfield Hills.

● 'STAGE STRUCK'

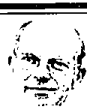
Jimmy Launce Productions Inc. will present "Stage Struck," a comedy thriller by Simon Gray, in dinner-theater format beginning Sept. 6 at Somerset Dinner Theatre at Somerset Mall in Troy. Performances are Friday-Saturdays with doors opening at 7 p.m., dinner at 7:30 and curtain at 8:45, and Wednesdays with doors opening at noon. Admission is \$22.95 per person inclusive for the evening performance and dinner, \$15.95 for the matinee performance and lunch. For reservations, call the Cafe Jardin at 649-1359.

'Chorus Line' is slick show

Continued from Previous Page

Anthony Innes is the perfect personification of a Broadway director. He's all business, except for one brief moment, when we see the conflict between his personal and performing life. It's a problem faced by all these gypsy dancers.

The show's finale is a big production number, complete with gold suits —



wine
Richard Watson

Probably the best way to find others who share interests and enthusiasms of this kind is to join a group of people who drink wine together regularly. One of the benefits we in the Detroit area have, an artifact of our size and relative sophistication, is that there are several such groups who assemble regularly to assay wine.

MOST OF THESE groups offer well-chosen, usually reasonably affordable, comparable selections. By joining with others one can usually sample six to 10 wines an evening and at the cost of a single bottle, thereby quickly broadening one's scope. A wine can be sampled and discussed over an ounce or two of it; one isn't obligated to drink all 25 ounces in the bottle, let alone.

And there are the occasional functions, no more than half a dozen a year around here, by two local wine merchants — the Red Wagon and the Merchant of Vint — and one tasting group, the Winecasters — where 50 to 100 wines are made available in a single evening for patron sampling.

These events, however, tend to have a carnival atmosphere that serves as a wine's attributes, can be extremely conducive to critical discussion and evaluation.

Most prominent locally are the efforts of the several chapters of Les Amis du Vin. Participation in tastings is, for the most part, not restricted to members (though members do receive an excellent magazine with membership). The only trick is to get on the mailing lists.

Most significant for Observer & Eclectic readers are the Greater Detroit Chapter, which tends to assemble most frequently in the Dearborn area (call Roger Faust, 335-5139) and the Oakland County Chapter, run out of the Beverage Warehouse (644-2155). In addition, the east side of Detroit is served by Gibbs' excellent wine store on Gratiot, and the Washtenaw County group is centered at the Village Corner in Ann Arbor (601 S. Forest at \$14).

The only regularly meeting, nonaffiliated group in metropolitan Detroit is the Oakland County group called the Winecasters. Clearly the most expensive one usually, it offers good value. Contact Dennis Walsh, 652-9307, for details.

table talk

New sushi bar offers different experience

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

Metropolitan Detroit has been getting its first taste of sushi. First there was the Nippon-Kai in Clawson. Now comes Benisushi, a sushi bar at the Kyoto Japanese Steakhouse, nearby in Troy.

This is only the second sushi bar in the country opened by the Kyoto chain, and most of the guests attending the recent grand opening party were brand new to the sushi dining experience.

Shirley Baker, advertising director of Asian

Restaurants International Inc., came from the Boston corporate office to give the lowdown on sushi. First off, she said, contrary to what most people think, "Sushi does not mean raw fish. Sushi means vinegared rice."

Despite this, what stayed in people's minds most was that some of the sushi they sampled did contain uncooked fish. Surprisingly, however, the taste does not seem "raw" or "fishy" but is refreshing on the palate. Still, it does take getting used to. Sushi devotees at the party praised the

quality of the sushi, however. Sushi is served two basic ways. One way is to select the topping you desire and enjoy it, dipped in soy sauce, along with a bit of rice. The other method of preparation is rolled sushi, or maki, with the topping centered in rice and seaweed. It may be eaten with fingers or chopsticks.

BESIDES RAW fish, toppings also include vegetables, cooked eggs (omelette style) and cooked seafood.

At the sushi bar, where the chef prepares your

selection to order with flair, traditional Japanese dining also is available including sukiyaki, yakitori and tempura. "We predict within a year to one and a half years, sushi bars will become very commonplace in Detroit," Baker said. "If you go to Los Angeles, you'll find sushi bars on every block."

All the seafood at Benisushi is from Boston, it is not available locally in the Detroit area. All serving dishes are from Japan, as is the seaweed

and occasionally the shaloe. Some of the raw fish served includes tuna, octopus, oysters and caviar are "American versions" of sushi. Shrimp is one of the cooked fish. There are dozens of choices to order from the sushi bar. Benisushi in Troy opened simultaneously with another sushi restaurant at the Kyoto in Philadelphia. The suburban Detroit location was chosen because "Troy is one of our best restaurants," Baker said.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON THE TOWN

Bernardi's
RESTAURANT
APPLAGATE SQUARE, NORTHWESTERN AT INKSTER, SOUTHFIELD

Dining & Cocktails

MONDAY THRU THURSDAY DINNER SPECIALS

BROILED CALVES LIVER With Sautéed Onions & Apples	\$8.25
PETITE FROG LEGS Roadhouse Style	\$7.95
GARLIC SHRIMP & OYSTERS, Cajun Style, with Pasta Noodles	\$9.45
BAKED CHICKEN BREAST BERNARDI, Herbed Bourbon Sauce	\$9.25

FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS CALL: 353-2757
HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 11:30 A.M.-9 P.M., Fri. & Sat. 11:30 A.M.-11 P.M.

NORTHFIELD HILLS 11th ANNUAL

ART ON THE LAKE

Saturday, August 24
10 am to 6 pm

All Quality Art Represented

- Oakland County Puppet Mobile 1 p.m.
- Chookey the Clown 2 p.m.
- His Traveling Magic Show 2-4 p.m.
- Troy Fire Department Water Display 3 p.m.

Long Lake Rd. East of I-75 at Coolidge
Troy

FREE ADMISSION • FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT
AMPLE PARKING • RAIN DATE AUGUST 25

Grand Opening

RIB REBATE BABY BACK RIBS

MADE WITH OUR OWN SECRET BARBECUE SAUCE!

to introduce you to our ribs, we will give a
\$200 REBATE Offer good thru Aug. 29
ON ALL RIB DINNERS!

ONE FULL POUND!

Frog Leg Dinner

Sautéed or Lightly Battered and Deep Fried, includes cole slaw, redekin potato, and bread basket. **\$8.95**

Offer good thru Aug. 29

BLOOMIES

6560 Orchard Lake Road at Maple West Bloomfield **626-1587**
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dinner Mon.-Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 11:30 a.m.-12 a.m.

Pearl's Garden

Serving the Finest in
Chinese & American Cuisine

Luncheons • Dinners • Carry Out Orders
Szechuan and Mandarin
Open 7 Days a Week
Mon.-Thurs. 11 AM-10 PM • Friday 11 AM-11 PM
Sat. 12-11 PM • Sunday 12-10 PM

469 S. Woodward • Birmingham
644-2913

classified ads
Wayne County 591-6900
Oakland County 644-1070
Rochester/Avon 852-3222

SIGN OF THE BEEFCARVER
11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
(1 Guest Check Please)
Now thru Sept. 4, 1985
Not Accepted After This Date

SIGN OF THE BEEFCARVER
11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
(1 Guest Check Please)
Sept. 5-Sept. 18, 1985
Not Accepted After This Date

CHILDREN FREE
(12 years and under accompanied by an adult)

DETROIT ZOO and BELLE ISLE ZOO
MONDAYS
from Aug. 26, 1985
10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

CHILDREN FREE

COUPON "LABOR DAY SPECIAL" SAVE 15%

On Baked Fish, Sea Food, Chowder, Shrimp Cocktail, Chicken or Roast Beef, etc. Present this coupon to our cashier. Complete meal about \$3.95.

• Allen Park • Bloomfield/Harbor • Dearborn • E. Warren • Farmington Hills • Grosse Pointe Woods • Livonia • Oak Park • Royal Oak • Troy • Westland • Westland Shop, Ctr. • Westland Shop, Ctr. • Westland Shop, Ctr.

COUPON "BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL" SAVE 15%

On Baked Fish, Sea Food, Chowder, Shrimp Cocktail, Chicken or Roast Beef, etc. Present this coupon to our cashier. Complete meal about \$3.95.

• Allen Park • Bloomfield/Harbor • Dearborn • E. Warren • Farmington Hills • Grosse Pointe Woods • Livonia • Oak Park • Royal Oak • Troy • Westland • Westland Shop, Ctr. • Westland Shop, Ctr. • Westland Shop, Ctr.

Machus Red Fox

Has beautiful Banquet Rooms to accommodate your gatherings of 10 to 100.

What to serve? We have an excellent selection of entrees on our banquet menu or you may choose to consult with our Certified Master Chef Leopold Schaefer for exciting Gourmet Selections.

Of course, everything in the best of taste!

Contact Marie Agauas, our Banquet Manager, for details. **626-4200**
Telegraph Rd. at Maple Rd. Bloomfield

WHAT MAKES KINGSLEY'S SUNDAY BRUNCH SO GREAT ANYWAY?

(Noted Detroit's No. 1 Sunday Brunch twice by Metropolitan Detroit magazine's reader's poll.)

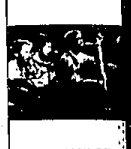
- White linen and silver service.
- Elegant ambience of the Kingsley dining rooms.
- No compromise in service, made with quality or freshness.
- A dazzling, ever-changing array of breakfast, luncheon and dinner favorites, and pastries from our own pastry chef, too numerous to mention.
- Save prices: only \$7.95 for adults, \$4.95 for children age 7 and under.

Kingsley Inn

Selected to serve at the U.S. Presidential Inaugurals in Washington, D.C., 1981 and 1985.

WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE ROAD
BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 642-0100

SOMERSET SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES



AUGUST 25th THE LOST WORLD STRING BAND

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Open to the public at no charge

SOMERSET MALL
8000 Woodward at Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills • 642-0100

Kimball Concert Group
Piano courtesy of Smiley Brothers



cock-out
days