

Veuve Cliquot and Roederer have special styles

There are so many excellent champagnes that it is impossible to say one is better than another.

However, champagnes can be distinguished by their style and personality. Champagne Veuve Cliquot and Roederer are two houses with easily recognizable styles.

Veuve (widow in French) Cliquot was the first woman to rise to power in Champagne and is often regarded as the first businesswoman of the modern era.

Widowed at 28, Nicole-Barbe Ponsardin-Cliquot was determined to carry out her husband's champagne business plans.

THOUGH INEXPERIENCED in commercial affairs, and in an age (early 19th century) when commerce was considered socially improper for women, the young widow was undaunted in her efforts to capture foreign markets.

WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK

Veuve Cliquot Brut (35) is distinguished by its full, toasty aromas and palate depth with generous mouthfeel. It's crisp and elegantly styled.

Louis Roederer Champagne Brut Premier (35) is a traditional blend of 1/2 pinot noir and 1/2 chardonnay that highlights the finest aromas and full, rich, toasty flavors. The emphasis on black-skinned grapes puts Roederer champagnes near the full-bodied end of the champagne spectrum.

Veuve Cliquot was an early master of marketing slogans. With her motto, "One quality only... the finest," she sent her sales agents world-



focus on wine Eleanor and Ray Heald

wide.

In 1814, a secret shipment of her champagne to Russia was her greatest coup. She triumphed where others did not dream to venture.

UNTIL MADAME Cliquot's time, champagne was a cloudy wine with dead yeast sediment. No one dared drink the last drop.

Convinced that a crystal clear product would enhance champagne's reputation, she concentrated with the help of her cellarmaster on achieving this.

Together they developed the process known as riddage or riddling. According to legend, bottles were positioned with the necks lodged in holes cut in the widow's wooden kitchen table. By shaking and rotating each bottle daily, she forced the unwanted deposit into the neck, settled against the cork.

Today, riddling is an essential part of champagne production.

WHILE CHAMPAGNE toasts have long been used to celebrate special events and good health, several

superstitions have also become associated with champagne.

Afraid the devil would enter their bodies with the wine, and believing the noise would scare him away, superstitious people clinked glasses.

Today, French lovers often intertwine forearms while sipping champagne after a toast.

IN 1776, the same year the United States declared its independence, a small champagne producer began the company that became known as "the house of Cristal."

In 1833, Louis Roederer, an Alsatian by birth, inherited the company, gave it his name, and began to develop the reputation of Louis Roederer Champagne, which now boasts 214 years of continuous family ownership.

By 1876, annual production reached 1.5 million bottles, 80 per-

cent of which was sold to the Russian market, and Cristal, the first prestige cuvee, was created for the court of Czar Alexander II.

ROEDERER CHAMPAGNE became such a favorite of the czar that he asked Roederer to reserve the best of each harvest to produce a special wine for him.

The czar's court cellarmaster visited Roederer annually to approve the selection. Alexander II also requested that Roederer design a special bottle for his exclusive use.

He desired two things from the select bottle.

First, he wanted it to be recognizably one of a kind, even when it was wrapped with a table napkin, and second, it was to be a stylish addition to his dining table. The result was Cristal.

Pineapple Cheesecake uses glaze fruit in the batter

AP — Glaze fruit adds sweetness to cakes, cookies and candies — perfect for holiday baking.

Chop or slice glaze fruit when adding to bread, muffin or cake batter so that the fruit will be distributed evenly.

Cookies, breads and cakes made with glaze fruit can be frozen in freezer bags, plastic wrap or aluminum foil for up to 3 months. Glaze and frost after defrosting. To warm defrosted breads: wrap in aluminum

foil and place in a preheated 300-degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes.

Glaze cheesecakes are best prepared no more than 3 days in advance. Refrigerate, loosely covered. The following recipe for Pineapple Cheesecake is provided by the Glaze Fruit Processors.

PINEAPPLE CHEESECAKE

1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1 tablespoon sugar

1/2 cup melted butter or margarine
1/2 cup (4 ounces) glaze red pineapple, diced or wedges
1/2 cup (4 ounces) glaze green pineapple, diced or wedges
Two 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup whipping cream or half-and-half
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1/2 cup all-purpose flour
Option for garnish:
1/2 cup (4 ounces) glaze red pineapple rings
1/2 cup (4 ounces) glaze green pineapple rings

Combine graham cracker crumbs and 1 tablespoon sugar in bottom of ungreased 8 1/2-inch springform pan; mix in butter. Pat mixture on bottom and 1/4-inch up side of pan.

Sprinkle glaze fruit on bottom of crust.

Beat cream cheese and 1/2 cup sugar in medium mixing bowl until fluffy; beat in eggs, cream and vanilla until smooth. Beat in flour. Pour mixture over glaze fruit in springform pan. Bake in a preheated 350-

degree oven until set, about 45 to 50 minutes. Cool in pan on wire rack. Carefully loosen side of cheesecake with sharp knife; remove side of pan. Refrigerate until chilled before serving, 4 to 6 hours. Garnish with optional red and green pineapple rings. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Glaze cheesecakes are best prepared no more than 3 days in advance. Refrigerate, loosely covered.

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