

Rhone wines blend varieties



focus on wine

Eleanor and Ray Heald

duces 10 percent of the nearly two million cases of wines from the Rhone. We had the opportunity to taste and discuss the 1989 vintage with him on his recent visit to Michel.

"WHEN I arrange a tasting of Rhone red wines, I always begin with the wines of the south and work my way north," explains Jaboulet. "The wine is pretty, charming, elegant, with much tannin, and harmonizes with any type of food. When chilled, it will complement fish."

"NORTHERN wines are made principally of syrah and tend to be more muscular and tannic, with greater longevity."

The following wines are discussed in Jaboulet's preferred order and represent a sampling of some of the region's best wines.

1989 Chateauneuf-du-Pape "Les Cedres" (#24). "Our Les Cedres is more popular than the regular Chateauneuf-du-Pape because it is more complex and will age better," Jaboulet comments. This wine is produced from grenache, syrah, mourvedre and mourvedre from a Jaboulet proprietary vineyard surrounded by cedar trees which give it its name.

GRENACHE LENDS character to Chateauneuf-du-Pape, while syrah gives tannin, elegance, and longevity. Les Cedres usually exhibits hints of plums, black currants, blackberries, and black truffles.

1989 St. Joseph "Le Grand Pommier" (#21). St. Joseph is an expanding appellation on the west side of the Rhone River. Situated on very

steep, eastern slopes, it is difficult to work the vineyards of St. Joseph. The wine is pure syrah, but without the character of Hermitage because of its eastern exposure. After five o'clock in the afternoon, there is no sun on St. Joseph, but there is still sun on the Rhone.

"WE CALL this the Beaujolais of the Rhone River," Jaboulet says. "The wine is pretty, charming, elegant, with much tannin, and harmonizes with any type of food. When chilled, it will complement fish."

1989 Hermitage "La Chapelle" (#62) is a connoisseur's wine needing a minimum of a decade's cellaring. Densely purple in color when young, its black currant aromas introduce a full-bodied, complex, extracted wine. Produced from 100 percent syrah from 35-year-old vines, it will mature into a handsome rendition.

WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK

The following Rhone wines are produced by the house of Paul Jaboulet Aine:

1989 Gigondas (\$18) is 100 per-

cent Grenache highlighting ripe

plummy fruit with gentle spiciness.

The wine's full flavors are balan-

cated by a fruity finish that is

generous and structured yet

luminous.

1989 Muscat de Beaumes-de-

Venise (#25) is a white Rhone de-

veloped with the muscat grape, fol-

lowed by rich, ripe fruit and

full fruit flavors of peach, apric-

ots, kiwi and pineapples. It

should be served well-chilled. Ja-

bourlet explains, "This is a wine to

drink young because it loses its

fruit very quickly. It should be

consumed before the end of the

year. A year from now, this wine

will be completely different be-

cause the fruit will disappear and

it will just be a very sweet wine."

Rich Italian pie has cheese, artichokes

1 unbaked 9-inch pastry shell
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
4 tomato slices, halved

In a mixing bowl beat eggs. Stir in cream cheese, garlic powder and pepper. Add 1 cup mozzarella, the artichokes and mayonnaise or salad dressing.

Drain artichokes. Quarter 2 arti-
choke hearts and set aside. Chop
remaining artichoke hearts; fold into cheese mixture. Fold in gar-
banzo beans, olives, pimento and
parsley.

Turkey mixture into pastry shell.
Bake in a 350-degree oven for 30

minutes. Top with remaining 1/2 cup mozzarella and the Parme-
san cheese. Bake about 10 minutes

more until set. Let stand for 10

minutes. Top with quartered arti-
chokes and tomato. Makes 8 main-
dish servings.

Nutrition information per serv-
ing: 462 cal. (64 percent calories
from fat), 19 g pro., 23 g carbo., 33
g fat, 147 mg chol., 595 mg sodium,
297 mg potassium, 4 g fiber.

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