

Gifts wine lovers will treasure

Giving a wine lover a gift of wine can be tricky, even if it's a fine white Burgundy. Your calls to our Voice Mail indicate that you'd like some help. "How can I be sure of personal wine preferences?" Rich Doran of Southfield wanted to know.

FOCUS ON WINE



ELEANOR & RAY HEALD

"Suggest a general wine type everyone likes," said Marcia Knowles of Novi. It's not that easy, so here's a host of wine-related gift ideas that are sure to please.

Riedel Company introduced two new wine glasses. The Riedel 8-ounce Vinum Prestige Cueve Flute (Style 416/48) for champagne and sparkling wine retails for \$18.50. The Vinum Zinfandel Glass (Style 416/15) retails for approximately \$19.50. Both glasses should be available at finer wine shops. If you have trouble finding either glass, a list of sources is available by calling Riedel Crystal of America at 1-800-842-1850.

RAPID-ICE chills wine instantly. If you've ever forgotten to chill a wine you wanted to serve to guests, you'll appreciate this reusable and unbreakable freezer pack that fits all standard wine and champagne bottles. With RAPID-ICE stored in the freezer, a wine lover can forget about chilling wine in an ice bucket. This \$11.95, plus-\$3-shipping gift idea is

available from the Wine Enthusiast by calling 1-800-356-8466.

DROP STOP is a small circular plastifilm disk that inserts into the neck of a wine bottle to create a natural pouring spout that doesn't drip. It works and will be appreciated by anyone who's tried to get a red wine stain out of a fine tablecloth. DROP STOP disks are washable and reusable. Three DROP STOPS are included in each mailable gift card. Available by mail at \$3.95 per pack (plus \$2 shipping and handling) or 5-pack special for \$18 postage and handling included from Hill Marketing, P.O. Box 588, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138. Last minute phone orders: (708) 545-0242.

Wine books are treasured gifts. "A Cultivated Life, A Year in a California Vineyard" by Joy Sterling, (Villard Books, \$22) is a must for anyone who's

ever dreamed of owning a winery. Sterling, the daughter of owners of Iron Horse Vineyards who is married to co-owner/winemaker Forrest Tancer, uses her journalistic talents to detail a full year's vineyard toils.

Oz Clarke's "Wine Advisor 1994" (Fireside Books/Simon & Schuster, \$11) has 1,300 entries on wines, wineries, grape varieties, regions and terms from A to Z with abundant map and label illustrations.

Hugh Johnson's "Pocket Encyclopedia of Wine 1994," \$12, by the same publisher describes 5,000 plus wines from around the globe. Both of these pocket guides are handy for novice and connoisseur and make great stocking stuffers.

And for the person who has everything, L'Esprit du Cognac (\$500), the sixth edition of a limited series of art deco decanters designed by the late artist Erte was released last month by Courvoisier Cognac. Each decanter contains a rare cognac blend with some Grande Champagne reserves dating back to 1893, the year of Erte's birth.

To leave a message on Ray and Eleanor Heald's voice mail - dial 563-2047, mailbox 1864. Be sure to include your name and hometown.

Pamper your pets with treats

See related story "Pamper your Pet" on Taste front.

WESTERN RANCH DOG BISCUITS

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 2 cups warm chicken or beef broth
- 1/2 cup powdered milk
- 1/4 cup margarine or hamburger grease
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup beaten
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup corn meal
- 1 cup wheat germ
- 2 cups cracked wheat
- 4-5 cups whole wheat flour

In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. In a large bowl combine broth, powdered milk, margarine, honey, egg and salt. Add yeast and water mixture and mix well. Stir in flour, corn meal, and wheat germ.

Add whole wheat flour, 1/2 cup at a time, mixing well after each addition. Knead in the final amounts of flour by hand until dough is soft, pliable, smooth and not sticky.

Pat or roll dough to 1/2-inch thick and cut into dog bone shapes. Place on a greased baking sheet, cover tightly and allow to rise for 20 minutes. Remove cover and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Turn off heat and allow to stand in the oven for several hours or overnight to dry

out. Makes 3 1/4 pounds. Source: Specialty Pets, Plymouth.

KITTY CHICKY SALAD

- 1 tablespoon corn oil
- 1 tablespoon celery, chopped fine
- 1 tablespoon onion, chopped fine
- 1 tablespoon bell pepper, chopped fine
- 1/2 cup cooked chicken, cut into kitty-bite-size pieces
- 2 tablespoons ricotta cheese
- 2 tablespoons plain yogurt or sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon brewer's yeast
- 1/4 cup alfalfa sprouts, chopped

Heat oil in skillet. Add celery, onion and bell pepper to the skillet and cook until soft. Let vegetables cool. In a mixing bowl, combine the remaining ingredients except for the alfalfa sprouts and mix well. Stir in cooled vegetables and chopped alfalfa sprouts. Yields 2-3 servings. Store unused portions in

an airtight container and keep refrigerated.

Source: "The Cat Lover's Cookbook," by Tony Lawson (Copyright, 1992, Storey Publishers, \$7.95).

CARDINAL CASSEROLE

- 2 cups raw beef suet
- 2 cups bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup bird seed mixture
- 1 cup green grapes, chopped coarse
- 1/2 teaspoon sand

Put beef suet through a meat grinder and then place in the top of a double boiler to melt. Remove from heat, allow to cool and harden slightly. In a medium bowl, place bread crumbs, bird seed and grapes. Pour over dry ingredients.

Add sand and mix well with a fork. Turn into a loaf size pan or mold into a ball shape and refrigerate until firm. Place on feeder tray.

Source: "My Recipes Are For The Birds," by Irene Cosgrove, (Copyright 1976, Doubleday Publishers, \$7.50)

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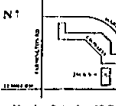
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