

Wine from page 1B

very appealing style. The 1993 Mommessin Moulin-A-Vent (\$10) is smooth with more subtle fruit, generous mouthfeel and the most promising future. Moulin-A-Vent are generally most tannic and frequently most age-worthy, although an aged Beauloais is almost self-defeating since one of their great attributes is the fresh fruit character.

Pinot Noir
The Mommessin family is sole owner of the Grand Cru vineyard Clos de Tart in the Burgundy commune of Morey St-Denis. Because Mommessin is the sole owner of Clos de Tart, it is known as a monopole — rare in Burgundy since most vineyards have multiple owners. Historical

records indicate that Clos de Tart was planted in 1140 by the monks of a Cistercian monastery. The vineyard was bought by Mommessin in 1932 during the world depression.
The 1990 Mommessin Clos de Tart (\$100) showcases berry-cherry aromas with a suggestion of grilled meat. It is full and supple with requisite strength and structure, yet elegant on the palate. The wine was aged 18-20 months in all new oak barrels. Monsieur Mommessin suggests that in the best years Clos de Tart will gracefully age for 15-25 years without a problem.

Mommessin explains three evolutionary stages of red Burgundy. "In the first, the young wine shows red fruit characters of cher-

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ries, raspberries, strawberries and currants, which fade away within a few days of bottling," he said. "The second stage highlights aromas of roses and violets along with those of strawberry and raspberry preserves. The third stage focuses principally on non-fruit attributes that include soil, wood, nuts, prunes, mushrooms and leather." He explains that oxidation of the wine accounts for the first two stages and reduction reactions produce the third generation of aromas.

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Accad, a controversial winemaker, to make a portion of the Clos de Tart. Accad's method includes a week-long cold-soak of the grapes in their own juice prior to fermentation to extract color, embellish tannins and enhance richness. Mommessin admits that when young, Accad's wine is harsh, inelegant and herbaceous, while the same wine produced by the traditional method is gentle and more appealing. He is hopeful that with a few years bottle age the new-method wine will develop the elegance of the traditional wine with added depth and longevity. He also hopes that this effort will appease his critics.

The lesson here is that an ugly, young wine does not always grow up to be a handsome rendition. More frequently than not, the wine that is balanced and flavorful in youth is balanced and flavorful when mature.

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Mediterranean salad perfect for brunch

AP — Think of a cottage cheese salad and you're likely to conjure up images of an old-fashioned diet plate. Not so with this salad, a zesty combination of fresh greens, creamy cottage cheese and crumbled feta cheese.

1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh rosemary or ½ teaspoon dried rosemary
Salt, pepper and pinch of sugar
¼ cup crumbled feta cheese

QUICK MEDITERRANEAN SALAD

4 pita bread pockets

Olive oil

Spinach leaves or other salad greens

16-ounce carton cottage cheese

1 cup finely diced, seeded tomato

¾ cup finely diced cucumber

¼ cup finely diced red onion or chopped green onion

1 to 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar

1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint or 1 teaspoon dried mint

Heat oven to 450 degrees F. Cut pita pockets into wedges; brush with oil. Bake 7 to 10 minutes until crisp; set aside.
Line four individual serving plates with spinach leaves. Scoop ¼ cup cottage cheese into the center of each plate. In a bowl, stir together remaining ingredients except feta cheese. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a pinch of sugar. Spoon mixture over cottage cheese. Top with feta cheese. Surround salads with pita chips. Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 341 cal., 18.7 g pro., 35.8 carb., 6.2 g dietary fiber, 12.5 g fat, 617 mg sodium, 23 mg chol. Recipes from: California Milk Advisory Board.

Answers to food questions

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