

FEATURES & BUSINESS

Cancer League, Bloomingdale's to honor UCSF November 5 event features Michael Kors' women's collection

Bloomingdale's and The Cancer League will honor the UC San Francisco Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center with an elegant evening cocktail party on Thursday, November 5, featuring Michael Kors' Women's Collection.

Joan Kors will be available for personal shopping appointments on the day of the event, with 10 percent of all proceeds benefiting The Cancer League.

Dr. Rosemary Akhurst, the guest speaker, will discuss the exciting developments in cancer research taking place at the Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition, the Cancer League has provided nearly \$1 million to the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer. The group is honoring the doctors and researchers at the Cancer Center for their work as pioneers in cancer research and its translation into improved prevention, detection, and treatment. The support of The Cancer League has special significance: each member has coped with can-



Dr. Rosemary Akhurst will be the guest speaker at a November 5 Cancer League event hosted by Bloomingdale's and honoring the Cancer Center at UCSF.

cer, either personally, within the family or with friends.

This unique event will be held from 5-7 p.m. at Bloomingdale's in San Francisco, and guests are welcome. Tickets are \$35 in advance. For more information, contact Lucy Arney at 735-9913.

Ce

Sea Scouts in search of new Skipper

Do you love to sail, but don't have a boat? How about combining sailing while making a positive impact on youth?

The Piedmont Council of Boy Scouts of America has a boat and a crew of committed sailors waiting for you.

The Sea Scouts of the SSS Revenge are looking for a new Skipper to lead the group on weekend excursions and seafaring adventures. Boys and girls in the Sea Scouts range in age between 14-20 years old, and have a couple of adult advisors helping. They need a reliable, experienced skipper to lead monthly voyages, teach sail-

ing skills, and have fun.

Being the skipper is a volunteer position that entails having a weekly meeting and a monthly boat excursion. Five years of recent sailing experience is required, but Scouting experience is not necessary. Experience working with youth is highly desirable, and knowledge of the Sea Scouting program is a plus.

If you are an accomplished sailor or looking for a boat and a group of teenagers who want to learn to sail, contact Brett Augspurger at the Piedmont Scout Council office, 547-4493, or by e-mail at bretta@piedmontbsa.org.



The Wine Corner

Tablas Creek – America's best Rhone producer

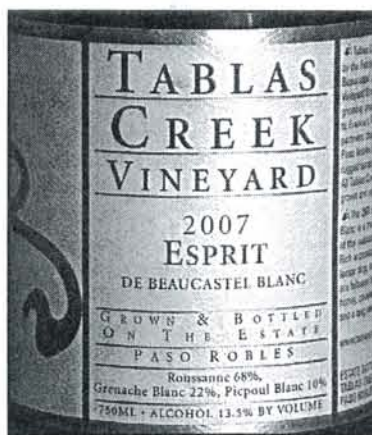
By Pierre DuMont

Each month noted wine expert Pierre DuMont features an interesting wine or group of wines from around the world. Pierre, though French, is Scottish at heart, thus he is always in search of great bargains to share with his readers. His philosophy is: "Any idiot with \$50 can buy a great bottle of wine. It takes brains and good information to buy a great \$10 bottle." His aim is to give readers the information needed to make smart wine purchases.

When California winemakers started to get serious about making world-class wine in the 1960s, they looked to two regions of France for guidance. From Bordeaux they imported Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc and from Burgundy they imported Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. These two wine regions have been the dominant influences ever since.

But in the last decade another area of France has become a major influence on California wine production – the Rhone Valley. About 20 years ago wine writer Robert Parker began touting the Rhone area as the up and coming alternative to overpriced Burgundies and Bordeaux. Parker's influence was pervasive and today Cote Roties, Hermitages, and Chateaufeuf du Papes from the Rhone are among the most sought after of France's wines.

In the last decade the production of Rhone style wines in California has increased dramatically. A Rhone style wine is defined as one made from any of the following official Rhone grapes (or combinations thereof) Syrah, Mouvedre, Grenache, Cinsault, Carignane, and Petite Sirah for the red wines, and Viognier, Grenache Blanc, Marsanne, and Roussanne for white. There are now hundreds of West Coast wineries making



The 2007 Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc from Tablas Creek Vineyards in Paso Robles received a –star rating from Pierre DuMont.

this style of wine, from Southern California to Washington state. But the capital seems to be Paso Robles, home to America's finest producer of Rhone wines, Tablas Creek.

In 1989 the Perrin family, owners of the famous Chateaufeuf du Pape winery, Chateau Beaucastel and Robert Haas, an American wine importer, bought property on a limestone ridge near Paso Robles with a desire to make Rhone style wines in America. They brought over grafts of the vines that made the great Beaucastel and began propagating them in a nursery near the winery. Today Tablas Creek is producing America's finest Rhone style wines. The winery makes a large number of wines, with many available nationally. For availability see www.tablas-creek.com.

Wines are ranked from one to five stars, with five being best

2007 Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc *****

Made from Roussanne, Grenache Blanc and Picpoul Blanc This weighty, complex wine has the body one usually expects in a red wine. It smells of tropical fruits and honey and is lush and full in the mouth. It is long on the finish and ends up bone dry. For anyone who is a bit tired of Chardonnay and Sauvignon

Blanc, this will be a really rewarding change of taste.

2007 Esprit de Beaucastel ****1/2

This is Tablas Creek's version of Chateaufeuf du Pape. It is mostly Mouvedre with Grenache, Syrah and Cunoise blended for complexity. It has a nose that mixes dark fruit with minerals and spice. On the palate it shows big plum fruit with vanilla from the oak and soft tannins. This would go great with grilled steaks or pork chops and has sufficient stuffing to last for a decade in the cellar.

2008 Rose ****1/2

This is the finest rose I have ever tasted – from anywhere. Made from the same grapes that go into their red wine (mouvedre, grenache, counoise), it smells like a glass of fresh crushed strawberries and cherries. It is totally dry but doesn't seem to be because of the massive fruit flavors. Amazing stuff.

2007 Cote de Tablas Blanc***1/2 \$25

This is a Viognier-based white blend that has a lovely perfumed nose of flowers and peaches. On the palate it is round and soft with good acidity to keep for cloying. It would be a refreshing summer wine or aperitif.

2007 Cote de Tablas *** \$25

This is Tablas Creek version of the perennially popular Cotes du Rhone style of wine. Similar to the French versions, it is fairly simple but with ample lush cherry fruit and good acidity. This is a very food-friendly wine that would be a great accompaniment to coq au vin.

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