

Eccentricities

visual delights for the heart, mind and spirit

UNIQUE & COLORFUL
GIFTS AWAIT YOU

Zimbabwe Tapestries &
Storyboards with Artist
photos and descriptions,
Jewelry & Vibrant Art Tiles
& so much more!

Open Saturday, Dec. 3
and Sunday, Dec. 4
12-5pm

Welcome to a new world



2368 AGATE ST.
541-484-1490

www.eccentricities-gallery.com



Warming Hearts

This season, give an hour
that warms the hearts and
bodies of your family
and friends with
Onsen Hot Tub Rentals

Gift Certificates
Buy 3
Get 1 Free



ONSEN
Hourly Spa Rentals and Sales

1883 Garden Ave. Eugene
(one block North of Franklin Blvd.)

345-9048

Wine BY LANCE SPARKS

Just Say Nose

Adventures in aroma

People who fall in love with wine often re-discover their noses, and sometimes that opens up new vulnerabilities to scent — and new avenues to the heart.

Sometime in our deeper past, back in the hunter/gatherer phase of human development, we probably used our schnozzes as acutely as any other critter in the wild, sniffing for the daily nosh or trying to catch a warning whiff of beasts that might just have us for dinner. But let's face it, modern civilization doesn't much promote or utilize the sense of smell; in fact, in some respects we make heroic efforts to avoid using this facet of our sensorium. We spend millions of dollars a year on products — deodorants, powders, sprays, soaps, little chemical-soaked, pine-scented cardboard trees to hang on rearview mirrors — created to cover aromas. Seems reasonable, though, when our bodies, houses, streets and cities might otherwise reek of noxious fumes emitted by factories, cars, gym socks and politicians.

Wine, though, reawakens the sense of smell. Dig on any tasting group: Splash hits the glass and the wine-geek holds it up to light, checks color, cuddles the bowl in warm palms, swirls the liquid to stir the molecules, then thrusts a beak as deeply into the glass as the rim will allow, snucking up deep drafts long before first drops pass lips. And even when actual tasting begins, cognitive psychologists tell us that, though our taste buds are a lot more subtle and refined than previously thought, some high percentage of taste is actually aroma.

Same experts tell us that that there seems some powerful connection between scent, memory and emotion. According to Oregon's most respected Perfect Nose, Mr. Chris Tsefalas, owner of Portland's great Perfume House, some perfumes are noted "memory scents": one whiff and we're thrown back

into prior memories and primitive emotions. Also works for wine. Gotta love that, no?

All weekend, I've been snuffling around the house, nares flaring. The kitchen, of course, was sensory overload. When Kat cooks, the air is redolent — baked pepper bacon, sausage cooked in pinot grigio with thyme and parsley; sautees of celery, carrots, onions, garlic, ginger, fennel, leeks, squash; brined and basted turkey browning in the oven; apricot/pepper jelly crusted ham; melted

butter and sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, chocolate, sweet flour of rising Eula Mae butter-milk biscuits — a dizzying array. Stagger to next room: lighted candles, pine, fir, cedar boughs, fresh-cut flowers. Outside: wet leaves of oak and maple, woodsmoke, sodden earth-funk. I rub my face in rosemary and sage. Check pulse; might be a tad bit edgy here, full-tilt Christmas goooofy.

Natch, dinner hits the table with wine, some fine sniffers and sippers:

Salutations: Tasty bubbly abound, but for the bux it's hard to beat Oregon's own **Argyle 2000 Brut** (\$16). Of course, you'll chill the wine, but don't over-chill or you'll miss the pleasures it offers to palate and proboscis. Actually, sniffing bubbly in a champagne flute usually yields little more than nose tickles: the wine is cold are flutes are not adapted to swirling. But sip this light-gold pretty and savor the flavor of ripe Jonagold apples with a tinge of lemon zest, just delish, especially with fitting nibbles.

Aperitif: Move the feast along with a crisply dry white from, of all places, Portugal. **Quinta das Setencostas 2004 Alenquer** (\$9) is a blend of obscure local grapes with a soupçon of chardonnay to lend depth of flavor. It's light but gives up



Holiday Open House

4pm-8pm Friday, December 2

SAVE 10%

on any one item purchased December 2-4



Enter Wish List Contest for
\$500 in Footwise prizes

Gift Certificates Available

Refreshments begin at 4pm

Free sock gift with purchase
over \$100



FOOTWISE
THE BIRKENSTOCK STORE

181 E Broadway • Downtown Eugene • 342-6107
301 SW Madison Ave • Downtown Corvallis • 757-0875
Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 11-5 • www.footwise.com

TSE

THE STEP BEYOND
WALKING & RUNNING STORE
EUGENE, LLC

3365 E. Amazon Dr. • Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 686-4494 • (541) 686-4493 fax

15% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE

EXPIRES 12/24/05

Sign up for The Jingle Bells Run & Walk!

SIXTH ANNUAL

Authors & Artists Fair



At the Downtown Eugene
Public Library
100 W. 10th Avenue

- Meet more than 50 authors and artists.
- Buy autographed books, artwork and gifts.
- Desserts, wine and coffee available.
- Purchase raffle tickets for fabulous gift items.
- See and bid on artist-decorated book bags.

FREE Admission!

A portion of sales benefits the Eugene Public Library Foundation.

Saturday • December 3, 2005 • 7-10 pm



Sponsors:

usbank.

The Register-Guard

symantec.

kval

schipac

UAPQUA

89.7fm

Funk

QSL