

# wine

nice aromas/flavors of lime and limestone, apples and river rock. Portugal is emerging out of imperial hock to its Port tradition and bringing modern winemaking techniques to what had been minor wines of only local interest. This is one of the occasional upsides of globalization, one worth seeking.

Entree time: Oh my, we pop the top on **Domaine Ehrhart 2004 Gewurztraminer** (\$15), an Alsatian white so rich and juicy it sets new standards for this grape: white flowers, lychee fruit, ripe grapefruit, candied lemon, aromas and flavors so long and lingering, it seems almost a shame to swallow. Roast turkey newer found a finer match, but we could pair this with spicy Asian stir-fry or baked halibut or .... Dayum, just about any reason to open this wine will work,

Fruit bomb: Twist the cap off **Timbaktu 2004 Big Block Red** (\$10), an Australian Bordeaux-profile blend — cabernet sauvignon, merlot, petit verdot, malbec, shiraz (syrah) — that nearly busts out of the glass

with deep aromas and flavors of blackberries, ripe plums, huckleberries, black pepper, anise, long black gloves on perfumed hands. This wine does not need aging; it needs drinking, now.

Last-minute wine gifts worth giving — and getting: Over lotsa years, lotta local-area wine-buffs have enjoyed the friendship and generous hospitality of **Larry Malmgren**. Now, at a time of life when many folks would be thinking about sedentary retirement, Larry has launched a new business. He's importing top-quality wine accessories — beautiful corkscrews, coasters, carrying cases — from the **Gattorna** family of Argentina. I particularly like the leather two-bottle carrying case: take the bottles out, put the nose in, let the fun commence. See the line at Broadway Market. Bring friends.

Happy holidays, dear people. Hope my little ode to olfactory pleasures will help you follow your noses to good times with good friends, the scents of lasting — and loving — memories. **EW**

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