



Wine Country

By Marc Garner

This time of year is kind of special in many ways. Included are the beverages people choose to put into their bodies. If I had my choice, I would drink the year round the bubbles. When I say bubbles, I am speaking of French Champagne. There is no other drink that says celebrate the way Champagne does. There is a reason why it has earned this reputation over the years.

To make Champagne, you need about three times the space and equipment needed to make still wine. By the time one bottle of Champagne reaches the shelves, over seventy-five people have had a hand in putting together the final package.

The climate is similar to ours here in Oregon; sometimes cool and rainy. In Champagne they only produce vintage wine five or six years out of ten. The rest of those grapes go into the making of the several non-vintage blends, brut and extra dry. One of these bottles will cost around sixteen dollars to twenty-five. The rare and delicate vintage bruts start around twenty-

five to forty-five dollars.

At the head of the list are the wines produced from only the vineyards that are rated No. 10. These grapes command the highest price of one given year. While they are pressing these number ten grapes, the press is only two-thirds tight. This they call the first pressing. This is how Dom Perignon, and all other "super" Champagnes are made. With the popularity of Dom Perignon, most houses are making a premium super blend. One of the best is the Krug Grand Cuvee and the "Clos de Goisses", the latter coming from one single surrounded vineyard; something unheard of in the region.

The way to drink Champagne, is to find a particular house style that you prefer. Some are sweeter or drier than others. A very mellow style is Moet & Chandon of Epernay. There, when they add the dosage, they use old wine instead of Cognac. By doing it this way, there isn't the yeasty acid flavor you often find in other house styles, though some people look for that trait in

their bubbles. As a rule, the extra dry blends are the sweeter ones with brut being almost totally dry. The vintage bruts are dry but carry more flavor and bouquet. Sometime it takes a little longer to reach maturity, say three to five years after vintage.

Any champagne will not gain too much by cellaring. It has been said that some of the wealthiest eastern families around the turn of the century would serve their guests Champagne that had been cellared long past its prime, leaving only the mature wine without the bubbles.

A very good friend of mine who can afford and does drink at least a case of good vintage a week, preferred to drink his Champagne after strongly stirring most of the bubbles away.

Because of the craft involved, every bottle is special for a truly grand occasion like Christmas 1980 and New Years 1981.

If you prefer sweeter sparkling wines try: Asti Spumante by the best Asti in Italy Cinzano \$11.00 through this month at Garner's Fine



The "Cave" of 32 "Galleries" at Moet et Chandon.

Wines. The two finest sparkling wines in California are also available: Schramsberg at \$14.50 and Domaine Chandon \$13.45. There are also specials on Mumm's Vintage Cordon Rouge and Moet's, very reasonable "White Star" priced at \$16.50.

There will be special holiday tastings at "Garner's Wines" December 19 and 20th, 10:00 a.m., to 8:00 p.m. Also check on the New Year's Eve party.

WINE PICK OF THE WEEK

Johannisberg Riesling, 1979. Jos. Phelps, early harvest Phelps winemaker, Walter Schug was trained at Germany's most famous school in Geisenheim on the Rheim, so naturally he has a good hand at making Rieslings. This is his Kabinett styled wine; light, fruity with a balance that you'll find only the best vineyards from the Rheingau in a good vintage only. All of the Phelps wines are very well made, but his Riesling is his bread and butter, \$7.45 through December at Garner's Wines, 1815 N.E. Broadway., 287-4120.

Cranberry juice for holiday table

Color-bright, sparkling cranberry drinks offer a variety of delectable ways to brighten the holiday spirit of elegant dinner parties, simple family meals, or spur-of-the-moment gatherings. Here are five new beverage ideas to try.

For a cherry Christmas crowd pleaser, consider "Iceberry Ring Punch," a tantalizing, foamy mixture of Cranapple juice and lemon sherbet. A unique touch is a ring of ice floating on top of the bowl instead of the usual cubes.

"Cranberry Kir" is great for a special dinner party or buffet, toasting on New Year's Eve or at brunch. It's a blend of bubbly champagne and cranberry juice cocktail with fruit.

A good stand-by drink to keep on hand for drop-ins is this "Cranberry Apple Nog," a little different. And for children and adults, "Cranberry Frappe" is a jolly idea. Make two pitchers, one for children and another for adults with vodka added.

Last, but hardly least, try "Merry Cranberry Mull" whether you have a fireplace blazing with logs or not, this dandy drink will bring a glow to



CRANBERRY-APPLE NOG

your gathering.

ICEBERRY RING PUNCH

(Makes about 8 cups)

- 1 bottle (40 fluid ounces) Cranberry/Cranapple apple drink chilled
- 1 1/2 pints lemon sherbet
- 1/2 cup Cointreau, (optional)

1/2 cup brandy, (optional)

To prepare ice ring, pour water into a 6-cup ring mold and freeze until hard, allowing several hours or overnight. In a large punch bowl, mix cranberry apple drink and sherbet until smooth and well blended. Unmold ice ring under cold running water and place ring into punch. Serve in small cups.

CRANBERRY KIR

(Makes about 6 1/2 cups)

- 1 bottle (24 fl. oz.) Cranberry juice cocktail
- 1 bottle (32 fl. oz.) Champagne, chilled
- Peach slices, fresh, frozen or canned

Pour cranberry juice cocktail into a larger pitcher or bowl and slowly stir in champagne. Chill until ready to serve. Place 3 to 4 peach slices into bottom of glass. Fill glass with cranberry mixture.

CRANBERRY-APPLE NOG

(Makes about 5 cups)

- 1 bottle (24 fl. oz.) cranapple cranberry apple drink
- 3 eggs
- 1 pint whipping cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon rum extract
- 1 cup dark rum

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and beat until smooth and well blended. Serve in mugs garnished with nutmeg.

CRANBERRY FRAPPE

(Makes about 6 cups)

- Combine 1 bottle (24 fl. oz.) chilled cranberry juice cocktail with 1 pint strawberry ice cream in an electric blender and whirl until smooth. Add 8 ice cubes (2-3 at a time) and blend until smooth. Add 1 cup vodka (optional), stir and pour into glasses and serve at once.

MERRY CRANBERRY MULL

(Makes about 5 cups)

- 1 bottle (24 fl. oz.) cranberry juice cocktail
- 2 cans (10 fl. oz. each) ginger beer
- 1 orange, sliced
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 6 whole cloves
- 1 whole nutmeg
- 1 cup dark rum or rye whiskey (optional)

Combine all ingredients in a 3-quart saucepan and heat until bubbly. Lower heat and simmer 5 minutes. Strain into mugs and serve hot.

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A forerunner of the modern computer was created in 1642 when Blaise Pascal built for his father a small machine that could add and subtract and was worked by geared wheels.

Fine Foods For Merry Feasting From Safeway

Safeway will be CLOSED Christmas Day December 25 (Closing 5 a.m., Dec. 24)	Gold'n'Soft Margarine 1-lb. Tub Save 30¢ on 2 \$5.9¢	Powdered or Brown Sugar 5-lb. Box Save 34¢ on 2 \$2.1¢	Boneless Ham Kingpin Lean Fully Smoked Ham Water Added lb. \$1.58	Rib Roast Choice Beef Rib Large End Cut (Small End Cut 10-13 lbs.) lb. \$2.98
Chocolate Chips Twin House Semi-Sweet 12-oz. Pkg. Save 60¢ on 2 \$1.59	Nu-Made Shortening Vegetable Shortening 3-lb. Can Save 67¢ on 2 \$1.78	8-Pack Coca Cola Tab, Freesia or Sprite 12-oz. Cans Save 1.21 per pack \$1.58	12-Pack Budweiser Premium Beer 12-oz. Cans Save 60¢ per pack \$4.75	Tom Turkeys Manor House Grade A - 16-22 lb. 10 to 14 lb. 10-15 lb. lb. 74¢
Chuck Roast Safeway Quality Beef Chuck Blade Cut lb. \$1.18	Fresh Crab Whole in-shell Dungeness Crab to Crack lb. \$1.38	Sharp Cheddar Cheese Mild Cheddar 10-lb. Block Save 60¢ on 2 \$3.98	Party Pride Pretzels Assorted 6-oz. Pkg. Save 10¢ on 2 2.51	Wheat Bread 69¢
Super Soft Bread 59¢	Lucerne Party Dips 49¢	Medium Pitted Olives 79¢	Lucerne Cream Cheese 8-oz. Pkg. Save 10¢ on 2 79¢	Yam Cuts in Syrup 6-oz. Pkg. Save 10¢ on 2 69¢
Libby's Pumpkin 59¢	Charmin Bath Tissue 2-Ply Paper Towels 99¢	Enchilada Dinner 69¢	2-Ply Paper Towels 99¢	Gallo Spanada Wine 1.5L Save 10¢ on 2 \$2.99
Snack Crackers 69¢	Le Domaine Champagne 750 ml Save 10¢ on 2 \$3.59	Hygrade Sliced Bacon 1-lb. Pkg. Save 10¢ on 2 \$2.68	Boneless Stew Beef 1-lb. Pkg. Save 10¢ on 2 \$1.98	Poultry Stuffing Mix 1-lb. Pkg. Save 10¢ on 2 \$1.19
Fresh Medium Oysters 1-lb. Pkg. Save 10¢ on 2 \$1.78				

8-Pack Coca Cola Tab, Freesia or Sprite 12-oz. Cans Save 1.21 per pack \$1.58	12-Pack Budweiser Premium Beer 12-oz. Cans Save 60¢ per pack \$4.75
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Tangerines 19¢ lb.

Sweet Easy to Peel Zipped Skinned

Fresh Broccoli Tight Green Bunches lb. 39¢	Ripe Tomatoes Salad Size 2-lb. Bskt. 98¢	Radishes or Green Onions 2.49¢	Ex. Large Avocados 3.11	Red Emperor Grapes .59¢	Sweet Crisp Celery .39¢	Fresh Lemons or Limes .59¢	Brussel Sprouts 1.19¢	Fancy Mushrooms 39¢	No. 1 Yams 39¢	Fresh Walnuts .98¢
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Cricket Lighters Butane Disposable Lighters by Gillette 3-Pk. \$1.44	Kodak Color Film C-110-24 and C-126-20 (C-135-36, 299) Roll \$1.99	Capri Bakeware 3-Quart Covered Casserole \$11.99
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