

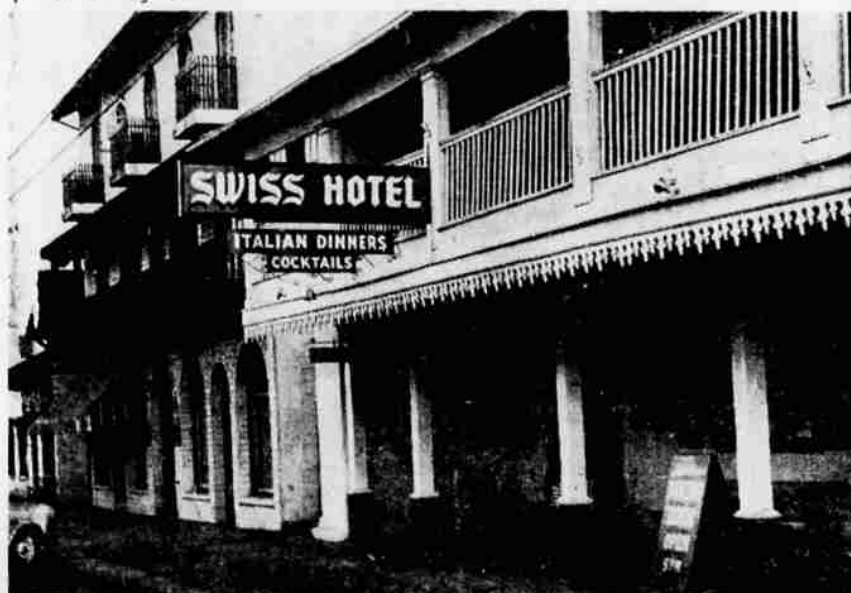
Wine Tour Always Interesting



THE CELLARS OF SEBASTIANI are housed in this imposing building at Sonoma. If you buy several cases of wine they will probably be loaded into your car here. Inside the building is a maze of corridors winding through high-stacked cases of wine, all the product of this particular region of California.



SAMUELE SEBASTIANI produces some of the best wines you will ever find and boasts an outstanding panel of winners over the years. This picture shows the front of the winery building, the retail room at the left and the offices at the right behind the trucks. At the extreme left is the shrine pictured on the cover. The winery is located just on the edge of Sonoma.



BEST OF ALL PLACES to stay on a wine tour of the Sonoma Valley is at the 108-year-old Swiss Hotel on Spain Street in Sonoma. This charming hotel, saloon and excellent dining room is under the management of Ted and Helen Dunlap. The building, now a California Historical site, faces on the square. Fine food, fine hospitality and fine fun are always on tap.

By BILL JENKINS

Being out of hock, and all that the term implies, recently we took off on a hot and dry Friday afternoon for a trip to the Napa and Sonoma wine regions of California to replenish the fast dwindling stock of table wine.

It is a trip that can be recommended to anyone, whether he goes for the express purpose of buying wine or merely to enjoy the country and see another corner of the world.

First stop out was at Walter Valla's Blue Gum Lodge, where we rolled in along about dinner time. The swimming pool would have been a welcome diversion had we remembered swimming suits, despite the fact that the date was the third of October. It was sweltering to the minds of us northerners who had come down out of the relative coolness of Klamath County.

Up and away early the next morning, cutting across at the Winters road and sailing into Sonoma before 10 o'clock.

Previous arrangements had been made with Ted and Helen Dunlap at the Swiss Hotel there. Ted was off fishing, as usual, and Helen busy, but we had a splendid visit with Pop Marioni, owner of the imposing, 122-year-old building. Pop, despite his 75-odd years, was busy getting the bar ready for the

visit to the long cellars, chiseled out of the living stone by Chinese labor. Currently in charge of the winery, a state landmark, are John and Madelaine Bankuty, charming people.

A leisurely trip back through the valley via 29, passing such famous wineries as Christian Brothers, Beringer, Inglenook, Krug, Martini and Beaulieu. But no stops at the larger wineries on this trip. We will save them for a later trip.

Back in Sonoma a trip to Sebastiani, long one of our favorites. Auguste Sebastiani comes from a long line of wine people and turns out splendid wines in many varieties. He is also familiar with our country where he has hunted much in the earlier days preceding World War Two.

Our favorites here are his Barbera and an outstanding Chablis. Also a splendid burgundy (California) turned out by the El Gavilan winery and bottled in 1947, Casa de Sonoma.

The tasting room here is a small one but adequate and comfortable. Wines are racked in profusion along the back wall and the visitor is more than welcome to a tour of the winery at any time.

Having stocked up we had little to do but enjoy a splendid dinner at the hotel and turn in. It's a long, hot haul all the way back, but we made it.

It is another trip that can be made easily, where accommodations are readily available and where there is a good deal to see and enjoy.

As I said, it doesn't matter a whit whether you are a wine drinker or not. You will be made welcome anywhere in the wine country be you gourmet, guzzler or whatnot. But the country is beautiful, has the rich background of history that makes it interesting and is close.

Why not try a trip down that way when you are looking for a restful change?

THE COVER

This lovely shrine, located at the corner of the Sebastiani Winery in Sonoma, caught the photographer's eye on a recent visit to that area and subsequently became this week's cover. It is symbolic, in a way, of the graceful beauty and old world sense of dignity and well-being that pervades the wine country of California.

Big Family Story Told

STUTTGART, Germany (UPI)

The Latin inscription on the woodcutting reads: "Barbara Schmotzerin, Adam Stratsmann's Wedded Housewife, with her 15 Daughters. In this Marriage a Total of 1111 sons and Daughters Were Born."

1111 being the Roman numeral for 53, a person reading the inscription in the old village church at Boenningheim, 20 miles north of here, could hardly be blamed for expressing disbelief.

But church records in the village Town Hall seem to confirm the claim that Frau Stratsmann was the mother of 53 children — 15 girls and 38 boys — although the best modern research could do was to decide it couldn't be disproved.

The Latin inscription on the woodcutting says the children were born before the year 1498 and that the woman died in 1503. Her age is not given.

The legend of Barbara Schmotzerin had spread throughout the land only a short while after her death and Emperor Maximilian demanded a report.

In it, the Boenningheim council included a statement by the woman herself shortly before she died. She told the council that of her 52 children, 19 were so weak they did not live to be christened.

The report added that of the others, none was strong enough to survive past nine years.

According to the council's report, Barbara said she had one set of septuplets, one set of sextuplets, triplets four times and twins five times. The remaining 18 were born one at a time.

PARK VISITORS

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The National Park Service reports that a record 216 million persons visited 2,216 state parks in the U.S. during 1957, an increase of some 16 million over 1956.

day's trade. The hotel is in a building originally built by Captain Salvador Valjejo in 1836 as a home. It later became an inn and acquired the name, finally, of the Swiss Hotel. It is cool and restful. Friendliness seems to be like a gracious patina over everything. The food is excellent in the spacious dining room and the rooms offer everything needed for one's comfort.

First trip was to quit the Sonoma area via a winding road that loops and twists over the steep ridges from California State Highway 12 to State 29, coming out at Oakville. Turned north here and headed straight for Calistoga and the Schramsberg winery.

This winery is to be found high up in the hills above the valley floor just below Calistoga and only a handful of miles from St. Helena.

The turnoff is marked plainly and you climb for a half mile or more over a rough, dirt road to reach the fine old house, the extensive cellars and the winery itself, all carved out of the rough and wooded country.

The original house, spoken of so warmly by Stevenson in his early articles about Silverado, is still standing, cool and pleasant amidst its setting of trees. Above the house a dam has been constructed and a charming pool is impounded, the overflow rippling and bubbling over the spill and tinkling down the slope through the hot weather.

Prize wine here, to my taste, is the hock, famous since the days of Jacob Schram, founder, when much of the total product went to England. Light yet firm, with a charming glow the wine is a splendid choice with upland game, grouse and quail in particular.

Enjoyable also is the tasting room and, on very hot days, a