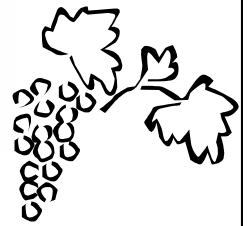


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The Grape Vine Newsletter



Wine Recipes

Leftover wine loses its aroma and flavor after a few days. Instead of disposing it, why not treat yourself with a glass of refreshing vino-fruit punch (a simpler and lazy version of the traditional sangria)? Experiment and come up with your own vino-punch by modifying these recipes using your imagination... and what you have in your fridge. Have a great refreshing autumn!

Two basic recipes to start you off...

Vino-Fruit punch (red wine based):

Ingredients:

- * Leftover red wine
- * Fruit punch / orange juice (~10% of the wine)
- * 1 tbsp sugar (+/- as desired)
- * Club soda (10-20%, +/- as desired)
- * Ice cubes
- * Optional: Liquor (Brandy, Gran Marnier, Vodka)
- * Optional: Fruits (lemon, orange, peach, apple wedges)

Directions: Combine the wine, juice, liquor (optional) and sugar. Toss in some fruits and leave it in the fridge for several hours. Add club soda, ice, and dashes of fresh lemon juice upon serving to give it a fresh taste! If your in a hurry skip the fruit and enjoy!

Zesty Vino-Lemon Punch (white wine based):

ingredients:

- * Leftover dry white wine
- * Lemon juice / lemonade (20-30% of the wine)
- * Sugar (optional if lemonade is sweetened)
- * Soda water or cold water (+/- as desired)
- * Ice cubes
- * Optional: Liquor (Brandy, Vodka)
- * Optional Fruits; (orange, lemon, lime, peach, pineapples)

Directions: Mix the wine, juice, sugar and optional liquor. Add club soda, ice, and dashes of fresh lemon juice upon serving to give it a fresh taste! If you are not anxious to drink it, toss in some fruits and leave it in the fridge for several hours before adding club soda.

True or False

Compared to a bottle of beer, a glass of white wine is a good choice for someone who wants a light drink with less alcohol.

True False

A typical glass of red or white wine, bottle of beer, or drink of spirits (rum, whiskey, tequila, etc.) each contains almost identical amounts of pure alcohol.

Drinking red wine in moderation has health benefits.

True False

Moderate consumption of red wine, white wine, beer, and/or spirits is associated with greater health and longevity than is either abstaining or drinking heavily.

Moderate drinking may help prevent Alzheimer's disease.

True False

A recent French study found moderate drinkers to have a 75% lower risk for Alzheimer's disease and an 80% lower risk for senile dementia.

The more educated people are in the US, the more likely they are to drink alcohol beverages.

True False

The more educated people are, the more likely they are to drink.

High protein foods such as peanuts and cheese slow the absorption of alcohol into the body.

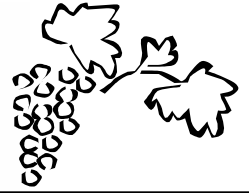
True False

Eating, especially eating high protein foods, and carefully pacing the consumption of drinks, can prevent intoxication.



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Classic Wine Club Selections

Every month our **Classic Wine Club** members receive one or two bottles of our featured wines. The wines you get depend on the membership you are enrolled in. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

Stevenot Winery, Murphys, CA

Stevenot Winery, one of California's premier boutique wineries, is located in the Sierra foothills in Calaveras County in the heart of California's Gold Country, an area which has been a respected wine grape growing region since the mid 1800s.

Established in 1973, the winery is at the forefront of the renaissance of premium wine production in Calaveras County. From Chardonnay and Orange Muscat to Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Zinfandel, Merlot, and their newest red sensation – Tempranillo, each taste exemplifies Stevenot's rich history, excellent foothill climate, impeccable vineyards, and the personal care of Winemaker Chuck Hovey.

Stevenot is proud to be part of a long and rich tradition of producing world-class wines in the Sierra foothills. They invite you to explore their winery via a personal visit, and enjoy this tradition as Stevenot Winery moves into its third decade of producing Sierra Foothill wines of distinction.

2006 Stevenot Pinot Grigio

A wonderfully crisp and delicate wine, this Pinot Grigio has a beautiful floral nose revealing hints of honeyed lemon, orange rind, and pears. Pure green apple shows vividly on the palate, with rich creamy undertones and herbal nuance.

Food Pairing: A nice accompaniment to a wide range of dishes. Serve with smoked salmon, pork scaloppini, or mushroom and scallop risotto.

Charles Mitchell Vineyards, Fairplay, Ca.

Charles Mitchell Vineyards and Winery are located in the heart of the Sierra Foothills, in a premier Amador County wine region called Fair Play, named for the local township born in the Gold Rush era. Over 150 years ago, this region was already a thriving wine producing area, supplying the Italian segment of the '49er population. Their property has had a fantastic history since that time, first as a promising repository for gold then, by the turn of the century, as a homestead and orchard, allowing generations of families the opportunity to live off this abundant land.

In the counties of El Dorado, Amador and Calaveras within the Sierra Foothills appellation, soils are primarily made of granite that slowly decomposes into rocks and sand. Granitic soils produce wines with stony flavors that add structure and textural firmness, balancing the sweet fruit flavors of wine.

In the mid-1960's, UC Davis, recognizing the land's possibilities, developed its own test plot of potential varieties in an effort to revitalize the Fair Play region as a premier grape growing area.

The area may be best known for Zinfandel, yet when it comes to Rhone-variety grapes like Syrah, Grenache, Roussanne and Viognier, the Sierra Foothills seemingly have at least one advantage over their winemaking peers to the west: granite.

This region is now enjoying a wine renaissance, thanks to the findings of UC Davis in their research, and the efforts of local winemaker pioneers. The Fair Play appellation has been approved by the U.S. government and is now the newest wine appellation on the American market.

Charles Mitchell estate wines reflect this heritage and have been garnering gold medals since the earliest days of the winery.

2005 Conti Bella Rossa

This American Super Tuscan is mainly composed of Sangiovese, an Italian varietal introduced to California in the late 1800's. This fruity wine has a bouquet boasting of strawberry, blueberry and ripe plum. The sweet cinnamon oak flavors and full mouth feel excite your taste buds and carry right into a clean earthy finish. This magnificent table wine enhances any Italian dish.

From time to time we have excess inventory of our Wine of the Month selection. If you would like to purchase additional quantities of this month's offering, or any of our other fine wine selections, please visit our Online Wine Store at www.WineGiftClub.com.



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This Month's Epic Reds Wine Club Selections

Every month our **Epic Reds Wine Club** members receive two bottles of our featured wines. These wines are among some of California's boutique winery's finest offerings. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

Cloud 9 Winery - Murphys, CA

The Cloud 9 philosophy is quite simple: to produce wines that optimize the sensory experience of each and every bottle they craft. Secondly, they strive to produce wines of distinctive character, so that when one tastes any Cloud 9 offering, it is immediately apparent that the wine is a new taste adventure and a new wine discovery - not just another example of a specific varietal or a specific style. Their goal is to exceed your expectations in every bottle from every vintage.

The steps they take to realize this philosophy seem simple, but remain elusive to many of the world's wineries. They scour California's premier regions for the best grapes, grown under conditions to optimize flavor. "Terroir" is an overused and often misunderstood term in this industry, but it reflects part of Cloud 9's distinctivity. Vineyard 1869, which produces Seity Zinfandel, adds a distinctive chocolate character to all wines produced from this vineyard. They control production and vineyard yield. There are no plans to expand Cloud 9 production beyond five wines and a maximum of 5,000 cases.

Their winemaker, Scott Harvey, is known throughout California as one of the premier blending winemakers in the wine industry. His artistry and creativity are evident in every bottle of Cloud 9 wine. Scott grew up in the Sierra Foothill region of California and has helped it to emerge as one of the most distinctive appellations in California. His untamed desire for adventure took him to Germany as an exchange student, where he became even more deeply committed to a career in wine.

In 2001, Scott Harvey met Scott Heron and became enamored with the Cloud 9 vision. He joined the Cloud 9 team and introduced his own label - Scott Harvey Wines - in June, 2003. Recently, a Scott Harvey Barbera was judged to be the 3rd best Barbera in the world at an Italian tasting (the home of the barbera grape), with Scott being flown to Italy for the formal presentation of this award.

In their blended wines, the focus is on *flavor*, not adherence to artificially-limiting regional protocols. For example, their flagship Composition is a blend of grapes with origins in France, Italy, and Spain - not just grapes with traditional Bordeaux or Burgundy regional limitations.

Far more than just another pretty package, Cloud 9 produces two of the most distinctive wines on terra firma: Cloud 9 *Composition* - a revolutionary "cross regional" blend and *Seity* - Zinfandel from Vineyard 1869 the oldest Zinfandel vines in California. Although they are a relatively new organization, their small team brings together over 180 years of experience in all phases of the wine industry. You can see their commitment to service at their tasting rooms in Murphys and their new location at the Old Sugar Mill in Clarksburg, and most importantly in the style and flavor of Cloud 9 Wines.

Composition 2001 - Limited production wine

Composition is a proprietary red wine blend that breaks old paradigms and establishes a new standard in wine blending tradition. Bringing together old world flavors with their origins in the most distinguished European and Mediterranean regions, Composition has created a luscious, balanced and elegant blend unlike anything seen or tasted before! This ultra-premium wine sources grapes from California's premier growing regions to combine the Old World charm of Spain (Tempranillo), the sophistication of France (Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Petite Verdot), and the elegance of Italy (Barbera)

Seity Zinfandel 2004 - Limited production wine

Seity is Cloud 9's first vineyard-designated wine - from a vineyard that unquestionably epitomizes Cloud 9's drive for quality and distinctiveness. This 10-acre vineyard is home to the oldest Zinfandel vines on Earth, with proof of existence dating to 1869 (hence its name: Vineyard 1869) when the vineyard was listed as a descriptor on a deed from the U.S. Geological Survey. The roots plunge to a depth of nearly 20 feet, passing through multiple soil layers and adding unique flavor components and complexity that can only be found in such a historic vineyard. Lying on a north-facing slope in the Sierra Foothills, the vineyard flowers and ripens later than most and is typically the last vineyard to be harvested in Amador County. The colder temperatures result in increased pigmentation build-up creating a dark red wine with intense flavors, including chocolate and coffee.