

BEVERAGES

TASTE OF SUMMER

Pick it, pack it, grill it, guzzle it

BY JILL A. DITMIRE



Wines for summer are like those for winter, they should appeal to your palate first and foremost. Drink what you like whether it's white or red or pink. Here are some "try 'em you'll like 'em" offerings for the season.

Pick and pack

Whether it's a picnic for Symphony on the Prairie or carry out from your favorite ethnic eatery on a park bench, you need a tasty tote-able potable.

- **2004 Mirassou Riesling:** softly sweet fruity finish on this semi dry white wine. Lovely aromas and flavors of apricots, honeysuckle and minerals. Great wine for sushi, Indian curries, Thai food.
- **2005 Five Rivers Pinot Grigio:** fresh, crisp yet soft, smooth flavors of citrus, vanilla, herbs. Great cross of Pinot Gris and Italian Pinot Grigio style. Not too dry, not too fruity — just right! Enjoy with cold pasta salads, deli sandwiches, grilled

chicken or seafood salads.

- **2005 Dry Creek Vineyards Dry Chenin Blanc:** crisp, dry, white wine with fresh aromas of orange and lemon zest. Smooth flavors of citrus fruits with a crisp clean finish. Try with oysters or chilled shrimp.

Grill

Beef, chicken, fish, even vegetables and fruit seem to taste better on the grill. Some wines to add even more fire to the flamed foods.

- **2005 Jekel Vineyards**

Gewurztraminer: spicy, off dry white with enticing aromas and flavors of herbs, five spice powder, white peach. Enjoy with brats, lamb burgers or grilled vegetables.

- **2004 Clos Pegase Mitsuko's Vineyard Chardonnay:** delicious balanced dry yet sumptuous white wine. Enticing and refreshing aromas and flavors of pineapple, citrus, ripe pear. Creamy yet not cloying. Clean, finish. Enjoy with grilled tilapia, halibut, lobster or shellfish.



file photo

Enjoy a tasty tote-able potable wine on your next picnic.

- **2003 Firestone Vineyards Syrah:** WOW. Voluptuous, balanced dry red with non-stop aromas and flavors of mocha, blackberry and eucalyptus. Perfect red for grilled meats or salmon and either beef or pork BBQ ribs.

Guzzle

Congratulations. You mowed the lawn/weeded the garden/played Ultimate Frisbee/washed the dog. Time to toast!

- **2005 Ceago Vineyarden Muscat Canelli:** like drinking a

day of summer sun and fun. Fresh, fruity aromas of apricots lead to silky sweet citrus flavors along with peach and honeysuckle. A treat on its own and also nice with a selection of mild cheeses.

- **2005 Alice White Lexia:** sweet, refreshing white wine loaded with aromas and flavors of tropical fruit. Easy drinking on its own or with a platter of fresh fruit and cheeses.

EDITORS@NUVO.NET