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Elucidations & Elaborations

After 58 issues of this newsletter, I have about shared all my knowledge about wine! Beginning with this issue, Words about Wine will be replaced with a Wine Selection of the Month. In this space, I will share with you one of our favorite wines and provide a little more information about it, including retail prices. Don't be surprised if you see many wines from the Paso Robles area, one of our favorite destinations. Many of those wines are available only at the winery, but I will make it a point to include only those which are available at your favorite wine store.

I hope you enjoy this column and maybe try some new and different wines along the way!

Brain Teaser

OK, we'll start the year with an easy one. Complete these words by inserting the same three letters in each: S---GH F---RISH C---DY

See page 3 for the answer.

Out with the Rabbit, In with the Dragon

In the Chinese Zodiac, 2012 is the Year of the Dragon. The Dragon is the mightiest of the signs. Dragons symbolize such character traits as dominance and ambition. Dragons prefer to live by their own rules and if left on their own, are usually successful. They're driven, unafraid of challenges, and willing to take risks. They're passionate in all they do and they do things in grand fashion. Unfortunately, this passion and enthusiasm can leave Dragons feeling exhausted and interestingly, unfulfilled. Are you a Dragon? You can find out [Here](#).



Are We There Yet? Your Route in 3D

Many of us have become dependent on Google Maps to guide us from Point A to Point B. How did we deal with real maps in an atlas? Google has recently added a new feature that you may not be aware of.

The new 3D Google Maps option allows you to preview the route with a 3D birds-eye animation. To use this option, go to Google Maps, click *Get Directions*, then enter Point A and Point B of your travel plan. Click the 3D button next to the *Driving Directions* to your destination. Your route, once two dimensional, will come to life in Google's web-based version of Google Earth so you can see 3D renderings of elevations such as buildings, hills, and mountains as Google "flies you" along your recommended route.

You can pause the "flight" by clicking anywhere in the 3D view or by using the pause button on the map itself. Have a good trip!

From the Kitchen

How many times have you attempted to measure a spice just to find that the measuring spoon does not fit into the spice jar? That doesn't have to happen. You can get measuring spoons that are designed to fit into the mouth of a standard spice container. This makes it easier to fill the spoon then scrape off the excess as you withdraw the spoon from the container. No more of the tap-tap-tap-flop-it's-all-over-the-counter routine. They are made of stainless steel and come in 6 measures including a 3/4 teaspoon which is somewhat unusual. We ordered ours from [Lee Valley Tools](#) (you will find lots of cool stuff on their website) but you can also get them at Sur La Table.

Kitchen Humor

Red walks into a store. Curious about a shiny object, she asks, "What is that?"
The store clerk responds, "It's a thermos."
Red then asks, "What does it do?"
The clerk says, "It keeps hot things hot and cold things cold."
So she buys one.
The next day, she brings it to work with her. Her boss asks, "What is that shiny object?"
She replies "It's a thermos."
He asks, "What does it do?"
She says, "It keeps hot things hot and cold things cold."
He then asks, "What do you have in there?"
Red replied, "Two cups of coffee and a popsicle."

(I just couldn't make it a blonde joke!)

Sopa de Albondigas (Mexican Meatball Soup)

This is one of the all time favorite soups at our house. Just make the meatballs and drop them into the simmering soup as you make them. No need to brown them first.

1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef
1 cup soft breadcrumbs
1/4 cup milk
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
1 tablespoon uncooked rice

3 14-ounce cans chicken broth
1 can condensed beef consommé
1 can diced tomatoes
1 large onion, chopped
3 stalks celery, diced
3 carrots cut into 1/2 inch diagonal slices
3 small zucchini, cubed
1/4 cup chopped cilantro
1 teaspoon oregano leaves
2 teaspoons crushed red pepper (more or less to taste)
Salt to taste

Combine breadcrumbs, milk, egg, seasoned salt, and 1 tablespoon rice. Mix with ground beef. Chill 15 minutes.

In an 8-quart kettle, combine chicken broth, consommé, tomatoes, onion, celery, carrots, zucchini, cilantro, oregano, and crushed red pepper. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes. Shape meat mixture into 24 or more meatballs. Add to soup as you make them. Cover and simmer 30 minutes or until meat is done. Makes 8 main dish servings.

There is nothing like soup. It is by nature eccentric: no two are ever alike unless you get your soup in a can. ~ Laurie Colwin

Wine Selection of the Month



J Lohr Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the most consistent and best selling wines in its class and price range. According to the winery, it's the best selling cabernet sauvignon in the country for wines \$12 and up. (It's about \$13 to \$15 most places.) The Seven Oaks Vineyard is located just across the road from the J Lohr Paso Robles Wine Center.

If you're looking for a good wine to go with your next steak or lasagna, pick up a bottle of Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 2009.

A Juicy Tip

This helpful hint was shared by Sue, a friend and loyal reader of this newsletter.



Did you know you can get more juice from lemons and limes by slicing them differently? In [this video](#), you will see that slicing a lemon lengthwise instead of the normal method of slicing crosswise. It's amazing and may change the way you slice your citrus fruits. [Take a look!](#)

Where's Grandma?

We should have guessed it was coming sooner or later. GTX Corp. is now making shoes with a miniature GPS device implanted in the heel. They look like regular walking shoes but they are meant for people with dementia or Alzheimer's who may wander off and get lost. Caregivers or family members can set a perimeter called a "geo-fence" that allows users to move freely within a given area. If they stray beyond that perimeter, a Google Maps message pops up on a phone or computer to alert the caregiver.

I can already see light bulbs going off in the heads of husbands or wife. "Wouldn't you like a new pair of walking shoes for your birthday?" Just one more way to keep up with the spouse! There's one possible deterrent, however. They cost about \$300!

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- An estimated 5.3 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's disease. This figure includes 5.1 million people aged 65 and older.
 - More women than men have dementia, primarily because women live longer, on average, than men. This longer life expectancy increases the time during which women could develop Alzheimer's.
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A Final Word

Thanks again for reading the Glen's Place Newsletter. Pass it along if you know someone who might enjoy it. Send ideas, comments, and questions to Glen@Glen's Place.

Until next time remember: The man who follows the crowd will usually get no further than the crowd. The man who walks alone is likely to find himself in places no one has ever been. ~ Alan Ashley-Pitt

Answer to brain teaser: slough, flourish, cloudy

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