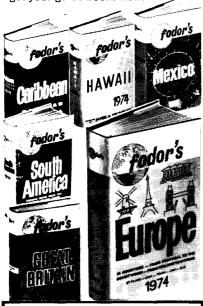
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## **Little-Known Libations From**

There was a time when the trappings of sovereignty were simple: flag, anthem, and set of postage stamps would do. Newly emerging nations and, indeed, some long-established ones must now equip themselves with such requisites as delegations to the United Nations, national airlines, exit taxes, and libations they can call their own. Mexico created Kahlúa, and Jamaica distilled its Blue Mountain coffee to make Tia Maria. Scotland fabricated a liqueur out of Scotch whisky and called it Drambuie. Dublin answered with Irish Mist. For a global guide to unfamiliar bottles, consult the chart below.

Name	Country	Flavor	How to Find It on the Shelf
Vandermint	Holland	Chocolate mint	White-and-blue, ersatz Delft bottle with Dutch windmill scenes; tulip-shaped top.
Cheri-Suisse	Switzerland	Cherry chocolate	Opaque bottle in red-and-white Swiss colors; drawing of chalet and trees in gold; cap shaped like the Matterhorn. Everything's there but yodel.
Sabra	Israel	Orange chocolate	Two versions: 1. bulbous bottle with long neck; 2. make-believe urn in mottled green. Name means born-in-Israel Israeli.
Afri Koko	Sierra Leone	Chocolate coconut	White box with black-and-red pictures of African king based on 15th-century West African bronze. Two drinks and you can hear the drums.
Advockaat	Holland	Eggnog	Tall, clear bottle filled with creamy egg yolks.
Amaretto di Saronno	Italy	Almond	Rectangular decanter, finished in rough-textured glass; fake-leather top. Nice for men's club library.
Sambuca Romana	Italy	Anise	Shaped like hot-water bottle with likeness of the Colosseum on label.
Ciao	Italy	Herby, bitter	Elongated hourglass bottle filled with yellow liqueur.
Cherry Blossoms	Japan	Cherry	Pear-shaped, white ceramic bottle decorated with the Japanese character for cherry blossoms.
Cherry Marnier	France	Cherry	Red-velveteen-covered, waisted bottle; looks like woman in bustle.
Expresso	Italy	Coffee	Old Roman wine jug with outsized flashy gold lettering on label.
Pasha	Turkey	Strong coffee	Curvaceous, copper-hued bottle; neck and cap shaped like tall min- aret. Uncork it and you expect Aladdin to pour out.
Inca Pisco	Peru	Firewater	Dull-finish black bottle that looks like the toothy, smiling face of a Peruvian Indian. Used for Pisco sours and scaring small children.
Carib Cup	Bahamas	Tropical fruits	Small, rectangular, white ceramic bottle; one side has map of Carib- bean; the other, an island police- man in white pith helmet. Every- thing there but the peas 'n' rice.
Brontë	England	Brandy with honey after- taste	Two-tone, brown-and-beige ceramic jug. Folksy as a fireside in Yorkshire.
Izarra	France	Two choices: green—sweet, minty; yellow —bitter, per- fumed Cepacol	Slender-necked, flared at hips, then tapered.

INDIA

## ractically Everywhere

By Dena Kaye

Name	Country	Flavor	How to Find It on the Shelf
Fior d'Alpe	Italy	Sweet, anise- like	Tall bottle of yellow liquid with small arboretum growing inside. Branches sometimes collect lumps of crystallized sugar.
Old Krupnik	Poland	Honey	Clear-colored bottle with curlicue script on label.
Green Tea	Japan	Sweetened tea with alcohol	Simple, opaque white bottle bearing the Japanese character for green tea; very <i>shibui</i> . Makes a nice tea ceremony for tipplers.
Veraña	Spain	Chocolate orange	Dark-green hexagonal bottle with rounded glass collar at nape of neck; label in earth tones. Any lady of Spain would adore it.
Mandarine Napoléon	Belgium	Tangerine	Embossed patchwork-quilt bottle: classy dark-green label, fancy script. Napoleon the Courvoisier drinker would meet his Waterloo with this one.
Asha	India	Pepper water	Bulbous bottle. In India even the liqueur is spicy.
Escorial Grün	Germany	Herbs	White ceramic bottle; sketch of Munich in freehand, children's-coloring-book style.
Mobana	Bahamas	Banana	Bottle is dark-brown ceramic mon- key clutching a banana. Nice for a friendly twosome playing "me Tar- zan, you Jane."
Anis Gorila	Puerto Rico	Anise	Tall, clear-glass bottle imprinted with diamond-shaped pattern.
Arak Razzouk	Lebanon	Anise	Label decorated with gold grapes, green leaves, and lady reclining on barrel and holding torch. The Lebanese are trying to say something, but we haven't broken the code.
Mesimarja	Finland	Nectar berry	Short, bulbous bottle, with bas-re- lief berries in glass. Good for in- terior sauna.
Damiana	Mexico	Bitter herbs	Body of bottle is fat lady trying to hold her stomach. No, it's not gas- troenteritis; figure is based on pre- Columbian Peruvian bottle now in Guggenheim Museum.
Marmot Chocolat	Switzerland	Chocolate	Fat bottle filled to bursting point with chocolate chips. All right, Switzerland in a bottle without the snow and cuckoo clocks.
Serbian Plum Brandy	Yugoslavia	High-octane plum	Tambourine-shaped bottle, plum liqueur, tinted yellow.
Rathaus Williams Birnengeist	Switzerland	High-octane pear	Round bottle, clear liqueur, with a pear floating (and probably hiccuping) inside.
Bärenjäger	Germany	Honey	Squat bottle covered in straw dirndl. Looks like a beehive; ditto the plastic cap; gold plastic bee stuck on label. One way to get a buzz on.
Cynar	Italy	Mild, artichoke	Tall, clear bottle; red-and-white label decorated with an artichoke. Filled with brown apéritif.
Maraska	Yugoslavia	Cherry	Bottle isn't special, but the cherry liqueur, in a country known for its maraschinos, is superb.
Tava	U.S.	Aromatic, sweet mint	Fake-crystal decanter, fake-silver lavaliere.

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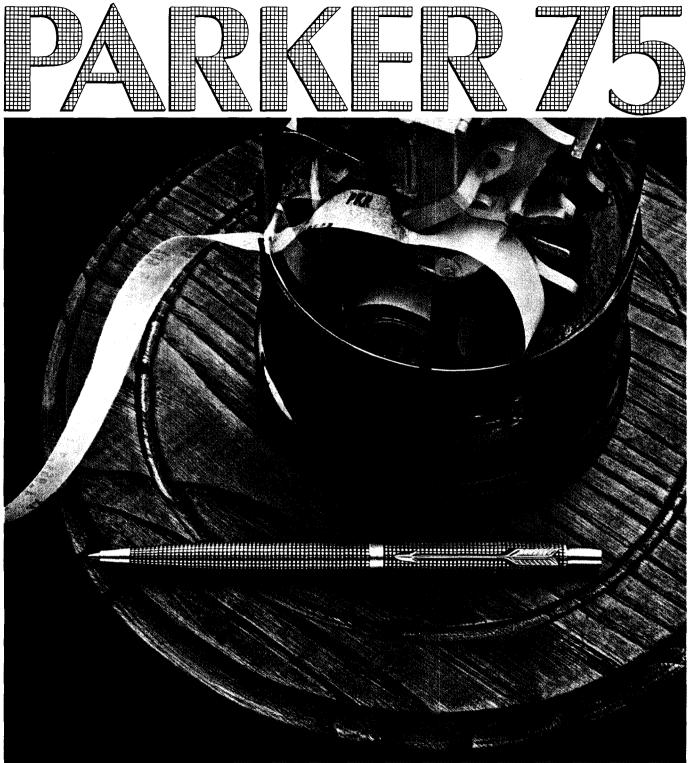
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### At the Source Bordelaise

By Horace Sutton

Not since Eleanor of Aquitaine divorced Louis VII in 1152 and married Henri Plantagenêt two months later, has there been such a flap in the gentle reaches of Bordeaux, in southwest France. It began late last June when Château Mouton Rothschild achieved its classification as "a first great growth." To anyone who is not a winewatcher, that may not seem as wondrous an event as man's first walk on the moon or the invention of sugarless gum, but it capped a fifty-year campaign undertaken by Baron Philippe de Rothschild to correct the injustice done nearly 120 years ago.

In Paris the International Herald Tribune predicted that the French minister of agriculture had "set in motion a process that will certainly create a furor in the wine world." The furor had scarcely reached cyclonic force along the estuary of the Gironde, where the Bordeaux grapes grow, when, in the very same month, the government began an investigation of some 2 million bottles of wine, which they said was really white wine mixed with low-quality red wine and then labeled as high-quality red.

At the very time Washington was going through its tortured inquiries, Bordeaux writhed in its great wine scandal. The cast included inspectors who didn't inspect, judges who didn't judge, officials who were more eager to camouflage the trickery than reveal it. Somewhere in the snake pit there were traces of a department of dirty tricks invented to snuff out the presidential aspirations of former Prime Minister Jacques Chaban-Delmas, who is the mayor of Bordeaux. Inevitably, the brouhaha of Bordeaux became known as Wine-gate.

Tax inspectors in the employ of Finance Minister Valéry Giscard d'Estaing impounded the 2 million bottles, but monsieur le ministre isn't giving out the findings of his investigation. On the other hand, enough poisonous drippings have been leaked to frighten all of Bordeaux, where a fifth of the population makes its living in wine-associated industries. It has been suggested that adulterated wine, while it may stain the reputation of Bordeaux, if indeed not all the wines of France, is not the heart of the matter. Giscard d'Estaing also entertains aspirations for the presidency, and

there are those who say that he is letting Chaban-Delmas twist slowly, slowly in the wind.

Wine-gate has forced other feuds to the surface, notably the religious and social frictions between the *chartrons*, whose forebears were Protestant émigré traders, and the Roman Catholics, who are wine growers. In a reverse of the current troubles in Northern Ireland, the Protestants, who had come from northern Europe, England, and the northern districts of Ireland, were roped into a district from which they got their name. They could work in Bordeaux during the day, but every *chartron* had to be back in his *quartier* after dusk.

Despite these restrictions, the merchant traders became affluent French citizens. Their names, still English, Dutch, and Danish, are on the labels of some of Bordeaux's best wines. It is said, not without a note of tartness, that they

continue to give their children English names, send them through the English education mills—that they speak English with aristocratic intonations, wear English clothes, and affect English sports and English modes of decor. Until recently a marriage between a Protestant chartron and a Bordeaux Catholic was reason enough for loud whispers.

Whatever shame the summer scandals have wrought, whatever glory the ascendancy of Château Mouton Rothschild has bestowed, both events added a new piquant flavor to Bordeaux. No one ever doubted that its wines were, with those of Burgundy, the best of France. But unlike Burgundy, the Bordeaux region is not on the way to anywhere unless one is heading for Spain, whereas Burgundy and its Côte d'Or lie along the pathway to Dijon, to Lyon, in the heartland of French gastronomy. For anyone en route to the south of France, a few days of

**Bob Pelletier** 

