

2015 A PROPER PINK

CALIFORNIA PINK WINE

Harumph (yet again). Reginald French-Postalhwaite here, reporting on the coloristic culture wars continuing to plague the world of wine, and by extension, Civilization itself. Having had the temerity to set foot outside the confines of my Club and comfy chair, I have duly noted the singular difficulty (especially in the Colonies!) of finding proper wines, be they of the red, white or pink persuasions. Any-hoo, any hue. Crikey Moses, it should not be so bloody difficult (*pace vins de saigner*) to find a proper roseate-tinged, not-necessarily-utterly-random-assemblage-of-odds-and-sods, non-pudding wine, that is to say, a proper pink. Now, I am told that wines of this hue have lately become fashionable,¹ that “real” men, inverted commas, putatively now drink pink. The beastly locution “Brosé” (shudder) has even infiltrated the language of Disraeli, Gladstone and our beloved Winnie! I’ll tell you. Some of us “real” men have been in touch with our, shall we say, more leeward side for some time now.

A brief history lesson for young pups: The modern term for a proper red wine derives from the poxy French word, “*clairét*,” or light, “clear” wine (*Vinum clarum*, as the Schoolmen would have it), designating a certain style of darkish pink wine much favored in the Middle Ages, not so very dissimilar to the wine you are currently holding in your hands, as you behold the majestic figure of *moi-même*, taking his ease *sur la pique-nique*. Any further questions. Class dismissed! God save the Queen!

Yr. Defender of Antiquity, Propriety and Clairét-y,
Reginald French-Postalhwaite

TASTING NOTES

So, what’s Tannat like (about a flamboyant and slightly (Im)Proper Pink)? It’s a relatively dark *brosé*,² having languidly experienced several hours in contact with its skins before pressing on skins. But it is really the Cabernet franc that carries the aromatic day. The nose shows the sensuality of a fully ripened lychee, pink peppercorn, with a suggestion of the scent of the hard candies one formerly found at an American General Store. The palate is full-bodied and slightly fleshy. Flavors of cherry, watermelon, pink grapefruit, and black raspberry abound. The finish is savory, mentally taking us back to Asia and the faintest suggestion of crispy pork skin. Serve well chilled to preserve brightness and acidity.

¹Perish the thought to ever be thought of as “fashionable.”

²A manly pink wine, and a recent entrant to the lexicon.



VITAL STATISTICS

Varietal Blend:
69% tannat,
31% cabernet franc

Appellation: California
Alcohol by Volume: 13%
TA: 4.7 g/L
pH: 3.62
Production: 3,722 cases

REGION



WINEMAKER

