

UNCORKED: WINE MADE SIMPLE

#101: Uncorked: First Taste

In this first episode, we discover what wine is by meeting the people who make it, write about it, cook with it and of course – drink it. We learn how wine happens by talking with winemakers and grape growers. We'll meet Lettie Teague, executive wine editor for Food & Wine Magazine and her good friend Peter Travers, film critic for Rolling Stone Magazine. Lettie is the author of "Educating Peter" (releases April 2007), a humorous account of how Lettie educated the "most wine ignorant man she knew" (aka Peter Travers) about wine. We'll learn how the four senses we use to taste wine and compare tasting notes on the ten top grape varieties used in wine making. We'll also define some important wine terminology and explore the world's most well-known wine producing regions.

#102: Uncorked: Napa Valley

Napa is the premier wine-producing region of the United States and while great wine is produced in other parts of California, Napa Valley boasts an extraordinary list of famous wineries and wine makers. In this episode, we learn what makes Cabernet Sauvignon the undisputed king of Napa Valley. We visit a winery built with Hapsburg era stones imported from Austria, and the American Center for Food & Wine; and adult Disney World of wine and food. We also recreate the famous Paris Tasting of 1976. This sleepy little event pits France's best wines against American wines in a blind tasting at the storied Intercontinental Hotel in Paris, France. What started out as a decidedly unserious Bicentennial promotional ended up launching California billion dollar wine industry.

#103: Uncorked: Sonoma

Heading north over San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge we head up the coast to Sonoma. We learn how an eccentric Hungarian immigrant helped launch fine wine production in California. We meet Merry Edwards, one of California's first women wine makers who has a passion for the finicky pinot noir grape – in fact – she's the self-appointed queen of pinot. We find out why Pinot Noir grapes are making headlines and why this delicate grape is difficult to grow. We also learn about new vineyard growing practices like biodynamics and the process used to make sparkling wine.