

PRESIDENT REAGAN takes 1979 Chardonnay to FRANCE

In a historic switch, President Ronald Reagan took an American wine, the 1979 Grgich Hills Chardonnay, to France for dinner when he met French President Mitterrand at the American Embassy.



DINNER

*Loup de mer flambé au fenouil
Riz au safran*

*Selle d'agneau Richelieu
Bouquetière de légumes*

*Salade à l'estragon
Brillat-savarin*

Bavarois Plombière Coulis de framboise

**Grgich Hills
Chardonnay 1979**

*Martha's Vineyard
Heitz
Cabernet Sauvignon 1974*

*Domaine Chandon
Brut Special Reserve*

**AMERICAN EMBASSY
RESIDENCE**

*Paris, France
Thursday, June 3, 1982*

***Le Président de la République Française
and Madame Mitterrand***

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NAPA VALLEY WINES ACCOMPANIED REAGAN

By Mark Nelson, Staff Writer

President Reagan took two Napa Valley wines and a Napa Valley Champagne with him on his European tour, a Sacramento man who is a wine adviser to the White House said.

Reagan took enough to serve 115 people at the American Embassy in Paris, said David Berkley, a wine merchant for Corti Brothers, a fine wine supermarket, in Sacramento.

Reagan brought with him a 1979 Grgich Hills Chardonnay that was served Thursday with sea bass and fennel sauce, according to Berkley. Fennel is a plant with a licorice-like flavor.

"The Grgich Chardonnay is a rich wine with a nice toasty flavor that isn't overripe. It's well-balanced, and I thought it would go well with sea bass and fennel sauce," Berkley said.

For a course of saddle of lamb, Reagan chose a 1974 Heitz Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon.

"Heitz has a eucalyptus or menthol flavor that goes nicely with lamb," Berkley said.

After dinner, Reagan uncorked Domaine Chandon Special Reserve Brut, which was used for making toasts. That Champagne also was served when French President François Mitterrand was a guest at a state dinner in 1981 at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Domaine Chandon is located in the Napa Valley, but it is owned by the French company that produces Moët Chandon Champagne.

Berkley said all those wines are on the general market, but the 1974 Heitz vintage might be hard to find.