

# Mahoney VINEYARDS

C A R N E R O S

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## The New York Times

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By ERIC ASIMOV

### WINES OF THE TIMES

#### *Italian Whites to Silence the Snickers*

ITALY, long portrayed as a veritable ocean of red wine, is turning out to be just as awash in whites. This is indeed a good thing. By white wine I don't mean the anemic, bland pinot grigio that is so often a synonym for white wine in bars across the land, but wines of character and allure.

As much as the wine has an affinity for seafood, the grape seems to thrive close to the sea. Most of the wines in the tasting came from the three top sites in Italy for vermentino: Sardinia, the Tuscan coast and the Ligurian coast. We also had some bottles from Corsica, Provence and Carneros, of all places, which indeed is not all that far from the San Francisco Bay.

And Carneros? California has precious little vermentino planted, not even enough to rise out of the "other white wine" category on the official California survey of grape acreage. But apparently enough vermentino vines are grown in Las Brisas Vineyard in Carneros for Mahoney Vineyards to produce a crisp, tangy version with floral and herbal aromas. The Mahoney is No. 10 on our list and is well worth drinking.

#### Tasting Report

The wine panel confirmed that vermentino has much to offer, whether as a crisp, tangy accompaniment to seafood — fritto misto would be ideal — or as a richer, more complex wine with a distinctively oily sort of texture.

It's not likely that bars will soon replace their banal pinot grigios with some of the better vermentinos. Frankly, it's just as well. While these wines can be enjoyed on their own, they will really shine with food, seafood in particular.

- ★★ *Vermentino 2007 Light, straightforward, nutlike and pleasing. Mahoney Vineyards Carneros*
- ★★ *Las Brisas Vineyard Vermentino 2007 - Fresh and tangy with flavors of herbs, flowers and preserved lemon.*



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