Vino Vitals

A taste of what's new in the wine world.

BY MARGARET SWAINE

Riedel's Pink Glasses

Riedel's attractive crystal glasses with a touch of pink are the perfect prize table item to have at "Golf for the Cure" events. The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation Breast Cancer Program receives 15 per cent of the proceeds of the sale of any set. This is the fourth year of association between Riedel and the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation and the fourth "pink" glass. This year's look is called the "O" Collection, designed by 11th generation Max Riedel as his first glass series. The design parameters of the "O" such as shape of tumbler, size and diameter of rim, have been finely tuned to enhance the world's most important grape varietals. In fact, the glasses are so pretty and fine to hold, they would grace any table. The feel good factor of helping raise money for a cure for breast cancer is the icing on the cake.

Ravi — The Instant Wine Chiller

You're home after a good day on the links and want to relax with a glass of wine but you forgot to chill the bottle. Or you've just picked up a bottle on your way home from the course. Ravi - the instant wine chiller that launched in Quebec last December and is now being introduced to the rest of Canada — may be the quick fix you need. The inventors worked over two years with wine specialists and thermo dynamics engineers to come up with a device that gives a chill without affecting the wine's taste. It's mainly intended for red wine, as it enables you to get the wine instantaneously from room temperature to that of a wine cellar (between 12 and 18 degrees Celsius). For white or rosé wine, Ravi can cool to perfection a wine that has been left at room temperature for a little too long. Keep the top part in your freezer, pop it on and pour the wine through. Visit www.ravisolution.com/En/video.html to see how it works and how to buy it. Retail price is \$49.95.

The Golden State's bottled sunshine

Many golfers are big fans of California wines. Their ripe, fruity, smooth style is tailor made for palates dry from a fourhour game where water, except at private clubs, is increasingly difficult to find (unless it's a hazard). With our strong Canadian dollar now is the time to visit the Golden State or at least to buy California wines. Travel is cheaper (visit landofwineandfood.com for ideas on places to go) and as for wines the prices have come down by a few bucks or more. Try the savoury silky Greg Norman Pinot Noir 2006 from Santa Barbara. Francis Ford Coppola's Bianco Pinot Grigio 2006 will have you saying "I believe in America". It's like biting into a fresh peach. For more info check out www.shark.com and www.ffcpresents.com.

Salishan Spa & Golf Resort

Oregon is another destination where our strong dollar can get you better wine and travel. Salishan, a luxurious getaway on the central Oregon coast, combines all the things a woman golfer loves: a Scottishstyle links golf course (redesigned by Peter Jacobsen in 2004), fine dining in five restaurants, deluxe rooms with great ocean views, a full service spa and the piece de resistance, a 10,000-bottle wine cellar. Call 1-800-452-2300 or visit www.salishanspa.com.



The "O" Collection, designed by 11th generation Max Riedel



Francis Ford Coppola's Bianco Pinot Grigio 2006



