

ONE BOTTLE: THE 2004 CHÂTEAU DE LASCAUX ROSÉ

BY JOSHUA BAER

According to John Leland, the author of *Hip: The History* (Harper Collins, 2005), “hipster,” “hippie,” “hep-cat,” and “hip” all come from the Wolof verb *hepi*. The Wolof, a West African tribe from present-day Gambia and Senegal, used *hepi* the way we use the idioms “to see” or “to open one’s eyes.” In an interview with *Jerry Jazz Musician*, Mr. Leland said, “So, what is hip in all this? It is the enlightenment of the outsider, and that sense of borrowing and crossing over into knowledge that you are not supposed to have or use. Those are the basic building blocks of hip.”

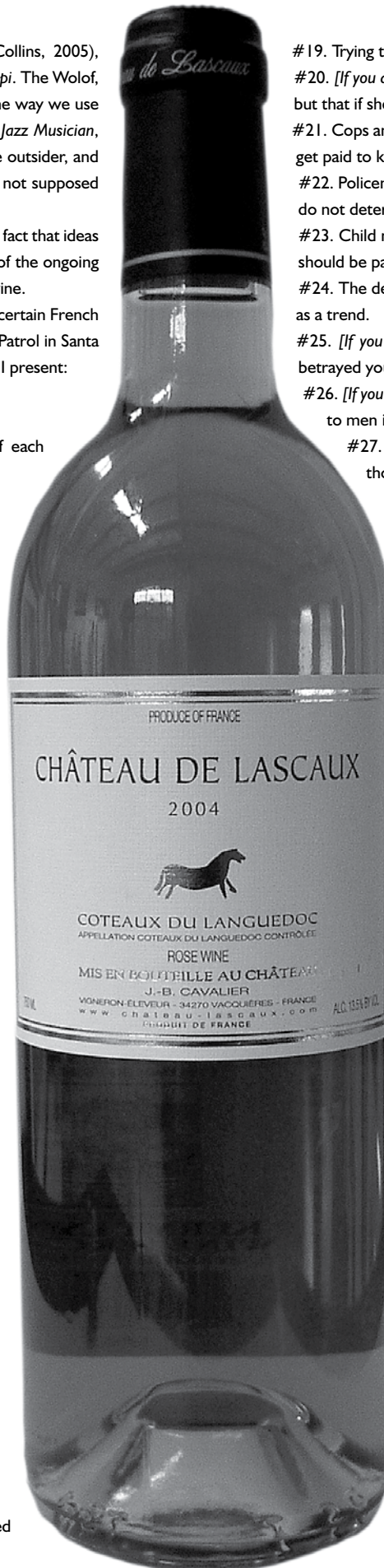
Hip: The History is required reading for anyone who appreciates the fact that ideas lead lives of their own. The book is not about wine, but its exploration of the ongoing battle between dead ideas and living ideas has parallels in the world of wine.

For years, I have encouraged people who read *One Bottle* to drink certain French rosé wines. Now that rosés are hip – John Bernasconi of Bacchus Wine Patrol in Santa Fe calls 2005 “the year of the rosé”—I say it’s time to celebrate. And so I present:

THE ONE BOTTLE ARE YOU HIP? TEST™

True or False? [For best results, put a “T” or an “F” to the left of each number.]

- #1. You never tease animals, children, waiters, or waitresses, but on more than one occasion you have flirted with your waitress or waiter.
- #2. You mistrust anyone who refuses to laugh or won’t look you in the eye.
- #3. [If you are a heterosexual woman] You have told at least one man that he took too long in bed.
- #4. What the United States did to Native Americans is ancient history.
- #5. George Bush, Dick Cheney, Karl Rove, and the Christian Right pursue their extremist agenda without protest or condemnation because the Democrats in Congress lack courage and leadership.
- #6. If the world is coming to an end, it is no sin to celebrate while there’s still time.
- #7. The California winemaker who said, “After *Sideways*, I can sell anything that says ‘Pinot Noir’ on it for \$15 a bottle,” is the New World version of the French winemaker who said, in the 1920s, “I could piss in a bottle, put ‘Pommard’ on the label, and an Englishman would drink it.”
- #8. Jean-Paul Sartre was right: “Other people are Hell.”
- #9. Marlon Brando, John Coltrane, Picasso, and Malcolm X changed the world.
- #10. Learning about wine gives you the opportunity to pay less, not more, for great wines.
- #11. Beauty is the queen of mixed blessings.
- #12. The great thing about golf courses and the corporate world is that they both attract over-ambitious, self-congratulatory social climbers and keep them off the streets.
- #13. All kinds of cool men and women play golf and work for corporations.
- #14. The United States holds more people in prison on a per capita basis than any other country. This says more about our human rights policy than any criticism our elected or unelected officials level at China, Iran, or Syria.
- #15. Putting hundreds of thousands of young African American and Hispanic men in prison benefits privileged Caucasian Americans by keeping the unemployment rate low and by stifling social unrest.
- #16. Drugs kill people but drug addicts deserve the same shot at rehabilitation and recovery that alcoholics get from AA.
- #17. Zen Buddhism makes sense by making no sense.
- #18. You have either: Smoked a cigarette, driven too fast, or snorted heroin to impress someone you wanted to have sex with.



- #19. Trying to impress people you want to have sex with is the highway to hell.
- #20. [If you are a heterosexual man] You have told at least one woman that you love her but that if she’s smart she’ll get as far away from you as possible.
- #21. Cops and soldiers are armed, sadistic criminals who have the law on their side and get paid to kill people.
- #22. Policemen and military personnel put their lives on the line so our day-to-day lives do not deteriorate into cold-blooded anarchy.
- #23. Child molesters and rapists deserve the death penalty, but someone besides you should be paid to execute them and watch them die.
- #24. The definition of a trend is something that has peaked by the time it gets defined as a trend.
- #25. [If you are a gay women] You have wondered if breaking up with your partner betrayed your principles.
- #26. [If you are a gay man] You have wondered if your attraction to men is an attraction to men in general or an attraction to one type of man.
- #27. You like staying at fine hotels and resorts but find the people who work in those places more interesting than the other guests.
- #28. Creationists and fundamentalists (Christian, Islamic, or other) threaten your personal freedom.
- #29. Politicians tell us what we want to hear; statesmen tell us what we’d rather not hear.
- #30. There is something about good sex that cannot be defined but you still wish you knew what it was.
- #31. Before taking this test, you turned the page upside down and read the scoring formula.
- #32. You answered “True” to Question #31 and lied when you took this test because you wanted a better score.

Add up your true answers. Forget your false answers. There is no perfect score. Certain questions were included to obviate others. Perfect scores are sophistry, both in wine and in **THE ONE BOTTLE ARE YOU HIP? TEST™**, so get over it.

0-8: Being hip is the least of your worries. Your life is a clenched fist. 9-16: It’s un-hip to take tests in magazines but it’s hip to be curious. Congratulations on not being a complete fool. 17-22: You could care less about being hip. Congratulations. You got the cool score. 23-26: Lying comes naturally. You are as hip as they come. 27-32: You’re trying too hard. Nothing could be less hip.

Which brings us to the 2004 Château De Lascaux Rosé.

In the glass, the Château De Lascaux Rosé is a transparent scarlet, similar to how a slice of watermelon might look if you could see through it. The nose is aggressive, buoyant, charming, and fresh. On the palate there are suggestions of warm, bucolic hillsides where couples hide in the underbrush, sunbathe, and inhale the smell of the earth. I like the finish. It reminds me of being young. The second best thing about this wine is that it costs \$12. The best thing about it is how direct it is. Like a sage, its nature is simultaneously blunt and complex. It may no longer be hip to drink too much, but you cannot drink too much of this wine.

One Bottle is dedicated to the appreciation of good wine and good times. The name *One Bottle*, and the contents of this column, are © 2005 by onebottle.com. If you need help finding a wine or building a cellar, write to Joshua Baer at jb@onebottle.com.

