

The Rosengarten Report

Issue Number 23, November 10, 2003

WINE PARAPHERNALIA

On the wine-glass front, there are many new options popping up around us all the time. One distinctive new line I encountered is the Amplifier Tasting collection by Ravenscroft, a producer of hand-made, lead-free crystal stemware. Their collection is in the tradition of the famous "pitiless" series, which burst on the scene about 20 years ago- offering "pitiless" glasses that would expose of the flaws in the bouquet of any wine. Problem was - consumers starting asking "Why would I want my wine to smell worse?" Ravenscroft has re-tooled the concept, so that their glasses are "amplifying" the aromas. I found, without doubt, that aromas are changed by these glasses; they're higher, brighter, more profound, but with an occasional whiff of alcohol or nail polish remover that you wouldn't get otherwise. Definitely an interesting tasting curiosity- especially since these glasses are much finer, more beautiful, than the old pitiless glasses in the line (for different kinds of wine), and they average about \$15 a glass, which is a great price. The entire line is available from these web sites:

www.winestuff.com

www.chambersst wines.com

www.italianmerchants.com