

The Salt Lake Tribune

FRIDAY, June 26, 2009

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Weekly Toast: Unoaked Chardonnay a good match for light summer foods

By **Kathy Stephenson**
The Salt Lake Tribune

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Ever wonder if you're missing out on the newest wine, cocktail or micro-brewed beer? In this column, we ask a Utah expert for their recommendations. This week we talked to:

Francis Fecteau » Owner of Libation Inc., a wine brokerage firm. Fecteau teaches the wine education courses at Caputo's Market and Deli and puts his undergraduate degree in English Literature to good use writing e-Libation -- an electronic newsletter about all things wine. To subscribe, email francis.fecteau@gmail.com

Q. What are you drinking now?

A. 2007 Mer Soleil "Silver" Unoaked Chardonnay

Bite by Bite blog



Get the latest on food happenings and culinary treats from around Utah with the Bite by

Bite blog of Tribune food writer [Kathy Stephenson](#).

The latest post: [Smith's Recalls Beef](#) June 26, 2009

Why do you like it?

"It's like eating fresh, ripe Chardonnay grapes right off the vine. It is bright, has great acidity and is terrifically food-friendly."

What makes it interesting?

Unlike many California Chardonnays, which are aged in oak barrels, this wine is fermented and aged in "egg-shaped" containers made of concrete. "Fermenting in

concrete and stone is an early wine-making technique. Many winemakers didn't have money for more expensive wood. The concrete egg fermentation makes it a cleaner, brighter wine. It's prettier than most industrial (oaked) chardonnays, but still high in acid and intensity."

Price?

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\$21.99, available at the state wine store. To



Francis Fecteau conducts wine classes at Tony Caputo's in Salt Lake City. (Jim Urquhart/The Salt Lake Tribune)

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help support Utah restaurants, the company gives the state a discount on price. (It's normally \$35-\$40 a bottle in California). The price cut is passed on to Utah consumers.

Best food pairing?

"Salads, poultry, fish or light game off the barbecue. It's a versatile picnic wine. You can drink it with just about anything.

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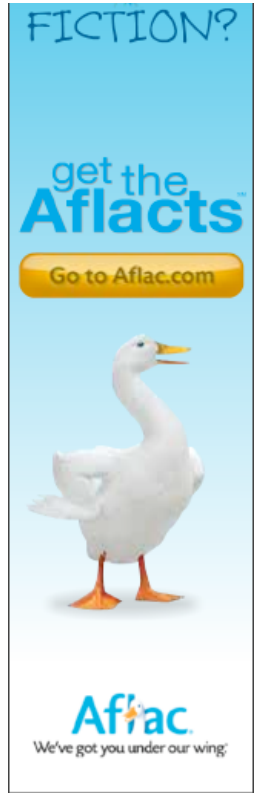
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