

Wines of the Finger Lakes

Featured Selection

2002 HOSMER CAYUGA WHITE

Cayuga is the obedient child of viticulture," says Cameron "Tunker" Hosmer '76, owner and winemaker of Hosmer Winery in Ovid. The white wine grape of which he speaks is early ripening and generally a joy to vinify. "It produces lots of juice that settles well," Hosmer says, "and usually ferments without problems."

The 8,000 case Hosmer Winery, which saw its first vintage in 1985, devotes four-and-a-half of its fifty-three acres of vineyards to the variety. Developed by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva and released in 1972, Cayuga White was created by crossing the Seyval and Schuyler varieties. According to a survey by the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, as of 2001 there were 236 acres of Cayuga White planted in the Finger Lakes region, which would place it third on the list of the



area's most planted European-American hybrids.

A taste of the 2002 Hosmer Cayuga White, which costs around \$8 a bottle, provides ample evidence of why the variety has achieved popularity. Fresh, clean, redolent of apples, and medium-sweet, this light- to medium-bodied wine is brought into balance by just enough acidity. Hosmer feels that it sings particularly well with hot or spicy Chinese or Mexican dishes. One suspects that most picnickers would likewise find a chilled bottle of this Cayuga White more than agreeable.

— Dana Malley

DANA MALLEY is a wine buyer and the manager of Northside Wine & Spirits in Ithaca.



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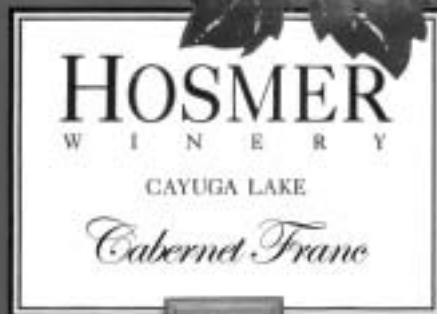


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-Wine Enthusiast magazine,
November 15, 1997

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