



Basic Juice Article **X Wine Commandments**

by: *Beau Jarvis*

The social and political trends in our country seem to be headed in a decidedly non-secular direction. I figure in the not-too-distant future, we'll all be required to say grace at our favorite restaurants before we are allowed to order dinner. So to help wine lovers prepare for the impending religion-ization of dining rooms across the nation, I present the Ten Commandments (from a wine Universalist perspective).

I. Thou shalt have no other beverages before wine (Actually, it's always a good idea to drink water. Additionally, *Kirin* beer is a very tasty companion to sushi & sashimi. Oh, and a sweating gin & tonic on summer evenings hits the spot.)

II. Thou shalt not make unto wine any graven image (You know what's fun? Try making a little chair using a sparkling wine cork and the wire cage used to secure the cork in the bottle. This is good for hours of entertainment. And a vintage *Ramos Pinto Porto* poster makes for a great accent piece in the living room. Idolatry isn't all that bad)

III. Thou shalt not take the name of *Krug* thy Champagne god in vain (There is absolutely no wiggle-room here. *Krug* really is sanctified, sparkling nectar of the gods and should never be blasphemed. Of course if you do have a real cursing problem, I suggest creating a 'curse cup.' Pitch in one dollar every time vile language tumbles from your lips. In no time, you'll be able to afford that \$150 bottle of *Krug*)

IV. Remember the "Open that Special Bottle Day," to keep it holy (Well, not so much keeping it holy as marking it on the calendar. Set aside one day per month and open a special bottle with a special someone(s). This month I plan on cracking a bottle of *Baumard Quartes de Chaume, 2002* (\$62). My mouth is already watering in anticipation.)

V. Honour thy wine father and thy wine mother (Do you remember who introduced you to wine? What were the sights, scents, and sounds around the table at which you sipped your very first glass of fine wine? Years ago, my friend, Penny ordered a bottle of Chilean Merlot. It wasn't love at first sip, but the wine-curiosity bug bit me right on the toosh. I'll always have fond memories of her and that first glass.)

VI. Thou shalt not kill (Two possible exceptions: If the server at your favorite restaurant puts on a wine snob persona and makes you feel like an ignorant, plonk-swilling dolt. Or, if you spend a day's salary on a bottle of wine, open it up, and discover it is 'corked.' At this point, blood should be shed. Or perhaps a 'Wet Willey' will suffice. Yeah, I'd go with the Willey.)

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery (Don't even think about pouring orange juice into your glass of Champagne. This is very nearly an unpardonable offense. If you must have

sweetened bubbly at brunch, try *Asti*, *Moscato d'Asti*, or *Brachetto d'Aqui*. But for god's sake, do not adulterate Champagne. Now *Cold Duck* is another story..)

VIII. Thou shalt not steal (Perhaps swiping that nifty corkscrew and shiny ice bucket from the swank hotel you stayed in last weekend isn't technically stealing. I fully intend to return those items the next time I stay there. Really, honest – I promise. Don't tell anyone, please.)

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour (The next time you drink the last drops of your lover's *David Bruce Pinot Noir*, don't blame anyone else. Especially if by anyone else, you mean, "the cats." Opposable thumbs are pretty much a requirement for holding a crystal stem. The buck stops with you.)

X. Thou shalt not covet any wine that is thy neighbour's (Possible exceptions to number 10 include: *Campo Ardosia*, '00 (\$30), *Aldo Conterno Barolo Cicala*, '00 (\$140), *Kracher Grand Cuvée TBA*, '00 (\$80), *Guigal Hermitage Blanc*, '01 (\$50), and *Schramsberg Blanc de Noirs*, '00 (\$31). Actually, coveting isn't all that egregious. Go ahead, covet yourself silly.)

Learn the Ten Wine Commandments. Practice them in your daily life. Aint piety grand? Amen and cheers.

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