



DRINK

## Summer Whites

WHEN THE TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY soar past comfort levels and any memories of wind chill factors and snow drifts are long forgotten, there's nothing quite as refreshing as a crisp, clean glass of white wine.

But while plenty of people reach for a bottle of white, too many get stuck in a chardonnay or pinot grigio rut. To help us learn our ABC's or Anything But Chardonnay lessons on summer whites, we turned to John Schaal, owner of Vino 100 in Wauwatosa.

"Most people tend to stick with wines that are within their comfort range — the ones they're most familiar with," Schaal says. "That being said, it's kind of fun to try some other stuff."

Here's some of that "other stuff" that's worth sampling:

**Viognier:** This is a good white wine to break away from the ordinary. "A viognier is a real easy wine for people who like chardonnays and also a good wine for people who like pinot grigios because it's kind of in the middle," Schaal says. Two good viogniers to try are Bonterra Viognier and Lodi Vineyards' Incognito Viognier.

**Gewürztraminer:** Most of these sweet whites come from Germany, but Viña Esmeralda by Torres is a Spanish version. "It's a really pretty wine with incredible floral notes like jasmine and roses, plus it's got really lush fruit flavors," Schaal says.

**Pinot Grigio and Tocai Blend:** Sometimes the first step away from a familiar wine is to try a blend of your favorite with another varietal. Maculan's Pino & Toi offers a blend of 60 percent Tocai, 25 percent pinot bianco and 15 percent pinot grigio. "This is a wine for pinot grigio drinkers that want to try something different," Schaal says. "It's got that fresh, crisp acidity, but it also has pear and citrus aromas. It's a little more interesting than a regular pinot grigio."

**Pinot Gris:** It's the same grape used to make pinot grigio, but the differences between the two wines go beyond the name. Lucien Albrecht's Cuvée Romanus is one of Vino 100's best selling summer wines, and it's popular with good reason. "It is a fuller-bodied wine than a pinot grigio," Schaal says. "Think of the difference between skim milk and 2 percent milk — 2 percent milk is more dense, heavier, and it coats your tongue. This wine isn't as heavy as an oaky chardonnay, but it's got more mouth feel."

**White Bordeaux:** Sometimes it's not just the white wine drinkers who need to try

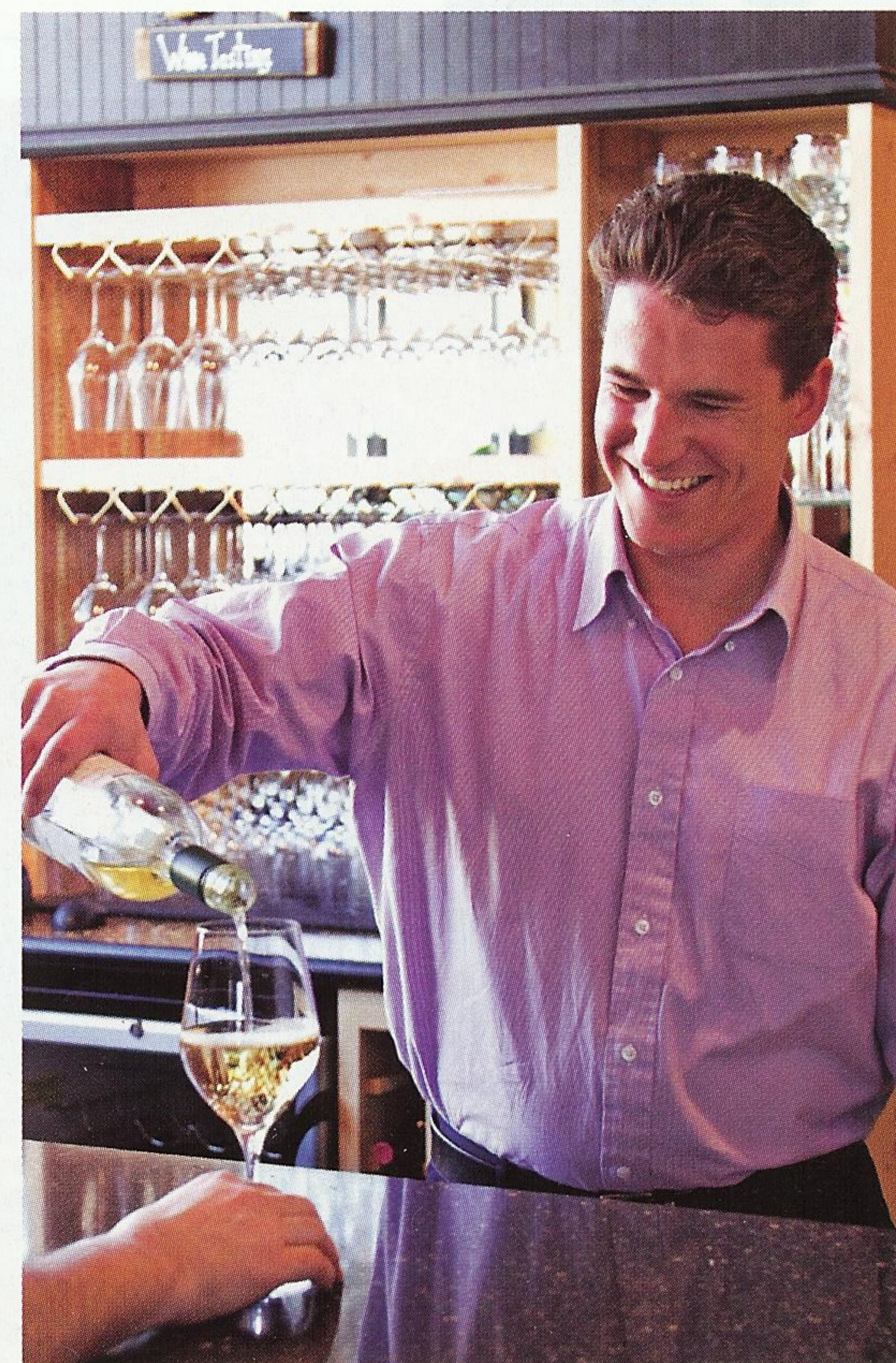
something new: red wine drinkers can also get stuck in a rut. Chateau les Tuileries makes a blend of sauvignon blanc and Semillon grapes that is the perfect white wine to offer all your burgundy and merlot swilling friends. "This is a white wine for red wine drinkers," Schaal says. "One of my regular customers calls it his favorite patio pounder. It's a full-bodied wine that finishes dry, and you can taste the earth in it."

**EOS Tears of Dew:** A good dessert wine makes a perfect capper to a great meal, and this is one of Schaal's favorites. This late harvest Moscato from Paso Robles is a delicious wine with rich flavors of apricot, peach and vanilla custard, perfectly balanced with crisp acidity.

If you're undecided, why not try them all? Vino 100 will give you a 10 percent discount on your entire purchase if you buy all six wines on this list.

— JEANETTE HURT

See "Resources," Page 73.



John Schaal (above), owner of Vino 100 in Wauwatosa, pours a refreshing glass of white wine, the perfect choice on a warm summer day.

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