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Property Investment: Overseas Investment Boom | Changing Beauty | A Vaulted House | Switch into Summer | Northern Dreams

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Your Personal Wine Journey: Let It Be Beautiful

Each of us goes through life on a unique, personal journey, which is unlike anyone else's journey and perhaps best described by the meaning of each moment as we evolve and as we begin to recall both consciously and unconsciously bits and pieces of one or more of our past lives through our infinite reincarnations. As for those nonbelievers of the process of "Samsara" or the endless cycle of living, dying and rebirth until one reaches "Enlightenment", consider the birth of child prodigies the world over, who are almost immediately masters of the piano or other musical instruments; or singing or any number of talents only attributed to adults after years of training and practice: Or math wizzes or IT geniuses: These instances are no coincidence. For with each new incarnation we carry forward all that we have ever been from the beginning of "time-space"* as we

understand it in this dimension for better or worse, including both good and bad karma, talents, and aptitudes.

As we grow to adulthood and begin to explore adult practices and pleasures, increasingly wine tasting and drinking has become one of the most popular of interests; and now in many cases, careers. But just as each of us has a unique "palate" that judges each wine we try in a slightly different way, depending on our accumulated wine knowledge and tasting experience, each of us travels a wine path from beginning to end in a somewhat different way from all others. Yes, of course, there are always similarities among most of our wine paths, yet truly, no one is exactly alike. And such is life, with each of us being unique unto ourselves, while sharing common values, folkways, mores and hopes and dreams with our fellow human

beings across the planet and beyond.

As we age, most of us may have difficulty recalling the first wine we ever tasted, which in most cases was most likely not a particularly pleasant experience, because if it was a premium wine at the table of a privileged family, it would most certainly have seemed "sour", perhaps even "bitter", but regardless, far from an enjoyable experience. If you first sampled a fortified or overly sweet wine, and from your youth you were primarily accustomed to sweet beverages, such as fruit juices and carbonated sodas, your perception would most likely have been that it tasted alright, but it probably seemed very "strong", because of the alcoholic content. Yet more likely than not, we do remember the first wine or wines we ever tasted that we really liked.

For me it was "Pink Cold Duck", a

The writer (second from the right, first row)

with his 8th grade classmates in 1960 At the Salisbury School, Salisbury, Connecticut

SECOND FORM



Top: Swartz, Lebens, Kendall, Moses. Bottom: Holmes, Rafferty, Tibbitts, Weekes.

notoriously inexpensive sparkling wine most preferred by those of us with little wine tasting experience, a freshman palate and a desire to become intoxicated as cheaply and quickly as possible. And the reason I remember this so well is because it was my primary device of choice for all drive-in movie dates in high school, back when teenagers with a driver's license would procure one or even more bottles of cold duck, place them in the family picnic foam ice chest along with plenty of large plastic beverage cups; and secure the family car from one's father to court your current "heart throb". But by the summer following my junior year in high school, I had sophisticated my intoxicant of choice to my own signature "Cousin Fred's Modified Preserves", which was a gallon of the following: One quart of vodka, three quarts of Collins Mix with a generous quantity of maraschino cherries and orange and lime slices. In those days the drinking and driving laws were very lax, so little attention was ever paid to the practice, especially as the teens were careful to disguise their alcoholic beverages of choice under a blanket or with whatever might be handy at the time on the back seat.

I must say that Pink Cold Duck and "Cousin Fred's Modified Preserves" served me well in advancing my romantic aspirations with a number of young ladies I lusted to enjoy, most of whom were only too glad to cooperate, because they were equally as interested in trying sweet tasting alcoholic beverages, becoming "light headed" and "necking" at the drive-in movies. We called them "the submarine races", but I can't remember why? Anyway, I can attest that my sexual education would never have advanced as swiftly, efficiently and completely were it not for Pink Cold Duck (naturally without any parental advice conversations, which were few and far between in those days). Thankfully, there was only one near pregnancy, which firmly reminded me that contraception was a good idea, if I wanted to remain in school and not instead be pushing a baby carriage. No doubt each of you have your first liked wine experiences that are recalled fondly with or without the motive of seduction.



田博华，公益创业家，社会公益组织 FTA 领导人。该组织以最小的运营开支争取最大限度地帮助美国及亚太地区需要帮助的人们，并致力于通过直接的人道主义援助来减轻他们的困苦，此外还以直接干预和慈善捐赠的形式帮助柬埔寨和泰国的贫困家庭和个人。目前 FTA 在泰国曼谷和柬埔寨金边设有办事处。

Fred Tibbitts, Jr. heads a Social Entrepreneurship operated as an NGO, Fred Tibbitts & Associates or "FTA", keeping all expenses to a minimum and donating all profits to those less fortunate in Asia Pacific and the United States. FTA is committed to easing the suffering of those less fortunate. FTA does direct intervention, charity relief for individual, very poor families in Cambodia and Thailand. FTA has offices at Bangkok, Thailand; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

I am RedOwl, as ever, Over & Out.
 *(Referring to "Minkowski space", being 3

dimensions + space, so 4 dimensions into a single manifold.)

The writer with his cherished "Date-Mobile" the summer of 1966



The writer with his high school sweetheart at the 1964 St. Agnes School for Girls Winter Prom



The writer (center) with friends at his "FTA Summer Dinner at Bangkok" in June of 2014

