

"Bottle Shock" is clouded"

New wine movie tells corked history of Judgment of Paris tasting

By Jessica Yadegaran  
Contra Costa Times

I like a good Hollywood film as much as the next entertainment-reporter-turned-wine-writer. But I am appalled and maddened by Bottle Shock. For those in the Valley, the story's as old as time. The war between Grgich and Barrett. We don't need to hear it again. But the general public does.

Finally, wine is in the mainstream. The silver screen starring decent actors. We owe it to those not in the know to tell the truth, as bruised as table grapes, of this slice of American history. There was no pretty blond hippy. And Jim Barrett didn't make the wine! I love Montelena, don't get me wrong.

Bill Pullman

Were you familiar with the judgment? How has this experience changed your perception of wine as an American pastime?

How did you prepare for this role? What do you drink now? Before the film?

The filmmakers take many liberties when it comes to history. Your character didn't make that award winning wine. As an actor helping to portraying real events, how do you reconcile that?

Alan Rickman

How did you prepare for this role? Have you met Steven Spurrier? What were your impressions of him?

I couldn't meet up with him but I met him I hope he understands that.

How has this experience changed your perception of wine as an American pastime? What do you drink now? Before the film? It's been a hobby. Sure, one of the great things about this experience New World wines. Great gift to the world.

The filmmakers take many liberties when it comes to history. As an actor helping to portraying real events, how do you reconcile that?

It is a condensing of fact. Almost a fantasy. None of the Barrett family have the slightest problem. I can't portray them all. I've played Rasputin. The job of a writer is to drive a sensible Some things fall by the way side. It tells The story of the Barretts is the central issue. His mother said to me last night. I do have other sons. Get rid of your problems.

Jim Barrett

Were you that much a hard ass back then? Do you feel the film portrays your personality accurately?

You gave the green light for many fabrications. Sam. Joe. The setting of the Judgment. The fact that you made the wine. Why?

Did the browning really happen? Can you explain it to me again?

Bo Barrett

If there's no Sam, how did you get back to the winery from UC Davis?

Did you and your dad really box out your differences in a ring on the vineyard?

What other differences have you had along the way when it comes to the winery?

Did you and Gustavo really gamble his palate at the bar?

How do you reconcile all the fabrications in the film, including the browning and the fact that your dad was the winemaker?

Don't you want Americans unfamiliar with the industry to know the true story?