

Worried About Wine

Dear Tim:

I'm not much of a wine guy, but my boss is. I'm hosting a dinner party for some new clients and he's going to be there. I want to make a good impression on both him and the clients, but I have no idea where to start. How do I choose the right wine and get educated enough to speak intelligently about it?

—Wine-less on Willard



DEAR TIM

Dear Wine-less:

The fact of the matter is, you don't have to do either. You have a secret weapon for this little event and you don't even know it. His name is Dave Scott, and he's *our* wine guy. That, of course, makes him *your* wine guy. Dave has passed the Court of Master Sommeliers' Introductory Course Exam, so he knows his stuff. He can tell you everything you need to know about selecting and serving a wine that will go perfectly with your dinner party menu. And you'll have an incredible selection to choose from when you buy your wine from us. Between aisles 1 and 2, we've got every conceivable kind. And there's sure to be one that will suit your boss's palette and your

budget. So stop in soon and ask for Dave. He should be easy to spot. He's the one in the wine-colored shirt.

Dear Tim:

Since when did water get all uppity? Wasn't it doing just fine as it was? As far as I knew, it already had all kinds of things that were good for your body. Apparently that wasn't good enough. Now we've got mineral water. Sparkling water. Vitamin water. Fitness water. Do we need this many variations on something that was already perfect just the way it was?

—Waterlogged on Waddington

Dear Waterlogged:

Probably not. But we Americans are a funny breed. We solve problems by buying things, and some smart folks convinced us that our regular water just wasn't good enough. It needed something more, and they had it. So don't blame the water. Blame us for being seduced by clever marketing. We're good at it. That's why we've got all kinds of water in aisle 1. And if it turns out they're marketing a new kind of water that people have to have, you'll probably find that there sometime soon, too. God bless America.

Dear Tim:

Can I have a cookie?

—Sweet Tooth on Swansea

Dear Sweet Tooth:

That depends. Cookies are for kids. And if you're a kid, there's a free cookie for you in the Voortman Cookie display back between aisles 2 and 3. But they're only free if you say please. So you may want to write me back and rephrase your question. By the way, kids at heart don't count.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221, stop by and say hi, or visit www.huffmansmarket.com.