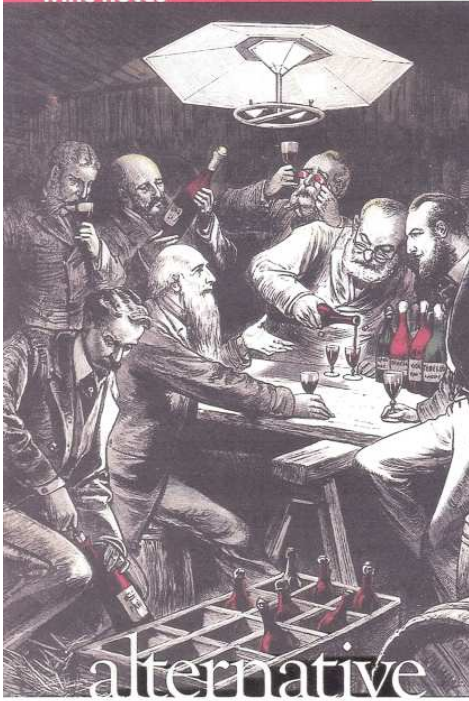


by Laurence Hauben

wine notes



## alternative reds

Now that Santa Barbara County has been recognized as a premium area for Pinot Noirs and Syrahs, you might think that local growers are going to concentrate their efforts on those grapes. But that would be underestimating our local winemakers' appetite for adventure and innovation. Noted local vintners are exploring new frontiers, sometimes with exciting results:

Finally, the most surprising bottle I tasted this year: Huber Vineyard's Dornfelder. Developed in Germany as an early ripening, dark-skinned red grape meant to bolster color and body in German Pinot Noir, this grape is bottled by Huber as a single varietal, vineyard designated wine. In our climate, Dornfelder does not ripen early at all. In fact it lags behind Pinot Noir, and yields a dense wine that looks almost black in the glass, with an aroma of licorice and tobacco followed in the mouth by ripe plums, cedar and a lingering taste of dried berries.

*From PIGNOLO to DORNFELDER,  
Santa Barbara's vineyards  
are experimenting.*