

Men's Journal

December 2008 | Volume 17 | Number 11

WINTER
Ski Preview
THE PERFECT STEAK
GEAR of the YEAR

The Incredible Life of
**PAUL
NEWMAN**

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BEST NEW GOLF DESTINATION

Vasatorps, Sweden

SWEDEN, LAND OF MEATBALLS AND MUPPET CHEFS, HAS A new claim to fame: It's the new golf capital of the world. In a bid to land the Ryder Cup in 2018, this golf-mad nation (which claims to have more players per capita than any other country on Earth) has christened a collection of spit-shined courses to rival the finest layouts in the world. The latest and greatest is the Tournament



Course at Vasatorps, a killer track on Sweden's southern tip, designed by acclaimed architect Steve Forrest. Vasatorps was built to test the game's best players, but it's perfect for the avid amateur. The price is right, in summer it's light until midnight, and the cart girls aren't half bad. \$77-\$84; vasatorpsgh.se

BEST ADVENTURE-READY WINE

Three Thieves Bandit

The Problem: Wine bottles cost a fortune to make, and they're so heavy, fragile, and funny-shaped that shipping them is hideously inefficient, especially in environmental terms.

The Solution: First-class wine in airtight cardboard boxes that will never cork.



The Result: Bandit, the first breakout line of American boxed wines. Cheap and Earth-friendly packaging keep the price low, and superstar winemaker Joel Gott (a name you can trust on any bottle) keeps the juice delicious. It may not be the best wine of '08, but it's our favorite.

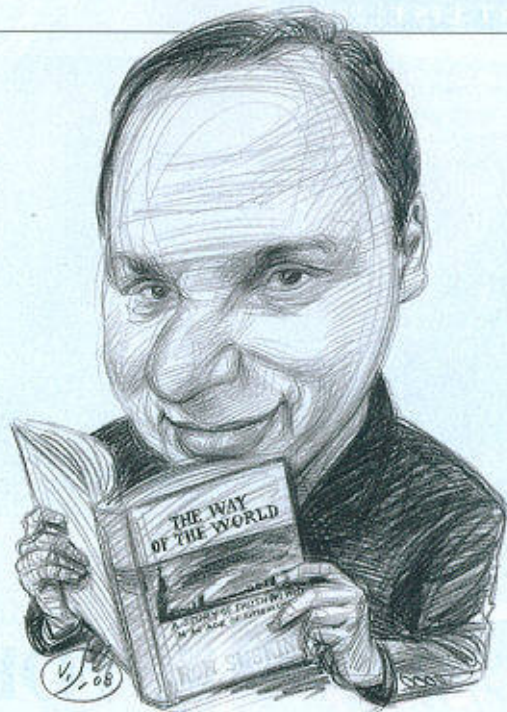
The Pleasant Surprise: Wine in a box is perfect for adventure outings. Chuck it into your kayak or canoe; pack it into the backcountry for a ski picnic; stash it in the creek to cool off while you're hiking; and when the evening light is just right congratulate yourself on living well and doing the right thing. \$9; threethieves.com



BEST RED UNDER \$100
BLACKBIRD 2005
ILLUSTRATION PROPRIETARY RED
 It's the first American merlot with the flavor and complexity of the great French Bordeaux. And it's still a bargain relative to other luxury wines. Grab a case before the website politely invites you to join a 10-year waiting list. \$90; blackbirdvineyards.com



BEST WHITE UNDER \$100
ST. SUPÉRY 2007
OAK FREE CHARDONNAY
 Made in what some call the new "naked" style, St. Supéry takes aim squarely at the big problems with today's Chardonnay: excessive aging in oak barrels and excessive malolactic fermentation. This Oak Free Chardonnay is bracing and steely crisp. \$25; stsupery.com



BEST POLITICAL WATCHDOG

RON SUSKIND

No one gets under Washington's skin quite like him.

THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST'S LATEST BOOK, about the war effort, marks the end of a trilogy that goes deep inside the heavily guarded inner workings of the Bush administration and takes a laser-sharp look at how government really works.

MJ: *The subtitle of Way of the World is "A Story of Truth and Hope." Where do you see the hope coming from?*

RS: Well, the broader idea of the book is that as the startling and de-spiriting disclosures about official power come to light, they can also serve as a starting point for the era's central question: how to rebuild trust in America and restore moral energy.

How do you get former CIA hands to view what they do in such terms, and then build the kind of trust that lets them talk to you comfortably in the first place?

Years ago, when I began reporting about characters I didn't understand or identify with immediately, I realized I had to do a better job of understanding their perspective. I needed to give up my knowingness, my certainty. Eventually I came to my "good enough reasons" rule: that people do what they do for good enough reasons. They may not be my reasons, but they're good enough.

But how does this trust work the other way? Spooks are, after all, practiced in the art of deception.

I embrace a model of humility, and a belief that [my subject] should know as much about me as I do about them. Over time they understand that you actually believe in the good-enough-reasons rule, and you want to understand why they've done what they've done. It works with any subject and places them beyond swift judgment.

In your 2004 book, The Price of Loyalty, you talked to the first Bush Treasury secretary, Paul O'Neill. Have you discussed the current economic crisis with him?

Yes, we're in touch. The thing that's struck both of us is that you have to engineer many of the same things here that you do to revive the moral energy we've lost in the war on terror. It's about transparency and accountability. In both cases you have to get people past the point of feeling helpless before the big forces unsettling their lives.