



Basic Juice Article Bloggy Goodness

by: *Beau Jarvis*

Web logs or, “blogs” are slowly oozing into the mainstream. If you are not an ultra-mega-geek, chances are you’ve never heard the word, “blog,” let alone actually seen one. Blogs are simply online journals kept by Web denizens on a variety of topics. Many are incredibly inane; a few are quite interesting. Personal and political blogs have been the kings and queens of blogdome for some time. Yet, lucky for us hedonists, wine and food blogs are multiplying like rabbits. There are literally thousands of culinary blogs now hopping down the information highway. If you are a blog virgin, it’s easy to get lost in all the fluff (Had enough bunny analogies yet?). Allow me to present you with a mini-guide of my favorite food and wine blog stops.

Food Blogs

Accidental Hedonist (www.accidentalthedonist.com) – Managed by Kate in Seattle. This blog is part cookbook, part culinary history textbook, and part social commentary. Aside from offering mouthwatering recipes such as *Pollo Trifolata*, Kate explains the history behind each recipe. The Hedonist also offers commentary and links for those interested in being socially conscious while stuffing their pie holes.

Chocolate & Zucchini (chocolateandzucchini.com) – C&Z is named after the author’s two favorite baking ingredients. It’s a blog written by Clotilde, a young Parisian and it is offered in both English and French. Not only does it open a window into the kitchen of a French foodie, but it also provides lovely photographs of Clotilde’s culinary creations.

Too Many Chefs (www.toomanychefs.net) – Too Many Chefs is a group food blog. Six amateur chefs from around the world contribute several recipes each week. Healthy vegetarian folk should visit this blog. One of the contributors, Barrett in Chicago, is a veggie. If your diet consists mainly of rice, beans, and tofu; his recipes will definitely spice up your kitchen.

Food Porn Watch (foodpornwatch.arrr.net) – It’s not what you think, so get your mind out of the gutter! FPW is a handy-dandy food blog aggregator. It links to dozens of blogs from all over the planet. In addition to offering links, it indicates the date of each blog’s most recent entry. Think of this site as a food blog freshness indicator

Wine Blogs

The Caveman’s Wine Blog (thecaveman.blogspot.com) – Bill has to be the most sophisticated caveman around. He owns a hoity-toity French restaurant in Montreal, Canada. He’s also a Sommelier, with vast wine knowledge. The blog is written in a down-to-earth style. You’ll read about wine and food pairings that will make you want to sprint north of the border just to get a taste.

Turn the Screw (www.lechai.com/weblog/) – This blog hails from a ‘wine gallery’ in Savannah, Georgia. In addition to wine reviews and tasting notes, Turn the Screw offers blunt, well-written criticism of much of the silliness that abounds in the wine industry. I guarantee you will never find wine writing this good and this honest in any glossy wine magazine.

Lenndevors (lennthompson.typepad.com) – Lenn is a wine writer from Long Island. He writes almost exclusively about Long Island wine. Were you aware there is a bustling wine industry right next to Manhattan? Perhaps this blog will inspire the wine folks at the DABC to offer a few L.I. wines (hint, hint)?

Spittoon (www.spittoon.biz) - Are you a fan of British humour? Perhaps Monty Python is your thing. Spittoon is a U.K. wine blog that doesn't take itself too seriously. You'll be able to read about wine and bone up on your Brit slang. Any idea what the word, “naff,” means? Hop on Spittoon to find out.

Basic Juice (basicjuice.blogs.com) – This is quite possibly the world's best wine blog. Ok, it's quite possibly Utah's best (and only) wine blog hosted by little old me. Here you can read independent wine reviews about wine you will actually be able to find in state liquor stores. The blog also offers recipes and, occasionally, the odd bit of enticing errata drifting through cyberspace.

Pick a blog, any blog. Discover recipes and wine reviews written by friendly Web citizens. Like me, you probably surf the Internet daily. Now you'll be able to surf with a full belly and glass of wine. Cheers to wine, food, and blogging.

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