

CABERNET MOUNTAIN CALCUTTA HOME COOKING CHINESE TOFU

# SAVEUR

Savor a World of  Authentic Cuisine

## FISH FARE

Beer-battered cod, it's the meal that M

Institutions and Concoctions from the World of Food, plus One Good Bottle, Agenda, and More

PAGE 84

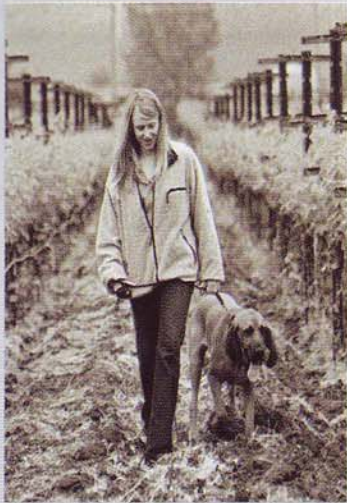
## TURKISH DELIGHTS ANCIENT RECIPES FROM KONYA

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## GOOD NOSE

Louisa Belle can find TCA before you can



At Cliff Lede Vineyards in the Napa Valley, winemaker Michelle Edwards can't stop talking about her new apprentice, Louisa Belle. Edwards and Louisa Belle are collaborating on an unlikely experiment to eliminate "corked" wine. If you've ever

opened a bottle and smelled wet cardboard instead of notes of fruit or spice, then you've been the victim of that scourge of the wine industry; it is estimated that up to 10 percent of all bottles sold are corked—that is, contaminated with the powerful chemical compound known as TCA, produced spontaneously by airborne fungi. Louisa Belle—a native Californian with a sophisticated and highly acute sense of smell—can sniff out TCA-afflicted corks. She can't say much about them, though: Louisa Belle is a dog (with Edwards, left).

Two years ago, Edwards and her fiancé, Dan Fischl, a viticulturist, decided on a whim to try to train their St. Hubert bloodhound to detect contaminated corks. Each morning they'd taint some corks with TCA and then hide them in their backyard. At first it took Louisa Belle a few hours to locate all the bad stoppers, but at a recent demonstration she was able to pick out a tainted specimen from a pile of corks in 15 seconds. Eventually, Edwards hopes, her pooch might be able to help her inspect fresh batches of cork before they get to the bottling

line. If the two are successful, they could change the industry. Meanwhile, the training continues. "Cliff has no plans to put her on the payroll," Edwards admits. "But I would just love to be able to bring her to work every day." —Emily Kaiser



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