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## How to pair wine

The secret to pairing wine with soup is to use wines that have extra-liquid texture

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**Thai inspiration soup:** The secret to pairing wine with soup is to use wines that have extra-liquid texture, such as sherry or Madeira. (Bonnie Trafelet/Chicago Tribune)

By Bill St. John, Special to Tribune Newspapers

May 30, 2012

Surprisingly, most soup is a very difficult food to pair with wine. The reason is simple: One liquid paired with another makes for little contrast, no yin and yang. The mouth doesn't want the same experience swallow after swallow.

Ways out of the difficulty are to introduce more solids to the soup (rice, sausage and several vegetables help out here) or to use wines that have "extra-liquid" texture, wines with bubbles, for example, or higher than normal alcohol such as sherry or Madeira.

**The food: Thai inspiration soup**

Brown 2 Thai peanut chicken sausages in a skillet over medium-high heat; pour in 1/2 cup white wine. Lower heat to a simmer; cover. Cook until sausage cooks through. Slice into 1/4-inch rounds. Meanwhile, add 2 cups snow pea pods, 2 carrots, shredded, 2 tablespoons fish sauce, 1 teaspoon minced ginger and 1 teaspoon sriracha chili sauce to 1 1/2 quarts chicken broth in a saucepan; heat to a boil. Cook until vegetables are tender-crisp. Add the sausage. Pour in 4

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How to pair wine

lightly beaten egg whites while stirring; garnish with chopped cilantro leaves. Serve over steamed rice. Makes: 4 servings

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The wines

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#### **NV Pol Roger Brut White Foil Champagne,**

**France:** Top-drawer Champagne with soup? That's delicious contrast for palate pleasure indeed, but this classic blend of all three Champagne mainstay grapes also adds waves of flavors. \$50-\$55

— *Bill St. John, special to Tribune Newspapers*

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