



Life

SECTION D

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& Weekend
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By Damian
Dovarganes, AP



WINE & SPIRITS

Goodbye, corkscrew; hello, cork with a twist

Mankind's millennia-long search for the ideal closure for a wine bottle has taken another twist. Five or six twists, actually.

Beginning this week, consumers in California and

Dispatches



Gardner Technologies

Easy open: Cork and screw top.

Texas will be introduced to wine bottles fitted with the new MetaCork opener, which combines the tradition of cork with the twist-off ease of a screw cap. It also preserves the look of conventional packaging and relegates corkscrews to the spit bucket of history.

The device, from Gardner Technologies of Napa, Calif., consists of an outer capsule attached to a cork and a plastic cap. After removal, the cork is disposed of, and the capsule can be used as a drip-resistant pouring device. Later, the cap can be screwed back on to preserve unused wine.

"It's easy for the first-time consumer to understand," says Gardner vice president Kerry Manahan-Ehlow.

The MetaCork is available on 5,000 cases of \$10-to-\$30 wines from California producers Fetzer, Clos du Bois and Amusant.

— Jerry Shriver