

# Chess

by R. E. Fauber with Frank Garosi

## Masson Proves That Wine, Chess Mix Well

People always worry about what wine goes with what. One indisputable match is Paul Masson wine and chess. They go well together. The Masson American Class Championship tournament has, for years now, been one of the two most popular chess events in America, drawing better even than the prestigious U.S. Open.

A Masson tournament is more than a contest — it is an event. The Masson organization goes to great pains to provide added attractions besides the opportunity to play outdoors under majestic trees or in the shadow of the historic winery where Paul Masson, the founder, aged his world-famous wines in the 19th century.

This year they provided two world champions to grace the event, Max Euwe and Boris Spassky. Spassky's fame is equal to that of Bobby Fischer, with whose name he is inseparably linked because of their 1972 world championship match in Reykjavik. Like a magnet, Spassky's name drew 800 entries in the Masson tourney, and the organizers had to send back an additional 75 entries for lack of space. A horde of spectators further swelled the number of enthusiasts who transformed Masson's vine-covered hill into Chess Mountain.

As the years have passed, veteran Masson players have learned how to mix chess with wine, and this year they were so pleased with the French Colombard and Emerald Dry that the winery had to supply the tournament

**THE RESULTS:** The master section of the Paul Masson American Class Championships drew 69 top players to the Masson winery at Saratoga last weekend. The shortness of the tournament made a tie for first seem inevitable, but in the last round Larry Christiansen of Modesto and James Tarjan of Berkeley were the only players with perfect scores. When they drew they had to share with the other three grandmasters in the tournament: Peter Biyiasas of San Francisco, Walter Browne of Berkeley, and Florin Gheorghiu of Rumania. All had 3½-½ and pocketed \$965 apiece.

directors with top-of-the-line Johannisberg Riesling instead.

For those still fascinated by the Fischer-Spassky match, Boris provided some interesting insights into his perception of Fischer's antics at the time. Spassky does not believe that Fischer's complaints were intended to disturb him because they were directed at the organizers and the TV coverage, he told a press conference before the Masson tournament.

At a question-and-answer session between rounds of the tourney, a player asked a Fischer-related question and Spassky blurted out: "I love Bobby Fischer." He then quickly stifled a ripple of laughter: "This is a very serious answer." In a private conversation he told me that the players whose games he had studied most to improve his own game were Emanuel Lasker "and Bobby, of course."

The Sacramento contingent of masters did not fare as well as they had hoped. Just as they were building respectable scores Mark Buckley and James MacFarland found themselves paired in the final round. Before that, however, Buckley played a rousing game in dis-

patching international woman grandmaster Maria Ivanka.

### Benoni Defense M. Buckley vs. M. Ivanka

1. P-Q4, N-KB3; 2. P-QB4, P-B4; 3. P-Q5, P-KN3; 4. N-QB3, B-N2; 5. P-K4, P-Q3; 6. B-K2, P-K3; 7. B-N5, 0-0; 8. N-B3, P-

KR3; 9. B-R4, PXP; 10. BXP, R-K1.

(Here it was better to go into the main line with 10. . . . P-KN4; 11. B-N3, N-R4.)

11. N-Q2, N-R3; 12. 0-0, N-B2; 13. B-N3, R-N1; 14. P-QR4, P-N3; 15. R-K1!, P-R3?

(Preferable was 15. . . . B-B1 to meet 16. N-B4 by B-R3 — B-XN.)

16. N-B4!, NXKP (. . . . B-B1; 17. N-K5 — P-Q6); 17. NXN, RXN; 18. NXQP, R-Q5; 19. Q-N3.

(White has terrible threats. If 19. . . . R-N5; 20. NXP, KXN; 21. B-XN, QXB; 22. P-Q6ch, RXQ; 23. PXQ, R-N2; 24. B-B4ch.)

19. . . . B-Q2; 20. NXP, Q-B3; 21. B-XN, R-KB1; 22. N-K5, QXPch; 23. K-R1, R-Q7; 24. B-B3, B-R6; 25. R-KN1, RXP; 26. Q-Q1, R-Q7; 27. Q-B1, Q-Q5; 28. R-K1, R-KB7; 29. Q-Q3!, B-XN; 30. QXPch, B-N2; 31. B-K5, R-B3; 32. BXR, Resigns.