

Wine Forgery 1

What was the most expensive wine you've ever had?

These are two of the most expensive bottles of wine in the world. Do you have any idea about the price people paid for them?



Do you have any life-hack to tell real fine wines from fakes?

1. A. Listen to the snippet and put the actions in order

_____ How can gamma rays be helpful in wine authentication?

French physicist Philippe Hubert uses gamma rays to detect radioactivity in wine. "In the wine is the story of the Atomic Age," he says.

- ___ and puts it close to the detector.
- ___ because they want to know if it is fake or not.
- ___ first, Hubert takes the bottle in the hand
- ___ after he closes the shielding,
- ___ most of the time collectors send Hubert bottles of wine
- ___ he records the gamma rays.



B. Drag and drop, listen and check _____

the atmosphere

the rain

the nuclear bomb

it is a fake

the atomic age

Cesium in a bottle

nuclear plant

Philippe Hubert: The Cesium radioactivity we find in the wines reflect exactly the history of _____. I'm Philippe Hubert, physicist working at the University of Bordeaux. First, you had the development of _____,

Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And then in the '50s or the '60s, the Cold War between the U.S. and Soviet and nuclear atmospheric tests. And then in 1986, the Chernobyl accident, which released a lot of Cesium activity in _____ .

Woman: The Fukushima Daiichi _____ has detected a record level of radioactive Cesium in groundwater.

Philippe Hubert: This radioactivity, it's everywhere, everywhere. Then with _____ , this radioactivity falls on the grapes. When you make the wine, this comes into the wine and stays into the wine. If I see _____ of, let's say 1900, it is sure that _____ .

2. Look at the pictures. How can these items be helpful when dealing with wine?



a _____

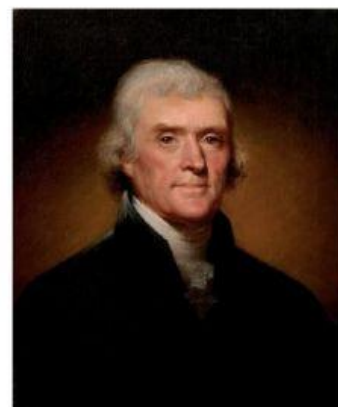
a _____



Listen to the clip and check your ideas, then type in the correct words under each picture _____.

3. If you were to counterfeit wine, what would you do? _____
What are two ways to counterfeit wine?

Thomas Jefferson (April 13, 1743 – July 4, 1826) was an American statesman, diplomat, lawyer, architect, philosopher, and Founding Father who served as the third president of the United States from 1801 to 1809.



4. Listen to the clips and fill the gaps with numbers and numerals _____:

Man: At Christie's Wine Department, it is our mission to bring the very best of wines from around the world to you and your wine cellar.

Keefe: In _____, there was a wine auction at Christie's in London, at which they auctioned a bottle of the Lafite - one of the finest vineyards in France. It was a very old bottle inscribed in a spindly hand with _____ Lafite and the letters T, H, J. Christie said that evidence suggested that this bottle came from a collection of old French wines, which had belonged to Thomas Jefferson. That bottle sold for \$ _____ to the collector, Malcolm Forbes - the most expensive bottle of wine ever sold at the auction. At the time, he said it's more fun than the opera glasses Lincoln was holding when he was shot, and we have those, too. Wine collectors jockey to get a hold of other Jefferson bottles from this mysterious collection. One of these collectors was Bill Koch. His brothers are often known as the Koch brothers. Bill Koch purchased _____ of these bottles in the late _____s for about _____ dollars.

Lucia Stanton: I'm Lucia Stanton. I was senior historian at Monticello for over _____ years. All of us at Monticello, at that time, were very skeptical about any connection between Jefferson and these wine bottles. Jefferson carefully had the wines that he had purchased in France shipped to this country for himself and President George Washington. In his vast records, over _____ documents, there was nothing that suggested that Jefferson had ever ordered any of these wines. There were about a _____ bottles - _____ and '_____ Chateau d'Yquem, _____ Lafite, a Margaux. Most of them were _____s, which is a vintage Jefferson never ordered in his life.

5. Listen to the snippets and transcribe them.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____

Find the correct place for each snippet in the text below. There are three extra gaps.

Keefe: When Koch realized that he had potentially been crossed, he has Jim Elroy, a former FBI agent - kind of _____. He said to Elroy, saddle up. And Elroy did.

Jim Elroy: My name is Jim Elroy, _____.

Keefe: The ringtone on Elroy's phone is the whistled theme to "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."

Jim Elroy: ____ of Hardy Rodenstock. Actually, his true name was Meinhard Gorke.

Robinson: Hardy, I met quite a few times. He was a great fixture on the European fine wine circuit. I'm Jancis Robinson. I write about wine for jancisrobinson.com and for The Financial Times. Hardy supposedly found the Jefferson bottles ____, but he couldn't give any more details. ____.

Keefe: Jim Elroy had a hunch that the wine in the Jefferson bottles did not date to the 18th century.

Jim Elroy: I started looking in Scientific American, and I found an article that Philippe Hubert, a French physicist, had written about using low-level gamma ray detection for Cesium 137 ____ . Cesium 137 did not exist on this planet until we exploded the first atomic devices.

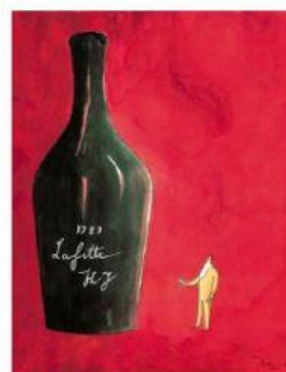
Listen and check _____

Who do you think buys those very expensive wines at auctions? Can you imagine and describe the lifestyle of the people?

6. You are about to read an excerpt from the article by Patrick Radden Keefe from The New Yorker magazine August 27, 2007

The Jefferson Bottles

How could one collector find so much rare fine wine?



Join the parts of the chunks.

Koch's collection of art and antiques

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Monticello believed his bottles were fake

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**Read the excerpt and find a) the description of Koch's appearance
b) references to the pictures**



Koch's collection of art and antiques is valued at several hundred million dollars, and **in 2005** the Boston Museum of Fine Arts prepared an exhibition of many of his possessions. **Koch's staff** began tracking down the provenance of the four Jefferson bottles, and found that, apart from Broadbent's authentication of the Forbes bottle, they had nothing on file. Seeking historical corroboration, they approached the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, at Monticello, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Several days later, Monticello's curator, Susan Stein, telephoned. "We don't believe those bottles ever belonged to Thomas Jefferson," she said.



Koch (pronounced "coke") lives **with his third wife, Bridget Rooney, and six children**, from this and previous marriages, in a thirty-five-thousand-square-foot Anglo-Caribbean-style house in Palm Beach. When I visited him there not long ago, the front lawn had been excavated to extend the house's basement. Koch explained that he needs more storage space. "I'm a bit of a compulsive collector," he said. We strolled past Modigliani's 1917 "Reclining Nude" and Picasso's blue-period "Night Club Singer," a Renoir, a Rodin, and works by Degas, Chagall, Cézanne, Monet, Miró, Dali, Léger, and Botero. Surveillance cameras, encased in little bulbs of black glass, protruded from the ceiling.

"My father was a collector of sorts," Koch said. "I guess I got it from him. He had a small collection of Impressionist art. He collected shotguns. Then he collected ranches." We sat down in Koch's "cowboy room," surrounded by Charles Marion Russell paintings, Frederic Remington bronzes of men on horseback, antique cowboy hats, bowie knives, and dozens of guns, displayed in glass-topped cases: Jesse James's gun, Jesse James's killer's gun, Sitting Bull's pistol, General Custer's rifle.

Koch, who is sixty-seven, is rangy and tall, with tousled white hair, round spectacles, and a boyish, high-pitched laugh. At M.I.T., where he received his undergraduate degree and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering, he contracted hepatitis, and could no longer stomach hard alcohol. But he could drink wine. At restaurants, he ordered **the most expensive wines on the list**, and discovered some that he liked.

Eventually, he began purchasing wine at auction: first-growth Bordeaux, like Lafite and Latour, and the famous Burgundies of Romanée-Conti. "When I went crazy is when I sold my stock in Koch Industries," he said. That was 1983; he made a reported five hundred and fifty million dollars on the sale. At that point, he decided he would build a world-class wine collection. When I asked why, he looked at me as if I'd failed to grasp the obvious. "**Because it's the best-tasting form of alcohol in the world,**" he said. "That's why."



Koch may be as compulsive about filing lawsuits as he is about collecting. He waged a twenty-year legal battle against two of his brothers relating to the family business. (The matter was settled in 2001.) He sued the state of Massachusetts **over an improperly taxed stock transaction** and won a forty-six-million-dollar abatement. When a former girlfriend whom he had installed at a condo in Boston's Four Seasons hotel refused to leave, Koch took her **to housing court** and had her evicted. He talks about "dropping a subpoena" on people as if he were lobbing a grenade.

Fine-wine fraud was almost unheard of when Koch bought his four bottles of Th.J. Bordeaux, and the only assurance he demanded was that they came from the same collection that Broadbent had authenticated. He was angry to find out **that Monticello believed his bottles were fake**. "I've bought so much art, so many guns, so many other things, that if somebody's out to cheat me I want the son of a bitch to pay for it," he told me, his color rising. "Also," he said, smiling, "it's a fun detective story."

Ask questions for the parts in bold.

