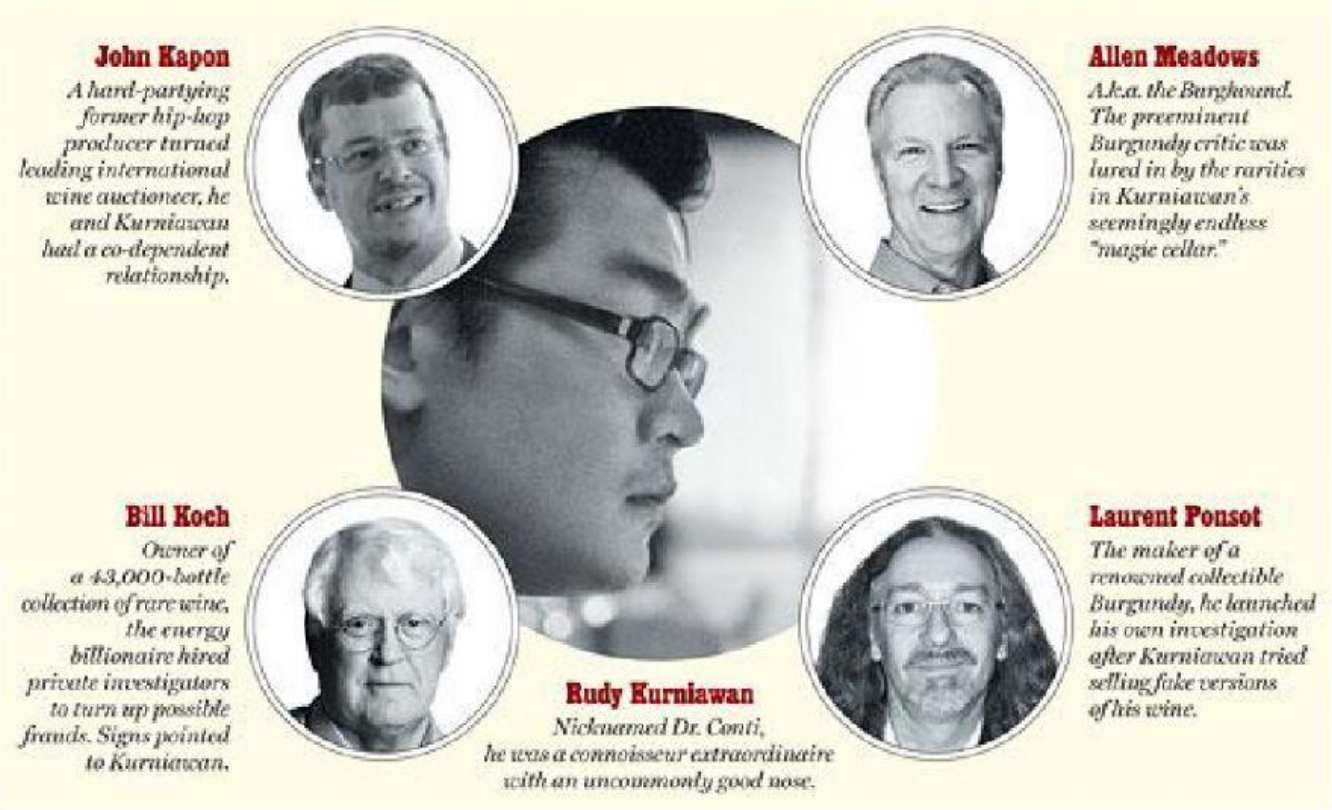
Wine Forgery 4
Do you think wine forgers are real felonies? Why/why not?

1. Read the fact files about the people in the diagram.



Read the quotes from the podcast.

1. He is the awkward sort of eccentric younger brother who spends all of his time collecting things including wine. ___
2. He did this massive clichéd "I object!" from a wedding movie type thing.
3. He wasn't all that interested in taking the time to check the authenticity and the legitimacy of the wines that Rudy was selling. __
4. He kept investigating Rudy and forced him to give that name that he'd promised. __
5. He spent 10 times that much to go after people because they made him feel embarrassed. __
6. He shut the auction down. __
7. Between the cork experts, glass experts, and glue experts that went through every bottle he owned, he found out that he had four millions dollars worth of counterfeit wine in his collection. __
8. He arranged to have a conversation with Rudy. __

Listen to the snippets and put next to each line either B for Bill Koch, or P for Laurent Ponsot, or K for John Kapon.

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John Kapon _____

Laurent Ponsot _____

_____

Bill Koch _____

_____ _____

2. What do you think Rudy's life became like at that moment? Listen to the snippet and decide whether the statements are T or F _____

1) He was still finding marks. ___
2) There were people who wanted to sell him wine for his collection. __
3) There was one guy who bought $8-million worth of fine from Rudy privately and all of that turned out to be fake. __
4) There were still auction houses out there who were willing to sell Rudy's wine for him, because they were interested in making the commissions, so they were willing to take a gamble on him anyway. __
5) Investigators kept making more and more sloppy mistakes. __
6) Internet was starting to become more of a thing. __
7) Online wine-communities were warning each other about the wrong colour of wax or the inconsistencies in the labels on Rudy's wine. __
8) The FBI started to get really serious. __

3. Listen to the clip _____ and decide who each of the lines refers to: Rudy (R) or the FBI (F)

__ tapped his phone

__ started interviewing all of his friends repeatedly

__ wanted to see if their stories were consistent or not

__ was so deluded

__ thought he was bullet-proof

__ came knocking on his door

__ stumbled out of bed

__ wearing the jim-jams

__ wiping the sleep out of his eyes

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__ swarmed into the house

__ could not believe the things were found there

__ had not tried to hide anything at all

4. ***All over the house, every single room, there was all the paraphernalia that you would need to make very sophisticated counterfeit wine.***

Listen and number the things in order they appear in the snippet:

There were:

____ glue __ corking tools __ bottles

__ hyper __ a whole lot of empty wine bottles

__ the printer to make those labels __ uncorking tools __ wine crates

__ wax seals __ thousands and thousands of counterfeit wine labels

What did Rudy do with Californian wine?

5. ***But the FBI did believe that Rudy was making these forgeries. And so, they charged him in jail, gave him no chance of bail.***

And then, when he went to trial, he plead not guilty and worked with his attorneys to come up with a defence case.

If you were Rudy, what line of defence would you choose? Listen to the snippet and fill the gaps

_____.

So, their defence pivoted on a few different arguments that they were making.

The first being that – yes, Rudy did have these things because sometimes he liked to _____ a bottle before he would sell it by just putting on a fresh label just to make it look better, just about esthetics. It was real wine, but he was just _____ it.

And also yes, he was really good when it came to _____ a collection of Californian wines and _____ the little mix that he made taste just like a 60-year-old French wine. And at the end of the day, is that a crime? Because what's the difference? It's all grapes!

Another of their arguments was: poor Rudy was _____ ,

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and he was _____ and he was just _____ by all these rich old white men and he just wanted to hang out with them and feel cool, so he was just trying to impress them. And it was just his _____ way of working his way into their society.

None of these was convincing, so they decided 'alright, let's go with an insanity defence'. They tried that, but it was _____ immediately.

The best defence that they came up with was saying "look, he could not possibly have done this on his own. We're talking about tens of thousands of bottles of _____ wine here and he had to have had a lot of help and we doubt very much that he could have been the mastermind behind this."

6. Read the chunks and try to find the correct places for them in the transcript, drag and drop.

two of the biggest ever **by bribing the guards** **counterfeit goods**

in the first place **mafia behind**

hiding out ever since **shipping them off** **easiest guesses**

giving feedback

The theory is that there is Indonesian _____ all of this, that they have been arranging everything.

Because in the house they found all of these instructions that he'd written in Indonesian _____ on the design of some labels that they were making.

He'd actually ordered labels to be printed in Indonesia and he was sending millions and millions of dollars to Indonesia.

So that's one of the sort of _____ to make. And also, two of Rudy's uncles happened to be _____bank criminals in Indonesian history. Together they stole more than $800 million from two different Indonesian banks back in the 90s.

And one of them is dead, the other one, uncle Eddie, escaped from jail _____ and ran off to China where he's been _____ .

And, China of course is the capital for _____ . So, the theory is that uncle Eddie has been making these counterfeits over there and then _____ to Los Angeles.

And that would make sense like where his initial kind of capital came from to get into the business _____ .

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Listen and check _____

7. Listen to the snippet and fill the gaps with numbers and words

_____

But the US government for whatever reason wasn't interested and they never investigated beyond Rudy. They were happy to just use him and make an example of him by sentencing him to ___ years in prison and forcing him to pay back ___ million dollars to the people that he'd defrauded.

He was the ___ person ever to be successfully prosecuted for wine fraud in the US.

It's very-very rare that they are able to track down the culprits, it's really difficult.

By the way, the rough estimate is that about ___ % of Burgundies out there from before 1980 are fakes.

But they keep selling for _____ of dollars.

8.If you were a passionate wine collector, would you like to have one of Rudy's bottles in your collection? Listen to the clip _____. Why is it so difficult to track down Rudy's counterfeits?

Listen and imitate:

_____ So, they sold them and told people, "We think that these aren't fakes, but we can't say for sure." And they sold.

_____ They did identify five hundred of his fakes, which all, very sadly, were destroyed.

_____ See, I, if I was ever going to collectable of wine, I'd wanna buy one of those. As like a hilarious collectors items. I like them they would have just sold them for LOLs.

_____ Just like you and just like me, there are people who want to buy these wines. There is a really big market now to buy one of Rudy's concoctions.

You can see "*rich old white men*" in this trailer

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