

**Rob Stewart (American Sommelier):** "Well, you know, the US saved French wine by providing France with a *Phyloxera* resistant root stock?"

**Lisa Airey (French Sommelier):** "And who provided us with the *Phyloxera*?"

**Ouch. And so it began...**

## FRANCE vs. CRUSHTANK SHOWDOWN

It was a good omen when members of the French Wine Society not only enjoyed the *Bouchet Grenache Rose* that was poured for attendees as they entered the French Embassy, but also had a hard time believing it was Californian. After some good-natured back and forth ribbing by the evening's sommeliers, each of which sung the virtues of their respective viticultural heritages, an eager group of 50 tasters entered into a series of blind, head-to-head tastings.

CrushTank provided American boutique wines selected from our online portfolio, which were presented by American sommelier Rob Stewart. Lisa Airey, the French sommelier, selected the French varietal counterparts. We were more than pleased with the final results. Wines in the CrushTank portfolio swept each category and in some cases, dominated voting. The 2003 Vista Hills Pinot, in particular, polarized the crowd in its favor and the 2005 Fortress Sauvignon Blanc impressed against a tasty little Loire charmer.

Where:

**French Embassy  
Washington, D.C.**

**Le Diplomate Restaurant**

When: **March 2nd, 2007**

Why: **For the hell of it.**

### *The Menu*

*Assorted Charcuteries*

*Seared Fennel Salad*

*Cod Fish Marseillaise*

*Veal Cheeks in Orange Sauce*

*(w/ Mixed Vegetables and  
Gratin Dauphinois)*

*Chocolate and Pear Cake*

*Mini Creme Brulee*

*And the final results, in order of tasting*



**Fortress**  
2005 Sauvignon Blanc  
Lake County, CA  
[Buy Now »](#)

## VOTES

**33**     **19**



**Domaine Bellevue**  
Touraine 2005  
Loire