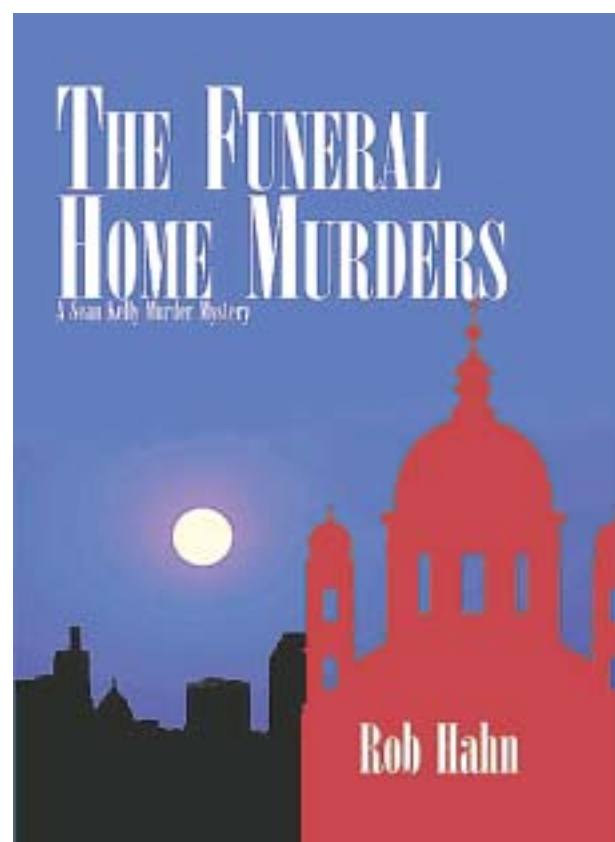


# The Cork Report

## Recommended Bottles and Books

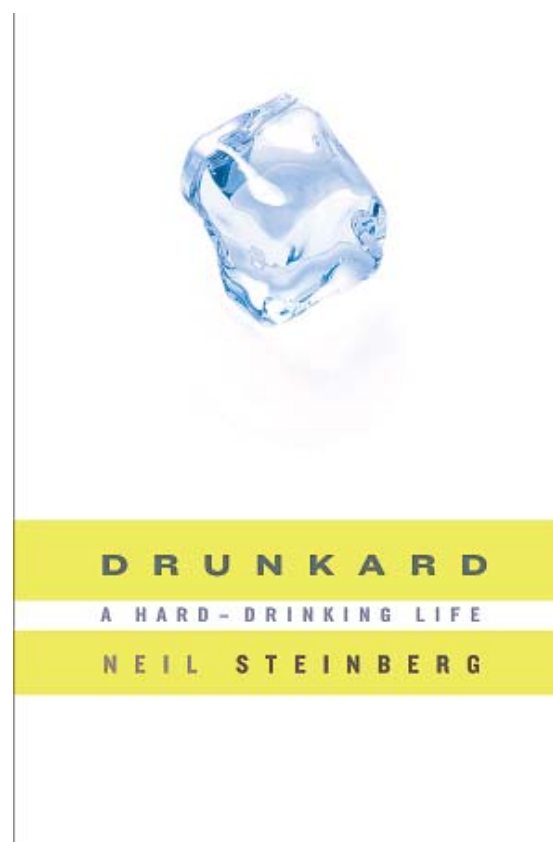


*The Funeral Home Murders*  
Rob Hahn  
(North Star Pres)



**Bouchard  
Bourgogne  
Pinot Noir  
2005**

Lots of good mineral and chalky flavors. Straight forward and tasty. An affordable way to enjoy Burgundy. 88



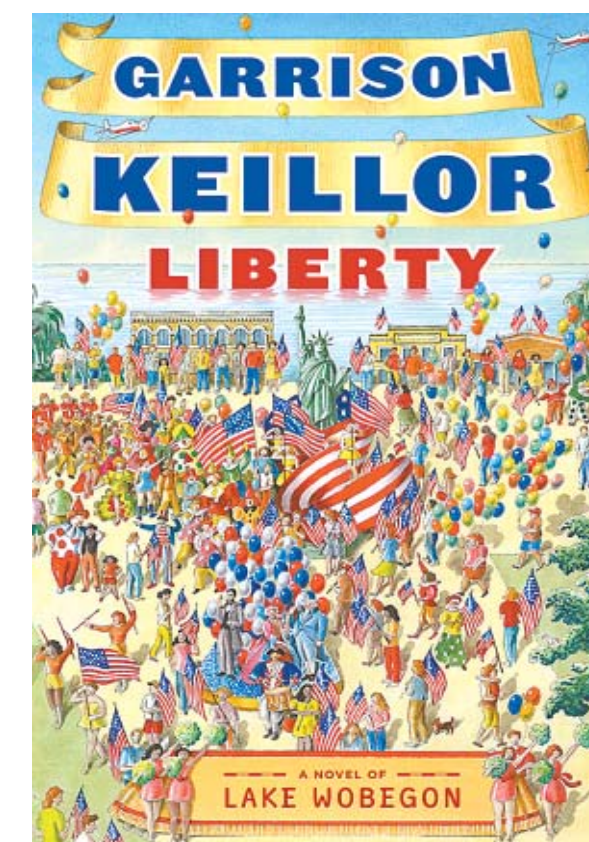
*Drunkard*  
Neil Steinberg  
(Dutton)

When we sent an email to the author letting him know his book would be reviewed in this publication, he responded by saying, "that's a pretty bold move for a wine publication." *Drunkard* is Neil Steinberg's chronicle of the results of a lifetime of hard drinking and attempts at recovery. The Chicago *Sun-Times* author is a gifted writer, conveying in descriptive terms his battles as well as his own human flaws and weaknesses. At times funny but more often than not sad and moving, the book offers a reminder moderation is best for most and abstinence is better for others.



**Kenwood  
Jack London  
Zinfandel  
2005**

Intense, much like the author after whom this wine is named. Spicy and tannic. 89



*Liberty*  
Garrison Keillor  
(Viking)

In the words of Casey Kasem, "and the hits just keep on coming." The long-time host of "American Top-40" could say the same thing about Garrison Keillor's novels. On one hand, you wonder how anyone could take such seeming inane topics and turn them into well-written and humorous fiction. Keillor does it brilliantly. This latest work chronicles all the drama, politics and trite squabbling that go into some of the native's desires to make the Fourth of July parade in Lake Wobegon. Keillor has made a career out of using some the same characters and themes but each time presents them in a fresh manner.



**Burgess  
Napa Valley  
Merlot  
2005**

Smooth and delectable. Incredibly elegant. One of the best Merlots we have tasted this year. 92

If this were a Rupert Murdoch-owned publication, we would waste little time turning this into the most glowing review in the entire issue. With a modicum of objectivity, we turn to a quote from well-known author William Kent Krueger to review this book. "In *The Funeral Home Murders*, author Rob Hahn offers a compelling debut. Hahn's narrative is an imaginative 'what if' that will surprise anyone familiar with the real events that loosely inspired the tale. With a large cast of well-drawn characters, a fine sense of place, and plenty of twists along the way, this is an intriguing crime novel that will keep readers turning pages late into the night." Wrote a reader: "I loved the (Sean) Kelly character and his attitude. I received the book on Saturday afternoon and by Sunday evening I had it finished. It was hard to put down. Now I am curious as to how much of the book was fact. I hope you have another book with Kelly in the works."