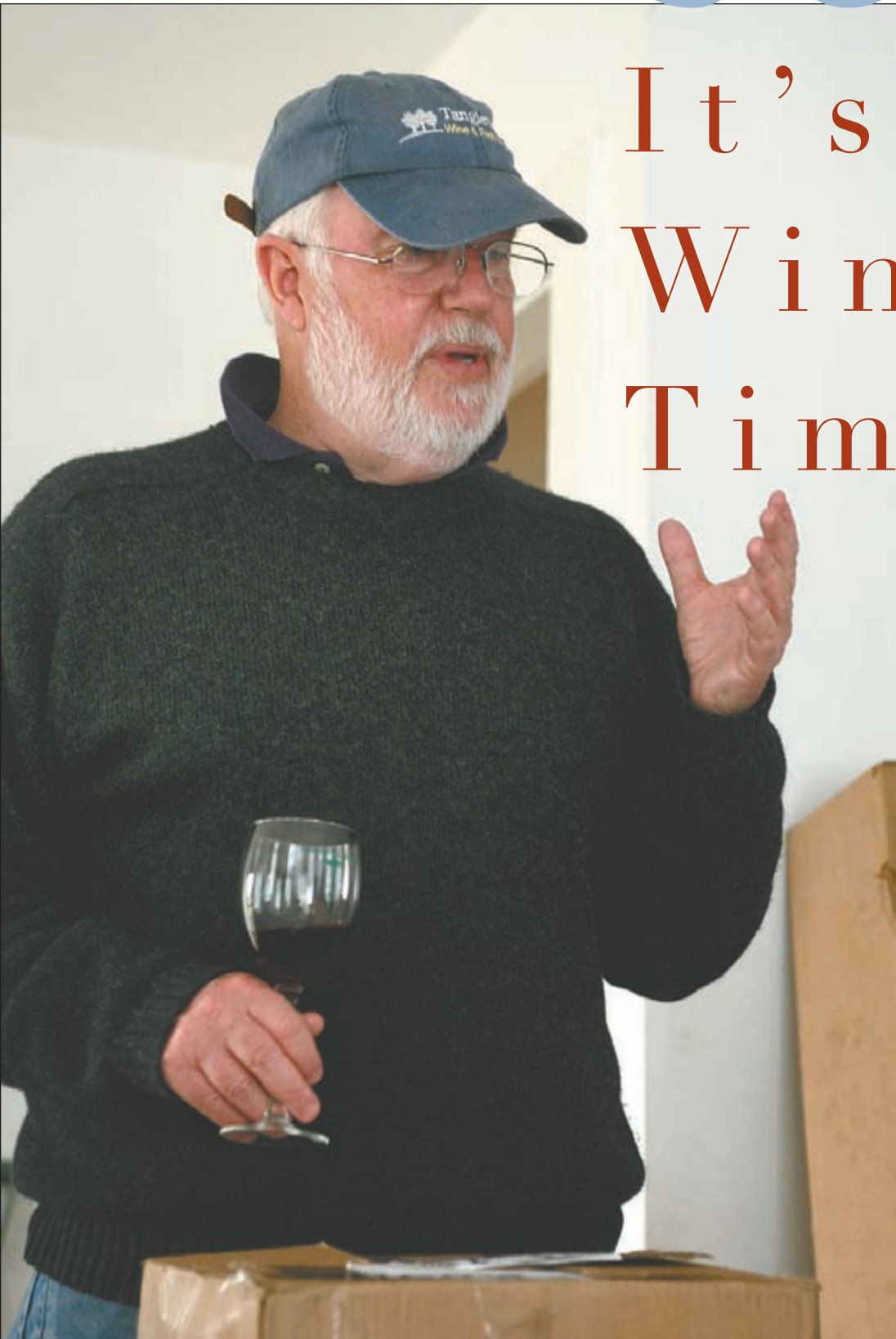


# Arts



Sports  
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## It's Wine Time

As he sat amid stacks of wine magazines with a cooking program on mute on his living room TV, Denis Toner's cell phone rang with fair frequency with questions and updates coming in from his entourage. For Toner and his associates, the next few days will be hectic as they ready for the 12th annual Nantucket Wine Festival that begins May 14.

Toner, who founded the festival with his wife Susan, looks forward to the excitement, however. All the last-minute rushing about signals the imminent fruition of months of planning and preparation when wine authorities from around the world will gather on the island to celebrate and teach about spectacular vintages from the rare to the table-worthy yet affordable. Many of the cooking and wine seminars are already sold out, but openings for some events, running from May 14 through May 18, are still available.

"There is plenty of room at the Grand Tasting on Sunday, and the pace is a little less frantic than Saturday," said Toner.

Toner moved to Nantucket in 1988 and from that year to 1997 he was sommelier at The Chanticleer. He had also sold

*See WINE FEST, page 19*

*The 12th annual Nantucket Wine Festival opens on May 14. This year the festival is four days long and there are a few new features. Tickets for many of the events are already sold out, but seats at several seminars and the weekend Grand Tasting are still available.*

ROB BENCHLEY/The Independent file

Nantucket  
Wine  
Festival  
kicks off  
12th event  
next week

by  
Mary Lancaster  
Independent  
Writer

## A perfect Mother's Day gift

Baritone Thomas Jones to perform in Arts Council's last concert in winter series

It is easy to tell when someone loves what they do by their enthusiastic, animated conversation. Such is the case with versatile baritone Thomas Jones, who will perform on May 11 in the last in a series of four winter concerts presented by the Nantucket Arts Council.

Jones will take the stage in the Congregational Church Old North Vestry at 62 Centre St. at 4 p.m. that Sunday, offering his audience a rich display of his talent ranging from light and little-known

BY MARY LANCASTER  
INDEPENDENT WRITER

Handel operas to exciting operatic arias by Mozart, Leoncavallo and Bizet to six selections from Schumann's "Liederkreis" and three pieces from musicals including "Camelot," "Mame" and the 1929 production of "Great Day." Jones will be accompanied by pianist Ben Green, which makes the upcoming concert even more exciting for him.

Jones, a Boston resident, was just a child when

his fine soprano voice was discovered through his participation in a choir. Though he continued to sing in similar venues, until he was in high school he thought his life was headed in a very different direction.

"I actually thought I was going to be an architect when I was in high school, but when I was a junior I attended my first district chorus festival in Pennsylvania," he said. "That was the festival that

*See JONES, page 16*