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pod squad: There's something glamorous about a bottle of wine. The shape, the label, the look — all summon sentiments of sophistication and romance. But then there are the downsides. How many of us have clumsily broken a cork or, worse, left pieces of it behind in the wine? And then there's the sheer weight of the glass vessel. Just lugging a dinner party's worth of empty bottles to the trash can cause back strain. It's not a bad time to consider switching to a new form of packaging courtesy of winemaker **French Rabbit**. The company constructs its one-liter screw-top ePods with Tetra Prisma containers, a lightweight and recyclable paper, plastic, and aluminum combo also used in kids' juice boxes. And although they may not cut the same figure as a traditional wine bottle, they do an equally good (if not better) job of preserving the vino. The pod's construction keeps out bacteria, air, light, and odors, all of which can ruin a good vintage, plus it weighs only a fraction of the weight of a traditional bottle. The advantages to you are pretty clear — packing wine for a camping trip or weekend away becomes much easier — and the benefits to the environment are too many to count. (The pods reduce packaging waste by at least 90 percent; huge amounts of gas and emissions are also saved, since just one pod-filled truck is needed to transport the same amount of wine as three big rigs of the stuff.) All this means a lower price for you. The one-liter packs of pinot noir, merlot, cabernet sauvignon, and chardonnay (all produced in France's Languedoc Roussillon region) cost only \$9.99. For a limited time, you can still try the French Rabbit varieties in bottles, but why would you? Do your wallet and the world a favor and go for the ePod. Get yours at **Martignetti Liquors** (64 Cross Street, Boston, 617.227.4343).

CIRCULATION: 80,000