

Mariani's Coca Plant



In 1863 a Corsican native named Angelo Mariani (1838–1914) became one of France's most famous and wealthy chemists by concocting a "coca wine" that would be marketed worldwide as "Vin Mariani." Hailed as a panacea by thousands of leading physicians, this cocaine-and-Bordeaux tonic was even publicly endorsed from London by Queen Victoria and from Rome by at least two Popes. One of Mariani's many coca-inspired illustrations is this example (*above*, courtesy of the Wood Library-Museum), his *Reproduction of a Coca Plant Presented by Mr. Mariani to the Paris Botanical Gardens*. His Vin Mariani would inspire the development of America's leading cocaine tonic, Coca Cola. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA's Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Park Ridge, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.