



What's in their Pantry: John Berendt

While best known for his literary blockbuster, the non-fiction *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, John Berendt began his career as a classic New York City journalist.

At Harvard he worked on the staff of the famed *Harvard Lampoon*. After graduating he joined the staff of *Esquire*, where he was an associate editor from 1961 to 1969. Berendt was the editor of *New York Magazine* from 1977 to 1979 and a columnist for *Esquire* from 1982 to 1994.

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil achieved unprecedented success. The real life tale of a murder amidst the high society and camp of Savannah, Georgia spent 216 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. In case you're not good at math, that equals over four years. Like we used to say in Brooklyn, "Jesus H. Christ, that's incredible."

Berendt's passion for detail and beautiful writing is evidenced in his recent work, *City Of Falling Angels*, which chronicles the real life people and city of Venice after a fire destroyed its famous Opera House.



Ah, a classic powerhouse, MegaDophilus brand probiotics. John knows his supplements.

But what's here? Tomatoes sitting in the fridge! Ask any produce person and they'll tell you that's a bad move. It just dehydrates those red little guys.

It's clear John likes jam, and the good stuff too. SaraBeth's, a brand that emerged from the café by the same name, not too far from Berendt's West Side home. And to the left, between the melon and the applesauce, Hero, imported from those folks who make watches and live near the Alps.

Ah the refrigerator door. Holder of many things, but in this home mostly beverages. Orange and cranberry juice, some San Pellegrino and Prosecco—something we're told that Berendt favored way before it became trendy. And a bottle of Moët, some white wine too, but don't get the wrong idea. John entertains, and often for a cause.

Tribe Hummus. There must be some veggies in the crisper but we forgot to check. And continuing the healthy streak a bottle of V-8.

Schweppes Tonic, a stray bottle of Heineken, some ketchup and red grapes.

We have a couple of healthy choices here: Santa Cruz Organic applesauce, Eggology egg whites and Tropicana grapefruit juice, not to mention some salad dressing and pickles. The guy's got some inventory, especially for a New Yorker.