



# AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY

## Carroll County Chapter

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[www.ccaws.net](http://www.ccaws.net)

## February 8, 2006—

Walt began with a few drops of a 1997 Taylor Fladgate Porto to give us a baseline for this non-Porto tasting. He had us trying to match state of origin and published descriptions (Do we ever agree with those?!) with the various Ports he presented. We had a lot of fun. I don't remember whether anyone got a prize, but one or two folks did better than the rest of us—which is sort of like saying, "In the land of the blind, the one-eyed siren is queen!"—or something like that. Thanks to the Browns for hosting this event.

The National Tasting Project presented by Pat and Walt at the Eisbergs' (Barb & Bill, that is) was

The next wine tasting will be at the home of Jackie & George Grillon on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. The Stewarts will be presenting "Wine for Lovers"—think Greek (Eros comes to mind!). Please call the Grillons by February 15<sup>th</sup> if you would like to attend. Please bring something to share that might go with the wines.

### War of the Ports or "Where in the World...?"

Order	Wine	Prices
W	Banfi Summus 5 L 1999 (Sangiovese/Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah)	\$400
1	Boordy 375 mL NV (Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc) Maryland	16
2	Ficklin Old Vine Tinta Port NV (Traditional) California	16
3	Belleview Winery 500 mL 2002 (Port) New Jersey	15
4	Stone Hill 500 mL 2000 (Norton) Missouri	20
5	Pedroncelli 500 mL 2000 (Estate Vintage Port) Sonoma, California	16
6	Marietta Lot #1 375 mL NV (Port) California	13
7	Walt/Bill Homemade 1993 (Cabernet Sauvignon) Virginia	priceless

pretty interesting! The twelve of us there pretty much agreed with the results compiled by AWS for the "real" National Tasting (check the recent AWS publication of the results), which was that we prefer to drink wine from just-opened bottles rather than decanting for long periods of time.

**CCAWS Dues are due!**—Your \$10 for CCAWS membership for 2006 is due. Please, pay John Landon as soon as possible to avoid being dropped from the mailing list! Your AWS membership dues of \$52 for 2006 are also due (Visit [www.americanwinesociety.org/Membership.aspx](http://www.americanwinesociety.org/Membership.aspx) for details).



**Passing on**—It is with a sad heart I must tell you of the passing of the father of Nan Slick. Let us all lift a glass of good wine to John Slick. Our thoughts are with you, Nan.



**From Charles Franklin**—A Premier Wine Tasting Benefit for the American Cancer Society on April 2, 2006: [www.tasteforlife.org](http://www.tasteforlife.org).

Date	House	Wine Host	Topic
02/19	Grillon	Stewart	Wine for Lovers
03/19	Johnston	Johnston	???
04/16	Brown	Wilson	Rich or Pour?
05/21	Barbour	Slick	???
06/18	Pardoe	Fiola	???
07/16	Grillon	Everyone	Annual Picnic
08/20	Evans	Eisberg	???
09/10			
9/16,17	Farm Mus.	MWF	MWF
10/15	Barbour	Parker	???
11/19	Evans	Eisberg	???
12/10	Blosveren	Landon	Champagne



*"Wine is love in a glass!"*

—LeRoy E. Stewart

*See you at the Grillons'...*

## **An Important Message from Jack Johnston—**

All the Maryland Wineries Association members have been notified, as well as the Grape Growers Association. This could have a serious impact on the wine scene in Maryland. The entire wine industry in Virginia is in turmoil over this issue. Thanks.

*Jack*

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### **The following is from Kevin Atticks, Executive Director of the Maryland Wineries Association, on a matter of immediate concern—**

Dear MGGA Members,

I'm writing on behalf of the Maryland wineries and the Maryland Wineries Association to request your support AND ACTION in order to save small, farm wineries in the State.

As a result of a recent lawsuit by a PA winery attempting to open MD's laws to direct-to-consumer wine shipment, Maryland's Comptroller has struck down a law that allows Maryland wineries to sell and deliver wines to retail stores and restaurants, effective March 31.

Maryland wineries rely on this ability, and many will suffer great losses; others will close. This action by the Comptroller has the potential to shrink the industry in half, harming the many MGGA members who sell grapes commercially to the wineries.

By striking the law, it will now be mandated that wineries use wholesalers – who historically are not interested in small producers (those without great market share, and without sufficient inventory). Wholesalers demand a 35-40% margin – forcing wineries to raise their prices, or face greatly diminished returns.

The MWA will be submitting legislation on Monday in the Senate and Friday in the House – the legislation would create a small winery self-distribution license, allowing MD wineries (and small wineries from out-of-state) to deliver their wines to retail stores and restaurants.

MWA has designed a section of [www.MarylandWine.com](http://www.MarylandWine.com) that describes the lawsuit, the laws affected, and how MGGA members can help. We'll be updating the site regularly. Plus, the MWA is contacting media this week to ensure coverage of the issue.

YOUR SUPPORT IN CONTACTING YOUR ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS is essential to keeping the Maryland wine industry vibrant and growing. Virginia's legislature, faced with the same issue, ruled against the wineries last week – illustrating just how much we need your support.

Talking points, all of the info mentioned above, as well as links to legislator contact info can be found here:

<http://www.marylandwine.com/mwa/laws/industry/index.shtml>

Thanks for your support and action -- and please be in touch if you have questions or concerns.

Kevin

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