



AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY

a non-profit corporation

January 10, 1996
1104 Candy Mint Lane
Westminster, MD 21157

Happy New Year!

For all who were unable to attend our annual Sparkling extravaganza, we have elected a new slate of officers; Chairman-yours truly, Secretary-Barb Brown and Treasurer-John Landon.

Jack Johnson did a great job on the Sparklings. Following is a quick rundown, starting with the group's favorite, which was listed as one of the top 20 champagnes in the world by the Wine Spectator.

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Retail Cost</u>	<u>Votes</u>
Oasis (Va) Cuvee D'Or '90	\$25.00	12
Argyle (Or) Cuvee Ltd '88	\$16.99	11
Lenz (Long Island) Cuvee '91	\$20.00	3
Boordy (Md) Blanc de Blanc '92	\$15.99	2
Pierre Jourdan (S African) Brut Sauvage	\$19.99	
Ch Moncontour (Loire) Vouvray '93	\$15.99	0

Enclosed is a 1996 calendar of wine and house hosts. Please check your schedules and let us know if you can volunteer for an open date.

January's meeting will be at Phil and Naomi Benzil's at 2:00. Walt will be guiding us through his 2nd annual Port tasting.

Unfortunately, Barb and I will be away on vacation (we hope), but John has graciously volunteered, with the help of Nan, to chair the meeting. Please call the Benzil's by January 18th if you would like to attend.

Yours,

Barb Eisberg

P.S. Remember, dues are due!



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February 9, 1996
1104 candy Mint Lane
Westminster, MD 21157

Dear Wine Lovers,

The January tasting at the Benzil's was small in size but enjoyed by all. Walt took us to the Port region of Douro in Portugal, where we tasted 3 still wines and 3 Ports from the same vintages. The group's favorite in the still wine category was the '91 Vintage and the favorite Port was '92.

Duas Quintas Ramos Pinot Duas 1991	\$9.37
Teodosio Dao Garrafeira 1985	\$13.55
Charamba 1992	\$4.99
Warres 1991 vintage	\$31.32
Illiarres 1985 vintage	\$38.66
Warres 1992 Quinta da Cavadinha	\$19.99

Walt shared a Port Sorbet with the group. If you were not at the tasting and would like a copy of the recipe, please see me at the White's.

Joe and Nattie are happy to announce that they will be hosting the annual July picnic, and George and Jackie Grillon have volunteered for September. We still have several open dates, so please check your calendars.

Max and Ann White will house and wine host the February meeting, which is titled *Simply French*. We will be tasting different varieties from six different regions. The tasting is limited to 30 (members considered first), so please call Max by Thursday, February 15th if you would like to attend.

Happy Valentines Day,

Barb



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March 6, 1996
1104 Candy Mint Lane
Westminster, MD 21157
(410) 848-0709

Dear Wine Lovers,

Many thanks to Max and Ann White for our little sojourn in February to France, where we enjoyed a varied selection of wines. A 1994 *Domaine De La President Cotes-du-Rhone* at \$6.00 was the favorite of the day.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to host a tasting -our calendar is full!

A **note on Chapter dues** -if you have not paid for 1996, this will be your last newsletter (see green dot). If you would like to pay, please mail a check for \$8.00 to me or John Landon at 17 Ridge Rd., Westminster, MD 21157, or better yet, bring it to the next tasting.

Our 16th Anniversary soiree is at the Johnston's on Sunday, March 17th at 2:00 PM. Since it is also St. Patrick's Day, we will be celebrating (if you wish) by "Wearing O' the Green." Jack's topic for the tasting will be "*Building a Chateauf-du-Pape.*" Please give Jack and Emily a call by Thursday, March 14th if you would like to attend.

Happy St. Patrick's Day_

Barb





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April 10, 1996

1104 Candy Mint Lane

Westminster, MD 21157

Dear Wine Lovers,

The Anniversary tasting at the Johnston's was a real learning experience Jack let us through a sampling of the main components that go into making a Chateauneuf-du-Pape. We tasted a Cinsault, Grenach (Rose'), Shiraz and Mouvedre. The latter two were favored for their depth and complexity. Jack then served a wine which was a blend of all four wines, a Chateauneuf-du-Johnston. We felt this wine was dominated by the Cinsault and Grenach, and the Shiraz and Mouvedre got lost in the blend. We then had a real **Chateauneuf-du-Pape** '93 (\$13.99). I found it interesting that these wines have a minimum 12 1/2% alcohol content. The group voted this wine, by far, the favorite of the day.

Jack is doing a write-up on his tasting to be sent to the AWS Wine Journal. Keep an eye out for this in a future issue.

We have received the AWS 1996 National Tasting project, which will be Pinot Noirs, According he outlined procedures, this should be a more formal tasting, with no discussion until every one has finished scoring all the wines As our calendar is full and our group tends to enjoy a less formal format, my thoughts are running towards doing this project as an extra tasting outside our normal schedule. I would like to take a vote on this at our April meeting. If you will be unable to attend but have any suggestions or would like to house host this tasting please give me a call

Bill Brown visited the **Russian River Valley** in California in November, '95. He will be sharing some interesting facts about the region etc. and has asked Mark Wing to talk a bit about the individual wines (red & white) at the April 21st meeting. Please give Bill or Barb Brown a call by Thursday, the 18th, if you would like to attend. *As usual, anyone who wishes is invited to bring a dish_*

See you there,

Barb



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May 10, 1996

1104 Candy Mint Lane

Westminster, MD 21157

Dean Wine Lovers,

Thank you Bill and Barb Brown for a wonderful trip to the Russian River Valley. The wines were enjoyed by all, positive comments, reasonably high scores. The favorite white was the **Mark West Chardonnay, 1993**, retail \$11.99, and the top red of the day was **Topolos Charbone, Old Vines, Unlined, 1993 (Italian)**, retail \$12-49.

The Michaelsen's will not be able to host November; ask them why! Please check your calendars and let me know if anyone is available on this date.

We have scheduled August 4th for the National tasting of Pinot Noirs, to be held at Jeff Arch's home, with Bill Eisberg as wine host. More information in the July newsletter.

Our next tasting will be held on May 19th, 2:00 p.m., at Bob and Florence Kersey's. Bill Eisberg will be wine host and the topic is *Alternatives to Chardonnay*. Please call the Kersey's or me by May 16th if you would like to attend. *As usual, anyone who wishes is invited to bring a dish.*

Hope to see you there,

Barb



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1104 Candy Mint Lane
Westminster, MD 21157

June 10, 1996

Dear Wine Lovers,

Many thanks to Bob and Florence Kersey for hosting a great day; not only a tasting, but the whole group was also invited to stay for a delicious dinner. Thanks also to Bill Eisberg, who presented Alternatives to Chardonnay. The wines are listed below as voted on, most favored to least.

1) Charles Koehly, Auxerrois (Pinot Blanc Clone), 1994, Alsace	\$ 11.99
2) Alban Vineyards, Viognier, 1994, Central Coast	\$ 22.99
3) Calera, Viognier, 1994, Mt. Harlan	\$32.99
4) Schoffit, Tokay Pinot Gris, Harth Vnd, 1994, Alsace	\$19.99
5) Les Jamelles, Marsanne, 1993, Yin de Pays d'Oc	\$7.99
6) Saddleback Cellars, Pinot Blanc, 1994	\$12.49

We need a volunteer! The Murray's will be hosting November instead of October, therefore October is now open. Please let me know if you would be able to be a house or wine host for this date.

Our next tasting will be at Al and Tammy Kacsur's on June 23rd at 2:00 p.m. Al was reading in the Wine Spectator that their "Wine of the Year" was an Australian Shiraz (Penfold's Grange Shiraz, \$100.00 per bottle). He thought it might be interesting to have a blind tasting of Shiraz ranging in price from \$8.00 to \$100.00. We'll see if you can pick out the \$100 wine! The tasting may run over our customary \$12.00. If you can attend, please call the Kacsur's by June 20th.

As always, you may bring a dish if you would like.
Hope to see you there,

Barb



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August 9, 1996
1104 Candy Mint Lane
Westminster MD 21157

Dear Wine Lovers,

Many thanks to Nattie and Joe for sharing their home and to Jeannie and Tom for all their hard work in helping to make this year's picnic a big success.

The National Tasting at Jeff and Kathleen Arch's was light in attendance but was enjoyed by all. The Pinot Noir's were generally good in quality and showed us a variety of styles. The favorite was Beaulieu Vineyards Pinot Noir Reserva, Cameros 1994, retailing at \$19.49. The runner up was Rex Hill Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon, 1993 at \$15.49.

On September 19th, Antrim's in Taneytown will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Carroll County Children's Fund Foundation. They will showcase the talents of executive chefs from Antrim, Country Fare Inn, Quail Ridge Inn and Stone Manor. It will include an hors d'oeuvres reception in the Mansion's Drawing Rooms and tours of the Formal Gardens. The cost is \$125.00 per person, of which a portion will be donated. For reservations and more information please contact Stewart Dearie, Maitre d'Hotel at 410756-6812 or 1-800-858-1844. (See attached menu.)

Our August tasting will be at the Eisberg's on August 18th at 2:00 p.m. Bill has decided to repeat a theme that was done a few years ago that he thought would be fun for a summer tasting. This theme is "Mystery Wines". If you wish to participate, please bring one bottle of wine per person, bagged for a blind tasting, indicating whether the wine is red, white or rose (please bring the white's and rose's chilled). Each participant will taste a determined number of wines, guessing several categories such as red, white or rose, country of origin, grape variety, etc. Prizes will be awarded to the top scorers.

For those not wishing to participate, we will have a selection of Napa Ridge wines to enjoy. After the contest, the mystery wines will be shared by all. As usual, bring a dish if you wish. Please give us a call by Thursday, August 15th if you can attend and let us know at that time if you will be joining in the contest.

See you there,

Barb



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1104 Candy Mint Lane
Westminster, MD 21157
September 6, 1996

Dear Wine Lovers,

Bill Eisberg's wine tasting was a challenge to all who attempted to identify several aspects of the mystery wines. Each person tasted ten wines and a point was given for each category guessed correctly. Bill Eisberg and John Pardoe were top scorers, separated by only 1/2 point. Tying for third place were Pat Valas and Bill Brown. Congratulations to all who participated.

Just a reminder! The Carroll County Wine Festival will be held the weekend of September 21st and 22nd. Jack and Emily Johnston have sent out letters to volunteers to work in our wine education tent. If you are not working, make sure you stop by to say hi.

Our September tasting will be held at George and Jackie Grillon's on 9/15/96. John Landon will be presenting the wines, *White Bordeaux and their friends*. Please call the Grillon's (756-2250) or myself by September 12th if you will be able to attend.

Hope to see you there.

Barb



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September 18, 1996
1104 Candy Mint Lane
Westminster, MD 21157

Dear Wine Lovers,

Our September tasting at George and Jackie Grillon's was greeted by a beautiful Fall-like day. As usual, we enjoyed sharing their home and the great view. John Landon led us through a sampling of White Bordeaux and several similar varieties from other areas. The wines were presented blind. The top wine of the day, with ten votes, was **Domaine de Coussergues, Sauvignon Blanc, France, 1995** at \$9.99. Coming in second (six votes) was **Flora Springs Soliloquy** (Sauvignon Blanc from 30 year old vines) **Napa Valley, 1994** retailing at \$14.99.

My apologies to the group. We had discussed moving the date of the November tasting, but due to scheduling conflicts the date will remain as originally scheduled, November 17th.

As our inventory of name tags has significantly dwindled, please check around your homes and bring any runaways to the next tasting you attend.

Please join us on October 20th, 2:00 p.m., at the Michaelsen's for a trip to the African Continent. Walt has set up an interesting tasting of South African wines. Give Art and Peg a call by Thursday, October 20th if you can attend.

Hope to see you there.

Barb

A special thanks to Mark Wing for his help with the wine selections.



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October 31, 1996,
1104 Candy Mint Lane
Westminster, MD 21157

Dear Wine Lovers,

A big thank you to Art, Peg and Walt for hosting a very interesting tasting. I think we were all pleasantly surprised by the excellent quality of the South African wines and the fact that this wine industry is more than 300 years old . . . Walt arranged for RSA Wines, and importer, to do the presentation. We tasted Chenin Blanc, Sauv Blanc, Shiraz, Pinotage and Cabernet. The favorite white was a Stellenzicht Vineyards 1996 Sauv Blanc and our pick of the reds was a 1994 Merlot from the same Vineyard. Although these wines cannot be purchased in Maryland at this time, they are available in Virginia and Pennsylvania.

I am working on next year's calendar. Four months remain open; May, June, September and October. Please let me know if you are a volunteer as a house or wine host.

November's tasting at the Murray's will be Southern Rhones and LeMidi. We will meet on the 17th at 2:00. Please give Dick and Emily a call (857-5346) by Thursday, November 14th if you will be able to attend.

Bill and I will be at the National Meeting so we won't see you until December.

Have a great tasting!

Barb



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1001 Scarlet Oak Court
3A Hampstead, Md. 21074
December 4, 1995

Hello Wine Tasters!

Our visit to the Loire Valley via the Murrays was tres magnifique! (Okay -I'm not a French major, but everyone enjoyed the wines.) The favorite was Chatelain Pouilly Fume 1994 at \$17.99

Our next adventure will be the traditional Sparkling Sparkler at the Blosverens on December 17th beginning at 2:00. Jack Johnston is the wine host. He informed me that he would try to have an unusual program of non-traditional wines; prepare yourselves!! This tasting/party tends to be a "dress up " affair: bring your favorite dish and something to munch on.

The January tasting will be presented by Walt Rachele; however Walter cannot take us to many Ports if we don't have a ship to sail on! Please volunteer your home for the January tasting.

We need wine and house hosts for 1996 -please volunteer!

Please call me at the number listed above or the Blosverens by the 13th if you will be attending.

Yours in wine,

