



AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY

a non-profit corporation

Chapter Chair
[Dick Murray](#)

Secretary
Barbara Brown

Treasurer
John Landon

Jan 6, 2004

Happy New Year!

That greeting reminds me to apologize for getting the Newsletter out a bit behind schedule. No, it wasn't due to too much celebrating but simply simply -a busy time for getting back to a regular routine.

The December meeting was its usual success with the annual Champagne Tasting hosted by the Blosverens and presented by John Landon (as usual, we are fortunate to note.)

Number One choice was Bellocart-Salmon Brut NV (\$39.99) with 14 votes. Number Two was Perrier Jouet de Blanc 2002 and \$49.99 and garnered 7 votes. The other four ranged in price from \$29.99 to \$44.99

(For further details contact John Landon - my pencil broke while trying to keep the details!)

The Ham Mowbray Scholarship Fundraiser was a great success, funding our first scholarship in Ham's name and voting to award the next in Alan Kacsur's name. The winners of the wine baskets were the Barbour's, Landons, Eisbergs, Grillons and Fred Seymour. The Wilson basket was won by the Burnetts and the Nestoricks walked away with the huge Chianti bottle donated by the Heins. Emily Johnston's plants were beautiful and much enjoyed.

One more reminder - dues are payable for those who haven't yet done so. As Becky noted in her last Newsletter we will update the roster at the end of this month and not again until the following year.

Great appreciation to Becky for not just one but two years of outstanding service. And many thanks as well to both John Landon and Dean Wilson for continuing to serve respectively as our friendly TREASURER and WEBMASTER.

Next meeting is at the Grillon's - please call ASAP

*"No thing more excellent nor more valuable
than wine was ever granted by God." Plato*



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February 1, 2004

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A great tasting took place at the Grillon's on January 18th. Bill Eisberg presented a program of "Big Reds To Sip By The Fire" and was it timely and needed! Freezing rain outside with fireplaces ablaze and red wine inside. The wines presented with their rankings and prices were:

- 1ST Place - Ridge Sonoma Three Valleys 2001 USA, 50% Zinfandel, 15% Petite Syrah, 15% Carignane, 11 % Mataro (Mourvedre), 9% Grenache, 14.4 alcohol- \$19.95 (15 votes)
- 2nd Place - Finca Sobreno Especial 1999 Spain, 100% Tinta de Toro (Tempranillo), 14% alcohol- \$29.99 (7 votes)
- 3rd Place - Warwick Three Cape Ladies 2000 South Africa, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 20% Pinotage, 14% alcohol- \$21.99 (6 votes)
- 4th Place - Chateau D' Aydie Mairan 1998 France, 40-60% Tannat, Plus Fer, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cab Franc, 10% alcohol- \$16.99 (2 votes)
- 5th Place - Crios De Susana Balbo 2002 Argentina, 50% Syrah, 50% Bonarda, 13% alcohol \$14.99 (1 vote)
- 6th Place - Morando Borolo 1999 Italy, 100% Nebbiolo, 13 % alcohol (0 votes).

Next Tasting

Our TASTING ON FEBRUARY 15TH will go to the deep south - South America that is. Carl Brandhorst was fortunate enough to accompany an importer (who may be able to join us as well). Carl managed to bring back a number of wines he feels representative of the area. Since there is only one bottle of each wine the tasting will be limited to the first 25 who call in to our house hosts, who are the Kozaks. This is an Educational Tasting. Pat Valas is donating the wines and all proceeds will benefit the AWSEF Al Kacsur Memorial Scholarship. Suggested donation is \$25 per person with checks made payable to AWSEF.

Odds and Ends

In the January 7th *Sunpaper* Michael Dresser wrote of the challenge of "boxed wines". He reviewed two Australian wines from an outfit known as "Black Box Wines." Beringer and Mondavi are considering boxed wines. Dresser's prediction - "Bet on the box". A growing acceptance of screw tops was also predicted. It seems that Jack is on the right track.

"Wine is the best liquor to wash glasses in."
Jonathan Swift



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March 6, 2004

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February's tasting at the Kozak's featured 13- yes, 13- South African wines, presented by Carl Brandhorst, a long time member of AWS. All agreed that South Africa is making some good wines, to say the least. Those tasted were as follows, with price (when shown) including a \$10.00 tax!:

Avondale, Chenin Blanc 2001	\$14.95
Kanu, Chenin Blanc 2002	\$13.50
Asara, Savignon Blanc 2002	\$14.50
Alexander Fontein, Savignon Blanc 2002	\$13.70
Rooddnzandt, Keizer's Creek (Blend) NV	\$12.75
Sailor Mountain, Ruby Cabernet 2001	
Darling Cellars, Pinotage 1999	
Whale Haven, Pinot Noir 2000	\$22.00
Slaley, Broken Stone-Shiraz 2001	\$19.00
Kaapzicht, Hannepott Jerepigo 2000	\$14.25
Swartland Wynkelder, Red Jerepigo NV	\$13.15
Glen Carlou, Cape Vintage (port)	\$19.70
Stellenbosch, Cabernet 1993	(From the Michaelsens' tasting)

Thanks to Walt and Pat for sponsoring this tasting with proceeds going to the educational fund in memory of Al Kacsur as well as thanks to Renee and Chip for the wonderful food.

Next Tasting

Our 24th Anniversary tasting is at the Johnstons' on March 21st. The theme is "Second Strings" (mainly reds). Our hosts will be out of town several days during the prior week so call and leave a short message (to save space on the answering tape). Better yet, send an e-mail.

Our thanks in advance to the Johnstons for this annual event.

Our 25th Coming Before You Know It

Suggestions for a special event to mark our Chapter's Silver Anniversary this time next year are welcome. Drop me a note, an e-mail or give me your ideas in person at any of our tastings.

"Wine is bottled poetry" -R. L. Stevenson



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April 3, 2004

The March tasting at the Johnstons featured "Second Strings", i.e., wines made from varietals normally used as "blenders". Tied as the "favorite" were Haugue Picpoul de Pillet (02) at \$6.99's and Calin Carmenere 02 (\$9.99. J. Lohr Valdiguie 02 at \$8.99 came in second and a tie for third place featured River Road-Pinto Meunier '02 [\$12.99] and Linden Vineyards Petite Verdot (\$20.00). Horton Vineyards took fourth place with Tannat (\$20.00) and El Toqui Semillon 02 came in last with one vote and a price tag of \$5.99.

All in all, it was a fine educational tasting of the caliber we have come to expect at the Johnstons (including a fine spread presented by the hosts and augmented by the members). As a reminder, members are encouraged if not expected to bring an item for the "food" table whenever possible.

April Tasting

Our April tasting is at Barb and Bill Browns on April 18th at the usual 2 p.m. start time. Please call them by Wednesday the 14th if you plan on coming.

Here is the "program" as sent to me:

REDS -you bet.

CABS -you bet.

But Cabs in a bag? You bet. You must guess where they are from. You will be given a list of countries and states (there will be no ringers). Seven wines and seven countries or states. Count'em, seven, for you see even the warm-up is in a bag. The winner gets to go home with the empty bags, but everyone gets to taste CABS, CABS and MORE CABS.

Future Schedule

- May 16 - House Hosts Barbour, Wine Host Nan Slick.
- June 20 - House Hosts Wilsons, Wine Hosts Parker/Pardoe
- July 18 - House Hosts Grillon - PICNIC
- August 15 - House Hosts Evans - National Tasting
- September 19 - House Hosts Benzils, Wine Hosts Benzils.

The balance of the year will be in next months letter. Sign up now for next year to serve as a house host, wine host or both.

"Wine in the bottle does not quench thirst."

- George Herbert, 17th Century



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May 7, 2004

April's tasting took us to Barb and Bill Browns for a tasting of "big reds", featuring "Cabs in a bag". Geography was featured with only a few of us naming the country or state of origin. After a warm-up of Charles Shaw (California at \$9.99) the rest in order of preference were:

Spain -Grim Oastellflorit, Penedes (\$9.99)

Washington- Sagelands, Columbia Valley (\$14.95)

California ~ Gallo, Sonoma (\$11.99)

Maryland ~ Elk Run, Liberty Tavern (\$24.50)

Argentina ~ Coco Drillo, Mendoza (\$14.99)

Australia- Twin Beaks (\$9.99)

Thanks to the Browns as both house and wine hosts with a great tasting both informative and fun.

Coming Events

The May tasting will be on May 6th at the Harbours, directions on the back. Please call no later than Wednesday, May 12th so our house and wine hosts can plan. The wine theme is "Beautiful Blonde Blends" presented by Becky Wilson and Nan Slick.

Future Schedule

June 13 -House Hosts **Pardoe**, Wine Hosts Parker/Pardoe

July 25 -House Hosts Grillon -PICNIC (please note the change in date) August 15 -House Hosts Evans - National Tasting

"I've heard him denounce wine a hundred times a day, But then it has been between as many glasses "

Douglas Jerrold, 19th century.



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June 4, 2004

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Becky Wilson and Nan Slick treated us to a special tasting on May 16th. Entitled "Beautiful Blonde Blends" with a sub-title "A presentation of wines for a new cuisine and a new millennium" with a brochure presented to each of us. True to the title, each of the wines was described by the vintner or producer, accompanied with a recipe for an appropriate dish.

The overwhelming favorite was Conundrum 2001 (\$25.98). In fairness to the rest of the field a separate vote was taken of the remaining "favorites", with the results as follows:

Rosenblum, Vintners Cuvee Blanc IV (\$11.99) -6 votes Cline"
Oakley, V in Blanc 2001 (\$7.98) -5 votes
Folie a Deux, Menage a Trois 2002 (\$10.99) -4 votes
d'Arenberg, The Stump Jump 2002 (\$9.99) -3 votes Archery
Summit, Vireton 2000 (\$27.99) -1 vote Curtis, Heritage Blanc
2002 (\$10.99) -1 vote

Thanks for a great tasting and presentation.

Bus Trip Any One?

Fred Seymour advises there is an "import" wine shop in D.C. with good tastings, said to cost approximately \$10.00 with an array of as many 40 wines, usually French. He is seeing if the Frederick and Baltimore Chapters may be interested in renting a bus or van(s). Let's discuss at the June meeting.

June Tasting

Please note, the June tasting is set for June13 at the Pardoes -directions on the back. Please call them by Wednesday, June 9th if you plan to attend.

*"Bad wine does me no harm.
Because it never gets past my nose. "*

George Sandeman.



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July 14, 2004

Outstanding June Tasting

John and Deborah Pardoe furnished their home as well as assisting Pennee Parker in the June program entitled "Picnic-Grill Out-Food and Wine Paring", The wines and rankings in order were:

Sobon Estate Zinfandel, 2002 Rocky Top Vineyard (\$16.95) -13 votes

Michele Colin-Deleger, 2002 Bourgogne Chardonnay "(\$21.99) -3 votes

And then there was a 3-way tie with all of 2 votes each for **2003 Ca 'del Sol Big House Pink** \$9.99, **E. Guigal Cotes du Rhone**, 2000, \$11.99" and **Santa Julia "Tardio"**, 2002 \$11.99 while for the first time in memory the least favorite wine, **Chateau Trbiac Graves Blanc**, \$9.99, was without a single vote.

The pairings with food was a great educational innovation.

It's Picnic Time

The annual picnic is set for July 25th, 2 p.m. at the Grillon's. Bring your family, chairs, bathing suits, tennis rackets" a dish for the table and some *vin* to share. Cost will probably be \$5.00 per adult as in the past. See directions on the back.

If you plan on coming" please call Barb Brown or e-mail her by no later than July 21st so we will have a count for buying dogs, burgers, etc.

Future Schedule

August 16 - House Host Evans, Wine Host Eisberg

September 12 - House Host Benzil, Wine Host Benzil

October 17 - House Host Barbour, Wine Host Stewart

November 21 - House Host Murray, Wine Host Murray

December 14 - House Host Blosveren, Wine Host Landon

*"One barrel of wine can work more Miracles than
a church full of saints."*

- ITALIAN PROVERB

◆ Promoting appreciation of wine through education ◆
◆ Visit our website at www.ccaaws.net ◆



AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY

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Secretary
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Treasurer
John Landon 0

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August 6, 2004

A Perfect Picnic

Yes, I know - at times the weather had a threatening overcast but all went well. A good crowd, good wine and good fellowship. Our thanks in particular to our hosts Jackie and George, who had only returned the day before from a vacation trip. George handled the grill with -panache while Jackie took care of a table with a surfeit of sweets (plus cheeses, dips, etc.) Nan was the first (the only?) in the pool, LeRoy instructed in the art of horseshoes and the rest of us took care of the food and beverages. Thanks as well to all for helping with the "supplies."

The August Tasting -(And Swimming!)

Bill Eisberg is our knowledgeable wine host and Mary and Mike Evans will be our house hosts. The date is August 15, 2004, at the Evans' home [in] Westminster. Please call Mary or Mike by August 11th so adequate "supplies" can be arranged. Directions to their home are on the back. Please Note -The Evans' outdoor pool and hot tub will be available -swimmers and sunbathers might want to show their appreciation with a little white wine around the pool after out tasting. Thanks to Mary and Mike in advance.

Miscellany

This year has seen a flood of wine articles. Among the latest is an article in The Sun of August 4, 2004 entitled "Corkscrews soon may be passe". This was foreseen by Jack Johnston earlier this year and the article cites Rogue Cellars as the largest producer of premium U.S. wines to go that route. Rogue was mentioned by Emily Johnston in the past as an outstanding producer, announcing that "Anything by Rogue is good" (or words to that effect).

Future Schedule

9/12 Wine Host - Benzil; House Host - Benzil
10/17 Wine - Stewart; House - Barbour
11/21 Wine - Murray; House - Murray
12/14 Wine - Landon; House - Blosveren

*"And Noah he often said to his wife when he sat down to dine,
'I don't care where the water goes if it doesn't get in the wine!'"*
- Chesterton



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September 2, 2004

The August Report

August 15th -a warm, pleasant day found us at the home of Mary and Mike Evans. Bill

Eisberg presented a program on Rose wines, seven in all! In order of preference, they were: --

Mandolina Santa Barbara Rosato 2003 70% Nebbiola, 30% Barbera -\$15.99 - 5 votes

Chateau Potelle Rivera Rose Paso Robles 2002 -\$14.99 - 4 votes

Hugues De Beauvignac Syrah Rose Cotes De Thau 2003 -\$6.99 - 2 votes

Domaine De Montmarin Les Olivers Rose Cotes De Thongue 2003 -\$7.99 - 1 vote

Guigal Cotes du Rhone Rose 2002 \$11.99 - 1 vote

Also ran -

Toad Hollow Eye of the Toad Pinot Noir Rose 2003 , Sonoma at \$9.99

Tasca d' Almerita Rose di Regaleali 2002, Italyat \$12.99.

Thanks again to Bill, Mary and Mike for a great outdoor tasting and great setting.

September Extravaganza -September 12th

Phil and Naorni Benzil will be both house and wine hosts. The theme is: ""What's In A Rothschild's?""

Please call Phil or Naomi by Wednesday, September 8th. Call early since there will be a limit of 30 members and any guests.

Future Schedule

10/17 Wine -Stewart House -Barbour

11/21 Wine -Murray House -Murray

12/12 Wine -Landon House -Blosveren

"An old wine bibber, having been smashed in a railroad collision, some wine was poured on his lips to revive him.

'Pauillac, 1873', he murmured, and died".

-- Ambrose Bierce, Enlarged Devil's Dictionary.



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October 7, 2004

The September Report

Naomi and Phil Benzil entertained and educated us at their home on September 12th. It turned out to be a beautiful day in a great outdoor setting. Phil provided an historical vignette of the Rothschild family from financing to wine entrepreneurial-ship. After a warm up of Mouton Cadet White '02 BPR (\$9.00 retail) the Rothschild Reds in order of preference were:

Chalone Syrah '01 USA (\$29.99) - 15 votes

Cara Cabernet/Malbec '01 DPRL with Catena (\$49.99) - 10 votes

After these two carted off all of the votes, the remaining wines with prices were:

Los Vacos Cabernet '02 Chile DBRL \$8.99

Rupert & Rothschild Classique '01 South Africa \$19.99

Le Petit Mouton '01 France (Pauillac) BPR \$74.99

Followed by a desert wine from Hungry, Royal Tokaji '96 at \$32.99 (500 ml.).

Fine educational program by Phil with Naomi as an outstanding hostess.

The October Tasting

October 17th tasting will be at the Barbours (our gracious hosts earlier this year). Please call them by Wednesday, October 13th if you plan on coming so our hosts can make the necessary arrangements. Our wine host is the ever effervescent Leroy Stewart who will tell us about which of the "Seven Zins" he most enjoys.

Future Schedule

11/21 Wine - Murray House - Murray

12/12 Wine - Landon House - Blosveren

*"No Agnes, a Bordeaux is not a house of ill repute."
- French Proverb*



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November 11, 2004

The: October Report

Leroy Stewart introduced (or re-introduced) us to the "Seven Deadly 'Zins'" with the history of the vines followed by six examples and a port to finish. The group ratings from top to bottom, with retail prices, were:

Howell Mountain Zinfandel 2001 - 9 votes (\$39.99)

Murphy-Goode Snake Eyes - 8 votes (\$35.95) Lodi Zinfandel 2002 - 7 votes (\$18.99)

Montevina Amador County Zinfandel 2000 - 2 votes (\$12.99)

Cartlidge & Brown Zinfandel 2001 - 1 vote (9.99)

Deep Creek Old Vine Zinfandel 2002 - 0 votes! (\$15.99 - the only thing going for it, apparently is the fact that it is produced in Garret County, albeit from California grapes).

Thanks to Leroy for another is a series of great educational programs.

The November Tasting. etc.

November 21st takes us to the Murrays who are both house and wine hosts. Space is limited to 25 so please call us by November 17th. The theme will be "Holiday Wines" or "For Fowl and Beast". As usual, directions are on the other side.

Don't forget our Ham Mowbray and Alan Kacsur Scholarship Fund by bringing a check for \$25.00 payable to AWSEF and also to bring a bottle of wine with a retail value of at least \$10.00 for our Wine Baskets. Call Becky Wilson if you have any questions or to arrange to deliver your donations to her if you can't make the tasting.

Future Schedule

Annual Champagne Extravaganza - John Landon is the Wine Host and Richard and Carmen Blossveren are our House Hosts - December 12th. The following three meetings will be:

January 16, 2005 - House Hosts the Browns, Wine Host Rachele.

February 20, 2005 - House Hosts the Pardoes, Wine Host Fiola

March 20, 2005 - House and Wine Hosts, the Johnstons - our 25th Anniversary!

*"Wine... cheereth God and man."
- JUDGES 9:13*

Dec 1, 2004

Newsletter may not have been published.