

December 2010

Tri-Cities Wine Society



Online at
<http://tricitiewinesociety.org/web>



Sunday, December 5

Giving & Gifting — The Spirit of the Holidays

Sunday, January 23

Around the Globe with Merlot

Sunday, February 13

Open That Bottle Night 12

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Around the Globe with Merlot

Sandy Birdlebough

Member, TCWS Board of Directors

Around the Globe with Merlot! As announced and recommended in last month's *EVOE*, start your year and warm up your January with Merlot wines from different parts of the world. Experience wines from North and South America, Western and Central Europe, and other Northern and Southern hemisphere continents. The event will be at **Kestrel Vintners, Prosser, Sunday, January 23, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** **J.J. Compeau, Kestrel Vintners' marketing director, will be the featured speaker.** Not only is he highly knowledgeable about the wine industry, but he is also a master at wine and food pairings.

Six wines will be available for tasting so guests can taste the differences when the same grape is planted in various parts of the world. And, to Sample with the wines, there will be a selection of fruits, cheeses, bread and other delights. Also, Kestrel's Chef Carlos Trevino will serve one of his signature appetizers.

Then, there will be a "mystery wine" for participants to sample and try to guess its origin. Those with the correct guess will have an opportunity to receive a magnum of Kestrel wine!

The soft, round and fruitful Merlot grape has a flavor that ranges from purple plums to red cherries. It is used

both as a single varietal and a popular blending wine. The grape is lower in tannin than Cabernet Sauvignon and is often used to soften up Cabernet in Bordeaux blends. Merlot grows best where it is both sunny and chilly.

(www.merlotwine.net)

Did you mark your calendar? Again, this event is set for **Sunday, January 23, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., at Kestrel Vintners.** All you need to bring is your palate and appetite. Watch for even more details in the January *EVOE*. ♦



Around the Globe with Merlot

Event Chairmen: Sandy Birdlebough, Ted Davis

Date: Sunday, January 23

Time: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Kestrel Vintners
2890 Lee Road, Prosser

Price: Members, \$35; guests \$40

Limit: 48

Type: Educational; compare/contrast

Bring: Palate and appetite

Cutoff date: **January 10**

Cancellation Policy: For a full refund, cancellation must be made **by phone to Judy Stewart, 627-6579,** on or before **Wednesday, January 19.** ♦

December President's Message

Ted Davis, TCWS President



Kudos and Thanks

The 32nd Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival is now behind us. What a great event! We had a record number of wineries submitting wines to be judged and then poured at the public tasting. Best of show award went to Russell Creek Winery for its 2008 Sangiovese. The Festival Steering Committee did another fantastic job for the Society and the community. Dolly Ammann and Blaine Hulse provided team leadership and management, while being supported by a cadre of volunteers. Thanks to all who helped and we look forward to another great festival in 2011.

Wine Factoids

- You can find the word vineyard(s) more than 100 times in the King James Bible. (www.enologist.com)
- Nebuchadnezzar is the largest wine bottle and holds 15 liters or about 120 glasses. (www.bellaonline.com)
- Australia developed wine in a box in the '70s. The wine inside a box is stored in a bladder that is not exposed to air. This means the wine may last up to a few weeks compared to a few days. (www.professorhouse.com) (Note: At this year's Tri-Cities Wine Festival, for the first time, Festival judges awarded medals to box wines. Judging results are posted on the Festival's web site, www.tcwinefest.com. Go to Past Festival Results, then click on 2010.)

Upcoming Events

- **December 5, Allied Arts Center, Richland** – as a reminder, the Society will have its 2nd annual scholarship fundraiser with all event proceeds going to support area students enrolled in enology or viticulture programs. Last year the Society was able to donate \$1,000 thanks to the generous support of individuals attending the event. Those attending this year's event will be able to view the American Watercolor Society's traveling show of 40 top watercolors from its national competition in New York City. The Allied Arts Center is one of only six U.S. cities selected to view this show. Also at this year's event, attendees will have the opportunity to taste **gold medal award-winning wines** from November's Tri-Cities Wine Festival! Hope to see you there.
- **January 23** is the date for the Society's **Around the Globe with Merlot** event. This event will be at Kestrel Vintners winery in Prosser. A selection of great Merlots has been chosen to enable attendees to

compare and contrast wine styles from Europe, South America, New Zealand and the United States, by way of examples. Kestrel's winery chef is working on the food pairings to match the selected wines. The maximum attendees will be only 48; therefore, recommend sending in the EVOE coupon in now so you will not be closed out. Look for more information on page 1.

- **February 13**, we will have a repeat of last year's successful "Open that Bottle Night" event! Participants will bring a bottle of wine to share and have the opportunity to talk about where they got it, why, how they've stored it, etc. This is an interactive, educational and fun event, providing an opportunity to learn and share. For more information turn to page 3.

As always, recommend signing up early so you are not closed out or miss the deadlines! Also, share your pleasure for wine tasting. Consider bringing a friend or friends to a Wine Society event.

Wine Quotes

- One of the disadvantages of wine is that it makes a man mistake words for thoughts. (*Samuel Johnson*)
- Wine ... moderately drunken – it doth quicken a man's wits, it doth comfort the heart. (*Andrew Borde, 1562*)

Wine Definitions

- **Blind Tasting:** Tasting several flights without knowledge of what kind of wine is in the glass. In serious tastings, the subjects of the test are attempting not only to place the varietal, but also the appellation, vintage, winemaker and other hidden characteristics.
- **Residual Sugar:** Natural sugar remaining after a second fermentation because it wasn't converted into alcohol. This is sometimes done intentionally in small amounts to add balance to a wine. Dessert wines usually have a high residual sugar content. ♦





Coming in February: Open that Bottle Night 12

Mary Binder
Member, TCWS Board of Directors

Although you might not be quite ready yet to be thinking about much past the holiday season, believe it or not, plans are well underway for the Wine Society's February event. As we've been announcing for the past couple of months, **Sunday, February 13**, the Wine Society will again participate in an event that started 12 years ago by *The Wall Street Journal's* former wine writers, John Brecher and Dorothy Gaiter – **Open that Bottle Night**. Have you marked your calendars?

Back by popular demand, this time the event will be at **The Country Gentleman**. While the time is still being finalized, for your planning purposes, it'll start sometime late afternoon and end in the early evening. Menu details are also still in the works but there will be food that can complement a variety of wines. However, as previously described, the concept remains the same, and is different, from other Society events – **participants bring a bottle of wine to share with others!**

This is **an interactive event**, a time not only to share some special wines, but learn why and when they were purchased, how they were stored, and more. So, now is a great time to start thinking about the special bottle of wine you want to bring! Maybe it'll be something you receive or find over the holidays, by way of example. And, as for the 2010 event, you will be asked to include your wine selection on your sign-up coupon. **Look for the coupons in the January and February EVOEs.**

If you are still wondering "what is a special bottle, and/or why the event," once again, here is background information to help you – 12 years ago, John and Dorothy started this event that now has a worldwide following. It is "a celebration of friends, family and memories during which all of us finally drink that wine that is otherwise simply too special to open." You know, the bottle you may have forgotten you have or the one you've had tucked away for a number of years and saving for that special occasion.

Speaking of "special occasion," in the February 22, *Palate Press*, John and Dorothy responded to reporter

Meg Houston Maker's question about OTBN's success with the following: "We had no idea OTBN would be such a success. The first year, we received more than 1,000 letters – real letters, on paper, because this was before we had e-mail. We laughed with some, cried with others. It was clear that, indeed, everyone – whether they had one bottle in the house or an entire collection – had that one wine that was always too special to open. You know how it is: Oh, let's save this for a special occasion; and then, no occasion is special enough and the bottle just sits there, dying. As one OTBN celebrant once put it, these are wines that people are literally loving to death."

Don't think you have a "special bottle" to bring and share? As John and Dorothy have written, that's OK. Their recommendation is to "pick up a bottle of wine that means something to you, a wine that will bring back memories." Does it have to be an expensive wine? No. Does it need to be something you believe others would enjoy, and that you want and would be pleased to share? Yes. Another idea, how about a special medal winner from this year's Tri-Cities Wine Festival? Check out the winners on the Festival's web site, www.tcwinefest.com.

So, hopefully you've marked your calendar! Continue to watch for more details in future EVOEs. Meanwhile ... if you haven't already made your decision, think about that "special bottle" to bring and share! ♦



TCWS Event Policy

Attendance Confirmation

No tickets will be issued. In case the event is full when your reservation is received, you will be notified and put on the waiting list.

Courtesy

Event attendees are reminded that strong smells deter from an enjoyable tasting experience. Please be considerate and do not wear perfume or after-shave when coming to an event.

Guest Policy

With our banquet permit, events are open only to members and their guests. Guests must be sponsored by a TCWS member.

Liquor Consumption

Only wine served by the Society may be consumed during our events.

Minimum Age 21 At All Events

The WA Liquor Control Board regulations tied to our banquet permit prohibit any minors from attending our events. Only persons minimum 21 years of age are allowed at monthly program events or at the Tri-Cities Wine Festival.

Non-drinker Policy

Requests to attend an event as a "non-drinker" will be approved or disapproved on a case-by-case basis by the event's committee. Decisions will be based on the type of event. ♦

32nd Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival

Dolly Ammann

Tri-Cities Wine Festival Co-Chair

This year the Festival was another success thanks to all of you who contributed your time and hard work. I would like to thank everyone who participated — the Steering Committee, all our other volunteers, the Three Rivers Convention Center staff, the judges, the wineries that entered and their pouring staff, the restaurants and caterers that generously provided the tasty appetizers and all of you who came and had a great time.

The restaurants and caterers that participated donated all the food they served! When you dine out or plan a catered event, consider giving one of them your business and remember to thank them for participating in the Tri-Cities Wine Festival. They were P.F. Chang's, Picazo 7 Seventeen, The Country Gentleman and O'Henry's a Go Go. Looking ahead, we are currently looking for someone to serve on the Festival Steering Committee who would be our restaurant and caterer chairperson. If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee in this capacity, please call me at 509-619-1482 or e-mail me at dollyammann@live.com.

I would like to congratulate Russell Creek Winery. They won the Best of Show Award this year for their 2008 Sangiovese. It is a fabulous wine! This is the third time Russell Creek has won the Festival "Best of Show award!" It is the only Northwest winery to receive such recognition.

Planning for the Festival is a year-round activity. One Festival concludes, and the work on the next one begins. Each year we learn things that will help us improve the next year's event. If you have any comments or suggestions, please forward them to me at the above e-mail address.

Thanks for your continuing support of the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival! ♦



Russell Creek Winery proudly displays its winning 2008 Sangiovese next to the Best of Show Award presented by Tri-Cities Wine Society President Ted Davis and Festival Co-Chair Dolly Ammann.

Perfect
HARMONY

Save the Date
Saturday, March 19

This event, sponsored by the Tri-Cities Wine Society, is one of the premier wine events in the Tri-Cities that you don't want to miss. It will be a night to remember. You will enjoy an elegant evening of fine dining, superb wines, music and fabulous art. Everything at this event is done with a touch of class. Watch for more information in next month's EVOE. ♦

Tri-Cities Wine Society 2011 Projected Events

January - Merlot Around the Globe: Compare and contrast Merlots from around the world!

February 13 - Open That Bottle Night (OTBN)12: Guests bring the wine for this now worldwide event.

March 19 - Perfect Harmony: The Wine Society co-sponsors this benefit event for Mid-Columbia Symphony.

April - Annual Membership Meeting; Spokane-Area Wineries: Learn about up-and-coming Spokane wineries.

May - Trip to Lake Chelan: Join the Wine Society for a tour of many Lake Chelan wineries with an overnight stay.

June - Wines of Piedmont Seminar: Explore the fine wines of Italy's Piedmont region — Barolo and more.

July - Rockpile Vineyard, Calif., Seminar: Learn about wines from one of Sonoma County's newest AVAs.

August - Red Willow Vineyard Bus Trip: Tour one of the state's oldest vineyards, western end, Yakima Valley.

September - Viognier Seminar: Learn, discuss, taste this up-and-coming varietal in Washington and elsewhere.

October - Blind Tasting: Taste, guess, learn, and maybe be surprised and enlightened!

November 4/5 - 33rd Tri-Cities Wine Festival: Judged competition of Northwest wines, plus seminars, grand public tasting, silent auction, vendors, music and food!

December - 3rd Annual Fundraiser: Enjoy Festival award-winning wines, holiday foods, door prizes. Proceeds benefit area students in viticulture and enology programs.

Note: events are subject to change.

Look for updates in the EVOE newsletter or online at <http://tricitiewinesociety.org/web> ♦

Membership Application/Renewal and Event Sign-Up

Single: \$ 20.00 **Couple: \$ 30.00**
 New **Renewal**
Referred by: _____

Name 1 _____
Name 2 _____
Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____
Phone Number _____
E-mail 1* _____
E-mail 2* _____

How would you like to receive the *EVOE* newsletter?
 E-mail (current e-mail address requested*)
 U.S. mail
 Both E-mail and U.S. mail

Giving & Gifting – The Spirit of the Holidays – Sunday, December 5, 2010

Members **\$25**
Guests **\$30**
Number of members attending ____
Number of guests attending ____
Limit : 50
 Would like to help at the event

Member _____
Member _____
Guest 1 _____
Guest 2 _____
Phone Number _____
E-mail _____

Around the Globe with Merlot – Sunday, January 23, 2011

Members **\$35**
Guests **\$40**
Number of members attending ____
Number of guests attending ____
Limit : 48
 Would like to help at the event

Member _____
Member _____
Guest 1 _____
Guest 2 _____
Phone Number _____
E-mail _____

Mail Payment with Coupons to:
Tri-Cities Wine Society
P.O. Box 1142
Richland, WA 99352

Do you have a new postal address?
Did you recently change your e-mail address?
If yes, or if you haven't seen an e-mail or *EVOE* newsletter for awhile, contact Scott Abernethy at 509-783-8801 or by e-mail at tcwinesocietymembership@gmail.com.

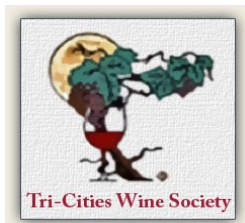
You can also check our web site at <http://tricitiewinesociety.org/web/> to access the latest *EVOE*. Download FREE Acrobat Reader [here](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversions.html) or go to www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversions.html.

Membership Renewal

Tri-Cities Wine Society memberships are for one year. Please remember to renew your membership so you can continue to enjoy the great wine events the Society offers. If you do not remember when your membership is up:

- Members who receive the newsletter by mail can find their renewal date indicated on the mailing label; or
- Contact the Tri-Cities Wine Society membership chairman, Scott Abernethy, at 509-783-8801 or by e-mail at: tcwinesocietymembership@gmail.com.

Thank you for your help in keeping your membership record current. ♦



*Dedicated
To
Educating Its Members
About Wine*

2010 December Wine Events Around The Pacific Northwest

Final Reminder

Giving & Gifting— The Spirit of the Holidays

Event Chairmen: Les Domingos & Ken Potter

Date: Sunday, December 5
Time: 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Allied Arts Center & Gallery
 89 Lee Blvd., Richland
Price: Members, \$25; guests \$30
Limit: 50
Type: Casual, stand-up; limited seating
Bring: 1 wine glass per person
Cutoff date: **Wednesday, December 1**
Cancellation Policy: For a full refund, cancellation must be made **by phone to Judy Stewart, 627-6579**, on or before **Wednesday, December 1**.



Holiday Barrel Tasting Weekend, Dec. 3-5, Walla Walla, WA. This is an annual event in the Walla Walla Valley when more than 50 wineries, belonging to the Walla Walla Wine Alliance, will be decked-out for the holiday season offering guests a variety of unique festivities. Each winery offers something special for its guests. Winemakers will be on hand to introduce their new wines as well as wines still in the barrel. Visitors can take home a selection of wines, many of which can be found only by visiting the wineries and tasting rooms themselves. Go to www.wallawallawine.com for more details.

Barnard Griffin Extended Hours Case Sale, Dec. 8, Richland, WA. If you like to buy your wine by the case, this will be a night like no other. The more you buy the more you save! Some wines up to 30% off. Must be here to appreciate it. Wines, foods and friends — priceless. Santa's sleigh will be bustin' at the seams after shopping this blow-out sale-athon. The hours are extended to help you in all your shopping during this busy time of year. Plus see artisan-fused glass works by owner, Deborah Barnard, which are available for sale in the Tasting Room Gallery. Bring your friends, your gift list and take in the holiday season in style with Barnard Griffin. Wrapping and shipping available. Location: Barnard Griffin Winery, 878 Tulip Lane, Richland, 99352. Time: 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kim at 509-627-0266, e-mail info@BarnardGriffin.com, or go to www.BarnardGriffin.com.

This newsletter is also accessible on the web at <http://tricitiewinesociety.org/web/>

EVOE
 Newsletter of the
 Tri-Cities Wine Society
 Dolly Ammann
 Need any info? Have an idea?
 Contact us!
dollyammann@live.com

