

January 2011



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

# Tri-Cities Wine Society



**Sunday, January 23**  
**Around the Globe with Merlot**

**Sunday, February 13**  
**Open that Bottle Night 12**

**Friday, March 11**  
**A "Blind" Syrah Tasting**

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## Around the Globe with Merlot

**Sandy Birdlebough**  
**Member, TCWS Board of Directors**

Have you done it — marked your calendar and made your reservation to start your year and warm up your January with the Society's "Around the Globe with Merlot" event? If not, there still is time, but space is limited for this opportunity to taste Merlots from different parts of the world. The where and when — **Kestrel Vintners, Prosser, Sunday, January 23, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

So, what wines will guests taste on this globe-trotting adventure? Starting in Europe, a **French 2001 Château Taillefer Merlot**. Then, moving a little east, a surprise **Merlot from Hungary**.



Traveling to the Southern Hemisphere, from New Zealand, guests will next taste an **Oyster Bay Merlot** followed by a **Casa Lapostolle Cuvée Alexander** from Chile (90-point rating from *Wine Enthusiast*).

Then, time to head closer to home. First, a stop in California's Napa Valley to taste a **Luna Vineyards award-winning 2006 Merlot** before coming home to a **Kestrel Vintner's 2006 Old Vine Merlot**.

Kestrel Vintners marketing director J.J. Comeau will be the "tour guide" for this event. Not only is he highly knowledgeable about the wine industry, but he is also a master at wine and food pairings. And, speaking of food, Kestrel's Chef Carlos Trevino will serve one of his signature appetizers, along with a selection of fruits, cheeses, bread and other delights to accompany each wine.

## Open that Bottle Night 12

**Mary Binder**  
**Member, TCWS Board of Directors**

So, whether you're "a planner" or more of a "fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants girl" as Julia Roberts said to Richard Gere in *Pretty Woman*, it is now time for planning — save the date, mark the calendar and make the reservation! For what, you ask? For the Society's **Open that Bottle Night 12, Sunday, February 13, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., The Country Gentleman**. As we've announced in the past several *EVOEs*, 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, and that now has a worldwide following.

Different from other Society events, **participants bring a bottle of wine to share with others!** Couples, or those attending alone, will need to bring a "special" bottle of wine they want to share with other attendees. Also, **attendees will be asked to include their wine selection on the sign-up coupon, (page 5, this *EVOE*) or if not known when signing up, send the information by Tuesday, February 8, to: [evoe2go@aol.com](mailto:evoe2go@aol.com).** The event co-chairs will compile a list of the wines to help attendees decide the wines they'd like to taste.

More details will be in the February *EVOE* regarding the menu, but we're focusing on food that can complement a variety of wines. With an appetizer, salad, soup, a seafood entrée, a meat entrée and a dessert, we're confident guests will not leave hungry. And, based on last year's event, with the wide variety of wines, there will be opportunities for

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# January

## President's Message

Ted Davis, TCWS President



### Wine Trivia and Factoids

- What causes the vanilla flavor in wine – if newer oak barrels were used in the winemaking process, the wines will often have a hint of vanilla in both aroma and flavor. ([aboutwine.com](http://aboutwine.com))
- Wine corks make up more than 60% of all cork production. ([aboutwine.com](http://aboutwine.com))
- What is the largest AVA in the United States – Ohio River Valley, spanning 25,000 square miles and 16 million acres, it covers 4 states: West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. (Jeff Burkart, What do You Know about Wine?)
- What is the smallest AVA in the United States – Cole Ranch AVA comprises just 60 acres in Mendocino County, Calif., and is owned by the Sterling family. (Jeff Burkart, What do You Know about Wine?)

### 5 Lesser-Known Varietals to Try

What about this for a New Year's resolution – **try a wine varietal you have not tasted to broaden your horizon.** Here are 5 you may not know, and they may be the next wave of wildly popular wines based on current trends:

- Blaufränkisch (BLAO-fran-Keesh) – popular in central Europe, especially in Austria. A medium-bodied red with lots of fruit and a spicy finish.
- Nerello Mascalese (ne-re-LO mas-ka-le-sel) – Pinot Noir drinkers seeking elegant, earthy wines will like this wine from northeast Sicily. Nose is like a Burgundy but tastes like a Nebbiolo; has rose petals and dried cherry overtones.
- Fiano (fee-ah-nol) – a white varietal from Italy's Campania region, it has richness, some acids and a hint of almond. Pairs well with a range of foods from seafood to fatty cheese.
- Tannat (TAH-NAH) – a red varietal from the Madiran region of southwest France. A second source is Uruguay, which considers it to be its national grape. A dark red with a fruit finish that goes well with meats.
- Rotgipfler (RO-tgeep-flah) – a full-bodied aromatic white and one of the oldest varietals grown in Austria. Lush fruit aromatics with a mineral background. Works well with cheeses, smoked fish and roasted poultry.

Because of limited U.S. distribution, you will have to go to a wine shop in a metropolitan area or on line, but they are worth the hunt. (Excerpted from Mix Portland Food & Wine)

### Upcoming Events

- **January 23** – the date for the Society's **Around the Globe with Merlot**. This event will be at Kestrel Vintners winery in Prosser. Those attending will get to compare and contrast 6 great Merlots reflecting wine styles from Europe, South America, New Zealand and the United States, as examples. They will be challenged to guess the origin of a "mystery wine," with those guessing correctly entered in a drawing for a **magnum of Kestrel** wine. Kestrel's winery chef is working on the food pairings to match the selected wines. The maximum attendees will be only 48; therefore, send 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, and this year, it will be at The Country Gentleman. It also will be a unique opportunity – you bring the wine – so again, recommend signing up today! For more information, turn to page 1.
- **March 11**, the Society will gather at The Hogue Cellars for a "blind" wine tasting of 6 Syrahs. After each flight of 3 wines, a Hogue Syrah expert will lead a discussion about the characteristics of each wine. Mark your calendar and look for more information on page 4.

**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 Definitions

- Body – the relative weight and body of a wine; classified as light-, medium- and full-bodied.
- Hot – a slight burning sensation in the mouth resulting from a high-alcohol content.
- Oaky – flavors and aromas depicting vanilla and toast. ♦

**To All Society Members!**  
**Dues Increase Effective May 1, 2011**

It has been several years since Society membership dues have changed although operating costs have continued to increase. Therefore, the Society Board of Directors voted to increase Society dues by \$5 – to \$35 for couples and \$25 for single memberships. New memberships and/or renewals postmarked by April 30 will be honored at the current rates.

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## Around the Globe with Merlot

So, after all the wine tasting, food sampling and information from J.J., what's next? Guests will taste a "mystery wine" and have the opportunity to guess its origin. Those guessing correctly will have their names entered into a drawing for a magnum of Kestrel wine!

What a way to start the new year – a virtual tour around the world, an opportunity to taste and learn more about a popular stand-alone and blending wine grape, an opportunity to experience some of Chef Trevino's culinary delights, and an opportunity to come home with a magnum of Kestrel wine! For this educational adventure – no bags to pack, no passports needed, just bring your palate, appetite and desire to learn.

Haven't made a reservation? There's still a little time to do so but only a few spaces left. Reservation coupon is on page 5. Hope to see you at **Kestrel Vintners, Sunday, January 23, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Happy New Year!** ♦



## Taste Back – Giving & Gifting: The Spirit of the Holidays

**Sue McCargar**

**Member, TCWS Board of Directors**

Forty-one Society members and their guests kicked off the holiday season with a fun and relaxing tasting and fundraiser at the Allied Arts Center in Richland, Sunday, December 5. Each attendee got to taste from a selection of gold-medal winning wines from Tri-Cities Wine Festivals. The wines were accompanied by a generous assortment of gourmet appetizers – everything from BBQ chicken wings and Chorizo bites to Italian ravioli with sauce, meatballs, bite-size Spanakopita, basil pesto cheesecake, a cheese assortment with homemade bread and of course, chocolates!

The casual atmosphere gave those attending the time to chat with friends, sample the wine and food at their own pace, and view the special exhibit of the American Watercolor Society's traveling exhibition. To note: Richland was its only stop in the Pacific Northwest! Three lucky people won a bottle of wine as a door prize. Also, 6 beautiful, themed, gift baskets were available for a donation. The baskets were crafted by Wine Society board members and each basket included a gold-medal wine plus a variety of other goodies.

The evening came to a close with a taste of sparkling wine for everyone accompanied by miniature cream puffs. **And, best of all, the event raised more than \$1,400 for scholarships for students in area viticulture and enology programs.** If you missed this great event, maybe you can make the next one! ♦

## Around the Globe with Merlot

**Event Chairmen:**

**Sandy Birdleough, 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.** ♦



**Perfect HARMONY**



Mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 19** and join us at Meadow Springs Country Club for an **elegant evening of fine wine, art, music and gourmet dining.** The event is Perfect Harmony, the annual fundraiser for the Mid-Columbia Symphony sponsored by the Tri-Cities Wine Society.

In its 11th year, this event is **one of the premier wine events in the Tri-Cities** and is one of the important sources of funding for the **Mid-Columbia Symphony.** This is your chance to have a fun evening with friends and at the same time support an important community asset. You can enjoy great food and wine, and bring home some wonderful pieces of art and some difficult-to-find rare wines.

The evening begins with an artists' reception where you will not only meet the artists but also enjoy an excellent selection of hors d'oeuvres, Champagne and wines as you browse through the wine and art auction items. Dinner following the reception is a 6-course culinary extravaganza with each course perfectly paired with just the right Washington wine.

This event is not your typical fundraiser. Everything at this event is done with a touch of class — from floor-length tablecloths and glistening crystal stemware to candlelight and soft music. Perfect Harmony is an elegant night that you will long remember!

Watch for more details in next month's EVOE and your personal invitation in the mail. ♦

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## Open that Bottle Night 12

guests to taste and experiment with interesting food and wine pairings.

As reminders:

- **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. That is, it is storytelling time!
- A **“special” wine to bring** could be anything from the bottle you may have forgotten you had or the one you’ve been saving for that special occasion, to something you received during the holidays, or even something you buy just because you’ve wanted to try it. There are many options!
- **No, your “special” wine does not need to be expensive**; but, it does need to be something you believe others would enjoy, and that you want and would be pleased to share.

Yes, it is time for planning – save the date, mark the calendar, make the reservation, AND think about that special bottle of wine you want to bring and share. We hope to see you **Sunday, February 13, The Country Gentleman, for Open that Bottle Night 12!** ♦

## Looking Ahead A “Blind” Syrah Tasting

Yes, we know, it’s barely the new year, but the Society’s March event is coming together nicely! Join The Hogue Cellars’ director of winemaking Friday evening, **March 11, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**, and test your wine-tasting skills. For \$25.00/members or \$30.00/guests, enjoy a refreshing Tri-Cities Wine Festival wine upon arrival as you find a seat and prepare for this mini seminar-style event.



The program will feature 2 flights of local and international wines for comparing and discussion. Your seating will include 3 wine glasses accompanied by a selection of light palate cleansers and information about the many nuances of wine evaluation.

We will challenge your skills by asking you to determine the origin and characteristics of each wine. For fun we will then take a consensus of how these all compare with one another. This type of wine tasting forces you to focus on the various aspects of a wine – visuals, aromatics and taste differences. You will gain insight on personal wine preferences, which can aid your future purchase decisions.

Following the discussion you will have time to mingle and nosh on hors d'oeuvres, TCWS style – always elegant and delicious – and perhaps, have an opportunity to purchase some Hogue Cellars wines with a member's discount. Stay tuned for further details in future EVOEs! Yes, the March event is coming together nicely! ♦

## Open that Bottle Night 12

Event Chairmen:

**Don & Mary Binder; David & Dominique Vetrano**

**Date:** Sunday, February 13

**Time:** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Country Gentleman  
9221 W. Clearwater Ave., Kennewick

**Price:** Members \$30; guests \$35

**Limit:** 48

**Type:** Interactive; educational

**Bring:** 1 bottle of wine to share;  
1 backup bottle (optional)

**Cutoff date:** **Tuesday, February 8**

**Cancellation Policy:** For a full refund, cancellation must be made **by phone to Mary Binder, 585-1393**, on or before **Tuesday, February 8.** ♦



## Save the Date Annual Meeting; Spokane Area Wines Sunday, April 17

It’s not too early to mark your calendars for Sunday, April 17, and a “double header” – the Society’s annual meeting followed by a tasting of Spokane area wines. While the location, time and other details are still being finalized, following is some general information.

Society President Ted Davis will conduct a short, annual business meeting, which is free and open to all Society members. This is a good opportunity for members to get an update on Society activities – both for its fiscal year, May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011, and for its coming year – and to meet and talk with Board members.

Following the meeting, representatives from a number of Spokane area wineries will present a tasting of their wines. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served along with the wines. Cost and more information will be in future EVOEs, but this will be a great opportunity to learn more about some of the Spokane area’s award-winning wines and wineries.

Remember: mark your calendars for Sunday, April 17 – the Society’s annual meeting and Spokane area wines! ♦

# Membership Application/Renewal and Event Sign-Up

**Single: \$ 20.00**                       **Couple: \$ 30.00**

**New**     **Renewal**

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive the EVOE newsletter?

E-mail (current e-mail address requested\*)

US mail

Both E-mail and U.S. mail

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail 1\* \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail 2\* \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Dues will increase to \$25/single and \$35/couple effective May 1; more details on page 2.**

## Merlot Around the Globe – Sunday, January 22, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Open that Bottle Night 12–Sunday, February 13, 2011

**Members**                                      **\$30**

**Guests**                                      **\$35**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Name/year/variety/winery for the wine you'll bring:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: If you don't know when signing up, send the details by Tuesday, February 8, to: [evoe2go@aol.com](mailto:evoe2go@aol.com).)

### Mail Payment with Coupons to:

**Tri-Cities Wine Society**

**P.O. Box 1142**

**Richland, WA 99352**

### 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](mailto:tcwinesocietymembership@gmail.com).
- Please contact Scott Abernethy if you have a new postal address or have recently changed your e-mail.

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

### 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 those 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. ♦

## 2011 January Wine Events Around The Pacific Northwest

**Wines of Spain & Portugal**, Jan. 14, Ellensburg, WA. Learn about the wines of Spain and Portugal from Amy Mumma at a class offered at the CWU Campus Mary Grupe Center. Shake off the winter chill and enjoy the warmth of Spanish and Portuguese wines. Begin with a Cava, the sparkling wine of the mountainous Penedès region of Spain, followed by fresh whites and robust reds. Learn about Portuguese wine regions and taste the difference between a Tawny and a Ruby Port. Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$35. For more information, contact Frank Pangrazi at 509-963-1563, or e-mail [pangrazi@cwu.edu](mailto:pangrazi@cwu.edu) or go to [www.worldwineprogram.org](http://www.worldwineprogram.org).

**Lake Chelan Winterfest Wine Walk**, Jan. 15, Chelan, WA. As part of Lake Chelan Winterfest, the city will host a wine-tasting tour of downtown Chelan. Guests can stroll through town tasting wines from the boutique wineries of the Lake Chelan Wine Valley. Downtown Chelan is home to a classic "American Main Street" with galleries, retail shops, a variety of dining options and the crown jewel, Ruby Theater, offering visitors a look back into the history of small-town America. Cost is \$30 per person and includes a specially designed commemorative wine glass, an official Winterfest button and a punch card for 15 complimentary tastings during the walk. For more information, contact the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, at 509-682-3503, or e-mail [info@lakechelan.com](mailto:info@lakechelan.com).

**Celebrate Washington Wine**, Jan. 22, Woodinville, WA. This is the 10th anniversary celebration of this black-tie gala reception and dinner with both live and silent auctions. Proceeds benefit the WSU Viticulture and Enology Program, providing the knowledge base and wine science research to support and sustain Washington's wine industry. Location: Chateau Ste. Michelle, 14111 NE 145th, Woodinville. Time: 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$250 per person. For more information, contact Britta Nitcy at 509-335-6479, or e-mail [nitcy@wsu.edu](mailto:nitcy@wsu.edu) or go to [www.wineauction.wsu.edu](http://www.wineauction.wsu.edu).

**Wenatchee Winter Wine Gala**, Jan 22, Wenatchee, WA. Wineries from the Columbia Cascade Winery Association converge at the Wenatchee Valley Museum to present their exceptional regional wines for tasting and purchase, including award-winning and newly released wines. Local chefs offer sweet and savory gourmet morsels to pair with the wines as guests meander through the museum sampling the flavors of the region. The wine gala is a fundraiser for the museum. Location: Wenatchee Valley Museum, 127 S. Mission, Wenatchee. Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Cost: \$40 in advance through Jan. 15 or \$45 at the door (\$35 in advance and \$40 at the door for museum or winery association members). For more information, call Chris Rader at 509-888-6245, or e-mail [crader@wvmcc.org](mailto:crader@wvmcc.org), or go to [www.wvmcc.org](http://www.wvmcc.org). ♦

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

*Newsletter of the  
Tri-Cities Wine Society*  
Dolly Ammann  
Need any info? Have an idea?  
Contact us!  
[dollyammann@live.com](mailto:dollyammann@live.com)

*EVOE*

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