



Westside Wine Club

February 2008

2008 Calendar

January 16th

Plan for the year!

February 20th

Wine Faults and Flaws

March 19th

Bordeaux tasting

April 16th

Speaker?

May 21st

Other Reds
Tours?

June 18th

Speaker?

July 16th

Picnic?
Tour?

August 20th

Other Whites

September 17th

Awards Gala?

October 15th

Pinot Noir tasting

November 19th

Pinot Gris / Viognier

December 17th

Speaker?

January 2009

Holiday Party

Next Meeting:

Feb 20th, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Place:

Oak Knoll Winery

Subject:

Wine Faults and Flaws

Snacks:

Craig and Mindy Bush

Website:

<http://www.westsidewineclub.com/>

Bring a bottle of wine that has a fault or flaw, and perhaps a bottle of wine to share. Remember to bring your own glass.

The position of Chairs for Social Events is still open. Now is your chance to help out with these popular events by volunteering to contact hosts for details and collect fees at the parties.

Reminder- Meetings begin at 7pm and end by 9pm. If you can get there a little early to help set up, please do, and be ready to put away chairs and tables at the end.

January meeting

2008 WSWC President Don Robinson opened the meeting by introducing '07 President Jack Seigendall. On behalf of the members Jack presented Marj Vuylsteke with flowers and a gift in gratitude and appreciation of her hospitality and mentoring of the club.

New 2008 Chairs of Winery Tours: Mike Smolak and Mary Schaar

Some of the ideas, suggestions and interests discussed for the 2008 year: Blind tasting with a voting system from 1-10 awards given in September.

Making fortified wine, sweetened wine, white wines, Pinot Noir, growing grapes and getting a license to sell your wine.

Using refractometers and vacuum aspirators, SO² measuring, acid titration, pH issues, yeasts, and blending.

A testing seminar, where everyone tests and compares results.

Enter more competitions.

Don't hurry your wine.

Always bring two bottles to taste.

Welcome new members!

Noel Francisco

Daniel and Patti Larson

Murugasamy (Sammy) Nachimuthu

Kevin and Jill Ross

Vincent Rod Salyer

Terry Swan

Bob Switzer



What are flaws and faults in wine?

Flaws are off-characters in low concentrations, which can add complexity to a wine, and may be considered positive attributes.

A fault is a character outside the acceptable norm. It spoils the wine and is often undrinkable.

Flaws and faults are generally either errors in winemaking or come from other factors.

Winemaking errors include incorrect sulfiting, failure to top up or check fermentation locks, failure to add nutrients, failure to rack promptly, failing to test for completion of MLF, and many more.

Other errors are problems over which the winemaker has less or no control such as cork quality, acetified grapes, or Brett contamination.

Enter the 2008 WineMaker International Amateur Wine Competition!

Enter your wine in the world's largest competition for hobby winemakers. The best homemade wines from across North America and around the globe will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals in 50 categories. In 2007 we had 3,422 entries from 44 American states, 8 Canadian provinces and 4 countries. You can gain international recognition for your winemaking skills and get valuable feedback on your wines from the competition's judging panel. Deadline is March 17, 2008. <http://winemakermag.com/feature/543.html>

President's Musings

Hello WSWC Members!

How goes your winemaking? I imagine not too much is happening right now; although, I have heard many members are using these cold days to naturally cold stabilize their higher acid wines.

I'd like to thank those of you who came to the January 16th Annual Planning session of the WSWC. We explored what members would like to see for the club in 2008. All present seemed to be in agreement: they would like to see more winemaking workshops during our monthly meetings and more tours (of wineries, vineyards, barrel makers, Chemeketa facilities, etc.) on the weekends. Also, some expressed interest in a workshop on how to get licensed to sell their wine without becoming a full winery. Thanks to the members who provided contacts for possible speakers for our monthly meetings and winery/vineyard tour contacts.

WSWC members are truly fortunate to live where we do. We have access to world class grapes no further than several hours away—with many just minutes from our homes. As we are reminded in this newsletter, for 41 years our WSWC has fostered the vision of creating superb cool climate wines while promoting a collegial sharing of data and ideas and helped build the foundation of today's successful winemaking in the region.

WSWC members also don't have far to travel for top quality training in winemaking and viticulture. Efforts are being made right now to foster a greater relationship with the Vineyard Management/Winemaking program and Northwest Viticulture Center at Chemeketa in Salem. We're pursuing the idea of perhaps one or two Chemeketa education events followed by a tour of their facilities/vineyard in Salem. We want to see if we can bring this together before we schedule later tours and education events. But stay tuned, we are fostering other ideas as well. Susan Sokol Blosser is retiring this year, and we're hoping to have her as a possible speaker and then tour her vineyard.

Keep your ideas flowing. As you can see, this promises to be a busy and exciting year for the WSWC!

Happy Cold Stabilizing,

Don Robinson
President, West Side Wine Club
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Marjorie Vuylsteke Oregon winemaking pioneer

Marj and the West Side Wine Club

In 1967, the first meeting of the West Side Wine Club was held in Marj Vuylsteke's Beaverton home. At that time wine courses and advice came from California and its wine trade. There was almost no information available on winemaking in Oregon's cool climate. Interested clients of Wine Art (which was a winemaking supply shop in Portland) were gathered by owners Ann and Jack McCallum to share Oregon wine-making knowledge.

At first, the 10 to 15 members were able to meet in people's homes. The members were new to winemaking. Most of the wine they made was from fruit or berries and local native grapes. Some grapes shipped in from California were purchased from fruit and vegetable markets such as Corno's. They learned winemaking from books and experimentation. The club provided a much needed resource for trial and error, as well as shared success.

In 1970, Marj, her husband and children started the first winery in Washington County, Oak Knoll Winery. The first vintages that Oak Knoll produced were of grapes and fruit from area farmers. As more vineyards became established in Oregon, Oak Knoll was able to focus on Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling and Pinot Gris. By 1978, one out of every three bottles of Oregon wine sold was from Oak Knoll. At the Oregon State Fair wine competition in 1983, Oak Knoll 1980 Pinot Noir Vintage-Select won both Best of Show and the Governor's Trophy.

As the West Side Wine Club grew in numbers, meetings began to be held at the Oak Knoll winery tasting room. The membership eventually outgrew that space, and the meetings are now held in the barrel room. The club currently has over 100 members.

During the last 41 years, the focus of the West Side Wine Club has continued to be on making the best wine possible. Wines made by members have won awards in contests locally and nationally.

Marj Vuylsteke has seen over a dozen members become successful professional wine makers. She says one of her best memories of the club is seeing how far the club has advanced in knowledge and current methods.

"The number of members and their knowledge far exceed the wines made in the formative years of the club," she says. "Some of the current members produce wines that are equal to professional wineries."

A few WSWC alumni

Dick Erath
Erath Vineyards

Bill Beran
Beran Vineyards

Scott Schull
Raptor Ridge

Howard Mozeico
Et Fille

Boyd Teagarden
Natalie's Estate Winery

Dick Ferraro
Ferraro Cellar

Peter Rosback
Sineann

Tom Feller
Artisanal Wine Cellars

Ron Helbig
Barking Frog Winery

Denis Burger
Yamhill Valley Vineyards

Dick Colombe
Cote de Colombe

David Rizzo
Woodpecker Haven

Westside Wine Club

January 2008

Westside Winemakers Club Leadership Team – 2008

President: **Don Robinson**

- Set agenda for the year
- Establish leadership team
- Assure that objectives for the year are met
- Set up and run meetings

Treasurer: **Bill Spiller**

- Collect dues and fees
- Pay bills

Webmaster: **David Ladd**

Web Content Editor: **Rick Kipper**

Secretary: **Luna Hauser**

- Communicate regularly about club activities and issues
- Monthly newsletter
- Keep updated list of members

Chairs of Group Purchases

The chairperson makes the arrangements to purchase, collect, and distribute.

- Chandler Reach Vineyard – **Mike Fredd**
- Del Rio Vineyard – **Craig Bush**
- Supplies – These should be passed to the President for distribution

Chairwoman of Competitions: **Miriam Schnepf**

- Work with Washington County Fair staff
- Encourage club participation in County Fair
- President will be the contact for the Oregon State Fair.

Chairperson of Education: **Don Robinson**

- Arranges for speakers for our meetings

Chairs of Winery Tours: **Mike Smolak** and **Mary Schaer**

- Select wineries to visit
- Arrange tours
- Cover logistics (food and money)
- Winery Tour 1
- Winery Tour 2
- Winery Tour 3 with picnic lunch

Chairs for Tastings:

- Review and improve club tasting procedures
- Conduct club tastings

Chairs for Social Events: **Open?**

- Summer picnic – **Open**
- Awards Gala – **Open**
- Holiday Party – **Open**