



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 43, Issue 7, July 2019

## President's Message

This year's highly successful Commercial Wine Competition, co-sponsored by the OCWS and the OCFEC, was held June 1 and June 2 at the Costa Mesa Hilton Hotel.



The event took place under the direction of Competition Chair, Leslie Brown and Head of Judges Kevin Coy, along with

Jane Goodnight and the Wine Competition Committee. The event featured 2,919 entries with 142 varietals entered. Eighty-nine Judges from throughout California, in panels of 5 judges, scored the wines entered.

To accomplish this precision undertaking required over 250 volunteers who contributed approximately 5,800 hours mailing brochures, making calls to wineries, receiving and cataloging wines under the direction of Liz and Lloyd Corbett, bagging, moving, washing and drying glasses, stewarding, wine verification and scoring, and data entry of the results. After the Competition, the

award-winning wines were photographed and the winners made available online at Winecompetition.com. This Commercial Wine Competition website allows anyone to search for wines by award, price, sugar, varietal or winery. Kudos to Stacey Taylor for developing this comprehensive informational Wine Competition site.

A few interesting highlights from this year's Commercial Wine Competition:

- **Entries**—43% of our entries were from wineries new to the Competition. A record 256 cases of wine were delivered on a single day!
- **New Varietals**—Falanghina, Macabeo and Norton.
- **Label Competition Awards**—Best of Show—1849 Wine Company. Look for the label display at The Courtyard during the OC Fair.

The Home Wine Competition was held last month on Saturday, June 15 and was supported by almost 200 persons who volunteered as judges, stewards, administrators,

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## Gold Medal Mini-Tasting

**Saturday, July 6, 2019**  
**6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**  
**Various Host Sites**

The Gold Medal Mini-Tasting is the largest and most popular Mini-Tasting of the year. It is a chance to taste many of the Gold Medal wines from this year's Commercial Wine Competition. The tasting will feature different varietals that won Gold Medals, and we

try to obtain as many Double Gold medal winning wines as possible.

**Locations.** Host sites and directions will be announced to those attending approximately one week prior to the event. We try to place you at the location nearest your home or to accommodate your specific site request;

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## President's Message

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and cooks. Thank you, everyone, for your support! Please see Kevin Donnelly's article for more highlights.

Up next, the OC Fair runs from July 12 through August 11. See you all at the Fair!

*- Bill Redding, President*

## Welcome New Members



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following new members was approved by the Board of Directors at the June 10 meeting:

Mike McLaughlin; Kathy Pelzer; Don Robinson; Judy & Pete Watson; Brian Stowel; Casey Durham; Kimberly & Carlos Magallanes; Debra & Andrea Sandoval; Margaret Diebel; Cherly Bell; Michael Johnson; Fritzie Walker; Donna Rudolph; and Debbi & Ray Stewart.

As of June 1, the OCWS had 1,011 members.

**Additional New Member Info.** If you are thinking about attending an event and are not sure how to dress, what to bring, how it works, or just want someone to meet and greet, please reach out to any member of the Board of Directors, email the "New Member Hotline" at Brian@ocws.org, or feel free to phone Brian at 714.227.7284.

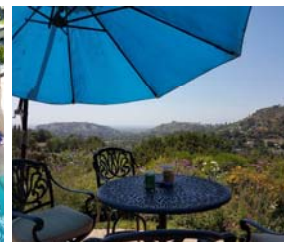
For the Gold Mini-Tasting, July 6, dress is casual and wine is provided by the OCWS.

*- Brian McDonald,  
 Director and Membership Chair*

## New Member Mixer Recap

On June 9, nineteen new members mingled with each other, the Board of Directors, and heard a short program outlining events offered by the OCWS. This event was held at the beautiful home of Julie Good. Thank you, Julie, for hosting the New Member Mixer and for opening your home to the OCWS; what a view!

*- Brian McDonald,  
 Director and Membership Chair*



# The Courtyard Portal during the 2019 OC Fair

## Courtyard Volunteers: A Thank You!

To all those who have completed TIPS training and signed up for shifts at The Courtyard, *thank you*. We still have quite a few shift opportunities, so watch out for our SOS emails (that's short for "Save Our Shifts"). By the time you read this, you should have received confirmation of your shift schedules.

Since we have new cash registers and new procedures in place, everyone is asked to attend one of our training sessions. They will all be held at The Courtyard. A Manager training session will be held at 1:00 pm on July 7. The server, cashier, and steward training session will be held at 3:00 pm on July 7. Please RSVP by email to [Brian@ocws.org](mailto:Brian@ocws.org) so we can plan for snacks, etc.

- Fran Gitsham & Brian McDonald,  
The Courtyard Co-Chairs

## The Courtyard Set Up/Tear Down

The Courtyard *set up* is scheduled for Saturday, July 6 starting at 9:00 am. Please email [Brian@ocws.org](mailto:Brian@ocws.org) if you would like to help. I promise to have things wrapped up by 3:00 pm or sooner so you will have time to get home, cleaned up, and ready to attend the Gold Medal Mini-Tasting.

The Courtyard *tear down* is scheduled for Monday, August 12 starting at 9:00 am. Please email [Brian@ocws.org](mailto:Brian@ocws.org) if you would like to help. We have one day to get everything out of The Courtyard and put back into the storage container. Thankfully, the taking down goes much faster than the putting up.

For both events, the OCWS will serve lunch and refreshments (beer and wine) and every volunteer will take home a bottle of wine. For those who volunteered last year, you should have already received an email invitation. If you responded to that, you do not need to RSVP again.

- Brian McDonald,  
The Courtyard Co-Chair

## The Featured Winery Program Schedule at The Courtyard

We are pleased to announce the lineup of wineries scheduled to pour select wines during the 2019 OC Fair in a designated location, The Express Bar, located in The Courtyard from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday. During this time, you will have an opportunity to meet the winemaker, winery principal or representative and learn in-depth information about how their wines are handcrafted!

- Friday, July 12: Sunce Winery
- Saturday, July 13: Dark Star Cellars, Michael Cox
- Sunday, July 14: Seven Angels Cellars, Greg & Pamela Martin
- Friday, July 19: J. Cage Cellars, Donna & Roger Beery
- Saturday, July 20: Big Nose Family Winery, Roger & Janice Mattar and Doris & John Severs
- Sunday, July 21: Fallbrook Winery, Euan Parker & Carrie McCracken

- Friday, July 26: Swank N Smith, Gregory Smith
- Saturday, July 27: Bellante Family Winery, Chuck & Sheri Bellante
- Sunday, July 28: Hungry Hawk Vineyards & Winery, Mike Embly
- Friday, August 2: Vinos Unidos, Bob Jauregui
- Saturday, August 3: Mineral Wines, Brett Keller
- Sunday, August 4: Orange Coast Winery, Peter Swanson
- Friday, August 9: Lions Peak, Jennifer Soni Arant
- Saturday, August 10: Majorca Vineyards, Larry Hudack
- Sunday, August 11: Bushong Vintage Company, Jason Bushong

We hope you will stop by and enjoy a taste of the wines selected by the wineries, or enjoy a full glass.

- Liz & Lloyd Corbett,  
Featured Winery Program Co-chairs



## Gold Medal Mini-Tasting

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however, your assigned host site is also based on the order in which your sign-up is received in the OCWS office.

**Cost.** The cost to attend the tasting is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests.



**Dish.** Each person/couple attending will sign up with their host to bring a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) to serve a small portion to 18 people.

There will be a special bottle of wine awarded that evening as a prize for Chef of the Evening.

Our winning Chefs of the Evening can have their recipe published on the OCWS website.

**Host Sites.** We are planning a maximum of ten sites for this Mini-Tasting.

In the event you missed the sign-up deadline last month, please call the OCWS office to inquire about availability or to be added to the waiting list.

- *Bon Appetit, George Cravens*

## Winemakers Newsroom

In our busiest month of the year, the Winemakers' Group conducted their 43<sup>rd</sup> Home Wine Competition on Saturday, June 15, with great success. Our 80 Judges evaluated 551 wines and awarded 500 medals and 102 label awards.



Thanks to everyone involved, including our 92 volunteers and 16 members of the Cooks' Caucus for making this a fabulous event!

On Sunday, June 16, we hosted the Thank You Reception for 100 of our volunteer staff and winemakers who entered their wines into the Competition. Everyone was able to sample the wines and enjoy some fabulous food.

**Winemaker Presentation Recap.** On Saturday, June 29, Francois Cordesse, winemaker for Frances Ford Coppola Winery, gave the Winemakers' Group some fabulous advanced training on how to finalize our wines.

**Quarterly Meeting & Potluck Recap.** Sunday, June 30, we had our Summer Quarterly Meeting & Potluck at Robin McCormick's beautiful home in Laguna Beach.

More details on these events will appear in an upcoming edition of *The Wine Press* and online at [ocws.org](http://ocws.org).

**Upcoming at the OC Fair.** We will be displaying the winning wines from the Home Wine Competition in The Courtyard, and teaching Fair-goers the fine hobby of home winemaking.



The OCWS Winemakers' Group *rocks!*

If you have any questions, contact Kevin at [KevinDonnelly@ocws.org](mailto:KevinDonnelly@ocws.org) or by phone at 714.457.7229. Cheers!

- *Kevin Donnelly*

*The Orange County Wine Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of California with its principal place of business in Costa Mesa, California.*

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OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor

OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

## Results are In: Commercial Wine Label Competition



The 2019 Commercial Wine Label Competition has completed its review of many new wine labels. The Winner of the Best of Show is a label from the 1849 Wine Company called "Triumph," a 2015 Red Wine Blend wine. All of the 1849 Wine Company wines feature artist created labels that got the attention of the Label Committee. To see other designs of their labels, please visit their website at 1849wine.com and read about the artist who created them named "Saber."

The Commercial Label Competition has been an integral part of the OC Fair Commercial Wine Competition for over 15 years. A committee led by long-time members, Karl Tani and Carol

Miura, reviewed labels submitted by wineries with their entries or, new this year, labels entered on competition websites used by the OCWS. Out of the many hundreds of labels available for review, the Label Committee narrowed the selection to a group of 12 to 15 finalists in 12 Categories from Architecture to

Whimsical, which included a full bottle display for labels that may be screen-printed or otherwise will not show well if separated from the bottle. The Committee then selects up to 10 wines for display at the Commercial Wine Competition. Judges, volunteers, and other guests vote on a favorite in each category. Based on the most votes received, Gold, Silver and Bronze winners are chosen. From the group of Gold Medal winners, the Best of Show is then voted on by the Label Committee.

New procedures were started this year, and it was very gratifying on how wineries reacted when we phoned them to advise they were finalists. We try to use original wine labels if at all possible. But if unable to obtain them, we use the digital image from competition websites. Phone calls are placed to any finalist winery for whom we only have digital copies to try and secure originals.

The Label Committee thanks all the Commercial Wine Competition Judges and OCWS volunteers for their votes and enthusiasm, as well as the many wonderful comments about this year's labels.

- Sam Puzzo,  
Chair, The Label Committee

## Announcing the 2019 OC Fair Wine Seminars Scheduled at The Courtyard

| Date                      | Description of Seminar                                    | Time | Presenter(s)            | Fee  |
|---------------------------|---|------|-------------------------|------|
| <i>Saturday</i> July 13   | NO SEMINARS   |      |                         |      |
| <i>Sunday</i> July 14     | OC Fair Gold Medalists (Best of the Best)                 | 2:30 | Bill Redding            | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> July 14     | Cheese & Wine Pairing (Perfect Pairs, Perfect Partners)   | 4:30 | Carol Frank & Sam Puzzo | \$30 |
| <i>Saturday</i> July 20   | Wine Making for Mere Mortals                              | Noon | Kevin Donnelly          | \$10 |
| <i>Saturday</i> July 20   | Fair Food & Wine Pairing                                  | 2:30 | Ed Reyes/Fran Gitsham   | \$30 |
| <i>Saturday</i> July 20   | Instant Wine Party with snack pairings                    | 4:30 | Ken & Cheryl Knapp      | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> July 21     | Summer Pool Party Wines                                   | 2:30 | Ken & Irene Scott       | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> July 21     | Mediterranean Wine DIET                                   | 4:30 | Sam Puzzo               | \$25 |
| <i>Saturday</i> July 27   | Wine Making for Mere Mortals                              | Noon | Kevin Donnelly          | \$10 |
| <i>Saturday</i> July 27   | Fair Food & Wine Pairing                                  | 2:30 | Ed Reyes/Fran Gitsham   | \$30 |
| <i>Saturday</i> July 27   | Instant Wine Party with snack pairings                    | 4:30 | Ken & Cheryl Knapp      | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> July 28     | Syrah vs. Petite Syrah. Can you taste the difference?     | 2:30 | Carolyn Christian       | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> July 28     | Cheese & Wine Pairing (Perfect Pairs, Perfect Partners)   | 4:30 | Dawn Iglesias/Ken Knapp | \$30 |
| <i>Saturday</i> August 3  | Wine Making for Mere Mortals                              | Noon | Kevin Donnelly          | \$10 |
| <i>Saturday</i> August 3  | Fair Food & Wine Pairing                                  | 2:30 | Ed Reyes/Fran Gitsham   | \$30 |
| <i>Saturday</i> August 3  | Mineral Wines - OC Fair Competition Award Winning Wines   | 4:30 | Brett Keller            | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> August 4    | Cabernet Sauvignon (Want a Big, Bold Wine.....Call a Cab) | 2:30 | Carolyn Christian       | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> August 4    | Pick Wines Like a Pro                                     | 4:30 | Ed Reyes                | \$25 |
| <i>Saturday</i> August 10 | Wine Making for Mere Mortals                              | Noon | Kevin Donnelly          | \$10 |
| <i>Saturday</i> August 10 | Fair Food & Wine Pairing                                  | 2:30 | Fran Gitsham            | \$30 |
| <i>Saturday</i> August 10 | OC Fair Gold Medalists (Best of the Best)                 | 4:30 | Bill Redding            | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> August 11   | Summer Pool Party Wines                                   | 2:30 | Ken & Irene Scott       | \$25 |
| <i>Sunday</i> August 11   | Cheese & Wine Pairing (Perfect Pairs, Perfect Partners)   | 4:30 | Carol Frank & Sam Puzzo | \$30 |

## OCWS Board of Directors: Call for Candidates

It's the most wonderful time of the Year! Well not that time but time to think about running for the OCWS Board of Directors.



Have you thought about getting more involved with the OCWS outside of volunteering for or attending various OCWS-related events? If you are innovative, open-minded, possess good interpersonal skills, are results oriented and a problem solver, then a position, as a Director of the OCWS just might be right for you.

The beginning of a three-year term of the nine members of the Board of Directors, according to the Bylaws, shall be staggered such that three members' terms will expire each year. The three vacated Board positions will be filled each year by a vote of the OCWS membership, following the Annual Business Meeting in September.

The overall time commitment for a member of the Board varies, based on assignments and participation. We are moving from having the Board manage some events to having our members run the event with a Board coordinator being the liaison to the Board regarding budgets, event timing and placement.

A candidate should possess some of the following skills and experience as well:

- General knowledge of OCWS events and activities
- Experience as a volunteer in some events
- The ability and time to organize events during the year
- Selected event and budget management skills
- Be a member in good standing

To declare your candidacy for a position on the Board, the candidate must present their Declaration of Candidacy in writing, by mail or via electronic media to the Election Chair no later than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled Annual Business Meeting. The last date to declare candidacy for this year's election is **Friday, August 23, 2019**.

During the Annual Business Meeting, you will have the opportunity to speak to the membership and present your qualifications. A written Statement of Qualifications must be presented to the Election Committee no later than five (5) calendar days after your Declaration of Candidacy.

If being an OCWS leader interests you, feel free to contact Greg Hagadorn with any questions related to Director Responsibilities, the election process or anything related to the election. I can be reached at 714.388.8803 or at [Greg@ocws.org](mailto:Greg@ocws.org).

- Greg Hagadorn, 2019 Election Chair

## Save the Date: Champagne Brunch by the Beach



**Champagne Brunch by the Beach**  
**Sunday, September 15, 2019**  
**@11:00 am**

**BLK Earth Sea Spirits**  
**300 Pacific Coast Hwy**  
**Huntington Beach**

BLK is one of the newer restaurants in Surf City, Huntington Beach which opened in the summer of 2015. It is located on Pacific Coast Highway, on

the second floor across the street from the Huntington Beach Pier. We will enjoy Brunch on the restaurant's large terrace with an awesome panoramic view of the beach, ocean and pier.

Space will be limited. We anticipate this event to fill up quickly. So stay tuned for more details either in an upcoming newsletter or online at [ocws.org](http://ocws.org).

- Mel Jay, Event Chair  
- Rochelle Randel, Co-chair

*The Wine Press* is the official newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc. The newsletter is published monthly.

*The Wine Press* welcomes input from the OCWS membership.

Forward comments, questions, and suggestions to [WinePress@ocws.org](mailto:WinePress@ocws.org).

Editor-in-Chief: Linda Mihalik

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Contributing Photographers: Jim Burk, Wendy Taylor

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# 2019 Annual OCWS Business Meeting

2019 Annual OCWS Business Meeting  
Friday, September 6, 2019  
@7:00 pm  
OC Fair & Events Center—near Gate 5  
Baja Blues Restaurant



The Annual Business Meeting, which is free to all OCWS members, will be held this year on Friday, September 6, beginning promptly at 7:00

pm and held at Baja Blues Restaurant located within the fairgrounds near Gate 5.

There is no limitation on the number of members who may attend; however, the meeting is strictly for members only. There is no charge to attend, although any member who signs up and does not attend will be charged \$25. The OCWS is required to pay for the number of meals confirmed which is based on the actual number of members who have signed up. Please sign up at the OCWS website at [ocws.org](http://ocws.org). All reservations must be received no later than Friday, August 30. The OCWS is required to have an accurate count to the caterer shortly thereafter.



This is the most important member meeting of the OCWS year, as it offers an overview of the year's activities and a financial summary of the 2018/19 OCWS Board year. Thereafter, the current OCWS Board of Directors

will be available to answer questions and listen to any comments from the general membership.



Volunteer awards will be presented after the business presentations.

After presentations and OCWS question and answer session, candidates for the 2019/20 Board year will be introduced and will present their qualifications and interests as potential OCWS Board members. This meeting provides the best opportunity for members to meet the candidates and learn about their interests and objectives for the next Board year. If you are interested in becoming an OCWS Board member, please contact Greg Hagadorn at [Greg@ocws.org](mailto:Greg@ocws.org). Also read Greg's article on Board candidacy.

Please note that no food or drinks will be served until the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting (approximately 90 minutes). We will conclude the evening with a light catered meal, accompanied by wines from the OCWS cellar. If you choose to bring your own wines to this event, we ask that you please refrain from opening your wine until the meal has commenced following the end of the meeting.

The 2018/19 OCWS Board of Directors look forward to seeing you as we review our 43<sup>rd</sup> year and look forward to the 2019/20 calendar year.

The meeting is conducted in accordance with OCWS Bylaws and government regulations for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

- Bill Redding, President

# Save the Date: Fall Membership BBQ & Return of the Chili Cook Off

Fall 2019 Membership BBQ  
Saturday, September 21, 2019  
Time to be Announced  
At The Courtyard on the OC Fairgrounds

## ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF THE CHILI COOK OFF



Enjoy the competitor's homemade chili, accompanied by a BBQ menu provided by the Cooks Caucus, wine, beer, live band, and dancing!

For this to be a success, we will need about 20 members willing to "take the challenge" and put

their homemade chili up against their peers in a competition judged by culinary professionals.



Full details and the ability to sign-up will be available on the OCWS website at [ocws.org](http://ocws.org) in mid-July!

If you have any questions, contact me at [Terry@ocws.org](mailto:Terry@ocws.org)

- Terry McLean - Event Co-Chair



## *The Wine Press*

Orange County Wine Society, Inc.  
PO Box 11059  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

### **OCWS Save the Date Calendar**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| July 6               | Gold Medal Mini-Tasting                   |
| July 6               | The Courtyard Set Up                      |
| July 12 to August 11 | OC Fair                                   |
| August 12            | The Courtyard Tear Down                   |
| September 6          | Annual Business Meeting                   |
| September 15         | Champagne Brunch at BLK                   |
| September 21         | Fall 2019 Membership BBQ (Chili-Cook Off) |
| October 27           | Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club           |



[www.ocws.org](http://www.ocws.org)

