



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 43, Issue 11, November 2019

President's Message

At this year's Annual Installation Dinner, newly elected Board members Linda Mihaalik, Rich Skoczylas, and returning member George Cravens were introduced, as well as this year's officers: President—Bill Redding, Vice President—Ken Scott, Treasurer—Mel Jay, and Secretary—George Cravens. Board member contact information is listed in every edition of *The Wine Press*.



The assignments for Director Responsibilities are posted on our website under About>Our Organization>Director Responsibilities.

Please feel free to introduce yourself to this year's Board of Directors at upcoming events. A special note of gratitude to outgoing Board members Terry McLean and Stacey Taylor for a job well done.

The upcoming holiday season brings with it reasons to celebrate with family and friends. Please consider joining your fellow members at our Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance held this year on Friday, December 6 at the Atrium Hotel in Costa Mesa.

However you choose to celebrate, please remember to drink responsibly and use a designated driver, ride-share or consider an overnight stay at hotel events.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone of our Winecompetition.com website which allows a search of award-winning wines from this year's Commercial Wine Competition—a great tool to use for finding that special bottle for the holidays. Cheers,

- Bill Redding, President

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Wine Education Seminar

"Wines from the Southern Hemisphere"

Southern Hemisphere



Come join your fellow OCWS members for our next wine education seminar as we discover

wines from "down under." Presented by LCA Wine as an exploration of wines from the Southern Hemisphere. Take a walk through wines from the bottom half of the globe!

Winemakers of the Southern Hemisphere may use familiar varieties, but the wines they make are unique expressions of their re-

gions and climates. Join us as we travel from South America to South Africa to Australia and New Zealand to learn more about these exceptional singular wines and styles.

This 2-hour seminar is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Costa Mesa. The cost is \$49 per person and is limited to OCWS members only. Sign-ups (with additional details) will be located on the OCWS website. Sign up early as seating is limited. This will be a fun and very educational wine tasting event!

- Irene Scott, Wine Education Chair



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Winemakers Newsroom

We've been busy in October, crushing, fermenting, and pressing out our new 2019 vintage! Members have received Chardonnay, Merlot, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Sangiovese, and Malbec grapes during the past few weeks, and our winemaking areas have the fabulous aroma of fermentation!



And, of course, while we work on this current batch, we have been enjoying the fruits of our labor (literally), by enjoying our 2018 and earlier wines. We hope to share these wines with our Wine Society friends over the next years. Thanks to Bruce Powers,



Dave Wiegand, and Bill Forsch for coordinating and picking up the grapes, and Rob Romano, Jim Kerins, Greg Hagadorn, and Ken Scott for helping with the distribution!

Quarterly Meeting Recap. We had our Winemakers' Group Quarterly Meeting on October 13 that was attended by 61 of our winemakers and friends. Thanks to Rob and Germaine Romano for opening their home to us, and to Jerry Guerin and friends for conducting the SO2 testing. We all enjoyed fabulous homemade wines and a variety of potluck foods.

Winemakers' Group Holiday Party & Potluck. Aside from working on our new wines, we are looking forward to the Winemakers' Group Holiday Party & Potluck to be held on Saturday, December 21 in Yorba Linda. Sign-ups will open in the middle of November and can be accessed through the OCWS website at ocws.org.

Be sure to frequently visit the OCWS website for upcoming Winemakers' Group events and sign-up information.



We are always looking for new members to learn wine-making.

If you have any questions, contact Kevin at 714.457.7229 or by email at KevinDonnelly@ocws.org. Happy wine-ing everyone!

- Kevin Donnelly

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.

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“Big Reds” Mini-Tasting Program

Saturday, November 23, 2019

Various Locations

6:00 pm—9:00 pm



With the holiday season fast approaching, there will be ample opportunities to enjoy wines that complement holiday meals. The November Mini-Tasting will feature a range of red wines that pair well with holiday feasts. The guests will rate the wines tasted blind in pairs and then discuss their ratings.

Overall ratings from each site will be published in the wrap-up article.

Note: The sign-ups for the initially planned six sites have filled, so we will be working on adding additional host sites. Please call the OCWS office to be added to the waiting list.

Hosts: Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. If you would like to host this event, please email George Cravens at George@ocws.org or phone George at 949.510.5318. You may need to sign up and pay until hosts are selected. Reimbursement will be made for all host sites.

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; 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.

Mini-etiquette: Each person attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) ready to serve a small portion to 18 people. The dish ideally should be designed to match the theme of the tasting. Please coordinate your food selection with your host to assure an appropriate balance of food types served during the evening.

Chef of the Evening. There will be a special bottle of wine given as a prize for Chef of the Evening. Our winning Chefs of the Evening can have their recipe published on the OCWS website. Please plan on arriving promptly at 6:00 pm so the event can get started on time. Please bring your own wine glasses for tasting; keep in mind the wines are served in flights of two.

Cut-off/Refund Deadlines. The cut-off date for online sign-up is Sunday, November 17. After this date please contact George or the OCWS office to determine availability. The cancellation deadline is also Sunday, November 17 for a refund. After that date, due to the advance purchase of wines, you will not receive a refund unless there is a waiting list.

- *Bon Appetit, George Cravens*

New Member Portal



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 October 2019 meeting: Alice & Glenn Polser; Annette Feliciani & Bryan Fitzpatrick; Renee Canuso; Sheryl & Roland Heinzelmann; Greg Lezin; Maryann Horton; and Julia & Paul Scholtes. As of October 1, the Wine Society had 1,073 members.

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, feel free to phone Brian directly at 714.227.7284, or email the “New Member Hotline” at Brian@ocws.org.

- *Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair*

In Memoriam: Richard Veague

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the loss of Rich Veague, OCWS long-time member and home winemaker. Sadly, Rich passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on August 31 at the age of 78. Rich joined the OCWS in the early '90s and started Dark Side Winery with his partner, Bryan Skelly, in 2000. Together they consistently won medals in the OCWS Home Wine Competition, including Gold Medal and Double-Gold Medal designations in this year's competition. Rich also served as a judge and Best of Show judge for many years in the OCWS Home Wine Competition.

Rich served in the Army at White Sands Missile Range in the

early '60s before being stationed on the DMZ in South Korea. He had a very successful career in high tech that culminated with his retirement from Intel in 2002. He loved beach volleyball, cross-country skiing, golf, camping and hiking, music and attending Burning Man Festivals and UFO conferences. Rich is survived by his wife, Virginia, his brother and sister, and countless friends from around the world.

Rich's special gift was that he made friends easily, using a self-deprecating and somewhat dry humor that will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

- *Bryan Skelly*

2019 OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance



Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way. The holiday season is upon us (good Lord, has summer already passed?). Have any of you been to any big box stores lately?

The holiday decorations are out, and the music is playing. The OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance, like the holidays, is right around the corner.

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Friday, December 6, 2019

6:30 pm – 11:30 pm

The Atrium Hotel

**18700 MacArthur Boulevard, Irvine, CA
(directly across from John Wayne Airport)**

The evening begins with sparkling wine and passed appetizers from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. A three-course dinner will follow accompanied by fine wines provided by the OCWS. Of course, you are free to bring your own wine to share – there is no corkage fee.

The cost for this fun-filled evening is a mere \$90 per person which includes tax, tip, gratuity and self-parking. Valet parking is available at the discounted rate of \$5. Non-members accompanied by an OCWS member are welcome at the same price! Invite your friends, neighbors, or co-workers to join the party.

We do have a limit as to the number of people we can accommodate, and the deadline for signing up is Friday, November 29. Attendance must be confirmed to the hotel on the next day. So don't be a Scrooge, sign up early and get your table

reservation in.

We are taking table reservations; each table holds eight people. When your group of 4 to 8 has signed up, simply contact the event chair at Brian@ocws.org to reserve your group's table. Additional seats will be filled by other individuals on the night of the event.

Menu

Plated Salad

Spinach with Feta, Almonds, Sliced Strawberries & Lemon Vinaigrette

Choice of three entrees

Lemon Oregano Roasted Chicken Breast with Roasted Garlic Jus

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce

Sirloin Steak with Gorgonzola Butter & Shallots

Dessert

New York Cheesecake

After dinner, be prepared to have a good time dancing to the "Three 2 Sevens," a crowd-pleaser for the past three years and at many other OCWS events. Once again, we encourage you to bring an unwrapped gift to be placed under the tree for donation to Spark of Love through the Costa Mesa Fire Department.

A special room rate of \$119/night plus tax (that includes parking) is available. The Atrium Hotel Reservations Line is 1.800.854.3012 and refer to "OC Wine Society Dinner."

- Brian McDonald, Event Chair

Wine Education 101—Holiday Food and Wine Pairing



The holiday season is almost here, and we know what that means—lots of delicious food to be enjoyed with our favorite wines, and in the company of our dearest friends and family. But choosing the right wine to complement our holiday meals can sometimes be confusing. We have all heard that we should drink red wine with red meat

and white wine with fish, but why? To understand food and wine pairing, we first need to know the 5 basic tastes we detect in food that are the basis for pairing with wine: (1) sweetness, (2) saltiness, (3) bitterness, (4) acidity, and (5) umami (savory). To understand how these flavor components impact your holiday wine pairing, check out our website at <https://ocws.org/category/wine-education> to read more.

- Irene Scott, Wine Education Chair

New Member Mixer Recap



On Sunday, September 29, the Board of Directors hosted a mixer for new members. Forty-five new members attended. It was held at the beautiful home of Julie Good. Julie, thank you for being such a gracious hostess and opening your home for

this event! Over the course of several hours, the new members were given the opportunity to meet each other and the Board of Directors, and to learn about the many activities of the Wine Society.

- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair



See, Swirl, Smell, Sip & Savor: Introducing the 2020 OCWS Winery Program



The Orange County Wine Society starts 2020 with an exceptional Winery Program lineup beginning in January. This annual series

promotes the knowledge of winemaking, viticulture, and wine appreciation. It comprises several wine tastings to introduce our members to diverse wines made by award-winning, well-known, and established or newly established wineries from some of the best wine producing regions in California—and presented in our local area!

You will have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. Consider that when you visit wineries, you rarely have the ability to interact with the winemakers directly.

We bring you award-winning wineries so you can taste their wines, learn if you enjoy a particular style, and order the wines served that evening at a discounted price. The wines will then be shipped directly to your home.

We hold our Winery Program on Friday evenings at the Ave-

nue of the Arts Hotel in Costa Mesa. Each tasting starts with a light dinner, and self-parking is included in the price. With our large membership and limited attendance space, we encourage you to sign up early.

“Save the Friday” dates are listed below; so mark your calendars to attend.

- January 17, 2020: Dark Star Cellars
- February 7, 2020: Crystal Basin Cellars
- March 13, 2020: Fallbrook Winery
- April 17, 2020: Eberle Winery
- May 8, 2020: ZD Wines

Attention new members! If you joined after our May 2019 tasting, when you attend your first Winery Program tasting in 2020, we will gift you with a bottle of wine.

Look for more information about each tasting in *The Wine Press* or on the OCWS website located at ocws.org.

- *Rich Skoczylas, Director & Winery Program Coordinator*



An Event to Remember: 2019 Fall BBQ & Chili Cook Off Recap

The OCWS Chili Cook Off & BBQ was held on September 21 at The Courtyard under clear skies and comfortable fall temperatures. It was a **sold out** event with 28 teams competing in the Chili Cook Off and over 200 members and guests attending. Everyone enjoyed the 28 amazing and unique homemade chilis, grilled foods prepared by the Cooks Caucus, and the wonderful music provided by the Three 2 Sevens band.

I would like to thank the 28 teams that entered the Chili competition for all their hard work, creative decorations, and amazing chili . . . simply chili-licious! Listed below are the competition winners by category and name of chili:

- Best Traditional Chili with beans—Rick & Linda Kerfott—“Rodrigo Cowboy Chili”
- Best Traditional Chili without beans—Diane Froot & Rebecca Frazier—“Un Named”
- Best Vegetarian Chili—Amiee & Steve Halligan—“Chewie’s 3 Chile Chili”

- Best Chili Using Wine—Jane Goodnight & Gail Hirstein—“Winerful Chili”
- Best Chili by a New Member—Ed & Linda Robb—“Ed’s Dragon Breath Chili”
- Best Table Presentation—Dean & Robyn Strom—“Kettle Chili”
- People’s Choice—Diane Froot & Rebecca Frazier—“Un Named”

I would like to especially thank the six students from the Orange Coast College Culinary Art Academy who agreed to be judges for the competition and helped make it such a success.

Of course, none of our events could take place without the hard work and support of our members who volunteered to help plan, coordinate the many details, and work the day of the event. To all of them who helped “make it happen,” a very sincere and heartfelt **thank you!**

- *Terry McLean, Event Chair*



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 Save the Date Calendar

November 14 Wines of the Southern Hemisphere—Wine Education Program

November 23 "Big Reds" Mini-Tasting Program

December 6 OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance

December 21 Winemakers' Group Holiday Potluck

2020 OCWS Winery Program:

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