



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 44, Issue 4, April 2020

## President's Message

Dear OCWS Members,

Effective March 16, all events on the Orange County Fairgrounds were cancelled for the next eight weeks by the Governor of California. This includes the Wine Auction, meetings, work parties, and other Fairground scheduled activities. As the OCWS transitions to a remote working environment, office support will be up and running and information will continue to be distributed to our membership via email and available on our website at [ocws.org](http://ocws.org).

Additionally, the Eberle Featured Winery Program scheduled in April and the ZD Featured Winery Program scheduled in May at the Avenue of the Arts Hotel have been canceled. The wineries have decided to cancel under the current circumstances.

Due to restrictions and closures at food venues, the April 26 Champagne Brunch at Newport Landing and the May 16 OCWS Spring Bake Off & BBQ have both been cancelled.

Our required TIPS training will also require some rescheduling prior to the OC Fair.

We are trying our best to get updates out to our members who have signed up for upcoming events. Please feel free to contact the Chair of the event which can be found on our website under About>Our Organization>Director Responsibilities. Since most notifications are done using your email address listed in your My Profile under your account information, it is important to keep this information current.

As you have no doubt received numerous emails from organizations about the impact of the COVID-19, we are also working on these precautionary measures for the health and safety of our membership.

I am asking for your patience as we work through these difficult times for our membership, our communities and our nation.

Sincerely,

- *Bill Redding, President*

## Upcoming Events:

May 2 ..... 5  
Mini-Tasting: Rhone Wines

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## 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 March 2020 meeting:

Michelle & Curtis Drever; Theresa Lane; Delaney Riley & Zachary Nelson; Rebecca Griego & Cameron Nelson; Jenny Rosoff; Sarah Serpa; Sara Ginsburg and Chris Minor.

As of March 1, the Wine Society had 1,059 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](mailto:Brian@ocws.org).

- *Brian McDonald,  
Director & Membership Chair*



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## Winemakers Newsroom

The OCWS Winemakers' Group had their Spring Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, February 29, at the home of Jim and Isabell Kerins. Their home consists of a Chuck Wagon trailer converted into a bedroom, a full-size Indian teepee, fruit trees, chickens, and a creek running alongside the property. As promised, below are a few photos from the event—additional photos have been uploaded onto ocws.org for you to view.



### 2020 Home Wine Competition.

At this time, we are moving ahead with our plans for the Home Wine Competition. Our marketing information has gone out for the Home Wine Competition, and we have

started receiving entries in the computer and bottles in the cellar. We hope to have a banner year in entries and, as always, we will be looking for volunteers to judge and assist in other areas. This year, the Judges' Seminar will be held on Saturday, May 9, pending updates, in Yorba Linda, and we encourage *all judges* to attend.

If you would like to volunteer to work the Home Wine Competition, or would like a brochure, contact kevin@ocws.org or phone Kevin at 714.457.7229.

**Save the Date Update.** Due to the unusual "social distancing" environment we're all living in, our next Quarterly Meeting, which is scheduled for April 25, is now a "maybe." As we get into April, I will send an update.



If you have any other questions regarding the Winemakers' Group, contact Kevin at the above-listed email address or phone number.

- 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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## Chris Cunningham Scholarship Endowment



The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce a scholarship endowment to Sonoma State University, in the name of Chris Cunningham. Chris, a treasured member of the OCWS, passed away in early 2018.

While working in the wine industry, Chris became highly respected by wine professionals and recognized for having an excellent palate.

Chris, along with many OCWS members, traveled often to the Russian River area, stopping by tasting rooms to meet the winemakers, discuss their harvest, and to sample their current vintages. Chris' favorite varietals were Cabernet Sauvignon and Meritage.

This fall, the Sonoma State University Wine Business Institute is launching a new transition program, the first of its kind in the region. The new joint program includes a collaboration with local winegrowers and students from Santa Rosa Junior College who earned their Associate's Degree in Enology and Viticulture to be able to transfer to SSU to earn their Bachelor's Degree combining a comprehensive knowledge of the wine business and production of wine. Beside students pursuing

degrees in the field of Business, scholarships are awarded for first-hand experience in viticulture and enology to those working "in the fields" of vineyard agriculture and winemaking research.

At this time, any OCWS member considering donating funds to the Chris Cunningham Scholarship account may specify Sonoma State University on their check or donate directly to SSU in the name of Chris Cunningham—OCWS. This is a wonderful way for his friends and family to honor the legacy of Chris and acknowledge his generous contributions to the OCWS in supporting the region's wine industry and help sustain the California wine industry and Chris' memory.

Chris, we all raise our glasses to you for honoring us with your trust and thirst for wine appreciation for years to come. On behalf of Sonoma State University and the OCWS, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Cunningham Family. Cheers, Chris!

- Leslie Hodowanec, Scholarship Chair



## Hotel Reservations: Commercial Wine Competition

If you plan on staying at the Costa Mesa Hilton Hotel for the weekend of the Commercial Wine Competition, please make reservations no later than May 15, 2020. The OCWS has booked a block of rooms for OCWS members at a discounted rate, and this rate is guaranteed only until that date. The special rate does not require advance payment and is \$145 per night, plus \$14 per night parking. If you want to stay on the 7th

floor Executive Level, the rate is \$180. Reservations can be made by phone at 714.540.7000 or online at [Booking Link: http://group.hilton.com/ocws2020winecomp](http://group.hilton.com/ocws2020winecomp); be sure to mention the discount code "OCWS 2020 Wine Competition" to receive the above rates.

- Bill Redding

## Eberle and ZD Featured Winery Programs Cancelled

Due to the concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wine Society has cancelled the last two events of the Featured Winery Program. This includes Eberle Winery which was scheduled to take place on April 17 and ZD Winery scheduled for May 8.

We will work to get both wineries rescheduled after this pandemic is over. Refunds will be made to those who signed up for the Eberle tasting.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director

*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).

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## Commercial Wine Competition Volunteers Needed

Calling all volunteers! This year the 2020 Commercial Wine Competition will be held *Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31* and volunteers are crucial to its success! *Please note the date change this year and save the date!* This event offers many opportunities to enjoy getting to know your fellow OCWS members and experience some great California wines.

There are many tasks where volunteer help is needed including stewarding, glass drying, and computer input and verification of scores. *No training is necessary* as newer volunteers will be teamed with experienced competition volunteers.

*All* volunteer signups are now done *online!* The volunteer site identifies bagging nights, stewarding days, and other work tasks with dates and times. In order to qualify for stewarding,

you will need to sign up for two additional work tasks. We can offer bagging, hotel setup, and moving of wine to and from the competition site. In addition, volunteers can elect to work the sorting event in June. Sign-ups will open online on *April 1, 2020 and will be open through April 30.* An email announcement will be sent April 1 notifying members that sign-ups are open and provide instructions. Please make sure your email address is up-to-date in the ocws.org website as we will be using your email to send you confirmations.

If you have questions about volunteering, please email us at: [Ken@ocws.org](mailto:Ken@ocws.org) or [Irene@ocws.org](mailto:Irene@ocws.org). We look forward to your participation in this very important event!

- Ken & Irene Scott, Volunteer Coordinators

## Pinot Noir Mini-Tasting Wrap Up

Over 130 members and guests attended the February 22 Pinot Noir Mini-Tasting at eight host sites. The blind tasting included five flights of two wines each. Each of the wines were Pinot Noirs, eight from California, one from Oregon, and one from France. Seven of the ten wines finished in the top three at one or more sites. The top two wines were each in the top three at six of the eight sites, and were nearly tied overall. The three favorite wines across all eight host sites are listed below:

Place	Winery & Wine Name	Year	Price	Description
1st	Walt - La Brisa Vineyard, Sonoma County	2017	\$36.99	Three first place, two seconds, and one third place finishes
2nd	Bellante Reserve, Dierberg Vineyard, Santa Maria Valley	2016	\$65.00	Two first place, three seconds, and one third place finishes
3rd	Paul Hobbs, Russian River Valley	2017	\$49.98	Two firsts, one second place, and two third place finishes

In addition, the attendees brought a delicious dish to share and then voted on a Chef of the Evening. The results of the Chef of the Evening at each host site are:

- Hosts Frances & George Cravens: Linda Downey - "Roast Pork with Cranberries"
- Host Robin McCormick: David Rutledge - "Grilled Salmon with Spice Rub"
- Hosts Betty Jo & Jay Newell: Linda McLean - "Chicken Provençal"
- Hosts Ebo & Mary Anne Neutz: Kevin Donnelly - "Glazed Ham"

- Hosts Frank & Pat Solis: Eric & Carmen Kaines - "Pork Tenderloin"
- Hosts Beverly Genis & Bob Topham: Kim & Sam Clark - "Lasagna"
- Hosts Marcia & James Vaughan: Cheryl Bell - "Chocolate Cake"
- Hosts Dave & Barbara White: Barbara White "Oven Braised Veal Stew with Black Peppers & Cherries"

Congratulations to all the winners, and a big **thank you** to the hosts!

- George Cravens, Director

## Alcohol Server Training for The Courtyard: To Be Rescheduled



As many of you have heard, all TIPS classes scheduled in the Admin Bldg. have been cancelled due to the OCFEC abiding by the stay-in-place order. We are working on options as it will still be a requirement to be TIPS certified. By the time this issue is available, and the air has cleared a bit, we hope to have a Plan B in the works. Thank you for your patience, and continued support of the Wine Society.

- Rochelle Randel & Marcy Ott, 2020 OCWS Courtyard Committee

## Mini-Tasting: Rhône Wines

Saturday, May 2, 2020  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Various Host Sites

At this time, the Rhône wine Mini-Tasting is a “*maybe*,” and it’s likely that it will have to be rescheduled or cancelled. At this point, we will close down the signups to minimize the number of potential refunds we may have to issue. We will review the situation in a couple of weeks, and if the event needs to be cancelled, we will issue refunds to those who have already signed up. If we end up rescheduling, we will contact those that have signed up to see if they would prefer a refund. Thank you for your understanding.

The Rhône Valley is known for a wide range of white and red wines. The whites are frequently aromatic blends with varietals including Viognier, Marsanne, Roussanne, and Grenache Blanc. Many of the reds are well-known as single-varietals Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvèdre, among

others, or as blends like GSM. For this event, we will feature Old-World (French) wines side-by-side with New World (California) wines. As usual, it will be a blind tasting with five flights of two, one white flight and four red flights. One of the challenges will be to identify which wines are from California and which are wines from France.

**Hosts:** Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. If you would like to host this event, please email me at [George@ocws.com](mailto:George@ocws.com). You may need to sign up and pay until host sites 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 (please add a note on your sign-up if there is a specific location you would like, or a group of people you

want to attend with). Your assigned host site is also based on the order in which your sign-up is received in the OCWS office. The cost to attend the tasting is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests.

**Dish:** Each couple attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) 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. There will be a special bottle of wine awarded as a prize for Chef of the Evening voted by the guests at each site. Our winning Chefs of the Evening will be named in the wrap-up newsletter article.

We are planning for seven sites for this Mini-Tasting so the limit is 112 attendees (plus hosts).

Bon Appétit!

- Cheers, George Cravens

## The Courtyard at the 2020 OC Fair

**All FOR Fun**  
July 17 - Aug 16, 2020

It’s hard to imagine, but the OC Fair is right around the corner! The OC Fair’s theme this year is **ALL FOR FUN**. As any of you who have worked at The Courtyard during the Fair know, we have known that it is almost all for fun and the Fair is finally catching up to us. We are running the OCWS’s major fundraiser of the year, thereby sustaining the organization, increasing our exposure, running an effective membership drive to the public, and concentrating on our scholarship raising efforts. Please note that the Fair will begin and end one week later, so please plan your time accordingly.

**Volunteer Sign Ups.** All sign ups will be online again this year, with sign up dates as follows:

- Managers, Assistant Managers & their co-members – May 1
- Cashiers, Stewards & their co-members – to be determined

- Servers – to be determined

All positions, except for servers, will receive an email inviting you to sign up in those capacities and on the above dates. If you have not received an email prior to the appropriate date and feel you should have, please accept our apologies now and do not hesitate to reach out to us at [Courtyard@ocws.org](mailto:Courtyard@ocws.org).

**Please** remember that shifts are generally filled on a first come, first served basis, so the sooner you sign up, the better the chances are that you will receive your requested shifts. As has been the rule in the past, in order to receive the Fair access and parking passes, which are valid throughout the entire run of the Fair, a minimum of three shifts is required.

If you have any questions, please give a shout out to [Fran@ocws.org](mailto:Fran@ocws.org). Looking forward to seeing you and sharing fun times at the 2020 OC Fair!

- Fran Gitsham, Courtyard Chair



## The Wine Press

Orange County Wine Society, Inc.  
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### OCWS Save the Date Calendar

- April 4 OCWS Wine Auction—**Postponed**
- April 9 Wine Education Seminar:  
Wines of Germany and Austria—**Cancelled**
- April 17 Winery Program: Eberle Winery—**Cancelled**
- April 25 Winemakers Quarterly Meeting & Potluck
- April 26 Champagne Brunch: Newport Landing—**Cancelled**
- May 2 Mini-Tasting: Rhone Wines
- May 8 Winery Program: ZD Wines—**Cancelled**
- May 14 Wine Education Seminar:  
US Wine Regions and Wines—**Cancelled**
- May 16 Spring Event: The Great OCWS Bake Off & BBQ—**Cancelled**
- May 30-31 Commercial Wine Competition
- June 28 New Member Mixer—**On Hold**
- July 17 -  
August 16 Orange County Fair



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