

THE WINE PRESS

OC Wine Society
Pairing Wine Education and Fun since 1978

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September 2023

I NEED
A HUG e glass of wine



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In Our Own Backyard:
BELLANTE FAMILY WINERY



Committed to QUALITY

STORY & PHOTOS BY GREG RISLING

Tucked in a business park off Alicia Parkway in Mission Viejo, Chuck and Sheri Bellante have established one of the most reputable and welcoming wineries in Orange County.

While it still may stun some residents that they can visit a top-flight winery just a few miles from their home, Bellante Family Winery has made a name for itself by producing a stupendous slate of age-worthy, single-vineyard wines that has netted 90+ scores for roughly 85 percent of their offerings.



(Top) Chuck Bellante opened his Mission Viejo winery to bring quality wines from Santa Barbara County to Orange County.

See BELLANTE, page 9

2022-2023 Board of Directors



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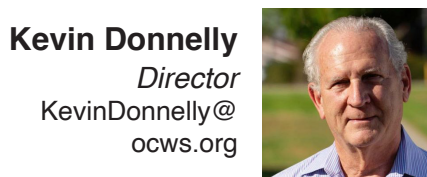
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President's Message

BY FRAN GITSHAM

As a three-time president of the OCWS, chair of The Courtyard for the past 12 years and now chair of the Commercial Wine Competition, among other things, one might think I am anything from passionate and committed to a workaholic to someone who should have her head examined.

Although I am, in many ways, all of these things, the one description that comes to my mind is selfish.

Selfish because it makes me so happy to have been blessed with the opportunities this organization has afforded me.

I have been a member for 23 years, nine of which I have spent on the Board of Directors. I have crossed paths with hundreds of people I otherwise would never have met in life. I have laughed, cried, argued and worked side by side with the most amazing people from every walk of life, ages 20s through 90s; every race, religion, political affiliation and anything else you can think of; people whose hands and hearts I have had

Finding Purpose for a Selfish Reason

the pleasure and honor to hold and, in turn, they held mine. I have met people with whom I have spent only time volunteering with at OCWS events and people who have now become my dearest friends for, what I pray, is the rest of my life.

If the entire world could only be what this organization is—comprised of caring, loving, compassionate and dedicated people—the world would be a much kinder and happier place. This is what makes the OCWS a success. You, our members, are what makes the OCWS a success in so many ways.

Although I am not going anywhere soon (that I am aware of!), my presidency is coming to an end and this is my chance to be selfish again and stand on a soapbox to express my heartfelt love and sincere appreciation for the wine society, all of you, and the opportunity to be so very fulfilled and happy.

THANK YOU for all your support and your confidence in me. And, please, don't ever forget, I selfishly still love hugs.

The Courtyard Tear-Down Dream Team

It was worth scrubbing, lifting, sweeping, stringing, hanging, moving around, setting up and tearing down to prepare for our largest OCWS scholarship-generating event at the OC Fair! The Setup and Teardown Crew was composed of 73 volunteers over 4 1/2 days for a total of 438 volunteer hours.

Thank you so much to our team for volunteering trucks and transportation, climbing up on ladders, crawling underneath spaces and setting up lunches

and for all your extra talents. Now, The Courtyard has little wall space left to use. There are always minor glitches and it's an obstacle course driving across the fairground to the containers the morning after.

Plus, your ideas this year increased efficiency and The Courtyard Crew is already taking notes for setting up for the 2024 OC Fair.

—Leslie Hodowanec,
2023 Courtyard Coordinator

New Members CORNER

The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following members was approved by the Board of Directors at the August 2023 meeting:

Thomas Adams
Chris and Elizabeth Bruckner
Laura Maldonado
Trung and Diem Nguyen
Matthew Salatino
Douglas and Laura Schirripa
Adam Atkinson
Pilar Mas
Laura Baber
Chris Carter
Tom and Laureen Baldyga
Landy Banks
Greg Bechtloff
Rhonda Biel
Jane Ooms
Bill Blatnik
Vicki Braddock
Darci Murphy
Michelle Bryant
Carie Citizen
Diane Campbell
Brian Callas
Roger and Sharon Carton
Steve and Char Cech
Cheryl Coleman
Lorraine Rodriguez
Nadereh Compani
Alan and Bonnie Cummins
Joseph DeOrio
Lynda Thipavong
Randy and Martha Kimmel
Drissy Doan
Allan Brown
Margaret Dubel
Amy Abbott
Danielle Duenas
Dione McCrea
Erik and Roxanne Eisel
Teresa Garrett
Virginia Gross
Cindy Hansen
Stephen Miles
Stephanie Hernandez
Russ Rawlings
George and Verna Hernandez
Laura Herzberger
Paula Kivi

Bobbie Holtom
Dawn Ide
Mark Pynchon
Jennifer Johns
Michael and Jill Jukam
John and MaryDee Kienstra
Kevin and Karen Leahy
Steve and Anne Loughran
Shelby Mack
Derek Hauschka
Alyssa Massey
Joshua Kuehn
Erica Matasf
Tim Hickey
Hank and Tricia Montelongo
Brenda Olsen
Cassidy Edgar
Rebecca Owens
Colleen Pagter
Carmela Panza
Kathryne Pinedo
Megan Khogyani
Sara Ramirez
David and Diane Ries
Laura Rose
Angie Johnson
Julie Ross
Jason Moreau
Bob and Pam Rubly
Peter and Maria Santaniello
Cami Somerville
Mark Orlando
David Souter
Diane Schlesinger
Michelle Stedum
Cheryl Antonos
Gregg Surrell
Don Todd
Kelly Tanski
Kyle and Tran Traska
Kevin and Leigh Trussell
Dani Trucker
Morgan Brown
John and Sarah Van Dam
Pete and Sonya Wheeler
Derrick and Vivian Willis
Jack and Mary Woll

New Members: For new members trying to log onto the website, go to OCWS.org. Your default login is the primary member's email address. The default password is the primary member's zip code. Both of these may be changed under the tab "My Account" once you log on. There is only one login/password per dual membership.

—Rochelle Randel,
Membership Chair

The Wine Press Staff Box

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. Please forward comments, questions and suggestions to Editor@ocws.org

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2023 Wine Competition Results:
WineCompetition.com

Chef of the EVENING

After Janet Riordan tried this Milk Chocolate Pistachio Tart at her women's group dinner, she just had to share it with OCWS members at a May Mini-Tasting.

"I loved it immediately (I mean really, chocolate crust with a chocolate filling, toss in pistachios, damn, yum)," says Janet, a 20-year member. "I enjoy baking and always try to include new recipes."

While this version calls for safflower oil, Janet substitutes canola oil for its taste. When it comes to the chocolate, Janet prefers Dove milk chocolate candies. She also notes that she made the tart the day before serving and it was just as fresh and delicious.



Milk Chocolate Pistachio Tart

Ingredients

Vegetable oil cooking spray for pan

Crust:

¾ cup all-purpose flour, plus more for surface
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/3 cup unsalted shelled pistachios, chopped
¼ tsp. salt
1 stick unsalted butter, room temperature
¼ cup sugar
½ tsp. vanilla extract

Pistachio Paste:

½ cup unsalted shelled pistachios
¼ cup sugar
¼ tsp. salt
1 tsp. safflower oil

Filling:

5 oz. milk chocolate, chopped
½ cup heavy cream
¼ cup whole milk
1 large egg, beaten

Garnish:

Finely chopped pistachios

Directions

Crust:

COAT 9-inch fluted round tart pan with removeable bottom with cooking spray. Make the crust.

WHISK together flour cocoa powder, chopped pistachios and ¼ tsp. salt.

BEAT butter on medium speed until fluffy, about 3 minutes.

ADD sugar and beat until pale, about 2 minutes. Reduce speed to low and add vanilla, then flour mixture until just combined and dough holds together when pressed between two fingers.

PRESS dough into a disk and wrap in plastic. Refrigerate for 15 minutes.

ROLL out dough between two pieces of clear plastic wrap into an 11-inch round, ¼-inch-thick piece.

PRESS dough into bottom and up sides of tart pan. Trim excess dough flush with edges of pan using knife.

REFRIGERATE until firm, at least 1 hour or overnight.

PREHEAT oven to 325 degrees.

BAKE until firm, about 30 minutes.

Let cool completely; reduce oven temperature to 300 degrees.

Pistachio Paste:

PULSE pistachios, sugar and ¼ tsp. salt in food processor until mixture begins to clump together.

ADD oil and pulse until smooth and paste-like.

SPREAD evenly into bottom of cooled tart shell, pressing firmly with the bottom of a measuring cup until flat and smooth.

Filling:

PLACE chocolate in heatproof bowl. Heat cream and milk in saucepan over medium heat until almost boiling; pour over chocolate. Let stand 2 minutes.

WHISK slowly until smooth. Let cool 10 minutes.

STIR in egg until combined.

PLACE tart shell on baking sheet and pour in filling.

BAKE until just set, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool.

GARNISH with finely chopped pistachios.

Now is the Time to Start Making Wine

In attending OCWS events and meeting new members, I'm often asked how I became interested in winemaking.

It wasn't until joining the OCWS and discovering the Winemakers Group that I really thought about making wine. I've always enjoyed drinking it but until then, making it seemed like something magical. Now, here was a group making wine at home!

That's how I became *interested* in making wine. But a more important question to ask is: How did I *start* making wine. That's a whole other story.

So, I began attending Winemakers Group events. Even at other OCWS events, I gravitated to the winemakers and asked lots of questions. Several invited me to their homes to see their winemaking setups. After a couple of years of this, it was obvious to all that I was interested in making wine.

One winemaker in particular also saw it. I guess he was tired of seeing me on the sidelines every year, so he took some action to get me started.

This guy had a knack for prodding someone or something into action. His methods were often spontaneous, sometimes a little outside of the box, but always with good intentions. Just like now, the Winemakers Group had a grape purchase program. When the grape order form went out that year, he approached me and flat out declared that I would make wine because he would buy 100 lbs. of Cabernet Sauvignon grapes for me. There would be no questions asked and no doubts about it. So, I made wine that year (and paid him for the grapes).

Another winemaker took me under his wing and guided me through the process. He answered all my questions and even provided me with the additives needed to get my wine off to a good start. He and other mentors



Here's a photo of me in my garage getting ready to press Chardonnay. This is probably my second year of winemaking. I used a basket press that had made a lot of reds. You can see the wooden basket is stained red. That red hue ended up in my wine. The final product tasted good but it was slightly off-color. Rookie mistake.

were there for me from beginning to bottling. Like now, the Winemakers Group had presses, bottling machines and corksers available to borrow so I didn't have to buy expensive equipment. I made my first vintage after some much-needed prodding and with lots of help.

That's how I started making wine. Fast forward 15 or so years and now I'm part of the Winemakers Group helping others get started on their winemaking journey.

We've had some learning opportunities recently with our kit and fruit winemaking classes. Making wine from fresh grapes is similar. If you took either of these classes you know the winemaking basics.

Our annual grape purchase is in full swing. Several varietals are available from our longtime source in Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma. Grapes and juice are available from Lucas &

Lewellen Vineyards in Santa Barbara County. These sources have been providing grapes for OCWS winemakers for many years. We know the grapes are high quality as our winemakers consistently produce award-winning wines from them.

We want to help you make great wine. When you buy grapes through the group, we will provide you with packets of additives. These are the yeast, nutrients and other fermentation additives needed to help get your wines off to a great start. Our mentors are ready to help too.

Have a winemaking question? Get an answer from one of our longtime winemakers. And, of course, we have equipment available to borrow.

I know many of you are interested in making wine. Now is the time to start.

— Ed Reyes,
ed@ocws.org

Membership SOCIAL

GAME ON! Looking forward to fun this fall

The heat has settled into Southern California. The Commercial and Home Wine competitions are over and, again, were amazing successes.

The OC Fair is now behind us and many of us are getting in last-minute travel to visit family, sitting at the beach or on vacations. We are enjoying this wonderful time of the year.

Just around the corner will be our fall social to celebrate the friends and wine we so enjoy in the OCWS.

Are you ready to eat great food from the Cook's Caucus, drink amazing wines, play some games and dance the afternoon away to live music? Me too!

Mark your calendar for the Fall Membership Social 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, in The Courtyard.

The theme for the event is "The Game is On." So, pull out your favorite jersey, golf cap, tennis skirt or trophy and join us for an afternoon of fun.

Tickets will be sold online for members at \$45 per person and guests for \$50 per person.

Volunteers are needed for sign-in from 2:45 to 3:15 p.m., wine serving in 30-minute time spans, food serving, popcorn making prior to the event and set-up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please email Alice Polser at ajpolser@gmail.com to volunteer.

—Alice Polser,
Event Chair

New Member MIXER

Learn more about wine society

The 2023 OC Fair Wine Courtyard volunteers had a wonderful impact that led to a very large increase in our new member memberships. They made it happen—thank you volunteers!

We are planning to celebrate new members by inviting them to a free event. At this OCWS event new members can meet other new mem-

bers and the Board of Directors as well as learn more about the many events the Orange County Wine Society has to offer.

Save the date: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18.

More information, including how to sign-up for this invitation-only event, will be coming soon.

Varietal HOUR

Events explore different varietals

The Orange County Wine Society Varietal Hours are back! After a brief hiatus during the OC Fair, we have restarted the Monday evening Zoom events.

Those who attend will tell you that this event is a great way to share knowledge and fun stories about wine. Regardless of where you are on your wine enthusiast journey, Varietal Hours have something for everyone! For a list of Varietal Hour themes for the remainder of the year, please see below.

Varietal Hours are held every other Monday from 7 to 8 p.m. The themes are designed to allow attendees to pick wines already in their cellar or venture out to buy a new wine online or at a local wine store. Each participant shares what they like (or didn't like) about their wine(s) and some great stories related to the week's theme. It's a casual, fun-loving group that enjoys sharing their knowledge and learning something new. Everyone always

Although the event is FREE to OCWS members, sign-ups are required. Please log on to the OCWS website to register for this event no later than the Sunday night before the Varietal Hour. Couples only need to sign up for one person since this event is via Zoom. A link for the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you on the day of the event. You can attend as many or as few of the Varietal Hours as you wish; just remember to sign up for each one individually.

We are also looking for hosts for a few of the Varietal Hours scheduled through December. Please contact Carolyn at carolyn@ocws.org or George Cravens at george@ocws.org if you wish to host, or with any questions or suggestions.

We look forward to Zooming with you soon at one of the future Varietal Hours! Cheers!

—Carolyn Christian,
OCWS Vice President

has something to contribute to the conversation! Questions are welcome too!

DATE	TIME	VARIETAL	Hosts
Sept. 11	7 p.m.	Favorite Summer Wine	Don & Elee Phillips
Sept. 25	7 p.m.	Zinfandel	Your Name Here
Oct. 9	7 p.m.	Favorite White Wine	Stuart Fricke
Oct. 23	7 p.m.	Favorite Red Wine	Janet Riordan
Nov. 6	7 p.m.	Greek Wine	Your Name Here
Nov. 20	7 p.m.	Favorite Inexpensive Wine (under \$10)	Cathy & Lee Painter
Dec. 4	7 p.m.	Varietals with Multiple Names (at least 3)	CL & Adrienne Keedy
Dec. 18	7 p.m.	Holiday Wines	Your Name Here

Get involved—run for OCWS Board of Directors

SKILLS NEEDED

General knowledge of the OCWS events and activities

• • •

Prior experience as a volunteer

• • •

Ability and time to help organize events throughout the year

• • •

Selected event and budget management skills

• • •

Be a member in good standing

It is that time of the year and it is all in Article 4 of the bylaws—the procedure for election of the Orange County Wine Society (OCWS) Board of Directors!

The organization is run by a nine-member Board of Directors. Intelligent, innovative, open minded, problem-solving and result-oriented people are the key to the leadership of the group. Many of our members have these skills, so it is time to consider stepping up to help lead the way.

If you know the organization; are a seasoned volunteer; and are dedicated to its purpose and objective of promoting the knowledge of winemaking, viticulture and wine appreciation, then you may be a suitable candidate to take a lead position.

The beginning of a three-year term on the Board of Directors shall be staggered such that three members' terms expire each year. The three vacated positions are filled by a vote of the OCWS membership, following the Annual Business Meeting that will be held Sept. 8, 2023.

The overall time commitment for a member of the Board varies and is based upon assignments and participation. In addition to running the business of the organization, the goal of the Board is for members to run OCWS programming, with the Board acting as mentors and liaisons regarding budgets and event planning. Also, the Board func-

tions as an oversight committee, focusing on compliance with the bylaws, OC Fair compliance, liability exposure, etc.

To declare candidacy for a position on the Board of Directors, a candidate must present a Declaration of Candidacy, in writing, by mail or via electronic media to the Election Chair no later than 14 calendar days prior to the scheduled Annual Business Meeting. A written Statement of Qualifications is required to be presented to the Election Committee no later than five calendar days after receipt by the Election Chair of a Declaration of Candidacy. Statements of Candidacy will be posted on the OCWS website.

During the Annual Business Meeting, declared candidates will have an opportunity to address the membership.

The OCWS continues to thrive thanks in great part to the leadership of the organization over the last 48 years. If helping to take the helm of this amazing group is of interest to you, please submit your Declaration of Candidacy and Statement of Qualifications to Election Chair Sara Yeoman at Sara@ocws.org.

For any questions related to director responsibilities, the election process or anything else, please contact OCWS Director Linda Flemins at LindaF@ocws.org.

—Linda Flemins,
OCWS Director

2023 Annual Business MEETING

Agenda items to include finances, accomplishments

The Annual Business Meeting of the OCWS will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8. In striving to be fiscally responsible and reach the most members possible, the meeting will be presented via Zoom.

Attendees will hear updates on the current state of the organization including our financial condition. Accomplishments during the last year will be highlighted, including recaps

of our two wine competitions, the wine auction and The Courtyard at the OC Fair, as well as plans for the remainder of 2023.

Our Annual Election of three members for the Board of Directors is upcoming and the meeting will give members the opportunity to meet the candidates who will present their qualifications.

Sign up for attendance is currently

open on our OCWS website under the Events tab. A Zoom link will be sent to each attendee in advance of the meeting. There is no cost to attend.

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

We look forward to having you at this important business event.

—Fran Gitsham, President



Bubbles 'n' Brunch

11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023

Old World Village
7561 Center Ave.
Huntington Beach, CA

Sign-Up Deadline:
Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023



Old World Village opened in 1978 and has always been synonymous with the annual Oktoberfest.

Over the years thousands have witnessed the pulsating beat of Oom-pah-pa bands directly imported from Germany and Austria.

Our brunch journey will take

us to the taste of Germany. We will enjoy a starter of fresh fruit and a side of pretzels, then guests will select from three brunch entrees and end the meal with, yes, Apfelstrudel!

Because we need to contract the attendance count with the restaurant, the last day to sign up, make changes or

cancel to receive a refund is Sept. 5.

Any cancellations after this date will be filled and refunded from the waitlist.

Looking forward to toasting with you again! Prost!

—*Rochelle Randel*,
OCWS Champagne
Brunch Coordinator

MENU

The meal also includes coffee, tea and sodas. The price for the brunch is \$57. for members and guests. Corkage, tax and gratuity is included. We will meet in the Jaeger Room. Afterwards, there's shopping in the newly renovated deli or stroll the many other shops. Or stay for a bier!

PARKING

Parking is complementary in the Old World Village parking lot off Huntington Village Drive.



REMINDERS

1.
Please bring a bottle of your favorite champagne and/or wine.
2.
Please bring champagne and/or wine glasses.
3.
Please wear your name badge.
4.
Please drink responsibly.

BELLANTE, from page 1

“Watching wines develop over time is part of the satisfaction of making wine,” says proprietor Chuck Bellante. “They are like my newborn children. I can’t pick a favorite.”

Chuck has spent nearly the last quarter century making wine. Once a garagiste who partnered with others to explore the world of wine, he and Sheri decided to open a tasting room in 2017 as a way to move into retirement doing something they love.

The retired chemical engineer credits his job for his meticulous approach. He knew he wanted his grapes to come from Santa Barbara County that has east-west coastal mountains that form valleys and balance the climate to help nurture the fruit to its maximum potential.

“It’s kind of intuitive; I let the fruit talk to me,” Chuck says. “I have the science background to do what needs to be done. I taste it as it matures to see what more needs to be done.”

He also wanted to provide his clients solely with single vineyard varietals, giving them the opportunity to experience the terroir and the nuances of that particular location.

Chuck prides his wine being single vineyard and racking up top scores by the likes of Wine Enthusiast. His wines have consistently medaled at the OC Fair Commercial Wine Competition.

“Scores mean you are meeting a standard,” Chuck says. “You might not like the wine but it’s good from a technical standpoint.”

His first vintage – circa 2000 – was a Syrah, he calls “bullet-proof” because of the grape’s thick skin. Since then Chuck has expanded his collection to Pinot Noir, Viognier, Grenache and Mourvedre.

As most wine aficionados know, making the very best wine is a blend of science and art. Chuck recounted a



Bellante’s wines often medal at the OC Fair Commercial Wine Competition and receive 90+ scores from Wine Enthusiast.

story during harvest one year when a fellow winemaker questioned why he hadn’t picked his fruit and was the last in the area to do so. Clearly, Chuck recalls, the winemaker thought it was too late and the end result would suffer. Waiting did just the opposite.

“I like to pick the fruit later. I’m not trying to be hip or cool,” Chuck says. “I just know what I’m trying to achieve. If everything tastes right, it’s time to pick.”

The winery also offers some unique options and events. First and foremost is their wine club where prospective members actually get to taste the wine before choosing which ones will be part of their allocation. Every month, the Bellantes host a tasting for the older library wines, giving clients the opportunity to sample the crème de la crème.

The winery claims to have the original wine bingo in Orange County. If you don’t have any plans on Halloween, there will be a murder mystery soiree for those novice sleuths. And a few days after Thanksgiving, the winery will host an exquisite lineup of delicious offerings by renowned chef Pascal Olhats.



NEW EVENT: OCWS Outing

Did you know there are more than a dozen wineries right here in Orange County? Some have been around for more than a decade while others are new to the game. It is the goal of the Orange County Wine Society to continue to schedule events at various locations.

OCWS members are invited to a special tasting and dinner of gourmet tacos at Bellante Family Winery on Thursday, Nov. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$55 per person and includes a tasting of six premier wines along with your choice of two delicious taco plates. There are only 75 slots available. Signups will be available starting Sept. 1 online at OCWS.org.

...
**Signups Deadline:
Nov. 1**

All in all, Chuck and Sheri are enjoying the fruits of their labor and hope others have the opportunity to swing by and taste some hand-crafted, world-class wines from Santa Barbara County right here in Orange County.

“It’s about making a quality wine,” Chuck says. “The people who appreciate that – they are my kind of people.”



Orange County Wine Society

HAPPY Serving Together at 2023 OC Fair

photos by Jim Burk &
Carolyn Christian

It seems like the five weeks at the Orange County Fair flew by. Leslie Hodowanec waived her magic wand and the set-up crew started right after July 4th. By Friday July 14, it looked like Cinderella's carriage.

The wine started to flow at The Courtyard opening and the volunteers kept pouring until the clock struck 10 p.m. on Aug. 13. By the next day, The Courtyard was returned to the loveable pumpkin.

The final accounting is not yet completed, but the summer of 2023 came to be another very successful year by any measure. One metric that takes the forefront is new memberships.

Patrons see OCWS members having a great time at The Courtyard and want to get in on the fun. The new member bell rang 144 times during the fair for 108 dual and 36

single memberships for a total of 252 new Orange County Wine Society members!

The Courtyard is our largest fundraiser of the year and cannot be successful without volunteers. This summer 235 members volunteered and worked a total of 1,440 shifts. Together they filled over 30,000 8-ounce cups!

Liz and Lloyd Corbett worked each Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Featured Winery Bar and added over \$16,000 to the Scholarship Fund. The donation jars brought in an additional \$17,000. This should be celebrated with Sparkling Splits, of which we sold 3,645.

Bill Redding and Kevin Coy kept the cellar full. We sold 1,906 of Cuvee Coy house wines. Sara Yeoman and Ed Reyes headed up the very popular Saturday and Sunday wine seminars.





Thank you to each member who volunteered during the run of the Happy Together year at the fair. Giving new meaning to, “will work for wine,” members used 3,654 wine tickets!

I want to give a special note to Courtney, who worked 32 shifts; Kevin Lite, who worked 28; Kelly Haggard, who worked 20; and Kevin Coy, who worked 20.

I want to express my gratitude to Co-Chair Fran Gitsham. Fran brings an extraordinary amount of institutional knowledge and worked tirelessly to coordinate with the fair and keep all the pieces in place from the planning through the operation of The Courtyard. See you at The Courtyard next summer!

—**Fred Heinecke,**
OCWS Director





ROLLING VIEWS

Craig Rowe, another second-time winner, shot this picture at Robert Young Winery in Geyserville using his iPhone 13 Pro in Pano mode. "We have been members of the wine club for 19 years and this was our first visit since RY built the tasting/event location called Scion house," Craig says. "The picture was taken from the lawn adjacent to Scion house."

Calling all OC Wine Society photographers

The OCWS sponsors a photography contest and you are invited to participate! As you might have guessed, the subject is "wine," but this can mean many things to many people.

Do you have a great shot of the sun filtering through the vines just before picking? Or an action shot of wine being poured with some great swirls in

the glass? Perhaps a romantic shot of a couple toasting each other?

These are a few ideas and I'm sure you have many more of that great shot involving wine in some way.

Each month the photography committee will select a Photo of the Month for publication in the upcoming newsletter as well as on the OCWS website. The winner also

will receive a bottle of wine from the OCWS wine cellar. The ultimate goal is to publish an OCWS calendar consisting of the 12 best photos of the year. These may or may not be the 12 monthly winners.

If you have any questions, email Jim@JBurk.net. Jim is the OCWS photographer and head of the OCWS photography committee.

Winning Photographs



JANUARY 2023



FEBRUARY 2023



MARCH 2023



APRIL 2023



MAY 2023



JUNE 2023



SAILING AWAY

Sue England was cruising in Hubbard Bay, Alaska, when she snapped this stunning shot using her iPhone Pro Max. “This was a bucket list trip for my family,” says Sue, who joined the OCWS in 2019. “When packing, for some reason, I felt I didn’t need my beanie...’til we got there. So, I had my glass of wine, new beanie and was looking out at the most tranquil and picturesque site I’d ever seen. I wanted to remember the whole feeling.”

THE RULES

1 Entrants must be OCWS members in good standing and the submitted photo must have been photographed by the OCWS member when he/she was an active member.

2 The photo must be somehow wine oriented. It may be of a winery, vineyard, the winemaking process, the finished product or simply the consumption. But don’t limit yourself just to these ideas!

3 The photo or photos may be submitted to the OCWS photography committee any time but will be considered only for the month it was submitted. There is a limit of five (5) submissions per month.

4 Upon submission, rights to the photo are given to the OCWS for marketing purposes, so before you submit it make sure it is your property. Please get permission from any people in the photo.

5 The photo must be submitted in one of the following formats: JPEG, RAW, TIFF or Photoshop. Any size is acceptable, but it is preferred to be at least 3000x2400 pixels, which is an 8”x10” shot at 300 dpi for printing.

6 In the event that insufficient entries are entered in a month, the committee reserves the right to move any contributed photos to the next month.

To submit a picture, attach it in an email to Jim@JBurk.net. Be sure to include your name, phone number, picture location and picture title. Photos are due by the last day of the month to be considered for that month’s winner.

2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 28	VARIETAL HOUR / NEW FAVORITE WINE VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 8	OCWS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 10	BUBBLES 'N' BRUNCH OLD WORLD VILLAGE / HUNTINGTON BEACH
SEPTEMBER 11	VARIETAL HOUR / FAVORITE SUMMER WINE VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 23	WINEMAKERS GROUP PRE-CRUSH SEMINAR YORBA LINDA / LOCATION TBD
SEPTEMBER 25	VARIETAL HOUR / ZINFANDEL VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 30	FALL MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL THE COURTYARD / OC FAIRGROUNDS / COSTA MESA
OCTOBER 9	VARIETAL HOUR / FAVORITE WHITE WINE VIA ZOOM
OCTOBER 23	VARIETAL HOUR / FAVORITE RED WINE VIA ZOOM
NOVEMBER 2	OCWS OUTING BELLANTE FAMILY WINERY / MISSION VIEJO
NOVEMBER 18	NEW MEMBER MIXER THE COURTYARD / OC FAIRGROUNDS / COSTA MESA
DECEMBER 1	OCWS HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE AVENUE OF THE ARTS HOTEL / COSTA MESA