

SHW
The Grapevine
Newsletter of
Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.
October 2011

October 19, 2011 Program – Australian Travelogue and Gold Medal

Winners Tasting

Bring your wine glass and settle in for an entertaining evening. Members Paul and Nancy Baldwin take you along on their Australian wine country adventure sharing their discoveries of Australian wine making. You'll have an opportunity to taste some Aussie wines and enjoy some beautiful slides. This is arm side travel at its best!

After visiting Australia, you'll have the opportunity to taste members' wines that took top honors in this year's amateur/home wine competitions. Winemakers will also share some of their secrets for making their best.

Room Change! The meeting starts at 7 PM upstairs (in the room next to the elevator) at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in Sacramento. Thanks for helping set up before the meeting and cleaning up afterwards.

President's Message

Well, by now, we are all knee deep in mashed grapes! To be exact, must, or even pressed wine by this time.

What a joyous time for all of us who labor at this love of home winemaking!

From about December on, we mechanically finish off last year's wine, bottle and store it. We enter competitions and we pour over winemaking articles and magazines. We even dream about the next best yeast, the next best piece of equipment, and yes, we envision ourselves standing next to our very own full barrel. And, we covet our neighbors wine rooms and caves. More toys! And, of course, we drink wine and envision our own wonderful examples of varietals.

But, now, we are all work. The trajectory of wine faults in your wine is set by the very earliest things we do now – measuring pH, TA, and brix. Tasting, and smelling for H₂S. Adjusting pH and acid. This small window of the month

of October sets the stage for the rest of the year – bragging rights for your Gold medal winner, or laments for wine that could have been better, if only. Choose carefully, Grasshopper.

The Sacramento Home Winemakers is known for its educational programs, and the October meeting is no exception. We will start at 7 PM with a wonderful armchair tour, and tastings, of Australian wines, presented by members Paul and Nancy Baldwin. Following this presentation, our Gold Medal winners share their wines and their knowledge with you.

Donna Bettencourt
2011 SHW President

From the Chief Judge – Winemaker of the Year Award

The SHW 2011 Winemaker of the Year will be awarded at our Holiday Party in December – but the deadline for entries is coming up soon! All entries are due by November 30th. Competition rules and an entry form are included in the newsletter – check it out! Please get your completed form to the Chief Judge or to any SHW board member as soon as possible.

D.D. Smith
Chief Judge

Save The Date! The Annual Holiday Party Is Coming!

Sunday, December 18th, 2011

Just a reminder that the Club's December meeting will celebrate the annual SHW Holiday Party. This year's festive event will be held at the Embassy Suites Sacramento Riverfront Promenade in the Old Sacramento Ball Room with plenty of room to eat, drink and be merry! The cost will be \$40 for Members and \$45 for Non-Members and includes tax, gratuity, free validated parking at the hotel parking garage and no corkage fees for wines brought by Club Members for dinner and to share with other guests.

The party begins at 4 PM with appetizers followed by a holiday buffet dinner, Chef's choice of dessert, SHW presentations/annual awards and raffle prize drawings. Executive Chef Clay Purcell will dazzle you with his culinary delights!!

This party is coordinated by Debbie Moretton, Member, and she is still looking for Holiday help from as many club members as possible in the following areas:

•\$5 Ticket Raffle Prizes (Club Members and friends of Club Members can collaborate together for gift baskets, hosting a dinner or a wine tasting/food pairing, gift cards, gift certificates. unique one-of-a kind items, grapes)
- think of the possibilities!!

This is the Club's major fundraising event where all proceeds benefit the educational programs, field trips, tours, presentations and winemaking experiences offered to our members.

You may contact Debbie directly at dem1019@sbcglobal.net, (916)296-1115 (cell phone) or at any Club meeting.

Reservation form and more on the Holiday Party in November's Newsletter!!

October SHW Executive Board Meeting

October 5, 2011, 6:30 P.M – 8 P.M.



All SHW members are encouraged to attend the Club's Executive Board Meeting at least one time, so why not make November's Board meeting the one to attend?

This is a great way to get involved and to learn more about your Club, without any responsibility! At the November meeting, we will fleshing out the details of the November monthly program, and the Christmas Party. The board meeting runs from 6:30 pm to 8 pm, and you are welcome to attend both the board meeting and the potluck and wine tasting that follows. We will be forming some new committees and your involvement is welcome.

Contact Donna Bettencourt, SHW President at (916) 454-5487 for location.

Home/Amateur Wine Competitions

Los Angeles Cellarmasters - California Cellarmaster's US Amateur Winemaking Competition. Entries accepted between October 14 and November 11. More info at www.cellarmastersLA.org.

SHW's on facebook!

Share your harvest pics on *Sacramento Home Winemakers* facebook page.

Program Ideas

We want your input! Help SHW bring you what you want or need to learn more about wine making. Share with us program ideas and topics that you'd like to learn more about. Did you get enough chemistry? Would you like to know more about wine appreciation or home viticulture? Do you want to know more about specific varieties? Do you have educational field trip ideas?

Please share your thoughts with:

President Donna Bettencourt: bettencourt1045@softcom.net; 916 454-5487

Vice President Bill Staehlin: bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net; 916 216-1753

The Grapevine Editor Gin Yang: ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com; 916 217-0294

Upcoming SHW Meetings and Events

- October 19 General Meeting, 7 PM - Gold Medal Winners and Travelogue,
- November 2 Board Meeting, 6:30 PM – Gold River
- November 16 General Meeting, 6:30 PM – a) Annual Meeting/Election of 2012 Officers, b) Sparkler/Fruit/Dessert/Port Evaluations, and c) Port Presentation by Peter Ficklin of Ficklin Ports
- December 7 Board Meeting, 6:30 PM - Sacramento
- December 18 (Sunday) Holiday Party, 4 PM - Embassy Suites in Old Sacramento. No December General Meeting.

This and previous issues of *The Grapevine* can be found on the SHW website at:

www.sachomewine.org

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