

SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS

THE GRAPEVINE

NEWSLETTER -- FEBRUARY 2018



FEBRUARY 21 PROGRAM

2017 White and Rosé Wines Evaluation

Join your fellow winemakers on Wednesday, February 21st at 7pm for our Monthly Program upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in Sacramento. There is additional parking in the back.

This month's meeting will be devoted to the evaluations of members' 2017 White and Rosés' wines. Please bring two (2) 750 ml bottles of wine. If you haven't yet prepared your 2 bottles, please do so without adding sulfites. Clearly mark your bottles with varietal and your name.

Check in your wines with Cellar Master Joe Morgan before the meeting starts and be prepared to give a brief summary of your winemaking journey with the wine. To help with your winemaking summary go to the SacHomeWine.com website and on the home page you will find a link to Wine Evaluation form on the right side of the page.

Your wine will be poured for all the members in attendance, and presented to our guest evaluators for the evening, Craig Haarmeyer, Winemaker at St.Rey Winery, and Kurt Burris.

This is your opportunity to learn about how you can improve (or "fix" in the case of a faulted wine) your Whites and Rosés' prior to bottling. If you have already bottled, Craig and Kurt will no doubt help you to understand how you can improve your technique for White and Rosé wines for next harvest.

Bring 2 wine glasses for your use at the meeting. Your help in setting up and cleaning up at meetings is appreciated. Contact Vice President Terry Piazza-Perham if you have program questions: piazza-perham@att.net or 916 806-1621.

Please consume responsibly.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to the members who attended our January Club meeting. What an experience it was to "visit" another wine region in our grand world. Many thanks to Eric Danch for his enlightening and tasty presentation of Central and Eastern European wines. Just another fine educational experience you won't find anywhere except the Sacramento Home Winemakers!

My, how time flies. We're heading deep into February and since it's such a short month, it'll be over before we know it. Time to start planning.

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What grapes are you going to ferment? What kind of yeast are you going to use? Are you going to jump into a group buy? Pick your own? Perhaps you have your own vineyard. Either way, it's time to check equipment, prepare for any bottling that may be done in a few months, freeing up carboys or other equipment. So many tasks! But planning is what it's all about. The Executive Board has been planning. We've got white and rosé wine evaluations in February and reds in March. Watch for updates on how the March meeting will keep your interest. Expect updates and email blasts on educational opportunities from the Educational Committee. If you have ideas for educational presentations, see a member of the Ed. Committee. Look for info on mentors and see how that will improve your winemaking skills. There is lots going on as usual in SHW!

The State Fair event is just around the corner and once again, SHW is tapped to provide volunteers. You'll see updates on volunteer opportunities both in staging and staffing the booth during the fair. Check your calendars to mark the date for the Jubilee competition and picnic. Check out the fairs in our surrounding Counties and consider entering

competitions through them. Who knows, maybe you're the next SHW winemaker of the year!

The Club still needs someone to manage equipment. When harvest season comes around, it sure is nice to have access to some equipment, but if no one is going to put out the effort, it's going to be tough to coordinate access. We have scales, crusher/destemmer, press, filter and the Board has been discussing if more is needed. Would the membership like access to a bladder press? Many of the members who have been making wine for a while have the large equipment but we have a lot of new members and members who have been making wine for 3-5 years and just haven't accumulated much. Feedback from members would be nice but again, volunteers to manage the resources are key to being successful in offering quality equipment at extremely affordable rental fees.

Thank you again for being part of this fabulous club. Many positive things arise from like-minded people gathering for a common cause. Your participation is paramount to the health of the club and it's continued goal of offering educational, informative and social interactions.

Happy Winemaking!

-- Joe McGillivray, SHW President

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Lots of volunteers help keep SHW running smoothly! Much appreciation goes out to:

- **Eric Danch** for sharing his central and eastern European experiences on wines and culture.
- **Sandy Sakata** for assisting the Membership Chairs at the January meeting.
- **Bill Staehlin** for the meeting's IT support.
- **Gary Palmero** and **Bob Peake** assisting **Cellar Master Joe Morgan** with the meeting's pours.
- **Mary Breedlove** for the January meeting hospitality.
- **Jenny and Marcus Meadows-Smith** for donating their estate olive oil for January's meeting hospitality.
- **Rebecca** and **Tom Ramme** for hosting February's executive board meeting.

Whether volunteering year-long or ad hoc, SHW thanks you for your contribution in keeping the Club on top! If you're interested in serving in an appointed position, such as Equipment Manager or Newsletter Editor and more, please contact President Joe McGillivray at pyramidlake59@gmail.com.

We still need help with meeting set up and clean up for May, June, September, October, and November. Please contact Hospitality Chair Vickie Rosalli at rjralli@pacbell.net if you can volunteer.

COMPETITION CORNER

The 2018 home winemaking competition season is underway. For those who have never entered a recognized home wine competition, here are a few tips:

*Most competitions require only one bottle for entry. Be sure that that one bottle represents your wine truly; uncork it and taste a tiny bit and smell it. If it is good to go, recork it and send it on.

*Bring your wine prior to bottling to the mentoring table at monthly meetings. Member Christa Ring will have a table in the back of the room, accompanied by an experienced winemaker. One of our mentors can taste the wine and evaluate it, even using a recognized scoring sheet. You may receive some finishing feedback, prior to bottling, that will help your wine compete better.

*Know why you are entering your wine. Is it to show it off and win awards, or to receive feedback, or both? Both are valid reasons. Remember also that you must enter 2 different wines in at least three recognized home wine competitions in order to submit your application for SHW Home Winemaker of the Year. The required competitions are the California State Fair, and the SHW Jubilee. You may choose the other recognized competition.

Here are a few of the competitions coming up.

Bottle Shock Open

The 5th Annual Bottle Shock Open Home Winemaking Competition judging is scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2018 in Lodi. Entries are being accepted beginning January 8, 2018 and the last date to drop off entries at drop off locations was February 9, 2018. The last day to accept entries at Woodbridge Winery, the official Cellar for the competition, is this coming Friday, February 16, 2018. For entry information, go to www.bottleshockopen.com.

California State Fair Home Wine Competition

Entries open on February 14, 2018 and close on March 14, 2018. Judging is being held in Sacramento on Saturday, April 7, 2018. For entry details, go to www.castatefair.org.

WineMaker International Amateur Wine Competition

Entries must be received by March 16, 2018. Entry forms and guidelines can be found at www.winemakermag.com/com This year's competition includes meads and hard ciders as well. One bottle entry, \$25 per entry.

El Dorado County Fair Home Wine Competition

Judging is on May 5th. Forms and entries must be received in the El Dorado Fair office in Placerville between April 1st and May 2nd, M-F 9am-4 pm. \$11 per entry/1 bottle per entry. Go to www.eldoradocountyfair.org for more details.

Sacramento Home Winemakers Jubilee Competition

Our club-only competition is scheduled for Saturday, June 9th, with the annual awards and picnic to follow the next day, June 10th. Look for more details soon in The Grapevine.

Orange County Fair Home Wine Competition

Entry fee is \$15 per entry and only one bottle is required. On-line registration and payment is open now at <https://competition.ocws.org> Deadline for entry is May 22, 2018. Labeled entries may be dropped off at The Brewmeister in Folsom and at other locations (see website) in Northern California. Judging is on June 9th.

Placer County Wine and Grape Association

Last year's home wine competition was held in August. Check back in later for more details or go to: www.pcwga.org

-- Chief Judge Donna Bettencourt

NO WINE ANALYSIS SERVICE IN FEBRUARY

Bruce will not be at the February SHW meeting so the wine analysis service will not be available. Save your samples and bring them to the March meeting. Thank you for your patience.

2018 MEMBERSHIP – JOIN OR RENEW SOON!

Thank you for joining or renewing your membership to SHW. The annual membership is valid for the calendar year (January – December) regardless of when a member joins or renew. Joining or renewing before March 1 entitles the membership to a year's subscription (6 issues) of Winemaker magazine starting with the June-July issue. Membership forms can be found on SHW's website at www.sachomewine.com.

2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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2018 APPOINTED POSITIONS

Donna Bettencourt, Chief Judge
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Gin Yang, Newsletter Editor

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Equipment Coordinator
Vacant

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Bill Staehlin
Oak Cubes Buyer

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Equipment Managers

Destemmer Crusher – vacant
Presses – vacant
Filter-vacant
Scales - vacant

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- Executive Board Meetings –6:30 PM start; contact Prez Joe McGillivray for location; pyramidlake59@gmail.com.
- General Meetings –7:00 PM start; upstairs at 3349 J Street, Sacramento
- Meeting and event details - www.sachomewine.com; see Events Calendar and latest Newsletter.

General Meeting	February 21, 7 PM Wednesday	Evaluation of 2017 Whites and Rosés Guest Evaluators: Craig Haarmeyer and Kurt Burris
March / April	Saturday	UC Davis Winery Field Trip. Details TBA.
Executive Board Meeting	March 7, 6:30 PM Wednesday	All members welcome. Location: Clarksburg
General Meeting	March 21, 7 PM Wednesday	Evaluation of Members' Red Wines
General Meeting	April 18, 7 PM Wednesday	All You Wanted to Know About Corks Guest Speaker: Phil Durrett, ACIC
General Meeting	May 16, 7 PM Wednesday	Your Winemaking Questions Answered Guest Speaker: Shea Comfort, Wine Making Consultant
SHW Jubilee	June 9-10	Wine Competition and Awards Ceremony - Picnic

From:
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www.sachomewine.com
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To: