



The Grapevine

July Program
July 17, 2013

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF
MAKING FRUIT WINES

Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW) monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month starting at 7 PM, upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in mid-town Sacramento. For more information on SHW membership, meetings and activities, visit:

www.sachomewine.org

If you have ever been interested in making fruit wine... you definitely need to be present at our July 17th meeting! SHW member and 2012 International Home Winemaker of the Year, Rex Johnston, makes Best of Show fruit wines every year and will be sharing his extensive knowledge and experience on the art of fruit winemaking next meeting!

Be present and learn from our resident expert! Bring two glasses and wine to share.

Sonia Baron and John Avila

SHW Co-Vice Presidents



Presidential Musings By Gary Young SHW President



Dear Fellow "Home Winers":

Here we are in the doldrums of summer -- July 4th has passed and we await the coming of the September Labor Day Week-end. The tomatoes are ripening, the grapes are swelling - - and we are all anticipating the forthcoming harvest. It is time to do our winemaker's due diligence: confirm our grape sources, clean our equipment and organize our materials; and, pray (or whatever you do) for a great harvest!

THEN our skill as home winemakers comes into play!!

I hope you all read last week's highly complimentary article - "Learn the secrets of wine made at home" in the Sacramento BEE - Food & Wine Section. (Wed, July 3, 2013.) It was a great public relations coup for SHW that was arranged by Gin Yang, our Membership (Community Outreach) Co-Chair.

Take special note that the article highlighted and praised our upcoming August 3rd - "Winemaking 101 Workshop".

If you haven't done so already - get your reservations made; this Workshop promises to be particularly well attended. "Winemaking 101" is always a great & fun learning experience!

An annually recurring OBSERVATION: As I hope you have noted, this club has been successful due to member participation. Back in 1981 then club president Brian Moore wrote: "Apathy can destroy a nation let alone a wine making club!! The success of this club rests with your participation. This is your club so be involved."

We should not and cannot always count on the same core group of great volunteers for club activities. Please - JOIN IN.

Cheers To All !

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Winemaking 101
 A course in beginning home winemaking
 Saturday, August 3, 2013

If you're new to home wine making, this is the workshop for you. We'll guide you through the basic steps for making red and white wines so that you can start making wine this harvest! We'll cover grape sourcing, equipment use and care, chemistry, yeast, and where to get help.

Winemaking 101 is free for SHW members and \$20 per person for non-members. The workshop fee is waived when joining SHW at the workshop. Please register; space is limited.

Please also see the article on Varietal Focus Group for Beginning Winemakers elsewhere in this newsletter.

Additional information can be found at SHW's website: www.sachomewine.com or contact:
 Gin Yang at 916 217-0294 and ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com
 Henry Wilkinson at 916 997-3056 and hbwilkinson@jps.net



WM 101 Registration Form (please write legibly)

Name(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

Best Phone Contact _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ \$20 per person x _____ persons

Fee waived for SHW members or if joining SHW at workshop.

Mail registration form with check to:

Sacramento Home Winemakers
 Attention: Henry Wilkinson
 673 Swanston Drive
 Sacramento CA 95818

B e g i n n e r ' s f o c u s g r o u p

Primitivo Varietal Focus Group – Beginning Winemakers

Cellar Master Henry Wilkinson is coordinating a varietal focus group for beginning winemakers only. Beginning winemakers will have a chance to make at least 5 gallons of wine from Primitivo grapes from Shaker Ridge Vineyards in El Dorado County. There will be a group crush with wines fermented individually. Henry and a few other experienced winemakers provide mentoring. This activity complements Winemaking 101.

Interested? Please contact Henry at 916 997-3056 or hbwilkinson@jps.net.

2013 SHW PROGRAM CALENDAR

July 17—Rex Johnston, current Winemaker Magazine International Amateur Winemaker of the Year, SHW member, and winner of many Best of Show awards for his fruit wines will give a presentation on the "Art of Fruit Winemaking".

August 3—Winemaking 101 Class

August 21—Tim Osson, Guzmer Enterprises presenting on yeast, yeast nutrients, and filtration techniques

September 18—We will have two presenters this evening. John Hyde, Restaurant and Winery Consultant to 26 Brix Restaurant, will speak on "The Importance of Branding for Success in Making the Transition to the Commercial Market". Barbara Bentley, SHW member, and award winning home winemaker and wine label maker will present on "Designing and Printing Labels for Home Winemakers."

October 16— Presentation of gold medal home wines and 2012 Varietal Focus Group presentations

November—Harvest Dinner

November 20th—Annual Meeting, travelogue, and dessert/sparkling and fruit wine evaluations

December 15—Holiday Party

“Lament for Lost Port” By Donna Bettencourt

“Once upon a weekend, weary
 Across my cellar door I did pass,
 When came upon my nostrils an odor sweet and strong.

Casting my eyes about my winery, I called out -
 “What could smell like wine in my winery!”
 Glancing here, and glancing there, what could it be, and why?

There upon the cold, cold floor, a sticky ooze,
 A telltale stain, a purple wound upon the ground.
 The glass itself, neither half empty, nor half full,
 But fully empty.

My carboy, my trusted vessel, now barren of booze.
 My port, oh lovely port of mine, had emptied out, perhaps in measured
 drops, perhaps in one gush, the vessel cracked in silence and in secret.
 No accolades for you, no evocation of pleasure, but only my silent wit-
 ness to your vacant greatness.”



SHW CLUB LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President—Gary Young, gycats@earthlink.net

Co-Vice Presidents—Sonia Baron,
 sonibaron@hotmail.com, and John Avila,
 mail@john-avila.com

Secretary—JD Phelps, jd.phelps@gmail.com

Treasurer—Mike Touchette, pinotsyrah@yahoo.com

Past President—Donna Bettencourt, betten-
 court1045@softcom.net

Membership Co-Chairs—Gin Yang-Staehlin,
 ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com, and Fred Millar,
 fredmillar1@gmail.com

BOARD APPOINTEES

EXECUTIVE BOARD APPOINTEES

Chief Judge—Mike Touchette, pinotsyrah@yahoo.com

Cellarmaster—Henry Wilkinson, hbwilkinson@jps.net

Hospitality—Holly Heggli, galstealth@hotmail.com

Webmaster/Club Competition Coordinator—Judy Pinegar
 judypinegar@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor—Donna Bettencourt, bettencourt1045@softcom.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Touchette, Chair Gary Young

Fred Millar

Lynn Keay

Donna Bettencourt

MEMBER RESOURCES

Winemaking and Vineyard Mentors	Contact Mentor Coordinator Bill Staehlin and he'll match you up with a mentor. bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net; 916 216-1753
Club Equipment Rental	See list on right for information to borrow the Club's destemmer-crusher, press, and filter.
Oak Cubes for Ageing	Contact Bill Staehlin; contact info above.
SHW Logo Wine Glasses	Contact Fred Millar to purchase SHW logo wine glasses (see below for contact Information)
SHW LogoWear Polo Shirts & Caps	Contact Fred Millar for more information. Fredmillar1@gmail.com; 915 576-9596
Club's Web Site	www.sachomewine.org

CLUB EQUIPMENT

Club equipment can be borrowed by SHW members. Reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis with a signed "Release Agreement" on file.

Destemmer-Crusher

Contact:

Andy Walter, 916 955-6373
andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net

Basket Press

Contact:

Lynn Keay, 916 969-4924
lynn.keay@gmail

Filter

Contact:

Donna Bettencourt, 916 454-5487, betten-
court1045@softcom.net
betten-
court1045@softcom.net

Please note that there is a \$5 per use fee for the filter, and a \$10 fee for the crusher-destemmer. No fee for the club press.

Winemaking tasks for july

- *Tell all of your friends about Winemaking 101
- *Scout for grape sources
- *Get together with our SHW members to source wine grapes together
- *Check SO2 levels and airlocks
- *Moderate the hot weather in your winery
- *Conduct bench trial for blends
- *Add oak
- *Inventory equipment and supplies for the coming harvest—check for cracks in fermentation vessels and hairline fractures in your carboys. (See "Lament for Lost Port" on page 3)