

The Grapevine

February 2014

Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW)

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 7pm, upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in Midtown, Sacramento. For more information on SHW membership, meetings and activities, visit: www.sachomewine.org

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February Program

February 19, 2014

The February meeting for SHW will consist of 2013 vintage white wine evaluations. Club members are encouraged to bring any varietal of white wine that they made from the 2013 harvest. Please bring two bottles of each wine you wish to be evaluated. Additionally, due to the number of participants in the 2013 Chardonnay focus group, we are asking that those participants not bring their wine from the group. The Chardonnay focus group will coordinate a separate evaluation and tasting event. Anyone who may have made Chardonnay separately from the focus group is welcome to bring their wine for evaluation.

SHW is pleased to have secured well respected and award winning vintners as this years white wine evaluators. Your wines will be evaluated by Craig Haarmeyer the winemaker for Revolution Wines in midtown Sacramento. Craig is a self-taught winemaker with over 20 years of experience making high quality small batch wines. Also evaluating this year will be Dr. Grover Lee and Kevin Luther from Wise Villa Winery in Lincoln, California. Grover is a former SHW member who took his passion for winemaking professional when opening Wise Villa. As proprietor and head winemaker; Grover continues to live his love for wine making. Kevin is the associate winemaker at Wise Villa and holds a Bachelors of Science in Viticulture and Enology from UC Davis. Kevin has worked at numerous wineries and has participated in harvests in some of the world's top wine making regions including Australia, Argentina, Oregon, Sonoma, and New Zealand.

The February 19th meeting begins at 7 PM at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. Doors open at 6:30 PM so come a little early, get a great seat and open a bottle of wine. Feel free to mingle and get to know your fellow winemakers. Thank you in advance for your assistance with setup and cleanup.

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Message From the President

As home winemakers, we are now in the dormant stage. Hopefully, our wines are tucked in safely, and either through malo-lactic fermentation, or awaiting a quickening of malo-lactic fermentation in the spring. Just as gardeners pour over catalogs, and websites, dreaming of the spring and gardens to come, we home winemakers begin planning our fall home winemaking activities. Now is the time to think about what varietals you wish to make in September and in October. Now is the time to tinker with your winemaking spaces. Add shelving, build that cold room. Now is the time to band with your winemaking brothers and sisters in SHW to make plans to purchase in bulk, universally appreciated by grape growers.

And, now is the time to sign up for one of the many working committees of the Sacramento Home Winemakers. Help us plan our spring home winery tours, add your thoughts to improving Winemaking 101, take a load off our board members by heading up the Harvest dinner, and help design our new Winemaking 201 class. Sign up sheets for these committees and more will be available at the February meeting. It really does take a village.

At the February meeting, a panel of commercial winemakers will be evaluating your 2013 white and rose wines. Happy winemaking, and see you all there!

Donna Bettencourt
President
SHW



Home
Winery
Tour
2014

Thanks for the great response we received from members on ideas and venues for a home winery tour. If you have ideas you've yet to share, contact Gin at ginyangstaehin@yahoo.com and 916 217-0294.

Save the Date!

SHW June Jubilee Home Wine Competition And Picnic

This year we will hold our annual club only home wine competition judging on Saturday, June 28th, and our June Jubilee picnic the next day, Sunday June 29th. More details to follow in the May issue of *The Grapevine*."

Coming Next Month...

For March, SHW will examine the challenges and rewards of making Pinot Noir with a varietal focus discussion / presentation from renowned winemaker and author, Alison Crowe. Alison is a graduate from the UC Davis Viticulture and Enology program. She currently serves as the head winemaker for Plata Wine Partners, LLC, in Napa and provides custom winemaking services and consulting to nationally distributed as well as small start-up brands. Alison is the author of, "[The Winemakers Answer Book: Solutions to Every Problem, Answers to Every Question](#)". She is a frequent contributor to *Wine Business Monthly* and is known as the "Wine Wizard" for her column in *Winemaker Magazine*. Alison also writes the popular wine making blog, "[The Girl and the Grape](#)".

2014 Membership

Dues are now Due

SHW 2014

Elected Officers

President

Donna Bettencourt

Vice Presidents

Sonia Baron

JD Phelps

Secretaries

Joe and Lynn

Mc Gillivray

Treasurer

Steve Barrett

Thank you for supporting SHW with your membership dues. SHW is a non-profit club run solely by volunteers and you. The annual dues are applied to the Club's expenses including meeting room rent, insurance, PO Box, monthly speaker costs, printing, equipment purchases and repairs, and the other necessities used to bring you technical programs and activities.

Benefits to membership include the Club's newsletter, The Grapevine, delivered to your fingertips, a year's subscription to WineMaker magazine (if renewing or joining by March 1), and participation in monthly meetings, Club events and activities. Starting this year, we'll issue SHW membership cards to confirm your membership and help you gain access to membership privileges at participating vendors.

The 2014 membership form is attached to this newsletter and is also available on-line at www.sachomewine.com. 2014 dues are \$50 per household (up to 2 members). If you have membership questions, please contact membership co-chairs Fred Millar at (916) 576-9596 and fredmillar1@gmail.com or Gin Yang at (916) 217-0294 and ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com.

SHW

Club

Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mikc Touchette—Past President

Fred Milar—Past President

Lynn Key—Past President

Gary Young—Past President

The Wine-Cup

is the little silver well

Where Truth,

if Truth there be doth dwell

-William Shakespeare

2014 Winemaker International Amateur Wine Competition: Defending Our Title and Winning Prizes

Article by SHW member and author

Barbara Bentley

Defending Our Title:

SHW has been the international home wine club of the year for the past two years at the WineMaker International Amateur Wine Competition. We have many excellent winemakers in our club so “as a team, let’s do it again in 2014.” How do we win it? Lots of entries give us a better chance. The amateur club that accumulates the most overall points from its members wine entries will win club of the year.

The Club of the Year is based on the following point scale:

Gold medal (or best of show medal): 3 points

Silver Medal : 2 points

Bronze medal: 1 point

Formal Rules:

The formal rules and entry form can be found in the WineMaker magazine and on their website. Entries are 25\$ per bottle entered and each winemaker is limited to 15 entries. There are over fifty categories in which to enter.

How to win valuable gift certificates;

However, if you use the special entry form on the quality wine and Ale website, you also have a chance to win exceptional wine kits and valuable gift certificates. Follow this link for more information and the entry form. To win a prize from the store, you **MUST USE** their form from their web page;

<http://www.homebrewit.com> click on 2014 wine competition in the left hand column, the one with the flashing yellow update notice. **YOU MUST ALSO** fax, mail, or email a copy of your entry form to Quality Wine and Ale. All the details are on their website.

Be sure to read and carefully follow all of them.

Please continue to next page for shipping information

Shipping Information for the International Home Winemaker Competition

SHIPPING:

Wine entries **MUST BE** received in Vermont by March 7, 2014. Because weather can cause shipping delays, you may want to mail your entries with a two or three week lead time.

POSTAL ANNEX stores will ship wine. Here are the closest locations to Sacramento. For members outside the Sacramento area, you can check their website to see if there is a closer shipping location for you.

5325 Elkhorn Blvd., Sacramento (916) 349-2444

4010 Foothills Blvd, Suite 103, Roseville (916) 787-6245

1839 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite B, Walnut Creek (925) 937-4142

1030 S. Hutchins Suite 4, Lodi (209)367-4699

805 S. Virginia Street, Reno (775) 525-2500

If you use FedEx, UPS, or the US Postal Service, WineMaker Magazine recommends that you advise them (IF THEY ASK) that is fruit juice for evaluation or “vinegar”

Member Resources

Wine Making and Vineyard Mentors, and Oak cubes:

bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net

Call Bill at (916) 216-1753

SHW logo wineglasses:

Call Donna at (916) 454-5487

SHW Logo Wear: Polo shirts and caps:

Fredmillar1@gmail.com

Call Fred at (915) 576-9596

Club Website

[www. SacHomeWine.org](http://www.SacHomeWine.org)

Club Equipment

Club equipment can be borrowed by SHW members. Reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis with assigned “release agreement” on file. Contact the following people:

Destemmer/Crusher: Andy Walter, (916) 955-6373

andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net

Basket Press: Lynn Keay (916) 969-4924

Lynn.keay@gmail.com

Filter: Donna Bettencourt, (916) 454-5487

Bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Please note there is a \$5 per use fee for the filter, and a \$10 fee for the crusher/destemmer. There is no fee for use of the club press.