

The Grapevine

Newsletter for the 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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Program Overview August 20, 2014

A Tour of Italy presented by Reg Underwood. Reg works for Total Wine in Rocklin and is a wine judge. He participated as a wine judge for our June Jubilee and has judged at other wine competitions in Northern California. Reg will educated us on Italian Wines with a power point presentation interlaced with Italian wine tastings. Bring a couple of wine glasses for the tastings.



SHW 2014
Elected Officers

President:

**Donna
Bettencourt**

Vice Presidents:

**Sonia Baron
JD Phelps**

Secretaries:

**Joe and Lynn
Mc Gillivray**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Donna Bettencourt

Dear Members of the Sacramento Home Winemakers,

It seems like I was just punching down last year's must, but here we are again – August!

August is a pivotal time for home winemakers. We are busy securing our wine grape sources, pouring over home winemaking catalogs for the next, best yeast, and checking our vessels, be they glass or wood, to make sure that they are sound. We are told that the harvest will be early by about two weeks this year. That means that you can be told any time know that your white wine grapes, and even your reds, will be ready as early as the end of August. If you haven't already sourced your wine grapes, members are encouraged to go to our website, www.sachomewine.org and check out the "2014 Wine grapes Available" page. And, if you haven't already bottled your 2013 wine, and need the vessels for your 2014 must, don't delay! Get ready! Another harvest and we are indeed happy winemakers.

Join us on Wednesday, August 20th, at our regular meeting when Reggie Underwood, of Total Wine, will lead us all on a "tour" of Italian wines. See the article in this issue of the newsletter for more details.

Finally, the SHW Executive Board election for officers for 2015 will be in November. Please consider being nominated for an officer position, or accepting an appointed position. We need your help! In the September issue of "The Grapevine" I will be listing out these positions and the duties assigned to each position. Once you read the article in this issue about the fantastic Executive Board Retreat, you REALLY will want to be on the Executive Board!

Happy Winemaking!



CHARLES MITCHELL



SHW REVELERS

2014 Sacramento Home Winemakers Board Retreat

On Saturday, July 12th, your SHW Board Retreat met at the lovely Stoneybrook Retreat Center in Fairplay to reflect upon the club's accomplishments this year, and to plan for the challenges and opportunities we will meet in the coming year. Joining us were: Donna Bettencourt, President; JD Phelps, VP; Joe and Lynne McGillivray, Co-Secretary; Steve Barrett, Treasurer;

Henry Wilkinson, Cellarmaster; Fred Milar, Membership Chair; John Avila, Community Liaison Chair; Bruce Currie, Apparel Chair; and Lynn Keay, Past President. Many thanks to board member John Avila for arranging for this wonderful cascade of surprises!

After our planning session (more on this in the September issue of "The Grapevine"), we enjoyed a wonderful lunch at The Pub in Fairplay, followed by a special wine tasting on the patio overlooking the valley at Skinner Vineyards. We thought we had been fairly pampered but what followed was even better! A special wine tasting in the candlelit cave at Winery by the Creek, hosted by Charles Mitchell himself.! From sparkling to dessert, he led us through a very personalized lesson in the making of eight special wines. Then, on to Windwalker and several other wineries, I am told (I stopped at Winery by the Creek!)

Charles Mitchell

The lesson in all of this is –IT PAYS TO JOIN THE SHW BOARD!! Really, it does. Your efforts come back not only to our members, but to you yourself as a home winemaker, and as a member of a community. Think about offering, before I tap you on your shoulder!

Donna Bettencourt, SHW President

Save The Date! The Annual Holiday Party Is Coming!

Sunday, December 14th, 2014

Just a reminder that the Club's December meeting will celebrate the annual SHW Holiday Party. We will be returning to 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 \$50 for Members and \$55 for Non-Members and includes tax, gratuity, free validated parking at the hotel parking garage and no corkage fee 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 plated holiday dinner and SHW presentations/annual awards.

Executive Chef Clay Purcell will once again dazzle you with his culinary delights!!

This party is coordinated by Debbie Moretton, Member, with more information to follow in the October Newsletter.

CLUB EQUIPMENT:

Destemmer/Crusher: Andy Walter,
(916) 955-6373
andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net

Basket Press and Corker: Jacque and
Craig Brown
jbrown6766@gmail.com

Filter: Donna Bettencourt, (916) 454-
5487
Bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Each item is subject to a nominal
upkeep fee per use:

Destemmer/Crusher: 10\$
Basket Press: 10\$
Corker: 5\$
Filter: 5\$



Coming soon.....

September 17th:

Gold Medal Winners and Varietal Focus Group Tastings

Okay, you gold medal winners, our September Program is dedicated giving you a chance to bring a couple of bottles to share with your fellow members. Please be prepared to present a brief description of how you made your award winning wine.

Also, The Varietal Focus Groups including the beginners Primitivo Group will be set up on tables for group tastings and informal discussions on wine making. Bring one or two bottles of your wine to share.

SHW
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS;

Mike Touchette—Past
President

Fred Milar—Past President

Lynn Keay—Past President

Gary Young—Past President

*There are two
reasons for
drinking
wine...when you
are thirsty, to
cure it; the other,
when you are not
thirsty, to prevent
it... prevention is
better than cure.”
-Thomas Love
Peacock*