



Chapter of the Enological Society of the Pacific Northwest

Newsletter Date: November 22, 2004

2004 YES Christmas Party

If you haven't yet sent in your registration for the 2004 Yakima Enological Society Christmas party it may be too late. Seats are filling fast so you don't want to wait any longer to fill out the registration form and send in the \$55.00 to secure your spot. There is no better time than the present (or past)!!



This year's event will be held at the **Yakima Country Club**, in Terrace Heights on **Tuesday, December 14th**. Doors open at 6:30 pm, with dinner at 7:15 pm and dancing till lights out at 11:00 pm.

The gracious and friendly Y.C.C. staff will welcome you with a tasty glass of sparkling wine to start the evening. Hors d'oeuvres will accompany the bubbly, followed by a lovely three-course meal highlighted by an elegant main course combination of beef, salmon and chicken. Your dessert will be a chocolate treat guaranteed to die for. The lounge bar will be open all evening for cash only, no-host service.

Back by popular demand, our Society's own **Ken Leader** will be on hand to provide the musical entertainment and dancing enticement. See you there!

Ray Dilschneider



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**"Check out the website
to view photos from
several Society Events!"**

**We're on the web!
www.yakimawine.org**

November in Review

127 YES members signed up and paid to come to our South American Tasting. The wine was well received from the reception wine to our dessert Merlot.

As usual, **Lucho de la Combe** prepared a wonderful meal to accompany the wine selection. I can not express how grateful I am to all members who volunteered to help with this event.

This was reflected in everything from serving our own tables to cleanup, and makes these kind of events possible and affordable - again my sincere thanks.



Scott Summers



Marie Clark

Blind Leading the Blind

Save January 12th for the annual Blind Leading the Blind Tasting. This year we are planning a new twist on an old favorite. **Amy Mumma** from the **World Wine Program at Central Washington University** will be our featured speaker as we learn more about the wines we taste and compare.

I am looking for several people to help provide appetizers for this event. Call me at **697-3364** or let me know at the Christmas Party. This is a opportunity to show off your culinary expertise.

President's Corner

I want to thank all who supported the local wineries on Thanksgiving Weekend for Thanksgiving in Wine Country.

On December 10th an event that will make a difference in the local wine industry is taking place at **Silver Lake Winery**. This is a fund raiser for the Enology and Viticulture program at **Yakima Valley Community College**. The program will train students to become winemakers and vineyard managers for local wineries. To give the program a space to work, YVCC has purchased the Safeway building in Grandview and needs funding to remodel the facility into a small winery, classroom, and tasting room for the program. This program currently offers a number of wine related classes in the evening. If you are interested in taking a class, check the Winter Quarter Schedule for time and place.

The Christmas Party at the Country Club is sold out but check with Marie Clark if you are interested in being on a waiting list for this event. This should be a good time and will be a great value.

YES is planning some interesting events for the start of the New Year. Watch the January newsletter for details. It may be necessary to put a registration form into the January newsletter for both January and February if the events come on the dates planned. At the time I am writing this, there are still some details to work out, but the February event could take place on the 2nd which would mean getting the information out to you in the January newsletter. Put this date on your calendar just in case the February tasting is on this date. Do sign up early for the Platinum Tasting in March as well.

Wishing everyone a Merry Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

*John DiBari
President*



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dec 14	Christmas Party Yakima Country Club
Jan 12	Blind Leading the Blind TBA
Feb 2	YES Wine Tasting TBA
Mar 5	Platinum III Clarion Hotel
Mar 16	Annual Membership Meeting Yakima valley Museum

Tickets to Hogue Cellars Tasting

Here's your chance to get in on the **Hogue Cellars Cork Trial** (an actual cork sniffing event!).

Learn from the pros about TCA and cork taint, plus barrel and bottle tasting, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and a bottle to take home!

A scheduling conflict prevents us from attending. Two \$75 tickets available for \$60.

Tasting date: **January 8, 2005**. Contact Karen or Leo Lee at work: 248-4848 or leo@sousley.com.

Leo Lee



Please submit info., articles, or recipes to:
Charlena Paschen, 2480 Selah Loop Rd.,
Selah, WA 98924
Ph: (509) 697-3931
E-mail: chaleepas1963@yahoo.com

Inside the Platinum Judging



Note: The next Platinum Tasting will be Saturday, March 5th, 2005. Please mark your calendars and tell your friends. We will begin accepting reservations, including for tables of eight, next month.

Sharon Clinton and I were privileged to attend the **Wine Press Northwest** Platinum Judging last month at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick. We essentially served as "back room staff," working with **Hank Sauer** to prepare the wines and to keep the glasses clean. We also, however, got to sit in on the judging and observe the procedures and the interpersonal dynamics involved.

There were seven judges; five who scored the wines individually and then discussed the wines as a group, one who judged silently for quality control, and **Andy Perdue**, who recorded the scores and served as moderator for the discussion. The five scoring judges were: **Dan Berger**, nationally renowned wine writer from Santa Rosa, Calif.; **Mike Dunne**, wine columnist for the Sacramento Bee and international wine judge; **Parks Redwine**, director of the Northwest Wine Summit competition and a wine importer in Atlanta, Ga.; **Coke Roth** a Kennewick attorney and international wine judge; and **Bob Woehler**, longtime NW wine columnist for the Tri-City Herald and tasting editor for Wine Press Northwest. Andy praised this group as the best set of judges to ever sit for a WPNW tasting.

All judges taste the same flight of 7-15 wines and know only the varietal category before tasting. The judges make individual notes on pre-printed tasting forms and score the wines Platinum, Double Gold (+/-), Gold (+/-), or No Medal. Andy records the scores, returns the notes to each judge, then begins a free-flowing discussion period by asking one of the judges, usually the one who awarded the highest or the lowest score, to comment on the wine. During the discussion, judges are free to retaste the wines and change their scores if sufficiently persuaded by the comments of other judges. This is usually only a small movement up or down, from a Gold Plus to a Double Gold, for example, but it is often the difference between a wine receiving a higher award versus a lower one.

The discussion period is where interpersonal dynamics may come into play. Personalities emerge and the more forceful of them may speak more frequently, while the more reserved may have rather less to say. A judge's experience and reputation can weigh on the discussion, as there is a natural tendency to defer to the views of an acknowledged master of the trade. The more eloquent and convincing a judge is in lauding (or lambasting) a wine can also play a role. There may even be a bit

of what might be called "horse-trading"--one judge lends support to a particular wine being championed by another judge because the latter may have supported one of the first judge's favorite wines. These unquantifiable subtleties are not necessarily negatives. They are simply part of the "human factor" that cannot (and should not) be eliminated as long as people are involved in wine judging. After all, one man's "Platinum" may very well be another's "No Medal."

Mike Libbee

YVCC Fundraiser

Yakima Valley Community College is hosting a fundraiser at Silver Lake Winery in Zillah on Friday evening, **December 10, 2004**. The evening will include a live and silent auction, wine tasting, food from **Essencia Bakery** in Yakima and music by the YVCC Jazz Combo, directed by Dr. Isi Rudnick.



To make a reservation, or for more information on making a donation to support the development of the Wine and Grape Education Center on YVCC's Grandview campus, contact **Diane Buchanan** at **574-4914** / or **Judi Smasne** at **786-4543**.

Nikki Gable

Northwest Wine Events

Wines for the Holidays, Dec. 2, Seattle. Wine educator Dieter Schafer will teach you how to pair wines with holiday meals, and you'll learn about wine etiquette, service, selection and serving temperatures. Cost: \$41. Call to register: 206-764-5339.

E.B. Foote Christmas Open House, Dec. 2-5, Burien, Wash. Sample current and new releases and enjoy appetizers. No charge. Call 206-242-3852.

Holiday Barrel Tasting, Dec. 4-5, Walla Walla, Wash. Enjoy a fun and relaxing weekend visiting the wineries of the Walla Walla Valley. New this year, the Backstage Pass, your exclusive access to the weekend's festivities available online at www.wallawallawine.com or call 509-526-3117.

Go to www.winepressnw.com for more events!



December 2004

P.O. Box 2395
Yakima, WA 98907

Happy Holidays!



*Photos from the Platinum
Judging have been posted
to the website!*