



## Chapter of the Enological Society of the Pacific Northwest

Newsletter Date: April 25, 2006

### Platinum IV - "Sapphire Nights"

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

We're on the web!  
[www.yakimawine.org](http://www.yakimawine.org)

We are busy putting final touches on preparations for our annual "**Best of the Best of the Northwest**" Platinum Tasting.

We have procured the best array of wines in the four year history of the event, many of which are long-since sold out. We were only able to procure them through the generous efforts of participating wineries. Speaking of which, we also have scheduled to attend a cast of northwest wine luminaries, including **Harry McWatters**, legendary founder and President of **Sumac Ridge Estate Winery** in Summerland, BC. Platinum Tasting veterans may recall that Sumac Ridge was Canada's "**Winery of the Year**" two years ago. (Sorry, Harry's table is sold out!)

Our Tasting Committee had the pleasure of meeting **Executive Chef Jennifer Johnson** recently and enjoyed several of the dishes she has planned for Platinum IV. Suffice to say that we were wowed; the cuisine will be even better than last year!

Additionally, the Decorations Subcommittee has outdone itself with shimmering "sapphire" tablecloths and a cascade of flowers that will awe and amaze. **Howard Johnson's Yakima Gateway** hotel has new room furniture, a new martini bar, and a new roof. Very spiffy. Remember to say "Platinum" when making room reservations to receive preferential pricing.

We will once again auction two cases of Platinum wines signed by the various winemakers to support the **Central Washington University World Wine Program**. Director Amy Mumma, "Wine

Woman of the Year," and husband **Jeff** will join us for the festivities. The ever-popular one-man band **Bill Hornibrook** will be on-hand for your listening and dancing enjoyment after the formal tasting ends.

In short, this should be the best Platinum event ever. All we need is **you** to *dress up* and *show up* for what many believe is the best wine-tasting event in the northwest. Right here in Yakima! We need your support and participation to continue building the **YES Platinum Tradition**.

Additional information, including the wine list and complete menu, are available on the YES website at <http://www.yakimawine.org> Have further questions? Please call Mike at 509-910-3347 or email [mikelibbee@earthlink.net](mailto:mikelibbee@earthlink.net).

**Date:** Saturday, **May 20th**, 2006

**Place:** Howard Johnson's,  
Yakima Gateway

**Time:** Reception 6:30 pm  
Dinner 7:30 pm

**Cost:** General Seating \$85.00

**Sponsor Seating:** \$110 (Holly Turner, Wade Wolfe, Kathy Charlton, John Haw, and Harry McWatters tables are sold out. Seats are still available at Larry Lehmbecker, Amy Mumma, and Andy Perdue tables.)

Postmarked by **Wednesday, May 17th**. Phone calls to Marie Clark (509-697-3364) or Mike Libbee (509 910-3347) until **Friday, May 19th** or until event sold out.

- - Mike Libbee



## President's Corner

When I first started attending YES events, it became clear almost immediately how much effort went into the evening. I remember that by my second event, I was already chipping in to help pour wine or wash dishes. When it came time to take charge of my own event, it became clear how much preparation and planning went on before the actual event. It really becomes a labor of love, because once it is over, you find yourself thinking about conducting another.

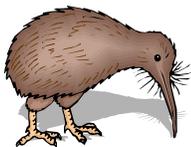
Although each one of the monthly tastings takes several months of planning, preparation for the Platinum event starts much earlier. Mike Libbee, who heads up this event, begins planning this tasting a year before it is held. A special committee of volunteers meets regularly to create an event of the finest wines and exquisite cuisine. When you attend this event, you thoroughly appreciate how much effort the Platinum committee has gone through to create this special event, as it is reflected in each aspect of the evening.

--David Lynx  
President, YES

### June Tasting - Flavors of New Zealand

New Zealand is becoming known for its **Sauvignon Blancs**, especially the **Marlborough** region where the vineyard's proximity to the sea keeps the heat in check and produces a varietal with a unique aroma and flavor.

What is not well known is the expansion of this area into the production of other wines including un-oaked **Chardonnay** and **Pinot Noir**. We will explore wines from this area of New Zealand as well as other regions such as **Hawke's Bay**, and pair them with Kiwi-style cuisine created by chef **Jessica Smith. Deane Page**, a native of **Napier, NZ**, will introduce the group to this amazing area of the world. Save **Friday, June 16** for a taste of down-under.

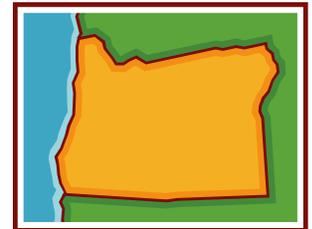


--David Lynx

### April Tasting Review - Southern Oregon

The April 12<sup>th</sup> tasting, held at **Larson Gallery** on the **Yakima Valley Community College Campus**, featured wines from Southern Oregon and cheeses from **Rogue Creamery** located in **Central Point, Oregon**.

Seventy members and guests enjoyed **Weisinger's Dry Gewurztraminer** as the greeting wine, while voting for the **YES Member's Choice Award** in the photography exhibit.



Following the voting, those in attendance had the opportunity to taste **Valley View Chardonnay, Roxy Ann Claret, Troon Cabernet Sauvignon, Eden Vale Syrah and Troon Insomnia Port**. The wines were enjoyed with **Lemon Artichoke Cheddar, Raw Sharp Cheddar, Echo Mountain Blue, Crater Lake Blue and Oregonzola** cheese. Bread, chocolate, and pear slices from **Essencia Bakery** complemented the wines and cheeses.

An enjoyable evening and a great opportunity to try a variety of wine/cheese pairings.

--Gerry Perryman

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Apr 28-30 **Spring Barrel**  
Local Wineries
- May 20th **Platinum IV**  
Howard Johnson
- Jun 16th **Taste of New Zealand**  
Yakima Valley Museum
- Jun 24th **Sunshine and Wine**  
State Fair Park

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

## Platinum IV Featured Wine

Our stand-alone wine course at this year's Platinum Tasting is the **Vin du Lac 2003 Cabernet Franc**. The winery has been sold out for months, but owner/winemaker **Larry Lehmbecker** very kindly scoured retail shops to put together a case for us. This wine was a "natural" Double Platinum winner, meaning that each judge independently awarded it a Platinum rating. Larry and wife **Michaela** will provide a special treat for attendees by bringing along their 2004 Cabernet Franc for a "sneak preview." Seats still available at Larry's table.

--Mike Libbee



## Platinum IV Featured Winery

**Three Rivers Winery**, which garnered three Platinum awards and four Double Gold Medals at this year's judging, will be our first-ever "Featured Winery." Winemaker **Holly Turner** and assistant winemaker **Andy Slusarenko** will be on hand to discuss two of those wines: the **2002 Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon** and the **2003 Boushey Vineyard Syrah**. Sorry, Holly's table is sold out!

--Mike Libbee

## Membership

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership. Please welcome the following new members; **Chris Corbin, Lisa Alexander & Doug Sarver, Ralph Conner & Cyndi Hovland, Deane & Marilyn Page, and Brad Baldwin & Tim Walker.**



--David Lynx

## Local Wine Events

**April 28-30 - Spring Barrel Tasting** at all **Wine Yakima Valley** member wineries. Barrel samples, great wine, food and music. Must purchase or bring your own tasting glass. 10-5 PM daily.

**May 13-14 - Weekend of Wine and Roses** at **Windy Point Vineyards**. Join us and the rose garden for the glorious spring bloom. Special discounts, live music! Call 877-6824 for more details.

-- Mike Libbee



Sunshine and Wine begins at **2:00 PM** on **June 24th** with food and wine tasting. Over 60 wineries and restaurants will be featured under the canopies on the **State Fair Park** grounds. Attendees will sample food and taste wine while listening to live music by **Blind Lemon Pie**. Many wineries will offer samples of their medal-winning wines.

At **5:00 PM**, the action moves into the **Modern Living Building** where auctioneer **Paul Newman** will help raise money for the preservation and renovation of historical buildings at State Fair Park. At the conclusion of the auction, the Washington State Wine Competition winners are announced. The **\$70** ticket cost covers all wine and food.

Tickets are available for purchase by calling **509-248-7160**. Sponsor Tables of 8 are also available for **\$1,000**, which includes one bottle of **Best of Show** wine, one bottle of an award winning wine and 4 Ultimate Wine Experience Passes held June 4, 2006 at 4PM in the Modern Living Building where attendees taste over 300 Washington State Wines in a private tasting.

Additional information can be found at [www.sunshineandwine.com](http://www.sunshineandwine.com).

--Shelley Dix

## New YVCC Wine Appreciation Course

A new section of *Wine Culture: An Introduction of Washington and World*



*Wines* will be offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 PM starting May 15th and running through June 26th, 2006 on the **YVCC Grandview Campus**. The additional section is being offered due to the overwhelming popular demand for the class. We can accommodate a maximum of 28 people. The registration form can be picked up at the YVCC Grandview campus or by going online to <http://yvcc.edu/programs/agriculture/wineappre.asp> **Master Sommelier Angelo Tavernaro** will teach the added section.

--John DiBari

## Unravel the Mysteries of Wine

Just getting into wine? Want the mysteries of wine to be a little less mysterious?

Then **Wine Appreciation for Novices** is just for you! Sponsored by the **Seattle Wine Society**, this class covers wine basics including glassware, wine types, how wine is made, grape varieties, evaluating wine, serving wine, storing wine, and ordering wine in a restaurant. Four wines will be tasted and evaluated.

**Wednesday, May 17**

**Pacific Science Center**

2nd Ave N at John St. , Seattle

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**\$18 per person**

Advance payment only

**Limited to 25 participants**

Reserve online via [PayPal](#). Or by check to Seattle Wine Society, mailed to [Keith Weaver](#), 6036 204th Place NE , Redmond WA 98053.

--Seattle Wine Society

## Northwest Wine Events

**Spring Release Weekend**, May 5-7, Walla Walla, WA. Spring Release Weekend highlights the first release of a new vintage. Valley winemakers are on hand to introduce their new wines and describe the process. Hours and festivities vary depending on winery. Location: Wineries of the Walla Walla Valley. Call 509 526.3117, e-mail [robbi@wallawallawine.com](mailto:robbi@wallawallawine.com) or go to [www.wallawallawine.com](http://www.wallawallawine.com).

**Maryhill Winery Mother's Day Weekend Open House**, May 7-8, Goldendale, WA. Maryhill will be sampling a broad selection of dry white, sweet white, dry red, and sweet blush wines. Bring mom and enjoy live music. Location: Maryhill Winery. Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.. Cost: Free. Call 877-627-9445, e-mail [maureenl@maryhillwinery.com](mailto:maureenl@maryhillwinery.com) or go to [www.maryhillwinery.com](http://www.maryhillwinery.com).

**Wine Yakima Valley Showcase of Wine**, May 15, Seattle. Yakima Valley wines will be presented by the vintners who created them. This event sold-out last year. Location: The Palace Ballroom, 2100 Fifth Avenue. Hours: 6- 8 p.m. Cost: \$40. Call (509) 965-5201, e-mail [info@wineyakimavalley.org](mailto:info@wineyakimavalley.org) or go to [www.wineyakimavalley.org](http://www.wineyakimavalley.org).

**Wine Tasting: Ponzi**, May 20, Astoria, Ore. Join us for a complimentary wine tasting featuring Ponzi wines. Meet the Ponzi Family and learn how they make their outstanding Willamette Valley wines. Location: The Cellar on 10th. Hours: 1-4 p.m. Cost: Complimentary. For more info, call 503.325.6600, e-mail [thecellaron10th@aol.com](mailto:thecellaron10th@aol.com) or go to [www.thecellaron10th.com](http://www.thecellaron10th.com).

**Memorial Day Weekend Open House**, May 27-29, Turner, OR. There will be award-winners, new releases, barrel tastings and more. Check our website for more information as the date draws near. Location: Willamette Valley Vineyards. Hours: 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. Cost: \$5, which includes a Riedel glass. Call 1-800-344-9463, e-mail [info@wvv.com](mailto:info@wvv.com) or go to [www.WillametteValleyVineyards.com](http://www.WillametteValleyVineyards.com).

These events and many more found at: <http://www.winepressnw.com>.

-- Charlena Paschen

# Wine Yakima Valley Spring Barrel Tasting



May 2006

First Class Mail

P.O. Box 2395  
Yakima, WA 98907

Happy  
Memorial Day!



### Platinum IV Tasting

### Howard Johnsons

*Event: Saturday, May 20th, 2006 - 6:30 PM Reception 7:30 PM Dinner*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Members: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$110.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL Enclosed:**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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