

Brrrrr!



**Icy temperatures
produce rare
Ice Wines in the
Yakima Valley
this winter.**

See page 2 for details...

Plan Ahead YES Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 14

The Blind Leading the Blind

February 11

Plaza Socievale tasting

March 11

YES annual meeting and
member potluck

April 11

Platinum VII Dinner

~ Julie Johnson

The Blind Leading the Blind

Each varietal has its own characteristic flavor(s). These flavors and aromas are altered by the process of turning grape juice into wine. Picking out the subtle flavors and aromas is a learned skill of association with known flavors and aromas.

Will I match the tasting notes on the bottle? Sometimes I will match. Other times I will be totally off, but then our taste buds are all different. Many things influence what we perceive in our tasting of wines, including our environment, our mood, and the opinions of our fellow tasters.

Are you swayed by another taster in thinking what flavors are present? Can they convince you that the wine has floral flavors instead of citrus, or cedar instead of tobacco? How often do we go with what we are told instead of making our own decisions? This tasting will help you answer these questions.

This year's twist of "The Blind Leading the Blind" is trying to match the tasting notes of the "professionals" with what we find ourselves. We will serve three sets of three wines, so bring three glasses per person. We will start off with three white wines. As you taste the wine, compare your thoughts with the tasting notes. As you match the wine with the tasting notes, decide what varietals you are tasting. We will repeat this with light red wines and then red wines.

Prizes will be awarded.



Date: January 14, 2009

Place: Yakima Valley Museum

Time: 6:30 p.m. Registration; 7 p.m. Tasting

Cost: Members \$25, Guests \$30, Non-drinkers \$12

Bring: 3 glasses

Registration postmarked or pay online by January 8, 2009. Phone calls on January 11, 2009. Contact: Jimi Weaver at 575-7511 or Gerry Amos at 966-7521.

~ Marie Clark, Host

February tasting at Plaza Socievale

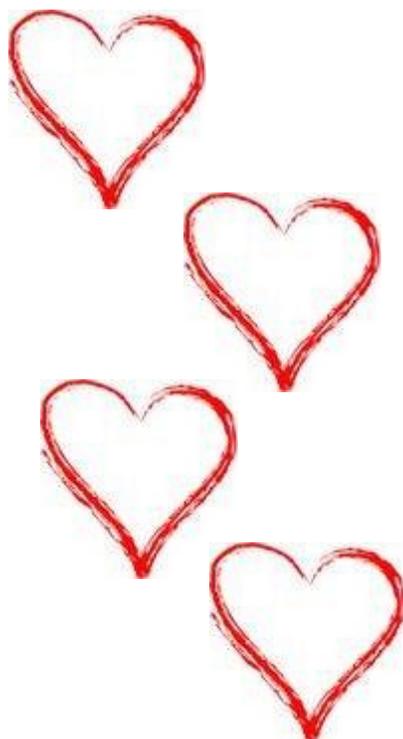
Enjoy an early Valentine's Day

February's tasting will take place at Plaza Socievale on February 11, 2009.

If you haven't had an opportunity to check out one of downtown Yakima's newest wineries, this is your chance. We are limited to 60 people due to the size of the winery, so make your reservations early. The cost will be \$32 for members and \$37 for guests. It would be a wonderful way to celebrate Valentine's Day early to avoid the restaurant crowds on the weekend.

Plaza Socievale will be pairing foods with their wines.

~ Kathy Michielsen



News from local wineries

Ice is nice for Masset Winery Ice Wines

Masset Winery harvested Ice Wine grapes (Semillon) on December 17th, an event that only occurs in certain years when the weather is cold enough for a prolonged time period (and you've left grapes hanging in hopes of). Basically, freeze-concentrated grape juice is squeezed from rock hard (the temperature was 8° F) grapes with a sugar content of 45 percent. The finished wine should end with a residual sugar of nearly 30 percent! Very rare and quite worth the gamble of producing this wine! It will be available at Masset Winery tasting rooms in mid 2009.

~ Greg Masset, Masset Winery

More Ice Wine and a January White Sale at Bonair Winery

Wow, it's cold, but that is not all bad news. It is not cold enough in the Rattlesnake Hills to damage the vines (although this might not be true in other areas east of here), but it is cold enough to make ice wine – real ice wine – just like the Canadians, eh. On December 14, Bonair winery picked the Riesling ice wine at 15° F. The juice was superb! We had 44 percent sugar, nice acids and great clean flavors. We got a 91 in the Wine Enthusiast for our '05 Riesling Ice Wine and we expect even better for this vintage. For those who can't wait, we have a few bottles of the '05 Riesling Ice Wine left.

Bonair Winery is open every day all winter. We have moved our bistro tables inside, so you can relax by our fireplace with a glass of wine and a light snack and enjoy the vineyard winter wonderland from inside!

Don't miss our **January White Sale**: All white wines (except the Gewurztraminer Port) will be on sale only for the month of January at **BUY ONE CASE, GET ONE CASE FREE!!!** Our parking lot is shoveled and our friendly staff is ready to serve you.

~ Gail and Shirley Puryear, Bonair Winery

Steppe Cellars wines available in Sunnyside and Seattle

Every weekend during the month of January you can enjoy tapas created specifically to pair with Steppe Cellars wine at Bon Vinos in Sunnyside. And, Mike and Gabrielle will be at the University farmer's market in Seattle the 4th Saturday of each month. They will have all of our new releases available.

~ Susan Garrison, Steppe Cellars

December Recap

YES Christmas Party enjoyed by all

Yes members and guests enjoyed another wonderful Christmas party at the Yakima Country Club on Tuesday, December 9. The evening started with Passed Appetizers and Champagne cocktails. The first course was Baby Spinach Salad accompanied by Bonair Chardonnay. The main course of Tenderloin of Beef and Supreme of Chicken served with Townsend Vortex Red was wonderful. The dinner was topped off with a Belgian Chocolate and French Crème Torte with Pasek Raspberry Dessert Wine. Several guests said they thought the meal was one of the best ever. Thanks once again to Bonair Winery and board member Gerry Amos for donating the Chardonnay for the evening.

All in all it was another wonderful evening in the perfect holiday setting. Thanks to General Manager René Groeger and the wonderful staff at the Country Club. As always they did an amazing job of making it a memorable evening. Also thank you to all who attended, it was a great group.

~Susan McPhee

As dinner came to an end, participants took to the dance floor to swing the night away to the music of Bill Hornibrook and his One Man Band. Everyone seemed to be out on the dance floor, having a great time.



What: The Blind Leading the Blind
When: Wednesday, January 14 — 6:30 p.m.
Where: Yakima Valley Museum

Yes, we'll be there...

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Phone: _____

Important: Please include your phone

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

**Postmarked or online
 by Thursday, January 8, 2008**

Pay online at www.yakimawine.org

Members ----- @ \$25 = \$ _____

Guests ----- @ \$30 = \$ _____

Non-drinkers ----- @ \$12 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please include your email address if you would like to receive future newsletters by email:

If you would like to help with this tasting, please select one of the following:

___ Set Up ___ Food Prep ___ Registration ___ Greeter ___ Pourer ___ Clean Up

Please clip and mail this form with your check to: Yakima Enological Society, PO Box 2395, Yakima WA 98907

All reservations must be paid for in advance and are NON REFUNDABLE

Yakima Enological Society

PO Box 2395, Yakima WA 98907
Email: contact@yakimawine.org
Web: www.yakimawine.org

Yakima Enological Society

President: Marie Clark
1st Vice President: open
2nd Vice President: Julie Johnson
Secretary: Kathy Michielsen
Treasurer:..... Virginia Gable
Registration: Jimi Weaver
Board Members: Gerry Amos
 Brad Baldwin
 Sally Baldwin
 Carolyn Ferris
 Donna Lambert
 Leo Lee
 Bert McDonnell
 Susan McPhee
 Judy Thoet

We're on the Web...
www.yakimawine.org

*This newsletter published by Jonelle Foutz,
Write Mind, PO Box 1194, Yakima WA 98907*

President's Corner

As the new calendar year starts, the YES board needs to start thinking about new members for our board of directors. We are looking for members who are interested in furthering our mission "to foster interest in and appreciation and knowledge of viticulture, enology, and proper use of wine." Board members are usually elected to serve a term of two years. We are expected to attend monthly tastings and board meetings, host a board meeting about once a year, and coordinate, help with, and/or host a tasting once a year. If you are interested in joining the team please talk to a current board member to find out more about the positions.

Have a Happy New Year!

~Marie Clark



**Has your email address changed?
Be sure to let us know!**

Yakima Enological Society
PO Box 2395
Yakima WA 98907