



# LFW

## G r a p e v i n e

Volume 3, Issue 6

Dec. 2004

### Claret Dinner Diners Delighted

Fine claret-style wines from our Lawyer Friends of Wine cellar and wonderful prime rib with the trimmings of a traditional 19th century English holiday dinner contributed to our great annual December event in the remodeled private Skylight Dining Room of Harris' Steak House in San Francisco.

Our reception began with our traditional Roederer Estate Sparkling Wine, Anderson Valley (served from magnums). As we dined, Cellar Master Steve Pitcher guided us in our appreciation of 1998 St. Francis "Old Vines" Zinfandel, Sonoma County, 1996 Etude Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, and 1997 Taylor Fladgate Late Bottled Vintage Port.



The sold out event included our ever-popular Holiday Tie contest which earned our first place winner, Ladd Bedford, a magnum of Merlot (to be officially presented at our upcoming Winter Follies event).

The Claret Dinner is always a great way to launch the holidays, and the same venue has already been booked by LFW for next year (December 3, 2005).

### Lawyer Friends of Wine Website

LawyerFriendsOfWine.com is under construction. We'll let you know when it's ready and will explain the online benefits you'll be able experience.

In the interim, if you have information or stories of historical interest relating to LFW, including photos you've scanned, please e-mail them to our Web designer at: [CBlunden@PresentationLab.com](mailto:CBlunden@PresentationLab.com)

### Lawyer Friends of Wine Packets

In addition to this last newsletter of the year, you should also find in this December mailing:

- Dues Notice
- Membership Roster (please inform Denise Malatesta re any corrections)
- Membership Policy
- LFW Cellar Inventory
- 2005 Tentative Schedule of Events
- Nomination Sheet for Board Members

The nominating procedure is explained in the Nomination Sheet. There are four meetings per year. Your participation can help make this year's events and membership benefits the best ever!



### Wine Tasting 101



Nearly 70 members and guests attended Cellar Master Steve Pitcher's Oct. 27, 2004 first wine and food appreciation event in the Bayview Room at the World Trade Club which coincided with a total lunar eclipse.

A, B, C, 1, 2, or 3 marked the six glasses each of us was provided. Wines sampled included Voss Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley, Beckmen Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc, Santa Ynez Valley, Dry Creek Vineyard Reserve Fumé Blanc, Dry Creek Valley and Sanford Pinot Noir, Santa Rita Hills, Etude Pinot Noir, Carneros, Navarro Pinot Noir Méthode à l'Ancienne, Anderson Valley. Hors d'oeuvres were also provided.

Steve gave us pointers and insights on each of the wines, food pairings, and responded to questions from the gathered "students."

We also had a brief "recess" on the balcony and enjoyed the spectacular view of Treasure Island and the Bay Bridge lighted up against the blue moon sky.

A fleet of hearty souls in their kayaks, each ferrying a sparkling light of green or blue in the bow of their boats, braved the chilly air on the glass-smooth bay. A few locals fishing for crab offered us their catch for some quick cash, but recess was over, and more classwork was in store.

Before the evening was over, several attendees acknowledged a new appreciation for blancs and noirs confirming Professor Steve's knack for picking winners and sharing good taste.

Having the event in San Francisco midweek was an additional element of first impression, and the large attendance bolstered the point that midweek events are worth trying again.



## FYI

by Christopher Blunden

One of the great things about attending LFW events is having the chance to mingle with other wine aficionados.

A fellow classmate at the Wine Tasting 101 event informed me of how much he enjoys the Russian River Wine Road events like the upcoming **Winter Wineland** event.

**93 Wineries** take part in providing you an opportunity to tour, meet winemakers, take seminars, and taste limited production

wines at wineries not generally open to the public. For \$30 you go from winery to winery, visiting the ones you are interested in exploring. (January 15 & 16, 2005 - Sat. & Sun., 11 am to 4 pm. For details: <http://www.wineroad.com/events/winterwineland.asp>).

## Winter Follies Event is Coming!



Got a great bottle you'd like to share with the group? It could win a prize!

The flyer for this "never-a-dull-moment" event at President Paul's house will be sent out in early January.

## Welcome New Members!

**Paul Perdue** and **Reginald Steer**, sponsored by Bill Smith;

**Michael Stone**, sponsored by Mike Marron;

**Carl Schetter**, sponsored by Carl Bunch;

**Lawrence Hing**, sponsored by Paul Gutierrez;

**Geoffrey Gordon-Creed**, sponsored by Scott Kalkin; and

**Lawrence Bennett**, sponsored by Mark Oium.

Don't forget: we give a shirt! New member sponsors are reminded to contact Bill Smith to be awarded a free LFW polo shirt: e-mail [WBSAS@aol.com](mailto:WBSAS@aol.com).

## Save these Dates

**January 29, 2005:** Winter Follies at the home of Paul Gutierrez

**February 18, 2005:** German Consulate, SF

**March 26, 2005:** Cellar Treasure Dinner at Boulevard restaurant, SF

**April 30, 2005:** Luxury Coach Excursion to Shyster Creek Vineyards

**Fall 2005:** Harvest Moon Dinner

**December 3, 2005:** Claret dinner at Harris'