



# LFW

# G r a p e v i n e

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## LFW Bordeaux Event Update

*Christopher Blunden interviewing Bill Smith*

**CB:** Bill, what can you tell us about the Lawyer Friends of Wine event in Bordeaux in June 2005?

**WBS:** ABOTA (the American Board of Trial Advocates at [www.abota.org](http://www.abota.org)) has their 2005 ABOTA National Convention – Mediterranean Cruise scheduled for 6/23 to 7/3. Some of our members intend to go and want to visit France the week before.

Tentatively, I have selected Friday and Saturday (June 17 & 18) for a get together at my maison in the town of Monflanquin, France, which is just 60 to 90 minutes by car east of the Bordeaux region.

I'm planning an informal event at my house on Friday June 17th (*i.e.*, wine and hors d'oeuvres) and then everyone can stroll a block away for dinner at one of our fine restaurants in the square. Saturday June 18th would be for people to roam by car or go to the nearby Bordeaux area.

On the 18th we would have a prepaid dinner in Monflanquin at the restaurant of my friendly chef who would set everything up. I will be meeting with him in September about arrangements and costs.

**CB:** Sounds terrific. Will there be any additional LFW group activities?

**WBS:** We are beginning to plan some trips to the famous Bordeaux regions including The Medoc, Sauternes, Barsac, Graves, Pessac-Leognan, Lobourne, St. Emilion and Pomerol and Entre-deux-mers.

**CB:** Where might people stay overnight?

**WBS:** There are bed and breakfast inns costing \$100/night within five miles of my home.

**CB:** What attracted you to buy a home in this part of France, and why might we want to visit the area?

**WBS:** Monflanquin is a bastide town (a fortified town) that was built as a new town in the year 1256. It is a village of about 2,500 people and has been designated as "one of the most beautiful villages in France." It is located in the departement called Lot-et-Garonne, which is about half way between Bordeaux and Toulouse.

It is the home of the Black Prince Museum. The Black Prince was the son of Edward III of England who was a knight who fought valiantly for England in the 100 Years' War trying to preserve English owned territory in France, including Aquitaine where Monflanquin is located. It's reported that the Black Prince lived in our town for some period during the war.

**CB:** What will our members appreciate about wine's historical influence on the area?

**WBS:** Bordeaux was the main city in the Aquitaine region, and its wine industry blossomed due to the English influence. England got possession of this region of France because Henry II of England married Eleanor of Aquitaine, and she brought it into the marriage.

When they got married in London in 1307 the guests consumed the equivalent of more than a million bottles of wine. So, Bordeaux wine has been popular in the English speaking world for a long time, and this is another reason why the English prefer French wines to California wines.

The Bordeaux wine industry started when Bordeaux was a Roman town called Burdigala. To save the cost of importing wine from Italy, the Romans decided to produce it locally using vines from Albania. These wines were the ancestors of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon which took off in St. Emilion.

As for the American connection, when Thomas Jefferson was the ambassador to France, he took a visit to the Bordeaux area in 1787. He visited the Graves and Sauterne regions and bought ten dozen bottles of wine for himself and thirty dozen for George Washington! Anyone who has visited Monticello in Charlottesville, Va. has seen Jefferson's neat little wine cellar in the basement.

**CB:** Fascinating. What should we do next if we'd like to attend this *Bordeaux or Bust* event in June?

**WBS:** I would like to know from our members by our LFW December 2004 event if they want to attend so I can determine whether this will be a feasible event.

**[Note: RSVP e-mail Bill at [WBSAS@aol.com](mailto:WBSAS@aol.com) by December; he'll reply with hotel information.]**

## LFW Spectacular Seminar #1

Oct. 27, 2004 (Wednesday evening) marks an exciting new event at the World Trade Club in San Francisco. Our resident expert and cellar master, Steve Pitcher, the first American wine writer to receive the Merit Cross of the German Order of Merit, will teach our exclusive group about wine and food pairings.

The chef for the World Trade Club will prepare an assortment of hors d'oeuvres with Steve's input, so attendees will have the opportunity to sample the appropriate foods with each segment of the seminar which will be in a sit-down format (not standing). Plus, all the hors d'oeuvres will be available afterwards buffet-style for informal enjoyment with the remaining wine.



Steve reports, "We'll have six different wines all together. I plan to focus on two varietal wines:

1) The intricacy of Sauvignon Blanc, discussing the various styles and what to expect from various regions, plus

pairing with food. We'll sample 3 SBs for this portion of the program (maybe New Zealand, along with two SBs from CA in different styles).

2) Regional differences in Pinot Noir, looking at three different Pinots from the same vintage, but from three different growing areas in CA (possibly Santa Barbara/Santa Rita Hills, Russian River Valley, and Anderson Valley). Again food-pairing ideas, as well. What distinguishes a Santa Rita Hills Pinot from one from Anderson Valley, and so on.

Start time is likely to be 6:30 PM. Pricing is not yet determined, but should not be too expensive. We'll have more details by late Sept. / early Oct., when a formal announcement will be sent by mail."

## LFW Home Hosted Events

Some of our members have generously offered to host LFW events in their homes. If you would like to be included in this wonderful group of willing hosts, please inform our Program Committee via Bill Smith at the address listed herein.

## LFW Shirts Now Available!

Show your good taste by wearing our official Lawyer Friends of Wine logo shirt.

Women's sizes: XS, S, M, L. Men's sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL. Colors: Ivory or Gray. \$38 each includes Shipping. Indicate size, color, how many and send checks payable to Lawyer Friends of Wine to William B. Smith, Abramson Smith Waldsmith, 44 Montgomery St., Suite 3340, San Francisco, CA 94104. (Allow up to 3 weeks for delivery.)

## Welcome New Members!



**Jay Folbeg,**  
**Michael Mathews,**  
**Herbert Terreri**  
sponsored by  
Bill Smith

**Cassandra Holman**  
sponsored by  
Beach Kuhl

**Ross Stromberg**  
sponsored by  
Mark Penskar

**Richard Morton**  
sponsored by Ray  
Bergez

## We Give a Shirt!

An official LFW logo polo shirt is now offered to each member who sponsors a new member (*contact Bill Smith for your shirt!*).

## Save these Dates

**September 25, 2004** Harvest Moon Dinner at the new Nickel & Nickel Winery in Oakville (*sent via mail on 8/26/04*).

**October 27, 2004** LFW Spectacular Seminar #1 by Steve Pitcher (*see above*).

**December 4, 2004:** Holiday Claret Dinner at Harris' Steakhouse in San Francisco.

**June 2005** France get-together at La Maison du Bill Smith. Mark les calendars!