



LFW

G r a p e v i n e

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Winter Follies Frivolities

By Christopher Blunden

A rainy Saturday on January 28 did not dampen the spirits of wine and attendees at the 6th annual Winter Follies event held at the beautiful home of Paul and Ellen Gutierrez. (Thanks, you two!)



Each attendee brought a bottle of wine, many of which were entered into our blind tasting wine competition. Cellar Master Steve Pitcher's task was to determine the Cellar Master awards. He sampled and scored the whites first and then all 25 reds. (Yes, contrary to our attendees, he used the bucket a lot.)

Next, in small groups our attendees got into the act to determine the People's Choice awards by sampling and scoring the whites plus a group of either 12 reds or 13 reds.

Peter Hinton (shown above with Steve) was the savvy source of our collective favorites. Peter brought two reds that scored second and third in our Cellar Master's voting, and first and second in the People's Choice awards.

What were they? In order of top ranking, an **Acorn 2003 Zinfandel**, (Heritage Vines, Alegria Vineyards, Russian River Valley) <http://www.acornwinery.com>. Peter's next entry was a **Charter Oak 2003 Zinfandel** which he noted is "made by Rob Fanucci, an attorney in St. Helena with the Gagen firm."

<http://www.charteroakwine.com/about01.html>

This event clearly established a new Lawyer Friends of Wine-ism: Zinfandel and attorneys are definitely a good mix.



It's fitting that our event was in Marin County because the official first place Cellar Master award (which was also the third place finisher in the People's Choice awards) was from eastern Marin County.



It was a **1978 Pacheco Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon** brought by Jim Sturdevant.

This 28 year old (the wine) had just the right spirit after all these years. More information is available at:

<http://www.pachecoranchwinery.com/>

One wine that swept first place in the Cellar Master Awards and the People's Choice awards was the white wine brought by yours truly, Christopher Blunden.



It was a **2004 Viognier** (pronounced "Vee-en-yay") **Pride Mountain Vineyards** from master winemaker Bob Foley (only 731 cases were made.)

<http://pridewines.com/content.asp?l=WIV>

Cellar Master prizes were awarded, and People's Choice prizes will be awarded at our next event. Note: if you entered a white wine in our competition, please contact me at cblunden@presentationlab.com.

Contest Logistics: Next Time

Steve predicted at the start of the contest, "This is going to be like herding cats," but we got through it OK for our first time effort.

For our next competition, I suggest:

- Divide wines into Red Group A, Red Group B, and Whites;
- Let Steve judge alone, first, as he did;
- Divide attendees into Group A and Group B;

- Then, with no delay, all attendees with their scorecards will all start sampling the numbered entries in any order: Group A people judging Group A Reds + Whites, and Group B people judging Group B Reds + Whites;
- 3 Cellar Master Awards: A, B, Whites
- 3 People's Choice Awards: A, B, Whites

This would cure the delay, preserve the fun, and get all the best wines consumed.

It would also reduce the need for anyone being in the unenviable role of the sergeant at arms trying to maintain order in a setting that is a whole lot more fun without it. Your suggestions are invited.

We truly discovered some great wines, and we also learned that our People's Choice ratings and our Cellar Master ratings are a *great* match!

Welcome New Members!

Linda Fong, sponsored by Linda Ross, Don Sullivan & Scott Kalkin.

Chris L'Orange, sponsored by Bill Smith.

Next Event! Our upcoming Annual Membership Meeting / Black Tie Optional / Fancy Gowns / Wear Your Tastevin / Dinner Dance will be at the St. Francis Yacht Club on March 4, 2006. Check your flyer for all the details!



LFW France Trip Checks Due

If you're part of this bon voyage, be sure to mail your checks (U.S. dollars) to our president Bill Smith to be received by March 15th. If you didn't get your February 15, 2006 letter, be sure to contact Bill at wbsas@aol.com.