



LFW

G r a p e v i n e

Volume 5, Issue 2

May 2006

Winning Wining Events!

Our wonderful annual LFW *Wine Country Tour, Tasting & Luncheon* on April 29 was a perfect example of our great food, friends and wine adventures.

Once again, Cellar Master Steve Pitcher hit one out of the park in selecting an ideal setting and facilities to enjoy great wine, dining, and friends.



[Lynmar Winery](#) in the Russian River Valley near Sebastopol provided very impressive Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs to accompany the enjoyable tour and dining experience we shared.



Some of us agreed the lemon, asparagus, and bacon risotto was the best ever! Even the ride home in our chartered motor coach included a combination of back-o- the-bus merrymaking and sporadic snoozing.

AGTWHBA – (a good time was had by all!)



Our annual *Black Tie Optional Dinner Dance* at the St. Francis Yacht Club on a crystal clear evening in March was an additional contribution to LFW's eventful year underway.



The gorgeous Golden Gate Bridge sparkled in the night, and our bigger dance floor enabled an expressive release of the wine beyond removing the cork.

(And no, that nametag is not inside his glass . . . or is it?)



The lively event included celebrating our tastevin awards and election of new officers. And yep, AGTWHBA.

It's Official! For 2006-2007

Our Officers

President	William Smith
Cellar Master	Steve Pitcher
VP/Secretary	R. J. Waldsmith
VP/Treasurer	Ray Bergez

Our Board Members

Neil Bardack, Eric Behrens, Ray Bergez, Christopher Blunden, Michael Carbone, Michael Marron, Steve Pitcher, John Roveda, William Smith, R.J. Waldsmith and Walter (Skip) Walker.



Finesse that Cork or Else

By Christopher Blunden (© 2006)

Synthetic corks are superior in preventing air from penetrating the bottle. Unfortunately, they also prevent worms from doing the same.

The worm of which I write that needs to get into that cork is, of course, that pointed squiggle of the corkscrew that winds into the cork to help extract it.

While using my trusty lever opener, I recently experienced the best canon splatter of red wine across my shirt and four kitchen cabinets that any super soaker could hope to achieve.

I blamed it on a worn out worm (insert your own joke here), but upon replacing it with the spare provided (for every two thousand bottles opened – has it been that many?) within days, the cork jammed half way down the neck of another bottle I was opening. (Insert expletive here.)

The culprit in each case was a synthetic cork. The sharpest lever opener worm simply leveraged the cork in deeper.

With advanced printing technology, some synthetic corks are perfectly disguised to look like “real” corks. How many unsuspecting lever-opener disasters will occur before the failure to warn class action is brought to overcome this trap?

(Note: I want a cut of the attorney’s fees, not the typical award of fourteen cents per harmed class member.)

So if you discover a law someday that all synthetic corks must be bright yellow (or even orange like on the end of toy guns), you’ll know why: *Warning: toy cork; projectile splattering may occur using lever opener.*

France or Bust

In June approximately 17 LFW members and their spouses/guests will be going to France for our first international event.



The sign-ups began nearly a year ahead and filled immediately. We’ll be including numerous anecdotes and photos in coming newsletter issues to help share the experiences.

Welcome New Members!

Matthew Guichard & Rodney Marraccini sponsored by Ray Bergez.



Save the Date!

Our annual Harvest Moon dinner will be on Saturday, September 23, in Napa Valley.