



# LFW

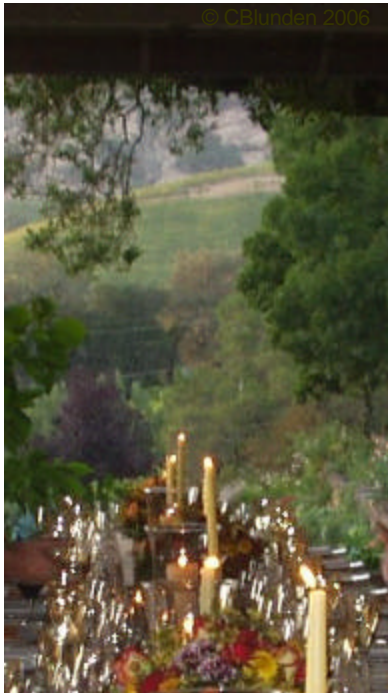
# G r a p e v i n e

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## Harvest Moon Event Shines On

By Bill Smith



Cellar Master (and part-time ghost-buster) Steve Pitcher, set up another masterpiece by arranging this year's LFW Harvest Moon Dinner at Stags' Leap Winery in Napa. Steve previously wrote about this winery, its ghosts, its fine petite sirah and its other

Rhone varietals. His description helped set the stage for a wonderful event.

We arrived on a warm late summer evening to tables sparkling with an array of flowers, candles and many wineglasses per person - which was a good sign.

We were met with a cool glass of Stags' Leap 2005 Viognier and serve-yourself hors d'oeuvres. Winemaker, Kevin Morrisey, welcomed us and explained the confusion about the moniker Stags' Leap. We learned the basic distinction between it and its nearby competitor is the placement of the apostrophe, with Kevin's being possessive plural. The District common to both wineries has no apostrophe at all!

We sat for dinner as the sun was setting, and the wines started being poured. We enjoyed a crisp chardonnay and three

different vintages of petite sirah going all the way back to 1994. The staff kept our glasses full, and everything was mellow on the porch.



We introduced our new members, and at the end of our meal our venerated former



president, Mike Marron, led us in our newly established tradition of singing *Shine On Harvest Moon*. The effect of the wine was evident.

[Editors note: this song was written in 1903 by Nora Bayes and Jack Norworth. The original sheet music of this song is owned by former Beatle, Paul McCartney, today.]

After dinner, we were treated to Steve Pitcher's personally led tours of the ghostly gothic-style manor house and his story of having spent a long and scary night alone among the haunting spirits that still reside there.



We sensed we either had a ghostly encounter or a minor emergency when Mike Carbone told Lauren and me he needed help getting a door to a passageway unlocked because someone was trapped. Lauren tried to open the locked door without success.

Finally, Sharon Marron opened the door and inquired why someone was trying to break into the bathroom!

Meanwhile, many of us showed our appreciation of other Stags' Leap spirits by lining up to purchase wine at the generous discount arranged by Steve.



Steve told us this discount was unheard of at Stags' Leap, and it is testament to the influence of our Cellar Master. In case you did not hear, Lawyer Friends of Wine spent just

under our one-day record of \$10,000 at Stags' Leap. This is but another reason why our club is so welcome in the wine country.

As the bus pulled out laden with wine, some were content to snooze in the front while the usual lively characters filtered to the back of the bus to keep the party going.

I have always believed that the Harvest Moon Dinner is our signature event. I fondly remember Shaefer, Nickel and Nickel, Paraduxx and many other memorable evenings under the moon and stars.

This year's event confirmed my feelings and was one of the very best. These events and the people who attend them are what make our club so special.

## Welcome New Members!

**Andrew Klimenko and Steven Enochian** sponsored by Bill Smith; **Robert Ingram** sponsored by Mike Marron; **Alice Wolfson** sponsored by Linda Ross; and **Ralph Zappala** sponsored by Ray Bergez.

## LFW's Wine Blog is Launched!

By Christopher Blunden

Our LFW members are a wellspring of insights and stories on wine, and now there's an easy way to share that knowledge with our friends. Simply add your comments to the categories (or start your own category) using our new blog at <http://blog.lawyerfriendsofwine.com/>



A Blog is a series of entries in reverse chronological order (*i.e.* most recent content at the top) where you can link to individual articles (a sidebar contains links to entries or other blogs), and add your own comments.

Whether it's favorite wines, best buys, buyer clubs and resources, your most fun or interesting wineries and tasting tours, wine-related events, food pairings, greatest bottle openers, glasses, gadgets and accessories, memorable toasts, or comments about LFW events or suggested events, here's the place to do it.

You can add a comment under any existing category by clicking Add Comment and filling in the blanks (except you can skip the "Website" blank). New categories are created by Blog Editor Christopher Blunden based on your Comment content. You can also suggest a new category in your Comment.

If you forget the URL, there are links in our website at:

<http://www.lawyerfriendsofwine.com>

So start reading, blogging, and sharing what you know!