



LFW

G r a p e v i n e

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2008 Lawyer Friends of Wine Off to Great Start – 8th Winter Follies

by Christopher Blunden

Mike and Sharon Marron graciously opened their beautiful San Anselmo home (and art gallery) to our members and guests to host our raucous Winter Follies.



It was a wonderful setting for great food, festivities, and byo (bring your own) wine.

Despite not quite finishing

the 174 page manual that came with my new “simple to use” camera, I undertook to snap a few candid which appear at our password protected [LFW Photo Gallery](#).



Attendees actively participated in our LFW Wine Contest by providing their foil wrapped entries and by blind-tasting and scoring the competing offerings for the People’s Choice awards.

Cellar Master Steve Pitcher brought his expert pallet and bucket to provide professional insight and guidance while blind-tasting for the Cellar Master awards.



Steve is seen here judging the white wine entries ahead of the crowd (although a rather impatient inanimate attendee by the fireplace also appears in this photo).



Cellar Master awards went to [Groth Vineyards](#) 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon (brought by Linda Ross) and Paradise View 2005 Chardonnay (brought by Alan Brayton). Linda Fong’s entry received honorable mention. (Ask her what it was!)

The People’s Choice awards went to [St. Supery](#) 2004 Merlot (brought by Mike Carbone) and [Still Waters Vineyards](#) 2005 Chardonnay (brought by Genevieve Sullivan).

What is “Good” Wine?

One of the joys of wine tasting is discovering what you like (and dislike).

Some argue “good” wine is whatever *you* like. Indeed, you are the world’s greatest expert on your own opinion.

The diversity of responses to what is good makes it interesting. With this in mind, I decided to enter a unique wine into this year’s LFW competition.

This idea was inspired during a visit from my 21 year old son and his college buddies who asked me to teach them how to *taste* (rather than merely drink) a selection of wines they risked their lives to purchase.



(Two homicides occurred on the same day within 3 blocks of the store.)

They actually researched the internet to come up with their selections.

I shared what our LFW group learned in Saint-Emilion, and they applied it as well as could be expected (allowing for such differences that their wines were not only white and rouge, but also blue and green).



Fellow attorney Robert Parker, Jr. awarded 99+ points to Clarendon Hills Astralis Syrah (2003) which is \$350 per bottle. The same company that owns this winery (according

to BumWine.com) also produced my “Rosé” entry, Night Train, (late September-2007) \$3.99 per bottle.

One of the benefits of running the LFW contest is I get to see how people voted on what is otherwise a blind tasting. While no one in our group scored it higher than a 3, (scale of 0 – 9), one person told me, “I like Rosés. One was good; the other was a dessert wine.”

Below is my photo of Steve actually judging it. His exact words were, “Yughhhh!.



I have to wash my glass out, and it wasn’t even tainted; it’s just the way it was made. God, that was

disgusting. Find out who brought 33. We’re going to revoke his credentials.”

So, we’ve learned that one person’s dessert wine is another person’s ““Yughhhhhh!” Thank goodness, we’re relying on Steve’s pallet as our Cellar Master.

Congrats to all for another terrific event!

Welcome New Members!

Amber Brumfiel, sponsored by Christopher Blunden;

Robert Ford, sponsored by Bill Smith;

Gary Lepper, sponsored by Rodney Marraccini;

Roger Modersbach, sponsored by Christopher Blunden;

Janet Wong, sponsored by the Honorable Donald Sullivan.

Next Event Cellar Treasure Dinner Dance. 3/29/08. Black tie optional. Board of Directors election results announced. Bring your dancing shoes. Wear your Tastevin!