



LFW

G r a p e v i n e

Volume 8, Issue 2

May 2009

LFW 2009: Great Events Persist!

by Christopher Blunden

Cellar Treasure Dinner-Dance / Annual Meeting

Our LFW bylaws require an annual members' meeting at which we report election results and the state of the club.

We traditionally combine this meeting with a dinner/dance featuring the treasures of our



cellar and tastevin awards to attending members who qualify after three years of membership in good standing.

This year's event on March 28, 2009 was at the San Francisco InterContinental Hotel.

Guests were greeted with a wonderful Champagne Jacquesson 732 from 750-ml bottles accompanied by excellent hors d'oeuvres served by an outstanding staff.

Our splendid dinner was enhanced by stellar wines. We began with a Château Pichon Lalande (from one of the greatest Bordeaux vineyards maintained by the same family for more than 250 years). According to our Cellar Master Steve Pitcher, this wine was "at its peak."



So, how do you follow that? With a spectacular Napa Valley, Bordeaux-blend 1997 Joseph Phelps Insignia.

This super-rich Wine Spectator 96 points red, with its layers of currant, black cherry, chocolate and ginger was among my all-time favorites. After that came a 2003 Fonseca Late Bottled Vintage Port.

I joined those waiting in line to compliment Steve on his accomplishment of masterminding the event, from selecting the wines, working with the chef to match the food with the wines (rather than vice versa) and coordinating the venue selection.



Like a proud Scout Master at a Court of Honor, Steve then presented Tastevins to our dapper award-winning members: Rod Marraccini, Daniel Furniss, Matthew Guichard, Ralph Zappala, and Andrew Klimenko.

Before the dancing ensued, we also provided election results for the 2009-2012 Board of Directors: Neil Bardack, Eric Behrens, Ray Bergez, and Skip Walker.

We also reported the election of officers for the year: Vice President/Secretary: Eric Behrens; Vice President/Treasurer: RJ Waldsmith; and President: Christopher Blunden.

Congrats to all on a truly signature event that will be a point of reference for future Annual Meetings for years to come.

Luncheon

On Thursday Feb. 19, 2009, Lawyer Friends of Wine revived a Club tradition of weekday luncheons featuring wines from selected vintners.



Our private room at Alfred's Steakhouse in San Francisco proved to be an ideal setting, and one to which we hope to return.



Jeff Hansen of [Amici Cellars](#) generously provided us their 2007 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc, 2006 Mendocino Pinot Noir, and 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon, and he shared stories about the wines.

Our membership responded by purchasing numerous cases of Jeff's fine offerings.

Special thanks for this successful bargain-priced event (\$45) are owed to Jeff Hansen, the folks at Alfred's who right-priced the food and service, program committee member Michael P. Carbone who coordinated much of the planning, and Mike Marron who consistently lobbied to revive the Lawyer Friends of Wine luncheons.

Your Board of Directors is already at work on the next one, so be sure not to miss it.

If you know someone in the wine industry with great wine who would like to host one

of our future luncheons, be sure to contact our Program Chair, Skip Walker, or any member of the Board.

Small Group Napa Weekend

If you were among the lucky ones who got to attend the April 25th Palmaz / La Toque event coordinated by LFW member Carl Schetter, please e-mail your comments or roving reporter article and any photos so we can include them in the next newsletter.

Welcome New Members!

Theodore Herhold, sponsored by Dan Furniss

Elizabeth Franklin, sponsored by Christopher Blunden



Membership Capped

As announced at our Annual Meeting, your Board of Directors has reached a consensus on an oft debated question for the club: What number of members will achieve a balance between being able to (1) have events in special venues that will

accommodate club members wanting to attend, (2) have a club size that will enable us to get to know our fellow members, and (3) have enough members to support sell-out attendance?

We know what too small is, and we want to get no bigger than our current total of nearly 100 members. We will continually monitor membership size until we sense it is just right. Once we reach lower than that size, should there be a waiting list to join, applicants will be notified their membership can be accommodated.

Next Event:

May 23: Annual Wine Country Tour, Tasting and Luncheon; Sat. May 23, 2009: Dry Creek Valley's [Quivira Vineyards & Winery](#).