



LFW G r a p e v i n e

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Winter Follies = Frenzied Fun

by Christopher Blunden

For the second year in a row in the home of Mike and Sharon Marron, Lawyer Friends of Wine annual Winter Follies launched 2009 with sumptuous sips of member-supplied wines.



Thanks Mike and Sharon! In addition to friends, food, and fun, we enjoyed our LFW wine contest – a blind tasting of noble entries competing separately for Cellar Master Steve Pitcher's palate and our club's collective popular vote.



This year's Cellar Master awards went to Dave Anderson for his red wine entry of a 2006 [Tantara Winery](#) Pinot Noir, Bien Nacido Vineyard, Santa Maria, CA, and to yours truly for my white wine entry of a 2006 [Hogue Cellars](#) Genesis Riesling, from Eastern Washington's Columbia Valley.



The Hogue Riesling also snagged first place in the People's Choice awards (and was one of twelve 90+ point wines served at our September Blast by the Bay event).



Paul Perdue (seen here responding to several inquires at once) brought the People's Choice winning red, (another Pinot Noir) this one a 2003 Sineann, from [Covey Ridge Vineyard](#), Willamette Valley, OR. Honorable mentions go to other People's Choice favorites: Dave Anderson's Tantara, and a 2005 [St. Clement Vineyards](#) Napa Valley Merlot brought by Paul Gutierrez. Once again, our People's Choice palates align with our Cellar Master's!

Holiday Claret Dinner a Winner

We closed 2008 in stylish fashion with our annual holiday event at Harris' in San Francisco.



As is our tradition, we began with Roederer Estate Sparkling Wine, Anderson Valley (*en magnum*). Magnums look great, but do they really make a difference?

Those of us who attended the November LFW Anderson Valley event experienced tasting the "same" sparkling from different

sized bottles and indeed tasted the difference; most preferred the magnum. According to a recent [Chronicle article](#) by our Cellar Master, it certainly will last longer, stay fresher and develop more character and complexity in the cellar.



Other great wines of the evening included 2001 Hall Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2002 Rosenblum Cellars "Holbrook Mitchell Trio," Napa Valley (claret-style blend which seemed to be the attendees' favorite) and 2003 Fonseca Late Bottled Vintage Port. Thanks to Paul Gutierrez for behind the scenes help in bringing the glorious wine.

We recognized our LFW Administrator Denise Malatesta for her ongoing contribution to helping keep our club organized and functioning smoothly despite so many lawyers per capita.

A highlight of the evening was Mike Marron providing a heartfelt tribute to John Roveda.

We were honored by the attendance of our special guests of the evening, John's wife Judy and sons John Jr. and Jay.



Little did we know that John would get the last laugh: son John Jr. won our annual holiday tie contest with his Dad's tie.

It was a typically great Lawyer Friends of Wine evening.

LFW Wants You!

Your LFW Officers, Board of Directors, and fellow members helping on committees are working behind the scenes on exciting projects and upcoming events. That's what makes our club and events the success they are.

In our next newsletter we'll reflect on the time and effort being contributed by some of your most active members.

If you have ideas for improvements, events, or would like to volunteer helping at an event, let it be known, and get involved.

That's how one qualifies as an "active member" qualified to run for the Board.

Welcome New Members!

Suzanne Boucher, sponsored by Jim Hazard and Ray Bergez;

Richard Burbridge, sponsored by Bill Smith;

Robert Lieff, (Bob is actually a returning member from a few years back).

Next Events:

Feb. 19 LFW Wine Tasting and Luncheon – Alfred's Steakhouse, SF, Noon.

March 28 Cellar Treasure Dinner/Dance, featuring wonderful views, superb cuisine, select wines from our club's cellar. Black tie optional. Details coming soon.