



LFW

G r a p e v i n e

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LFW Welcomes Rod Santos, our New Cellar Master

by Christopher Blunden

Like a fine wine in the cellar, nothing lasts forever.



After spoiling us for many years with his expertise, event planning, and world class palate, our wonderful Cellar Master Steve Pitcher informed the Board of Directors of his intention to turn over his Cellar Master duties

and the keys to our cellar to a successor.

Among other things, Steve plans to travel more. Fortunately, we'll have a chance to formally acknowledge his services to our group as he's accepted our invitation to be our honored guest at our December event at Harris' in San Francisco.

So, while many of you were enjoying the terrific Palmaz event coordinated by Carl Schetter, I was meeting with the one person whom I felt would be the ideal successor Cellar Master to carry on our club's excellence and ongoing quest for discovering interesting wines, wineries, food pairings, and unique venues for our fun events: Rod Santos.

It turns out a number of our members, myself included, have relied on Rod's excellent advice for years in his capacity as a co-owner and active purveyor of wines at [Wine Thieves](#) located in Lafayette and Clayton.



When you see Rod in untiring action providing helpful insights and tips, perhaps you'll see why I urged him to toss his hat into the Lawyer Friends of Wine Cellar Master ring.

He impressed our committee and Board with his credentials, in-the-trenches every day experience and knowledge, friendly and interactive demeanor, and creative ideas for future events. We're pleased he graciously accepted the appointment with unanimous approval from our Board.

Rod is a Certified Specialist of Wine with the Society of Wine Educators, and an active member of numerous trade organizations.

Since 2001, Rod and his wife Lisa have owned [Grapes & Grains](#), a small "part-time" company dedicated to educating consumers on the pleasures of fine wine.

Rod regularly conducts seminars on wine that I've enjoyed which are attended by some of the 600+ members of his wine club. (And a bonus that John Roveda would have appreciated, Rod is a genuine expert in fine Beers.)

Rod has already arranged our fabulous upcoming Harvest Moon event in October, and you'll have chances at our many events before then to meet him (and Lisa). We'll also have a website page for him soon and a link for your Cellar Master questions. Welcome, Rod!

Annual Spring Fling a Great Thing!

Our annual Wine Country tour this year arranged by Steve Pitcher took us to Dry Creek Valley to [Quivira Vineyards](#).



During a very informative estate tour among the vineyards, animals, and gardens, we learned insights from Winemaker Steven Canter about biodynamic and organic viticulture, including truly amazing facts about horn manure.

After meeting the estate pigs and chickens, our group was more than ready to sample Quivira's excellent wines.



Our tasty lunch by Bovolo using ingredients from Quivira's organic and biodynamic garden was wisely complemented by numerous wines.



This enabled Lawyer Friends of Wine to live up to its name. We confirmed our approval with significant purchases which filled our luxury motor coach (bus) cellar (luggage area) with fine cargo (great wines).

Thanks to Terry Young and Steve Martin (our photographers) and to all involved.

Save these Dates for Many More Fabulous Events in 2009:

Saturday, Aug. 8: [Audelssa](#) event for 30 – a sunset wine country dinner, string duo, terrific wines, and a shuttle from Glen Ellen, arranged by Dave Anderson;

Thursday, Aug. 27: Luncheon at Alfred's Steakhouse in San Francisco: Wine host: [Sculpterra Winery & Sculpture Garden](#), coming all the way from Paso Robles;

Saturday, September 19 (likely): Summer Blast by the Bay; location being arranged;

Saturday, October 3: Harvest Moon Event at [Whitehall Lane Winery and Vineyards](#), arranged by Rod Santos;

November 6 - 8: Winter Weekender Getaway: Wineries and Seascape Beach Resort, arranged by Steve Martin;

Saturday, December 6, Holiday Claret Dinner, Harris' in San Francisco.

Is this a great club, or what? Your board, officers and committee members are working overtime to bring you enjoyable events. Keep them fun: if you sign up but then need to cancel, be sure to do so timely by calling Denise to qualify for a refund. See each announcement for details.