



LFW G r a p e v i n e

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More & More LFW Wine Events

by Christopher Blunden

Beautiful weather combined with festive friends and flavorful wines for our annual Wine Country Tasting and Luncheon on May 31 in Healdsburg, CA.



Running ahead of schedule to our original destination posed no problem for our savvy Cellar Master Steve Pitcher who told our driver to go a little further up Dry Creek Road. With one quick call, Steve enabled our entire group to make a surprise visit to [Sbragia Family Vineyards](#).

Our members enjoyed their hilltop view, tasted (and purchased) their wines, and were warmed to our timely arrival at our wonderful vineyard luncheon setting at [Wilson Winery](#),

Winemaker Diane Wilson and her cheerful staff provided unending generous pours of several selections, and answered our questions that ranged from winemaker weather challenges to inquiries about the growing number of woman winemakers.



The gorgeous setting provided a photo op for our members. See for yourself at our password protected [LFW Photo Gallery](#). (A password reminder is in your e-mail message.)

French Club: Day-After Bastille Day

Our second annual event at the French Club was a rousing success. Many volunteer hours of your Board led to 60 of us celebrating this special sold-out event.



We began with a reception of hors d'oeuvres and wonderful Charles Heidsieck Brut Reserve *Champagne*.

Our *fabulous* food from soup to cheese included a surprise unadvertised bonus of '07 Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc (91 pts, Smart Buy, Wine Spectator), along with

1998 *Hermitage Syrah* from the House of Texier plus 1999 *Ravenswood "Icon"*.

Special thanks go to Ted Kolb for getting us in, to Bill Smith for setting the scene with his fascinating historical vignette about the Marquis de Lafayette (plus mood-setting café music monitored by DJ Laureen), and to Genevieve Sullivan who led us in all four verses of *La Marseillaise*.



Although our scheduled honored guests, the French Consul and his spouse, missed the event due to an unfortunate medical problem,

French champagne and cooking made their own positive impact on our wonderful event.

Additional thanks are owed to nearly every one of your board members who provided behind-the-scenes efforts for everything from meal planning to deliveries of wine, nametags and chilled champagne. Congrats! (More photos are [here](#).)

Nametag Returns

If you discover your personality is a little more magnetic than usual, maybe you forgot to turn in your nametag from our last event.

If so, we need it, so please send it to our Program Chair: [Skip Walker](#) who can e-mail you his address or you can find it in the roster. (Since this newsletter is posted on the web, it's not shown here.)

More LFW Events / More Fun!

As your new president, my goal is to make 2008 a banner year for LFW by providing more festive events to our club members enabling them to appreciate great friends and great wine.

Your entire Board of Directors is working overtime to make this happen with our regularly scheduled events (**Oct. 18** Harvest Moon, and **Dec. 6** Holiday Claret) *plus at least three new events:*

Aug. 19 Tuesday – Wine Country Getaway Wine Tour/Picnic #1 (Group #1: 20 people max.);

Sept. 13 Saturday – Summer Barbeque Blast by the Bay! / Skip Walker's Villa in Marin (All members + their 50's/60's Music, Dancing & Singing fun-loving guests);

Nov. 21 - 23 Mendocino Weekend/Little River Inn + Wineries (30+ people).

You'll be receiving timely informative flyers with all the details.

Each LFW event is priced and budgeted based on a "good" turnout, and our membership (capped at 100) is the right size to deliver that result.

Some events accommodate only smaller groups which hopefully will "sell out."

Other events (like the one coming September 13) are designed to accommodate as many members and additional guests as we'd like to bring (such as our Winter Follies in January and our Black Tie Dinner/Dance event held at the St. Frances Yacht Club in March.)

Suggestions for events our club will support and appreciate are always welcome.

In Memoriam

John Roveda always brought a special sparkle to our events and our club. I've linked a few [photos](#) at our private gallery that I took of him plus a [text](#) file many of you will enjoy. We miss you, John.

Next Event

Aug. 19 Tuesday – Wine Country Getaway Wine Tour/Picnic #1. This is the first of what I hope will be repeat small group getaways to permit our entire membership to experience magnificent wines & [gorgeous settings](#) in small groups / Group #1: 20 people max. Watch for your e-mail flyer with all the exciting details.