



LFW

G r a p e v i n e

Volume 4, Issue 1

Mar. 2005

President's Report – by Paul Gutierrez

As Lawyer Friends of Wine moves into 2005 and the end of my three year term as your President, I am pleased to report the distance we have covered in making our organization responsive to the needs and enjoyment of our members.

The introduction of our newsletter, **The Grapevine**, has provided effective and sometimes light-hearted communication on LFW's events, news and other matters of interest.

With all due respect to Smokey Robinson, this is where "we heard it" regarding our wine tours, membership, activities and helpful tips for our wine aficionados – sprinkled with pictures and descriptions that relive moments for those members unable to attend some of the Club's events.

It remains an important addition to the network that binds us all together. Our Editor, Christopher Blunden, has done a yeoman's job in making it happen.

[Editor's note: Thank you Paul, especially for not saying "yeoperson."]



As in previous years, much of the Club's success is a result of the dedication and expertise of our Cellar Master, Steve Pitcher, to whom LFW will be indebted for years to come.

Thank you, Steve.

I also want to point out that the commitment of your Board of Directors has been the cornerstone of the Club.

Its energy and creativity has introduced the foreign wine and food pairing events, programs to hold events at members' homes, the LFW logo and, hopefully, an ever-increasing appearance of LFW logo shirts at our functions.

The Program Committee has been stellar in coordinating our events efficiently, economically and successfully. All of our thanks should go out to them.



This is the end of my third and final year as your President as I believe it is time to bring in new blood and ideas. It has truly been my pleasure to serve. It has been most enjoyable and rewarding for me.

Long term friendships have been established and will continue. I look forward to remaining involved in this great Club.

Practicing law is an experience for us all, but the camaraderie, mutual interest and cohesiveness of this group puts a human face on our profession, for me at least. We are lawyers, but we are, even more, **friends**. Thanks to you all for a great three years! -- Paul



Winter Follies Follow-Up

And thanks to you Paul and First Lady Ellen for hosting our 5th Annual Lawyer Friends of Wine "Winter Follies" at your wonderful home. You've spoiled us!

11th Annual German Wine Tasting at German Consulate

At our *Harvest Moon* event at Nickel & Nickel, we had, what else, a glorious Harvest Moon. At our *Wine Tasting 101* event in the Bayview Room at the World Trade Club, we had a total lunar eclipse.

So perhaps our attending LFW members weren't too surprised when a magnificent thunder and lightening storm crackled and roared to set the stage for this vintage Pacific Heights San Francisco night of wine tasting.

Those who arrived early could peek in to find German Wine Society President (and our very own LFW cellar master) Steve Pitcher preparing more than 100 estate-bottled wines – mostly Rieslings – from Germany's remarkable, historic harvest of 2003 for this festive, taste-full event.

Twenty members of Lawyer Friends of Wine and their companions joined members of the German Wine Society and other invited guests, including members of The City's Consular Corps, at the Society's *11th Annual New Vintage Tasting* at the German Consulate in San Francisco's on February 18th.



The pour-your-own vintage sample wines were lined up two rows per table on two long tables to allow sipping at the taster's own pace.

The offerings ranged from exquisite examples of dry Rieslings (from specialists in this field in Germany) to off-dry (halb trocken) and QbA Rieslings, and a grand diversity of Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese and Beerenauslese Rieslings, finishing with Eiswein.

Our detailed wine taster's programs listed each of the 117 wines by number (which corresponded to number tags on the bottles) to enable even those most unfamiliar with these wines to easily identify what was being sampled and its retail price.



Before our first sip, as we stood near the beautiful circular stairway of the consulate

(a fine old Matson family mansion) we learned from German Wine Society President (and LFW cellar master) Steve Pitcher that the 2003 growing season was the warmest and driest in modern German history, resulting in "opulently rich wines in all categories. There were few true Kabinetts in 2003," Pitcher noted, "as most are really the producers' 'smallest' Spätlese or Auslese. These represent the greatest values for the budget-minded shopper."

"The higher-Prädikat wines – Auslese and Beerenauslese – were lusciously sweet, yet balanced by wonderfully ripe, crisp acidity. Because of the warm, dry conditions, most were unaffected by botrytis, a beneficial mold that usually shows up in grapes harvested for dessert-style Riesling in Germany. Instead, they were super-ripe, healthy, late-harvest grapes that yielded nectar-like wine that will mature for years in a good cellar." [Be sure to read Steve Pitcher's entire article in the SF Chronicle 3/31.]

New Member Sponsors

Contact Bill Smith to be awarded a free LFW polo shirt: e-mail WBSAS@aol.com.

Save These Dates

March 26, 2005: Black Tie Cellar Treasure Dinner/Dance at Boulevard restaurant, SF; we'll toast our new officers & directors.

April 30, 2005: Luxury Coach Excursion to Shyster Creek Vineyards