



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.
Volume 40, Issue 2, February 2016

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WINERY PROGRAMS

2016, OCWS's 40th year, is off to a great start with four excellent winery program tastings: Ravenswood, Navarro, Double Bond, and Rockwall. Kent & Shauna Rosenblum will finish up this year's winery programs on Friday, May 6, 2016. For those who remember our 25th, 30th, and 35th year celebrations with Kent, this will be a fun night with excellent wines. Rich Skoczylas will keep us in the loop as information regarding our additional programs becomes available.

MINI-TASTINGS

Bill Redding will be kicking off his first Mini Tasting of the year on Friday, February 27. This event is an outstanding introduction to the Rhone wines grown in California.

WINE AUCTION

The April 9th Wine Auction, coordinated by Dennis Esslinger, Bill Redding, and their cellar crew, will include many exceptional wines. This event provides a great

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History of the Orange County Wine Society

As the Orange County Wine Society celebrates its 40th Anniversary, this 2015-2016 year's edition of *The Wine Press* will feature the Wine Society's history.

~ OCWS Expands in the 1990s ~

During the first half of the 1990's, the OCWS continued to offer the usual events including the Auction, BBQ, Champagne Brunch, Chili Cook-Off, Holiday Dinner Dance, Installation Dinner, and Mini-Tastings. The Wine Society also continued to sponsor the Wine Extraordinaire and Wine Classic, plus both the Commercial and Homewine Competitions. A new Spanish-themed wine serving area was designed and built at the



Save the Date
Friday, May 6, 2016
40th Anniversary Wine Program
with Kent Rosenblum &
Rock Wall Winery
Special events are being planned
for this evening.

Celebrating
40
Forty *Years*

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Jim Beard
President
 jim@ocws.org
 949.302.7286



Bill Redding
Vice President
 bill@ocws.org
 949.248.1125



Fran Gitsham
Treasurer
 fran@ocws.org
 714.287.9663



Liz Corbett
Secretary
 liz@ocws.org
 714.342.6652



John Carnes
Director
 john.carnes@ocws.org
 818.515.5702



Dennis Esslinger
Director
 dennis@ocws.org
 714.328.0454



Brian McDonald
Director
 brian@ocws.org
 714.227.7284



Rich Skoczylas
Director
 rich@ocws.org
 714.891.0737



Stacey Taylor
Director
 stacey@ocws.org

January Membership Report

The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following members was approved by the Board of Directors at the January meeting:

Gary Benike & Diana Stocks ■ Quinn & Lisa Bower
 Bob Fairfield ■ Michael & Ana Farnham ■ Ed & Lu Neely
 Mike & Tamara Reddy ■ Vicki Vargo

As of the January Board meeting the Orange County Wine Society has 902 members.

- **Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair**



The Orange County Wine Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of California with its principal place of business in Costa Mesa, California.



PO Box 11059, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
 Phone: 714.708.1636 Fax: 714.546.5002
 Website: www.ocws.org www.facebook.com
 Twitter: @OCWineSociety

Office Administrator: Janet Hammond
 OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

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Editor-in-Chief: Michelle Philo

Contributing Writers:

Board of Directors, Kevin Donnelly,
 Larry Graham, Michelle Philo

Contributing Editors:

Judy Fox, John Goodnight, Larry Graham, Janet Hammond,
 Janet Marino, Linda Mihalik, Ron Nickens, Karen Ward

Contributing Photographers:

Jim Burk, Brian McDonald

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President's Message: Jim's Journal

(Continued from page 1)

opportunity to purchase many hard-to-find wines. Please check out this newsletter for additional information.

BBQ & NEW EVENTS NEWS

In an effort to free up events in our September and October calendar, the OCWS BOD has elected to move our September BBQ to May 15 of this year. In an adventurous attempt to introduce innovative new events, we are replacing the Chili Cook-Off with an exciting and authentic Oktoberfest during the month of October.

As we strive to invigorate our wine events with enriching and unusual topics, all OCWS members are encouraged to attend *and* invite new friends and acquaintances to experience the fun. To help transition everyone to embrace OCWS membership, the BOD is implementing a "New Member Ambassador Program." The intent is to introduce new members to other OCWS members and also help new members understand the ins/outs of each event. These ambassadors will also be available to those who have never attended a particular event and would like an introduction

to our many members.

For additional information on the Ambassador program please contact the event chair or membership chair Brian McDonald, for additional information.

In closing, the OCWS Board Members encourage everyone to drink responsibly and use a designated driver at all of our events. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

- Jim Beard, President

February Winery Program: Navarro Vineyards & Winery

Friday, February 5, 2016 @ 6:15 pm
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA

Navarro Vineyards are known for their Alsatian-style Gewürztraminer, along with old-vine Zinfandel, estate-grown Anderson Valley Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Riesling and sweet Muscat. Jim Klein, who has been the master winemaker at Navarro since 1992, will be presenting the wines this evening.

In addition to the dry Alsatian-style Gewürztraminer and Riesling, Navarro grows lots of Pinot Noir. Their vineyard has nine different sites dedicated to Pinot Noir with many different clones, rootstocks and trellis systems. Because of the diversity of fruit from this vineyard, Jim ferments and ages as many as 37 different lots of their estate-grown Pinot Noirs.

Wines to be poured this evening include:

2014 Gewurztraminer, Estate Bottled
2014 Pinot Gris, Anderson Valley
2014 Riesling, Anderson Valley
Muscat Anderson Valley
2013 Pinot Noir, Methode A l'Anciene, Anderson Valley
2013 Pinot Noir, Deep End
2013 Zinfandel, Mendocino
Gewurztraminer, Late Harvest Cluster Select

This evening attendees will have the opportunity to order these wines at significant price savings with the special offers afforded Wine Society members.

Attendees can park in the garage and either get their ticket validated at OCWS check-in or pay \$10 for valet parking. Dinner begins at 6:45 pm with the meeting following at 7:30 pm.

The buffet cost is \$37 for members, \$42 for guests, or \$45 for a separate "heart healthy" sit down option. For February, the selection will be a grilled herbed chicken breast with cherry tomato relish and Chimichurri sauce, served with steamed brown rice and sautéed green beans. Sign up on the website.

Members may bring their own wine to enjoy and share during the buffet dinner. We ask that you remove your bottle from the table during the tasting.

Note: Any cancellations must be made no later than Monday, February 1 to receive a refund.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director



A Valentine's Dine with Wine

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

6:30 pm

Pescadou Bistro

3325 Newport Boulevard, Newport Beach, CA



We will have a small, intimate Valentine dinner in a French bistro with a spirit that has been called "uncompromisingly French, casual and just plain fun." Upon walking into Pescadou Bistro, guests are immediately greeted by two things - a romantic and casual dining room that evokes the warmth and

welcome of France's southern region and the equally warm welcome of the owner on Soir!

The cost for this French bistro dinner is \$50.00 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity.

Attendees will need to provide a valid email address to confirm your attendance. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bring a cellar-quality bottle of wine per person to share, but be sure to drink responsibly. Please wear your name tag.

Don't delay! This event will fill up fast. Sign-ups are only available on the website.

Parking: Parking may be a challenge due to on-going road work. Up-to-date parking information will be provided to attendees.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director



Menu

~ Starter ~

Amuse Bouche - Eggplant tapenade crostini

~ First Course ~
(Choice of one)

Butter Lettuce Green Salad
Shaved fennel, diced tomato

Belgium Endive Salad
Red beets, arugula, blue cheese, walnuts and pear

~ Entrée Choice ~
(Choice of one)

Bouillabaisse du Pecheur
Fisherman casserole, monkfish, sea bass, mussels, shrimp, calamari, in a seafood and vegetable broth flavored with saffron and fennel, "rouille" aioli and croutons

Boeuf Bourguignon
Braised beef in red wine, pearl onions, mushrooms, carrots and mashed potatoes

Canard a l'orange
Roasted duck breast, orange Grand Marnier sauce, mashed potatoes, and sautéed spinach

Filet de Porc Dijonnaise
Roasted pork tenderloin, Dijon mustard sauce, white mushroom, and pommes frites

~ Dessert ~
(Choice of One)

Nougat Glace
Ice Cream Parfait with caramelized almonds in a red berry sauce

Fondant au chocolat
Chocolate Lava Cake with a red berry sauce

~ Beverages ~

Regular Coffee or Decaf Coffee included

All other beverages are extra on a cash and carry basis

Winemakers Newsroom

Friendship, support and camaraderie is what the Winemakers' Group is all about. This was clearly evidenced on January 9 when 20 members of the OCWS Winemakers' Group volunteered their time to help one of the long time members of the group. When Rich McCormick passed away in November, he still had a lot of wonderful wines in barrels and stainless steel kegs. The McCormick family asked for help from the Winemakers' Group, and these members stepped up with equipment and time to filter and bottle 200 gallons into 92 cases, or 1,104 bottles of wine, including Rich's fabulous Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Zinfandel and other wines. A special thank you to Ed Reyes, Debbie Renne, Les Silver, Lynda Edwards, Rob Romano, Kim and Jerry Guerin, Wendy and Stacey Taylor, Michael Rafferty, Bill Forsch, Michael Salas, Jim Graver, Robin Lang and Fran Gitsham for performing yeoman's duty!

Winemakers' Group Quarterly Potluck
****Change of Date & Location****
February 13, 2015, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Hosted by: Rob & Germain Romano
10532 Grove Oak Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92705

The Winemakers' Group is changing the Date and Location for the February Winemakers' Quarterly Meeting. Unfortunately, Barry Thomas suffered an accident and broke his hip, so he and Adele are unable to host the meeting on February 6. We all wish Barry a quick and complete recovery.

The rescheduled Quarterly Meeting will be held on February 13 at the home of Rob and Germaine Romano. The time of the event will be a little different than normal. The full party will run from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, with the Sulfite testing starting at 11:30 am.

Upcoming 2016 Planned Events
February 13: Winemakers' Quarterly Meeting & SO2 Wine Tasting
June 11: Homewine Competition

As usual, the Winemakers' Quarterly Meeting is open to ALL OCWS MEMBERS and guests. If you would like to learn to make wine, or just want to learn the basics without actually making wine, our events are a great and welcoming place to learn. This is a Potluck event, and we ask everyone or couple to bring a food item to serve 8 people, and one bottle of wine per person, either homemade or commercial.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please RSVP to Kevin Donnelly at kevindonnelly@ocws.org or 714.457.7229 by February 10, 2016. If you would like to test wines, please let Kevin know how many wines you will bring so we can have enough quantity of chemicals.

We look forward to seeing you all on February 13!

2016 Planning Meetings

Meetings will be conducted in the next few weeks to discuss our annual events calendar and to start preparations for the Homewine Competition, which will be held on June 11 at the Fairgrounds. We LOVE volunteers so, if you would like to be a judge or steward at the competition, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Donnelly.

- Kevin Donnelly & Stacey Taylor, Director



The Winemakers' Group has a great time tasting their homemade wines!

Call for New Member Ambassadors

Imagine walking into a room of over 100 people and not knowing a single person. It sounds a little daunting! That is currently what happens when a new member attends his or her first Wine Society event.

What if that new member knew at least one or two other people in the room? Does that make the event a little more appealing?

The Orange County Wine Society is looking for members to volunteer as ambassadors to new members. It does not take a great deal of time. You will be given one or two names each month and your job will be to call the newest members and welcome them to the Wine Society, talk to them about upcoming events, and tell them about the pro-

cedure for the events they are interested in attending (bring wine or not, bring glasses or not, dress, etc.). If you are planning on being at an event, ask them to join your table and introduce them to other Wine Society members. In other words, make them feel welcome.

If you would like to be on the ambassador list, just drop me an email at brian@ocws.org.

**- Brian McDonald, Director
& Membership Chair**



March Winery Program: Double Bond

Friday, March 25, 2016 @ 6:15 pm
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA

Our March program introduces a new, exciting boutique winery that consistently produces award-winning wines. Its name is "Double Bond." John Klacking founded Double Bond with his passion to make limited-production lots of wines that feature the best varietal characteristics with what the Central Coast is known.

Double Bond produces handcrafted single varietals from established renowned vineyards. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes come from the Wolff Vineyard in Edna Valley. Zinfandel comes from the La Vista Vineyard in Paso Robles. Syrah comes from the Larner Vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley.

test to the recognition of Double Bond wines.

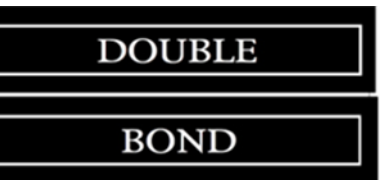
Attendees can park in the garage and either get their ticket validated at OCWS check-in or pay \$10 for valet. Dinner begins at 6:45 pm with the meeting following at 7:30 pm.

The buffet cost is \$37.00 for members, \$42.00 for guests and a separate option of a "heart healthy" sit-down meal for \$45.00. The "heart healthy" selection will be determined. Sign up on the website or use the sign-up sheet in this newsletter and mail it to the OCWS with a check.

Be sure to wear your nametag.



John Klacking



Members may bring their own wine to enjoy and share during the buffet dinner. We do ask that you remove your bottle from the table during the tasting.

Note: Any cancellations must be made no later than Monday, March 21 to receive a refund.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director



The Double Bond 2013 Chardonnay won the Top Overall White Wine & Best in Class at the 2015 Toast of the Coast Wine Competition, and earned 93 points at the 2014 LA International Wine Competition. The Double Bond 2011 Pinot Noir won a Double Gold at the 2015 San Francisco Pinot Shootout competition. These awards at-

Rhone Wines Mini-Tasting

Saturday, February 27, 2016
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
OCWS Member Homes

Our next Mini-Tasting theme is Rhone Wines

The Rhone Valley is a key wine producing region in the southeast of France. This region produces reds - Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre, Carignane, Cinsault, Counoise, and whites - Marsanne, Roussanne and Viognier. The Cotes du Rhone and Cotes du Rhone Villages are two well-known producing regions. The Paso Robles region contains calcareous limestone soil similar to the Rhone Valley in France, and with this discovery in the late 1980s, Paso Robles became well known for its Rhone varietals and Rhone Blends.

Hosts: Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. If you would like to host this event, please e-mail Bill Redding at bill@ocws.org or call him at 949.248.1125. You will need to sign up and pay until hosts are selected. Reimbursement will be made for all host sites.

Locations: Host sites and directions will be announced to those attending approximately one week prior to the event. We try to place you at the location nearest your home or to accommodate your specific site request; however, your

assigned host site is also based on the order in which your sign-up is received in the OCWS office. The cost to attend the tasting is \$25 for members and \$30 for guests.

Dish: Each person attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) to serve a small portion to 18 people. The dish ideally should be designed to match the theme of the tasting, in this case Rhone Wines. Please coordinate your food selection with your host site to assure an appropriate balance of food types served during the evening. There will be a special bottle of wine that evening as a prize for Chef of the Evening. Our winning Chefs of the Evening can have their recipe published on the OCWS website.

We are planning a maximum of five sites for this mini-tasting, so the limit is 90 attendees. Due to the high attendance at our Mini-Tasting Programs, we encourage you to sign-up early as sites tend to fill quickly. The cut-off date for online sign-up is Monday, February 22, 2016. After this date please contact Bill or the OCWS office to determine availability. The cancellation deadline is February 19, 2016 for a refund. After that date, due to the advance purchase of wines, you will not receive a refund unless there is a waiting list.

Bon Appetit, Bill Redding, Vice President

History of the Orange County Wine Society

(Continued from page 1)

Orange County Fairgrounds and many of the annual OCWS events moved to this new facility. The Wine Society membership grew to over 1,100 members and a full time Office Administrator was hired for our office upstairs in the Little Theater on the Fair Grounds.

During the 1990-1991 term, David Hirstein completed a rewrite of the Bylaws with the help of Sam Puzzo and Al Barber. During this year, the Wine Society also expanded the Scholarship Fund to include five different colleges. One of the early recipients of a scholarship at California Poly San Luis Obispo was Odine Chattan. She later became a winemaker at Geyser Peak and served as a judge for the commercial competitions. In addition, recipes were collected from members and published into an OCWS Cookbook thanks to the efforts of Chuck Baldree.

From 1992-1993, the OCWS continued with its popular

events and added a Wine Cruise and Sparkling Elegance. During this year, Mark DeWitt started to develop a series of new programs for the Commercial Wine Competition and related events which were later implemented during the 1994-1995 term.

The two grand tastings, the Wine Extraordinaire and the Wine Classic were continued, however, they moved first to the Anaheim Marriott, then to the Red Lion, and eventually to the Anaheim Hilton. These events continued to attract large crowds averaging over 100 wineries and 20 food purveyors. The monthly wine programs continued; however, these tastings were not without their problems. At one tasting a winery mistakenly sent eight cases of the same wine and on three occasions the winery cancelled at the last minute leaving the Chair to find an emergency replacement.

Stay tuned for next month's edition as we launch into the next chapter of the Wine Society's history.

OCWS Wine Auction

**Saturday, April 9, 2016
11:00 am - 5:00 pm
OC Fair & Events Center
Huntington Beach Building (next to The Courtyard)**

*** Please expect to be present for the entire event.
No early check-outs! ***

Got Wine? Have enough? No....there is never enough!



The OCWS Wine Auction is right around the corner...a terrific venue to purchase outstanding wines of all varieties at great prices! Place your bid in our silent auction, offering several hundred, 4-bottle lots of wine in every varietal imaginable. You can also raise your bidder paddle for many premium

lots in the verbal auction.

The Wine Auction affords the OCWS Cellarmaster a chance to clear out the cellar to make room for all the wine arriving for the 2016 Commercial Wine Judging Competition. The event also helps provide funding for this year's Commercial Wine Competition.

We will also be placing four wine bottles in a sealed box that you can pick up during Auction checkout. Each bottle in the box will be valued over \$10 (many worth much more). You will receive 4 bottles, for just \$20 – that's a \$40 value! At just \$5 per bottle, it's a great way to pick up some nice everyday wines at a very reasonable price.



Sign up now on the OCWS website or send your personal check to the OCWS office, along with the Wine Auction sign-up form in this edition of The Wine Press. Bidder catalogues will be available the week before and during event check-in.



It is an outstanding event, with wine bargains galore! Everyone leaves happy and comes home a winner. There will also be a nice selection of wines poured for your pleasure and plenty of food to keep you smiling through the day.

For your convenience, it is suggested that you bring wine glasses and pens to the Wine Auction. Limited quantities of individual wine glasses will be available for sale. The price is \$20 per member.

One more thing... only OCWS members may attend. Additionally, please remember that Wine Society events are for adults only. As such, we ask that you please refrain from bringing underage guests and children to our events.

See you at the Auction!

- Dennis Esslinger, Auction Director



Sign-Up Sheets

February Winery Program
Navarro Vineyards
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA
Friday, Feb. 5, 2016 at 6:15 pm

Member (M) _____
 Co-Member (C) _____
 Day Phone _____
 Night Phone _____
 Email _____
 No. of Members @ \$37 _____
 No. of Guests @ \$42 _____
 No. of Heart Healthy Options @ \$45 _____

Payment
 Personal Check
 Total Enclosed _____

Reservation & Cancellation
Deadline: February 1

Rhones Mini - Tasting
Saturday, February 27, 2016
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Locations to be announced

Member _____
 Co-Member _____
 Day Phone _____
 Night Phone _____
 Email _____
 Number of Members @ \$25 each _____
 Number of Guests @ \$30 each _____

Payment
 Personal Check
 Total Enclosed _____

Cancellation Deadline: Feb. 19
Reservation Deadline: Feb. 22

March Winery Program
Double Bond Wines
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA
Friday, March 25, 2016 at 6:15 pm

Member (M) _____
 Co-Member (C) _____
 Day Phone _____
 Night Phone _____
 Email _____
 No. of Members @ \$37 _____
 No. of Guests @ \$42 _____
 No. of Heart Healthy Options @ \$45 _____

Payment
 Personal Check
 Total Enclosed _____

Reservation & Cancellation
Deadline: March 21

OCWS Wine Auction
Saturday, April 9, 2016
11:00 am - 5:00 pm
OC Fair & Events Center
Huntington Beach Building

Member _____
 Co-Member _____
 Day Phone _____
 Night Phone _____
 Email _____
 No. of Members @ \$20 each _____

Payment
 Personal Check
 Total Enclosed _____

***** Please expect to be present for the**
entire event.
No early check-outs! ***

****Member Exclusive Event****

Save time by signing up online at
www.ocws.org



OCWS Save the Date Calendar

- Feb. 5 February Winery Program: Navarro
- Feb. 6 Winemakers Group Quarterly Potluck
- Feb. 10 Dine With Wine: Pescadou Bistro
- Feb. 27 Mini-Tasting: Rhone Wines
- March 25 March Winery Program: Double Bond
- April 9 OCWS Wine Auction - Member Exclusive Event
- April 23 Mini-Tasting: Meritage
- May 6 40th Anniversary Celebration
& May Winery Program: Rock Wall
- May 15 Annual Membership Barbeque
- June 4-5 Commercial Competition
- June 11 Homewine Competition



Orange County Wine Society



www.ocws.org



The Wine Press

Orange County Wine Society, Inc.
PO Box 11059
Costa Mesa, CA 92627