



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 43, Issue 6, June 2019

President's Message

The months of June through September are among the busiest times for the OCWS. In June, the Commercial Wine and Home Wine Competitions are held. The Commercial Wine Competition will either be in progress or completed by the time *The Wine Press* hits your mailbox. The Home Wine Competition is two weeks later this year, Saturday, June 15. With a brief break, we will enter into a very active wine Courtyard during the annual OC Fair held from July 13 thru August 12. In September, election of Directors for the OCWS Board and the Annual Business meeting will be held.

All of this is not a surprise to many of you! These activities and events take a tremendous amount of member volunteers to accomplish. With my apologies in advance for anyone not mentioned, I would like to spotlight some of the major efforts that are currently or will be taking place to accomplish the events mentioned.

The Commercial Competition Committee, chaired by Leslie Brown and Head of Judges Kevin Coy, supported by the Committee

has been recruiting wineries—thanks to Ken Scott and Terry McLean; receiving and cataloging wines for judging—thanks to Liz and Lloyd Corbett and crew. The weekend of May 31 through June 2 will see hundreds of our members working to bring wines and supplies to and from the Hilton Hotel, serving as stewards, score verifiers, data processors, and drying thousands of glasses! Thanks to Ken and Irene Scott for organizing this small army of volunteers.

The Home Wine Competition requires judges, stewards, scoring, glass washing and drying, and food servers. This event is once again under the care of Kevin Donnelly and Jim Downey. Thanks to all of you who have signed up to make this event a success.

The Courtyard will once again be staffed by hundreds of volunteers serving and educating the public about wine and the mission of the OCWS. Thanks to Brian McDonald, Fran Gitsham, and Rich Skoczylas for leading The Courtyard Committee.

See you all at the Fair!

- Bill Redding, President

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Gold Medal Mini-Tasting

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Welcome New Members



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its

newest members! Membership for the following new members was approved by the Board of Directors at the May 13 meeting:

Tricia Shelton & Chris Ouellette • Natassia Ta & Madison Aust • Esteban Hernandez • Kerry Vanderwaag • Marguerite Kazmaier • Cimberly Gonzales • Cathleen & Tim Callaway.

As of May 1, the OCWS had 1,007 members.

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Welcome New Members

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Additional New Member Info. If you are thinking about attending an event and are not sure how to dress, what to bring, how it works, or just want someone to meet and greet, please reach out to any member of the Board of Directors, email the "New Member Hotline" at Brian@ocws.org, or feel free to phone Brian at 714.227.7284.

*- Brian McDonald,
 Director and Membership Chair*

New Member Mixer

Sunday, June 9, 2019
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
North Orange County, CA

The Board of Directors will be hosting a mixer for new members (members who have joined the OCWS on or after September 1, 2018). This is an



opportunity for new members to meet other new members, the Board of Directors and to learn about the many activities offered by the OCWS for its members. The OCWS will provide wine, water, and light appetizers. It will be held outdoors so please take that into consideration (hats, sunglasses, etc.).

An RSVP is required for this event, so please sign up online at ocws.org. This event is limited to new members only. Attendance is limited so sign up early to secure your spot.

The venue will be in north Orange County. The exact address will be emailed to those who have RSVP'd 4-5 days before the event. If you have any questions, contact Brian at Brian@ocws.org.

*- Brian McDonald,
 Director and 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.

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The Courtyard Portal during the 2019 OC Fair

Courtyard Volunteer Sign-ups

By the time you read this article, The Courtyard sign-ups will be in full swing. **Thank you** to all who have already signed up to support The Courtyard, OCWS's biggest fundraising event. Last year, donations received at The Courtyard and allocated to the scholarship fund amounted to over \$16,000.

Just remember, you can only sign up online once. After that, you will have to email CourtyardSignup@ocws.org for additional shifts or shift changes.

*Fran Gitsham & Brian McDonald,
The Courtyard Co-Chairs*

Seeking Volunteer Chair for Courtyard Set Up/Tear Down

I have chaired The Courtyard set up and tear down the last two, possibly three years. It has been my honor and privilege to have worked with Paul Peal who, if you knew Paul, could make anything happen.

I now have a back condition which does not allow me to take an active role in either of these roles. We are looking for someone who will step into this leadership role. Fortunately, over the years, there is a core group of people who know what needs to be done and could easily do it themselves—it is just organizing the order in which things are done and purchasing the lunch and beer.

If you have any interest or would like to discuss this role, email me at Brian@ocws.org or call 714-227-7284.

*Brian McDonald,
The Courtyard Co-Chair*

OC Fair Server Responsibility Statements

The OCFEC requires each person pouring alcohol to sign a Server Responsibility Statement. This is an OC Fair form, not an OCWS form. Therefore, please **do not** write any messages on the form. The form states that you have attached a copy of your server certificate to the form; this step is handled by The Courtyard Committee prior to submitting all signed Server Statements to the OCFEC.

The form is located on our website at www.ocws.org at menu item "OCFair Courtyard." Please only fill out one name per form, sign and date where indicated, and email to TIPS@ocws.org or fax to the OCWS office at 714.546.5002 (**not the fax number indicated on the form**).

The 2019 Courtyard Committee

Alcohol Server Training—Intervention Procedures

The OC Fair is almost here! Time is running out to schedule Alcohol Server Training (TIPS); the last class is being offered this month. TIPS certification is valid for three years. If you were TIPS certified in 2016 and are planning to volunteer at The Courtyard this year, you will need to re-certify. If you have **never taken** a TIPS class, you will need to attend and successfully complete the training.

The 2019 OC Fair starts on Friday, July 12 and ends on Sunday, August 11. As a concessionaire of the OC Fair, the OCWS must adhere to contractual requirements established by the OC Fair & Events Center Board of Directors. Prior to working in The Courtyard during the OC Fair, everyone must be "professionally trained and certified in alcohol awareness techniques."

The Alcohol Server Training sign-up form is located on our website at www.ocws.org. Please log in to your account and use the online form located at menu item "OCFair Courtyard>Alcohol Server Training (TIPS)." The classes are held in the Admin Bldg. on the Fairgrounds. An email confirmation with a map will be sent within **one week** prior to the class.

If you have any questions regarding TIPS training, please email TIPS@ocws.org or call either Rochelle at 714.272.3780 or Marcy at 714.235.6459. See you at the Fair!

*- Rochelle Randel – TIPS Trainer
- Marcy Ott – Badging Coordinator
The 2019 Courtyard Committee*

Wine Seminar Volunteers Needed during the Fair

The OCWS conducts wine-related seminars on Saturday and Sunday afternoons during each weekend of the OC Fair. The purpose of the seminars is to educate the public about wine and to introduce them to the Orange County Wine Society. We are looking for volunteers who can assist with breaking down the seminar area (tables, chairs, supplies, etc.) around 4:30 pm each Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Please contact Dawn Bergan-Iglesias at Dbergan@ca.rr.com if you are interested in assisting. Thank you.

The 2019 Courtyard Committee



Gold Medal Mini-Tasting

Saturday, July 6, 2019
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Various Host Sites

The Gold Medal Mini-Tasting is the largest and most popular mini-tasting of the year. It is a chance to taste many of the Gold Medal wines from this year's Commercial Wine Competition. The tasting will feature different varietals that won Gold Medals, and we try to obtain as many Double Gold medal winning wines as possible.

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 \$30 for members and \$35 for guests.

Dish. Each person/couple attending will sign up with their host to bring a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) to serve a small portion to 18 people. There will be a special bottle of wine awarded 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 nine sites for this Mini-Tasting. Sign-ups will open on Monday, June 3. Due to the high attendance at our Mini-Tasting Programs, we encourage you to sign-up early as sites tend to fill quickly. Once sign-ups fill up, please call the OCWS office to be added to the waiting list.

The cut-off date for online sign-up is Saturday, June 22. After this date, please contact the OCWS office to determine availability. Due to the advance purchase of wines, you will not receive a refund if you cancel after the cancellation deadline date of Saturday, June 29.

- *Bon Appetit, George Cravens*

Winemakers Newsroom

Since last month, the Winemakers' Group has been in full recruiting mode, soliciting volunteers for the OC Fair Home Wine Competition. We have nearly 90 Judges and 60 volunteers signed up to date, plus the full contingency of the Cooks' Caucus to help us out at this annual event.

Judges' Seminar Recap. On May 18, we had our Judges' Seminar at the Peppertree Winery and beautiful home of Lynn Hess, attended by 44 new and returning Judges. Jerry Guerin explained the rules and procedures to the attendees who will be judging 600 wines entered for the competition. Pictured is the Home Wine Competition Judge's Seminar, led by Jerry Guerin.



nar, led by Jerry Guerin.

Home Wine Competition. It's coming up, Saturday, June 15!

As with every year, this is a highly organized and procedural event where our Judges give their opinions on each and every wine, along with constructive criticism. The Cooks' Caucus will provide a fabulous breakfast and lunch, and this is the highlight of our entire year as winemakers. I hope many of you will join us in this exciting and fun event! On June 16, we will have our second annual Competition Reception on the day after to say "thanks" to our volunteers, Judges, and wine entrants.

Many thanks to Lynn, Jerry and Rob Romano for helping with the seminar, and to everyone else who will be helping us during the Competition!



If you have any questions, contact Kevin at KevinDonnelly@ocws.org or by phone at 714.457.7229. Cheers!

- *Kevin Donnelly*

Graber Olive House, a Longtime, Valued Supporter of the OCWS



The Wine Society would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Graber Olive House for their friendship, generosity and continued support over the years.

Graber Olive House has provided their specialty olives to the Commercial Wine and Home Wine Competitions for many years. As you know, palate assault can be extreme even though wine judges may expectorate every sip. The acidity in

white wines and tannins in red wines can be a painful experience after a full day of tasting. A small cup of Graber olives is placed alongside each judge, and the olives neutralize the elements in both reds and whites, work wonders for the palate and taste fantastic, too.

Graber Olive House is located in quiet, serene surroundings. Visitors will be delighted to discover a bit of early California when they visit. Graber Olive House is located at 215 East Fourth Street, Ontario, CA 91764.

Rhone Mini-Tasting Wrap Up

The April Mini-Tasting featured Rhone style wines and was held at five host sites throughout the county. Each of the five flights of wine featured a California wine and a French wine. There were four flights of reds, and the tasting started with a white flight. Seven of the ten wines placed in the first, second, or third place at one or more of the host sites.

The overall favorite was Secret Indulgence from Emancipation in St. Helena; second place was Chateau Puech-Haut La Closerie du Pic from Languedoc-Roussillon, France; third was Amapola Creek's Cuvee Alis from Sonoma County; and fourth was Margerum's M5 from Santa Barbara. The four favorite wines across the five host sites are:

Place	Wine & Winery	Year	Price	Description
1st	Secret Indulgence Emancipation St. Helena, CA	2015	\$29.99	Blend: 49% Grenache, 29% Syrah, 11% Petite Sirah, 11% Mourvèdre RP 92 Robert Parker's Wine Advocate; A blend mainly of Grenache and Syrah with some Petite Sirah, Mourvèdre and Mission coming mostly from Paso Robles and Mendocino.
2nd	Chateau Puech-Haut La Closerie du Pic Languedoc- Roussillon, France	2014	\$25.99	#48 wine in VinePair's Top 50 of 2018 RP 94 Robert Parker's Wine Advocate; Full-bodied, rounded and textured, with sweet tannin and a voluptuous, fruit-forward style.
3rd	Amapola Creek Cuvee Alis Sonoma, CA	2013	\$46.99	RP 92 Robert Parker's Wine Advocate 66% Grenache, 22% Mourvèdre and 12% Syrah; It is Provençal, deep, full-bodied, and a total lusty treat.
4th	Margerum M5 Santa Barbara, CA	2016	\$25.99	RP 90 Robert Parker's Wine Advocate 42% Grenache, 36% Syrah, 14% Mourvèdre, 4% Counoise and 4% Cinsault; Reminiscent of a good Côtes du Rhône, the 2016 M5 opens in the glass with aromas of smoky black cherry, blackberry, spice, cassis and dried flowers. On the palate, it's juicy, medium to full-bodied and supple, with a sweet core of dark fruit, good length and a youthfully primary finish.

In addition, attendees brought a delicious dish to share and then voted on a Chef of the Evening. The results of the Chef of the Evening at each host site are:



- Hosts Gisella & Gregory Brett: Tom Richey - Beef Stew
- Hosts Virginia & Karl Kawai: Eric Kalnes - "Amazing" dish
- Hosts Else & Don Phillips: Kim Meier - Italian Penne with Tomatoes, Kalamata Olives & Cheese

- Hosts Ronna & Craig Rowe: Scott Lewis - Smoked Tri-Tip

- Hosts Kim & Steven Rizzuto: Paula & Bob Becker - Cantaloupe Port Sorbet

NOTE: Three dishes tied on the initial ballot, including June & Vincent Porto's Lasagna and Carolyn & Phil Wallace's Cole-slaw.

The detail scores by site will be posted on the OCWS website. Congratulations to all the winners! A big *thank you* to all of the hosts! Please send your recipes to George Cravens at George@ocws.org for possible publication on the OCWS website.

- *George Cravens, Director*

The Wine Press is the official newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc. The newsletter is published monthly.

The Wine Press welcomes input from the OCWS membership.

Forward comments, questions, and suggestions to WinePress@ocws.org.

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OCWS Save the Date Calendar

June 1-2	Commercial Wine Competition
June 9	New Member Mixer
June 15	Home Wine Competition
June 23	Wine Education Seminar: Wines of the Rhône Valley
July 6	Gold Medal Mini-Tasting
July 6	The Courtyard Set Up
July 12 to August 11	OC Fair
August 12	The Courtyard Tear Down
September 6	Annual Business Meeting
September 15	Champagne Brunch at BLK



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