



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 46, Issue 11, November 2022

## President's Message

### Thankful for Paths Otherwise Gone Uncrossed

With the holidays fast approaching beginning with Thanksgiving this month, among my thoughts is just how grateful I am to be



a part of the Orange County Wine Society. I am so blessed to cross paths with

so many people that otherwise I would never have met. I have had the honor of knowing some of the founding members of the OCWS and to have been touched by their hearts and to know just how precious a gift their passions and foresight have given us to this day.

The ultimate gift of this organization was conceived by a small group of people who, for their love of wine, created the Wine Society. Beginning in 1976, a group of about sixteen like-minded people would meet the first Friday of each month in the back room of Brant's Wine Rack, a wine and beer supply store on Tustin Avenue in Orange, where the owner advised the group on winemaking. Soon friends wanted to sample the wines and the wine drinkers began to outnumber the winemakers. It was then that Brant Horton suggested getting a booth

at the OC Fair and offered his business as a sponsor. Horton proposed wine competitions to the OC Fair and, from there, the OC Fair Home Wine and Commercial Wine Competitions were born. At that time, the run of the fair was a grand total one week, finding the Home Wine Competition with forty-nine entries and the Commercial Wine Competition having a whopping three varieties to be judged. Certainly, a far cry from over 600 entries to the 2022 Home Wine Competition and over 2,500 entries in the 2022 Commercial Wine Competition.

With interest being generated from the OC Fair exposure, the original tasting group formed the Orange County Wine Society in late 1977 and was incorporated as a non-profit educational organization in 1978. We have called the OC Fairgrounds home since 1980.

Who could have imagined that what was started by a small band of wine lovers would evolve into a 1,000-member strong group today, having granted over \$740,000 to date in college scholarships? I thank those that came first for gifting us with their visions and commitments to their passions.

Wishing you a Thanksgiving with many blessings for which to be grateful and for the gift of passions that make your hearts happy.

Cheers!

- Fran Gitsham, President

### Upcoming Events:

- November 9—Sold Out**  
*Dine with Wine*
- November 13—Sold Out**  
*Bubbles 'n Brunch*
- November 18—Sold Out**  
*Dinner with Winemaker*
- December 3 ..... 3**  
*Holiday Dinner & Dance*
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*Mini-Tasting*

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## Photograph of the Month Winner



The September winner of the OCWS Photography contest is Sue England with her entry titled "Bridge to Heaven."

This was shot at Halter Ranch Vineyard in Paso Robles using a Canon 70D with a Sigma 17-70 mm lens.

Congratulations, Sue!

- Jim Burk, OCWS Photographer

## New Members Corner



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 October 2022 meeting: Araz Madenlian; Elizabeth & Vincent Ammann; Jennifer & Alan Vidal; David Iovannisci; Dorianne Roberts; Betty & Victor Jordan; Jeanne Flaherty; and David Price.

As of October, the OCWS has 1,064 members.

**New Members.** For new members trying to log into the website, go to [OCWS.org](http://OCWS.org). Your default login is the primary member's email address. The default password is the primary member's zip code. Both of these may be changed under the tab "My Account" once you log on. However, there may be only one login/password per membership.

- Rochelle Randel,  
OCWS Business Administrator

*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 Holiday Dinner & Dance—Uncork the Holidays!

**Saturday, December 3, 2022**

**6:30 pm – 11:30 pm**

**DoubleTree by Hilton**

**2932 Nutwood Avenue**

**Fullerton, CA**

**Are you ready for some end of the year fun?** If not, what's taking so long to pull that reservation cork? What a night it will be with all your favorite OCWS friends. December is a time we come together to dress up a bit, celebrate and create our final 2022 memories. Our memories will be filled with fun photos, great food, dancing and maybe a few surprises to end the evening. This gentle nudge reminder is being sent to make sure you don't miss this wonderful event. The 2022 OCWS Holiday Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, December 3 at the DoubleTree by Hilton on Nutwood Ave, near the 57 Freeway, in Fullerton.

We will begin the evening in the foyer with a sparkling wine reception and passed hors d'oeuvres. The festive treats will be bruschetta, pot stickers, stuffed mushrooms, shrimp shooters, and chicken empanadas. This will only whet your appetite for the delicious plated meal in the ballroom. This is where the true fun begins.

## **Dinner Menu**

### **Salad Course:**

Fresh Greens, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Croutons, and Dressing

### **Your Choice of Entrée:**

- ✓ Chicken Piccata – Breast of Chicken with Lemon Garlic Cream Sauce and Capers
- ✓ Petit Filet Mignon – Charbroiled Tenderloin of Beef, Finished with a Bearnaise Sauce
- ✓ Three Cheese Ravioli – Ravioli topped With a Tomato Cream Sauce

All entrees include Pesto Potatoes, Seasonal Steamed Vegetables, Rolls & Butter

### **Dessert:**

Assorted Chocolate Cakes & Chef's Choice Cakes

Coffee & Iced Tea Included



What would an OCWS event be without the wine? As to not disappoint, a variety of wines will be provided by the OCWS, but you are welcome to bring your own bottle to share (corkage is included in

the price).

There will be no sitting back after the meal is through. Warm those feet up because that's when the dancing will begin. There will be live music as dead music doesn't fit this bill. The band "Three 2 Sevens" is the headliner to keep us moving through the evening.

Don't miss this event as the night will be filled with holiday cheer and many of your OCWS friends to help "Uncork the Holidays"! Pictures are fun right? We will have our own photo booth area for you to take great photos of you and your OCWS friends in your holiday best!

This is the deal and one that will be hard to resist making those reservations for. The cost of this 4-course meal, wine, and live music is an amazing \$95 for members and their guests. Parking is FREE! The DoubleTree is also offering an unbelievable special room rate of \$149 per night!

Not only is it important for us to celebrate us it is so magical to be able to give as well. We will be collecting unwrapped toys and gifts for children to support the Fullerton Fire Department's "Spark of Love" drive which benefits needy children in Fullerton. Please consider bringing an unwrapped gift to donate to this worthy cause.



Don't miss this exciting event as we, "Uncork the Holidays!" As in the past, you will be able to reserve a table with your friends using the link provided on the OCWS website once you purchase your tickets.

The deadline for sign-ups is Sunday, November 22. This event often sells out and space is limited, so sign-up today!

**- Carolyn Christian, Event 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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2022 Wine Competition Results: [WineCompetition.com](http://WineCompetition.com)

OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor

OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

# Winemakers Newsroom

## Cheers to a Successful Grape Harvest

The Winemakers' Group grape purchases and deliveries may be finished for this year but our work continues. The grapes we just received are going through fermentation and will soon be pressed, racked and taken through all the steps needed to create this year's vintage. With patience and care the new wines will ultimately become wonderful beverages to enjoy and share with friends.



This year we purchased Merlot, Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes and Chardonnay juice from Solterra Winery and sourced from vineyards in the Dry Creek Valley AVA. We also purchased Barbera grapes from Lucas & Lewellan Vineyards in Santa Barbara County.

There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into our grape program. I want to thank OCWS winemaker, Bruce Powers, who organized and coordinated this year's successful purchase. He and fellow winemaker, Dave Wiegand, made numerous trips to pick up the Solterra grapes and juice. Bruce also allowed us to use his home as the distribution point for all grape deliveries. Thanks to Kevin Donnelly who made the trip to Santa Ynez to get the Lucas & Lewellan grapes.

Thanks also to the many others who assisted on grape delivery days with set up, unloading grapes, distribution and cleanup.

## OCWS Varietal Hours—Come Join the Fun!

The OCWS Varietal Hours have been holding the Varietal Hours for almost two years now! Each week we all learn something new about wine. Join us every other Monday at 7 pm for a virtual happy hour that you can enjoy from home via Zoom!

The Varietal Hour themes are listed below. Grab a wine that fits that theme from your cellar or venture out to your favorite wine store for something new! Each Varietal Hour, we discuss that week's theme and share what we like about the wine(s) we have chosen. This event is a great way to learn about wines you haven't tried before and see if someone shares a

Finally, thank you to our OCWS mentors who help newbies learn the skill and art of winemaking.

We will be celebrating our successful harvest and enjoying the fruits of our labors at some upcoming OCWS events. Look for our winemakers table at the rescheduled OCWS Chili Cookoff on Saturday, November 5, where we will be pouring our wines. Winemakers, we could use your help, either by donating some of your wines or by pouring at the event. Please contact me at [Ed@ocws.org](mailto:Ed@ocws.org) if you can help.



Our next quarterly potluck and meeting will be on Saturday, November 12. Sign up now on the OCWS website. Finally, don't miss our annual Winemakers' Holiday Party on Saturday, December 17 in Yorba Linda. Signups for this event will start in early November. Look for details on the OCWS website and in the weekly "Upcoming Events" email announcements.

**- Ed Reyes, for the Winemakers' Group**

wine that appeals to your wine palate. And the best part ... the event is FREE!

You will need to register on the OCWS website no later than the Sunday night before the event. A link for the meeting is emailed to you on the day of the event.

Please contact Carolyn at [Carolyn@ocws.org](mailto:Carolyn@ocws.org) or George Cravens at [George@ocws.org](mailto:George@ocws.org) with any questions or suggestions.

We look forward to Zooming with you soon at one of the future Varietal Hours! Cheers!

**- Carolyn Christian & George Cravens, Directors**

DATE	TIME	VARIETAL	Hosts
11/7/2022	7:00 PM	Italian Varietal Wines	Cheryl & Ken Knapp
11/21/2022	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Wines	Stuart & Nancy Fricke
12/5/2022	7:00 PM	Southern Hemisphere Wines	George Cravens
12/19/2022	7:00 PM	Holiday Wines	Damian & Carolyn Christian

## Search for Newsletter Editor



The Board of Directors regretfully announces that our *Wine Press* Editor-in-Chief, Linda Miha-lik, is stepping down. Linda has served as our Editor for over five years. Linda especially

enjoyed inserting visual images to draw the reader into an article. We will miss her sense of humor and interaction, and thank her and wish her well in all her endeavors.

As you know, our newsletter is the hub for information about what is going on in the Wine Society. It is distributed to all our members monthly online so that members are kept abreast of the events and activities planned for their participation and enjoyment.

Would you like to be on the cutting edge of what is happening in the Wine Society before anyone else? We are looking for a member to be the new Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of *The*

*Wine Press*. Articles are written each month by the Board of Directors, chairpersons, or other members contributing a wine-related article of interest to our members. The articles might require some editing, and insertion into the newsletter. In a nutshell, if you have a skill set that includes a good command of the English language, the ability to rewrite and edit for grammatical and punctuation errors, and have some experience with Microsoft Publishing software, we would like to hear from you.

Additional skills would include having a keen eye for layout and design, color, balance, and visual appeal as well as taking personal pride in producing a monthly document for our members and for the public viewing our website to see!

The ideal candidate would begin their position November or December 2022. Linda has graciously offered to provide the new candidate with some training as to current processes.

If you have these skills and would like to be considered for this position, please contact Fran Gitsham at [Fran@ocws.org](mailto:Fran@ocws.org) or Carolyn Christian at [Carolyn@ocws.org](mailto:Carolyn@ocws.org) for further information.

## Holiday Wines & Comfort Foods Mini-Tasting

**Saturday, December 10, 2022**

**6 pm—9 pm**

**Various Host Sites**

With the holiday season fast approaching, there will be ample opportunities to enjoy wines that complement comfort food often enjoyed over the holidays. The December Mini-Tasting will feature a range of Red wines that pair well with these foods. The guests will rate the wines tasted blind in pairs, and then discuss their ratings. Overall ratings from each site will be published in the wrap-up article.

This Mini-Tasting will feature somewhat higher-end wines, so the cost has increased by \$5 to cover the costs.

**Hosts:** Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. If you would like to host this event, please e-mail George Cravens at [George@ocws.org](mailto:George@ocws.org) or call him at 949-510-5318. You may 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 \$35 for members and \$40 for guests.

**Mini Overview:** Each person/couple attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) **ready to serve** a small portion to 16 people. The dish ideally should be designed to match the theme of the tasting. **Please coordinate your food selection with your host site to assure an appropriate balance of food types served during the evening.** The attendees will vote on Chef of the Evening, and a special bottle of wine will be awarded to the winner of the vote. Our winning Chefs of the Evening can have their recipe published on the OCWS website. **Please plan on arriving promptly at 6 pm so the event can get started on time. You are invited to bring your own wine glasses for tasting, keep in mind the wines are served in flights of two.**

We are planning a maximum of seven sites for this mini-tasting, so the limit is 98 attendees (plus hosts). Due to the high popularity of 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, November 21. After this date, or if the website says no tickets are available, please contact the OCWS office to be added to the waiting list. If the event fills up quickly, we will look into adding additional sites and expanding the number of available tickets. The cancellation deadline is Monday, November 28 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 Appétit, George Cravens**

## OCWS Photography Contest



The OCWS has started a photography contest and you are invited to participate! As you might have guessed, the subject is "Wine," but this can mean many things to many people. Do you have a

great shot of the sun filtering through the vines just before picking? Or an action shot of wine being poured with some great swirls in the glass? Or a romantic shot of a couple toasting each other with some wine? These are just a couple ideas, and I am sure you have many more ideas of that great shot involving wine in some way.

Each month the Photography Committee will select a "Photo of the Month" for publication in an upcoming *Wine Press* as well as on the OCWS website. The ultimate goal is to publish an OCWS Calendar, consisting of the 12 best photos of the year. These may or may not be the 12 monthly winners.

The rules are simple:

1. Entrants must be OCWS members in good standing and the submitted photo must have been photographed by the OCWS member when he/she was an active member.

2. The photo must be somehow wine oriented. It may be of a winery, a vineyard, the winemaking process, the finished product or simply the consumption. But don't limit yourself to these ideas!
3. The photo may be submitted to the photography committee anytime but will be considered only for the month it was submitted. There is a limit of five (5) submissions per month.
4. Upon submission, the photo becomes the property of the OCWS, so before you submit it make sure it is your property. Please get permission from any people in the photo to use for OCWS marketing purposes.
5. The photo may be submitted in any either JPEG, RAW, TIFF, or Photoshop format. Any size is acceptable, but is preferred to be at least 3000x2400 pixels, which is an 8x10 shot at 300 dpi for printing.

To submit a picture attach it in an email to [Jim@JBurk.net](mailto:Jim@JBurk.net). Be sure to include your name, phone number, picture location and picture title.

If you have any questions contact Jim Burk at [Jim@JBurk.net](mailto:Jim@JBurk.net), OCWS photographer and head of the OCWS photography committee.

- Jim Burk, OCWS Photographer

## OCWS Save the Date Calendar

November 5	Chili Cookoff (rescheduled from October 1)
November 9	Dine with Wine— <b>Sold Out</b>
November 12	Winemakers' Group Quarterly Meeting & Potluck, Location TBA
November 13	Bubbles 'n Brunch— <b>Sold Out</b>
November 18	Intimate Dinner with a Winemaker— <b>Sold Out</b>
December 3	OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance
December 10	Mini-Tasting Holiday Wines & Comfort Foods
December 17	Winemakers' Group Holiday Potluck
January 13, 2023	2023 Double Gold Winery Program—Jeff Runquist Wines
January 29, 2023	Bubbles 'n Brunch

Varietal Hour:

November 7	Italian Varietal Wines
November 21	Thanksgiving Wines
December 5	Southern Hemisphere Wines
December 19	Holiday Wines



[www.ocws.org](http://www.ocws.org)

