

# Orangewood Wines

*Small Wineries, Great Wines*

Volume 5, Issue 10

November 22, 2015

## Introduction

Thanksgiving is upon us and Christmas is not far behind. I wish you the best for both, and for the typically frantic time in between. If I can get this newsletter out quickly, I can include advice for your Thanksgiving wine planning. My suggestion to reduce the Christmas gift dilemmas: give wine. What's the worst that can happen? You get to drink some of it. Give a wine you like with a story you can tell; you will add enjoyment to the recipient and his or her drinking companions.

My ramble this month is a soul searching one about writing itself. Good for post-prandial consumption on Thanksgiving Day or for consignment to the virtual trash can on receipt.

## Topic of the Month - Thanksgiving

With Thanksgiving upon us, I thought I could help those of you with oenological anxiety about what wine to have available. The basic dinner is turkey with cranberries in some form, together with trimmings, followed by pumpkin pie. How hard can this be? It is not hard at all. You can drink whatever works for you - all you need is a rationale for your choices. Here is what I might pick and the b.s. I will serve up should anyone ask why I picked that wine.

Before dinner: bubbles. As for all the choices, only have wine that you will enjoy drinking. As you make your selection remember the basic rule: the more people involved, the lower the price of the wine. Do not waste your favourite sparkler on folk who would rather be drinking margaritas. There are lots of sparkling wines to choose from. Ask your wine supplier for recommendations.

The main course: Turkey is a somewhat bland meat, but nicely cooked it can be juicy and tasty. Wines that complement it will be less dominant wines. If you want to accent its buttery-ness, pick a creamy/buttery

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### New Customers

#### [Blendz](#)

21 East Aspen Avenue  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
(928) 779-6445

#### [Craft 64](#)

6922 East Main Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
(480) 946-0542

#### [Crust](#)

10 North San Marcos Place  
Chandler, AZ 85225  
(480) 917-4903

#### [Dominick's](#)

15169 North Scottsdale Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254  
(480) 272-7271

#### [Rosa's Pizzeria](#)

330 West Gurley Street  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
(928) 445-7400

#### [Roy's Corner](#)

647 South 6th Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 623-4824

#### [Speakeasy on Easy Street](#)

100 Easy Street, Suite 2  
Carefree, Arizona 85377  
(480)584-750

#### [Sun City Café](#)

Chardonnay. If you want to complement the cranberry accompaniment, pick a Pinot Noir. It will be nicely balanced with the turkey, not dominating it or being dominated by it. If you haven't tried a Riesling recently, and think it's as sweet as the ones from your youth, think again. Rieslings are delicate, aromatic and appropriate pairings if Chardonnay and Pinot Noir don't work for you. If you don't care much about turkey, pick a big bold red. The turkey flavors will disappear into the background and the wine can be enjoyed without being hindered by some pesky notions about pairing. If the cook is going to use lots of pepper and spice and all things nice to cook the bird, you will need to counter with a spicy Zinfandel.

For dessert: that Zinfandel will work well with the pumpkin pie. Choose Chardonnay or bubbles if you avoid pumpkin in favour of lemon meringue pie. Again, why are you drinking this wine? Because you like it!

Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

## Rambling

I started rereading the third volume of the George Smiley trilogy, *Smiley's People*, after I climbed into bed the other night. After a page of reading about the pain in the character's rump and how she rubbed it with her arthritic fingers, I still had no clue what was happening. This is the start of a long ride written by John le Carré. It will take a while. Fortunately, having read this before, I can enjoy the ride rather than feeling compelled to reach the destination. I also read parts of the New Yorker magazine. I started reading this magazine back in the day when airplanes had lots of magazines in overhead compartments near the front and back of the plane. I would grab a handful and work my way through them. The New Yorker was different from other magazines. I would first leaf through to see the cartoons, then I would leaf through to find the little fillers at the end of articles with titles like "Constabulary Notes from all over" or "Block that Metaphor". They don't have so many of those these days. Then I would turn to Business Week or Fortune to get the latest insights of how a company should run from people who have never run one. Later, and I mean a few journeys later, I would try reading the New Yorker articles. They usually have a John Le Carré style of wandering along for page after page (good for longer plane rides) before coming to a conclusion or not. What I have never read are the poems. For me they are spaces that should have cartoons in them (sorry Sylvia). I think I must have been cured of poetry in Grammar

1555 East Rancho Vistoso  
Boulevard  
Oro Valley, AZ 85755  
(520) 825-3277

### Tap & Bottle

403 North 6th Avenue  
Suite 135  
Tucson, AZ 85705  
(520) 344-8999

### Vinum 55

15220 North 78th Way  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(602) 781-3820

### **New Driver - Scott Hughes**

As we continue to grow, my delivery crew has been stretched and stretched. My normal method for finding additional drivers is to ask the existing ones or the sales team. People on the team have a stake in having good people join. This time our new driver is the husband of someone who's boss is the husband of a high school friend of my daughter. Scott Hughes has the customer service gene and work ethic we need. I thank all of those in the chain who made this possible.

School (translation: High School) when we had to memorize poems. I was not too interested in rote memorization so I had to write the poems out three times as punishment. Not that I don't like poetry at all. "Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker" is the height of brevity. Ogden Nash is probably my favourite (translation favorite). I occasionally contemplate writing poems of this form. I gaze out of the window and try to think of seven words that might form a poem. Hmm! Nothing is coming to mind.

In the mornings Laurie and I get up and do our morning stretches (a Sudoku puzzle and the Economist's Espresso news), have a cup of coffee, feed the horses and shovel the food byproducts. Then we head out with Dizzi, our black Labrador for our morning constitutional. I jam on a baseball cap to hide my bed hair and stuff a couple of plastic bags in my pocket to collect any Dizzi food byproducts. If it has not rained in a while, we tramp through some of the little washes that run through our neighborhood. The washes must absorb some of the rains that rush through them because this is where Palo Verde and Ironwood trees grow together with a lot of hackberry bushes. It was on one of these walks that I slammed my head into a Palo Verde branch, fortunately without injury due to the baseball cap. Aha! I have a topic for an Ogden Nash type poem! My starting attempt was: "Baseball caps protect you from things that you would have seen if you weren't wearing a baseball cap". A year later I have trimmed this down to: "Baseball caps: They protect from things they obscure." The New Yorker should not be awaiting my submission.

The Rambler composes on...

Cheers,

Richard (newsletter writer) and Laurie (editor)  
Orangewood Wines

Orangewood Wines | 480-488-4794 | [richard@orangewoodwines.com](mailto:richard@orangewoodwines.com) |  
<http://www.orangewoodwines.com>  
5075 E New River Rd  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331