

# Orangewood Wines

*Small Wineries, Great Wines*

Volume 5, Issue 11

December 28, 2015

## Introduction

We hope that you all had a Merry Christmas and that you are well prepared for the New Year's parties ahead. If you are only just recovering from your Christmas excesses, we have some party suggestions for you in Topic of the Month.

As usual, we thank all those who sent us cards and apologise for not sending any ourselves. Our best wishes to you for the New Year.

## Topic of the Month - Holiday Party Drinking

The party season can turn into an alcoholic blur and if that is your preference, that's fine. For those who would prefer to avoid such an outcome for themselves and their guests, I have a few suggestions.

1. *Don't over serve your guests.* As the host of a party, welcome your guests by offering them a beverage of their choice. Pour them a small amount of wine (3 - 4 ounces) and let them know they will need to pour any subsequent drinks themselves. This relieves you of the need to hover around keeping everyone's glass filled and allows the guests to drink as much, or as little, as they choose. I have made this our standard operating procedure for the Orangewood party, and I think it has worked well.

2. *Know how much you are pouring.* A pet peeve of mine is the amount of wine poured into a wine glass. Some glasses have a capacity of 24 ounces - nearly a whole bottle of wine. Pouring in 4 to 5 ounces looks like hardly any wine at all, so I see pours of 8 ounces - a third of a bottle! It would be worth taking the time to calibrate your everyday wine glasses so you know what a standard pour look like. I think of a standard pour as being 4 - 6 ounces, depending on whether you want 6 or 4 glasses per bottle. A bottle being 750 millilitres or 25.4 ounces, you can do the math.

3. *Understand the effects on yourself.* When Laurie and I started distributing wine 15 years ago, one of our first purchases was a breathalyzer. It was the size of a cell

### In This Issue

[Introduction](#)  
[Holiday Party Drinking](#)  
[Rambling](#)

### New Customers

#### [Arrowhead Country Club](#)

19888 North 73rd Avenue  
Glendale, AZ 85308  
(623) 561-9600

#### [Hacienda del Sol](#)

5501 North Hacienda Del Sol Road  
Tucson, Arizona, 85718  
(520) 299-1501

#### [Nick's at Frank Lloyd Wright](#)

13910 North Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(480) 314-9445

#### [Renee's Organic Oven](#)

7065 East Tanque Verde Road  
Tucson, AZ 85715  
(520) 886-0484

#### [Tap & Bottle](#)

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

#### [Vinum 55](#)

15220 North 78th Way  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(602) 883-4905

phone and cost \$100 at Sharper Image. Now you can get them at Costco for \$20, small enough to have on your key chain. What we did was to explore our blood alcohol levels. We had a drink, blew into the machine, waited 20 minutes, blew into it again, had another drink, blew, waited... We got a sense of what a drink did to our blood alcohol and how long it took for it to dissipate. In broad terms, we can have one drink an hour forever without reaching any legal limits. As part of this experimentation I found that if I got the blood in my alcohol stream down to 99.96% (0.04% if you prefer alcohol in your bloodstream) then I knew there was an effect on me and I stopped drinking for a while. What was frightening, however, is if I ignored that warning at half the legal limit, my judgment regarding whether I was impaired diminished, and I found myself having another drink, when really I should have waited. It's probably a little late to get personally calibrated for New Year's Eve, but it is not too late to grab a breathalyzer and make sure you know how to use it.

## Rambling

It is the gap between Christmas and New Year so, traditionally, a time to reflect on the year almost past and have some thoughts about the year almost upon us. For Orangewood, 2015 has been one of modest growth. After the gangbuster growth of 2013 and 2014 this was a relief - it allowed us to catch our breath, strengthen our team and execute a little better. We plan some innovation in 2016 and hope for modest growth once again. Personally, we are happy to report no new medical issues but sad to report that Dizzi succumbed to cancer just before Christmas.

On a more general front, I think the era of political correctness has gone too far. It's time to push back. The nature of political correctness makes this difficult, so I am exploring wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, as this is my "native" wish, and hope that you are not offended by me expressing my feelings that way. I will reciprocate by not being offended if you greet me with your preferred holiday exhortation. As Dave Allen (an Irish comedian) used to sign off, "Good night, thank you and may your God go with you."

The Rambler rambles on...

Cheers,

Richard (newsletter writer) and Laurie (editor)

Orangewood Wines

Copyright © 2015. All Rights Reserved.