

Orangewood Wines

Small Wineries, Great Wines

Volume 5, Issue 13

March 20, 2016

Introduction

I try to write a newsletter every month, but allow myself to skip a month from time to time. Clearly, February was one of those months. Now I have to put one together before March runs out and you all wonder what kind of excuse I will have for missing two consecutive months. As we are progressing through March I first thought about whether to target Mario Day (Mar 10), but that came and went. Then I thought of Pi Day (3/14) or the Ides of March (3/15), but I missed them too. Then the day before St Patrick's Day, St Patrick's Day (3/17) and the day after St Patrick's Day. The following day would be uninteresting, but being the first uninteresting day makes it interesting. So finally this is coming out on Newsletter Publishing Day. The next, otherwise uninteresting, date in March.

Black Glass Tasting - Revisited

Last August I wrote about the notion of tasting wine in a black glass. We had read an article that suggested that without being able to see the colour of the wine, experts did no better than a coin toss in deciding whether the wine was red or white. Always up for a challenge, we bought a \$70 Riedel glass and began our meetings with a taste of something we could not see. In the back of my mind I thought there are characteristics of red and white wines that are generally good indicators. We started with single varietals that were in our portfolio, relaxed it later to allow single varietals not in our portfolio, and finally relaxed the single varietal rule to include blends.

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New Customers

[Arcadia Premium](#)

5618 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85018
(602) 464-9000

[Beverage House](#)

857 East White Mountain
Boulevard
Pinetop, AZ 85935
(928) 367-9009

[Commoner & Co.](#)

6960 East Sunrise Drive
Tucson, AZ 85750
(520) 257-1177

[CoR Tapas & Wine](#)

4500 North 12th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85014
(602) 264-8471

D'Vino

(behind Soldi Back Alley Bistro)

111 Grove Avenue
Prescott, AZ 85301
(928) 777-0444

[Desert Botanical Gardens](#)

1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(480) 941-1225

[The Horseshoe Grill](#)

7713 East Broadway
Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85710

[Tucson Hop Shop](#)

The sales team did an outstanding job of identifying "red or white". While we had some dissenters from time to time, overall we batted 100%. I am sure there may be confusing varietals that would have stumped us, but in the 8 months we tried this I did not find one.

What we did find was that silently sniffing the wine and tasting the wine gave us all a focus, a concentration on the characteristics of the wine. This was a good experiment and one we will continue without the black glass. Trying to identify varietal and origin without seeing the bottle.



3230 North Dodge Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 908-7765

[We Olive](#)

1721 North Dysart Road
Avondale, AZ 85392
(623) 207-1216

Rambling

It has been a hectic couple of months to start 2016. We rescued a Black Labrador retriever called Lucy. Lucy is still learning that chollas are not her friend. We spent 10 minutes of our walk this morning pulling cholla thorns out of her paws and mouth.

We have also just got past the local NPR affiliate's annual wine dinner and auction fund raiser. We had five people from wineries visiting for the event. Thank you to Hiatus Cellars, Avennia Wines, Croze, Tres Sabores and Curious Cork Imports for their attendance and to Frank Family for their support. This is my time to put on a tux - once a year is my limit.

We have also been helping Laurie's parents, Iggy and Audrey, settle into their new independent living home. As the house is 2/3 the size of where they were living, they have been working to down size the accumulation of stuff collected during 68 years of marriage. A traumatic activity indeed.

I was presenting to the AJ's Cellar Masters last week and found myself telling an old Spike Milligan joke. The one that explains that in the UK a single yellow line by the kerb means no parking at all, so a double yellow line means no parking at all at all. This to explain why one of the Tuscan Sun wines is called "Tondo Tondo". It's perfect, just perfect.

The Rambler rambles on...

Cheers,

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

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

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