

Orangewood Wines

Small Wineries, Great Wines

Volume 5, Issue 15

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Introduction

Triple digit temperatures have arrived in Arizona. Fortunately, these are Fahrenheit, not Centigrade or Celsius, degrees. Lucy, our black Lab, forgoes her afternoon walk for jumping in the swimming pool in pursuit of a tennis ball. Laurie and I throw the ball and savour a cool drink. Those who choose to live somewhere else for the summer are gone from the Valley of the Sun, leaving the roads less busy; and once school is out, less busy still. This, together with air conditioning, is one of the joys of summer in The Valley.

New Winery - Kerr Cellars

Cristie Kerr is a very successful professional golfer - she's in the top 20 according to Rolex. In 2009, working with the owner and winemaker at Pride Mountain, she started having wine made under the name "Curvature" (the pun was intentional). All the proceeds went to breast cancer research. Having got a taste for the wine business, she decided to take the next step of being a winery owner. Her winery is Kerr Cellars. She has recruited Helen Keplinger as her winemaker. Their first wines are being released, with Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir and a Reserve Red Blend being first out of the barrel.

In 2013 Orangewood began distributing Curvature Wines and now we are adding Kerr Cellars to the portfolio.

New Winery - Salvestrin Winery

In early 1932 John and Emma Salvestrin bought some land in St Helena - the heart of Napa Valley. Following repeal of prohibition in 1933, they began selling grapes to wineries. They and their son, Ed, continued to grow grapes through to 1987 when grandson Rich began making wine from some of the grapes they grew. Rich and his wife, Shannon, continue to run the vineyards and winery. Their three daughters have grown up there

In This Issue

[Introduction](#)
[New Winery - Kerr Cellars](#)
[New Winery - Salvestrin Winery](#)
[Topic of the Month - Happiness](#)
[Rambling](#)

New Customers

[George & Son's Asian Cuisine](#)

11291 East Via Linda
Scottsdale, AZ 85259
(480) 661-6336

[Pacino's](#)

2831 North Power Road
Mesa, AZ 85215
(480) 985-0114

[Zinc Bistro](#)

15034 North Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
(480) 603-0922

and are beginning to support this four generation enterprise. They recently hired my friend Scott Lloyd as General Manager. Their flagship wine is an Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2013 is about to be released. We are ready to supply it. They also have a Sauvignon Blanc made from grapes sourced from their LeBlanc Crystal Springs Vineyard in St Helena - a true Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc which pairs well with Newsletter writing on a sunny day in Arizona.

Topic of the Month - Happiness

I get newsletters with links to beverage related news articles every day. Some of them are newsy, some are to blogs, and some are more profound. The University of Kent in England started with the thought that while there are lots of studies on the detrimental effects of alcohol (liver disease, drunken driving, etcetera, etcetera) there was nothing about the positive effects. They glommed onto some data being collected by an iPhone app implemented by the London School of Economics called "Mappiness". In the interests of this Newsletter I downloaded the app. The app collects data from over 30,000 other people who run it. It allows the user to record their happiness and to say what they are doing at the time. For example, I just told it that I was happy and only slightly stressed while working by myself. Yesterday I was able to report that I was at home with my spouse, preparing food and drinking a glass of wine. Actually, they don't care what you are drinking. As well as me choosing to report, the app will interrupt you at random times during the day (you pick how many random times a day) at which point you can let them know that how happy you are that they interrupted your cooking, lovemaking, drinking. "Excuse me honey, I need to tell the LSE how happy I am." They have millions of samples from their 30,000 users. Climbing through this information, the U of K established that people were happier doing whatever they were doing if they also were drinking. Waterskiing - happy; waterskiing with a beer - happier. While that is not surprising to me, or probably to you, it is something that has not been studied and therefore not accounted for by policy wonks. Just think, your doctor may prescribe alcohol for those with a mild case of the blues.

Rambling

Last month's topic was about Active Drinking, which started with my introducing a notion of Active Driving. My friend Rob quickly pointed out that I was really talking about Defensive Driving which has been

around as a concept and a training opportunity for a long time. He is absolutely right - however I could not stretch my poetic license to talk about Defensive Drinking. Thanks for the feedback Rob.

Greg Graziano sends us his [newsletter](#) from time to time, sometimes with wine samples. The newsletter is always interesting and generally has a recipe generated by Greg's wife Trudy. Laurie and I took our best shot at her latest recipe, Chicken Kiev, last night. This particular recipe was more of a challenge than we are typically up for. We usually have to chop lots of ingredients and then throw them in a frying pan at specific times and temperatures until done. This time we had a mixture of chopped stuff mixed into warm butter that had to be wrapped in chicken breasts, moistened with egg and covered in breadcrumbs. There was no mention of sewing machines but there must be something to hold this together. Toothpicks was our answer. Our other answer, because we are trying to be low carb in our eating, was to grind up almonds instead of breadcrumbs. The recipe called for two cups - so logically we started with 2 cups of almonds, which after 30 seconds in the food processor turned into 4 cups of almond grits. I thought the conservation of mass would have a problem with this, but we didn't and have two cups of grits left over. The overall result was tasty - thanks Trudy. It was fun and did involve alcohol but not waterskiing and LSE knows all about it. (See previous section.)

The Rambler rambles happily on...

Cheers,

Richard (newsletter writer) and Laurie (editor)
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