

Orangethewood Wines

Small Wineries, Great Wines

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Introduction

Last month I noted that it was officially fall. Since then there have been some reasons to doubt the official timing. First, astronomically, I noted that the length of the days was not quite equal (based on my weather app) for a few days after it was supposed to be the official equinox. Second, faunalogically, it took a few more days before the toads disappeared from our pool and the owls started hooting from nearby trees at dawn. Third, meteorologically, the weather has not cooled enough for us to have our windows open at night consistently. Finally, the snowbirds (Arizona Winter-only residents) have only trickled back. (Marty, Frank, Ed and Ginny where are you?) It really is time to mail off those early ballots and start drinking again. Maybe not in that order.

Topic of the Month - The Carafe

Every Monday we have a staff meeting. Beginning last year we started the meeting with a "Black Glass" tasting. This continued until I broke the glass - the \$80 Riedel glass is very fragile. We had, by this time, established that the team could consistently tell whether the wine was red or white, so we decided to evolve to "Carafe" tasting. This is where I hide somewhere, open a bottle of wine pour it into a carafe then everyone gets to sample it and form conclusions. I think it's white! No, the focus is on identifying the varietal, origin and producer. Originally I stayed with single varietals (no blends) that were in our portfolio. Later I relaxed the single varietal constraint and, more recently, the requirement that it be in our portfolio. This is tough. Sangiovese or Pinot Noir, Old World or New World. You can try this at home - provided there are more than one of you!

As one of our team said, the secret of a successful sommelier is never to get involved in a blind tasting. So why do we do this? To keep ourselves humble.

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New Customers

[Elvira's](#)

2221 East Frontage Road
Building A
Tubac, AZ 85646
(520) 398-9421

[Las Sendas](#)

7555 East Eagle Crest Drive
Mesa, AZ 85207
(480) 396-4000

[Whistle Stop Depot](#)

127 West 5th Street
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 882-4969

Rambling

M*A*S*H. One of my favorite movies based on one of my favorite books that also spawned a very successful TV series. Why am I telling you what you already know? (He said rhetorically.) Because M*A*S*H is so well known, I often use it to describe one of the Orangewood philosophies. If you think back to Hawkeye and friends, they had lots of fun and did all kinds of non-military things. Colonel Blake put up with it all because when they got into the operating theatre - such as it was - they were the best surgeons doing the best job they could. I often say that if you can't have fun in the wine business, what on earth are you doing here? At Orangewood we enjoy our work - but understand that this is also a real and growing business. So, whether you work for Orangewood, buy from Orangewood, sell to Orangewood or help us with the process, let's have fun.

The Rambler rambles on...

Cheers,

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

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