

# Orangewood Wines

*Small Wineries, Great Wines*

Volume 6 Issue 12 - - - February 24, 2019

## Introduction

I have been rather pleased with the number of people who read this newsletter (Constant Contact gives me percentages). I figured that people would read it as an alternative to watching a boring football game, or maybe while the advertisements were on. Now that the football season is over, I will be watching my percentages more closely.

Last month I talked about the KJZZ First Press Arizona event. That was two weeks ago. The next day most of our winery people who attended were at Uncorked (our favorite Unpretentious wine bar) to present to our sales staff and customers. We think of it as a mini-trade tasting.

## New Winery: Zinke Wine Company

Michael Zinke grew up on a farm in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and attended Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Pasadena, California. Only then did he pursue making wine. As such, his training in the art of food flavors makes him one of several people who have transitioned from food "design". I think this background leads to more balanced wine making.

After transitioning to the wine industry, Michael started the Zinke Wine Company in 2012. He lives in Santa Ynez Valley, which is 100 or so miles WNW of Los Angeles, close to Los Olivos, Solvang and Buellton (for those of you who saw the movie "Sideways"). His initial focus on Syrah has expanded to other Rhône varietals, including Grenache and a white blend of Viognier, Roussanne, Marsanne and Grenache Blanc. Michael was in town this week to introduce the team to his wines and to visit some customers. He promises to be back next month.

## Fête de Saint Vincent

It's 5:15 a.m. in a Charles de Gaulle airport hotel. The fire alarm is making a terrible noise and a voice is telling Laurie and me, in French and English, to exit the hotel immediately. This was the start of 24 hours of travel back to sunny Phoenix, Arizona, from snowy Paris, France.

We represent Champagne Tribaut-Schloesser in Arizona. They invited us to be part of the Festival of Saint Vincent in Romery, their village in the Champagne region. We had traveled to Paris the previous week, meeting up

with Jack Jelenko (Partners Wine) and Bob and Suzie (Veraison Beverage Distributors, the Tribaut distributor in Colorado). Our rendezvous was in the Sheraton bar at Charles de Gaulle airport, where we started the week with a bottle of Brut Rosé Champagne for breakfast. We traveled by train and rental car to Romery, parking at the Tribaut office. We were welcomed by Valentin Tribaut with...surprise...a glass of Champagne! Tribaut is a family-owned champagne house. We met many of the family: Valentin, Sebastien, Jean-Marie, Jean and their wives and girl friends, over the next few days. They hosted us, and other sales and distribution agents from around the world for the next four days. We ate at their houses and participated in their ceremonies. One ceremony was the changing of the Batonnier for Romery. Sebastien Tribaut is now the Batonnier for the next year. This involved marching in a procession around Romery in the cold and snow. Fortunately the total loop was 1/4 mile. It's a small village. Following that was the consumption of Champagne and Brioche and the appointment of new members of the Confrerie du Brunet Tablier Blanche. (I am now a new proud member with a crisp white apron.)

I don't know what Saint Vincent did to become patron saint of vigneron and thus feted across France by the wine growing industry. Perhaps it's because his name begins with "Vin", French for "wine". Whatever it is, it was a big deal in Romery. January 22nd started with hot spiced wine and a larger procession around Romery, following batonniers and a band around the route; continued with a church service and blessing of the wines, grapes and bread; and finished with lunch, music, dancing and other festivities, that went on from midday to 7:00 p.m. Then dinner was served...

After all the eating and drinking, the fire alarm was a minor inconvenience. We arrived home safely and opened a bottle of Champagne.

## Rambling

Sometimes I get to the end of the newsletter and feel that I have already been rambling a lot. This would be one of those times!

The Rambler rambles on...

Cheers,

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