

Orangewood Wines

Small Wineries, Great Wines

Volume 6 Issue 31 - - - November 15, 2020

Introduction

Last month I was bemoaning the reluctance of summer to capitulate. Last week I was scrambling to find sweaters, gloves - even long pants. Instead of a few weeks to air out the house between air conditioning season and heating season, we are trying hard to keep any residual summer warmth in the tile floors.

The fires in California have abated. For those looking to support the hardest hit, the recommendation is to buy their wine. I'll drink to that.

This month Leslie asked me to write about aging wine.

Aging Wine

Portfolio Notes - by Richard Corles

When I was at a tasting the other day, a question to the winemaker was "how long can this wine be laid down?" This is a good question. In general, the quick answer these days is that winemakers strive to have their wines ready to drink once they are released for sale. If you can buy it, you can drink it. Behind the question, however, is the notion that wine will improve with age. For some wines this is true. Over time flavors evolve, harsh tannins soften and bracing acid mellows. So, there may be a reason to age some wines. There are collectors who buy cases of age-worthy wine, put them into a large cellar and wait. This is a fine idea, but it is also a drinking problem. When are the wines in those cases going to be drunk? A plan is needed. One way would be to store the wine for 10 years and then drink it all that year. If 10 years is the time for the wine to reach its peak, that's great. I recommend the approach of taking a bottle each year, drinking it, taking notes, waiting another year and repeating. This is kind of like nursing a glass of wine over an hour or two to see how it changes. What wines are age worthy? Hopefully, you have cultivated a good relationship with your local wine store, and they can help.

The Rambler

In mid summer the sun rises due east. Due east of us is Black Mountain, which is about 1200 feet higher than where we live. It blocks the sun in the morning, which is a good thing in mid summer. We go out to "service" the horses as soon as it gets light. As the year progresses, the sun rises further and further south, so that it appears to us to rise over the south slope of Black Mountain. The time from sunrise to the sun actually appearing gets shorter and shorter. Right now when the sun rises, there it is. I am thinking of tracking this with rocks along our back wall. Perhaps some arches to sight through. Maybe there is a henge in my future!

Two days ago, before sunrise, there was a sliver of the old moon that had been the Blue Moon of Halloween nearly two weeks earlier. I had hoped that yesterday it would be an even smaller sliver, but there was nothing. A month ago, I caught a fleeting glimpse, out of the corner of my eye. I turned to look, but it was gone.*

The Rambler rambles on...

Cheers,

Richard and Laurie
Orangewood Wines

* The Dark Side of the Moon

Copyright © 2020. All Rights Reserved.