

Orangewood Wines

Small Wineries, Great Wines

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Introduction

We are having a more traditional Arizona summer this year. Most of the snowbirds have gone to cooler climates, taking their wine dollars with them. The monsoon season is now underway - it is no longer a dry heat. We have even had some rain, a relief after last year's "nonsoon".

This month, Leslie explains a re-emerging wine category, orange wine; wines sought after by the young and young at heart.

Shades of Orange: Skin Contact White Wines

Portfolio Notes - by Leslie Zellmer

If you haven't heard about orange wines yet, you will. Wine lovers have been clamoring to get their hands on them. There is even a shop in New York City that is devoted to stocking only orange wines.

So, what is it? Here is my attempt at a simple explanation of the category that has proven difficult to keep in stock.

When making red wine, a winemaker leaves the grape skins in contact with the juice for long periods of time, perhaps weeks. From the skins the winemaker is extracting the color, tannins and some of the flavor compounds. They could choose to leave the skins on the juice for much shorter lengths of time, perhaps hours or days. I'd bet most of you have tried that style; that would be rosé. When white wine is made traditionally, the skins have minimal contact with the juice to ensure they don't put tannins, color or any bitter flavors into the wine. However, if white wine is made like red wine, you get a completely different wine: hello, orange wine. White grapes are not necessarily white. Their skins vary in shade from green to gold to pink to rust. Therefore, not all orange wines are orange. This style is also known as "skin contact white wine", "white wine with maceration", "amber wine", etc. It is not a new category of wine, but an ancient Georgian winemaking technique. These wines are made all over the world from all

sorts of varietals. With the use of oak or amphora or neither, these can be as diverse as any red or white wine. They can even be sparkling.

We are fortunate to have some of these fun and delicious wines in our portfolio.

Longavi's Glup project is a collaboration between Julio Bouchon, Chilean winemaker, and South African winemaker, David Nieuwoudt. They make a skin-contact Chenin Blanc and Naranjo (orange in Spanish) a Moscatel fermented and aged in clay amphora.

Stay tuned, we have another orange wine on its way!

The Rambler

When I first moved to the United States from England, one of my challenges was to figure out which side of the car to get in. In England cars have the steering wheel on the right. To start with, I found myself sitting in the passenger seat feeling foolish. It was OK, I meant to do that - ahem. When traveling with someone else, I found another difference in culture. In England cars were small. The etiquette was that the driver would climb in and reach across the car to unlock the door for the passenger (this was before the days of electric locks). The American cars were much bigger, so reaching across would have been a, hmm, stretch. Instead, the driver would go to the passenger side to unlock and open the door for the passenger. So, in England, as a passenger, I was used to heading to the opposite side of the car to the driver. In America, when I used the same thought process, I got a lot of "so are you driving?" comments. I had to learn to go to the same side.

Over the years I have had a number of strategies for figuring out which side of a car to go to. One was, if I have been in an airplane for a long time, expect to have to hunt for the steering wheel. A better one was that Laurie always gets in the left hand side, I always get in the right hand side. Whoever finds a steering wheel gets to drive. I had forgotten all this. I thought I would not have to worry about this again, but yesterday the clouds were grey and it was raining. I hurried to the car and expected the steering wheel to be on the right. Apparently English weather reset my expectations.

Fortunately, English and American wine drinkers drink from the same side of the glass...

The rambler rambles on...

Cheers,

Richard and Laurie

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