

Orangewood Wines

Small Wineries, Great Wines

Orangewood Wines' Newsletter

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Introduction

Many of you will have seen Cave Creek or New River on the news this last week. Our little piece of desert was the lucky recipient of 3 - 4 inches of rain. This made the usually dry washes flow faster and deeper than Laurie or I had seen them in the 10 years we have lived here. The one around our house was a fast flowing moat. We survived, but we are starting work on an ark.

Contents

Introduction
New Customers
Wine Varietal of the Month – Schiava
Rambling

New Customers

[Beverage House](#)

857 East White Mountain Boulevard
Pinetop, AZ 85935
(888) 976-5014

[Fargo's Steakhouse](#)

620 East Highway 260,
Payson, AZ 85541
(928) 474-7455

[L'Amore Ristorante](#)

3159 East Lincoln Drive
Phoenix , AZ 85016
Phone: (602) 381-3159

Tara Thai

115 South Cortez
Prescott, AZ 86314
(928) 772-3249

[Tarbell's - The Wine Store](#)

3205 East Camelback Road,
Phoenix, AZ 85018
(602) 955-7730

[Timo](#)

160 North Portal Lane
Sedona, AZ 86336
(928) 203-5334

Wine Varietal of the Month: Schiava

Alto Adige is a region at the very northern part of Italy. To the northwest it borders Switzerland and to the northeast is Austria. Elena Walch is a person and winery there who recently sent us some wines to evaluate. It was recommended that we taste the Schiava prior to a Pinot Nero (which you might know better by its French name - Pinot Noir) because it is lighter than the Pinot. Thus cautioned we poured samples for all the sales people and approached the wine in the usual way. The color was light. Lighter than most Pinot Noir. We have actually seen some rosé wines darker than this. We sniffed the wine and detected straw and fruit. As we tasted it we got a little smokiness along with the fruit. The finish was strong with good acid, making it food friendly. Overall delightful.

According to Wikipedia, the grape likely originated in this general area, though from its name it may have come from further east - Yugo"slavia", which is not far away. The grape has been widely planted in Germany, just north of Switzerland and Austria, where it is called Trollinger. Also named Vernatsch in the Alto Adige area. I suppose Elena Walch chose to go with Schiava as the name is used more broadly across Italy.

If you do want to learn a new varietal every day, Italy is the place to do it. Needless to say, you will see this wine appearing in our portfolio shortly.

Rambling

On our river trip there was an Englishman named Lorenzo. He was originally Italian, which is why his name was not Bert. I immediately started strategizing on how to make a pun on his name. The Lorenzo Transformation came to mind, except that as I asked other members of the trip, no one had heard of it. Not even High School Math teacher and boat swamper, Kate (she spells it K8).

When I was in high school, and we are talking a long time ago, one of our physics experiments was to reproduce the Michelson-Morley experiment to measure the speed of light. In 1887, when they did the experiment, the notion that light was not infinitely fast must have been strange. Actually, for most of us it's still strange. Anyway, the experiment sent a beam of light towards a mirror that reflected it towards another mirror that pointed the light back directly the way it came and, in a static situation, back to the source of the light. However, the first mirror was spinning. If the speed of light was infinitely fast it would still return directly to the source. If finite, it would be a little off. The amount off depended on how fast the mirror was spinning and how far the light traveled between the

two mirrors. We were delighted to estimate the speed of light within an order of magnitude.

So, back in the late 1800's the notion of finite light speed led to some thought experiments. One was the concern about how fast earth is moving through space. Would we not observe light going faster or slower depending which direction we pointed the mirrors. We did not, it was always the same.

The whole process led to the theory of relativity, which postulated that no matter where you are and how fast you are going, the speed of light is the same. I read a delightful book at the time which illustrated the dilemma to be addressed. If someone is standing in a railway station watching a train go by at three quarters of the speed of light, and on that train there is a very athletic passenger running along the corridor at what seemed to the runner to be three quarters of the speed of light, how fast does the person at the station think the runner is going? Classically, we would say one a half times the speed of light, but that doesn't match the experimental data. It was fortunate for Einstein that a guy called Lorenz had developed a formula that instead of adding the two speeds directly, transforms things so the result is always less than the speed of light. This is called the Lorenz Transformation.

All this so that the next time I see Lorenzo I can ask him if he is feeling transformed.

The Rambler rambles lightly on...

Cheers,

Richard (newsletter writer), Laurie (editor) and Jim Wallace (another writer and editor).

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