



The Grapevine

March 2006

Sacramento Home Winemakers · www.sachomewine.com

President's Message

Well, I'm back from vacation, Argentina was beautiful, Buenos Aires was exciting and very European, but that wine country tour to Mendoza was ... unbelievable. And it was summertime, the grapes were sweet! A four-day stay in a fabulous Bed and Breakfast (an old converted winery), personal driver and (a separate) tour guide/translator entertained us while we visited 3 or 4 wineries a day. Each day, one of the wineries would host a gourmet luncheon or Asiado (grilled meats). Most of the time John and I were the only ones on the tour, often conducted by the winemakers themselves, who then sat with us for a 2-3 hour luncheon. I kept asking John "who do they think we are?" - it was truly the royal treatment. One of the wineries had spent 15 million (US) on just the facilities...and the exchange rate is 1 US dollar = 3 Argentinean Pesos.

For members looking to run a vineyard, in the Argentinean wine country, with the snowcapped Andes in the background, you can buy land with 40-year-old vines on it for \$10,000 to 12,000 dollars a "hectare" (that is 2 ½ acres of land)! I am looking forward to sharing some wine, Argentinean cooking and stories with the club in a "Bob Beck style" food and wine event for a future club meeting.

But, back to life in Loomis, rain, rain, and rain. (Or in John's case in Nevada City, snow, snow, and snow). The vineyards look pretty dreary, but my cherries and peaches are starting to "show" (when the color of the blossoms shows through the bud's cover). And the irises, daffodils and calla lilies are blooming all over my place, so spring will come soon.

PLEASE: Check to see if you have paid your SHW Dues for 2006!! In April, SHW newsletters will no longer go out to unpaid members. The membership forms are in this newsletter and on our web page!! See the fantastic calendar of events planned by the club (later in this newsletter), you don't want to miss out!!!

Next up is the ever famous and popular NEW 2005 Red Wine tasting, the meeting will start at 6:30 to accommodate all the wines – see you at Turn Verin Hall on March 15th.

Judy Pinegar,

President 2006

SHW 2006 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

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Next Club Meeting March 15, 2006– Red Wines Tasting and Evaluation

And, for the March 15 club meeting, guest evaluator Darrell Corti returns for the tasting and evaluation of members' 2005 red wines.

If you'd like to have your 2005 reds evaluated:

- Bring **TWO 750 ml bottles** of no more than **TWO** different red wines to sample.
- If previously asked to bring back a 2004 red wine for re-evaluation, please do.
- Try to bottle ahead so that sulfites used in racking are not still present.
- Remember, only SHW members who are **current on 2006 dues** can have their wines evaluated. If you aren't current, please send in your check or bring it to the meeting.
- **DO NOT BRING LAST YEAR'S CLUB PROJECT WINE.** There will be a separate meeting with Darrell to evaluate those wines.

Historically, because many members submit their red wines for evaluation, the March meetings run well into the night, so please note that the **MARCH 15 MEETING STARTS AT 6:30 PM SHARP!** The meeting will be held at the Turn Verein Hall located at 3349 J Street. The SHW meets upstairs.

Calendar and Notes

Club Monthly Meetings are located at the Turn Verein, 3349 J St. Sacramento, Second Floor
3rd Wednesday, meetings start at 7:00 pm unless noted in Newsletter, Calendar/Notes

Date/Day	Location/Time	Topic/Event/Speaker/Panel/Committee Chair and Members
March 15 th Wednesday	Club Meeting 6:30pm START Please be prompt	Red Wine Evaluation Evaluator: Darrell Corti. Need we say more? DUES MUST BE PAID UP IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING WINE FOR EVALUATION - LIMIT: 2 WINES
April 19 th Wednesday	Club Meeting 7:00pm START	Corks Neil Foster, MA Silva Corks USA
May 6 th Saturday	Spring Winery Tour Clarksburg	Joy Smathers, Coordinator Contact her if you want to get in on the planning
May 17 th Wednesday	Club Meeting 7:00pm START	Coopering Ron Celaya, Sequin-Moreau Cooperage
June 3 rd Saturday	June Jubilee Baca's Home Bel Aqua, Rio Linda 7:30am- 12:00 Judging of wines. 12:00 -Picnic until dark or so	Judy Pinegar, Committee Chair Mike Touchette, Cellarmaster J. Page, Cellarmaster
Date/Day	Location/Time	Topic/Event/Speaker/Panel/Committee Chair and Members
June 21 st Wednesday	Club Meeting 7:00pm START	Vendor Fair and Wine Swap Carl Sweet, Coordinator Linda Skinner and Ron Starr Committee Members
June/July Weekend	Summer El Dorado Winery Event	J. Page, Coordinator
July 19 th Wednesday	Club Meeting 7:00pm START	Argentine Wine and Food Tasting Judy Pinegar, President
August Weekend	Truckee River Winery Maddux's Retreat Staehlin's Retreat	Executive Board Meeting and Retreat
Aug 16 th Wednesday	Club Meeting 7:00pm START	2005 Zinfandel Club Project Evaluation Darrell Corti and Craig Boyd (Oakstone Winery's Winemaker)
Sept . 20th Wednesday	Club Meeting 7:00pm START	Yeasts and Yeast Nutrients Keeping some of your best friends fed and Happy Sigrid Gersen-Briand, Lallamand
October	Restaurant	Winemaker's Dinner Find location and Committee
Oct./Novemb er Sat. or Sunday	SHW Member's Cellar/Home	Passport Weekend Find committee and locations

October 18 th Wednesday	Club Meeting 7:00pm START	Sparkling/Fruit/Port/Dessert Wine Tasting and Analysis Find Panel
October 28 th Saturday	Fall Wine Tour Murphy/Calaveras	Tour of a Murphys/Calaveras County winery. Carl Sweet will provide details later in the year. Carl is accepting volunteers Carl Sweet, Coordinator
November 15 th Wednesday	Club Meeting 7:00pm START	Tasting of the 2006 Medal Winners Club Members
December TBA	Club Holiday Party	Find Committee
Make sure your dues are paid. Must be paid up to submit wines for evaluation - Renewal form in this newsletter		
Has your Email address changed?? Be sure to let Carl Brust know. He's at		

Notes from February Meeting: Let The Wine Be What It Wants To Be...

At the February 15, 2006 club meeting, with members' white and rosé wines in hand, food guru Darrell Corti, tasted, critiqued and educated. Darrell shared that some white wines should have the aroma of peaches: *viognier* reflects the delicate scent of ripe white peaches; and *arneis* possesses the ripe, juicy, yellow cling peach perfume. He was both candid (toe jam smell) and diplomatic (if your mother likes it), suggested a change in direction (let the wine be what it wants to be), and offered enhancement guidance for others. Thank you, Darrell, for encouraging us to make better wines.

April 5, 2006 Board Meeting

Next board meeting will be at J. and Linda Page's house. Anyone is welcome to attend. The meeting starts at 6:45 pm; snacks at 6:00 pm. Bring a snack and wine to share. Call J. or Linda at (916) 991-6955 if you need directions.

May 6, 2006 - Spring Winery Tour to Clarksburg

Mark the date on your calendar and start polishing the chrome! Join fellow club members for a scenic meandering drive through the delta to nearby Clarksburg for a day of wine tasting and relaxation. Joy Smathers has arranged for tours and tasting at Scribner's Bend Vineyards, Carvalho Family Winery, Wilson Vineyards (tentative), and River Grove Winery. Specifics will be in the SHW April newsletter.

June Jubilee – Saturday June 3, 2006

Get Ready, Get Set, Go! Have your wines evaluated by professional wine judges...the same group who used to judge the California State Fair Home Winemaking Competition. The Sacramento Home Winemakers is back in the home wine competition business. And the Home Wine Makers Label Competition is also back in the ring. So download your entry forms and get ready to compete.

The June Jubilee Judging Event will involve four clubs, Sacramento, Amador, Lodi, and El Dorado, but is also open to any other home winemakers who will abide by the rules! We will be giving awards just like last year. Each of the "Best Of" categories will be getting a metal as their prize, and there will be beautiful Rosettes for Gold, Silver and Bronze winners in both the wine and label competitions.

To defray costs for the wine judging event (hoping to break even) the entry fee will be (only) \$7.00 per bottle!! Entry into the label competition will cost \$5.00 per label entered. We are currently focused on

the **Jubilee Judging Event** (Wine and Label) which will be held in the morning of June 3rd, 7:30 to Noon, but the information on the **BBQ/Potluck/Tasting Party** will also be forthcoming (1:00PM to dark??).

See all the information on how to enter into the June Jubilee Judging Event at this link on the SHW website: <http://www.sachomewine.com/competitions/jubilee/2006/junejubilee.pdf>

Date: June 3, 2006...7:30 AM - 'til who knows

Location of Judging Event: Home of John and Melissa Baca, Ski Park Court
Rio Linda, CA 95673

Location of BBQ/Picnic: Bel Aqua Grounds, Ski Park Court, Rio Linda, 95673
The whole site is 13 acres, but we will be located near John and Melissa's house, between two ski lakes, we will have signage and parking.

Committee so far: Judy Pinegar, Event Coordinator
Mike Touchette, Chief Judge and Records Keeper
J and Linda Page, Cellarmaster (Chief Rat)
John Troiano, Label Competition Coordinator
Gin Yang-Staehlin, Bill Staehlin, Joy Smathers,
John & Melissa Baca

Recruiting for: **BBQ/Potluck Coordinator**
Chief Cook
Chief Clerk and Workflow for Judging

Also I am collecting volunteers who are willing to work on this event!! I have prepared a sign up list, with information on the type of work involved, and the length of the job involved. Please call me (916) 319-0591 or (916)652-5198 (eves) or e-mail at: jpinegar@cde.ca.gov, if you would like a particular job. I will also be bringing the list to SHW meetings until it is FULL of people's names – we really need you help and it is lots of fun too.

Volunteer List/Tasks is at this link:
<http://www.sachomewine.com/competitions/jubilee/2006/vol2006.pdf>

Judy Pinegar – 2006 June Jubilee Coordinator

Summer El Dorado Winery Event ... In the Conceptual Planning Stage

Want a great occasion to escape the valley's summer heat (uh-huh, it'll be hot in June-July) by heading to the foothills? J Page is negotiating a very special event for us at one of El Dorado's favorite wineries. Stay tuned, more to come.

AUGUST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING & RETREAT
ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE INVITED

The Club's Executive Board will be combining its August meeting with a weekend retreat into the woods. Tentative plans include board meeting and progressive dinner in the homes of Phil & Jill Maddux and Bill & Gin Staehlin, golfing at Tahoe Donner, and a special tour of Truckee River Winery, the highest and coldest winery in the world (www.truckeeriverwinery.com). This is a great opportunity to become more involved in your club and enjoy what Truckee has to offer. Details on the retreat and best place to buy bear bells to follow.



Truckee River Winery January 2005

Fall Winery Tour – Murphys in Calaveras County

Club members who went on last fall's Napa winery tour organized by Carl Sweet raved about how great of a time they had! Carl's at it again, this time taking us to Calaveras County wineries. He's requesting for volunteers to assist in coordinating pieces of the weekend. Please contact Carl at (916) 481-6122.

Sacramento Home Wine Makers Club “Business” Cards

Club members that wish to utilize SHW club business card can now find a generic version on the club's webpage. The Board decided a club card would be beneficial to our membership. Download it, put you name on it(if you desire) and pass out to others interested in joining the club

Please add a link John

Best of Burgundy: Vineyards & Waterway

Discover the peaceful waterways & back roads of Burgundy on a journey that takes you to the wellspring of France's celebrated wines, cuisine & rich history. Depart August 10, 2006 with other SHW members on a river cruise with Overseas Adventure Travel.

Did anyone sign up for this trip directly with the travel agent?? If so we would like to know who from the club is going. John and Fritz Benbow's are the representatives for this event. If you have not coordinated your reservations with them, please be sure to contact them at (530) 888-9130.

Home Wine Competitions Listings Statewide



Sacramento Home Winemakers 2006 June Jubilee

The Club's annual Jubilee wine competition will be held on Saturday, June 3 in Rio Linda. **Entries will be accepted from March 15 – May 17.** Details and entry forms are included in this newsletter. Many volunteer opportunities are still available. For additional information, contact Judy Pinegar, SHW President and Jubilee Coordinator at (916) 319-0591. Additional information and entry forms are also available on the SHW website at sachomewine.com (John I would rather have direct links to the rules)



El Dorado County Fair Homemade Wine and Label Competitions

The El Dorado Home Wine Makers Association is presenting the 2006 El Dorado County Fair's Homemade Wine and Wine Label Competition and invites entries from all home winemakers. **Forms and entries will be accepted at the fair office from April 25 – May 5,** with the judging taking place on May 13. The fair runs from June 16-19. For additional information, contact Mike Touchette at (530) 622-9660 or morningglory@morninggloryfermentation.com. Additional information and entry forms are also available on the SHW website at sachomewine.com



San Joaquin Fair Amateur Wine Competition

The Lodi Amateur Vintners Association is coordinating the San Joaquin Fair's 2006 Amateur Wine Competition. **Entries will be accepted through May 13** from all California home winemakers. The fair runs from June 14–25. Additional information can be found at www.sanjoaquinfair.com or <http://lodiamateurvintners.org>



Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee Wine and Label Contests

The Calaveras County Fair is **accepting entries through April 14** for their 2006 Amateur Wine and Label Design Contests. Wine entries must be produced from grapes grown, or wines must be made in one of the following counties: Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Tuolumne or Yuba. Label entrants must reside in one of the counties identified above. The fair runs from May 17-21. For more information and entry forms, go to <http://www.frogtown.org>.



Santa Barbara Fair and Expo Wine and Label Competitions

The 2006 Santa Barbara Fair is accepting entries for homemade wine and wine labels competitions. **Entry forms are due by April 11.** Wines entered may not be more than four years old. The label competition is open to any home winemaker even if wines are not entered for competition. Labels must have been designed, produced and printed in California. The fair runs from April 26-30. Additional information and entry forms can be found at <http://www.sbfairandexpo.com>.



Salinas Valley Fair Wine and Wine Label Contests

The 2006 Salinas Valley Fair homemade wine and wine label contests are open to all Californians. **Entry forms are due by April 7.** The fair runs from May 18-21. Additional information and entry forms can be found at <http://salinasvalleyfair.com>.

2006 Sacramento Home Winemakers Membership Form

Alert! Many of last year members have not paid their 2006 dues.

Please pay this month or you will not be getting the Grapevine in April!

Dues for 2006 are \$35 per person or family/couple.

Remember this is 12 meetings, a monthly newsletter, other events almost monthly, and LOTS of FUN, EDUCATION (and WINE)!! The cost of filling your gas tank or going out for a drink is more.

Membership in the SHW is based on a calendar year: January 2006 through December 2006.

Submit this form with your dues check (\$35.00 /year/person or couple) payable to “Sacramento Home Winemakers” or “SHW” and mail to the SHW Treasurer:

Carl Brust
3982 El Monte Drive
Loomis, CA 95650

If you remember, the Board voted to go to ELECTRONIC (sent to members via e-mail) our newsletter, The Grapevine... Starting January 1, 2006.

UNLESS YOU SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THAT IT IS MAILED TO YOU !!

.....Clip and Mail.....

PAY BY APRIL 1, 2006... OR YOU WILL NOT BE SENT THE APRIL GRAPEVINE

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone ()

E-mail Address:

This is IMPORTANT!!

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