



October, 2023

Volume 10, Number 3

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Welcome Back to our part time members and all of you who have had exciting travels this summer. We have a good line up of Fall Kiva Events, Home Social's and Outside Dinners for you. Please remember to look for Punchbowl invitations and respond quickly if you want to attend (see upcoming events below).

We will end the year with a fabulous Holiday Party – details to come.

Be on the lookout for an email with new Board Member elections end of October. We also welcome members to serve on committees to help with our various events.

I want to thank Ed Mason and Debbie Edwards for their 3-year board service. Both have put in a lot of time into their respective roles. They will go off the board at the end of 2023.

I also have reached the end of my Wine Club Board term at the end of December. It has been a pleasure serving the members of this wonderful club.

Cheers,

Debbi Mitchell

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Save the Dates – Upcoming Wine Club Events

October

- Saturday Oct 14th — Home Social
- Wednesday Oct 18th — Outside Dinner at “ The Italian Daughter” in Scottsdale
- Friday Oct 20th — High End Wine Tasting/Dinner Tickets on sale Oct 10th

November

- Wednesday Nov 1st — Tickets go on sale for Holiday Party
- Saturday Nov 4th — Home Social
- Sunday Nov 12th — Wines for the Holiday’s tasting Tickets go on sale Nov 7th
- Outside Dinner — TBD

December

- Friday December 1st — Holiday Party Tickets go on Sale Nov 1st
- Saturday Dec 9th — Home Social

Be on the Lookout for Punchbowl invites!

Treasurer’s Notes — Mark Whisler



We on the Wine Club Board have reviewed our financial performance and event opportunities in 2023, and have decided to maintain the annual dues at \$20 per person for 2024. We hope to further defray the cost of events while offering a wide variety of activities in an effort to encourage wide participation among our members.

Dues for 2024 will be payable starting December 1st. Instructions for payment via Zelle, personal check, or cash will be provided on our website in November.

Mark Whisler
TWC Treasurer
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Kiva Club Events – Cyndi Haines



We welcomed our members back in September with a side-by-side tasting of Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs and Cabernets. Between the Chardonnays and Pinots we did a blind tasting of a surprise varietal.

When we poured the wine it was chilled and a pretty light straw color. We asked our guests to smell the wine and to taste it. There was a prize for the first member who guessed correctly. We had guesses of Riesling, Sancerre, Moscato, Viognier, Gewurztraminer, and Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris. The wine was a white Pinot Noir. Our members had a lot of fun guessing, there was lots of laughter and conversations. A big shout out to Alea Curtis for guessing correctly.

Michael, our presenter from RNDC explained that white Pinot Noir is produced like any other white wine. The juice from the grapes is extracted and fermented with out skin contact. Ninety nine percent of all grape juice is white. All red wine during fermentation gets it color from the skins of the grapes. Our members raved about both the quantity and quality of the food and wine pairings.

Tickets go on sale on October 10th for the Friday October 20th. wine tasting. This event will be a Friday night dinner featuring 5 premium wines.

Cheers!

Cyndi Haines
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Membership Update – Fred Crawford



We hope you had the opportunity to enhance your wine tasting skills this summer during your travels. Jan and I were fortunate to taste some very different and wonderful wines in Slovenia and Croatia, as well as some great tastings in central California. It's always fun to try new and different wines.

As for Trilogy Wine Club memberships, we continue to grow even through these hot summer months. We currently have 505 members, of which 81 are new to the club this year.

Speaking of memberships, in November you will be receiving information regarding your 2024 membership renewal. As a reminder, membership is based on the calendar year, January 1st through December 31st. This year you'll have two options for renewal:

- 1) Submit a paper form as in the past
- 2) Submit an online form

You will also have two options for payment of your annual dues:

By check, cash or payment by Zelle

Again, you will be receiving the details sometime in early December.

Fred Crawford
TWC Membership
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Dine Out Dinners – Don Feltri



In September we restarted the TWC Dine Out Dinners at Dos Familia's Mexican Restaurant in Scottsdale. The October dinner will be at The Italian Daughter restaurant in Scottsdale.

Although the reservation slots always fill early and we have a waitlist to cover cancellations if we end up with less than the committed number. This is the result of many no shows who do not provide a cancellation notification. This not only results with empty seats at the restaurant but also leaves no opportunity to fill the vacancies with wait-list members.

I ask that all member please let me know if they intend to cancel as soon as they decide even if on the day of the dinner. Leaving seats empty does not give our club a good image with the restaurant owners and denies a fellow member the option to fill the vacancy. Your courtesy in cancelling a reservation will be greatly appreciated.

Members' Corner – Ken Moore



The fall is here and we have lots of fun things happening with the wine club. The wine tasting in September was very successful and we're looking forward to everyone coming back into town. We will be enjoying some new wines this fall at our upcoming events.

I just want to remind everybody to keep an eye out for the punch bowl invites when they come out. As we get more into the Fall the events can fill up very quickly.

I personally want to thank Debbi Mitchel, Debbie Edwards and Ed Mason for all their hard work to help keep the wine club going strong. We will miss them as our board members, but I'm pretty sure we will see them around enjoying wine with the rest of us.

Just a few reminders.

After each wine tasting if you purchase wine the pick up will be Wednesday morning from 8 to 10 am after the wine tasting at the Kiva Club library. Please try to come during that time and pick up your wine.

If you were planning on going to a home social please remember to bring one bottle of wine per person, an appetizer that will feed about 20 people, your wine glasses and name tags.

If you ever have any questions about the wine club tastings, home socials, or picking up wine do not hesitate to call or email anybody on the board we will be happy to get you the right information. We are here to help just give us a call.

Lots more fun to come in the future! Thank you all so much for participating.

See you in the neighborhood!

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Here is a very informative letter from our board member Ed Mason.

Fun and Informative Wine Tastings

By Ed Mason

The Trilogy Wine Club monthly tastings restarted in September and tried a new format for tasting; Side-by-Side for three known varietals plus one blind tasting. These are great ways to compare like wines and determine which you want to include in your wine collection.

I first used the side-by-side tasting with a group of eight friends to rate the four Pinots of La Crema winery. The four La Crema wines knowingly tasted were:

Monterrey, California; List Price \$24.99

Sonoma County, California; List Price \$25.99

Willamette Valley, Oregon; List Price \$29.99

Russian River Valley, California; List Price \$39.99

We rated each wine with respect to appearance, nose, palate, finish, and overall impression. The group unanimously rated the Russian River valley the highest. The majority put the Willamette Valley in second place and we were mixed on where the Monterrey and Sonoma County wines fit into third and fourth places.

On another occasion I put Boen's Tri-County Pinot Noir against their Russian River Valley Pinot. Again, the Russian River Valley was agreed best, but the Tri-County was so close at half the price that it easily became a standard in my wine fridge.

I also have had fun with a blind tasting with ten friends tasting six Cabernet Sauvignons from six different countries; Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, United States (Napa, CA), and Uruguay. All were rated 90 or above and list prices ranging from \$9.99 to \$24.99. It was almost unanimous that the Ed Edmundo Cab from Argentina was the favorite for just \$9.99.

Another tasting technique that I have not yet tried is "Vertical Tasting." In this technique, you taste the same wine from several different vintages. This is a good way to learn how the weather during the growing season can affect the taste.

So be creative and find ways to use these and other tasting techniques to have fun enjoying wine with your friends.

Barb Higgins article about their Michael David winery trip this summer.

DEE-Light-Full!

My husband, Trey Higgins, and I spent a delightful day at Michael David Winery in Lodi, California on July 18, 2023 together with Trilogy Wine Club (TWC) President Debbi Mitchell her husband, Tom. The visit to this quirky, iconic winery was the culmination and highlight of a three-day wine tasting tour which began in Amador County.

Michael David Winery (named for the two brothers who founded it) was featured at the May 19, 2023 tasting of the Trilogy Wine Club. At that event, Elizabeth Cannon, Southwest Regional Manager for wine distributor RNDC, graciously extended an open invitation to all attendees to visit the facility. As we always say: “Don’t say it if you don’t mean it!” Big thanks to TWC President Debbi for setting it all up for us! Hail to the Chief!

The comprehensive tour included a brief history of the winery, a visit to the wine blending lab with an opportunity to meet and chat with Brett the winemaker, a look at the impressive wine vault of signature wines, a climb to the top of the massive skyscraping holding tanks (which this reporter skipped in order to take photos from the ground. That’s my story and I’m sticking to it), and of course a wine tasting followed by a visit to the gift shop and lunch at the terrific onsite restaurant.

We learned that the portfolio of Michael David Winery represents more varietals than Napa and Sonoma combined. Labels past and present include Rage, Sloth, Greed, Lust, Earthquake (featured at the May TWC tasting), Seven Deadly Zins, Petite Petit (one of our favorites), and Freakshow. The vibe, the names of the wine plus the enormous, mesmerizing Freakshow mural (think “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band album cover”) all make it clear that the winery lives up to their credo of taking wine, but not themselves, seriously. The stated focus is on quality not quantity.

What choice did we have but to join the MD wine club at the Misfits and Mavens level!?

Trey and I are grateful to TWC President Debbi and Heather of MD Winery for organizing this wonderful experience, and to our MD Winery guides Darce, Brett and Vanessa and RNDC rep Elizabeth. The whole crew was knowledgeable, engaging and personable. The wine was delicious.

A good time was had by all!

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Higgins

