

SHW

THE GRAPEVINE

NEWSLETTER OF
SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS, INC.
AUGUST 2011

September 21, 2011 Program – Closures and Glass

So what are the differences and benefits to cork corks vs. synthetics? Do bottle shapes and sizes impact your wine? The evening's guest speakers are sure to enlighten you on the differences.

Phil Durrett with ACI Corks USA will intricately cover cork closures including different types of cork closures from cork. Phil will also talk about other wine bottle closures contrasting options available to the home winemaker. Marty Sychowski, President of All American Containers (AAC), will lead a discussion on wine bottles: differences and selections. A national firm, AAC opened a new facility in Santa Rosa last fall.

The meeting starts at 7 PM upstairs at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. Please bring your wine glass and an optional bottle of wine to share.

Future SHW Calendar of Meeting and Events can be found at www.sachomewine.org.

President's Message

You may recall that my July's "President's Message" started with the words:

"Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines! We are about three weeks from veraison the onset of the change of color of grapes this is a harbinger of the ripening that will occur in the next 6-8 weeks). Take a hint, and get ready for the harvest and winemaking!"

Well, now it is time to get out your GPS tracker or map, and plan your trip. Some white wine grapes have already been harvested and are now undergoing fermentation (in Henry's garage, I might add.) The rest will soon be coming in, along with the red wine grapes. You won't have time to plan when you get that call from your vineyard to pick up your grapes NOW. So, plan now. And, don't plan leaving town until the end of October.

I always write in my wine log my intent for the year's winemaking season. For example, last year's intentions were: "I intend to make an unusual red wine varietal." Out of that came my Double Gold medal Touriga Nacional. Or, "I intend to improve upon my

Blackberry Port.” Out of that intention came a Gold medal for that dessert wine, much improved over the Honorable Mention it earned last year. I also plan out how I intend to make my wine; I learned this from all grain brewing for beer. For me, it is a “recipe” to follow and to stick with, for the most part. It includes the “ingredients” I will add, i.e. yeast nutrients, SO2, etc., as well as the “process”, i.e. what I will do, and when I will do it, based upon what the juice, must, or wine is telling me. I talk to my wine, and you know, it answers me, i.e. “Why in the heck do you smell so bad?” or “Do you need more time?”

So, get ready, and enjoy this wonderful adventure of making wine at home. And, make sure and come celebrate the harvest season with others on that adventure at our Harvest Dinner on Sunday, September 25th.

Donna Bettencourt
2011 SHW President

SAVE THE DATE! Holiday Party

Sunday, December 18, 2011 @ 4:00 PM

Holidays in September, you say? It's never too early to SAVE THE DATE for the most wine-derful event and time of the year!! The Club's December meeting will celebrate the annual SHW Holiday Party. A new venue this year, the holiday party will be held at the Ebbassy Suites (100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA) beginning at 4:00 PM.

Debbie Moretton, your Party Coordinator has been busy selecting your festive culinary delights, especially prepared by Executive Chef Clay Purcell, and taking care of party planning details.

This year's fund raising activities (all proceeds will benefit the Club) will feature Raffle Prizes only. Debbie is looking for donations for the Raffle Tables from our Club members and friends of the Club (gift baskets, gift cards, gift certificates to local restaurants, wine, art, crafts, or other items). Bring any donation to a Club meeting or contact Debbie directly at (916) 296-1115 or dem1019@sbcglobal.net to make arrangements to take delivery. Debbie's goal is 50 prizes for the raffle tables and she will need the Club's help to reach her goal!

We will also continue our tradition with the "gift exchange" for those who would like to participate. Bring a gift of \$10 value and take a gift home - a creative and fun way to share the holiday spirit!!

More on this festive event in the October and November newsletters!

October SHW Executive Board Meeting

October 5, 2011, 6:30 P.M – 8 P.M.



All SHW members are encouraged to attend the Club's Executive Board Meeting at least one time, so why not make October's Board meeting the one to attend?

This is a great way to get involved and to learn more about your Club, without any responsibility! At the October meeting, we will be discussing the new website, and fleshing out the details of the October and November monthly programs. The board meeting runs from 6:30 pm to 8 pm, and you are welcome to attend both the board meeting and the potluck and wine tasting that follows. We will be forming some new committees and your involvement is welcome.

Contact Donna Bettencourt, SHW President at (916) 454-5487 for location.

pH Meter

Winemaker John Troiano, the Club's August 2011 meeting speaker on SO₂, sent a link that describes the pH meter that he uses:

http://www.amazon.com/Checker-pH-Tester-Replaceable-Electrode/dp/B000WTELF4/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1314467615&sr=8-4