



Newsletter

WSWS

Our next event is held on:

Monday 18th April

7:30pm for 8:00pm start

West Surrey Wine Society

<http://www.westsurreywinesociety.org.uk>

April 2011 edition

Wine antiques - John Ericson **(accompanied by members selection of wines)**

Who could deny that the drinking of wine and the collecting of antiques are among the most pleasurable of pursuits? As more and more people take an informed interest in wine there has been a corresponding increase in enthusiasm for wine related antiques.

As well as being fully functional, many of these items are intrinsically beautiful and in this talk John illustrates some of the more popular items such as drinking glasses and decanters, as well as wine labels, funnels, coasters, bottle rings and of course corkscrews!

John has recently retired from the University of Bath where he was Director of Studies in the School of Education. His wide ranging career in education and training has given him the opportunity to give lectures and presentations at conferences all over the world.

He has developed highly effective communication skills based upon in-depth understanding of how people learn and his ability to relate well to people of all ages and backgrounds makes him an impressive and confident speaker. He is now a freelance lecturer drawing upon his eclectic range of interests and enthusiasms.

Being a wine society, we naturally also have some interesting wines to taste.

Diary notes

Make a note of the following dates, (WSWS meets on 3rd Monday of the month unless stated)

Monday April 18th 2011	Wine antiques - John Ericson (accompanied by members selection of wines)
Monday 16th May 2011	The wines of the Baden Region of Southern Germany David Petche of Petersfield Wines
Monday 13th June 2011	AGM (short and sweet!) followed by Champagne tasting - Richard Bampfield MW
Saturday 20th August 2011	Summer outing - Visit to Denbies vineyard
Monday 19th Sept. 2011	'Wines of Italy' with Victor Chapman and Sergio De Luca of Enotria Wines
Monday 17th October 2011	'South African Wines' with Keith Grainger, founder member of AWE
Monday 21st Nov. 2011	Latest wine finds' with Chris Horridge

Who's who in the Committee?

Sallie - Committee Chair

Peter - Events co-ordinator

Graham - The money man

Geoff Rose

Geoffrey (M)- Secretary & all things snail

WSWS MEETING; 21st March – notes by Geoffrey Matthews

West Surrey Wine Society members were taken on a conducted tour of Spanish wines at their meeting at the Black Nest Golf Club on Monday, 21st. March, 2011. Mike Ritchie, Master of Wine, business development manager of Moreno Wines of Maida Vale, London W9, presented a tasting under the heading 'The Diversity of Spanish Wines'.

Mike started the tour with a sparkling white CAVA , **Parxet Cuvee 21** from the Catalan region of Spain. The grapes are Aleya and Parallelo and Macabeo, the wine is green/gold in colour, 'zesty and exuberant' and tastes of green apples. This was followed by the first of three still, white wines, **Taxomin Etzaniz Txacoli** from the Basque region, in Northern Spain, where the spelling and pronunciation of wines and grapes can be challenging for non-Basque speakers! The grape used is called Hondurreri. The taste is dry and rich at the same time with a lemon minerality and apparently, excellent with sea food. The next wine was **Palacio de Fefinanes Alberino** from the north-west of Spain in Galicia. 'Alberino' names the grape which yields a floral, aromatic bouquet and a citrus and peaches taste, again excellent with shell fish. £17.99 a bottle and delicious.

The third white wine was **Con Class Verdejo 2009** from the Rueda region, north west of Madrid, not quite so expensive, at £14.99 a bottle. This wine is aromatic in bouquet and tastes of lime. A really attractive wine and, apparently, very good with the local, crustaceous delicacy, goose barnacles.

Four red wines followed and finally a splendid 'Don PX'. The first red was a **Navajas Tinto Sin Crianza 2009**. The colour is ruby red and violet, the taste is of strawberries, not kept in oak and not crianza but bright and fresh. Perfect with roast lamb, excellent balance and 'easy on the wallet' at £8.99. Then followed a **Sembro** from the Ribera region near the river Douro. 100% tempranillo grape, four months in oak, deep ruby red and a lovely baked fruit taste, 'portuguese' in character as a member remarked. Very drinkable and retails at £11.99 We then tasted another Ribera, a **Pago de Carraovejas Crianza 2007**, mostly tempranillo and with 10% Cabernet sauvignon. A crianza with a terrific bouquet and pronounced richness of taste, retailing at £32.99 a bottle. Next was a **Odysseus Tinto** from the Priorat region of Catalonia, based on mainly Carinena and Garnacha grapes. A deep, dense wine with a graphite minerality, very attractive and £24.99 a bottle.

We finished with a star wine, a **Don PX Gran Reserva 1982**, very nearly 30 years old and a marvellously intense and individual wine from the south of Spain, near Cordoba. Deep black in colour, with a rich palette of flavours of liquorice and figs, 'like molasses', a member said. £18.99 a half bottle (37.50cc).

Our chairman, Sallie Payne, thanked Mike for his carefully prepared and well presented tour of Spanish Wines. It was a pleasure for members to taste his varied and interesting wines.

New members are always welcome, please call 01252 782726 for further information.

WSWS SUMMER OUTING TO DENBIES VINEYARD, SATURDAY 20TH. AUGUST 2011.

Instead of a WSWS Summer Party in a member's garden, this year the committee proposes a special group visit to Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking.

The management has kindly agreed to provide experts from the vineyard and the cellars to answer our questions, aware that we are a well-informed group.

The proposed time-table is as follows:-

10.00 am coach from Sainsbury's Water Lane, Farnham, car park. The pick-up point is in a lay-by outside Sainsbury's 'compound', just behind the Petrol station. For the record Farnham Coaches have insurance, individuals may arrange their own insurance, if required.

11.00 am 'Ultimate Wine Experience' tour starts with a 'Virtual Vineyard Tour', a '20 minute surround vision film, full of amazing special effects instantly transports you into a magical world of Wine'.

This is followed by the Winery 'Indoor Train Tour', leaving the cinema you are transported at ease by our indoor 'people mover'. Passing through the working winery, with a full commentary, you will see the equipment used in today's wine production. Finally the 'journey ends in the atmospheric Denbies cellars' with a Cellar Tasting of three selected wines.

12.30 pm, The intention is to have our own allocated space for a light self-service lunch, £8.95 each for a Denbies Vineyard Ploughman's Lunch or Jacket Potato Lunch. Restaurant lunches are available also picnic facilities, to choice. Wines are available to individual choice.

14.00 pm, The Vineyard Tour, this 45 minute train tour 'takes visitors to the most beautiful viewing points in the vineyard'.

15.30 pm Leave Denbies.

16.30 Arrive back at Sainsbury's Water Lane, Farnham, pick-up point.

Please note, times are approximate, the intention is to enjoy a relaxed day, hopefully with a 'Summer Party' atmosphere! There are good opportunities for some 'retail therapy' as required.

The cost is £22. Food and wine is (additional according to personal taste) and is purchased by attendees.

Will members who want to come, please confirm by completing the response form below, and return to Geoffrey – address details on accompanying e-mail. Please include a SAE so that the arrangement can be confirmed. **Last date for cheques 16 May 2011 (date of May WSWS Meeting).**

WSWS SUMMER OUTING 20 AUGUST 2011

I/We enclose a cheque for £ to cover places on the trip.

We also include a SAE.

Name, address, telephone and e-mail and mobile number: