



News

WSWS

WestSurreyWineSociety

January 2007

Chateau Musar

We are delighted to welcome back **Jane Sowter** from Chateau Musar - one of the world's cult wines – for our next tasting on the 15th.

Ch Musar was established by Gaston Hochar in 1930 in the Lebanon and is now run by sons Serge and Ronald with grandson Gaston increasingly taking up the reins. The grapes are grown at 1,000 metres in the Bekaa Valley (the northern extension of the great Rift Valley) near Baalbeck where vines have been grown for thousands of years - within Baalbeck there is a temple dedicated to Bacchus the God of Wine - need we say more! The winery however is situated on the coast north of Beirut and for those who know the country, this means transporting the grapes by road over the mountains and along the coast. Nothing special about that until you realise that they had to run the gauntlet of the warring sides during years of civil war and in this last vintage the Israeli air force who were shooting anything that moved!

Amazingly they only missed 2 vintages during the long years of the civil war, so the Israelis were no problem this time, even though harvesting had to start before the ceasefire!
Jane Sowter has been with Musar since 1988 and has made many visits to the Lebanon. She is now

Sales and Marketing Director for the UK and Europe and shares the Hochars' passion for their wines. In her spare time she is mother to a budding Norwich City footballer.

Ch Musar wines are traditionally made, full bodied and brimming with character, and in Serge Hochar's words 'speak for themselves'. We will be tasting both white and red Ch Musars back to 1993 and comparing these with their second label Hochar Pere et Fils and Cuvee wines. The 1998 red will be a magnum which will add interest.

The wines are –

- Ch Musar Rose 2001,
- Musar Cuvee Red 2003,
- Hochar Pere et Fils Red 2001,
- Ch Musar Red 1999, 1998 and 1993
- Ch Musar White 1999 and 1993.

And yes - we taste the whites last - this is a Musar tradition that nobody dares break! And you will see that they more than stand their ground against the reds.

So - fascinating tasting with great wines and an amazing story - **DON'T MISS THIS ONE**, whatever you do!

Make a note of the following dates, (normally 3rd Monday of the month at 8pm)

15th January 2007	Ch Musar, Lebanon Jane Sowter
19th February 2007	Organic Wines - Vintage Roots Also, EGM - The Society's Constitution - at 7.30 pm.
19th March 2007	Wines of Bordeaux, Adrian Harvey, Corney and Barrow
16th April 2007	'Unusual wines of the world' tasting by a Harrods wine buyer

WSWS Constitution

You will remember that at the last AGM we discussed the Society's Constitution, which needed bringing up to date. Your Committee has drawn up a new proposed Constitution, which has to be brought to an Extraordinary General Meeting for members' approval.

We are giving a month's notice and calling for an EGM on 19th February 2007, at 1930 hrs (ie preceding the normal tasting meeting).

A copy of the proposed constitution is given below.

Graham Parlett, for and on behalf of the Committee, January 2007

THE WEST SURREY WINE SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1. The Society:

is called "The West Surrey Wine Society", (hereinafter referred to as The Society).

2. The Society's Objective:

is "to promote the appreciation, enjoyment and knowledge of Wine and its various related activities for the benefit its Members and their guests".

3. The Society's Members:

shall elect an Executive Committee, (hereinafter referred to as The Committee), to administer the Society on their behalf.

4. The Society's Committee:

- a. The Society will be run by The Committee, which will be elected by the Membership at Annual General Meetings, (AGMs). Committee Members so elected are normally expected to serve for 3 years.
- b. Elected Committee Members may stand for re-election on the third anniversary of their being elected to The Committee.
- c. The Committee shall consist of the following officers: a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary and not less than three other elected Members; plus any number of co-opted, (ex-officio, non-voting), members as the Committee shall from time to time deem appropriate for the good running of the Society for the benefit of all its Members.
- d. Co-opted Committee Members will continue to serve for so long as they and the elected Committee wish.
- e. A committee Quorum shall consist of three Elected Members.
- f. The Committee has the power to deal with any matters affecting the Society; either in accordance with The Constitution where the Constitution deals with the matter to hand, or as the Committee shall discuss and agree with regard to any matter that is not covered specifically by the Constitution.
- g. The Committee will foster appropriate links with other wine societies or similar organisations as they see fit in pursuance of The Society's Objective.

5. The Society's finances:

- a. The Society's Financial Year End date is 30 April.
- b. The annual membership subscription is £15, or any other sum proposed by the Committee and agreed by the Members at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, (AGM or EGM).
- c. Annual membership subscriptions are due in full at 1st May annually. Members whose subscription is still unpaid by 30 October shall be liable to suspension at the discretion of The Committee, all relevant facts and reasonable mitigations having been taken into account.
- d. The attendance charge for the Society's meetings is £10 per meeting for Members and £12 for guests; or any other sums as proposed by the Committee and agreed by the Members at an AGM or EGM. However, the Committee may charge non-members attending an event a different sum where they judge this to be appropriate.
- e. All drawings or commitments made against the Society's financial worth, whether by way of a cheque drawn against the Society's Bank Account or by any other method, shall be done only against the written approval, (indicated by signature), of any two of the following;
 1. The Secretary
 2. The Treasurer
 3. Another elected Committee Member.

6. The Society's Annual General Meetings, (AGMs):

- a. Will be held for the purpose of electing the Committee, receiving and approving the annual accounts and transacting such general business of the Society as is necessary.
- b. Will be held not later than 31 July each year.

7. The Society's Constitution:

- a. Will be sent to each Member on joining.
- b. Is binding on its Members
- c. Can be altered only at an AGM, or EGM convened for the purpose.
- d. The Committee shall be able to convene an EGM for the purpose of proposing a change to the Constitution, or for any other purpose related to the running of The Society, giving 21 days notice thereof and of the matters for discussion or decision at that EGM.
- e. The Society's paid up Members shall have the same right to call an EGM if a minimum of 10 Members require this in writing to the Committee.

The “Old” Constitution is reproduced below for comparison:

SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

- 1) The Society is to be called “**THE WEST SURREY WINE SOCIETY.**”
- 2) The objective of the Society is to promote the appreciation, enjoyment and knowledge of WINE for its members.
- 3) The annual subscription is to be £10.
- 4) The membership is to be restricted to 40. Until this number is reached, potential members apply directly. After this point, applicants shall be proposed for any vacancies that may occur.
- 5) The Society will be run by an Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and 4 other members. All members of the Executive Committee shall stand for re-election in rotation at intervals of not more than 3 years each year. A Quorum is to consist of 3 members.
- 6) The financial year is from 1 May to 30 April each year.
- 7) The Annual General meeting will, for the purpose of electing the Committee, receiving audited accounts and transacting the general business of the Society, be held within 3 months of the end of the previous year.
- 8) The Rules of the Society can only be altered at an Annual Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose. Any alteration is to be notified in the circular convening the meeting, giving a minimum of 21 days notice.
- 9) A copy of these Rules will be sent to each member and is binding. Membership is open to applicants aged 18 years or over.
- 10) All subscriptions are due by the AGM, and any member whose subscription shall remain unpaid by 30 June following shall be liable to suspension at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 11) The Committee will have power to deal with any matter that may not be provided for in these Rules.
- 12) Any drawings by cheque or otherwise on the Society’s bank account shall be made only on the written signature or instruction of at least two of the following officers for the time being of the Society namely the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

August 1989