



## News

# WSWS

West Surrey Wine Society

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

January 2008

WSWS meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month.  
Next meeting: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January  
7:30pm for 8.00pm

### Globe trotting for Syrah / Shiraz

At our January tasting we travel the globe in search of the Syrah grape at its best – or as the Australians like to call it, the Shiraz grape. The classic calling card give-aways for this grape are of course the black pepper, dark chocolate, notable deep colour and of course the tannins.

The grape began its life in the northern Rhone valley where it makes great, long lived Hermitage and Cote Rotie (watch out for the combination with viognier for the perfume notes). Nowadays it is found all over Southern France and blended into all sorts of wines.

In contrast, the Aussies treat it differently (starting with that name change). It is the country's most commonly planted grape and makes dense rich potent wines in part because of the heat - but wines from the cooler Victoria region still can have that hint of black pepper.

But the French and Australians cannot keep this gem to themselves – the grape is found worldwide and produces wines with a savoury kick at the end.

Our guide through all things alcoholic will be Richard Stanes of C.G. Bull & Taylor Ltd. Richard began life in the City as a stock broker where a love of wine led him to join Dolamore Ltd – a London wholesaler and Royal warrant holder. A move in 1983 to Morgan Furze (now part of Diageo) was followed by moves to Saccone & Speed, and then to CG Bull & Taylor. In 1988, South Africa then beckoned – so another move - this time to set up the wine agencies for WG White Ltd (part of Linton Park plc), later sold to Eurowines ltd. Clearly the light then shone through as Richard rejoined CGB&T to look after various national catering companies, businesses, restaurants, and some larger private accounts.

The tastings for the evening will be:

1	Black Chook Sparkling Shiraz (Penny's Hill, McLaren Vale, Australia)	5	Duck Pond Syrah 2004 (Columbia Valley Washington state USA)
2	Capell's Court Shiraz '06 (Linton Park, Wellington South Africa)	6	Chateau Haut Blanville '04 (Grand cuvee, Vin de Pays d'Oc, France)
3	Amador Syrah 2004 (Odfjell Winery Maipo Valley Chile)	7	Gemtree Uncut Shiraz '02 (McLaren Vale Australia) Gold & 2 trophies Best Internat, Rhone varietel at Decanter World Wine Awards
4	Linton Park Shiraz 2002 (Linton Park, Wellington South Africa) Commended – international Wine Challenge 2007	8	Hermitage Rouge '01 Delas ( Marquise de la Tourette, Rhone, France)

**Make a note of the following dates, (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month unless stated) mystery pre-meeting wine at 7:30 onward; meeting commences at 8pm**

<b>21<sup>st</sup> January 2008</b>	<b>Syrah / Shiraz from around the world, Richard Stanes C.G. Bull &amp; Taylor</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> February 2008</b>	'New Zealand beyond Sauvignon Blanc', Rachel Gilbey , manager of Caviste (formally Cellar Door) of Stockbridge  Clearly a critical topic of the year – Decanter Magazine (Recent issue) even contains a supplement on New Zealand!
<b>17<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b>	The return of Neil Somerfelt ( Laytons)
<b>April 2008</b>	To be confirmed
<b>May 2008</b>	AGM & Call My Bluff

Who's who in the Committee ?

Peter Godwin      Our leader  
 David Rathmell    The money man (not for long)  
 Sallie Payne        Membership Secretary  
 Geoffrey Matthews Secretary /all things snail-mail  
 Peter Smith         Events co-ordinator  
 David & Kim Finch Editors in training

Additional help:

Graham Parlett    The web master (tekkie)  
 (If you want some fun, ask Graham for our web site address – Attendees at Xmas party will understand – Ed)

Charity update:

There was one typo error in the October newsletter, repeated in November. Nobody spotted them.

As for December – I think some recipients had a little problem with the newsletter arising from the “track changes” feature in WORD. So let's say £10 to National Children's Homes (NCH).

David Finch is currently undertaking a 3 month sponsored slim – and is hoping to lose 8 lbs before the end of March – on top of the 14 lbs lost in 2007. Last year the sponsored slim raised over £500 for NCH & Mencap and we're looking to better that this year.... so please dig deep. An e-mail will suffice to record your commitment – david-finch@ntlworld.com.

**EARLY DIARY PLANNING NOTICE :**

What?                20<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of WSWS  
 When:               Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2008  
 Where:               Quinnettes, Churt (<http://www.churt-pc.gov.uk/quinnettes.htm>)  
 Special food, special wines (if it's the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary they **HAVE** to be special)  
 Further details to follow, but this is a **“MUST – ATTEND”** event, so book it in your diary.

In the Vineyard: - a monthly look at what is going on in the Northern Hemisphere

**January** is for – Pruning - by hand. Interestingly, the waste wood (dried shoots to be precise) is becoming increasingly popular for BBQ's, though it is not clear whether this is on the grounds of aroma or cost. Early budding vines may be left late in order to reduce the risk of frost damage.

In the cellar, the winemaker will be keeping a constant eye on his production facility as malolactic fermentation is underway, either in barrels or tanks, depending on the vineyard and production methods. Critical are the levels of lactic bacteria and acid.

### Sampling notes

Well didn't we have a fantastic Christmas party? Good food; good wines ( the Clos de Los Siete – red – from Argentina was a true find for the future - well done Geoffrey & Sallie)... not forgetting of course the company.

No doubt we've all made new year resolutions – but if not, then here's one to think about:

If we each encouraged just one friend to come along and then join WSWS, we'd increase membership and improve our tastings. I am of course assuming we each have a friend who is not already a member – but I'm sure you get my drift.

If you're happy with WSWS, tell your friends; if not, tell the Committee!

Your Committee are searching for a replacement Treasurer – David Rathmell wants to retire – any volunteers please talk to Peter Godwin or David Rathmell.

Happy new year,

David & Kim (editors in training)



### **PROMOTIONS:**

#### **Festival of wine at Ascot Race Course – and get £5 off !!**

On Saturday 10th May, Ascot Racecourse is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of Wine in association with Robert Mondavi, Echo Falls, Hardy, Kumala and Constellation. Oh, and by the way, they will also have a feast of top quality flat racing featuring the tote-sport Victoria Cup. Gates and the Festival of Wine open at 11am, the first race is at 1.10pm, the last race is at 4.10pm, with the Festival closing at 4.40pm.

Ascot are offering West Surrey Wine Society members **£5 off admission**. Therefore, Premier Admission is discounted from £25 to £20 and General Admission is discounted from £15 to just £10.

We're told that the Festival of Wine features over 50 wines to sample; sparkling, white, red, and dessert from across the globe with illustrated tasting notes. Customers (including WSWS members) pay a £5 participation fee in return for a voucher entitling them to 5 samples of approximately 50ml each, a plastic glass and a copy of the tasting notes. Ascot Brass will be performing on the Bandstand to serenade Festival visitors.

All WSWS members have to do to take advantage of this discount is call the ticket office on 0870 727 1234 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday and quote 'West Surrey Wine Society 08 offer'.

**What's the catch?** Well, you have to pay £5 for each sample voucher – so to taste all 50 wines would require 10 vouchers @ £5 each on top of your entrance fee.