



Next meeting: Monday 15th September
7:30pm sample for 8.00pm start

September 2008

Chile on the up ↑

David Dickinson (International Wine Challenge Judge) comes back to WSWS and Blacknest to present to us a range of Chilean wines. David started work as an accountant in a Building Society but spent most of his working life with IBM at Havant. When David last visited us in May 2007 on a different topic, our newsletter commented that “He felt there must be better things in life than Liebfraumilch and now spends far too much money on top quality wines (which are primarily drunk by friends!)” Let’s hope we’re still counted as his friends, and that his spending habits have not changed.

Chile is that long (oh so very long) country in South America that stretches from Peru in the north to the very tip of the continent.

A most beautiful country with mountains, deserts, (and just about everything in between) ensures that you could just about find the ideal growing conditions for wine somewhere in the country.



Better still, there is no Phylloxera louse in the country, so vines can simply grow on their own root stock - just take a cutting and stick it in the ground, with no need for time consuming or expensive graftings.

Chile has turned a natural disadvantage into one of its major assets – virtually no rainfall in the summer months. Instead, by using canals, gulleys, and more recently “drip irrigation”, the wine growers can effectively control not only water supply, but also fertiliser and nutrients to make win growing “absurdly easy” (World Atlas of Wine pp 297)

Make a note of the following dates, (WSWS <u>always</u> meets on 3rd Monday of the month unless stated) mystery pre-meeting wine at 7:30 onward; meeting commences at 8pm	
15th September 2008	Chile on the up presented by David Dickinson
20th October 2008	Unusual wine varieties from around the world David Gandorge MW will present from Waitrose
17th November 2008	Sherry & Tapas An unusual evening, matching a range of sherries with food and led by the popular Bryan Buckingham from The Sherry Institute
15th December 2008	Christmas dinner at Blacknest Golf Club (menus and price to be attached to Octobers Newsletter)

Who's who in the Committee?

Peter Godwin	Our leader	Peter Smith	Events co-ordinator
Graham Cook	The money man	David & Kim Finch	Editors in training
Sallie Payne	Membership Secretary	Additional help:	
Geoffrey Matthews	Secretary & all things snail-mail	Graham Parlett (The web master tekkie)	

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

September is for – harvesting. The Wine Encyclopaedia describes this as “the most common and vital operation this month” (and it could be argued, as the most important operation of all, aside planting the vines). When to pick is the crunch matter, be it one what day, or at what time. Pickers, or picking machines have to be ready for the “off”.

Back in the winery, everything has to be ready for when the grapes start arriving. Now is certainly not the time to be out of yeast, sugar, acid, clean equipment or power.

20th Anniversary party - Quinettes in August

The ladies dressed up, the men wore jackets and ties, and the weather remained kind, allowing the full use of the gardens at Quinettes. So many members and guests turned out for the occasion that it seems superfluous to write a detailed report for this newsletter (unless of course you happen to be our Chairman who, with oodles of warning, had other things to do).

Quinettes looked superb, helped in no short way by the hard efforts of Sallie and her crew who set everything up simply to perfection. The excellent choice of wine flowed – and yes there was sufficient – and complimented the food in all respects. (Ed: members might like to know how the Committee, once fearful of being committed to buying surplus bottles of wine then ended up over-subscribing to the little that was left). Never let it be said that WSWS don't try and help the European Commission in addressing the wine lake problem.

Then there were the speeches. The founding of WSWS was covered by Martin Smith – if you weren't there, then you've missed it – while our special guest for the evening Alun Griffiths took us through some hilarious moments that wine has given him. I for one will never look at Champagne again without visualising Mr. Al Fayed demanding the rebottling of vintage champagne into a new shape bottle as opposed to waiting 5 years.

And then there was the music – piano playing accompanying starters, and a collection of songs at the interval really split things up well. (Ed1 {in training}: By the way – how do porcupines do it? Ed2 {trainer}: Very carefully.)

Carriages arrived at 10:30 – did the time really pass so quickly? Next time we do something special, we'll have to start earlier and finish later. Proposed; seconded; carried unanimously.

And thanks from David Rathmell

I was delighted to open the present and find such a magnificent decanter, and my personal label which will remind June and I of 20 years of much enjoyment and fun from WSWS.

Becoming Treasurer, as Martin kindly said at the party, may have been an essential for him to start WSWS, but it gave me the chance of 20 years of not only speaker meetings but lots of very enjoyable committee meetings as well. All of which carry many happy memories.

Again, thanks to you all for your generous gifts.

And, I would add (on behalf of all of the members, I am sure) many thanks to Sallie & Geoffrey for organising a splendid 20th Party.

David (R)

Sampling notes

WSWS Wine tastings in 2008 have, in general been booked some months in advance – that way we can publicise them, and ensure that (barring disasters) we don't end up with an empty night.

Imagine our surprise then when no less than that illustrious publication "Decanter" decides to issue a special addition to the September pack - concentrating on "Chilean wines".

This is not the first time that WSWS has led the way, with Decanter trailing in our wake. Humble as we are, it's good to see that the Editor is clearly listening to the root and branch wine lovers as well as those "better heeled" amongst us.

David & Kim (editors in training)



Of interest to members.....

Alun Griffiths came to our party, so it is probably only wise to return the compliment....

The Berry Brothers & Rudd Web site (www.bbr.com) is offering 10% off and free delivery for wines ordered in September.



www.fromvineyardsdirect.com provide a monthly write up on selected wines.