



Quaffing



PWS Quarterly Notes & News

November 2005

From The Secretary

It seems inconceivable that we are already through 2005 and preparing for another festive season.

Our annual dinner at South Downs College was fully booked and although this newsletter will reach you before we have sampled this year's fare, I'm sure that it will be up to the usual standard.

We have just enjoyed two excellent tastings - New Zealand wines from Jackson & Villa Maria estates ably presented by Nina Walters and Trevor Elliott's exposition of some great Riojas. Both events were extremely well attended which is always encouraging

and I hope that forthcoming tastings will be equally well supported. The Committee strives to maintain variety without too frequent repetition of either subject or speaker. Even with such a large subject matter it can be a challenge. We will not shy away from presenting any country/region/variety - part of the joy of what we can do as a Society is to taste wines that we might not otherwise choose (or perhaps even afford). Even if we decide we don't like a particular wine, at least we can say that we have tried it and therefore, know we don't like it.

Our next two tastings, which

you can book using the forms enclosed in this newsletter, are the Committee tasting on December 6th with wines chosen by committee members supplemented by mince pies and then on January 3rd, Keith Grainger will present wines from Chile and Argentina.

We have welcomed a number of new members recently who we hope will continue to enjoy our tastings and our company. Please consider introducing friends, colleagues and family to the Society as we would like to sustain and increase membership.

As there will not be another (written) opportunity, on behalf of the Committee may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Bob Hawthorne

PWS Committee Members & Contact Details

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th December 2005 <i>Committee Tasting - Favourite Wines</i>	Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm
Tuesday 3rd January 2006 <i>Keith Grainger - Wines of Chile & Argentina</i>	Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm
Tuesday 7th February 2006 <i>Tim Clarke - The Malvasia Story</i>	Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm
Tuesday 7th March 2006 <i>A.G.M. + Tasting Challenge</i>	Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm
Tuesday 4th April 2006 <i>Brown Brothers - Tutored Tasting</i>	Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm
Tuesday 2nd May 2006 <i>Portugal TBA</i>	Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm
Tuesday 6th June 2006 <i>TBA</i>	Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm
Friday 7th July 2006 <i>PWS 30th Anniversary Dinner</i>	Brookfield Hotel, Emsworth 7.30pm

Future Events subject to change. Visit www.portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk for more information

The Wines Of Chile & Argentina Presenter: Keith Grainger

Apart from sharing the same language and the common backbone of the Andes, Chile and Argentina really have little in common. The wines too are distinctly different, and this tasting will emphasise some of the differences.

The wines of Chile are now gaining regional identity and there is much new planting taking place to both the north and south of what were previously regarded as the classic regions. At first glance some of the areas planted seem pretty crazy – the region of Limarí, for example, has just 3 inches of rain a year, but the resulting wines are certainly most promising. Included in the tasting will be a couple wines made from Carmenère. This variety was almost unheard of until just over a decade ago, although it had existed in Chile for some 150 years.

The Chileans regard Argentina as their poor neighbour, but the quality of wines from this large country has increased wonderfully during the last decade. Argentina's answer to Carmenère is Malbec, once widely planted in Bordeaux. However, following phylloxera only the region of Cahors took the grape to heart. Now Argentina is certainly showing the French what good Malbec is all about! Torrontes is white variety of which the country is proud, producing very distinctive and refreshing wines.

Your tutor, Keith Grainger, now lives in South Africa, where he has a wine school. He also leads wine tours throughout the southern hemisphere, including two tours a year to South America. The tasting will be informative but great fun, present in Keith's usual irreverent style.

JANUARY TASTING - BOOK NOW!

Tuesday 3rd January 2006 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

Wines of Chile & Argentina

Keith Grainger

I/We would like to attend the Chile & Argentina tasting. Guests are welcome.

Please reserve places at **£12** per head - Total enclosed £.....

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Send cheques payable to "Portsmouth Wine Society" to:

Bob Hawthorne, 17 Lindley Avenue, Southsea, Hampshire PO4 9NT

By 20th December 2005

Committee Tasting

The Committee Tasting is a relaxed evening with plenty of time for talking and socialising with friends whilst tasting some (hopefully) super wines chosen by committee members as some of their personal favourites. The usual form is for a sparkling wine to start followed by 3 whites and 3 reds finishing with something a little sticky to accompany the mince pies.

December Tasting - Book Now!

Tuesday 6th December 2005 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

Committee Tasting - Favourite Wines

I/We would like to attend the Committee tasting. Guests are welcome.

Please reserve places at **£8.50** per head - Total enclosed £.....

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Send cheques payable to "Portsmouth Wine Society" to:

Bob Hawthorne, 17 Lindley Avenue, Southsea, Hampshire PO4 9NT

By 26th November 2005

Tuesday 3rd January 2006 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

Wines of Chile & Argentina

Please complete the booking form on the other side
and return to:

Bob Hawthorne

17 Lindley Avenue, Southsea

Hampshire PO4 9NT

By 20th December 2005

Visit www.portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk for more information

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