



Quaffing



www.portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk

February 2007

From the Secretary

I was going to say something about looking forward to Spring, however it seems that we can't be sure what season we're in any more!

It's certainly time for our Annual General Meeting in March where we ask you to re-appoint your Committee and/or propose new people to take up the reins. Although we hope you are happy with the work of the present Committee, new members are welcome to stand. Please use the enclosed form to make new Committee nominations and return it to the Hon. Secretary by 15th February. Any proposals you wish to be considered by the meeting should also be notified on the same form.

The Committee has decided that this year, a nominal charge of £5 per head will be made for the post-A.G.M. "tasting challenge". This will off-set some of the cost in a year where we have subsidised a number of events (to keep prices reasonable) not the least of which being the 30th Anniversary Dinner last summer. We must be prudent in maintaining adequate reserves which enable us to underwrite events and meet any costs incurred prior to the event taking place.

Our April tasting is a look at ever improving Greece. If your idea of Greek wine is still a bottle of Retsina then come along in April and prepare to be surprised. Our guide, Christos Ioannou will lead us through a hand-picked selection.

Bob Hawthorne

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Society Web Site www.portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk

Christos Ioannou

Greece conjures up images of white washed stone houses, olive groves, fishing boats and bouzouki music, but also the dreaded Retsina. In ancient times the Romans dubbed it Enotria 'Land of Vines', and until recently there wasn't much that could compete on the international stage. But since the early 1990s, a vinous revolution has been taking place and many boutique wineries have been established. Greece has hundreds of indigenous varieties (most with unpronounceable names!) and it is through these that it can tantalise the tastebuds of the most passionate Chardonnay and Merlot lovers, with a whole range of unique aromas and flavours. So to find out if there really is 'Life Beyond Retsina' come and join us as Christos leads us through a selection of hand picked wines.

A Bordeaux tasting by Freddy Price at Reading University Wine Society first sparked Christos' interest in wine. This interest gradually turned into a passion, and after a 20 year detour into marine insurance, Christos realized that at least half a career spent doing something that he really enjoyed was better than nothing!

After completing his WSET Diploma, Christos set up a company, Criterion Wine to organize wine events for corporate customers, social clubs and wine groups. For the last five years he has run the wine group of a large London based activities Club. He also acts as a wine guide and escort to accompany groups on organized tours.

Christos has travelled to nearly all of France's wine regions, as well as to many other wine producing countries of the world including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, California and Lebanon. He has also travelled to many other far flung parts of the globe and, having exhausted most continents, his remaining aim is to visit Antarctica. He would also like to do a bungy jump on all five continents, and currently has two more to go! If asked to name his favourite tippie, Christos would have to say Red Bordeaux, though he is never averse to a glass of good champagne! Christos has been a Judge at the International Wine Competition since 2002, is a member of the Association of Wine Educators, and is a WSET recommended tutor.

Forthcoming Events

All tastings are held at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth at 7pm unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday 1st May 2007

Bush Wines - Spain

Tuesday 5th June 2007

English Wine

Tuesday 3rd July 2007

Summer Garden Party - Rosie's Vineyard

April Tasting - Book Now!

Tuesday 3rd April 2007 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

Christos Ioannou - Greece, Life Beyond Retsina

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

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

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

Send cheques payable to “**Portsmouth Wine Society**” to:

Roger Foster, Mylor House, Swanmore Road,

Droxford, Hampshire SO32 3PT

By Monday 19th March 2007

Please note the return by dates for bookings. We, or our presenters, often require 7-10 days to find, order and take delivery of wines for tasting. The quantity of wine purchased depends on the numbers booked at the closing date. we regret therefore, that late bookings may be rejected. To check late availability, please contact a Committee member.

March A.G.M. - Book Now!

Tuesday 6th March 2007 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

A.G.M. & Tasting Challenge

I/We would like to attend the A.G.M & Tasting challenge. **Members Only.**

Please reserve places at **£5** per head - Total enclosed £.....

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

Send cheques payable to “**Portsmouth Wine Society**” to:

Roger Foster, Mylor House, Swanmore Road,

Droxford, Hampshire SO32 3PT

By Saturday 24th February 2007

Tuesday 3rd April 2007 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

Christos Ioannou - Greece

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

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