



# Quaffing



[www.portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk)

February 2008

The Annual General Meeting is upon us once again. This is your chance to comment on any aspect of the Society and how it is run. Please use the enclosed papers to submit any motions you wish to raise at the meeting and propose anyone you know who would be interested and willing to be nominated to join the Committee.

Immediately following the A.G.M. will be the usual fun of a blind tasting challenge contrived this year by our two Peters - Ellam and Hamilton.

April sees the welcome return of Simon Taylor (Stone, Vine & Sun) to give a presentation on wines from the Languedoc & Roussillon regions of France. In May, we are delighted to welcome Kevin Powell to show some fantastic wines from California avoiding the big guns of Gallo et al. As we (hopefully) enjoy some warm summer weather, Charles Addison is bringing us some good value whites and surprisingly tasty reds from Hungary.

*Bob Hawthorne*

## Forthcoming Events

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

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	AGM & Blind Tasting Fun Challenge
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008	Simon Taylor - Languedoc & Roussillon
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2008	Kevin Powell - California
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2008	Charles Addison - Hungary

## PWS Main Contacts

**Sheila Robinson Chairman** e-mail: [chair@portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk)

28 Craneswater Park, Southsea, Hampshire PO4 0NT

Telephone: 023 9281 1376

**Bob Hawthorne Hon. Secretary** e-mail: [secretary@portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk)

17 Lindley Avenue, Southsea, Hampshire PO4 9NT

Telephone: 07005 981682 Fax: 07005 981683

**Roger Foster Hon. Treasurer** e-mail: [treasurer@portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk)

Mylor House, Swanmore Road, Droxford, Hampshire SO32 3PT

Telephone: TBA

**Society Web Site** [www.portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthwinesociety.org.uk)

# Languedoc-Roussillon

This is a huge wine-growing region, of uneven quality and aspiration. It's sometimes described as "France's New World", for its plentiful sunshine and enormous Vin de Pays production of (often unsuitable) varieties. However in this tasting we ignore these wines from the flat plains around Beziers to focus on the appellation wines from the hills which encircle the west of Montpellier to the border. Appellations such as Chinian, Faugeres, La Clape characterful, gutsy reds from Carignan and others, and white wines. The tasting will be one of the fortified wines which



These are real terroir wines: ancient, vines growing on sparse soils on hillside rocky vineyards, they really reflect their origins. If you don't know these wines, they are guaranteed to open your eyes to their virtues. The French treat the Languedoc-Roussillon as much a source of fine wine as other classic regions such as the Loire or Alsace – it's time we did the same in this country, especially as the wines continue to offer fantastic value.

**Stone, Vine & Sun** was established in October 2002 by Simon Taylor and Andrew Shaw, who met at the first Rhône wine fair in March 2001. They are committed to selling wines that truly reflect the land they are grown on and endeavour, where possible, to buy direct from independent, family-owned producers whose wines are rarely available through larger suppliers. Stone Vine & Sun specialise in the Rhône, Burgundy, Languedoc, Loire and Alsace, plus South Africa and South America, as well as having an extensive range of wines from Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, and New Zealand.

**Simon Taylor** worked at Sotheby's for 23 years, initially as a picture expert and increasingly in management, finishing as Deputy Managing Director of Sotheby's Europe. In the 1990s he became increasingly obsessed by wine and began travelling to taste, learn, and meet wine producers in France, South Africa and California. It was a natural (but financially insane) step in 2002 to dump the Bond Street office, lovely PA, expense account and business class flights, for a chicken-shed in Hampshire, and budget travel from Stansted.

Married with three children, two golden retrievers, tropical fish; and doomed to perpetual dissatisfaction as a Southampton season ticket holder.



# April Tasting - Book Now!

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

## Simon Taylor - Languedoc-Rousillon

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

Please reserve ..... member's places at **£12.00** per head

**Total enclosed £**.....

Please reserve ..... Guest places at **£14.00** per head

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

Send cheques payable to "**Portsmouth Wine Society**" to:

**Roger Foster, Mylor House, Swanmore Road,**

**Droxford, Hampshire SO32 3PT**

**By Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2008**

*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 & Tasting - Book Now!

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

## PWS A.G.M. & Blind Tasting Fun Challenge

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

Please reserve ..... member's places at **£5.00** 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 25<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 Mountbatten Centre 7.00pm

## **Simon Taylor - Languedoc-Rousillon**

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

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Droxford, Hampshire SO32 3PT

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