### WINERIES VISITED TO DATE

**FRANCE**

**BORDEAUX**
- Château d’Issan
- Château de La Ligne
- Château Latour
- Château Léoville-Barton & Château Langoa-Barton
- Château les Ormes de Pez
- Château Lynch-Bages
- Château MacCarthy and Château Haut-Marbuzet
- Château Magnol
- Château Margaux
- Château Pape-Clément
- Château Phélippe-Ségur
- Château Pichon-Longueville-Comtesse Lalande
- Château Siran
- Château du Tertre
- Château d’Yquem

**COGNAC**
- Delamain et Cie
- Jas Hennessy & Co.

**LOIRE**
- Château de Goulaine

**SPAIN**
- Bodegas Garvey

**UNITED STATES**

**CALIFORNIA**
- NAPA
  - Carneros Creek Winery
  - Chappellet Winery and Vineyard
  - Chateau Montelena Winery
  - Flora Springs Winery & Vineyards
  - Sequoia Grove Vineyards

- SONOMA
  - Driscoll Toboni Vineyard
  - DuMOL Winery
  - Gary Farrell Vineyards and Winery
  - Limerick Lane Cellars
  - Murphy-Goode Estate Winery
  - Roche Estate Winery

**SONOMA**
- Driscoll Toboni Vineyard
- DuMOL Winery
- Gary Farrell Vineyards and Winery
- Limerick Lane Cellars
- Murphy-Goode Estate Winery
- Roche Estate Winery

**AUSTRALIA**
- Clairault Estate Wines
- Cullen Wines
- Fermoy Estate
- The Growers
- Leeuwin Estate
- McGuigan Wines
- McWilliams Mount Pleasant Estate
- Oakvale Winery
- Roche Wines
- Tyrrell’s Wines
- Xanadu

### FUTURE EVENTS

**BOOK**

Our congratulations to Ted Murphy and his book, “A Kingdom of Wine” for winning the prestigious 2006 Gourmand International Award, “Best in World—Wine History Book” this past April in Beijing, China. Presently, Elisabet Bordt is in Ireland working on the expanded second edition. This enhanced version will be launched at the Worldwide Ireland Funds Conference in Dublin in June. The new edition, as was the first, will be self-funded by the Patrons of the Society.

**FUTURE TRIPS**

- Save the date
  - Napa, California, 17 - 21 September 2008
- Argentina or Italy, 2009

---

**The Ireland Funds**

5646 Milton St.,
Ste 313
Dallas, TX 75206

469.232.9601
469.232.9602
winegeese@irlfunds.org
www.irlfunds.org/winegeese
Greetings

This is the first of the new WineGeese semi-annual newsletter. While this issue will primarily cover this past year, future issues will feature wine, vineyards, and upcoming events.

The Newsletter of The Ireland Funds’ WineGeese Society

THE POSTER THAT LAUNCHED
THE IRELAND FUNDS WINEGEESE SOCIETY

Right before the June 2001 Worldwide Conference in Dublin, Netta Blanchard, Bobbie Sue Williams, Deanna McHugh, and Mike Corboy were traveling with the McHale golfing group who were on a Fly-In to Ireland. In Kinsale, while the golfers were playing at Old Head, the three ladies were to lunch with Mike Corboy at the Golf Club. Unfortunately, due to a strep throat, Mike had to renege on the lunch date. The ladies looked for something to do and decided to visit Desmond Castle in Kinsale thereby discovering the Wine Museum and the beautiful poster of the Irish French chateaux.

Back in Texas and looking at the poster, Netta thought what a great pre-conference trip for 2002 to visit the Irish French chateaux of the Médoc would be. Where to start? Calling the Wine Museum, she asked for the author of the poster and she was told that they could not reveal that information. Next call was to Eamonn Cregan at the University of Limerick asking him to call his friend Peter Barry known as “Mr. Kinsale”. Peter said “the person you need to talk to is Ted Murphy and here is his number”. Calling Michael, Netta found another connection: Michael’s father and her father, both now deceased, had been friends in Dublin. And so, a trip was born. Michael Corboy claims credit, as he says if he had not been ill, we would never have visited the Wine Museum.

Seeing the possibility of a wine tour for the Texas delegation, Netta and her assistant, Elisabet Bords, visited Bordeaux on September 11, 2001 – their flight was the last flight to land at Bordeaux Airport on that day. Ted arranged for Netta and Elisabet to meet with Anthony Barton and Daniel Lawton. A group of 22 including Kingsley Aikins, President & CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds, toured Bordeaux for five days before the 2002 conference.

Kingsley seeing the potential of making this a permanent part of The Ireland Funds programs urged the development of an ongoing Society in the fall of 2002. It was established in Dallas, its mission statement “From Wine what Wondrous Friendship Springs”. Ted Murphy became its honorary Chairman with the Society’s Co-Chairmen, Ken Gorman, John Sharkey, and John Tillotson. In 2005, the Society funded the publication of the first edition of the book, which has gone on to receive several awards including Best in Wine History for 2006 from the Gourmand Book Awards.

As of this writing, the Society has toured Bordeaux three times; Loire Valley; Cognac; Spain; Napa and Sonoma, California; and the Hunter and Margaret Valleys in Australia. Major dinners highlighting many of the wines discussed in this book have been held in Dallas, Texas; New York City; Kinsale and Dublin; as well as cocktail parties and wine tastings. Membership is by invitation only. Today we have over 110 paid members and 32 honorary members. The profits from membership fees and tours advance the work of The Ireland Funds throughout Ireland.

Membership

MEMBERSHIP

As of this writing we have 112 regular and 32 honorary members. Honorary members are primarily the owners of vineyards we have visited, or dignitaries supporting our events.

NEW MEMBERS

Membership is by invitation only. The following criteria is to be considered when evaluating a prospective member.

A. FOR EXISTING IRELAND FUNDS’ SUPPORTERS:

A track record of involvement and commitment to the mission of The Ireland Funds, evidenced by:
- a significant gift
- a significant purchase of tables at events
- the provision of significant in-kind services to the Funds
- membership on a committee or the Board
- the raising of significant monies on behalf of the Funds

B. FOR NEW SUPPORTERS:
- a proven interest in, or connection with Ireland, personal or professional
- a qualified assessment of capacity to support, and demonstrated philanthropic activity

To recommend a candidate for consideration, please send his or her background information to Netta Blanchard in the Dallas office. New members will be inducted at the Worldwide Conference in June, or at a scheduled WineGeese event.
BORDEAUX/COGNAC—25 TO 30 JUNE 2007

Twenty members attended the trip which visited 7 wineries in Bordeaux, including Issan, Latour, Lynch-Bages, Les Ormes de Pez, Pape-Clément, and du Tertre.

Highlights included a visit to Château Yquem, the best and most expensive dessert wine in the world. And, the Cognac region, where we enjoyed the hospitality of Maurice Hennessy at Château de Bagnolet, ancestral home of the Hennessy family. In addition, we visited Delamain and barrel-tasted 20, 50, 75 and 100 year old brandies.
Australia—30 September to 10 October 2007

Nineteen members flew around the world for one of the most spectacular WineGeese trips to date. It started with three days in Sydney including dinner at the Opera House, a sail around the harbor on Charles Curran’s 60 foot racing yacht, the ‘Sydney’, and then on to Hunter Valley where we visited Tyrrell, McGuigan, McWilliam’s Mt Pleasant, Oakvale, and Tempus Two wineries. Then on to Perth by chartered plane to Margaret River where we visited Clairault, Cullen, Fermoy, The Growers, Leeuwin, and Xanadu wines.

The group at Hunter Valley Gardens in New South Wales

Ken Gorman, newly inducted members John & Connie Curran, John Sharkey, Ted Murphy, honorary WineGeese member Charles Curran

Helen Sharkey, Garry Murphy, Kerry Chaffers at Tempus Two

Michael & Pepper Jackson with Ken Gorman

Sally & Dick Phelps with Diane & Lex Gamble at Mt Pleasent

The group at Hunter Valley Gardens in New South Wales

Ken Gorman, newly inducted members John & Connie Curran, John Sharkey, Ted Murphy, honorary WineGeese member Charles Curran
THE WINEGEESE DINNER AT CARTON HOUSE IN KILDARE

The major event was the WineGeese dinner at Carton House in Kildare which kicked off the 2007 worldwide conference. A Herald of Arms introduced the 86 guests. Excellent wines were served, and the group was enlightened on their history by the Marquis de Goulaine (his family have produced Loire Valley wines for 1,000 years), and by Sonoma’s Kerry and Margie Murphy and their DuMOL wines, the oldest vintage only twelve years old, yet their DuMOL consistently rates over 90. Terry and Adèle Cross shared with the guests their delightful Château de La Ligne 2004 Merlot Cabernet. Last but not least, Frederic Hennessy of the famous Cognac family presented an interesting overview of that dynasty. This great evening ended on a high note—a superb operetta group performed several of the classic arias to the delight of the grateful audience.

WATERFORD CRYSTAL COCKTAIL PARTY

In January, a cocktail party was held at the Waterford Crystal Showroom in New York. Over 50 people attended the event.

THE WINE CELLAR LUNCHEON

On October 24th, during the New York Wine Exposition, we honored DuMOL’s Kerry Murphy at a special luncheon in the Wine Cellar at the ’21 Club. Twenty guests attended and we inducted 6 new members: Philip Armstrong, Anthony Callaghan, John McCormack, Kevin Murray, Timothy Phillips, and Brian Ruane.

Please visit our internet website www.irlfunds.org/winegeese for more pictures and information.
8 HEALTH BENEFITS OF DRINKING WINE

- PROMOTES LONGEVITY

- REDUCED HEART ATTACK RISK

- LOWERS RISK OF HEART DISEASE
  Red-wine tannins contain procyanidins which protect against heart disease. Wines from Sardinia and southwest France have more procyanidins than other wines.

- REDUCES RISK OF TYPE 2 DIABETES
  Moderate drinkers have 30 percent less risk than nondrinkers of developing type 2 diabetes.
  Source: research on 369,862 individuals studied over an average of 12 years each at Amsterdam’s VU University Medical Center, published in Diabetes Care, 2005.

- LOWERS RISK OF STROKE
  The possibility of suffering a blood clot-related stroke drops by about 50 percent in people who consume moderate amounts of alcohol.

- CUTS RISK OF CATARACTS
  Moderate drinkers are 32 percent less likely to get cataracts than nondrinkers; those who consume wine are 43 percent less likely to develop cataracts than those drinking mainly beer.

- CUTS RISK OF COLON CANCER
  Moderate consumption of wine (especially red) cuts the risk of colon cancer by 45 percent.

- SLOWS BRAIN DECLINE
  Brain function declines at a markedly faster rate in nondrinkers than in moderate drinkers.

WINE DISCOUNTS
In 2006 we visited Michael Collins’ Limerick Lane Cellars winery in Sonoma and tasted his excellent Zinfandel. Michael is offering all WineGeese members a 20% discount on his wines. To order, call 707.433.9211 and indicate you are a WineGeese member.

BOWTIES
Evening dress bowties are now available to members for $30 including shipping. The ties are black and burgundy with golden geese. Please contact the Dallas office to order a tie.
The principal subject under discussion throughout the wine world today concerns which variety of stopper is most suitable for sealing wine—the natural cork, the aluminium screwcap, or the innovative glass Vino-Lok also called Vino-Seal.

All three have their passionate adherents. Traditionalists are convinced that quality natural cork is a perfect closure and the only one suitable for long term aging of wine. Its opponents, mostly the wine industry, claim that up to four per cent of wines sealed with corks are spoiled. However, the cork producers say they have introduced new procedures and technology that virtually eradicate trichloroanisole (TCA), the compound responsible for “corked” wine—the musty odor and taste wine picks up from defective corks.

Kerry Murphy uses nothing but natural cork for his internationally acclaimed DuMOL wines from the Russian River Valley, Sonoma—each cork he explains is scientifically tested at the winery to ensure it is of the highest quality.

On the other hand, the PlumpJack Winery in Napa Valley, owned in partnership by oil billionaire Gordon Getty and Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco, has been among the leading pioneers of the use of screwcaps in America—sealing half of its classic 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon with screwcaps and half with cork—its winemaker subsequently found the wine sealed with screwcaps to have matured to a finer quality than those sealed with corks. Sharing the same opinion are many of the top producers in Australia like Denis Horgan of Leeuwin Estate in Margaret River and Bruce Tyrrell of Tyrrell Wines in the Hunter Valley. However, the leading Bordeaux châteaux, who have conducted their own study of the subject, find that the same vintage stoppered by capsule and cork showed no difference in maturity up to the first five years when that under capsule ceased to mature any further while that under cork continued to evolve.

Recently introduced to the market is the Vino-Lok, a glass stopper with a plastic seal that provides an airtight closure without ever coming into contact with the wine. Scott McWilliam of McWilliam’s Mt Pleasant in the Hunter Valley is researching the potential of this type of closure.

Yet despite the occasional inconvenience caused by tainted wine, a recent survey found that nine out of ten European wine lovers favored cork above any other type of stopper.

Gene Mulvihill, owner of Restaurant Latour at Crystal Springs in New Jersey has in conjunction with Matthew Augustine, Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of California, Davis designed a machine to detect cork taint without removing the cork or capsule from the bottle. The machine operates by slipping a metal tube over the bottleneck and air is extracted from the tube thus creating a vacuum. Without penetrating either the cork or capsule, molecules are collected on a fiber within the tube. Utilizing gas chromatography and mass spectrometry, the fiber is analyzed for cork taint or any other malady.

Mulvihill has tested a machine on expensive bottles in his restaurant in order to eliminate corked and oxidised wines from his inventory. This machine costing $50,000 is really only directed at auction houses and for use on prized wines like expensive clarets and Penfolds Grange.

— Denis Horgan, Scott McWilliam, Kerry Murphy, Gavin Newsom, and Bruce Tyrrell are honorary members of the WineGeese Society.
Whether fermented in it, matured in it, or stored in it, wood has always played an important role in the production of French wine. Despite a variety of synthetic materials on the market, almost all the great red and many of the great white wines in the world are matured in oak casks.

For one thing wood is porous to air—this allows very slow oxidation—and this in turn leads to the development of a wine’s character.

All this depends on what a winemaker wants to achieve—when used to its best advantage oak can contribute to the complex aromas and flavors so typical of fine wine—vanilla in red and coconut in white.

However there is a price to pay for quality and authenticity—and maturing wine in high quality new casks involves considerable expense—very considerable expense. For instance, new casks can as much as double the price of bulk wine per hectoliter in southern France and wineries in California estimate it can add as much as four dollars to a bottle of wine.

While great wine estates are able to absorb the expense of this method of maturation many other producers have found it to be a very heavy financial burden.

New World winemaking legislation allows producers to add oak shavings during the fermentation process—a technique they argue that gives the wine the much desired oakey flavor—a perfect substitute for the real thing at a fraction of the cost. Many French producers have protested that this puts them at a great disadvantage when competing in the international market—as the use of wood shavings are prohibited under French law.

However, after heavy lobbying and even heavier loss in sales it now appears the Institut National des Appellations d’Origine are preparing to rescind this piece of legislation.

While this news is greeted with much delight by many of the smaller producers, a spokesman for the great Bordeaux chateaux frowned upon using shavings “ridiculous—a practice invented to undermine our national savoir-faire.”
Our Members

THE IRELAND FUNDS’ WINEGEESSE SOCIETY MEMBERS

KEN GORMAN, JOHN SHARKEY, JOHN TILLOTSON; CO CHAIRS

GARRY AND TED MURPHY; HONORARY CO CHAIRS

HONORARY MEMBERS

Anthony Barton, Château Léoville Barton and Langoa Barton, Médoc, France

Sylvie Cazes-Regimbeau, Château Lynch Bages, Médoc, France

Michael Collins, Limerick Lane Cellars, Sonoma, California

Terry and Adèle Cross, Château de La Ligne, Bordeaux, France

Charles Curran, Nassau Estate, NSW, Australia

Gary Farrell, Gary Farrell Vineyards, Russian River Valley, California

Loretta Brennan Glucksman, New York and Ireland

Robert, Marquis de Goulaine, Château de Goulaine, Loire Valley, France

Dr. Maurice Hayes, Ireland

Frederic Hennessy, Hennessy Cognac, Cognac, France and Ireland

Tricia and Denis Horgan, Leeuwin Estate, Margaret River, Australia

Allison and Michael Kelly, Fermoy Estate, Margaret River, Australia

Dr. John Lagan, Perth, Australia

Daniel Lawton, Tastet & Lawton, Bordeaux, France

Fay and Brian McGuigan, McGuigan Wines, Hunter Valley, Australia

Scott McWilliam, McWilliam’s Mt Pleasant Wines, Hunter Valley, Australia

Ena Martin and Brian Martin, Clairault Estate, Margaret River, Australia

Doreen Murphy, Murphy-Goode Estate, Alexander Valley, California

Kerry and Margie Murphy, DuMOL Winery, Russian River Valley, California

Gavin Newsom, PlumpJack Winery, Napa Valley, California

Brendan Roche, Roche Estate Winery, Sonoma, California

Patrick Scullion, Irish Consul-General, Sydney, Australia

Sheilagh Sullivan, Setanta Vineyards, Adelaide Hills, South Australia

Mary Driscoll Toboni, Toboni Vineyards, Russian River Valley, California

Bruce Tyrrell and Chris Tyrrell, Tyrrell Vineyard, Hunter Valley, Australia

A. W. B. Vincent, Monaco

ROBERT MCDONOUGH
(1922–2007)

“Now fill to me the parting glass, good night and joy be with you all”

Bob founded Remedy Intelligent Staffing. The company, which has now grown to 250 offices, was recently sold. Bob, a generous supporter of his alma mater, Georgetown University, which showed their appreciation by naming the Business School in his honor. Bob was very proud of his Irish ancestry and was much loved by his friends in The Ireland Funds’ WineGeese Society. Bob is survived by his wife, Simone McDonough, and four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren.

Bob, the first of our WineGeese to take flight, will be sorely missed for his wit, charm, and kindness.
THE IRELAND FUNDS’ WINEGEESE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Kingsley Aikins
Linda Armstrong
Philip Armstrong
Theresa Bailey
Michael Bailey
June Bennett
Archie Bennett
Netta Blanchard
Elisabet Bordt
John Bowen
Susan Bradley
Vincent Bradley
Terry Browne
Mary Bush
Rick Bush
Sharon Bush
Anthony Callaghan
Karen Callaghan
Jerry Callaghan
Dorothy Campbell
Luther Campbell
Shelly Codd
Tom Codd
Margaret Condron
Kip Condron
Lou Ann Corboy
Mike Corboy
Rose Corcoran
Joseph Corcoran
Susan Morrice Cranberg
Alex Cranberg
Brinda Curley
Kevin Curley
Connie Curran
John Curran
Susan Dickie
Bob Dunfrey
Caitriona Fottrell
Sarah Gallagher
Tom Gallagher
Diane Gamble
Lex Gamble
Bill Ganley
Carol Geary
Mike Geary
Mary Gilgan
Kevin Gilgan
Ken Gorman
Jane Hanratty
Don Hanratty
Margaret Hayhurst
Pepper Jackson
Michael Jackson
Alayne Kane
John Kane
Margo Keyes
Jim Keyes
Maureen King
Gretchen Lahourcade
Ann Level
Waymon Level
Dolores McCall
Keelin McCormack
John McCormack
Robert McDonough
Peggy McGrath
Mike McGrath
Deanna McHugh
Steve McHugh
Kieran McLaughlin
Billee Madsen
Mary Mallaghan
Lee Mallaghan
Barbara Miercort
Cliff Miercort
Marjorie Muldowney
James Mulvany
Mary Mulvihill
Dan Mulvihill
Gary Murphy
Ted Murphy
Eileen Murphy
Bart Murphy
Kevin Murray
Liza O’Connor
Maureen O’Driscoll Levy
Mary Ann Perryman
Sally Phelps
Richard Phelps
Mari O’Connor
Timothy C. Phillips
Paula Pierce
Ged Pierce
Brian Ruane
Pauline Ryan
John Ryan
Bernadette Shanahan
Paddy Shanahan
Helen Sharkey
John Sharkey
Margaret ‘Peggy’ Shelly
Frank Sinnott
Luanne Tierney
Sylvia Tillotson
John Tillotson
Gerald Tsai, Jr
Page Tucker
Bill Tucker
T. Declan Walsh
William Walsh
Ellen Welch
Andy Welch
Bobbie Sue Williams
* Deceased