



WINE WATCH



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 Phélan-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
- Jarvis Winery
- Round Pond Estate
- Sequoia Grove Vineyards
- Silver Oak Cellars
- Twomey Cellars
- Whitehall Lane 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". The second edition will come out in the summer of 2009. The new edition, as was the first, will be self-funded by the Patrons of the Society.

FUTURE TRIPS & EVENTS

Save the date

AN EVENING WITH IRISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, HE ANNE ANDERSON, 8 DECEMBER 2009

Contact Caitlin McCormick at +1.212.689.3100 (U.S.) or cmccormick@irlfunds.org

CHILE & ARGENTINA, OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2010

Contact Netta Blanchard at +1.469.232.9601 (U.S.) or nblanchard@irlfunds.org

The Newsletter of The Ireland Funds' WineGeese Society

A WineGeese Year

2008 TO 2009

The 2009 WineGeese trip to Normandy was all we expected and more. Dinner began in Paris at the Irish Embassy hosted by HE Anne Anderson, then Irish Ambassador to France and now Irish Ambassador to the United Nations. The Society was joined by special wine guests from France and Ireland including Jean-Charles Cazes of Château Lynch-Bages, Terry Cross of Château de La Ligne, Thierry Gardinier of Château Phélan Ségur, Gay McGuinness of Domaine des Anges, Lochlann Quinn of Château de Fieuzal, and from the U.S. Margie & Kerry Murphy of DuMOL.

Evenings were spent exploring the cultural riches of Normandy with enchanting dinners at local chateaux. The Comte & Comtesse de Maupeou of Château de Colombières welcomed us to their 11th century fairytale castle. The moat, towers, and walls of this impregnable fortress became the center of all American press and radio communications and headquarters of General Omar Bradley of the 12th U.S. Armored Group during the D-Day Landings. The Comte de Maupeou has collected this ephemera over the years and generously shared his collection with us.

The family also owns one of the oldest and most respected estates on Bordeaux's "right bank", the great Premier Grand Cru Classé Château Figeac in St Émilion. We discovered

three of their spectacular wines—all recommended by the father of the Comtesse de Maupeou, Thierry Manoncourt, who at 92 is still in charge at famed Château Figeac. Following the champagne reception, Mme de Maupeou shared her knowledge of these great wines with us. We had the privilege of enjoying Château La Fleur Pourret 2005, La Grange Neuve Figeac 2001, and finished with the glorious Château Figeac 1999. Jancis Robinson describes the Figeac 1999 vintage as "lovely ripe fruit spread all over the palate, without being tricksified. Just solid grapes (versus cellar technique). Amazing length." It was truly an incredible evening.

NEXT STOP CHILE & ARGENTINA

The WineGeese Society is now organizing a trip to Chile and Argentina for late October—early November 2010 at the invitation of the Chilean Ambassador to Ireland (and honorary WineGeese member), HE Mme Cecilia Mackenna. The WineGeese tour of Chile will include Errázuriz, Seña, MontGras, Almaviva, and Santa Rita. At the invitation of HE Mme María Esther Bondanza, Argentine Ambassador to Ireland, the group will also spend three days in Mendoza (a one-hour flight from Santiago). Check our website at www.irlfunds.org/winegeese for more details.

Greetings

The WineGeese Society of The Ireland Funds has been very active this past year with events in Palm Beach, New York, Napa, San Francisco, Paris, and Dublin all covered in detail in the following pages.



Courtesy MontGras Winery



THE AMERICAN IRELAND FUND

the global Irish making a difference together

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Christian Fournier

THE TERM WINEGEESSE IS BASED ON THE STORY OF THE WILD GEESSE, THE IRISH WHO FLED THEIR NATIVE LAND AFTER THE BATTLE OF KINSALE IN THE 17TH CENTURY.

Membership

MEMBERSHIP

As of this writing we have 121 members and 54 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 a scheduled WineGeese event.

The mission of The Ireland Funds is to be the largest worldwide network of people of Irish ancestry and friends of Ireland dedicated to raising funds to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland.

The Ireland Funds are a unique philanthropic organization. For over 30 years, we have been driven by a passionate belief that philanthropy makes a profound difference in society while bringing satisfaction to donors and recipients alike. We are proud to have helped over 1,200 worthy groups across the island of Ireland preserve Irish culture, counter sectarianism, advance education, strengthen community development and assist those in need.

We invite you to learn about giving back to the land that has given us so much. Please visit www.irlfunds.org

Oposite page:

- 1 Peggy & Mike McGrath
- 2 The Knight of Glin receives assistance with his tie
- 3 Desmond Fitzgerald, Pepper Jackson, Kieran McLoughlin
- 4 Kary & David Duncan of Silver Oak and Twomey Cellars
- 5 Ken Gorman, David Duncan, Ted Murphy
- 6 Ken Gorman, Molly Chappellet of Chappellet Winery
- 7 Judy & Jim Barrett of Chateau Montelena and Ted Murphy
- 8 Ken Gorman, Kathleen & Francis Mahoney of Mahoney Vineyards
- 9 Jim Allen and Ted Murphy
- 10 Ken Gorman, Sean Larkin of Larkin Wines, Ted Murphy
- 11 Ken Gorman, Joanne DePuy, Ted Murphy
- 12 Ken Gorman, John Sharkey, Amb. Anne Anderson, Joan & Michael Houllihan, Jean-Charles Cazes, Thierry Gardinier, Ted Murphy, Gay McGuinness, Lochlann Quinn, Prof. Michael Scott, Countess Pamela Dillon-Corneck
- 13 first row: Kathleen Barry, Amb. Cecilia Mackenna, Paula Pierse; second row: John Sharkey, Michael Barry, Ted Murphy; third row: Ged Pierse, Ken Gorman; fourth row: Peter MacCann, Peter Dunne, John Bowen

THE IRELAND FUNDS WELCOMES ITS NEW

WineGeese Society Members



Irish Embassy, Paris

12 JUNE 2009

The WineGeese were hosted on June 12 by HE Anne Anderson, then Irish Ambassador to France and now Irish Ambassador to the United Nations, at the Paris embassy. WineGeese Society leaders Ted Murphy, Ken Gorman, and John Sharkey inducted Ambassador Anderson, Countess Pamela Dillon-Corneck, Joan & Michael Houlihan, Professor Michael Scott, and wine luminaries Jean-Charles Cazes, Thierry Gardinier, Gay McGuinness, and Lochlann Quinn as honorary members of the worldwide organization. Wines were enjoyed from the French vineyards of Fieuzal, Lynch Bages, Phélan Ségur, La Ligne, and Domaine des Anges. California was represented by DuMOL with proprietor Kerry Murphy. Kingsley Aikins, the CEO of The Worldwide Ireland Funds, thanked the Ambassador for her hospitality and the vintners for their generous donations of the best of their cellars.



Merrion, Dublin

18 JUNE 2009

The Merrion Hotel Dublin June 18th saw The Ireland Funds' WineGeese Society gather to honor new inductees HE Amb. Cecilia Mackenna, Chilean Ambassador to Ireland; Michael & Kathleen Barry; John Bowen; Peter Dunne; Peter MacCann; and Ged & Paula Pierse. Amb. Mackenna spoke proudly of her Irish heritage and of the contributions of the Irish over the centuries to Chile, particularly Bernardo O'Higgins who was in the forefront in Chile's successful struggle for independence from Spain. Amb. Mackenna is a descendant of General John Mackenna of Clogher, Co Tyrone, who also played a part in the liberation of Chile. She invited the WineGeese to visit Chile in 2010. The leading Chilean wine families – the Undurragas and the Eyzaguirres – are directly descended from John Mackenna.



1 Amb. Anne Anderson welcomes the WineGeese to Paris
 2 Dolores McCall, Mike Corboy, Nicki Garza, Michael Scott, Joan Houlihan, Bart Grenier, Netta Blanchard, Roger Massey, Lesley King Grenier, Michael Houlihan
 3 Ken Gorman, Ted Murphy, John Sharkey
 4 Georgia Jones, John Cosgrove, Amb. Anne Anderson
 5 Diane Gamble, Margie Murphy, Netta Blanchard, Michael Scott, Dolores McCall

1 Jeannette & Bob Dunfey, Caitriona Fottrell
 2 Ken Gorman, Amb. Cecilia Mackenna, Ted Murphy, John Sharkey
 3 Rebecca Dunn, Margie Murphy, John Bowen, Ged & Paula Pierse
 4 John Sharkey, Ted Murphy, Ken Gorman
 5 Garry Murphy, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Diane Gamble
 6 Bill & Carol Walsh
 7 Bart Murphy, Bob Dunfey, Roger Massey

Normandy

12-18 JUNE 2009

After a spectacular WineGeese dinner in Paris, the group headed to Normandy stopping first at Giverny to visit Monet's magnificent gardens and house. After a delightful lunch, the group left for Château d'Audrieu.

Days were spent visiting the beaches of Utah and Omaha, sites etched in our memories by the films *The Longest Day* and *A Band of Brothers*. We visited Ste Mère Eglise, Dead Man's Corner, Pointe du Hoc, and the D-Day Museum at Arromanches. The evenings lifted the spirits in the exploration of the cultural riches of Normandy.

We then departed for Ireland to a WineGeese reception at the Merrion Hotel with Irish members of the WineGeese. The WineGeese visited Leinster House, the seat of both houses of the Irish parliament, where Dr Rory O'Hanlon, member of Parliament, condensed into 30 minutes a brilliant short course on the Irish Peace Process from 1916 to the present day. Joining us was a group of students from the University of St Thomas in Houston who were in Ireland to study the Peace Process. Of particular interest to the American audience was the story of Hazel Lavery, the Chicago-born wife of the famous Northern Irish painter John Lavery. Her participation altered the course of Irish history about which we learned more from the John Lavery paintings held in storage at the Hugh Lane Gallery. We owe great thanks to poet and musician Mr Terry Browne for organizing the Leinster House and Hugh Lane visits.

Our last day in Ireland saw us at historic Castle Howard in the beautiful Vale of Avoca. Hosts Ivor Fitzpatrick and Susan Stapleton gave us a true taste of Irish hospitality from the champagne greeting on arrival to the sumptuous high tea at the conclusion. In between, we enjoyed a rendering of Moore's melodies by some of Ireland's finest young singers joined by one of Ireland's leading pianists Mary Scarlett. Tenor Dean Power sang "Sweet Vale of Avoca" as we gazed upon it from the windows of the Castle drawing room. As a small token of appreciation, Mike Corboy presented Ivor and Terry with Stetson hats and Susan with a pictorial book on Dallas with an invitation to Texas to sample some of Big D's hospitality.



1 Bill & Carol Walsh, Helen Sharkey, Kerry Gorman, John Sharkey
2 John Sharkey at Giverny
3 Joan & Michael Houlihan, Georgia Jones, John Cosgrove at Giverny

The WineGeese at Play



1 at La Mère Poulard, Mont Saint Michel
2 Page Tucker, Waymon & Ann Levell, Kevin & Brinda Curley, Mike Corboy
3 Ken & Kerry Gorman, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Peggy & Kip Condron at Creully
4 Waymon Levell, Ken Gorman, Kerry Murphy, Mike Corboy, Roger Massey at Ste Mère Eglise
5 David Basnier, our Normandy tour guide, explains the story of Robert Murphy and the taking by the 82nd Airborne Division at the bronze orientation table that shows the battle for Normandy
6 The group at Château de Colombières
7 The Hazel Lavery portrait at Hugh Lane (in storage)

Napa Valley, California

17-21 SEPTEMBER 2008

The WineGeese Society members returned for a now traditional dinner in San Francisco with AIF Board Director Bill Walsh at a private club followed by three days feasting on some of the great Irish-American wines of Napa. Visits on this trip included Jarvis Winery, Whitehall Lane, Twomey Cellars, and the Napa Valley Reserve where the group was introduced to the superb wines of Kary and David Duncan of Silver Oak and Twomey Cellars at a spectacular dinner.

The WineGeese at Play

- 1 Waymon Levell, Cliff Miercort, Archie Bennett
- 2 David Duncan of Twomey Cellars/ Silver Oak and Pepper Jackson
- 3 June Bennett, Tommy Gallagher, Barbara Miercort, Ted Murphy
- 4 The group visit the newly opened Twomey Cellars Winery
- 5 The gang at Jarvis Winery



- 1 Tommy Gallagher, Waymon Levell, Cliff Miercort, David Newman, Dan Mulvihill, Lex Gamble, Michael Jackson, Archie Bennett
- 2 Archie Bennett, Kingsley Aikins, Ken Gorman
- 3 Maureen O'Driscoll Levy, Garry Murphy, Ann Levell, Margaret Hayhurst, Maureen Newman, Diane Gamble, Barbara Miercort, Pepper Jackson, June Bennett, Mary Mulvihill, Sarah Gallagher, Kerry Gorman
- 4 back row: Lex Gamble, Ted Murphy, Cliff Miercort
front row: Tommy Gallagher, Archie Bennett, Ken Gorman



Jackson WineGeese Dinner

19 SEPTEMBER 2008

The stellar reception and dinner at the Napa home of our hosts, Pepper & Michael Jackson, was further enlivened by the induction of seven honorary WineGeese Society members whose wines we enjoyed throughout this magical evening.

We were joined by James & Judy Barrett. In one of the defining moments of American wine history, his Chateau Montelena 1973 Chardonnay was judged "Best White" at the French – American wine tasting in Paris in 1976, subsequently dubbed by the press as the Judgment of Paris. Until then the supremacy of French wines had gone unchallenged throughout the world. Joanne DePuy, who helped facilitate the wine shipments, was also on hand to share her memories of this event. The evening was filled with great Irish-American winemakers: Jim Allen of Sequoia Grove, Molly Chappellet of Chappellet Winery, Sean Larkin of Larkin Wines, and Kathleen & Francis Mahoney of Mahoney Vineyards.



Opposite page:
 1 The group at the Jacksons
 2 Pepper & Michael Jackson, Ted Murphy
 3 Margaret Hayhurst, Maureen Newman, June Bennett, Judy & Jim Barrett
 4 David Newman, Tommy Gallagher, Cliff Miercort, Sean Larkin, Archie Bennett
 5 Sarah Gallagher, Michael Jackson
 6 Marjorie Muldowney, Molly Chappellet, Ted Murphy

This page:
 1 Margaret Hayhurst, Jim Barrett, Joanne DePuy
 2 Ken Gorman, Jim Barrett, Dan Mulvihill
 3 Ken Gorman, Pepper Jackson, Ted Murphy, Michael Jackson
 4 June Bennett can dance!
 5 Liam Tiernan entertains the guests
 6 Kingsley Aikins and Margaret Hayhurst

WineGeese Events

- 1 Dick & Sally Phelps
- 2 Kingsley Aikins, Ted Murphy, and Kieran McLoughlin
- 3 Garry Murphy, Ken & Kerry Gorman
- 4 Robert de Goulaine and Michele & Howard Kessler
- 5 Ted Murphy, Pepper Jackson, Garry Murphy, Michael Jackson
- 6 Kerry & Margie Murphy of DuMOL Wines and Robert, 11th Marquis de Goulaine
- 7 Lawrence Crowley, Sharon Bush, Howard Kessler, Tony Condon

PALM BEACH 17 FEBRUARY 2008

The American Ireland Fund held its annual Palm Beach fundraiser on February 17, 2008 at the oceanfront estate of Michele & Howard Kessler. A unique and intimate occasion, the "Palm Beach Celebration" was sponsored by the Kesslers, Lesley & Bart Grenier, Jackie & Jim Higgins, and Loretta Brennan Glucksman. The heart of the evening was an exquisite gourmet wine-pairing dinner that honored Robert, 11th Marquis de Goulaine and Kerry Murphy of DuMOL Wines, both honorary members of The Ireland Funds' WineGeese Society. On such a stellar evening, Desmond FitzGerald, Knight of Glin and Peggy & Mike McGrath were inducted into the Society.



PAINT & PALATE MARCH 2008

In the beautiful surroundings of the L&M Art Gallery, the New York chapter of the WineGeese gathered to celebrate art and wine. Kieran McLoughlin introduced Irish art historian, Elizabeth Martin, who took the guests on a visual tour of the Provence, Paris, Brittany, and Normandy regions of France through the medium of renowned Irish artists Lavery, Hone, O'Connor, Osborne, and Leech. Wine expert Mary Gorman explored the wines from these regions—a unique way to tie in Irish art to the WineGeese.

- 1 Loretta Brennan Glucksman and Ken Gorman
- 2 Anthony Callaghan and Mike McGrath
- 3 Rob Fox, Pat Tully, Kevin Murray, Kieran McLoughlin
- 4 Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Kerry Gorman, Anthony Callaghan, Maureen Gillespie



CROSS COMMUNITY HARVEST FOR CHÂTEAU DE LA LIGNE OCTOBER 2008

In October 2008, students from St Patrick's College, "Bearnageeha" in North Belfast and Ashfield Boys High School in East Belfast made their way to Château de La Ligne Vineyard in Bordeaux, France to help create Cuvée Prestige 2010. A cross-community work experience with a difference, the 20 schoolboys were welcomed at Château de La Ligne to hand pick the grapes and discover the French culture. Terry Cross, Belfast business man and owner of the Château is delighted with the success of the project "The boys realized that they are all the same, no matter their religion. This year, they bonded extremely well and have even organized to see each other on other occasions. They have now created friends for life," he said.

Château de La Ligne is now available in the U.S. and the distributor is USA Wine Imports - New York (Telephone: 212.941.7133).





The 21 Club

WINEMAKERS DINNER SERIES

LEEWIN ESTATE APRIL 2008

The WineGeese gathered once again at famed '21' Club to enjoy the superb wines of Leeuwin Estate, Margaret River Valley, Australia. Those lucky WineGeese who attended the Australia wine tour had the great good fortune to meet Honorary WineGeese Tricia & Denis Horgan at their home in Margaret River. This time round Denis Horgan, proprietor, came to New York and led the group through a tasting of wines that rank among some of the world's finest paired with the exceptional cuisine of the '21' Club.



Above:
1 Denis Horgan and Loretta Brennan Glucksman
2 Anthony Callaghan, Kevin Murray, Timothy Phillips
3 Diane Gamble, John & Helen Sharkey
4 Connie & John Curran
5 Phillip & Linda Armstrong, Denis Horgan
6 Mike & Peggy McGrath, Helen & John Sharkey

Right:
John Sharkey, Bob Foley, Kelly Kehoe, Ken Gorman

ROBERT FOLEY VINEYARDS MAY 2009

The WineGeese enjoyed a very special evening with famed Napa winemaker Bob Foley who showcased his exceptional Robert Foley Vineyards wines. For many, Foley is regarded as a wine idol and the evening at '21' helped solidify his role in their minds.

Wine Roundup

NOTES FROM THE WORLD OF WINE

THAT OLD BOTTLE, OR IS IT

Physicists at the Center for Scientific Research in Bordeaux have teamed up with the region's great wine chateaux and The Antique Wine Co. to find an objective scientific method for analyzing the wine. The same scientists were using an ion beam from a particle accelerator to test the authenticity of fine art. The measured X-ray radiation emitted from the glass bottle allows the analysis of its chemical composition. The chemical composition of wine bottles changed over time as glass production methods evolved resulting in a characteristic signature. For example, between 1920 and 1957 the green color of wine bottles was produced using manganese. French bottle manufacturers switched to chromium after Moroccan independence. Using this library of bottle "fingerprints" it is possible to compare a suspect bottle with that of a genuine sample to look for differences pointing to forgery. The current chemical component database covers bottles for the last 200 years using 150 authentic bottles donated from the chateaux.

A second test developed by Philippe Hubert (Center for Nuclear Studies) analyzes the levels of radioactive particles in the wine. Its principle advantage is that the bottle is not opened to run the tests. Hubert's caesium-137 records for the second half of the 20th century would show that its absence in an 1860 bottle was a clear indication of forgery.

BORDEAUX WINE RATINGS

Gary Thompson and Stephen Mutkoski of Cornell University have examined ratings of Bordeaux wines for vintages from 1970 to 2005 using Robert Parker (The Wine Advocate), Stephen Tanzer (International Wine Cellar), and Wine Spectator to identify ratings differences and consistencies. The study sample represents over 3,200 ratings for classified growths. The authors used a regression model with rating scores as the depending variable and coding variables for raters, vintages, and châteaux. The upshot-Parker and Tanzer give statistically

indistinguishable ratings, but Spectator's ratings average about one point higher than the others, i.e. not all 90-point wines are equal. The 2005 was the highest rated vintage followed by 2000, 2003, and 1990. The highly lauded 1982 vintage came out tenth best. The poorest-rated vintage was the 1973, followed by 1974, 1980, and 1971. There was no evidence that the raters were becoming more lenient or more conservative over time. The authors argue that the 2005 market prices support their findings.

Using these results they argue that 33 of the 61 classified growths are misclassified. Some chateaux would move up to three levels up or down compared to the 1855 classification.

- Ch Léoville-Las Cases (St Julien) would move to first growth from second growth
- Ch Mouton-Rothschild (Pauillac) would move from first growth to second growth
- Ch Lynch-Bages, Ch Pontet-Canet, Ch Clerc-Milon (all three Pauillac) from fifth growth to second growth

VIRTUOSO LIFE (2008) LIST FIVE PRINCIPAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PURCHASE OF WINE FUTURES:

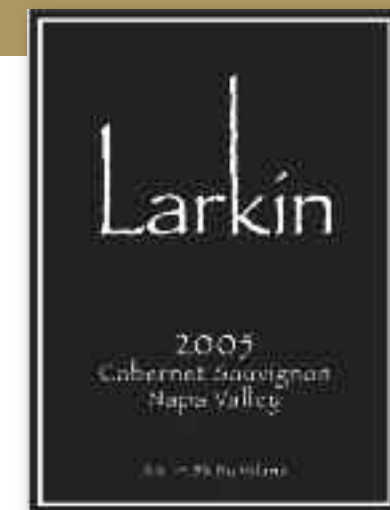
1. Study vintage reports in trusted wine periodicals and newsletters; decide whether the vintage merits investment.
2. Sign up for the newsletters of high-end wine shops; these monthly or quarterly newsletters are where futures and pre-arrival offerings are announced.
3. Act quickly when you find futures or pre-arrivals you're interested in; those from top-notch, low-output producers will go fast.
4. Secure your order (a three- to six-bottle minimum is customary) by placing a deposit, typically 50 percent; the balance will be due on arrival.
5. While waiting for the wines to arrive (anywhere from three months for pre-arrivals to three years for Bordeaux futures) pass the time by culling your current collection, deciding which bottles are ready to drink.

WINEGEESE MEMBER OFFERS

WINE DISCOUNTS

In 2008 the WineGeese had the pleasure of meeting Sean Larkin of Napa Valley's Larkin Wines at the home of Pepper & Michael Jackson. Sean is offering all WineGeese members a 20% discount on his wines.

To order, call 707.944.9105 or visit www.larkinwines.com and indicate you are a WineGeese Society member.



Some favorite wine blogs... please send in your own favorites

www.jancisrobinson.com

www.wineanorak.com

www.simonwoods.com

www.spittoon.biz (whose tag line

"we spit so you can swallow" is irresistible)



News and Notes

BY TED MURPHY

NOTES

1. *Saintsbury, George. 1963. Notes on a Cellar-Book. Macmillan & Co. Ltd. London, UK.*
2. *Cosgrave Chappellet, Molly to Ted Murphy. 25 October 2004. Murphy Papers, Cork, Ireland.*
3. *Johnson, Hugh. 1991. Foreward. In A Vineyard Garden: Ideas from the Earth for Growing, Cooking, and Entertaining, by Molly Chappellet. Viking Penguin, New York, USA.*
4. *Jordan, Sandra with L. L. Johnson. 2006. The Art of Decanting: Bringing Wine to Life. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, USA.*
5. *McConnell, Andy. 2004. The Decanter: An Illustrated History of Glass from 1650. Antique Collectors Club, Woodbridge, UK.*



“Cathedral window” streams that flow down a glass when the wine is swirled around signifies a rich content of glycerine in the wine that comes from ripe grapes from which it is made.



ON DECANTERS

Professor George Saintsbury writing in his famous work, *Notes on a Cellar-Book*, says, “With decanters—those half-way houses between bottle and glass—one comes to the question of pure art.”¹

Indeed how true—the limpid beauty and graceful art form of cut glass decanters have brought sparkling elegance to many a table and immense joy to many a discerning eye.

The charming Molly Chappellet of Chappellet Winery in Napa Valley, California, is celebrated for her unerring taste in art and wine, and recounts how she is “reminded each day of my Irish roots through the prisms of color that dart across the games room. The magnificent Irish cut crystal decanter catches the warm fall light outlining the beautifully edged wine goose. Each wine it pours has Irish magic and makes our Chappellet vintages more special.”²

Once when visiting Molly Chappellet, I shared with her the delightful pleasure of watching the “cathedral window” streams flow gently down the glass of a fine Chappellet Cabernet Sauvignon.

The striking Chappellet Winery perched high on the vine covered slopes of Pritchard Hill, was built by Molly’s husband Donn in 1968. It has been described by Hugh Johnson, the doyen of wine writers, as a “Cathedral of Wine”—a very appropriate name I thought, glancing at the “church-like windows”, glide softly down the glass of the Chappellet Cabernet Sauvignon in my hand—one of the Chappellet wines Johnson considers to be “among California’s very finest”.³

Raymond Duncan, founder of Silver Oak Cellars in Sonoma County once remarked that he considered decanting as “an important area of the wine experience”.⁴

It is my view that decanting is always an advantage—and I think it is rather a pity that so many of today’s hosts serve their wines directly from bottle to glass—thus depriving their guests of the now universally acknowledged benefits, both functional and intrinsic, that wines enjoy when decanted.

However I very much doubt that such a vinous deprivation would move a guest to react in such a harsh manner as did “Lord Cardigan who commanding the 11th Hussars in Canterbury barracks in 1840, placed an officer on a disciplinary charge for pouring wine from a bottle rather than a decanter.”⁵

There is a long held, and mistaken belief, that the only justification for decanting wine was to remove any residual sediment found in old vintage red wines and vintage ports.

In reality, almost all wines benefit from aeration, commonly referred to as ‘breathing’—the concept that exposure to air enhances both the aroma and flavor of wine—decanting is considered the most effective way of providing this element.

Young, full-bodied red wines gain most from aeration. While it is advisable not to decant very old, mature red wine until just before serving.

The small surface area in the neck of a bottle when uncorked does not at first allow the wine to absorb sufficient air to have any beneficial effect; to achieve proper exposure for young red wine it is necessary to leave it standing uncorked for at least a few hours.

Serving a wine within minutes of being uncorked defeats the concept of aeration, still it is practiced in restaurants all the time—except, that is, in Bordeaux, where all wines regardless of age or color are now automatically served decanted.

The decanting vessel Bordeaux sommeliers use to serve young wines is basically a large wine goblet that turns inwards towards the rim and has a pouring lip. The magnum bottle capacity of the bowl and wide surface area of the mouth—just over 4 inches (11 cm)—provides sufficient rapid air exposure to enable a single bottle to ‘breathe’ in such a manner that both the fragrance and the flavor are greatly enhanced.



NOTES

1. *Lamb, Richard B and Ernest G Mittelberger. 1974. In Celebration of Wine and Life: The Fascinating Story of Wine and Civilization. Drake Publications, New York, USA.*
2. *Healy, Maurice. 1940. Stay Me With Flagons. Michael Joseph, London, UK.*
3. *Barr, Andrew. 1995. Drink: A Social History of America. Bantam Press, London, UK.*
4. *Hailman, John. 2006. Thomas Jefferson on Wine. University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, USA.*

ON VINTAGE MUSIC • A SONG OF THE VINE

The sensory pleasures of wine have been frequently compared to those of music—it is said “that music offers an accompaniment to the melody that wine plays with our celebration of life”.¹

The renowned writer Maurice Healy could be quite flamboyant in his wine descriptions—writing about the merits of a particularly fine Chambertin he says, “that one hears the clank of armour in its depth...Mozart closes his clavecin when it is poured. But Bach moves towards the organ; the host turns on the lighting of his Rembrandt; and the noble wine blends with them all”.²

The beautiful Irish wine glasses of the late 18th century and early 19th century contained a considerable amount of lead oxide—the result of which was that when tapped at the bowl-rim of the glass, they made resounding “rich bell-notes” of G-sharp.³

Irishman Richard Pockrich in 1740 invented sets of musical drinking glasses, which were played by running a moistened finger round the rim of the bowl—the glasses could be tuned by altering their liquid content. The Irishman’s unique musical glasses won instant favor in European and American society—prompting the great Amadeus Mozart to compose a quintet.

Pockrich and his pupils began giving concerts on their musical vessels, and it was attending one of these performances that Benjamin Franklin, the brilliant American statesman and music loving wine connoisseur, first became entranced with what he described as “the sweetest sound he had ever heard”. Thus, the Franklin *Glass Armonica* was born in 1761, and it too met with instant success with some of the world’s leading composers—Mozart, Beethoven, Donizetti, and Strauss—all rushing to compose for it.

Benjamin Franklin loved all forms of music as illustrated in the letter he wrote his friend the Abbé Morellet, “You have frequently cheered me my very dear friend, with your excellent drinking songs...wine is a continual proof that God loves us and that he loves to see us happy”.⁴

Franklin had a decided palate for fine wines and this is reflected in the comprehensive cellar he kept during his ambassadorial duties in Paris. His cellar book of 1778 showed an extensive stock of more than a thousand wines ranging from the choicest Bordeaux and Burgundy to those of Champagne and Sherry.

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- AWB "Bill" Vincent, Monaco

DR. JOHN LAGAN

One of Margaret River's wine pioneers and founder of Xanadu Wines, died suddenly in December 2007 at age 80. Dr Lagan and his wife Dr Eithne Sheridan, arrived in Australia from Ireland to establish a medical practice but soon turned to winemaking planting the first vines in 1977. Over the years Chateau Xanadu developed a reputation for producing some stunning wines. Dr Lagan joined the WineGeese during the 2007 visit to Australia for a dazzling and memorable dinner at Xanadu. We were truly privileged to meet this most gentle and charming of men.

MR. GERALD TSAI JR.

A financier who pioneered the creation of performance funds in the 1950s and 60s and later turned a canning company into the financial services giant Primerica, died in July 2008 at age 79. Gerald traveled for the first time with the WineGeese on their tour to southern Spain in June 2005 and became a steadfast friend. We took great pleasure in Gerald who wore his vast knowledge and observant nature with a light touch.

MRS. JANE WALSH

Passed away in January 2008. Wife of National Board Director, Bill Walsh and loyal supporter of The American Ireland Fund. Jane and Bill became WineGeese Society members in 2004 when they joined the WineGeese on a tour of the great Irish-French châteaux. She was a thoughtful philanthropist, wonderful hostess, and mother of six. While traveling with her, the WineGeese also discovered her vibrant wit and generous heart.

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* Deceased

