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April 2024



www.tricitieswinesociety.com

TRI-CITIES WINE SOCIETY



ANNUAL MEETING & BEYOND CHAMPAGNE TASTING

Sunday May 19 is the date of the Society's Annual Meeting. The meeting will be brief and is FREE to all Society members. However, if you want to stay for the tasting afterward, you will need to pay online or send in your check for the event.

Everyone is familiar with French Champagne and know that it is a little on the expensive side. A bottle of ordinary Champagne runs around \$50 with the premium wines in the \$200 — \$300+ price range.

France also produces some amazing sparkling wines in other regions by the same method used in Champagne. By law, because they are not produced in the Champagne region, they cannot legally be called Champagne. These wines are officially known as *Crémant*.

The regulations governing the production of *Crémant* are almost as strict as those for Champagne. Grapes must be hand-harvested; whole bunch pressed; have sugar content in a specific range; with the second fermentation in the bottle; a minimum of 9 months aging on the lees with disgorging after aging; and only the specified grape varieties permitted for that region.

There are 8 regions where *Crémant* wines are made in France. For the tasting, we have selected wines from 4 of the most important regions: *Crémant de Bourgogne*; *Crémant d'Alsace*; *Crémant de Limoux*; and *Crémant de Loire*. These will be tasted side-by-side and compared to a fine Champagne that retails for \$90. The *Crémants* in this tasting, on the other hand, retail from \$17 to \$24.

The wines for this event are:

Reception Wine: Tirridis Blanc de Blanc

Formal Comparison Tasting:

- #1 Champagne Veuve Doussot Cuvée Ernestine 2019
- #2 Simonnet-Febvre Crémant de Bourgogne Brut
- #3 Lucien Albrecht Crémant d'Alsace Brut
- #4 Gratien & Meyer Crémant de Loire Brut
- #5 Faire La Fête Brut

A tasty menu of shrimp, charcuterie and pizza bites will accompany the tasting.

Reserve today. The tasting is limited to 32 people. You do not want to miss this sparkling event! ♦

ANNUAL MEETING & BEYOND CHAMPAGNE TASTING

Dolly Ammann & Jim Hartley, Event Chairs

Date: Sunday May 19, 2024

Time: 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: La Bella Vita Kitchen & Bar
1515 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99352

Cost: Members \$50; Guests, \$60

Limit: 32

Type: Educational Tasting

Cutoff: Tuesday, May 14

Make reservations: tricitieswinesociety.com or mail to Tri-Cities Wine Society, P.O. Box 1142, Richland, WA 99352. If you mail a reservation, send Cher Case an email that your check is in the mail. Cancellation requests to Cher Case, 714-270-9757 or email tcwstreasurer2020@gmail.com before Tuesday, May 14. ♦



2024 Projected Events

May 19

**Annual Meeting — Beyond Champagne Tasting
Sparkling Wines of France**

June 23

Rosé from Different Grape Varieties

Date TBD

Blending Seminar at Alexandria Nicole Cellars

September 8

Vertical Tasting at Col Solare

October

Eastern European Wines

December

Holiday Party

Watch for more information!

All information on events is sent to members by email. Reservations for events may be made through the website www.tricitieswinesociety.com or by mailing payment to: Tri-Cities Wine Society P.O. Box 1142, Richland, WA 99352. ♦