



COMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 13
“Gallery Aglow” Holiday Party

Saturday, January 30
Best of the Festival Wine Dinner

Sunday, February 21
Blind Tasting: Judgment of Paris

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“Gallery Aglow” Holiday Party

Judy Stewart, Mary Peters, Kerry Lawrence
TCWS Board of Directors, Event Co-Chairs

Great friends, twinkling lights, holiday cheer, holiday-wrapped boxes with bows, shopping, and, of course, GREAT WINE – all in one location! Who could ask for a better start to the holiday season?

Please join us for the society’s **Annual Holiday Party & Scholarship Fundraiser, “Gallery Aglow,” Sunday, December 13, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Allied Arts Center & Gallery, Richland. Cost remains at \$25 for both members and their guests.** Event proceeds support a great cause, the Tri-Cities Wine Society’s education and scholarship fund for WSU students in enology and viticulture programs.

Last year the proceeds from this event, supplemented with additional funding from the Tri-Cities Wine Festival silent auction, enabled us to donate \$6,000 to WSU, which became two, \$3,000 scholarships to Carina Ocampo and Melinda Garza, very deserving students. Melinda wrote, “Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work hard and eventually give something back to others, both as a winemaker and possibly a scholarship to future students like myself.”

The event will include a silent auction table and wine raffle. Also, guests will be able to shop the entire inventory of quality items on display in the Gallery.

So again, think scholarships, fundraiser and holiday shopping. Expect great wines from the wine festival! But if all that is not enough, there is the opportunity to do some additional shopping in the gallery itself! Yes, don’t forget to bring your cash and checkbooks for the silent auction, or credit cards for gallery shopping.

Best of the Festival Wine Dinner

Dolly Ammann
TCWS Board of Directors, Event Chair

Wow! What an incredible year for festival awards! In fact, more “double golds” were awarded at this year’s festival than ever given in the Tri-Cities Wine Festival’s 37-year history. With so many fabulous wines to choose from, the approach this year for selecting wines for the “Best of the Festival Wine Dinner” was to consider only the “double-gold” wines receiving the most votes from our outstanding panel of 7 professional wine judges during the “Best of Show” final judging. I took the opportunity to observe the final judging and made notes to help with the selections for the dinner. This means that if you come to this dinner, you will enjoy only **the best-of-the-best award winners!!**



Now here is a sneak preview of the wines for the dinner:

- ◆ Let’s start with the reception wine – Treveri Cellars NV Brut Blanc de Blanc, a fabulous sparkling wine made in the classic French Champenoise method from Chardonnay grapes aged on the lees for 24 month. This is a classic wine that is crisp and balanced. I loved it when I tasted it, and I am sure you will, too. It will be accompanied with a special assortment of Chef Michael Hannah’s passed hors d’oeuvres.

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December 2015

President's Message

Ted Davis, TCWS President

2015 Wine Festival

The 37th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival was possibly the best ever! If you were one of the more than 1,100 who attended, you know of what I speak. With 84 wineries, about 420 wines poured, multiple food options, micro-brews and live entertainment, I believe there was something for everyone! A record number of silver (197) and double-gold (46) medals were awarded. The 93 gold medals awarded tied a previous festival record. In summary, the festival was simply an incredible event. Now, looking ahead, mark your calendars next year's festival, **November 12, 2016 – the 38th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, again at the Three Rivers Convention Center.**

A special thank you goes to our wine society's core team members – Dolly Ammann; Mary Binder; Blaine Hulse; Mary Peters; and, Debra Ticknor. Collectively, they work tirelessly starting in January to prepare for everything from recruiting wineries to the wine judging, public tasting and silent auction. Thanks also go to the dozens of volunteers who supported the core team with everything from recruiting wineries to garnering silent auction donations, assisting with the wine judging, helping with the day of preparations and then, helping at the gala public tasting and with the silent auction. A special thank you, too, to this year's wine judges: Shelly Fitzgerald from Seattle; Ann Littlefield, Napa, Calif.; Tim McNally, New Orleans; Harry McWatters, Summerland, B.C.; Coke Roth, Tri-Cities; and, Brad Smith, Yakima Valley Community College, Grandview. Finally, a special thank you to our convention center **VenuWorks** partners and their staff. We are very fortunate to have such a professional and supportive partner!

Avoid Driving Impaired

Everyone knows drinking and driving is really a bad thing! But, here are a couple of tips and facts to know. The obvious is to have a designated driver prior to going out. This could even be arranging for a taxi.

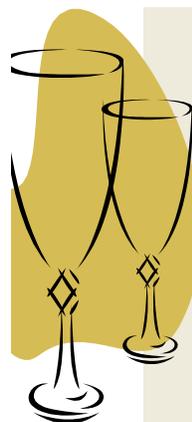
Next, some not-so-obvious actions. For example, ensure your vehicle's headlights and taillights are working. Besides for safety, not operable lights give police a reason to pull you over. Then, smelling the slightest alcohol on your breath will trigger a sobriety test. (Note: an officer can issue a "driving-while-impaired" ticket even if your alcohol level is below .08.)

Avoid any pre-drinking before you go out and stick to wine, which is lower proof than hard liquor. Drink water before and during the evening. One suggestion – drink an equal amount of water as wine or other drinks. Doing this gets your kidneys ready to function; and, water in your system can dilute and slow down alcohol entering your system.

Eat lots of food and continuously for the same reasons. At a long-lasting event, begin to drink less and less as the event progresses. The best way to avoid driving impaired problems is to avoid situations where you drink more than your body can handle. (Excerpted from a Andy Perdue/Eric Degerman article, *The Tri-City Herald*)

Happy Holidays, Looking Ahead

From all of us on your Tri-Cities Wine Society management team, we wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at our 2016 society monthly events. Speaking of those, Dolly Ammann was busy at the wine festival scouting out the best-of-the-best double-gold medal winners for the society's January 30 best-of-show gala wine dinner at Meadow Springs Country Club. Recommend making your reservation early to ensure your space! For details, see Dolly's article, page 1. ♦



Welcome New Members

David & Yvonne Boyd
Deb Carter
Suzanne Eklund & Pete Frame
Dave & Tamela Sue Hansen
Alan & Christy Masterman
Phil Townsend

Looking Ahead! Projected Events for 2016

- February 21** – Blind Tasting: "Judgment of Paris"
- March 20** – Tempranillo TCC (Tasting, Comparing, Contrasting)
- April** – Tasting with Mackey Vineyards and Rasa Vineyards
- May** – Annual Meeting and Pinot Noir, "Part Deux"
- June** – Washington's Less-Common Varietals
- Summer** – Tasting with Frichette Winery
- September** – Picnic with Rosé
- October** – Bus Trip to Okanagan, B.C.
- November 12** – 38th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival
- December** – Holiday Party

Note!
Above events are projected.
Look for updates in the monthly EVOE
and online, www.tricitieswinesociety.com.

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“Gallery Aglow” Holiday Party

And, some final notes! If past such events are indications, those attending will also again enjoy special festival wines, partake of delectable food, have an opportunity to spend time with other society members, besides participating in the fundraiser. Therefore, with a limit of only 48, if you haven't already signed up, we recommend you quickly do so as we expect this event to again sell out this year.

Remember to bring a wine glass! We hope you can join us and we look forward to seeing you at the Allied Arts Center & Gallery in Richland, December 13. ♦



“Gallery Aglow”

Holiday Party & Scholarship Fundraiser

Co-Chairmen: Judy Stewart, Mary Peters, Kerry Lawrence

Date: Sunday, December 13
Time: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Location: Allied Arts Center & Gallery
89 Lee Blvd., Richland, WA 99352
Price: Members and guests: \$25
Limit: 48
Type: Festive casual, stand up, limited seating
Bring: 1 wine glass per person
Cutoff date: Saturday, December 12
Cancellation Policy: For a full refund, cancellation must be made by phone to Judy Stewart, 627-6579, on or before **Thursday, December 10.** ♦

(Continued from page 1)

“Best of the Festival Wine Dinner”

- ♦ The dinner's first course will feature Castillo de Feliciano 2014 Albariño accompanied with a tapas plate. Albariño is a somewhat exotic Spanish grape variety that, from my personal observation, seems to be gaining in popularity. When I tasted this wine, it exhibited a creamy, pleasant mouth-feel and had excellent balance.
- ♦ For the second course, we have selected Plumb Cellars 2011 Estate Sangiovese. This wine comes from the heart of the Walla Walla Valley AVA and was a big favorite of the judges. Since it is an Italian grape variety, we are considering serving it with a risotto. The final decision on this one has not been made. (You will have to wait for next month's EVOE for information on the complete menu.)
- ♦ The main course will feature 2 wines: “Best of Show” Brian Carter 2011 Byzance (a Rhône-style blend made with Grenache, Mourvèdre, Cunoise and Cinsault); and, the runner-up Kiona Estate Vineyards & Winery 2013 Red Mountain Reserve (a Bordeaux-style red

blend made with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Carménère). This will give you the opportunity to taste the 2 top wines from this year's Tri-Cities Wine Festival and see if you agree with the judges' final decision.

- ♦ Last but not least is the dessert wine from Gordon Estate – a fabulous Gewürztraminer Ice Wine. Chef Hannah is planning a special dessert to pair with this incredible ice wine.

Remember to clip out the coupon on page 5 and send it in now while there is still room. You do not want to miss this dinner! ♦

Best of the Festival Wine Dinner

Co-Chairmen: Dolly Ammann & Sandra Stanley

Date: Saturday, January 30
Time: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Meadow Springs Country Club
700 Country Club Place,
Richland, WA 99352
Price: Members \$95; guests \$125
Limit: 48
Type: Multi-course Wine Dinner
Bring: A good appetite!
Cutoff date: Tuesday, January 26
Cancellation Policy: For a full refund, cancellation must be made by phone to Dolly Ammann, 420-4712, on or before **Tuesday, January 26.** ♦

Save the Date!

Blind Tasting - “Judgment of Paris”

A famous wine competition took place in Paris in 1976, often called the “**Judgment of Paris.**” French judges carried out 2 blind-tasting comparisons: one of top-quality Chardonnays; the other, of red wines – French Bordeaux and California Cabernet Sauvignons. It was a big surprise when a California wine rated best in each category as France was generally regarded as being the foremost producer of the world's best wines.

Fast forward, **Sunday afternoon, February 21**, we will create our own “judgment” by comparing Cabernet Sauvignons from France, California and Washington. The wines will be tasted blind; that is, attendees will taste them without knowing which is which. Do you think you will be able to tell the difference? That is your challenge! It will be interesting to see which one is your favorite. Will California win again, or will it be France or Washington?



Look for more details in the next EVOEs. ♦

Taste Back: 37th Tri-Cities Wine Festival

Mary Binder, Festival Committee
TSWC Board of Directors

Looking back at this year's Wine Festival, one can only conclude that it was indeed a great success! "Something for everyone," seems an appropriate phrase. And, based on the smiles and feedback we received from guests, we believe this is true. Interestingly, many were "first-timers" to the festival. However, not all – there were several couples who had not attended the festival in a number of years, including one returning after a 25-year hiatus!

The 7-judge panel had its work cut out – 427 wines to taste and evaluate. This year's panel was again one with a broad breath of experience. And as with other panels, the judges said they are very impressed with Northwest wines!



The Judges

As the Tri-Cities Wine Festival is a judged competition AND gala public tasting, the guests are integral to the event! Many of this year's 1,100 attendees were new to our wine festival, but not all. Several couples were returning after not having attended for several years. In fact, one couple was returning after a 25-year hiatus! With 84 wineries represented and about 420 wines poured, plus beer, cider, great food and the silent auction, the phrase "something for everyone" describes our festival.

From feedback we received during the evening and as guests were leaving, we know many will be visiting wineries businesses, and smiling over their silent auction treasures!



The Guests

Thanks to the generous support from the wineries, numerous local and area businesses, wine society members and others, the festival's silent auction was again a success. Proceeds are targeted for scholarships for students in enology and/or viticulture programs. Watch for more updates on auction results and scholarships awarded in the months ahead!



The Silent Auction

For several wineries, our wine festival is "their favorite event." In fact, one winery owner even said he had not been able to attend for a couple of years, but "won't do that again!" A first-time participant sent a note after the festival thanking the planning team for making the festival "a great experience" for them. They have already marked their calendars for **November 12, 2016!** Have you? ♦



The Wineries



The Wineries and Guests

Event Sign-Up Coupons

Mail Payment with Coupon to: Tri-Cities Wine Society
P.O. Box 1142 Richland, WA 99352

"Gallery Aglow" Holiday Party Sunday, December 13

Members: \$25 Guests: \$25

Event Limit: 48
Number of members attending ____
Number of guests attending ____
Member _____
Member _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Guest 1 _____
Guest 2 _____

Note: Please provide phone & Email information!

- Have **MAST** card; can help pour at the event
- Available for other help

Best of the Festival Wine Dinner Saturday, January 30

Members: \$95 Guests: \$125

Event Limit: 48
Number of members attending ____
Number of guests attending ____
Member _____
Member _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Guest 1 _____
Guest 2 _____

Note: Please provide phone & Email information!

2015 Membership Application or Renewal

- New** **Renewal**
- Single: \$ 25** **Couple: \$ 35**

Referred by: _____

How would you like to receive the EVOE newsletter?

- Email (current Email address requested*)
- U.S. mail
- Both Email and U.S. mail

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone Number _____

Email 1* _____

Email 2* _____

Membership Reminders

- For ALL address/contact changes, contact Scott Abernethy, membership chairman. Phone: 509-380-5839; Email: tcwinesocietymembership@gmail.com.
- Memberships are for a year; the Society sends renewal reminders.
- Members receiving the EVOE by mail can find their renewal date on the mailing label; or, contact Scott Abernethy (contact info, above).
- For the latest Society information and EVOEs, visit www.tricitieswinesociety.com. ♦



NOTE CHANGES* Tri-Cities Wine Society Event Policy

Attendance Confirmation

No tickets are issued. If an event is full when your reservation is received, you will be notified and put on a waiting list.
***NOTE: Reservations mailed in the Tri-Cities area can take up to 4 days to reach to TCWS PO box. If your reservation is made within 5 days of the event, please call Treasurer Judy Stewart, 509.627.6579, and notify the event chairman or a co-chair by phone or email that your reservation is in the mail.**

Courtesy

Event attendees are reminded that strong smells deter from an enjoyable tasting experience. Please be considerate and do not wear perfume or after-shave when coming to an event.

Guest Policy

With our banquet permit, events are open only to TCWS members and their guests. Guests must be sponsored by a TCWS member.

Liquor Consumption

Only wine served by the TCWS may be consumed during our events.

Minimum Age 21 at All Events

Only persons minimum 21 years of age are allowed at monthly program events or at the Tri-Cities Wine Festival.

Event Refund

If you cannot attend an event after the refund deadline, call the society treasurer, Judy Stewart, 627-6579. If your reservation can be filled, you may be able to get a refund. ♦

Tri-Cities Wine Society

PO Box 1142
Richland, WA 99352

EVOE

Newsletter of the
Tri-Cities Wine Society

Dolly Ammann

*Need any info? Have an idea?
Contact us!*

carolynewammann@gmail.com

*This newsletter is also available on the
web at www.tricitiewinesociety.com*



Join us on
Facebook



Save the Date! Tempranillo "TCC"

Although the holiday season is just getting underway, it is not too soon to pull out your 2016 calendar and starting planning for the society's March event – a Tempranillo "TCC" Tasting – Sunday, March 20, Gordon Estate Wine Bar, Richland. This will be a "tasting, comparing and contrasting" event of both Spanish and Washington State Tempranillos, thus, "TCC." So, save the date and plan to join us! ♦