



APRIL 2010 Newsletter

Editorial

Numbers came down to 13 in March (there is still only space for twelve to sit in the dining room). This was due to some late cancellations and bookings - I took the view that it would be warm enough for me to sit and eat on the patio. I hadn't expected such heavy rain, though. Thus, we had 15 American wines to taste, and of course there was plenty of food. My thanks go to Jeanette, Dena and John for bringing ten of the wines back with them.

In contrast with the previous couple of months, several of the wines had rather poor reviews. Of the whites, only one (Becker Vineyards Viognier from Texas) scored over 4.0. My favourite, the Erath Pinot Gris, got just 3.3. The reds fared a lot better, ranging upwards from 4.5 for the Supertexan Sangiovese. The top three each cost around \$40, ex-vineyard in California: Passalacqua Zinfandel 5.7, Dutcher Crossing Zinfandel 5.8 and Dutcher Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon 5.9. The sweet wines had very mixed receptions. The Texas Llano Estacado scored 4.7, and the very expensive Trentadue Chocolate Amore Merlot received ones from half the audience ("not wine") and fives from most of the rest, to give an average of 3.0!

The next dinner features *Rhône Blends* with wines from all round the world. The whites are Roussanne and Viognier, the reds variations on GSM - Grenache/Garnacha, Syrah/Shiraz and Mourvedre/Mataro with just a hint of Cinsault. There are two places left. Meanwhile the May Sunday lunch featuring *Sybaritic Wines* still has places available.

For my wine dinners there will be at least three courses of food and at least ten wines. I'll take bookings by e-mail or phone, but they are not confirmed until I get your cheque or an electronic payment to *Barclays Bank 20-22-67 Account I R McLaren 10596310*. All the dinners (except December) are £30 per person.

Central London Wine Society

For some excellent wines, try to get to Paul Mapplebeck's Special tastings at the *Central London Wine Club*. They tend to get booked out very early (there are a few seats for St Emilion on 7 April). I can send you a list of what is available. Please book with Paul on 020 8866 9314. Let me know if you would like to be on the mailing list for the *CLWS Newsletter* and Programmes.

2010 Programme

I am now taking bookings for dinners up to July (some people have already paid for that one). Dates are as below - all Saturday evenings (except May and August) with white wines and starters at 6pm, hot food about 7pm and aiming to finish by 10pm. On Sundays we meet at 2pm.

24 April	Rhône Blends
Sunday 16 May	Sybaritic Wines
12 June	Mediterranean Islands & Beyond
10 July	The World of Syrah
Sunday 15 August	Your Favourites
25 September	Alsace and Spain
9 October	Searching South America
13 November	Pinot Party
11 December	Rhône Fantasy (about £50)

Start thinking about what you want to bring or order for August!

Contact & Travel Details

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Don't forget www.ukwineclub.org.uk
Contributions especially with pictures always welcome