



March 2015 Newsletter

Dinner at Destingo Restaurant on Queen West, March 24, 2015



Vogue Magazine has named Toronto's "Queen Street West" the second-hippest district in the world. In a study of the globe's 15 coolest neighbourhoods, the magazine ranks the Canadian district as second only to Tokyo's Shimokitazawa. "Toronto is currently enjoying newfound prominence – and desirability – amongst globe-trotting tastemakers," Vogue's Nick Remsen writes on the magazine's website. "Queen Street West is a verifiable artery of indie patisseries, homegrown labels, and hidden-from-view galleries – hallmarks of hipness, if ever they existed," he said, highlighting the publication's September issue.

On Tuesday March 24th, we will be on Queen Street West in the hippest heart when we visit Destingo for our next wine dinner. Destingo, which means "destined to go", is the idea of owner Monika Vacca, when she opened a contemporary and casual Italian restaurant where people can enjoy delicious food and wine at a moderate price. Monika is the former co-owner of Vaticano Restaurant in Yorkville where her and executive chef Felice Vacca have been cooking up some of the best Italian food in town for the past decade.

Monika brought along Vaticano's former sous-chef Arshad Uwais who has been working as an apprentice for Felice since 2005. Monika and Arshad have brought some of their favorite dishes from Vaticano over to Destingo and given them a contemporary spin. Now Monika has put together a menu for AWS that will match up with our wines for our March 24th wine dinner. Here is the menu with the wines;

Passed Appetizers

Lobster Salad in an Edible Spoon
Basil Pesto, Marinated Bocconcino in a Pastry Cup
Sweet Dates wrapped in Prosciutto
Served with Bundeena Bay Vineyard Series Pinot Grigio

First Course

"Vitello Destingo", Veal Scallopini, Scallops, Cremini Mushrooms in a Rose Sauce
Served with Jacob's Creek Classic Chardonnay

Main Course

7 oz. Grilled AAA Angus Steak, Pasta Aioli, and Italian Vegetables
Served with 2002 Katnook Estate Coonawarra Shiraz
And
2002 Sandleford Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River

Dessert

Destingo Tiramisu

Tea and Coffee on Request

Reception will be 6:30 p.m. with Dinner at 7 p.m. When booking if you wish to seat with any particular person(s), please let us know.

Price for this event is \$68.00 for members and \$78.00 for non-member guests. Tax and Gratuity included. Destingo is located at 741 Queen Street West, Toronto. 647-748-3113, on the south side, one block west of Bathurst Street. By TTC, Queen Street or Bathurst Street streetcars, or parking on Queen St. After 6 on North side, anytime on South side.

You can register on-line at <http://awsdestingodinner.eventbrite.ca> or mail the attached Registration Form to Bernard Nottage as noted on the Registration Form.

Past Event

Tuesday February 24th was highlighted by the Iconic Reds tasting at the Faculty Club, and with Jamie Drummond, renowned Toronto Sommelier and partner at Good Food Media. Jamie led us through a most informative tasting of eight Barossa and McLaren Vale shirazes, all this fine time was then topped off with a Steak Frites dinner with wine. This event was sold out two weeks ahead of time, so bear this in mind for future events.

Future Events

Plans are coming together for our special event in May, more news to follow.

Thursday June 18th our Summer Solstice Dinner at the Faculty Club, outside on the patio has been reserved.

The Annual General Meeting and Barbeque will be in August on Sunday the 16th at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club deck.

And Now For Something Completely Different

When sipping wine at home in this cold winter, why not read a good mystery involving wine?

Having read neatly 200 authors in the mystery Genre in the past 5 years, I have not come across any situated in Australia, but a few in other wine regions. The first author that comes to mind is local wine expert Tony Aspler. who in the 1990's wrote 3 books, "Blood Is Thicker Than Beaujolais", "The Beast of Barbaresco" and "Death on the Douro".

Another local wine local wine author is Edward Finstein who wrote "Pinot Envy", set in the Napa Valley.

Another surprising Canadian author is Keith Spicer, who amongst other things was Editor-in-Chief of the Ottawa Citizen, Chairman of the CRTC & Canada's first Commissioner of Official Languages, He has written "Murder by Champagne".

Still in France, Jean-Pierre Alaux & Noel Balen – Eight books so far in these Wine mysteries featuring winemaker/writer/ detective Benjamin Cooker & his assistant Virgile. This is a hit TV series in France and if you are fluent in French, the DVD's are available in the TPL as is the first book "Treachery in Bordeaux" available in English.

Peter Mayle of the "Year on Provence" fame has written "The Vintage Caper" and M.L.Longworth has written "Death in the Vines" set in Aix-en-Provence.

Amongst authors I have not read yet, there is Ellen Crosby who has written six books on the Wine Country series, taking place mostly in Virginia with the first book "The Merlot Murders".

I welcome any suggestions for other wine mysteries.

Bernard Nottage (bln0@rogers.com)