



## May 2019 Newsletter

### Special Event Walkabout Tasting at Faculty Club

Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2019



The last “cellar selections” evening at the Faculty Club was October 2013 and it was well received, when members and guests tasted over 28 different wines. As we still have a wide selection of single and some two bottles remaining from past events, we will bring them out of the cellar and offer them in a relaxed and social atmosphere to try them at your leisure.

NOTE: As we only have two bottles of E&E 2003 Black Pepper Shiraz and Hickinbotham Clarendon Hills 2004 Grenache, these two wines will only be poured by having a ticket, one per person per wine, tickets will be handed out when you arrive, and as they say at Bay Bloor Radio, “when they are gone, they are gone”.

The evening starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. when you pick up your glass and try selections from four tables, manned by AWS Directors. There will be a large grazing table, with hot and cold selections, so you’ll not go hungry. Just bring your palate and perhaps a friend as a guest, who may have an interest in AWS and our future events. Plus you get to chat with everyone, talk about wines or any subject you fancy, this is a social evening with food and fine wines.

The Faculty Club is at 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto, 416-978-6325, one block south of Harbord, and east of Spadina Avenue. Metered parking on the surrounding streets, and TTC tram stops at Willcocks on Spadina Avenue.

Members Price for this evening \$60.00, Guests price \$65.00 all inclusive.

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

### **Past Event**

Kicking off the evening with Wakefield, Robert Oatley and Paracombe Chardonnays for the reception wines, 50 members and their guests joined in the tasting of eight Aussie Big Reds with Mr. Chris Bee leading the tasting. Chris asked everyone to nose the glasses and see if they can spot the Xanadu Merlot, a few managed the task, then he proceeded with the tasting. After Chris surveyed the group noting the favourite from each table, the gathering found the Mitolo GAM 2005 from McLaren Vale as the best in the bunch. Following the tasting portion of the evening, we tucked into that traditional Steak Frites dinner, accompanied by a few more fine reds. All agreed this was another fine AWS event.

### **Future Events**

The Summer Solstice dinner will be on June 21<sup>st</sup>, the day of the Solstice occurrence, we will be returning to the Faculty Club patio with fingers crossed for good weather. Past events had to be moved inside when summer storms hit Toronto. Not much fun when the rain runs through the space.

Planning is underway for our AGM and Aussie barbeque as we explore other venues for the meeting and afternoon Barbie. Stay tuned.

### **Australian Wine News**

Some of South Australia's wine grape growers have seen their yields halve, as hot, dry conditions take their toll on some of the state's wine regions. Jim Barry Wines winemaker Tom Barry said there was little moisture in the soil due to the lack of rain over the past 12 months, which created problems for growers. "It's had a huge effect after a very dry winter and dry spring as well. There's not a lot of subsoil moisture for the grapes to grow but the fruit we've had so far is really good," he said.

"Riesling is really sturdy, that might only be 20 per cent down. Shiraz and cabernet were between 30 and 40 per cent down. Mr. Barry said the talk around older grape growers, like his father Peter, is that no-one has seen dry conditions in Clare like this since 1982.

In the Barossa, Yalumba head of winemaking Louisa Rose said yields were down about 20 per cent, but that recent vintages had been very good. "Our yields do vary quite a lot from vintage to vintage," Ms. Rose said.

*Our thanks to ABC News.*

## **Membership Renewal**

Just a quick AWS Nudge to remind you that if you have not sent in your Membership Renewal, please do so at your earliest convenience. Membership offers price advantages on all our events and support for the Society. We will send out a formal reminder in a few days.

Malcolm Cocks  
Chairman, AWS