



The
Wine
Stop

A Beer and Beverage Boutique

The Wine Stop Newsletter

May 2007

Issue #40

Good Value Boutique Wines · Special Occasion Wines · Collectable Wines · Micro Brews · Specialty Sake · Specialty Spirits · Gourmet Deli Items · Delivery · Gift Baskets · Picnic Baskets · Gift Registry · Complementary Weekly Wine & Beer Tasting · Wine and Food Pairing Focus · Event Planning · Wine Education · Wine Service Consulting · Wide Selection of Wine Accessories

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Calendar of Events

COMPLIMENTARY WINE TASTING EVERY SATURDAY from 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo Mexican Beers and Tequilas (see write up in the Wine News section)

May 12 - Mother's Day Wines: Pinks & Sweets

May 19 - New World vs. Old World

May 26 - Flavors of Oregon

SUNDAY SEMINAR

May 6th, 3-4:30pm: Tasting Methodology 102

Learn to taste using all your senses. This is a popular beginners class in a non-intimidating format. 102 Picks up where we left off in 101. (It's ok to take them out of sequence.)

Cost: \$20 SOLD OUT Reservation confirmation is required.

Parking is available: on our lawn and driveway; the driveway behind our store after 4PM; and next door at International Jewelry after 4PM.

Mother's Day Wines

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! ALL MOMS WILL RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON MOTHER'S DAY MAY 13TH

Coppo Brachetto D'Aqui Passione 2006 \$27 It has a lively, zingy tease of bubbles, with fresh aromas of raspberries and strawberries. Brachetto d'Acqui can commence a great evening as an aperitif, or even better, it is one of the most romantic pairings with chocolate at the end of the meal.

Vina Alarba Rose 2005 \$8.29 This dry Rose is fragrant and light bodied with a surprising flavor intensity as well as zesty freshness. Pure Framboise with good underlying acidity, an incredible bargain.

Piazzo Moscato d'Asti \$16.50 Delicately sweet, fresh and clean. This dessert wine is light and bursting with flavors of pineapple and peach. Great with fresh melon and light desserts, or better

yet by itself. It's also low in alcohol, only 5%.



Wine Event

On May 27th we will be doing a Duckhorn Wine Dinner at Tavola Tavola from 6-9PM.

Some of you may be familiar with the exquisite wines of Duckhorn. We'll be pouring their limited estate Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Paradux, Sauvignon Blanc & Pinot Noir. These wines are definitely in the spendy category, but oh so good. Duckhorn wines will be paired with 5 courses of Northern Italian cuisine prepared by Chef Masa who trained in Emilia Romagna. Tavola Tavola specializes in an array of homemade pastas, seafood and meat dishes utilizing fresh locally grown produce. Their desserts and breads are baked fresh daily.

Cost: \$107, includes tax and tip. Reservations and payment are required. Seating is limited. For reservations call 946-3707.



Wine News

May 5th "Cinco de Mayo" from 1-5PM at The Wine Stop is going to be an event not to miss. We will be tasting Mexican beers and ultra premium Tequilas: Don Julio 1942 and the whole line of the incomparable Frida Kahlo tequilas. You haven't tasted smooth until you've tasted these tequilas. And it is **FREE!**

My how time flies, later this month Kim and Liane will be with their VIPs cruising Napa Valley. We'll be back at the end of the month and share some of the highlights with you.



Liane's Corkey Trivia

In the 1960's at Koko Head Elementary School, I recall celebrating May Day on the first of May. The whole school was called out onto the field where a gigantic white pole was set up with ribbons of brightly colored crepe paper streaming from the top of the pole and fastened to the ground so that the ribbons would not get tangled. The effect was like a gigantic Christmas tree made of billowing ribbons. The May Queen, the smartest prettiest girl in sixth grade, then walked onto the field wearing a wreath of flowers on her head. Students danced around the May Pole until the pole was brightly braided with the ribbons from top to bottom. At which point we all broke into song, "May Day is Lei Day in Hawaii. . ."

If I had known at the time that May Day was the last surviving Pagan Holiday not taken over by the Christian church, I might have paid more attention in class when the teacher was talking about it.

May Day is actually a very ancient "holy day" (aka holiday). Utilizing a solar cycle, it would be the approximate beginning for the start of the Solar Summer. May 1st would mark the start of the quarter of the year with the greatest potential sunlight in the northern hemisphere. (In the days before central heating the return of the sun was reason to celebrate.) Romans celebrated it with the festival of Floralia at this time and the Celts celebrated with the festivities of Beltane. Both festivals celebrated fertility and renewal ;-)

The Floralia celebrated Flora, the goddess of Spring Flowers and youthful pleasures. The Queen of Spring was a beautiful and serene goddess married to Zephyrus, the west wind. Her festival celebrated and inspired fertility activities. Huge quantities of wine was consumed, and the whole city of Rome was decorated with flowers and people sporting flower wreathes in their hair.

Not surprisingly, since Floralia coincided with the Celtic Beltane, when Rome conquered the Celts, the two holidays merged. The flowers of Floralia merged with the May Pole of Beltane. In Celtic tradition, Beltane marked the beginning of Summer and the fertility of nature. People danced clockwise or "sunwise" around the sacred fire to celebrate the return of the sun. In later

times, the fire was replaced by a Birch tree and finally with a white wooden pole, probably symbolizing the White Birch tree.

Trees were sacred to the Celts. The Birch was often referred to as the "Lady of the Woods" by the Druids (Celtic religious leaders). The Birch represented renewal, rebirth and inception especially since it was the first tree to come into leaf after the Winter Season.

Little did I realize, that May Day long ago, that the May Pole dance came from the pagan Beltane festivities and the May Day flowers came from the Roman Floralia. Of course Hawaiians loved to wear leis and used any excuse whatsoever to wear them, (in the old days anyway). Hence, May Day is Lei day in Hawaii.

I should have listened more closely to my teachers rather than daydream during class about lunchtime and recess. Then perhaps it would not have taken me so long to learn that the Birch tree is not only the tree symbolized by the May Pole but that its sap is also tasty enough to ferment into beer, wine or spirits. As a matter of fact, in parts of Europe during the month of March, sap from the Birch is collected and honey, cloves and lemon peel are added along with yeast to make Birch Wine. Now that's interesting. Cheers!

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