



Volume 13, No. 17 (published by the Wine Gallery, Bozeman, MT) **May 3, 2017**

What's new in the Grapevine this week?

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May Celebrations

My father was fond of saying "There can never be too many celebrations!" It seems like May is full of good celebrations and we are here to make those celebrations memorable.

- **The week of May 8th is Teacher's Week.** Everyone's life has been impacted a teacher in some positive way. We all have relatives and friends who are teachers. I really can't name a profession that requires so much education, so much dedication, or so much inspiration as teaching. As much as those attributes are admirable, I can't think of another more thankless or undercompensated position. These dedicated folks teach our children everything from the ABC's to Chinese Algebra. Often they spend their own money for classroom materials and their overtime work is rarely included in their paycheck. Take a minute to thank your best teacher, your sister or brother, or the teacher of your child for doing the honor of passing on our science, art, languages, culture, and history. They might even appreciate a nice bottle of wine or a gift basket! Call us or come in and we'll make it happen.
- **Next weekend is graduation** at MSU. Tiffany reminded me that one of the best graduation presents for her was a gift basket of goodies to munch on after the hordes of well-wishers were gone. If that won't work, most graduates are over 21 so a bottle of good wine may be just the thing to mark the transition into responsible adulthood. If you are celebrating with a party, don't forget we have a great selection of sparkling wines from \$10.95 to \$175.

- **Mother's Day is May 14th.** Mothers have done everything for us. They bore us, fed us, spanked us, trained us, comforted us, counseled us, and encouraged us. They did that EVERY day-- even on Mother's Day. Not to plug the wine business too much but one wag said that giving your Mom a bottle of wine is a good idea because you are the reason she drinks in the first place. No, in a semi-seriousness, Mom deserves the flowers and a mimosa (or two) with that Mother's Day Brunch. If you want to really give Mom a great gift, give her a gift certificate to the Wine Gallery. She can pick out her favorite wine, gourmet treasure or wine gadget and you still get the appreciation and the credit. You might even rate "Favorite Kid" status and get your photograph on her refrigerator door.

Win Tickets to Intermountain Opera's "Tosca"

Every year we advertise in the Intermountain Opera performance program and every year, they send us a \$100 voucher for tickets. Jeanie and I are already season ticket holders so it has been our tradition to run a free raffle for the voucher.

This month, Intermountain Opera will present Giacomo Puccini's "**Tosca**". This opera has it all! I guarantee that you will recognize the music and be able to hum it the next day. But you know opera isn't just about music. There is plenty of drama with one of the all-time villains trying to put the moves on our heroine Tosca while her lover Mario is in the next room undergoing a rigorous interrogation. The visual arts are well represented as well as the dramatic arts. The sets are from New York and Tosca's costume was custom made for her performance. One last word about the plot (and this is NOT a spoiler alert): stick around for the last scene. You will never forget it.

The ticket voucher will be good for the Friday evening May 12th performance or the Sunday matinee, May 14th.

To win the free raffle just tell me in 25 words or less why you should win the \$100 voucher. The winner will be announced in next week's Grapevine so enter now by sending an e-mail to doug@bozemanwinegallery.com.

Extraordinary Wine Tasting May 17th

***The 2017 Extraordinary Tasting event is set for Wednesday, May 17th and we will be graciously accommodated by Riverside Country Club.** This annual wine tasting is staffed by winemakers, senior winery personnel, wine marketing professionals and our great suppliers. For interested wine consumers, this tasting is the most informative of the events we do each year. We plan on showing wines from Washington, Oregon and California as well as the best of European and Southern Hemisphere wines.

Last year we brought nearly 50 wines to taste from domestic and imported wineries. The response was overwhelming as wine tasters got the chance to taste wines

and consult with winemakers ***before*** buying. I know I say this a lot but if you are going to buy wine for summer, the opportunity to find the wine you want is our Extraordinary Tasting. Whether you want a patio sipper, a picnic wine, or just a big red for a steak from the barbeque you will have a chance to audition some great candidates on May 17th.

Tickets are on sale for \$69 each. This price includes the wines, scrumptious small plate delicacies from Chef Sanford Isobe's kitchen, full service by the Riverside staff, and gratuity.

To order tickets, call us at 586-8828 or send an e-mail to bozemanwinegallery@gmail.com.

Notes on this month's Wine Club

Sometimes it is good to remind ourselves how many great wines are in the Wine Club. This month, the CR5 Monastrell/Syrah blend was rated 92 points by Wine Enthusiast and the Saint Roch Chimeres was barrel tasted by Wine Advocate with a score of 90-92.

Opportunities and events

***On July 8th the Museum of the Rockies will present its Annual Wine and Culinary Classic.** Every year members of the Wine Club have volunteered to pour wine for the patrons. This year there are a few new wrinkles that may make the event more enticing for volunteer pourers.

First of all, one week before the event, you will be introduced to the wines on your table and given instructions on pouring. In the week in between your training and the event, you will be able to familiarize yourself with tasting notes, vineyard information and winemaking facts provided by your local wine professionals. Talk the talk and walk the walk!

The night of the event, pourers will have order forms at each table and the pourers who sell the most wine will receive a grand prize. Even if you don't win, there will be a reward of one bottle of the fabulous wines we pour that evening. You may even get to taste a few of the wines at the end of the evening.

The Wine and Culinary Classic will take place Saturday, July 8th so mark your calendar.

If you wish to sign up as a volunteer pourer, just send an e-mail to me (doug@bozemanwinegallery.com) or give us a call at 586-8828.

***After having experienced the beauty and hospitality of the Madison Valley Ranch** over Easter weekend, I was delighted to be presented a chance to offer another wine dinner at this gorgeous venue on **June 2nd**. The Madison Valley Ranch sold out every seat for our last dinner and they would love to have another congenial group come by for a great evening the first Friday in June.

The Madison Valley Ranch is located across the Madison River from Ennis in Jeffers, Montana. This beautiful setting won the Lodge of the Year from Orvis in 2015

and I can see why. There is a pond and a creek where you can practice your fly casting and it is a short walk through the Channels to the Madison if you prefer to river fish. At dusk we watched ring neck pheasants, sand hill cranes and osprey fly by serenaded by meadowlarks. In the adjacent field a moose family made daily appearances last summer and we were lucky enough to see a herd of deer foraging as we ate.

Our dinner was prepared by Chef Matt Pease who stoked his creative energies to bring out dishes made with a variety of locally sourced victuals including smoked trout, Wagyu beef, spring lamb as well as beets, parsnips and cheeses. Tiffany and I came up with some delicious wines to pair and I would say, all in all, it was one of the best dining experiences in Madison County.

Jeanie and I as well as some other folks from Bozeman employed a strategy of staying at the lodge overnight instead travelling back in the dark. Believe me, the accommodations are first rate. The good news is the Madison Valley Ranch has a special deal for those who stay over (just mention the Wine Gallery dinner). It really can't be beat for a fun night away from the city. As a bonus, in the morning, we were served a delicious breakfast with some of the best coffee I've had in years.

If you just want a ticket for dinner, it is \$89 including everything. Call us for the wine dinner only option at 586-8828 and we will get you a seat. If you wish to book the dinner and lodging package, I would suggest a call to the Madison Valley ranch directly at 800-891-6158. Call soon, the last event sold out quickly.

