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What's new in the Grapevine this week?

- **12 days of Christmas**
- **Art Walk**
- **Special deals**
- **Trouble with corks?**
- **Wine club as a gift**

Twelve Days of Christmas Raffle

It seems that every year the Christmas Season starts earlier. Call me old-fashioned but when I was a kid back in the last century, we put up our tree a day or two before Christmas and didn't take it down until January 6th, the twelfth day of Christmas. In those days St. Nicholas gave gifts to the poor and on the twelfth day of Christmas, the Wise Men brought gifts to an infant in a stable. Neither St. Nick nor the Magi went shopping at midnight on Thanksgiving Day. They gave gifts to the poor and helped the hungry and homeless. This year the Wine Gallery will again have a raffle whose prizes extend for twelve days. In actuality, we hope the Gallatin Valley Food Bank will be the big winner. You see, all cash and in kind donations for the raffle go to the Food Bank to feed the folks who struggle with hunger in the dead of winter.

In that spirit The Wine Gallery will observe the true Christmas season by awarding a special gift for each of the **Twelve Days of Christmas** to lucky raffle ticket holders. We won't be awarding leaping lords or swimming swans but we have some really fun gifts to celebrate the Season. Each day the prizes get bigger and better so keep buying tickets, you will just get better prizes if you win and more people will be fed.

How do you purchase tickets? There are two ways: Cash or In-Kind. For cash purchase of tickets, the more you buy the better your odds.

- \$1 each
- 6 tickets for \$5
- 12 tickets for \$10
- 25 tickets for \$20.

For in-kind donations we will give you a ticket for each item of canned or other shelf stable product you donate to our collection box located in the front of the store.

In the past we have given away a wine aroma kit, a picnic backpack, three different magnums of wine, a 3.0 liter bottle of a wine that is on the Top 100 as well as wines donated by our suppliers. This year the prizes are even better ranging from wine gadgets to more great bottles of delicious wine. Buy as many tickets as you want!!

Call us at 586-8828 or send an e-mail to bozemanwinegallery.com (Wine Club members may charge tickets to the credit card on file.)

Our first drawing will be on December 26 and we will pick a winner each day until January 6th.

Special deals

****While we were moving things around for Christmas we found a couple of verticals of **Tablas Creek Patelin Blanc**. Each year these Paso Robles Rhone varietal whites are in great demand. The verticals we have are made up of the 2013, 2014, and 2015 vintages. Each vintage has varying percentages of Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Roussanne, and Marsanne but each blend is delicious and all of them have rated 91 points or higher. If purchased individually, the price for all three would be ~\$72. Purchase them as a vertical and the price goes down to \$64.50 for the set or \$21.50 per bottle. The vertical includes the 2015 vintage found on this year's Top 100.**

Tablas Creek Patelin Blanc over the years:

2013: 91 Wine Spectator

Lively and refreshing, with a bright mix of melon, peach, pear and honeysuckle notes, featuring a supple texture and mouthwatering finish. Pretty aromatic details of fenugreek and aniseed linger. Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Roussanne and Marsanne. Drink now. 2,950 cases made.

2014: 91 Wine Enthusiast

Light banana flambée, vanilla meringue and yellow-cake aromas show on the generous but not overbearing nose of this blend of 49% Grenache Blanc, 31% Viognier, 12% Roussanne and 8% Marsanne. The tropicality of the nose disappears on the palate, which is tart and grippy with green apple and Anjou pear flavors as well as a touch of melon and smoke.

2015: 93 Wine Spectator; #26 on WS Top 100 for 2017

This vibrant and mouthwatering white shows green apple, Meyer lemon and dried pineapple flavors that are fresh and juicy. Lemon verbena and lime sherbet notes reverberate on the long, detailed finish. Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Roussanne and Marsanne. Drink now. 2,920 cases made.

We also have a 90 point Malbec that was named to the Wine Spectator Top 100 values for 2017. The **2014 Antigal Malbec “Uno” from Argentina is a well-structured red wine with black-fruit aromas with notes of fresh-cut grass, rose petal and berry jam. The mouthfeel is creamy and viscous, with modest acidity. Ripe, rich flavors of berry fruits, cocoa and caramel show on a jammy finish. Drink this tasty, saturated, soft-bodied Malbec through 2018. We even have a few bottles in a beautiful canister that makes a stunning Christmas gift. **(\$14.95)**

December schedule and events

****December 8th is the final Art Walk of 2017** in Downtown Bozeman. Your favorite elf will be at **Miller’s Jewelry** at Main and Tracy pouring delicious samples of Holiday Wines. Enjoy these special selections while perusing Miller’s huge selection of Yogo Sapphire jewelry pieces, classic watches, estate jewelry, gemstone bracelets, rings and necklaces. Who knows? You may find the perfect gift for someone who has been extra good this year.

If you need another incentive, Miller’s is sponsoring their **Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater** contest. There will be a photo booth to document your taste in sweaters or just to commemorate the evening.

** Moving forward into **December**, the Wine Gallery will be open seven days a week for all of December except Christmas Day. We will have our normal hours Monday to Saturday and **we will be open Sundays from 12 PM to 4 PM**. Those Sundays include Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve. Remember, the liquor stores will be closed both of those Sundays but the Wine Gallery will be open to accommodate last minute shoppers.

Cork removal

I got an e-mail recently that may have wider interest than just the writer:

I have to be rescued from my cork mishaps almost every bottle. I can't get the cork out and sometimes mangle it. I get the silly thing out and someone has to free it from the screw. Then, it refuses to revisit the bottle and I end up with plastic wrap and a rubber band.

There are a couple of remedies for people who have trouble with conventional corkscrews. One is to use an electric model corkscrew which entails pushing a button to insert the corkscrew worm and pushing another to pull the cork out. The other more high tech device uses a small canister of compressed air and a hypodermic needle. The needle slides easily through the cork and a gentle tap on the air cylinder pushes the cork out in a jiffy. Both glass and wine are liquids and cannot be compressed so the tiny bit of air between the wine and the cork will exert enough force to get the cork to move.

Here's a bonus: the corks slips right off the needle with very little effort. As I get older and have less hand strength, this little device is looking better and better.

Wouldn't you know it? We don't just stock electric and pneumatic corkscrews at the Wine Gallery. We also stock (Made in Montana) Gwynn Knife Works corkscrews. These heavy duty corkscrews feature wood handles inlaid with pictures of Montana birds and wildlife. They also come in a beautiful wooden box. If you want to look at one for a Christmas gift, come on down and we will show you our selection.

Now to address the problem of putting the cork back into the bottle:
To re-insert the cork, turn it upside down so the wet end that was inside the bottle is up and the dry end is in the neck. This is easy to see on a bottle of red. Position the cork so that the stained end is up and the unstained end goes into the neck. That should work with a minimum of tweaking.

Wine Club makes a great gift

When casting around for a great gift this season, consider the Wine Club. In the last year we have featured some great wines including 23 wines rated 90 points or better by the major wine publications. The selection for 2014 included wines from 11 different countries as well.

Think about giving a 3 month, 6 month or one year membership. Prepaid Wine Club memberships for 6 months and 12 months will receive an extra month free as an added bonus.

Come by the store and we will fill out the gift form and fix you up with the first month's wines in a special gift box

The Wine Gallery Wine Club is the largest wine club of its type in five states. Give a great gift that will remind your friend, relative or client how much you care each and every month when they pick up our wonderful selections.

