



Volume 14, No.11 (published by the Wine Gallery Bozeman, MT) **March 14, 2018**

What's new in the Grapevine this week?

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St. Patrick and St. Christopher

I know this isn't Butte, but St. Patrick's Day is this weekend and I always get asked the question which is safer to drink on St. Patrick's Day, beer or wine.

If you are asking because you think you may be driving, the answer is NEITHER. Alcohol is alcohol and like the TV ads say, buzzed driving is drunk driving.

Normally, BAC or Blood Alcohol Content is how law enforcement decides if a driver is under the influence or not. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has set a national standard of .08 BAC as the legal limit. There are no excuses about weight, gender or how long ago you ate that will get you off the hook if you drive while intoxicated. In general, a woman who weighs 136 lbs. (62 kg.) will reach the .08 BAC level by drinking three 5 oz. glasses of wine in one hour. Men generally weigh more than women so a 170 lb. (77 kg) man would reach the .08 level after about four 5 oz. glasses of wine in one hour. (I weigh 198 and I can tell you, I could barely walk let alone drive if I pounded that much wine in an hour.)

The NHTSA also considers wine to have an alcohol content of 12%. Most table wine nowadays is closer to 14.5% alcohol. Ergo, modern wine with a

higher percentage of alcohol should have to a reduced serving size or fewer glasses should be consumed to stay below the .08 BAC threshold. Keep in mind, these are guidelines and only help give a rough determination.

It has been noted before in the Grapevine that beer drinkers make up over 80% of drunk driver arrests, spirits drinkers make up roughly 18% and wine drinkers compose less than 2%. I don't think that means it is safer to drink wine and drive, however. It probably has more to do with the 16-25 year old age bracket that makes up the majority of alcohol related driving arrests. Wine drinkers tend to consume wine with dinner and largely at home. Wine drinkers are also more heavily represented in the 35-59 year old bracket that sees the fewest drunk driving arrests.

If you are driving on St. Patrick's Day, be a sober, designated driver. Trust in St. Christopher, the patron saint of safe travel and don't drink and drive.

Recap of the 93 Tasting

If you didn't get tickets to the 93 point tasting, you missed a terrific event. It really defeats the purpose of letting everyone try these fantastic wines if I just describe them to you, but I should tell you about the most popular selections.

In the white wine category, the **Gary Ferrell Russian River Chardonnay** showed well representing the rich tropical fruit and showcasing a brilliant streak of oak. (95 points Wine Enthusiast, \$33) The **Domaine Huet Vouvray** hit it out of the park with a slightly dry Chenin Blanc from the Loire Valley (94 points Wine Spectator, \$37)

The best sellers among the reds were the **Marques de Casares Rioja Reserva** (93 Wine Spectator, \$20) and the **Arcanum il Fauno Toscana** (94 points Wine Advocate, \$28). From South America, one of the most interesting (and bestselling wines) was the **Vistalba Corte B** from Argentina. It is a blend of Malbec and Bonarda with a smooth rich feel and remarkable flavors. (94 points from James Suckling, \$26). Also showing well was the **Forgeron "Anvil"** red blend from Walla Walla. (See events below). The **Anvil** is the flagship of Forgeron and was acclaimed by everyone who tried it. (94 Wine Advocate, \$65).

If you would like to order any of these wines or just want to look at a program to look at what you missed, just e-mail us at bozemanwinegallery@gmail.com.

Another Star from South Africa

Every year when we do our poll of Wine Clubbers on what they enjoy most about the Wine Club is the answer we get most has to do with variety. We love to bring wines like the Tannat from February (Top 100 selection) or the Mencia from this month (91 points Wine Advocate) to demonstrate that you don't have to drink Cab or Pinot every night or that there is more to white wine than California Chardonnay.

This month we tried an extraordinary new wine from South Africa. Not unlike the Rustenberg Rose' of Petit Verdot that knocked our socks off last spring, the **2015 Tormentoso Old Vine Cinsault** is an exotic grape from a rare corner of the earth. Indeed, only 1200 cases were made to supply our entire planet.

The Tormentoso has a beautiful ruby-garnet color that portends the strawberry and cherry on the nose. On the palate, it is juicy and flavorful with a silky mouthfeel backed by red fruit notes and structured tannins. It would pair well with corned beef on St. Patrick's Day. What makes it more appealing is that this gem is only \$13.95. To reserve some for you, just reply to bozemanwinegallery@gmail.com.

Forgeron Tasting slated for April 26

Marie-Eve Gilla, founder and managing partner of Forgeron Cellars in Walla Walla will be here April 26 to present her current wine releases. Marie-Eve was here a few years ago and gave one of the best winemaker presentations I have ever witnessed. I can't imagine this year's event would be anything less.

Marie-Eve was born and raised in Paris but earned her wine "chops" at the University of Dijon. She received a Double Master's Degree in Viticulture and Oenology which means she not only knows how to cultivate and select the best grapes, she can make them into the best wine when those grapes are harvested. She has earned honors in France and Washington State for her work in the wine industry for the last 25 years working with the world's best sustainable growers. The result is complex age-worthy wines that express Washington's full potential. Her 15 year

history of 90+ point ratings speaks to the high quality of her skill and the consistency of her work.

Her blend of the Old World traditions of regular visits to the vineyards to monitor the canopy, water levels and cluster development set the stage for her winemaking. Forgeron wines are made from hand-picked grapes and gentle, natural winemaking techniques. Her modern approach includes small lots and temperature controlled fermentations with extensive quality control practices in each step from crush to bottling.

Watch the Grapevine next week for the particulars of the evening.

John Macy's and Harvest Sweets on Sale

Somehow we doubled up on our post-Holiday orders for John Macy's Snacks and Harvest Sweets Chocolates and now we are overstocked. Tiffany tells me the solution to overstock is to sell the merchandise so we have come up with a "sweet" deal where you get these high quality snacks for a great deal and we reduce our inventory. For the rest of the month, these scrumptious lines will be on sale. Both lines retail for \$4.95 per unit but each box will be on sale for \$3.95 (over 20% off) for the rest of the month.

Check out our great selection and make sure you taste the free samples the next time you are in the store.

John W. Macy

Sesame-Gruyere Sticks
Cheddar-Scallion Sticks
Garlic-Romano Sticks
Asiago-Cheddar Crisps
Melting Parmesan Sticks
Java Cinnamon Sweet Sticks
Dutch Chocolate Sweet Sticks

Harvest Sweets

Dk. Choc Almond/Cocoanut
Dk. Choc Cranberry Pecan
Caramel Pecan Truffles
Orange Truffles
Key Lime Truffles
Crème Brule Truffles
Tiramisu Truffles
Dk. Choc Raisin/Cashews
Dk. Choc Blueberry/Almond
Dk. Choc Espresso Beans