



AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY

Grapevine

Lehigh Valley Chapter December 2020



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LehighValleyAWS.org



December Lehigh Chapter BYOB

LVAWS Virtual Holiday Party

Friday December 4, 2020 6:00 PM

Hosts: Leslie and Peter Staffeld

Register at LVAWS.org to receive the Zoom link



**Virtual
Tasting**

December Lehigh Chapter Tasting

Washington State Syrah

Saturday December 19, 2020 5:00 PM

Host: Geoff Harrington

Register at LVAWS.org to receive the Zoom link



January Lehigh Chapter BYOB

A "Spicey" Wine

Friday January 8, 2021 5:00 PM

Hosts: Leslie and Peter Staffeld

Register at LVAWS.org to receive the Zoom link

January Lehigh Chapter Tasting

Hybrid Tasting – Setter Ridge Vineyards

Saturday January 30, 2021 1:00 PM

Hosts: Dean and Bonnie Scott

99 Dietrich Valley Rd, Kutztown or Online

Register at LVAWS.org

Connections from the Co-Chairs – Peter & Leslie Staffeld

Happy Holidays! There is a lot to celebrate!



Our **53rd National AWS Conference** on November 4-7 was virtual and free this year. Presentations were provided via Zoom. Members could tune in (with or without wine) to learn about Banfi wines, Willamette Valley Vineyards, Iberian fortified wines, Lebanese wines (Musar), Australian Shiraz, and Krug wines. We also have award-winning members who were recognized at the Conference. A more detailed overview is in this newsletter.

You are invited to join other members at our **VIRTUAL LVAWS HOLIDAY PARTY** on Friday, December 4 at 6PM. (Note the later start, so more people are available.) We will honor special members and have a great time. Let's celebrate together by selecting a bottle to virtually share, all from the safety of our homes. So, mark your calendar for **6PM on Friday, December 4** and select a wine you would bring to a holiday party. You received an invitation with the ZOOM link on November 10 **or** you can go on the LVAWS.org website and register to receive the special link.

Then on Saturday, December 19 at 5PM **Geoff Harrington** will be hosting a virtual Syrah tasting. Remember to register at LVAWS.org. On Saturday, January 30 at 1:00PM, **Dean and Bonnie Scott** invite you to a hybrid tasting. You can visit the Setter Ridge winery in person or virtually. Also, in January we will offer a virtual BYOB to share a "spicy" wine. This will occur on Friday, January 8 at 5PM.

It's time to **renew your National and Chapter dues**. Remember, under the newly adopted LVAWS Bylaws, **each member must join the chapter** at a cost of \$10 per person. The household membership for chapter dues was eliminated. You can complete the form in this newsletter and mail it to Kevin Campbell **or** you can individually visit LVAWS.org and pay on-line. To remain active, the deadline for both National and Chapter dues is January 31.

Many thanks go to **Suzanne Laverick-Stone**, **Dean Scott**, **Kevin Campbell** and **Alicia Ruiz-Orbin** for their contributions to our monthly newsletters. And a huge thank you goes to **Mike Orbin** for producing our newsletter each month. Thank you, **Kate Korch** for your weekly Wine Wednesdays on the LVAWS Facebook page. Thank you all for spreading the good news about our Chapter.

We have a great Chapter because of the extraordinary people in the group! We look forward to seeing you each in person. Until then continue to stay safe and stay healthy.

Cheers!

Peter and Leslie Staffeld

DUES ARE DUE

It's time to **renew your National and Chapter dues**. Remember, under the newly adopted LVAWS Bylaws, **each member must join at a cost of \$10 per person**. The household membership for chapter dues was eliminated. You can complete the form in this newsletter (below) and mail it to Kevin Campbell **OR** you can individually visit LVAWS.org and pay on-line. To remain active, the deadline for both National and Chapter dues is January 31.



NEWS FROM NATIONAL

At the beginning of the annual conference our Executive Director, **David Falchek**, spoke about accomplishments during this challenging year: ability to still bring people together to enjoy and learn about wine through ZOOM, small bottles program, on-line communities as a private social opportunity, creation of two new chapters, a program provider for WSET and continuing the wine competition under difficult conditions. **Jay Bileti**, Director of Member Services, said that while we now have over 7,000 members, National is concerned about maintaining this enrollment. The National Board discussed whether to discount dues and decided that the value received is worth the cost so no change was recommended. Annual membership rates are: Individual (\$49 for 1-year; \$124 for 3-years) and Household (\$62 for 1-year; \$158 for 3-years). Lifetime membership is available for \$950.

AWS NATIONAL CONFERENCE- Leslie Staffeld, Chapter Co-Chair

The 53rd AWS Conference began Wednesday evening with an **Orientation** lead by **Katie Kearney** and **Diane Meyer**. It was an introduction to Zoom and an overview of what to expect. Then **Bartholomew Broadbent** spoke about his long relationship with a Lebanese vintner, Serge Hochar, who was the founder of **Chateau Musar**. Bartholomew shared his concern about the recent explosion in Beirut and introduced a young man who had just completed the documentary film *Wine and War*. Bartholomew explained that every wine, every vintage from Chateau Musar vineyards is different and all wonderful. He compared two red wines Musar Jeune Rouge and Chateau Musar Hochar. Bartholomew said that, unlike most wines, these wines could be opened for weeks without any ill effect.

On Thursday evening, the President of the **American Wine Society Educational Foundation** lead a brief business meeting and interviewed two past scholarship recipients. It was announced that the **Lehigh Valley Chapter will be awarding a scholarship in 2021!**

Then about 450 members tuned in to hear **Mark Davidson** humorously present about **Australian Shiraz**. His goal was to debunk the concept of Australian Shiraz- explaining that Australia is a continent with 61 wine regions and therefore there is no "one Australian Shiraz". The rest of the world calls this variety Syrah- Australia calls it Shiraz. After sharing the history, he spoke about the terroir of three distinct regions of Australia and described the climates of New South Wales (Hunter Valley, Caberra, Yarra Valley, Heathcote, Beechworth) which are medium bodied, savory, fruit forward, peppery quality; South Australia (Clare Valley, Barossa Valley, Eden Valley, Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale) which are typically full bodied, with blackberry and blueberry flavor; and West Australia (Margaret River, Swan District, Great Southern) which are complex with peppery or spicy notes that balance the plummy ripe flavors. He spoke of the distinct styles of warmer versus cooler climate Shiraz. Members posted questions throughout the presentation, so this was a very interactive session. He offered his PowerPoint to AWS and recommended a free website: www.australianwinesdiscover.com to gain more information.



Friday evening brought the **AWS Wine Competition Awards** and a virtual social hour. We are proud to share that LVAWS member **Dean Scott** won **Best Label** for his MUS-ateer CAT.

It is exciting to honor the following LVAWS members for creating their award-winning wines:

John Koempel: 1 Gold (2017 Cabernet Sauvignon), **6 Silver** (2017 Petite Sirah, 2018 Barbera, 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2019 Zinfandel, 2018 Barbera Red Blend, 2019 Riesling), **5 Bronze** (2019 Alicante, 2018 Cabernet Red Blend, 2019 Rhone Blend, 2019 Sauvignon Blanc, 2019 Vino Tinto (Field Blend))

Dean Scott: 2 Bonze (2019 MUS-ateer CAT, 2016 Wine Killer Petit Verdot)

AWS NATIONAL CONFERENCE- continued

Jeff and Donna Fisher: 5 Silver (2019 Chile Cuvee, 2018 Chiletage, 2018 Dark Shadows, 2019 Dark Shadows, 2018 Rooster's Red) and **5 Bronze** (2018 Bella Donna, 2019 Chiletage, 2018 Grenache Noir, 2017 Merlot, 2019 Syrah)

Bill Yenkevich: 1 Silver (2017 Enology 101), **3 Bronze** (Black Rooster Reserve, Botte, Firecracker)
The complete list is available at <https://americanwinesociety.org/amateur-wine-competition/>

In the Commercial division, local winery **Folino** earned 5 medals. You will remember that the **Scott Family** hosted a private virtual tasting for LVAWS at Folio Estate Winery in June, 2020. They earned **3 Silver** (Valentino NV, Cabernet Franc 2018, Lidia NV) and **2 Bronze** (Roosato Cider 2019, Barbera NV)

Saturday provided **three workshops** and the **Grand Banquet celebration**. During the first workshop **Sharon McCarthy**, formerly from **Banfi**, lead a tasting of Rosso Banfi Centine, Castello Banfi Rosso di Montalcino, and Castello Banfi Brunello di Montalcino. The price range (\$10-\$68) was just one variance of these wines.

Then **Jim Bernau** from **Willamette Valley Vineyard** shared 2016 Bernau Block Chardonnay (AWS rated 89 Silver), 2017 Tualatin Estate Pinot Noir (**AWS Best Pinot Noir**, 93 Gold), and 2017 Metis Red Blend (AWS 89 Silver). He spoke about the bio dynamic approach that he uses throughout his vineyards.

Paul Wagner spoke about **Fortified Wines of Iberia**: port, sherry and madeira. He explained the history and production of each of these wines.

Paul Mondavi was the speaker at the Grand Banquet and highlighted three **Krug wines**: Paul Mondavi family Cabernet Sauvignon, Charles Krug Chardonnay, and Charles Krug Pinot Noir.
The Conference wrapped up on Sunday with the annual business meeting.

December Lehigh Chapter BYOB

LVAWS Virtual Holiday Party

You received this invitation from LVAWS on November 10 with the ZOOM link
OR go to LVAWS.org and register for the ZOOM link.
Please join us as we celebrate our members!



*You are invited to
the Lehigh Valley
AWS Holiday
Party*

Friday, December 4, 2020 at
6pm on ZOOM

Click [HERE](#) to join in celebrating
the efforts of our members.
Open your favorite party wine
and come have fun!

Lehigh Valley Chapter Tasting

Washington State Syrah

Saturday, December 19, 2020 5:00 PM

Host: Geoff Harrington

Virtual event on ZOOM- Register at LVAWS.org for the link



Washington State Syrah tends to be savory and Old-World-leaning, with a wide range of possible fruit flavors and plenty of spice. America's second-largest wine-making state is fast becoming recognized for wine made from this classic Rhone variety, which is expressive of terroir, with a breadth of styles grown in diverse locations.

Our LVAWS **December 19** tasting, hosted by **Geoff Harrington**, will offer a tasting tour of Syrah grown in five Washington viticultural areas: (1) Walla Walla Valley, (2) Red Mountain, (3) Wahluke Slope, (4) Horse Heaven Hills (all sub-AVAs encompassed by the broader Columbia Valley AVA) and a Washington State bottling that includes grapes from (5) Yakima Valley, also an AVA within Columbia Valley.

Although it has varied microclimates, the entire Columbia Valley experiences extreme winters and long, hot, dry summers. Frost is a common risk in spring. The Cascade mountain range keeps the valley relatively rain-free throughout the entire year, necessitating irrigation from the Columbia River. The lack of humidity combined with sandy soils allows for vines to be grown on their own rootstock, as phylloxera is not a serious concern.

Supply has not kept up with demand for Washington Syrah, so not all the wines available in the Lehigh Valley are featured in every store -- and the quantities are limited. I recommend you choose 3 wines from the list of 5 offered below. We will discuss and taste all 5 wines on December 19 -- and you may buy all five if you care to seek them out.

Everyone should readily locate our benchmark wine, **Charles Smith Boom Boom Syrah 2017**, which is available at 15 Lehigh Valley stores and Quakertown. Likewise, there's good availability for **North by Northwest Syrah 2013** (highly recommended) offered at 6 Lehigh Valley stores as well as at Quakertown. The other three wines are each available at 2 or 3 stores (see below).

Buying both the **Smith** and **North by Northwest** wines, **plus one of the three other selections** will cost between \$59.97 and \$69.97. Buying all five will set you back \$114.95. Enjoy the chase!

1) Charles Smith Boom Boom Syrah, Washington State, 2017 \$17.99 #01501

Vinted and bottled by Charles Smith Wines, which became a Constellation brand in 2017. The grapes are most likely from the Columbia Valley with some of the wine purchased in bulk from other producers and blended by Charles Smith. One of his higher end Syrah's was ranked #2 on the Wine Spectator Top 100 in 2017. The Wine.com tasting panel describes it as "fresh, smooth, and luscious with blackberry notes and tangy, balanced style." The winery describes it as "one of the biggest and boldest Syrahs of all time."

Alcohol by Volume 14.5% <https://charlessmithwines.com>

Available at: Cedar Crest (32), White Hall (17) Krock's Road (14), Center Valley (11), Bethlehem (15), Emmaus (23), and Quakertown (20).

2) North by Northwest Syrah, Walla Walla Valley, 2013 \$21.99 #83236

Produced and Bottled by the King Family from grapes sourced from a small group of growers from throughout the Walla Walla AVA in the Columbia River Valley. Cold soaked for extraction, then punched down, and pumped over. For optimum flavor and body, the grapes underwent delestage, and saw an extended maceration. This wine saw 21 months in 31% new French oak barrels. 1,045 cases.

"Focused and deftly wrought, with rich pomegranate, red plum and blackberry flavors floating over superfine tannins. The elements move weightlessly through the long, expressive and open-textured finish. Drink now through 2023." -- Wine Spectator (93 Points)

Alcohol by Volume 13.5% <https://www.kingestate.com/>

Available at Cedar Crest (67), Krock's Road (11), Center Valley (60), White Hall (12), Quakertown (10) Easton – Nazareth (11), and Easton - Freemansburg (20).

3) Alexandria Nicole Cellars "Jet Black" Syrah, Horse Heaven Hills, 2016 \$24.99 #76537

A project of the Mercer and Boyle families (winery named after winemaker Jarrod Boyle's, partner and wife, Ali) "Produced...from select blocks of the (estate) Destiny Ridge Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills AVA of the Columbia Valley...whole berry fermented and aged 18 months in 40% new French oak and 60% 2-year-old French oak barrels, this wine showcases a wide array of fruit, earthy notes and smoked meat, backed with a velvety richness. On the nose, raspberry, Rainier cherry, and boysenberry, cured meat, a touch of allspice, vanilla and mocha. Palate is highlighted by plum, blackberry and ripe blueberry, with oaky nuances and a plush tannin profile." (Winery Notes) 450 cases

93 Points– Wine Spectator; 91 Points – Wine and Spirits

Alcohol by Volume 14.4% <https://www.alexandrianicolecellars.com/>

Available at Cedar Crest (10), Center Valley (16), and Quakertown (10)

4) The Walls "Gaspard" Syrah, Red Mountain, 2016. \$19.99 #79215

Chairman's Selection® Winemaking guided by Todd Alexander, formerly of Cade, PlumpJack, and Bryant Family Vineyard, with fruit from the premier Red Mountain AVA featuring hot days and cooler nights:

"... reveals a deep, inky purple color as well as powerful notes of blue fruits, ground pepper, crushed violets, and graphite. It's beautiful on the palate as well and is full-bodied, with terrific purity of fruit and a great finish, all while staying in the elegant, seamless end of the spectrum." — 95 Points Jeb Dunnuck, 2019

"Vibrant aromas of blackberry, black cherry, cassis, licorice and violet. Densely packed, vibrant and pure, with intense black fruit and dark chocolate flavors complicated by hints of stone and game. Finishes with serious, fine-grained tannins, excellent energy and sneaky, slowly building length. Drink 2020-2027." — 92 Points Vinous Media, 2018

Alcohol by Volume 15.4% <https://www.thewallswines.com>

Available at Cedar Crest (10) and Krock's Road (9).

5) Guardian Cellars “The informant” Syrah, Wahluke Slope, 2016, \$29.99 #76451

Have you heard the one about the cop and the newspaper reporter who fell in love, got married and started a winery with one Bordeaux-style blend, a Cabernet, and a Syrah? For harvest 2019, Jerry Riener and Jennifer Sullivan produced 16 different wines between the two labels – “Guardian” and “Newsprint” -- a total of just over 9,000 cases.

“This is classic Syrah with a little oomph. It’s a blend of 97% Syrah with 3% Viognier sourced from StoneTree Vineyard in the Wahluke Slope...surrounded on one side by the Columbia River and on the other by the Saddle Mountains. This velvety and lush wine was aged 18 months on 45% new French oak and is full of notes of blueberry, white pepper and tar. It’s a serious wine with tons of mouthfeel. 350 cases.” (Winery notes) 89 Points – Wine Spectator

“Decanted 8 hours, but this wine needs more time. So dense and it’s all there, but this needs a few more years.” – Cellar Tracker Review

Alcohol by Volume: 14.5% <https://www.guardiancellars.com>

Available at Center Valley (10), White Hall (10), and Doylestown (15)

Wine Education – Suzanne Laverick-Stone

Syrah – Old World Wonder, New World Wunderkind



2020 is still living up to its reputation (sigh), but we’ve learned some coping mechanisms throughout this crazy year – one is our fun Zoom wine tastings. We’ll be exploring Syrah in December, so let’s discuss a grape that can provide an infinite number of comparisons. This is because it is grown all around the world within the 30th to 50th parallels of latitude both North and South, and it takes on terroir like the chameleon it’s described to be, promising hutzpah to nuance, bacon fat to floral.

To know Syrah is to understand the differences between Old and New World wines. Modern winemaking originated in the Old World. In France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain, Greeks and Romans brought winemaking to their conquered lands where it blossomed into an art form mostly by monks who had time and inclination. Fast forward to today, and these Old World wines are often still made by traditional methods with a strong emphasis on terroir (the wine will “be”). New World wines are made in places other than Europe, those places “discovered” during the age of exploration. New World winemaking tends to be less traditional, more innovative. Because of differences in terroir, climate, and winemaking techniques, there are general taste differences as well. Broadly, New World Syrah can be described as fruit forward, bold, and juicy, while Old World examples come across as earthy, complex, and thought provoking.

Old World Syrah was born in France. There are lots of romantic stories and origin theories, but we do have some science to fall back on. We now know through DNA testing that the origins of the grape are French. Research by Carole Meredith at UC Davis revealed that Syrah is the child of two obscure French grapes: Dureza from Southern France and Mondeuse Blanche which can be found in Savoy. The present-day Old World Syrah story is the Northern *Rhône* Valley in France. Syrah is the only red grape allowed to be cultivated in that region. The hilly terrain, great for the grape (Syrah “likes a view!”), but difficult to farm, makes the exquisite wines from this region scarce and often crazy expensive. Differences in terroir will be noticeable from the appellations of the region. Syrah in this area was almost wiped out after the devastation of the world wars and, in the 70s, farmers were packing it in and selling their vineyards to apricot farmers, until Kermit Lynch and Robert Parker brought notice to the brilliance of the winemaking and the wine, and the rest is a very happy history with dollar signs. Syrah is grown in the Southern *Rhône* as well and is used to make the famous GMS blend (Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah). Old World producers also include Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Wine Education: Syrah – continued

And on to the New World. Several New World regions have a compelling Syrah story. In Australia, the genetically identical Shiraz is the most widely planted grape. It's their signature wine, known for its big boldness. Vineyards date back to 1843, the grapes imported from France and Spain by Scotsman James Busby. Australia has the oldest (pre-phylloxera) vines in the world still in production. Varied terroirs impact wines and a wide range of quality exists. Barossa Valley is one of the oldest and best-known regions, and the wines are full-bodied. Some new winemakers (look to Eden Valley and Margaret River) are creating cool climate *Rhône* style wines that they are labeling as Syrah to indicate the difference in style, but for the most part, Australian Shiraz is big and bold. Australian wine reputation is clawing its way back from the over-production days spurred on by the Yellowtail "critter wines" fame.

Back in the USA, Syrah varietals are generally from California and Washington. In sunny C-A, Syrah tends to be bigger, bolder, and jammier, with less spice than French varietals. We can attribute American Syrah to two pioneer California winemakers, Joseph Phelps and Gary Eberle, who planted vines in the early 70s. Fun fact: Eberle, who was the first to make 100% California Syrah varietals, was a high school football star from Moon Township, PA. Both wineries still exist today and continue to score with Syrah fans. Syrah is grown in Paso Robles, Santa Barbara, Napa, and Sonoma in California, and the Columbia Valley in Washington. Syrah is often called a "winemaker's grape" because those in the know love the wine, but it hasn't caught on with the public like Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir (maybe it needs its own movie!). Thanks to the dedication of a group called the "Rhône Rangers," Syrah is gaining in reputation. Other New World areas of note include South Africa, Argentina, and Chile.

As you can see, it's a grape that produces a wine for everyone. Darker than the famously inky Cabernet Sauvignon, wine lovers can count on its body and strength and its sublime expressions of time and terroir. From the earthy, herby Old World to the bold, fruit-forward New World, Syrah wine tasting opportunities abound.

Enology – General

Climate and Terroir: 186,000 hectares worldwide; Performs best in steep rocky hillsides, where less soil makes vines produce less but more concentrated grapes; Gravel, shist, limestone, iron, granite, sandy soils; Grows well in both cool and warm climates resulting in different styles.

Grape: Small dark thick-skinned berry with high tannins and acidity; Small bunches; Egg-shaped grape.

Vinification: Resistant to mildew and rot; Requires fruit & cane thinning most years; Cane extends horizontally; Long pundacles cause clusters to hang free from canes; Tends to shrivel when ripe; Ripens best in dry climates and soils that allow for deep root penetration; Sensitivity to water stress; Buds late but ripens mid-season; Susceptible to coulure; Cold soaking (extended maceration) common; Warm fermentation; Medium to high usage of oak aging; Benefits from racking; Common synonyms include: Sirac, Marsanne Noir, Entournerain, Serine, and names of Northern *Rhône* appellations.

Buyers' Notes: ABV: 13-15%; Trademark flavor is black pepper; Ageability of 5-9 years (most) and 12-25 (for age-worthy wines); Decant 60 minutes+ and serve at 60-68 degrees; Color changes with aging.

Enology – Old World

**Northern Rhône,
FR**
(Called Syrah)

Climate and Terroir: World's best vineyards for Syrah; Continental climate with hot, sunny days and cool nights, hot summers & cold winters; Many microclimates; Schist & granite soils; Vineyards are perched on the river's steep stony banks, angled to get the most sun; Less soil makes vines produce less but more concentrated grapes; Northwesterly mistral winds in winter and spring clear mold, mildew, pests, and frosts, but can snap shoots and rip berries off vines.

Grape: The Noble grape is the only red allowed, and in some appellations (*Côte-Rôtie*), Viognier is co-fermented to blend.

Vinification: Whole cluster fermentation to enhance spiciness; Longer "hang time" develops greater acidity; Vines often suffer from dieback; American oak aging; Careful trellising and training to protect from wind.

	Buyers' Notes: ABV: 12.5%; Earth-driven, non-fruit flavored, complex, age-worthy; Difficult farming and short supply means high quality, pricey; Tastes: plum, black pepper, bacon. Famed appellations: <i>Côte-Rôtie</i> , Hermitage; La Landonne, La Turque and La Mouline, Guigal's notable wines, have 100 pt. Parker ratings for multiple vintages; Value from St-Joseph, Crozes-Hermitage, Cornas.
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Enology – New World

Australia (Most called Shiraz)	Climate and Terroir: Moderate to warm climate; Varied rich mineral soils, cooling ocean breezes, mountainous areas. Vinification: Low yielding, gnarled vines; Whole bunch use has increased but destemming is still common; Large bunches (130 grapes); Co-fermentation for the Shiraz Viognier style; Oak use for maturation; Use of older barrels for subtlety; Starting to focus on organic and biodynamic farming as a point of differentiation; Some shifting away from oak aging; Soil moisture monitoring. Wine Buyer's Notes: ABV: 13-15.5%; Trademark flavor dark chocolate; Most famous: Penfold's Grange Shiraz blend; Pair with your 'roo steaks; A sparkling Shiraz is made which is tannic and dry.
California (Called Syrah or Shiraz depending on vinification)	Climate and Terroir: Napa-warm climate, often blended; Sonoma-cooler, more varietal; Long, dry growing season; Fog & wind in Central Coast; Granite & shale in Sierra Foothills; Sand/limestone/hardpan, mountain influence. Vinification: Grapes ripen more quickly in hot climates resulting in higher sugar and lower acidity; Avoid over-ripeness; Overproduction equaled mediocre wines in 90s; Mature vines now producing better wines; Evolving to low intervention techniques and whole cluster fermentation. Wine Buyer's Notes: ABV: 13-14.5%; Dark, full bodied; Typical aroma and flavors: blackberry, cassis, black pepper, bacon, and smoke.
Washington State (Called Syrah or Shiraz depending on vinification)	Climate and Terroir: Moderate climate with massive temperature shifts; High elevations; Long, hot days and cool nights; 180-200 days with annual rainfall averaging 6 to 8"; Irrigation is required; Autumn harvest; Well-drained vineyards lie below floodwaters with soils of loess, overlying gravel and slack water sediment. Vinification: Most are blends from multiple vineyards; Irrigation and warm, dry temperatures provide growers control over grape development with minimal vintage variation; Vines grown on their own rootstock (no phylloxera). Wine Buyer's Notes: AVAs: Walla Walla, Yakima, Wahluke Slope, Horse Heaven Hills, Red Mountain; If a bottle states "Washington," 95% of the grapes must come from the state; Medium to full-bodied with high tannins; Less fruit forward, more savory notes.

Resources: *Wine for Normal People* by E. Schneider (2019), *Adventures on the Wine Route* by Kermit Lynch (2019, 25th Anniversary Edition); *Wine Grape Varieties in California* by L. P. Christensen (2003); www.thewinecellarinsider.com; www.winefolly.com; www.wineaustralia.com; www.wine-searcher.com; www.winemag.com; www.nytimes.com; www.eater.com; www.vintageroots.co.uk; www.decanter.com; www.wikipedia.org; www.jancisrobinson.com; www.uncork.biz; www.winedharma.com; www.intowine.com; www.washingtonwine.org; www.rhonerangers.org

January Lehigh Chapter Virtual BYOB



A "Spicey" Wine

Friday January 8, 2021 5:00 PM
 Hosts: Leslie and Peter Staffeld

Warm up winter by selecting a wine that is "spicey" or try a wine you think would complement spicey food. Either way, pick a bottle and share your wine with dozens of fellow LVAWS members, all from the safety of your home.

Register on LVAWS.org and you will receive the link to Zoom.

January Lehigh Valley Chapter Tasting



Saturday, January 30, 1:00 PM
Hosts: Dean and Bonnie Scott
Register at LVAWS.org

You are invited to join hosts Dean and Bonnie Scott with winemaker Richard Blair for a private LVAWS tasting. This will be a **hybrid tasting**: up to 20 members can meet at the winery (99 Dietrich Valley Rd, Kutztown) and all other members can join on ZOOM.

Setter Ridge is known for their Pinot Noir. So, the tasting will include a tour of the winery and a vertical tasting of 6 Pinot Noirs. We will be tasting:

- 14 Pinot Noir, Richard J Vineyard
- 14 Pinot Noir, Stonehedge Vineyard
- 15 Pinot Noir (no vineyard designation)
- 16 Pinot Noir Reserve
- 16 Pinot Noir, Richard J Vineyard
- 16 Pinot Noir, Stonehedge Vineyard

If you are **participating through ZOOM**:

- **Register on LVAWS.org by December 30.** After registering, you will receive the ZOOM link.
- **Make arrangements for the wine by contacting Dean by December 30.** Setter Ridge will make special 375ml (1/2 bottles) of the 6 wines for \$67.14 **OR** you can buy the 6 (750ml) bottles of wines (price to be determined). Wine can be picked up at the winery **OR** email Dean and he will meet you for delivery. Dean's email: deansscott2323@gmail.com . You will pay the winery or Dean directly.

If you are **participating in person**:

- **Register on LVAWS.org.** This **option is only open to the first 20 members who register on-line.** There will be a waiting list on the website and you will be notified if a seat becomes available.
- **Pay \$20 at the door.** Because it is limited seating, no shows will be billed. The cost for the in-person tasting includes a wine tasting of 6 pinot noirs, cheese and crackers, and a rimless Setter Ridge Vineyard glass.
- **Eat lunch prior to the event.**
- **Dress warmly.** The tasting will be held in the fermenting room in the wine cellar. To properly socially distance, only 20 people can be accommodated. The room is around 60 degrees so members will need to dress accordingly.

Chairman's Selection – Kevin Campbell

Based on my passion for finding good wine at a reasonable price, and wanting to follow in Barry's footsteps, I asked Dean if we could share the Chairman's Selection portion of the newsletter. Going forward, Dean and I will be alternating months.

The featured Charmain Selections this month include a sparkling from Bordeaux, two wines from Willamette Valley and two from Spain. All very good values and, at the current time, readily available in all of the Lehigh Valley premium wines stores.

CELENE AMETHYSTE CREMANT de BORDEAUX BRUT BLANC de NOIRS NON VINTAGE

VARIETY/STYLE: Proprietary White Blend

COUNTRY: France

REGION: Other France

RATING: WS – 90, **PRODUCT CODE:** 000079213

\$11.99 (quoted at \$27.00)

"This wine is ripe and fruity, with a creamy character. The acidity and fruits are maturing well, giving the wine richness and depth of flavor."

"Ripe apple notes delight on the nose with subtle, toasty brioche and citrus notes. The creamy, refreshing palate offers very balanced bubbles on a lingering finish. An incredible value crémant, Wine Enthusiast 90 points Editor's Choice."

Kevin's notes:

Michele and I are big sparkling fans and we both loved this one. Very well made and we totally agree with Wine Enthusiast. At \$11.99, an awesome value.

VAN DUZER VINEYARDS PINOT GRIS WILLAMETTE VALLEY 2018

VARIETY/STYLE: Pinot Gris

REGION: Oregon

RATING: WE – 91, **PRODUCT CODE:** 000079308

\$11.99

"This crisp and delicious wine is packed with freshly cut apple flavors. Backed with zippy acidity, the wine shows exceptional focus, concentration and persistence. This is a perfect all-purpose white wine when you need a break from caky Chardonnays."

"Ripe apple, pear and melon fruit delight, with a nicely textured mouthfeel, fleshy acidity and minerally spice notes on the crisp, lingering finish. A beautiful pinot gris from Van Duzer at an incredible price!"

Kevin's notes:

Willamette Valley is most known for Pinot Noir, but if you have not tried their Pinot Gris, this is a great example at a great price. Very clean and crisp and also has a great label.

BOEDECKER CELLARS PINOT NOIR WILLAMETTE VALLEY 2016

VARIETY/STYLE: Pinot Noir:

REGION: Oregon

RATING: WS – 89, JS – 91, **PRODUCT CODE:** 000079314

\$14.99

"An array of ripe cherries and milk chocolate on the nose with a very plush, supple palate that offers some firmness in the tannin department and ripe red fruit in abundance."

"Savory and solidly built, with blueberry and cherry flavors that take on licorice and black tea flavors toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2024."

Kevin's notes:

I am not familiar with this winery, but after a few minutes of internet research, seems like a rather serious team of wine makers dedicated to sustainable farming. Good example of Willamette Pinot Noir for at least half the price of almost any other of this quality.

Chairman's Selection – Continued

BODEGAS CASA PRIMICIA RIOJA CRIANZA 2016

VARIETY/STYLE: Tempranillo

REGION: Rioja, Spain

RATING: WS – 90, **PRODUCT CODE:** 000079253

\$9.99 (quoted at \$18.00)

“Focused and energetic, this sleek red delivers black cherry, red plum, licorice, black tea and mineral flavors, backed by notes of herb and spice. Features light, firm tannins and brisk acidity. Subtle, showing good depth. Drink now through 2028.”

Kevin's notes:

Wine Spectator might be a little generous with the 90 point rating, but this is a very good wine. 100% Tempranillo from the Rioja region. Add this to the growing \$9.99 club along with Leslie's Centine and Dean's Lillium. Really no reason to spend more for decent wine.

BODEGAS EGO INFINITO JUMILLA 2016

VARIETY/STYLE: Proprietary Red Blend:

REGION: Spain

RATING: WS – 93, **PRODUCT CODE:** 000079186

(70% Monastrell, 20% Syrah, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon)

\$16.99 (quoted at \$75.00)

“Dense and velvety this big red delivers flavors of current, blackberry, cocoa and licorice. Ripe and heady, but well-integrated tannins and bright acidity keep this fresh and well balanced. In the modern style. Monastrell, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2028.”

Kevin's notes:

This is one seriously big heavy-duty wine. 40 year old vines at an elevation of around 3,000 ft. results in lower yields and an alcohol of 15%. Great wine for a cold winter day and a big juicy steak.

The American Wine Society Education Foundation – Dean Scott



You can help the American Wine Society Scholarship fund. Typically, we raise funds at the Holiday Party through contributions at the 50/50 and the silent auction. However, since COVID is part of our lives and we will not have the Holiday Party, we are asking members to consider making donations directly to the AWSEF.

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution, fill out the form on the [LVAWS webpage](#) and mail your check and form to:

**Walt Rachele, Treasurer
AWS Scholarship Fund
P. O. Box 264
Lovettsville, VA 20180**

Write on the check: **Scholarship for Lehigh Valley Chapter**

Personally, I think we should make it our goal as a chapter to contribute enough money every year to fund a scholarship.

Dean Scott

Lehigh Valley Chapter Wine Tastings & Events

<u>2020</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Dec 4	Peter & Leslie Staffeld	Virtual BYOB: LVAWS Holiday Party 6PM
Dec 19	Geoff Harrington	Syrah
<u>2021</u>		
January 8	Peter & Leslie Staffeld	Virtual BYOB: A "Spicy" Wine
January 30	Dean & Bonnie Scott	Setter Ridge
February	Geoffrey Harrington	Chardonnay
March 14	Jan Thomas	Illyrian Wines at Nostros (rescheduled)
April	Kevin & Michele Campbell	Spanish Wines
May	Peter & Leslie Staffeld	Port and Food Pairing (rescheduled)
June 13	Matt Green & Ann Vlot	To Decant or Not Decant (rescheduled)
September	Would you like to host?	Pick your theme...



National and Lehigh Valley AWS Dues

YOU MUST JOIN BOTH THE NATIONAL AWS & THE LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER

National AWS Membership: To join, you need to register with both the national American Wine Society (AWS) organization and a local AWS chapter. The national organization has a variety of membership plans available, but the most popular are an "individual" membership for \$49/year, and a "household" membership (for two people at the same address) for \$62/year. You can register for one or two local chapters. We recommend that you select the Lehigh Valley chapter as your Primary chapter! You can sign up for national membership online at AmericanWineSociety.org.

Lehigh Valley Chapter AWS Membership: The Lehigh Valley chapter has one membership level. Each member pays \$10/year. Once you become a Lehigh Valley Chapter member you can register for all of our wine tastings, educational events, and BYOB parties. You can sign up for membership online at LVAWS.org using the "Join us" main menu option, **or** complete this form and a check, send it to:

LVAWS Treasurer Kevin Campbell, 6461 Meadowview Terrace South, Zionsville PA 18092.

Membership runs from January to December.

Name(s) _____ Email Address _____
Address _____ Phone # _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Guest policy: Members are encouraged to bring guests to our events. The national AWS insurance policy restricts guests to a maximum of three events in a lifetime.

Wine in the News

Pinnacle Ridge Winery – located in Kutztown, is having a 25th Anniversary Sale running from November 16th thru December 31st with 25% off all wines, olive oils, and retail items. In July of this year, owner Brad Knapp hosted us with a virtual tasting of his wines, which included a 2017 Cuvee Chardonnay, 2018 Dry Riesling, and a 2016 Veritas.

Virtual BYOB and Wine Tastings



Virtual BYOB - Chairman Select Wine – November 20, 2020

First name	Wine	Vintage	Origin	Grape	Notes
Kevin Campbell	Renwood Old Vine Zinfandel	2018	Amador County, CA	Zinfandel	Classic Zinfandel from a classic region from a classic producer. Balanced, fruit forward with zesty raspberry and blackberry and lots of spice.
Charles MacKenzie & Jan Thomas	Navarra 111 Red Blend	2018	Northern Spain Azagra	85% Grenache 15% Cabernet Sauvignon	Rated 90 by Wine Enthusiast Price: \$24 Very smooth, soft tannins

First name	Wine	Vintage	Origin	Grape	Notes
Michael and Alicia Orbin	Il Burchino Toscana	2015	Pisa, Italy	85% San Giovese, 10% Cabernet, 5% Merlot	You can taste the cherries right away, and a hint of vanilla. A complex wine, with the best characteristics of Cabernet and Merlot together with the classic Sangiovese notes. Price: \$13.99 (quoted at \$40.99)
Judi Roggie and Tom Harbin	Frog's Leap Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford	2016	Rutherford, Napa County, California	Cabernet Sauvignon with small amounts of Merlot and Cabernet Franc	Nicely structured and will improve over the next few years. On Sale at the State store for \$54.99 (Actually the 2017 is the Chairman's select and I grabbed the wrong one from the cellar. The 2017 is a Chairman's Select at \$37.99 and a great buy that seems to be readily available - mostly offered at \$50 elsewhere on sale) We scored this: 17 (Judi) and 18.5 (Tom)
	Shannon Reserve Home Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon Lake County	2016	Lake County California	Cabernet Sauvignon	Great body and long, clean finish; will improve for several years. Sustainably produced. Great buy as Chairman's Select \$15.99. We scored this: 18 (Judi) and 18.5 (Tom)
Elaine Schadler	Albanta Albariño	2019	Rias Baixas, Spain	Albariño	Rated 91 by Wine Spirits. Dry white. Apples, fresh herbs on aroma; citrus flavor; has a saline element that adds a complex mineral taste. Price: \$11.99
Dean Scott	Lillium Reserve	2018	California North Coast region	Merlot	This is a very good example of, "A" typical merlot, Nice cherry, licorice and chocolate aroma. Silky soft tannins and additional dark fruit on the palate. Very pleasing long, soft finish with a slight hint of sweetness.

First name	Wine	Vintage	Origin	Grape	Notes
Peter and Leslie Staffeld	Brunelleschi do Montalcino Riserva San Lapo	2012	Tuscany, Italy	Sangiovese grosso	Medium bodied, soft tannins with a long finish Cherry, plum, leather aroma with red berry taste. Should age well. Price: \$27.99
	Newton unfiltered Chardonnay	2016	Napa Vally, CA	Full bodied Chardonnay Barrel fermented	Citrus start with buttery finish Can drink now or hold Suckling 94; Wine Enthusiast 93 Price: \$29.99 (quoted at \$55)
Suzanne and Rod Stone	Dames de Bonpas Cotes-Du-Rhone Villages Plan De Dieu	2018	Rhone Appellation: Cotes-Du-Rhone Villages (Near Avignon, Fr) Cuvee: A French monastery from 13 th Century, French Revolution confiscated Church- held lands, many owners over the years	70% Grenache 20% Syrah 10% Mourvedre	A newsletter suggestion. Decanter 95 Cherry red, high alcohol (14.5), 5 g/L residual sugar; Berries; Acidic Winemaker: Jean Luc Durand; French family owned since 2003 Terroir – Rounded stones, Plan De Dieu hillside Bonpas Motto: The wine is steady while the world is turning. (How apropros!) Estate is gateway to southern Rhone appellations. Price: \$10.99
Channon Thompson & David Tompkins	Belleruche by M. Chapoutier	2018	Rhone	70% Grenache 20% Cinsault 10% Syrah	Strawberry, watermelon, ripe raspberry, crisp, bright acidity, clean and refreshing on the palette and a nice, but short, finish.
Dave and Liz Toler	Duckhorn Wine Company Migration Pinot Noir	2017	Sonoma Coast	Pinot Noir	Rated 90 points by Wine Spectator. This Pinot is medium bodied with a smooth finish. This wine is also well balanced with smooth tannins.

First name	Wine	Vintage	Origin	Grape	Notes
Ann Vlot and Matt Green	Fabregues	2016	Languedoc, France	80% Syrah 20% Carignan	Ratings: 15/15
	Intuition	2018	Cote du Rhone	Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre	Ratings: 17.5/16
	Bon pas	2018	Cote du Rhone	Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre	Ratings: 17.5/18
	Belleruche	2018	Cote du Rhone	Syrah, Grenache, Rose	Ratings: 17/16 Crisp & fresh