



West Suffolk Fine Wine Society

Newsletter February 2023

Dear Members,

To those of you who are still to renew your membership, a gentle reminder!

Dates for your diary 2023

- **February 20th.** Former Professor of Surgery, Michael Rhodes, will be telling us the story of his Thurston vineyard, and guiding us through a tasting of his wines, two of which have recently won prestigious awards. Alongside the five wines he is bringing, there will be a selection of nibbles - local charcuterie and cheeses - making this a celebration of Suffolk product

This is the event previously planned for last November

Please confirm your attendance at this event to Wynn by February 4th at the latest

Wynn.rees@btinternet.com

Recently, there have been one or two members who have turned up to meetings without letting us know. It is important that we do have prior notice of numbers to ensure that sufficient wine is purchased. However, it is even more important when food is a part of the occasion as it will be in February.

March 20th-Preet Sahota from “Edgmond Wines” will be presenting on “Premium wines from South Africa” Edgmond wines was established in 2013 by Preet whose interest in wine started as a hobby and became an obsession. The company works with a small number of exciting winemakers and boutique family wineries from across South Africa.

Please confirm your attendance at this event to Hazel by February 28th at the latest

April 14th We did not have an April tasting planned in this year's programme, but have taken the opportunity to put in a special event of food and drink instead. The wine-based aperitif flavoured with different botanicals, known as vermouth, has long been a part of Italian and

Spanish culture. In this country, until recently, most people had probably only heard of the ubiquitous Martini, and may have regarded it as old-fashioned and of little interest. Now, though, there is a growing interest in vermouths, especially the artisan varieties which are a world away from the commercial brands. Spain, Italy and France each produce many hundreds of different vermouths, and now in the UK there are many small and interesting producers, especially in London, and even here in East Anglia.

In order to explore and celebrate the world of vermouth there will be an evening tasting of 6 carefully selected examples encompassing Spain, Italy, France and the UK, followed by a two-course supper also accompanied by vermouth. The date is **Friday 14 April at 7.30pm** and the venue will be in Bury St Edmunds town centre at the Market Cross Cafe. The food will be a salmon main course (with alternatives available) and a home-made dessert. The total price for this event will be £35 per person, and numbers are strictly limited.

The tasting will be hosted by Tom Rees, owner of two very successful pubs with restaurants in London, who has recently opened an Aperitivo Bar in Hackney, where he specialises in interesting wines, cocktails, and serves over 15 different vermouths.

The limited places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no need to send any money at this stage. This early booking is needed in order for us to secure the vermouths, the speaker and the venue.

If you would like to book for this event please email: wynn.rees@btinternet.com.

May 24th-Dinner the College-Following on from the excellent meal we had at the college last year, we have decided to repeat the occasion. Please put the date in your diary and, as soon as the menu is available, we will be taking bookings.

June 12th Tasting to be advised and other events are being planned

All tastings start at 7.30pm at Great Barton village hall and please don't forget your glasses

Should you wish to attend any of these tastings please send your cheque for £9.50 for members (12.50 for guests) per tasting to Hazel

Hazel Denton
3, Abbeyfields
Haughley
IP14 3TA

NB. Should you wish to send just one cheque to cover more than one event please detail each event that you are paying for on the back of the cheque.

Hot off the press!

We are pleased to be able to tell you that shortly you will receive a personal membership card for the West Suffolk Fine Wine Society. By presenting this card members will be able to secure discounts and benefits at various venues in Bury St Edmunds. An excellent recently negotiated discount is 10% off any purchase at Adnams in town - anything from a single bottle (or can!) Members can also benefit from 10% off at The Wine Cellar, our venue for the very popular food and wine event at the start of December 2022. Information about additional places where the membership card can be used will be passed on as new arrangements are made.

As part of our relationship with 'recommended businesses' who offer benefits to members we will also pass on, in this newsletter, information from them which may be of interest to us. This month we have news from Adnams of a **Spanish Wine Night** to be held in the Bury Store on Friday 3 March 7-9pm. Tickets are £25 per person. If you are interested don't delay as this is likely to be a popular event, and 50% of the available tickets had been sold by last week.

"A fun evening begins with Sangria on arrival followed by a talk from our house experts - whilst tasting some fabulous Spanish wines. After this, Spanish canapés will be served with even more Spanish wines - 10 in total".

If any member decides to buy a ticket for this event please mention that the information came via the West Suffolk Fine Wine Society - this helps us ensure that we maintain links of mutual benefit.

And finally

At the meeting in January, Peter announced the death of Marie Bass on 13th January. Marie, alongside her husband Len who was one of the founders of WSFWS, was a stalwart member of our society. She had not been able to attend meetings for some time, but had retained a keen interest in the group and its activities. I sent her a copy of this newsletter each month and she always rang to say thank you and have a chat.

Please see below details for her service of Thanksgiving

Great Barton Parish Church, Friday 10th February 11am

All friends welcome

A private burial will precede the celebration of Marie's life

Donations may be made to St Nicholas Hospice

Family and friends welcome afterwards at The Three Kings, Fornham

Kind regards

Sue

Sue Leake

Secretary, WSFWS