

International Wine & Food Society, Marin Branch December 2014 Newsletter

Dear Members & Friends: We hope all finds you well and enjoying the holiday season.

We are delighted to present our first event of the new year at one of San Francisco's most dramatic dining settings, The Rotunda at Neiman Marcus. The Rotunda Restaurant is spectacular with sensational cuisine -- what a better way to enjoy Burgundy on a Saturday afternoon. I hope that you enjoy our attached announcement with complete details.

Simone and I have recently returned from our annual tour in celebration of the white truffle in Alba, Italy with the group (this was our 14th year of conducting the Alba tour). We presented two sensational events in Milan and then 17 events during our week in Alba, all of which featured the finest restaurants in Piedmont along with winery, castle, villa and culinary production facility tours. The event sold out in a short 10 days last year, and this year's announcement will come out the first week of January.

We also were honored to co-host the annual event with the London Wine & Food Society on November 29, at the spectacular Michelin star restaurant L-Autre Pied (one of the finest dining experiences I have had in London) which was considered by many attendees to be one of the finest events held. Our beloved member and good friend, Ron Fenolio presented his Veedercrest wines which were a huge hit. A local California wine expert in attendance gave his 2006 Mt. Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon "Robin Williams Vineyard" wine a perfect 10 score (the wine was glorious, and was Ron's tribute to Robin Williams since the grapes came from Robin's vineyard)!

I have held several events with the London Branch with my friend, master arm-twister, and former London Wine and Food Society Chairman, Andrew Brodie, where I bring a California winemaker to London to proudly present their wines, which are overwhelmingly received. Many thanks to Andrew for all his hard work in coordinating this magnificent event, and to Ron Fenolio for his generous support. In addition it was with enormous pleasure for Simone and I to enjoy the company of two IWFS legends, Sarah Avery and Pru Waugh, who were also in attendance along with a packed house of 48 fellow IWFS members!

In addition to our local events, the sharing of our resources with our fellow International members, who would otherwise not be able to experience these wines, adds immeasurably to the richness of our membership in this great Society.

We are also honored that this will be our 15th year at Spago in Beverly Hills with our esteemed member Ed Lazarus who masterfully orchestrates this annual event with Wolfgang Puck. Each year we feature our finest Bordeaux on Friday night, along with our Burgundy DRC luncheon the following day. I had a wonderful meeting with Wolfgang Puck last year who is equally excited about our upcoming 15th year celebration at Spago!

November was 20 events in one month for both of us, and December has been a well needed time to simply catch our breath.

As I usher in my 19th year of Chairmanship, there will be 19 unique events this year in celebration of this milestone. I hope you will join all of us in a magnificent tribute to the fine dining experience.

I close in thanks and appreciation to my beautiful wife Simone. This coming year marks her 10th year in service to the International Wine & Food Society. To share this experience with a my own tour guide who speaks four languages, along with a superb culinary background, has been an enormous asset. She is

responsible for our announcements, event menu's, place cards and membership activities, in addition to providing the administrative support in processing attendees event participation. It is a huge volunteer activity, and her assistance with the Italy tour (many of our Chefs do not speak English as well as our drivers) make this once-in-a-lifetime tour for many seamlessly come together.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful Holiday Season,

Kindest regards,
Jack Rubyn, Chairman
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Marin Branch

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