

Newsletter #4

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- Future Dates to Mark - 23rd Boston Wine Festival - January 6- March 30, 2012
Boston Wine Expo - Jan 16-22, 2012 Tickets go on sale October 1, 2011 <http://www.wine-expos.com/boston/>

2012 PLANS

We are starting 2012 with our much anticipated "Champagne & Chocolate" Tasting - see the details below.

Jim Poage offered to organize a spring vineyard tour & tasting to a friend's vineyard in Lincoln, MA. If there is any interest, let Jim & me know and we'll start putting together some details. We will also continue to look for wine dinners in the spring.

RSVP - Champagne & Chocolate

As noted above - The date for our January tasting is **Sunday, January 8 at 3 PM** at the home of Susi Tiano.

As previously advertised, our theme will be "Champagne & Chocolate" - but it will really be more. We will have 5 different sparkling wines and both **sweet & savory** food pairings. Because this is sparkling wine, the charge may be slightly higher than usual, but we are doing 5 not 6, and will keep it reasonable (max \$25). For those who choose - for \$1.75 each additional charge- we will have Beach Point oysters. **Please indicate on your RSVP whether you would like 1, 2, or 3 oysters.**

Rich Balmer has already volunteered (Thank you, Rich!), but we are looking for one more individual to help with the 'shucking' prior to the start of the tasting.

Also, is there anyone willing to make the oyster run to James Hook & Company in Boston on Saturday?

As usual, we will provide glassware, but depending on the number attending we may need to augment our supply of champagne flutes. Anyone have some they are willing to lend - not your good crystal ones, please!

Once last item - is there is any interest in a 'post tasting' dinner?

PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4!

Tasting Notes from October 2011 - A Tasting Tour of Italy

Thank you, again, to Marilyn & Ron Claise hosting in October. Frank Colby, once again, gave us an excellent selection of whites and reds, some which many of us had never tried before. The tasting notes are attached. We also welcomed back Pat & Dick Stenger to our ranks. You may be interested to note that the Stenger's were one of the original tasting organizers way back when. I seem to recall that they introduced many of us to Australian wine.

Review of Wine Tasting Procedure/Hosting Responsibilities

ORYC Wine Tasting is intended to be educational, fun, and social. No expertise required. Costs will be kept reasonable and divided among the participants. Wines will be selected and purchased by the organizers (the Gilbert's and the Colby's), based on a theme. We even provide the glasses. Appropriate snacks and dessert are served. All that hosts need do is provide a place for us to meet (and maybe some coffee before we leave!). We'll work with the hosts if any purchases need to be made. Because we have had such positive response, we appreciate any volunteers for purchasing or cooking, but this is not a requirement. Yearly membership is \$5 per person. Purchases of wine and food are made based on the number of replies, **so anyone who does not come will still be responsible for his/her cost.** Goodie bags & bottles may or may not be available to no shows.

Guest Column - Share Your Experience - Any Takers?

Has anyone found a great tasting wine at great value? Have you been somewhere new and interesting to try some wine? Send in a blurb and we'll publish it for all

There are North End Wine Tours every Saturday and Sunday at 3 PM - \$56 per person
http://www.citywinetours.com/wine-tours/north-end-wine-tour?gclid=CM_NmMeoqq0CFcZM4AodzB1iQA

23rd Annual Boston Wine Festival - Tentative Dates January 6-21 - Boston Harbor Hotel
21st Annual Boston Wine Expo - January 22-23, 2011 - Seaport World Trade Center
<http://www.wine-expos.com/boston/>