



Garage Enologists of North County

Next Meeting: January 13 - Wednesday
Place: Healdsburg Library
Time: 7:00 PM



NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY – *BEER!! Brew Your Own*

It was a nice turnout. We had a fine informative presentation by Bob Peak on the process of making beer. Hopefully some of you got the bug on filling those long wine-aging months with this new diversion (or are you making cheese?) Bob conducts a class periodically at Beverage People so if you want to learn more, the opportunity for guidance is there. Express your creativity by making some of the foamy in addition to the bubbly. Maybe down the road we'll have a beer tasting if enough of you have taken on this activity. I have a special thank you to John & Carol Hazlett for a surprise cake we shared to celebrate my birthday.

BEER MAKING FOLLOWUP –

In February or March we will have a Saturday morning visit to the Bear Republic beer-making facility in Cloverdale conducted by Brewer Roger Herpst. Stay tuned for details.

JANUARY MEETING – ACHIEVING BALANCE IN WINE DISCUSSION LEADER – BOB BENNETT



I hope you all had a good Holiday season.

Balance is primarily the balance between alcohol, pH, and T/A, but it is more. It is about climate and microclimate, picking grapes at the right stage, brix adjustment, malolactic, cold stabilizing, etc. All these factors need to be considered in achieving the good balance that contributes to a quality wine. We'll talk about it all at this meeting. The discussion will be followed by a tasting of some barrel samples. Let me know if you want to bring a barrel sample to taste, but please bring two bottles in case we have a large turnout. Be ready to discuss your wine, whether it be to seek input or to observe an interesting characteristic or factor.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – Outstanding! Thank you John & Carol Hazlett!!

Also thanks to all participants for great food and wine!!

COMPETITIONS – Not much doing. Winemaker Magazine competition deadline in March, the biggest amateur competition in the world (not necessarily the best.) The judging is in April. Then HWBTA (now called Fermenters International) deadline also in March. This is a good one worth entering. You can look it up by searching Fermenters International, but the details are not posted yet.

WINE COUNTRY TRIP –

Mike Miller arranged an excellent trip to Amador in 2009. Anyone want to take responsibility to arrange a 2010 visit? It could be the Central Coast, or Oregon. It could be as close as Santa Cruz County or Lodi. If you want to take it on, give me a call.



Bob Bennett
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