



GENCO GAZETTE

April 2022

GENCO MEETS ON THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

APRIL 27 MEETING: MALBEC DEEP DIVE

Good Shepherd Church

1402 University St. Healdsburg – downstairs in Gruenhagen Hall

MAY 25 MEETING: TBD

JUNE 26 PICNIC

MARCH MEETING:

GIO BALISTRERI – RUSSIAN RIVER VINEYARDS

Gio shared his story about what led him to a career as an enologist. It wasn't until he and his father planted a four-acre vineyard of Pinot Noir on the family's property near Freestone, that Gio started thinking about his own future. So even before they could harvest grapes from those vines, he was off to Fresno State University to study winery management, marketing, and sales; valuable skills for managing a small winery. After graduating, he joined a group of investors that had purchased RRV. Within a few years he had gained enough experience to become the winemaker.



Gio walked us through how he made two of his wines -- an unoaked and non-ML Chardonnay and a Pinot Noir from the Russian River appellation. The chardonnay was my favorite, because it displayed the true character of chardonnay grapes -- intense fruit: crisp apples, pears, and sweet citrus. He also talked about what he calls his 'soft touch' to winemaking -- growing and selecting premium grapes, minimal manipulation, and avoiding over-ripe grapes. He spoke for more than an hour and dealt with a wide range of question. Having winemakers like Gio, who can demystify winemaking and provide real insight for home winemakers is invaluable. Meetings like these are real opportunities to learn the basics and nuisances of winemaking. If you missed this meeting you can watch the recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/GdKUSi6f1DBUSj5bR8bh_EYQWXCrsPFqgpn4p5VoVVdwdjpbBzC-sFXW8-Yb3wT.3hjhrBJJCJIGnfC?startTime=1648088569000

PROOF OF VACCINATION REQUIRED TO ATTEND

Our first live-in-person event since December 2021

We will be taking RSVPs for the tasting to be sure we have enough food and wine for all attendees.

Please RSVP by April 24 to Linda Hagen
LHagen1@comcast.net

APRIL 27: 7:00 PM

MALBEC

GENCO will explore Malbec with Mary Lou and George Marek. Malbec is both one of the lesser known grapes in the classic Bordeaux blend and the national wine of Argentina. We'll explore the origins and history of the grape and trace its path to today. We will discuss Malbec in the vineyard, the winery, and the glass and examine the differences among Malbec wines produced in its most prominent growing regions. We'll be tasting 6 Malbecs from 4 countries, including a GENCO member wine. Our social hour will feature snacks from each of the regions paired with its wine.

GENCO members are encouraged to bring a Malbec they've made or acquired to share at the social hour.

✿ 3 glass meeting



Malbec

Flavors



Red Plum



Blackberry



Vanilla



Sweet Tobacco



Cocoa



Wine Profile

Acidity



Body



Tannin



Dryness



Alcohol/ABV: 13.5-15%

