

GENCO

• **Garage Enologists of North County**

● www.gencowinemakers.com

● Next Meeting: January 28, 2016 - Wednesday

Place: Good Shepherd, Healdsburg

Time: 7:00 PM

Glasses: 2

NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY – Mat Gustafson – Paul Mathew Winery

Mat offered his experience in the vineyard and winery. Some of his tidbits: pre-verasion, not watering to allow the grapes to develop tasty skin to meat ratios. Pick the grapes when its cold out. Watering will dilute the quality. Don't punch down during cold soak. Dry ice can hung over the must in painters strainer bags during fermentation. This provides a layer of CO2 and keeps it cool. Submerging the cap during fermentation adds tannins without tearing up the skins. Smaller SO2 additions more often is his preference to keep the wine from having a hard edge.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – Wow!! Carol and crew did another outstanding job decorating, and you the members provided the Holiday feast and wine. 'Twas another fine finish to the year, thanks to each of you!

JANUARY MEETING – FARMING AND WINEMAKING FOR QUALITY

JIM RICKARDS – J RICKARDS WINERY, ALEXANDER VALLEY

Jim Rickards has been farming wine grapes in Alexander Valley for 40 years and many of those years were dedicated to home winemaking. After considerable success with his wines he committed to commercial wine production ten years ago and then his winemaking skills came into play in making superior wines. His winemaking success came into focus when at the recent Sonoma Harvest Fair Commercial Competition he garnered two Double Gold/Best In Class plus three additional Golds. WOW!! He has also had considerable acclaim with other judging media. When I saw that, I knew I had to get Jim to share his experience with Genco members.

Jim is a very hands on sustainable grape grower and has become an equally hands on winemaker. Relatively small scale, he is big enough to participate with success in the competitive marketplace by providing quality wines at affordable prices. He will talk to us about his experiences and growth in the industry. He will talk about his vineyard practices and will also deal with his development and philosophy as a small scale winemaker. Jim will conclude the meeting with an offering and discussion of a few fine J. Rickards wines.

● **COMPETITIONS** – Mark your calendars and get your wines ready. GENCO Wine Competition is coming up, judging will be:

● **Competition:**

● March 24th 10am to 10pm

Awards Dinner:

Fri., April 15th 5pm to 10pm for decorating

Sat., April 16th 11am - 10pm

We encourage you to compete. We have highly qualified judges and promise you good feedback on your wines.

Winemaker Magazine Competition

Enter your wine –

Battenkill Communications • 5515 Main St. • Manchester Center, Vermont 05255 by:

March 11, 2016

Wines will be judged in Vermont:

April 15-17, 2016

Results first announced at WineMaker Magazine Conference in Santa Rosa, CA (Results will be posted on winemakermag.com and mailed out soon after):

May 22, 2016

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DUES – Annual dues are \$27 per family and should be paid at the Jan or Feb meeting. Best way to pay is bring dues to the January meeting. Alternatively, mail a check made out to our Treasurer Rita Maloney, 6169 San Bruno Ct, Rohnert Park 94928. Or go to the Genco website members area and pay by PAYPAL (\$28)

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● **Denise Wright, Secretary**