



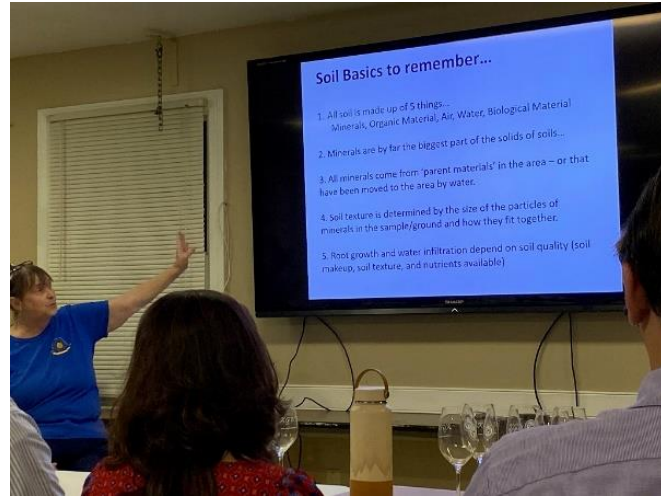
American Wine Society King George Chapter Newsletter – March 2020

2020 KGWS Board Members:

Terri Newman-Hyde: President
Scott Such: Vice President
Chris Strickland: Treasurer
Denise Gibson: Secretary
<http://www.kgwinesociety.com/>

Let's Get Dirty!

Linda Crandall's presentation this month dug deep in to soil types and why different compositions can influence grape vines. Samples of three different soil types were passed around to examine, along with smaller containers where water had been added to see how the soil and water reacted together.



Soil Basics to remember...

1. All soil is made up of 5 things... Minerals, Organic Material, Air, Water, Biological Material
2. Minerals are by far the biggest part of the solids of soils...
3. All minerals come from "parent materials" in the area – or that have been moved to the area by water.
4. Soil texture is determined by the size of the particles of minerals in the sample/ground and how they fit together.
5. Root growth and water infiltration depend on soil quality (soil makeup, soil texture, and nutrients available)



The wines tasted were all predominantly Merlot and came from France, Bulgaria, South Africa, Australia, and two from Paso Robles AVA in California. The style and taste of the Merlots varied as one would expect from new and old world styles of winemaking. The new world wines tended to be more dark fruit forward and lush, while the Bordeaux's acidity and red fruit was more noticeable. And of course, each region's terroir was very different and noticeable in the offerings.

#	Wine	Country	Region	Appellation	Vintage	%ALC	Cost	Ribbon
1	Château La Guérinière	France	Bordeaux	Saint-Émilion	2015	13.0%	\$26.99	
2	Krum	Bulgaria	SW Bulgaria	Struma Valley	2014	14.0%	\$19.99	Red
3	Oxford Landing	Australia	South Aus.	Eden Valley	2018	13.5%	\$14.99	
4	Tarrica Wine Cellars	USA	CA-Paso Robles	Jan Juan Creek	2018	14.0%	\$13.99	Yellow
5	Ancient Peaks	USA	CA-Paso Robles	Santa Margarita	2017	14.8%	\$22.99	Blue
6	Keermont	S. Africa	Stellenbosch	Blaauwklippen Valley	2014	14.5%	\$33.99	



Thank you Linda for allowing us to play in the dirt, I mean soil, and the six wonderful wines which were enjoyed by all! Well done!

Attention Members!

There are still presentation and food slots available on our calendar! Please volunteer for a presentation or food support. Our Chapter Needs you!!

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 10 at the American Legion
Canceled
Our Topic: **Rose**

Denise and Jerry Gibson escaped to New Zealand for an amazing wine tasting experience as COVID-19 took hold here in the USA. I was able to keep in communication with the Gibsons via WhatsApp during their trip. I asked Denise if she would please take the time to capture in pictures and words just one day of their adventure. Thank you so much Denise and Jerry for sharing with us a beautiful glimpse of New Zealand, and making us a part of your enological sojourn.

Tom

Enjoying Wine Abroad!

AWS members have many chances to make connections in the wine world. When you establish good relationships, covet them and keep them healthy.

During our New Zealand trip we have tried many wines from throughout the country. We have helped their economy. One highlight was a personal tour at Spy Valley in Marlborough, Township Renwick just to the west of Blenheim. This came about through our friendship with Bartholomew Broadbent who through email introduced us to Amanda Johnson, the owner.

As Spy Valley shut down for tastings due to the virus and that their harvest was underway, we felt fortunate that our appointment wasn't cancelled. Amanda loaded us in her four-wheel drive and took us across her vast property. First, we drove to see the spy balls, at the defense facility from which inspired their name. We drove through the vineyards in Waihopai Valley and Omaka Valley which are part of the Southern Valley's, one of the 3 regions of Marlborough wine. We got out at the Omaka Outpost Vineyard and participated in the harvesting of Pinot Noir. Dion was thrilled to have us dump the beautiful clusters into the lugs. All of this vineyard is handpicked. We returned to the tasting room where Trish presented about 8 wines for us to taste. We have shipped a case home. The Pinot Noir should be good for 5 years, and we plan to take copious notes and compare the 3 bottles over the next 4 or so years. If we can wait that long.

Spy Valley gifted us a bottle of Gewürztraminer that we will enjoy tonight. The wine will make it easier to cope with the stresses of our pending flight and returning home. As we waited for our driver to arrive, we sipped a glass of Pinot Noir. We also met Spy Valley's sales and marketing director Daniel, who delighted us with stories about Bartholomew.

The circle had now come fully around. Our friendship with Bartholomew allowed us the most enriching experience over a 2-and-a-half-hour visit.

Denise

**Epilogue: Denise and Jerry have safely arrived back to the Center of the Universe - King George, Virginia!
Welcome Home! Thanks for Sharing!**



The view from the top of Rocky Mountain



Vineyard workers from another hemisphere!



Denise & Jerry with the Owner of Spy Valley Amanda



To all – Good Health!