

18 Apr 2009 tasting notes

On April 18, 2009 the Rochester Chapter of the American Wine Society met to taste California Zinfandels. Larry Lavery chaired the event. His committee consisted of other Zinmasters Janet Lavery, Morris and Trish Owen, Lorraine Hems, Andrea West, Beth Camann, Paul Van Horn, and Kolinda and Gary Sniezek.

The event was billed as "Here's to a Night of Zin".

The evening opened with a fun entry wine, NV Barefoot Cellars Bubbly, White Zinfandel Champagne(\$8.99-\$11.99) from California. This wine was a double gold winner at the AWS Commercial Wine Competition 2008.

After Lorraine gave a brief history of Zinfandel and an overview of the Zinfandel growing regions of California, the serious Zinfandel sampling began.

The following Zinfandels were tasted in this order:

1. 2004 Tamas Estates, Livermore Valley(North Central Coast), \$14
2. 2006 Rancho Zabaco Sonoma Heritage Vines, Sonoma County, \$11.98-\$18
3. 2007 Seghesio Zinfandel, Sonoma County, \$24
4. 2005 Plungerhead Old Vine, Dry Creek Valley(Sonoma County), \$14
5. 2006 Klinker Brick Old Ghost Old Vine, Lodi(Central Valley), \$37
6. 2007 Macchia Voluptuous, Old Vine, Maley Vineyard, Lodi(Central Valley), \$24
7. 2004 Norman Vineyards Mephistopheles, Paso Robles(South Central Coast), \$32
8. 2006 Storybook Mountain Zinfandel, Mayacamas Range, (Napa Valley), \$34

Several of the committee members traveled to California to taste the wines at the wineries they presented. The Lavery's went to the Lodi wineries Klinker Brick and Macchia. The Owen's visited Paso Robles and Norman. Beth and Paul visited Napa Valley and the winery Storybook Mountain.

Voting for our best wine(s) of the evening produced a three way tie for first place among Klinker Brick, Macchia, and Norman.

Seghesio 2007, Wine Spectator's #10 wine of 2008, came in fourth.

Remember, let him/her who is without Zin, pull the first cork!