



American Wine Society King George Chapter Newsletter – May 2016

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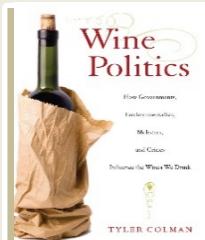
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Wine & Politics – Renee Dunn

The subject of our chapter's May tasting, *Wine & Politics*, had me extremely curious when I saw the title posted. Being an election year, I thought the barrage of news coverage and the constant harangue of the politicians had swayed our presenter, Renee Dunn, to help us decide who our next leader should be by wine. I thought maybe she is going to do Red State/Blue State wines. Then it then dawned on me, maybe it is candidate wines!



Written by Tyler Colman, the book explores the wine industry and the impacts of economics, globalization, politics, and legislation; all of which influence the taste we experience in our glasses as well as the price we pay. Renee chose three topics to explore with three flights. Our first two flights were tasted in the blind, while the third we needed to see the label.

However, I was wrong with both my guesses. Renee based her presentation on a book - "Wine Politics – How Governments, Environmentalists, Mobsters and Critics Influence the Wines We Drink".



We started with two Australian Chardonnays. One being a large corporate product and the other from a historical vineyard and family owned winery. Renee explained that the demand for wine in the USA has prompted many wine producers, both in and out of our country, to target their product for American consumers. Slick labeling and formula based wine is their strategy. The small operation wineries tend to have more direct control over their final product, and are usually more representative of their region. However, the distribution of wine is what endangers the livelihood of many smaller operations. They cannot compete with the big boys, usually losing the shelf space war in wine shops and grocery stores. The big shock came when the two wines in the first flight were revealed! A groan could be heard as the word *Yellow Tail*, the grocery store king, was uttered. Many looked back at their score sheet in disbelief shaking their heads at their rating.



Environmental buzz words such as "organic", "sustainably farmed", "natural", and "biodynamic" were the focus of our second flight. The wines, both from Oregon's Willamette Valley, highlighted that state's most notable varietal - Pinot Noir. One offering was a certified organic wine, while the other was a wine produced using modern farming methods. This current trend towards organic production is giving the smaller producers a discriminator against the corporate giants. In doing so the land, or terroir, is becoming a much larger factor in US winemaking.

The final flight featured two big reds! Renee addressed labeling and what the law requires. I think most were surprised that on a US bottle of wine that the alcohol percentage can be off by as much as 1% for bottles of wine 14% or higher and 1.5% for less than 14%. (Google: **27 CFR 4.36 - Alcoholic content**) The French on the other hand require alcohol percentages to be accurate. Wine number 5, Dry Creek Cab took top honors, and also had the highest alcohol percentage of the night. Thanks Renee for a great job!

Don't forget to RSVP

for the June tasting. The presentation will be done by the Papadopoulos family of Molon Lave Vineyards.

Seats will go quick!



	Winery	Type	Vintage	Country	Appellation	ALC	Cost
1	Tyrrell's Wines	Chardonnay	2012	AUS	Hunter Valley	13.0%	\$13.99
2	[yellow tail]	Chardonnay	2015	AUS	Bottom Shelf	13.0%	\$5.99
3	Domaine Loubejac	Pinot Noir	2014	USA	Willamette Valley	13.8%	\$18.99
4	King Estate	Pinot Noir	2013	USA	Willamette Valley	13.5%	\$22.49
5	Dry Creek	Cab Sauvignon	2012	USA	Dry Creek	14.5%	\$19.99
6	Château Fonsèche	Cab Sauv/Merlot	2011	FR	Haut-Médoc	12.5%	\$16.99

Shhhh!!!! Don't Tell – Just between us!

Southern Belle – Red Wine – Vino de La Tierra de Murcia

Do you have a friend that loves Whiskey, especially Bourbon, and is not big fan of wine? Well here is a wine that may get their attention. A blend of 50% Monastrell and 50% Syrah from Murcia. This southern DO of Spain is where a very odd fusion takes place. The aging of old world grapes in Kentucky's finest barrels. No kidding - The wine is aged in Pappy Van Winkle used Bourbon barrels. When it comes to Bourbon most would say Pappy is the king. This hard to find Bourbon leaves most disappointed when they search for it. The wine is very enjoyable with faints hints of it aging on the finish. It is not an amazing wine, however, it does have a great background story. At price point around \$20 go ahead splurge and tease your bourbon drinking buddies. BTW a bottle of 23 year old Pappy Family Reserve can run upwards of \$3000 a bottle.

