

King George Chapter Newsletter March 2021

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In Person and Zoom Presentation March 12, 2021



Thirteen members joined together for a wine presentation at the American Legion for the first time in over a year. Others joined in via Zoom for the nights total of 25 participants. Following business comments from Chapter Chair Terri, Scott Allan led us across Eastern





Europe tasting wines from 6 different countries. Scott indicated that wine is probably the

best thing EE invented. He addressed likely methods of the spreading of wine and was ready to talk history but he really wanted to get into "the b0ttles" so he moved to one of his favorites, from Greece. The grape Assyritiko that was once indigenous to Santorinni, is now widely grown; it is resistant to Phylloxera. The wine had nice acidity due to volcanic soil. Minerality and citrus on the nose, this wine paired well with grape leaves that Rita shared from City Vino. Slovenia, our next country of discovery, has 3 major wine regions and has the oldest vine in the world at 400 years old. The grape Šipon is late ripening but considered dry. The wine was fuller bodied and pleasant. During the middle ages, wine flourished in Georgia our next country of study, although Phylloxera nearly devastated the vines and Gorbachev nearly destroyed production in the 20th century. Ironically, most exports now go to Russia. The wine is highly acidic, affected by the cold. This wine was made in the orange production method. While visiting Croatia, we were entertained by a story of Scott and his Sailor mates getting in a little scuffle. Ask him about his singing escapade. A new grape to some, Babić, was hand harvested due to the terracing. The wine was thin yet spicy, with light tannins. Try it with Lamb. Yum! Turkey has 5 major wine regions. Their first president started the winery business, a major change given it is secular Muslim country. We were introduced to the Papaskarasi grape which led to a earthy, tannic wine- resembling Pinot Noir with tannins. In closing, we went to Bulgaria which have 5 major wine regions ad interestingly was the world's 2nd largest producer in the 1980's. The grape is Melnik and we had the Shiroka Melnishka loza wine. Grapes were picked from the Shiroka vineyard. We commended Scott on his efforts to pronounce so many unfamiliar grape related words.

The in-person attendees really enjoyed the presentation and getting together as evidenced in this pic:

Terri's comments at the onset of our meeting was to please fill in the holes regarding presentations. You could even ask a winery to come present.

Tally of tonight's wines and scheduled presentations follow on the next page.



| Wines | Favorite | Price \$ |
|---|----------|----------|
| Gavala Santorini Yannis White 2019 | q | 30 |
| Kobal Furmint Šipon Old Vines Selected Styria | | 30 |
| Slovenia 2019 | 8 | 20 |
| Schuchmann Vinoterra Rkatsiteli 2019 | 1 | 23 |
| Piližota Babić 2015 | 3 | 20 |
| Chamlija Papaskarasi 2016 | 6 | 23 |
| Villa Melnik 'Aplauz' Shiroka Melnik 2015 | 7 | 23 |

What's Ahead

| Month | Presentor | Topic |
|--------|------------------|--|
| April | Damons | Pandemic Finds: Wines from around the world with "Wine insiders" |
| May | Ci Niznik | Wines from Oldest winery in the Americas |
| June | Lauren Zimmerman | Winemaker from Port of Leonardtown |
| July | OPEN | |
| August | Paul Koepfinger | Wine Regions of Virginia |
| Sept | Gibsons | Sierra Foothills |