



King George Chapter
November 2021
www.kgwinesociety.com

KGWS Board Members
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Oh my gosh Paul has returned for another look across Virginia wineries to enlighten us with wines we might not have been expose to. Fourteen members, one guest; Kandi Carkahuff and a few who zoomed in; Stricklands, Such's and Heitmeyers joined together on November 12, 2021 at the American Legion for Paul's follow on presentation. Difficulties ensued with technology so in typical Paul fashion, he punted and spoke to how he planned to compare a Ted Talk history to VA wine and the King George chapter's commonalities.



We learned that about 400 years ago, vines were planted in VA and that loamy, sand, silt and clay were the best soils for the over 60 different varietals in our state. Virginia is becoming a top destination on the East Coast for wine and winery tourism and two grapes, Norton and Viognier are considered the official grapes of the state. Some argue that Viognier was never an 'official' grape, rather a marketing movement by the Virginia Wine Board. Of late, wineries seem to be a social destination venue vice the educational focus as evidence even by the somewhat limited knowledge of the tasting room staffs. During his research and visiting of wineries for this presentation, Paul experienced less of the heavy education exchanges from the past for shrugs of the shoulder when questions of any depth were posed. There were a few smaller wineries where the owners carried on thoughtful conversation about grapes and wine making. During the presentation Paul and his audience engaged in back-and-forth discussions about the wine and other related topics which help emphasize the nature of AWS purposes. In fact, in closing Paul shared that "It Ain't Hard" so sign up and conduct a presentation as the audience helps get the conversation going. So, what did we taste?



Terri provided a plateful of food to pair with the wines and then we began the



wine tasting. We started with a very burnt orange colored Viognier that generated a lot of discussion as this wine was quite atypical. It was produced by Ashton Creek and was a 2018 vintage. We moved to StonyBrook from Troutville and tasted their 2019 Hankerin Red

produced from 70% Cabernet Franc and 30% Petite Verdot. The next winery, Ox-Eye, has a tasting room in Staunton and here is where the owners engaged at length with Paul. He picked their 2019 Lemberger to present to us. Creek's Edge was next and we tried their 2017 Family Blend comprised of 60% Petit Verdot and 40% Cabernet Franc. This one seemed to generate more enjoyment by the tasters. We then tasted a wine from nearby Doswell from Castle Glen. Their 2016 Merlot sadly showed its age that was a bit past its prime. Even so, the situation allowed for productive conversation exchanges, a tenet of AWS's purpose. We rounded out the evening with a Jefferson 2020 Cabernet Franc. Creeks Edge was the night's favorite (12 votes) at a cost of \$45, followed by Stony Brook(9) at \$18. Ashton Creek (1) cost \$26, Ox-Eye (6) cost \$20, Castle Glen had no votes and cost \$31. Lastly, Jefferson had 5 votes and cost \$21.



Chapter Chair, Terri, provided a carrot to those who sign up to lead a tasting during 2022. Anyone who does so before the holiday gathering would receive a handpicked treat. The party is scheduled for Dec 10, 7pm at the Hyde's home. She asked that everyone bring a side to share. Glasses and wine would be provided.

As we end our regular tasting schedule, we can reflect on how hard we worked to retain tastings using Zoom, a mixed meeting style and in-person gatherings to keep forging ahead learning about grapes and wine making. Let's build back our membership as we move into the next calendar year. And please sign-up to keep our tastings going and exciting.