



King George Chapter
April 2023
www.kgwinesociety.com

KGWS Board Members
 Chair/President - Terri Hyde - president@kgwinesociety.com
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Twenty-Eight current and former members (Diane and Richard Church- what a treat to have them visit) met April 14th at the American Legion to learn what wines the Land of Enchantment had to offer. Denise Gibson presented 6 wines from 3 different production level wineries of New Mexico. She shared that NM, the fifth largest US state, has a rich multi-culture history who brags about their chiles being the best in the world and is the oldest wine producing region in the US having had grapes smuggled in from Spain in 1629. The influence of the Rio Grande River was also mentioned.



While the soil looked suspicious for growing grapes, Denise imparted information learned while meeting with winery representatives that supported grape growing such as high elevation, dryness, over 300 sunny days throughout the year and sandy loam soil. In addition to grapes being grown on the winery properties, grapes are also sourced from Deming, Truth or Consequences, Placitas, and

Corrales.

We started with sparkling wines from Gruet, the largest producing winery of the three and were treated to Blanc de Noirs as well as Pinot Meunier which was produced in concert with the Santa Ana Pueblo, a Native American relationship unique to Gruet. Passing Time, the meaning of the small production winery, Pasando Tiempo, located in Corrales, is owned, and managed by Chris Carpenter who manages 7 vineyards in Deming and Corrales. His Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon was growing in his front yard. Those grapes were used in his Rosé. We also tasted Meritage produced from Cab Sav, Cab Franc, Merlot, and a small amount of Petit Verdot. The mid production winery named Casa Rondeña also had vines in their front yard. Their architecture is Iberian inspired, and the wine is European styled. Both are influenced by the owner, John Calvin, who has had many experiences abroad. While meeting with Joshua, the assistant wine maker, we learned that they have been expanding their varietals as they acquire neighboring land. He did say that his greatest challenge is the nocturnal gophers. We selected Serenade, a blend of Reisling, Chenin Blanc and Gewurstraminer as well as their Syrah. Thanks to the Stricklands for providing food for the tasting.

We concluded with NM's message, VIVA Vino, a term they coined in recognition of how proud they are of their wine industry. It appeared that the Land of Enchantment wines were well enjoyed.



#	Wine	Fav-White/Reds	Favorite Overall	Cost \$
1	Gruet- NV Blanc de Noirs	5		17
2	Gruet- NV Pinot Meunier	12	1	42
3	Pasando Tiempo Rosé 2021	3	1	20
4	Casa Rondeña Serenade 2022	16	8	25
5	Pasando Tiempo Meritage 2017	6	3	32
6	Casa Rondeña Syrah 2019	22	19	46

Next Up- May 12
 Damon's will present
 Raylen Vineyards