

THE WINE HUB

in inner workings of the LWGA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. LWGA President Welcome
2. Key Dates
3. Welcome New Members
4. California Wine Month
5. On the Map
6. We Need Your Wine Labels
7. Awards
8. Wine Judging
9. LWGA Strategic Plan
10. LWGA in the Community
11. Lafayette Community Foundation Fundraiser
12. Local Vines - the Lamorinda AVA Tasting Room
13. Did you know...
14. Tips, Tricks, Reminders

LWGA BOARD

President: Daniel Howsepian
Treasurer: Bill Scanlin
Secretary: Larry Thal

Leslie Ward
Gerard van Steyn
David Hicks
Bill English
Amy Schofield
Dave Rey
Tom Morehouse

LWGA PRESIDENT WELCOME

We are proud to put together a bi-annual newsletter which we hope will be a source of information for you. Inside you will find announcements of special events, interesting articles, references, and useful general information with what's going on in the wine making world in Lamorinda.

We welcome any suggestions on subjects which you might like to contribute. This newsletter will be evolving and we hope you will be part of its growth as a source of interesting information. Please send your feedback to board@lamorindawinegrowers.com

So, sit back, enjoy the reading and we will strive to make this a good experience for you.

Sincerely;

Daniel Howsepian
President LWGA

KEY DATES

Find the most up to date calendar
<https://lamorindawinegrowers.com/event-calendar>

Membership meeting: January 23, 2022
Board candidate statements sent mid December
Board election end of January
AVA celebration - date TBC

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Cardona
Charles Cardona
Chris Ainsworth
Jayne Yee
Keith Walsh
Todd and Karen Watson – Sage & Vine
Twisted Oak Ranch
John Benson – JCML Wines
Alex McDonald
Jon Milevac – photographer
Jin Sun Park
Gerald Burke
Kim Wirtz Straub – Cinco Ninos Vineyards
Craig Straub – Cinco Ninos Vineyards
Mike and Allie Day
Dennis Carlston – Crane Terrace Vineyards
Leanne Pilot – Crane Terrace Vineyards

CALIFORNIA WINE MONTH

Did you know that September is California Wine Month! Share a new wine that you tried on the LWGA forum or the LWGA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/lamorindawinegrowersassociation>





LAMORINDA AVA ON THE MAP

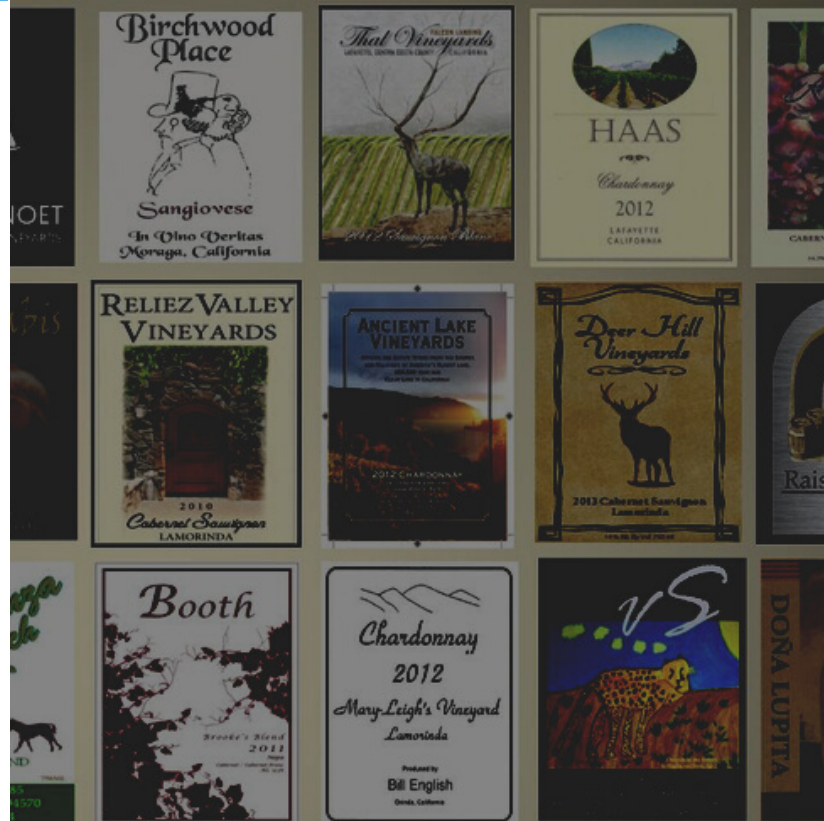
We're putting the Lamorinda AVA on the map, literally! It's time for a regional map to use to highlight the range of vineyards and wineries. Don't worry, you won't have people using the maps to navigate themselves to your door, it will be a stylized map showcasing what the Lamorinda AVA is known for.

Since this is a map representing the Lamorinda AVA, if you know of people growing grapes or making wine with Lamorinda grapes who are not LWGA members who could be included on a Lamorinda AVA map, email Amy at board@lamorinawinegrowers.com

WE NEED YOUR WINE LABELS!

It's been a while, a global pandemic at least, since the wine labels on the LWGA website have been updated. If you have new labels, send them through with your blurb to Bill Scanlin via board@lamorinawinegrowers.com for inclusion on the LWGA web page.

IMPORTANT note: this is an opt in service for members, meaning if you already have labels on the website, you need to confirm that you want to keep the listed information if you are not updating. All information to Bill Scanlin by **December 15 2021** please





AWARDS

Show us what you've earned! The Board compiling a list of all the Lamorinda AVA wines that have won awards – commercial and non-commercial makers alike. Please add your awards to this document and update as you win more: <https://tinyurl.com/LamorindaAVAawards>. Been making wine and winning awards for decades? Congrats! Go back as far as you'd like!

On that note, if you are ready to enter your wine for award consideration, but are unsure where to start, following is a reference document for getting started in submitting to competitions. Gerard van Steyn and David Hicks are happy to help you through the process. Email them at board@lamorinawinegrowers.com.

WINE JUDGING

David Hicks, Winemaker and Grower

Wine competitions provide valuable recognition for the quality of your wines, build the overall reputation of the Lamorinda AVA as a premium wine destination, and provides valuable feedback to assist with future winemaking. The ribbons or medals you may win are a great way to showcase your achievements, and for commercial wines, to also help with marketing and sales.

Wine Competitions and Methodology:

For **home winemakers**, Lamorinda Winegrowers Association recommends the following two major wine comps:

1. The California State Fair in Sacramento: entries due TBA, historically around early May:
<https://www.castatefair.org/california-home-wine/>
2. The Orange County Fair in So. Cal.: entries due TBA, historically around late May:
<https://ocws.org/home-wine-competition/>

WINE JUDGING

David Hicks, Winemaker and Grower

For **commercial winemakers**, LWGA recommends entering the following three competitions:

1. The California State Fair in Sacramento: entries due TBA, historically around early May:
<https://www.castatefair.org/california-commercial-wine/>
2. The Orange County Fair in So. Cal.: entries due TBA, historically around late May:
<https://ocws.org/commercial-wine-competition/>
3. The SF Chronicle Wine Competition: entries due TBA, historically around mid November:
<https://winejudging.com/>

Wines are submitted by home wine makers or wineries individually. Clubs cannot submit. The bottles are placed in unmarked numbered brown paper bags and categorized by grape type, and are numbered without regard to year. They are then presented to judging panels of 3 to 4 judges who are made up of a wide variety of people from all aspects of the wine industry. After judging, the results are submitted to a final group who compiles the results and published the scores. These comps have thousands of entries each year and they are truly impartial.

Scoring:

The most common scoring used is a variation on the UC Davis 20 point System; 17 to 20 being Double Gold and Gold, and on down. Awards are ribbons starting with DG on down to Honorable Mention. Most comps have a Best of Show in Red, White, Desert, and Sparkling. Followed by Best of Class, Gold, etc. for each varietal of wine.

How and Where to Enter:

For non commercial wine makers, the local home wine shops in our area will receive and hold your wines for pick up by the competition for bulk shipping. Local shops include: More Wine, Oak Barrel, and Napa Fermentation. For some competitions there may be other drop off locations, so use the competition website to determine where and how to drop off your wines. Using these shops you avoid the major cost of shipping yourself which can be expensive. We suggest that you contact a local shop well before the deadline for submission to the competition, so that you can learn their cut off date and other requirements.

Winning ribbons in competitions is the best way for our AVA to make a name for itself and we strongly urge our members to start entering. Remember to check entry dates each year!

Review this list and decide which ones you would like to enter and read their rules and guides for entering. All have web site sign in, list the costs and entry forms as well as shipping and delivery rules and methods. All decisions and actions to enter are the responsibility of the individual winery or winemaker, not LWGA. Look into it 3 months before the month listed as these entry dates do change.

We hope these suggestions will resonate with our membership and that you will seek to expand your skills and enter.

LWGA FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Dave Rey

The Board continues to develop the five year strategic plan that supports the development of its members. In determining the key areas of strategic focus, we incorporated your feedback from the 2020 member survey and identified seven areas of interest being:

1. How can we encourage more Lamorinda vineyard owners to join LWGA?
2. Would LWGA benefit from having more associate members who don't grow grapes or make wine, but support the success of local wine makers?
3. How do we build awareness of the Lamorinda AVA and local wines among Lamorinda wine lovers?
4. What should the relationship be between LWGA and Local Vines Tasting Room?
5. How can we build on the pre-COVID momentum around the educational dimension of a LWGA membership?
6. How can we best meet the membership's preferences for the social dimension of a LWGA membership?
7. How do we encourage more members, who are not on the Board, to share in the work involved in putting on LWGA events?

As we work through these questions, we will be seeking additional input from members. A survey is in the works, so please look out for it. We appreciate the time and thought you put into your responses.

If you have comments, contact Dave Rey at board@lamorindawinegrowers.com





LWGA IN THE COMMUNITY

Lamorinda AVAnniversary

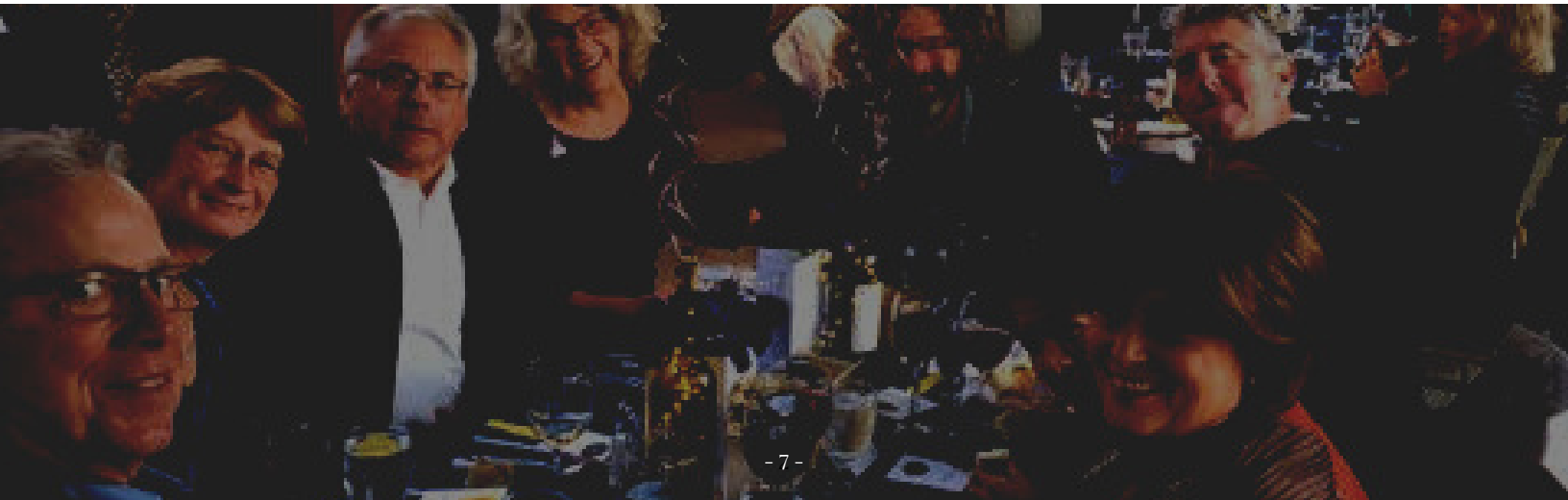
March 2021 saw the Five year anniversary of the Lamorinda AVA. As we couldn't celebrate in person, we are planning our 5 year (+1) AVAnniversary in 2022. This event will be open to members and the public and will be our annual community event. Wine tasting is the focus of the event with food trucks and entertainment planned. Keep an eye out for the ticket pre sale for LWGA members. We anticipate selling out.

This is one event you won't want to miss

LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

LWGA members Reliez Valley, Raisin d'Etire, Thal, Meadow View, Los Arabis, and Davidson contributed to the Lafayette Community Foundation (LCF) fundraiser winemaker's dinner and dance on October 30th. It was the first Lafayette Winemakers' dinner to feature only Lamorinda wines. The Lamorinda AVA wines were expertly paired with the appetizers, entrees, and desserts. Larry Thal presented a preview of the plans for Lafayette's new tasting room "Local Vines".

The LCF fundraiser is an annual event and we plan to feature more Lamorinda wines next year.



LOCAL VINES - THE LAMORINDA AVA TASTING ROOM

Larry Thal

Our local tasting room (“Local Vines”) and winery has all the necessary building permits to start construction. After what felt like a marathon at time, we remain optimistic that we can begin construction this year before the rains start. We are hopeful that in addition to making wine for larger local growers, we will be able to make a Lamorinda blend incorporating wines from some of the smaller growers within our AVA. We look forward to hosting the public to taste locally made wines and to showcase local wine makers. Stay tuned!

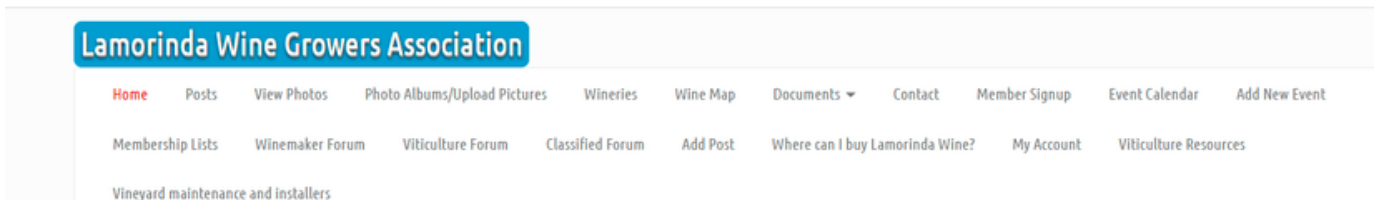


I WAS TODAY YEARS OLD WHEN I LEARNED

For our new members, and as a reminder for continuing members, membership to the LWGA is open to grape growers, wine makers, and wine lovers from both within the AVA and outside of the AVA. Membership runs July-June and is prorated to your joining month. For more information visit <https://lamorindawinegrowers.com/member-signup/#join>

Looking for resources?

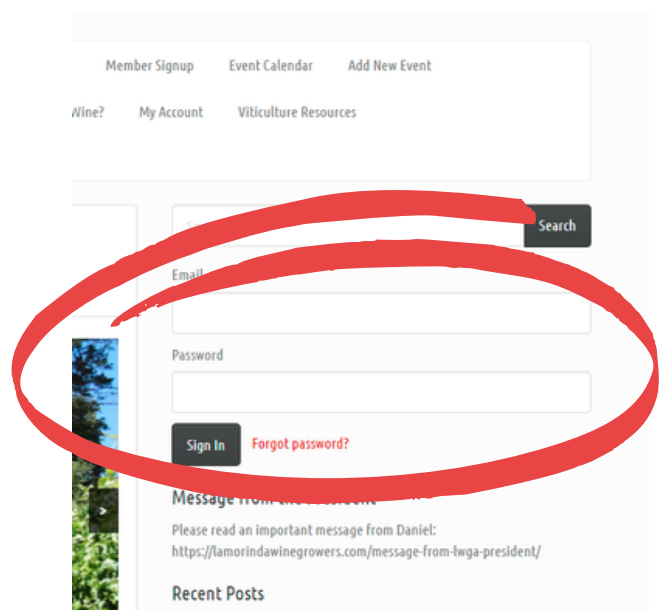
Head to <https://lamorindawinegrowers.com/> You'll find it all! Resources for vineyard management, references, Board meeting minutes, and more. Contact Bill Scanlin at board@lamorinawinegrowers.com if you're having trouble finding something.



How to create a post on the forum

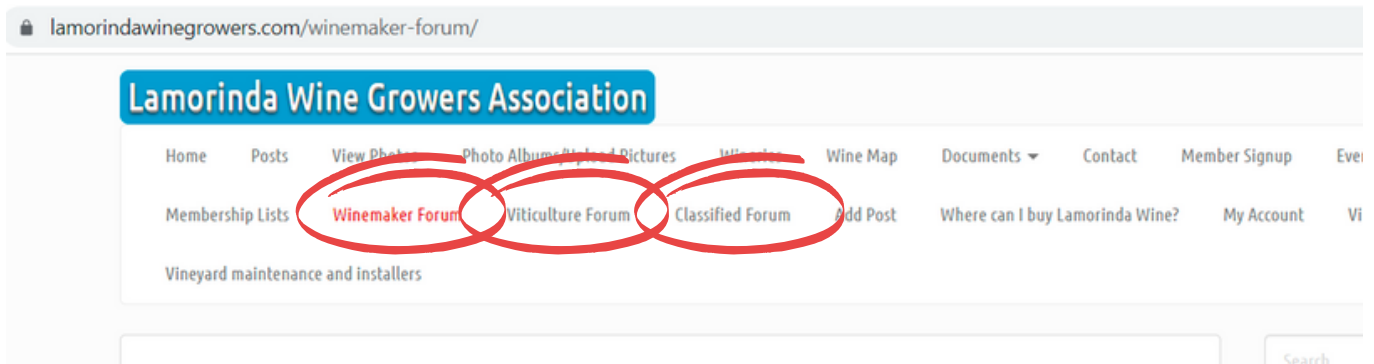
Need advice? Want to ask a question? The member forum is a great place to start and a great resource to search.

1. Make sure that you are signed in



How to create a post on the forum

2. Select the forum you want to post to from the top menu bar



3. Type your message

A screenshot of the "Create New Topic in 'Winemaker Forum'" form. It features a text input field for the "Topic Title (Maximum Length: 80)". Below the title field is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing icons for bold (B), italic (I), quote, bulleted list, numbered list, link, and image. To the right of the editor are "Visual" and "Text" tabs. Below the editor is a "Topic Tags:" field. At the bottom, there is a checked checkbox for "Notify me of follow-up replies via email" and a red "Submit" button.

Topic tags are not mandatory though will help with future searches. Pick words that reflect your content

4. Make sure that "Notify me of follow-up replies via email" is selected and hit submit. An email will go to members. Members can respond directly through the link to the website in the email or through the forum and responses will be grouped together

BOARD MEETING DATES

The Board **meets** bi-monthly on the second Monday of the month (allowing for schedule conflicts). If there's a topic you'd like discussed, email the Board at board@lamorinawinegrowers.com. The minutes from all meetings can be accessed under the "Documents" drop down menu.

Current Board members are:

President / Site Visits: Daniel Howsepian

Treasurer / Webmaster: Bill Scanlin

Secretary / Local Vines: Larry Thal

New Members: Leslie Ward

Member Meeting Education: Gerard van Steyn

Viticulture: David Hicks

Enology / Wine: Bill English

Publicity, Newsletter, Events: Amy Schofield

LWGA Strategic development: Dave Rey, Tom Morehouse

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES

Membership meetings fall roughly the last Sunday of every second month with November moving into early December with more of a social focus. A calendar with meeting dates can be found on the LWGA website under "Event Calendar":

<https://lamorindawinegrowers.com/event-calendar/>

The next member meeting will be January 23. In 2022, we will trial offering streams at the member meetings to accommodate different levels of interest in the end to end wine making process. A full calendar of meetings will be posted soon.

MEMBER SUBMISSION

Got something to share? Looking to buy?
Looking to sell? List your requests here or through the membership forum. Alternatively, send your submission to board@lamorinawinegrowers.com

FOLLOW THE LWGA AND LAMORINDA AVA VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.facebook.com/lamorindawinegrowersassociation>

Local Vines Tasting room:

<https://www.facebook.com/lamorindawines>

<https://www.instagram.com/lamorindawines>