

THE WINE HUB

in inner workings of the LWGA

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LWGA BOARD

President: David Hicks

Treasurer: Bill Scanlin

Secretary: Larry Thal

Brian Cherry

Daniel Howsepian

Tom Morehouse

Leanne Pilot

Dave Rey

Amy Schofield

Leslie Ward

Gerard van Steyn

LWGA PRESIDENT WELCOME

We kicked off 2023 with our first general meeting, held at Bill Scanlin's wine room, where various approaches to vineyard management were discussed. External vineyard management services came to a head recently and the Board is actively working on ways to assist members experiencing vineyard servicing issues and will share them as soon as we can.

May 7th saw the celebration of the Lamorinda AVA which was held once again behind Wine Thieves in Lafayette - we're aiming to host in Local Vines in 2024! Eight of our bonded wineries poured and sold their wines at the event. The weather was great and attendance was good, albeit a bit down from 2022.

July 30th was our summer general meeting held at Daniel Howsepian's vineyard in Lafayette. The food was abundant with lots of good wine to taste. Three Gold Medal winning winemakers poured and discussed their grapes, sources, and the winemaking. Those winemakers were, Bill Scanlin, David Hicks, and Eero Terikorpi. In 2024 the Board is prioritizing how LWGA can begin a formal wine competition for both our commercial and home wines.

October 8th was our most recent general meeting, focusing on how this year's crop and wine was shaping up. Lots of comments that 2023 was a very cool year in most people's experience, but in reality when compared to historical temperature and rainfall history in all Northern California wine regions, it was a quite average weather year.

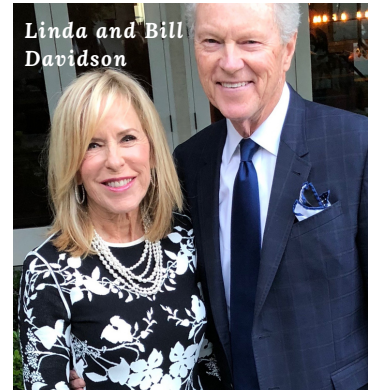
It's easy to get jaded after years of drought and heat damaged

LWGA PRESIDENT WELCOME

cont.

grapes. This year's weather resulted in many members having just picked or not yet picked as of October 8th and members were often speculating about how their crop might finish.

Sadly one of our members, Bill Davidson, passed away earlier in the year. At the October 8 meeting, Bill's wife Linda spoke of his love for his vineyard and winemaking and how she and her son were going to continue his efforts in their vineyard and their participation with LWGA. Our condolences go out to the Davidson family and friends.



2024 will see the implementation of the LWGA Strategic Plan - read more from Dave Rey later in this publication. In the year[s] ahead, we are increasing our focus on grape growing and winemaking education for our expanding membership. Our dedicated member-led education committee leads this charge and I thank them for their effort. Additional committee opportunities for member involvement are available starting 2024. Be assured that we won't be abandoning the having fun aspect of LWGA meetings.

That's it for now and on behalf of myself and the Board, Happy Holidays and a safe, and prosperous 2024.

David Hicks,
President LWGA

LWGA 2029

The Board is wrapping up a 5-Year Strategic Plan for LWGA that will soon be shared with the membership. The intent of the plan is to increase the value the organization provides to both non-commercial and commercial members, both in growing wine grapes and making wine. While we renew our focus on these interests, we want to expand our geographic focus to bring in members from surrounding communities who share our passion for these activities. At the same time, we want to leverage Local Vines to expand the social dimension of LWGA membership.

The plan will be rolled out in early 2024 through the efforts of the Board and a newly constituted committee structure. We are now filling the committees and we encourage all members to get involved and join a committee. For more information, please reach out to these members:

- Education - Gerard van Steyn: gerardvs1@gmail.com
- Membership - Bill Scanlin: bscanlin@gmail.com
- Commercial Interests - Leslie Ward: lward722@gmail.com
- Supplier Relations - Larry Thal and Bill English: billeng81@gmail.com

The first priority for the new Supplier Relations Committee will be addressing the challenge of seeing that our members have viable vineyard management alternatives to meet their needs. While this was voted on as a priority at our last quarterly membership meeting, the need has become more urgent with the recent announcement by Coastal Viticulture Consultants that they are abandoning the Lamorinda market.

Dave Rey
Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee



LAMORINDA
WINE GROWERS
ASSOCIATION

2023 MEMBER SNAPSHOT

130⁺
members

70
grape
growers

25
wine
makers

11
bonded
wineries

84K
lb harvested
in 2023

130
AVA
vineyards*

* over half are
LWGA members

77%
grow for
personal
use



Most wine makers
have 10+ years
experience

Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot
are the most frequently grown
grape

Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir,
and Petite Sirah are the most
frequently produced wine

LWGA PRIORITIES



AVA Tasting Room and
Production Facility



Education



Social



Vineyard Management

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Mentoring

Viticulture
demonstrations,
more on the
science of wine
making

Broader
interaction
with
neighboring
AVAs

Solving wine
problems from
crush to bottling

An easier forum
to trade / buy /
sell / borrow
between
members

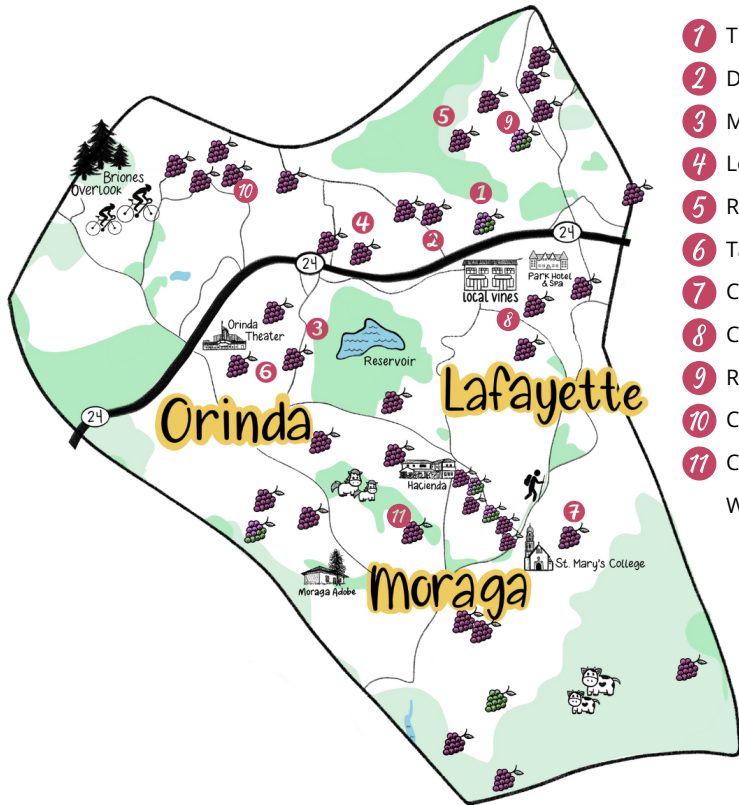
Deeper
understanding of
all wine growers
in the AVA

Leverage the
economies of
scale through
the LWGA

Process for
licensing

Lamorinda

AVA EST 2016



- 1 Thal Vineyards
- 2 Deer Hill Vineyards
- 3 Meadow View Winery
- 4 Los Arabis Vineyards
- 5 Raisin d'Etre Vineyards
- 6 Tarabrook Vineyards
- 7 Captains Vineyards
- 8 Castillo Vineyards
- 9 Rancho Del Hambre Vineyard
- 10 Crane Terrace Winery
- 11 Crossbrook Vineyard and Winery

OUR AVA, ON THE MAP

Congratulations to newly bonded wineries - Castillo Vineyards, Rancho Del Hambre Vineyard, and Crane Terrace Winery!

Are you a newly bonded winery? Or a new winery? Know of a Lamorinda bonded winery who is not a LWGA member? Let us know and we will list you on the next iteration of the map.

Poster sized maps are available for \$20 each. Email info@lamorindawinegrowers.com to place your order.

Welcome to our 2023 new members! We look forward to hearing more about your journey and tasting your wine!

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Chris and Annette Maxwell | Linda See |
| Luis Villanueva | Michael Allen |
| David and Lauren Gould | Neal Ringquist |
| Rowena and Greg Reyes | Warren Lane |

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

LWGA 2023 HARVEST AND CROP REPORT

Daniel Howsepian and Gerard van Steyn

Cabernet Sauvignon	25,843lbs
Petite Sirah	9579
Pinot Noir	9970
Syrah	3630
Chardonnay	3975
Petite Verdot	2040
Merlot	7,754
Grenache	5257
Sangiovese	7150
Cinsault	620
Cabernet Franc	2106
Sauvignon Blanc	770
Malbec	531
Zinfandel	2600
Tempranillo	275
Mourvedre	850
Carignana	850
Roussanne	0

Temperature-wise, 2023 was nearly ideal as we did not have any major heat events and our vines benefited from near ideal temperatures throughout the growing season. Bud break, flowering/fruit set occurred much later than normal due to the extremely wet and cooler winter and spring. Temperatures were nearly Goldilocks ideal during the critical flowering to fruit set period - not too hot or too cold, and so many vineyards are reporting much higher than normal yields. Harvest for many vineyards was 4 or more weeks later than usual and there were several reports of vineyards struggling with ripening. So perhaps the vines would have benefited from a bit more warmer days during the growing season. Some vineyards reported negative issues for such things as extra losses to raccoons, skunks and birds. Time will be the judge of quality, but odds are it will be a great year for Lamorinda wines!

Total reported members harvest in lbs: 83,609, an approximate 7.5% increase over 2022.



Amounts are self reported and do not include all AVA vineyards

LOCAL VINES UPDATE

Larry Thal

Construction continues on the greatly anticipated Lamorinda AVA wine tasting room - Local Vines. The estimated opening is in Q2 2024. We are very much looking forward to celebrating with you soon!





AWARDS

Show us what you've earned! The Board hosts 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!

LAMORINDA ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Bill Scanlin

Our tent was again in the premium wine area between the Roundup and the Coop. The weather was great! Such a change from last year which was almost rained out. We had a lot of interest from the community and helped support the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

The wineries that poured were:

Saturday

Raisin d'Etire Vineyards (Lafayette)
Crane Terrace (Orinda)
Castillo Vineyards (Orinda)

Sunday

Deer Hill Vineyards (Lafayette)
Rancho Del Hambre (Lafayette)
St Romedius (Napa winery using Lamorinda grapes)





LAMORINDA AVANNIVERSARY

Brian Cherry

The weather was gorgeous on May 7 for our annual AVAnniversary. This public event saw around 150 people attend and around 700 tastings purchased. People came from Lamorinda, Oakland, Pleasant Hill, New Jersey, New York, even Louisiana!

The celebration was an opportunity to introduce to the community the abundance of quality wine made from locally sourced grapes. Varieties served included Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Syrah and Pinot Noir among others.

Eight AVA commercial wineries poured and we welcomed new winery Castillo Vineyards! Our new food vendor offered tasty elevated Mexican food and exquisite charcuterie boxes.

The organizing committee thanks the many members (and non-members) who helped set up, loaned furniture, decorated, cleaned up, and so much more! Karen Maggio, Marek Fibrish, Wu Lin, Luis Villaneuva, Bonneau Dickson, Eric Jones - THANK YOU!

We hope to celebrate this annual event next year in Local Vines!



2023 LWGA HOLIDAY PARTY

Leanne Pilot



A cosy wonderland was the venue for this years holiday member party at Oak Springs Pool Clubhouse. With great food, great wine, and even better company, all that was missing was the chestnuts roasting on the open fire. Next year!

In all the excitement, we forgot to take photos! If you have photos to share of the holiday party, please send them to info@lamorindawinegrowers.com

To answer the FAQs from the night:

- the catering was by Kitava in Oakland
- the cakes came from Alpine Bakery in Concord
- the table lights are available through Lights in the Stars, a local kid run business. Contact them directly for current availability

EDUCATION FOCUS

Gerard van Steyn

The Board is pleased to announce that a new committee is creating the educational topics and speakers for future meetings. There are many talented winegrowers and winemakers on this committee, we look forward to new and improved educational content.

The educational committee members are: Marek Fibrich, Karen Joy Maggio, Chris Maxwell, Leanne Pilot, Frank Orson, Bill Pence, Marcy Ryan-Nichol, Bill Saupe, Colleen Sullivan, and Eero Teerikorpi. If you have ideas for future meetings, or wish to join this committee, please email Leanne at leannepilot@gmail.com



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives>

INCENTIVE RESOURCES

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 / Viticulture: David Hicks

Treasurer / Webmaster: Bill Scanlin

Secretary / Local Vines: Larry Thal

New Members: Leslie Ward

Member Meeting Education: Gerard van Steyn

Viticulture / Site Visits: Daniel Howsepian

Publicity, Newsletter, Events: Amy Schofield, Brian Cherry

LWGA Strategic development: Dave Rey, Tom Morehouse

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES

Membership meetings fall roughly the last Sunday of every second month. 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 28, 2024.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Board Elections will be held the last week of January. There are 5 Board positions up for election in January and 2 board members plan to not run for reelection. Please consider running for a Board position as it is a great way to have an impact on the future direction of the organization working with a great group of Board and Committee members.

If you have an interest in running for a Board director position, please contact Bill Scanlin for more information (bscanlin@gmail.com cell: 925 200 7676)

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>