



APRIL 2023

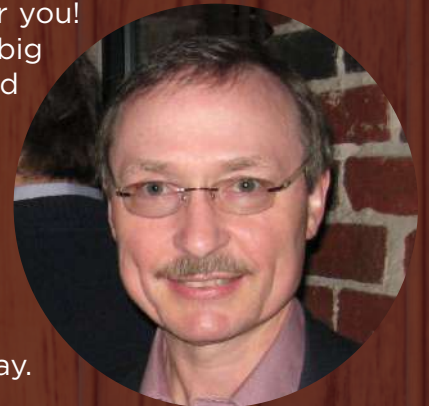
The Bluffs Food & Wine *gazette*

Event Report: Almost Spring at
Spencer's For Steaks & Chops
Upcoming Events

What's New

It was a good idea to avoid the rush and have a belated Valentine's Day event. Kinda like spreading out your birthday celebrations for a number of days. The restaurants are all stressed out near February 14th. So we had a nice, relaxed, cozy dinner at Spencer's on the 25th of February, a shared celebration with the Omaha Branch. The theme was intriguing: Perfection! We had a pair of 100 point wines in a sit down tasting. Then we had perfect food pairings. Bacon & eggs, cheese & crackers for appetizers. Salmon and creamed cheese. Pork chop and apple sauce. Steak & potatoes. Chocolate & raspberry. All classic pairings. Implied, although not explicitly stated, was that your spouse/special friend was also perfect...well, at least maybe for you! It was a very enjoyable exercise of wine and food pairing. My big quibble was that it was pretty noisy at times in that cozy (read small) room.

Rather than make the Bluffs Gazette a carbon copy of Omaha's Wine and Food Gazette, I thought it would be informative to take a peek at our two 100 point wineries: Pride Mountain Vineyards and Château Léoville Poyferré.



Please note that our June 14th event is, unusually, on a Wednesday.

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You can also access the Branch Recipe file by clicking:
https://issuu.com/omahapublications/docs/iwfs_cb_council_bluffs_recipes.

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

- The Cynical Philosopher

Event Report: The Perfect Matches a Joint Omaha and CB Event

Written by Tom Murnan, Photos by Tom Murnan & Wayne Markus

The Perfect Matches, what a perfect name for a (belated) Valentine's Day event with our perfectly selected partner! Michelle and Hasan Hyder, from their private cellar and their Omaha Wine Company, provided our two perfect wines. Let's focus on our two wineries that made perfect wines.

Château Léoville Poyferré is a Bordeaux 2nd Growth Left Bank establishment in the St-Julien appellation. There are three Léoville properties on the Léoville plateau: Las Cases, Barton and Poyferré. Today they are owned by different proprietors. But historically, it was one property until the French Revolution, in 1789. In 1840, Las Cases was divided again to carve out Poyferré, when the Baron Jean-Marie de Poyferré married the daughter of Jean Las Cases. It was made a 2nd Growth in 1855. In the not so distant past, Poyferré was considered the weak sister of the trio, but no longer. Its 920 acres is very near the Gironde estuary. The soil is quite gravelly. Millennia ago, the Gironde polished the stones and deposited alluvial sandy clay soil. Terroir is everything in Bordeaux. There is not one large vineyard, but plots scattered throughout the prestigious Léoville ridge.



Château Léoville Poyferré

Since 1920, the Cuvelier family has owned and passed down the chateau. The famed oenologist consultant Michel Roland has been working to improve the wines since the mid 1980s. Vineyards are planted to 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Of the 3 Léovilles, it is the most voluptuous, with the highest portion of Merlot in the grand vin. Jeb Dunnuck awarded the 2018 a perfect 100 point score.

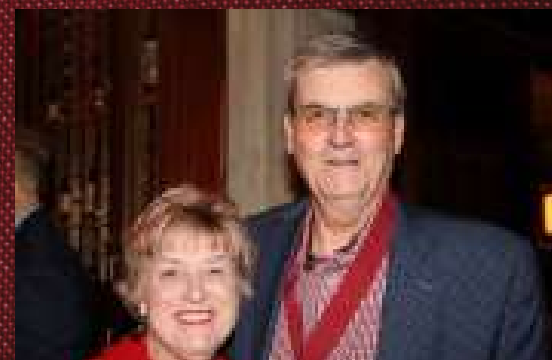


Pride Mountain Vineyards

Pride Mountain Vineyards

Grape vines were first planted in this area in 1869 on what was then called Summit Ranch. The original owners were given a deed by the US government in 1872. Jim and Carolyn Pride purchased the property in 1989 and it remains a family winery today, even though Jim died in 2004. The 2,300 foot above sea level property sits on a spine of the Mayacamas Mountain chain, half way between Santa Rosa in Sonoma County and Saint Helena in Napa Valley. Interestingly, the winery sits right on the county line. The tasting room is in Sonoma County. Heading towards the winery, there's a row of bricks in the concrete floor showing where the Napa County line goes right through the building, then there is the winery. Pride Mountain is a 235 acre property, with 90

acres devoted to vines. The first wine was made in 1991 in the Frank Family winery, then later at Rombauer's facility, before the current winery was made in 1997. A 23,000 square feet aging cave was drilled into the side of the mountain providing passive cooling for the wines. There are a number of vineyard blocks, which adds biological diversity to the wine. Viognier, Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Sangiovese are all made on the mountain. Quantities are very limited, and mailing list customers come first for the smaller offerings. Our 2012 Pride Mountain "Reserve" Cabernet Sauvignon was rated a perfect 100 points by Robert Parker Jr. himself, and is listed as mature on his web site.



UPCOMING COUNCIL BLUFFS BRANCH EVENTS

APR
08

PASTA AMORE

Brunch

Celebrating Spring

Event Producer: Mike Wilke and Joe Goldstein

MAY
24

OMAHA FIELD CLUB

How Well Do You Know Your White Wines?

Producers: Amanda Harrington & John Matthews

JUNE
14

AU COURANT

Burgundy vs. Pinot Noir

Joint event with the Omaha Branch

Producer: Tom Murnan

HOSTING AN EVENT?

Let us know when, where and a little bit about what's going on!

We would love to include YOUR event on the calendar!

Email details to: iwfs.councilbluffs@yahoo.com