



EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 5, May 2017



NEW BRANCH: VALENCIA, SPAIN



In February a new branch in Valencia, the first branch in Spain, was inaugurated and welcomed into the Europe Africa Zone. Members of the Zone Committee, along with others travelled to Valencia to meet the new members. The new branch is well supported locally and the inaugural dinner was held with the majority of the founding



members at Restaurante Sucede in the historic old city for an excellent dinner. Before dinner, Ian Nicol, EA Chairman, presented Eduardo Aguilar, the driving force behind its formation, with the provisional charter. Not only was it a great pleasure to endorse such a new venture but it was also a delight to explore what the city had to offer. Any members of the Society would be made most welcome there and the city is, in any event, well worth a visit in its own right.



BRANCH EVENT: WESSEX, UK

The Wessex Branch visited the Bombay Sapphire Distillery on 21st April. The day started with a "routier" lunch at La Parisienne, in the pretty market town of Romsey. From there we travelled to the Laverstoke Mill, just to the north of Winchester. The members were introduced to an impressive display of the history of Gin, the distilling processes and most interestingly to smell and taste the many dried Botanicals used in the Bombay Sapphire's production. The final highlight of this two hour experience was a cocktail prepared for each member to their individual tastes. Architecturally the well maintained and preserved Victorian Mill lies within an attractive setting and is complimented by two superb intertwined glass houses which contain living examples of all the ten botanicals found in Bombay Sapphire. A day thoroughly enjoyed by all.



FESTIVAL: SONOMA, USA

Over 120 members gathered in Sonoma to explore the wines, winemakers and vineyards of Sonoma County. Some vineyards in Sonoma escaped the phylloxera epidemic and now have vines older than 100 years, whose fruit gives extra depth to many of their wines. The delegates heard many tales of the ups and downs of the wine industry, grubbing up apple orchards to plant vines in good times, to bootlegging to survive the 'Prohibition', and rebuilding the oldest vineyard after earthquakes. An outside dinner at Kendall Jackson Estate in their vegetable and herb garden was a highlight of the festival. Oysters, Dungeness Crab, Liberty Duck, Black Angus beef, and a wide range of locally produced cheeses were a delight. A visit to Sonoma is highly recommended so watch out for the next IWFS monograph to help you start planning.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report that your Executive Committee (ExCo) is now up to strength with Peter Diamond (London Branch) becoming our eleventh member. Welcome to Peter (pictured below in the Panama hat). The ExCo members attend four committee meetings, the Annual Branch Representatives Meeting (ABRM), and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year, and are dedicated to do so, all at their own expense. To make life a bit easier we have combined the ABRM, AGM, and Autumn ExCo into one weekend in Sept. Together with a Dinner on board HQS Wellington, to which all members are invited, we aim to make it an enjoyable event. Click [here](#) (remember to be signed in first) for details.

You will be aware that bookings for the International Festival in London opened on 7th May, and over 150 members worldwide have signed up. All credit to the Festival Committee for putting an attractive event together. It is not too late to put your name down as we look to accommodate as many people as we can. People who are waitlisted often get places. One or two venues can take a higher number of participants, and we would like to make these places available to EAZ members who wish to be part of the festival, but not the whole event. We will do this when final numbers are known. It maybe some time before we can advertise these, but we will as soon as we can. In the meantime why not email [Stephanie](#) and let her know what you might like to attend.

Ian Nicol
May 2017



PACHACUTI FAIR TRADE PANAMA HATS

The London Festival committee has sourced these high quality, fair trade, Panama hats for members. They are a stylish way to protect you from the summer sun and the perfect addition to your summer wardrobe particularly if you are a festival goer. New ExCo member Peter Diamond and Melisa Atay are pictured here modeling two of the styles. To see the full range available and place your own tailor made order, at special prices, click [here](#).

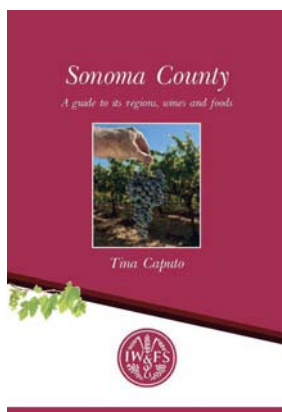


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NEW MONOGRAPH

"Sonoma County, its regions, wines and foods" is the focus of the latest IWFS monograph. Ian Nicol had a sneak preview before his trip to Sonoma last month and found it really useful when planning the places to visit for the best food and wine. We trust you agree that author Tina Caputo has brought the region to life and provides an insight into its wonderful wines and foods. We also hope it will inspire you to make a trip yourself or maybe run a Sonoma focused branch event. This will be posted to members in June, or couriered to those branches where the postal system is less reliable.



YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



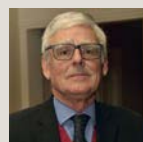
Ian Nicol
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast)
Chairman



Michael Messent
(Wessex)
Vice Chair & Legal
Advisor



Dr Tricia Fletcher
(Manchester)
Secretary



John Nicholas
(Zurich)
Treasurer



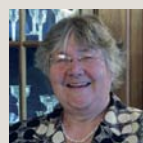
Mrs Margaret
Chippendale
(Manchester)
Membership Registrar



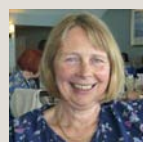
David Chapman
(Manchester)
Awards Officer



Hilton Kuck
(Cape Town)
African Branches
Representative



Mrs Stephanie Shepherd
(London)
Events Co-ordinator



Leonie Allday
(Bath & Bristol)
Marketing representative



Peter McGahey
(Herefordshire &
Monmouthshire)
Events support



Peter Diamond
(London)
Committee member

BRANCH FOCUS: ST JAMES'S



The St James's Branch of the IWFS was founded in 1993 at the initiative of Hugo Dunn-Meynell and Michael Broadbent and was effectively a revival of the Lucullus Club of the Society, established in the 1930s by Nubar Gulbenkian and inevitably wound up in 1939 with the outbreak of the Second World War. The object of the branch was to hold wine and food events of the highest possible quality for

a small number of members without the usual budget restrictions and in accordance with André Simon's motto: 'not too much, but the best'. The first branch Chairman was Stephen Matthews, the first event was a dinner for 22 at The Connaught on 9th June 1993 in honour of Harry Waugh on his 80th birthday, and the second one was a dinner for 20 at The Hilton in honour of Robert Monday who also turned 80 on that year! In 1996 Stephen Matthews stepped down as Chairman and was succeeded by Ari Sofianos, who holds the position to this day. Today the branch has grown to 75 members and holds about ten events per year-our favourite haunts include The Dorchester, The Ritz, The Waterside Inn, Roux at The Landau, The Ledbury, and The Sportsman in Kent to name but a few. A lot of effort goes into the planning of every meal, including a prior tasting during which we sample several dishes against various wines in order to select the final menu for our event. Numbers at our events are usually limited to between 20-30, depending on the size of the establishment's private dining facilities. An exception is The Ritz, where we will be returning this year for a black tie reception and dinner on Monday 23rd October to be held jointly with the London Branch – The Ritz Music Room, where we will be dining, can take up to 60 guests, so we are able to welcome a small number of members from other branches to this event. Anyone interested in attending please apply online as soon as possible through the London Branch website www.iwfs.london, or request a Booking Form from Selina Dong, our [Branch Secretary](#).



OUR AWARDS: LONG SERVICE



Charlotte Parratt was presented with a Long Service Diploma on 24th March. As well as being a member, Charlotte has provided the catering for the Berkshire Branch of the IWFS for at least 15 years. Her branch members noted that her food is always thoroughly researched and links in with the theme for the evenings. She sources the food locally using high quality ingredients appropriate to the country along with seasonal produce. During the meals, Charlotte provides an explanation, tenders advice and sends out copies of menus as requested. Charlotte frequently reminds her fellow members that we are not just a "Wine Society" but a "Wine and Food Society".

Hugh and Aileen Edwards were awarded their long service medallions at the Berkshire Branch meeting at the Neville Hall in Waltham St Lawrence on Friday 26th May. Hugh and Aileen have been regular attenders of the Berkshire Branch for more than 27 years and served as Joint Secretary from 1994 to 1997.



Many congratulations to Charlotte, Hugh and Aileen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BALTIC CRUISE

29th June to 7th July 2017

Now fully booked. A magical cruise of the Baltic with food and wine experiences in cities such as Copenhagen, Helsinki, Tallinn and St Petersburg. Details are on our website on the following [link](#).

STOCKHOLM

7th to 10th July 2017

A chance to enjoy this beautiful city described at the "Venice of the North". Click [here](#) to find out more. It is also fully booked but do email [John Nicholas](#) if you are keen to attend.

EAZ ABRM, AGM & DINNER

24th September 2017

Join your fellow EAZ members for a day's events – the ABRM and AGM during the day at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kensington and then the chance to relax, in the evening, at the black tie dinner aboard the historic HQS Wellington moored on the river Thames. For more details click [here](#).

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND (USA)

12th to 14th October 2017

A truly great wine weekend tasting fine Madeiras plus dinners with dishes carefully matched with wines from esteemed houses namely Louis Latour and Chateau Pontet-Canet plus Robert Parker is our guest speaker at the Gala Dinner. For more details click [here](#).

PERTH (AUSTRALIA)

9th to 11th March 2018

This APZ AGM Weekend is hosted by the Western Australia branch and will be one to remember. A post-tour to the Great Southern and Margaret River wine regions will be from 12th to 14th March. Open first to APZ members, then to members from other zones. Max 100 attendees. Watch here for further details.

LONDON

28th May to 2nd June 2018

Bookings are now being taken for the next International Festival taking place in London next year. Click [here](#) to find out more or email [Stephanie](#) to let her know which events you would like to attend, if places are available.

QUEBEC (CANADA)

26th to 30th September 2018

Plans are underway for an Americas Great Weekend – more details to follow.

AUCKLAND (NZ)

8th to 10th March 2019

The 2019 APZ AGM Weekend will be held in Auckland, with a pre-tour in the North Island and a post-tour to the fabulous Central Otago wine region in the South Island. Stay tuned.

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF FOOD & WINE

Please forward your branch news and articles for consideration for our next Food & Wine magazine by 9th June 2017. Email copy to [Nathalie Rosin](#).

EAZ ABRM & AGM

24th September 2017



How is your Subscription to IWFS spent? What are the Society's plans for the future? Come to our region's second Annual General Meeting and find out. Come and tell us what you think. Come and help to shape the Society's future. All members of IWFS living in the Europe Africa region have the right to attend and vote at the AGM, so have your say, don't leave it to everyone else. Formal Notice of these meetings will be included in the July issue of Food & Wine but you can book your place now!

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding the Europe Africa Zone's second Annual General Meeting in London on Sunday 24th September 2017 at 1715. The AGM will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 100 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 4ER, just a few yards from Gloucester Road Tube Station. From 1700 there will be a glass of something fizzy to welcome you before the meeting itself.

Black Tie Dinner: HQS Wellington

A Black Tie Dinner on HQS Wellington will follow the AGM. Moored at Temple Stairs – five minutes' walk from Temple Tube Station – this last surviving Grimsby class sloop saw service during the Second World War. She has served as the headquarters of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners since 1948. As well as a four-course meal in the Court Room we will enjoy an aperitif on the Quarter Deck, taking full advantage of the fabulous panoramic views from St. Paul's to the London Eye. The journey from the hotel, where the AGM will take place, to HQS Wellington will be approximately 20 minutes via the District or Circle lines.

Annual Branch Representatives Meeting

To make the best use of the time, we have also arranged the Annual Branch Representatives Meeting to take place on the same day; together with sub-committee meetings on Events, PR/Marketing, Membership – including new Branches, and Electronic Communications.

All Branches are entitled to send representatives to the ABRM and we hope to see every Branch represented on 24th September.

The Sub-Committee meetings are a new departure for EAZ. All members are welcome to join the sub-committee which appeals to them, or more than one if you wish. We hope you will take this opportunity to help shape our work for 2018 and beyond.

Stay a night or two

Mindful of the high costs of meeting in London, we have negotiated an advantageous rate with the hotel which will

apply both on Sunday night and Monday night, enabling members to stay on for a second day in London and perhaps take in a show. Even for the most popular shows, tickets are usually more readily available on Monday evenings and Mondays are also good days for the blockbuster exhibitions at the big museums and galleries. But you do still have to book in advance.

Please book your hotel room direct with the hotel. You can email lonke.reservations@ihg.com or telephone 0207 341 2340, mentioning IWFS. Or you can book on-line using the code.

Because of its proximity to Gloucester Road Tube Station, which is served by the Piccadilly, District and Circle lines, the hotel is well placed for those wanting a couple of days away. It is just one stop from the museums in Kensington and two from Harrods and Harvey Nicols. The hotel was fully refurbished in 2016 and, a rarity in central London, has a one-acre garden.

Timetable for the day

Sunday 24th September 2017 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kensington, 100 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4ER

- 1030: Guests will start arriving: Tea and Coffee to be provided.
- 1100-1200: Annual Branch Representatives Meeting (ABRM) at The Cromwell Suite rooms 1 & 2
- 1200-1300: Lunch in Hotel Restaurant; three-course buffet, IWFS will supply the wine with lunch.
- 1315 onwards: Sub Committees
1315-1445: Membership (Cromwell 1); PR/Marketing (Cromwell 2)
1445-1615: Events (Cromwell 1); Electronic Communications (Cromwell 2)
- 1700: Champagne Reception for AGM Attendees
- 1715-1745: Annual General Meeting (AGM) and feedback from Sub Committees at The Cromwell Suite rooms 1 & 2
- 1815: Depart for Black Tie Dinner, HQS Wellington
- 1830 for 1900: Black Tie Dinner at HQS Wellington, Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment, London, WC2R 2PN

What will it cost?

- One night at the Crowne Plaza Hotel including full English Breakfast: £195.00 for single occupancy / £205.00 for two people sharing. This rate applies on both Sunday 24th September and Monday 25th September
- Lunch at the hotel only: £28.95 (option A)
- AGM & Dinner on HQS Wellington only: £105.00 (option B)
- Lunch and Dinner: £115.00 (option C)

For details of "How to book and pay" and the "Cancellation policy" please click [here](#).