



January 2021



Celebrating the happenings across our zone

2020 year in review, 2021 in prospect

2020 started with much promise; wonderful IWFS events to attend, then suddenly travel came to a global halt as Covid started to affect the world. Consequently, IWFS events in Bordeaux, Hong Kong, and Singapore were placed on hold.

Notwithstanding, some countries were able to better manage the spread of the virus, and IWFS branches therein put on a few local events for their branch members. In this inaugural issue we look to share their stories.

Normality will eventually return, and vaccines should speed this up. We remain hopeful for our AGM in Singapore this June. In the meantime, stay safe, and hopefully our paths will cross in 2021.

APZ AGM Dinner in Perth (above)

The IWFS APZ AGM took place both in person and virtually on November 29th 2020. The AGM preceded the IWFS WA Black Tie Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton in Perth. IWFS WA Secretary Graeme Sassella-Otley created a brilliant montage video of photos and it can be viewed at https://youtu.be/yH3cr7huk_8

On behalf of the IWFS Asia Pacific Zone, we wish all our members a Happy New Year!!





A Message from the Incoming APZ Chair



To all our IWFS Members in the Asia Pacific Zone

I am simultaneously humbled and honoured to assume the role of Chairman APZ for the International Wine and Food Society, effective 25th October 2020.

In embracing this role during challenging times – reminiscent of our respected founder Andre Simon during the Great Depression – I hope not only to maintain existing memberships but, in an effort to give the APZ something to look forward to, encourage the participation of more new members and welcome them to join our family. I would also encourage those branches suffering immediate hardships to put in abeyance thoughts of downsizing, while I encourage you to ride out the storm knowing you have our support.

My first action will be to ensure the frequent dissemination of timely and accurate information about the various activities of the APZ branches and their members of IWFS by announcing that Vice Chair Nicola Lee (Singapore) and Website Director Brian McIntyre (KL, Malaysia) will assume the roles of Co-Editors of the re-introduced APZ newsletter and blog.

Please forward any newsworthy information to our recently appointed administrators; Anthea Wang and Yoru “Shirley” Tsao on email apz@iwfs.org.

With warmest regards,
Sincerely,

Michael Tamburri
+61 4073 8878 Whats app
In gratitude and appreciation,
With a nod to the past and great hope for the future

2020 in Review

Branch Happenings

IWFS Singapore

IWFS Singapore branch members were able to meet for a couple of events in 2020. January saw the Savaterre Wines Dinner hosted by owner and winemaker Keppell Smith in January. Keppell is also a member of the IWFS Victoria Branch. Members enjoyed some lovely wines, some of which have been served in First Class on Emirates flights. January also saw a tasting of Rhine River Rieslings from Weingut Schatzel with winemaker and owner Kai Schatzel in attendance to conduct proceedings. Six Rieslings and one Silvaner were presented, all showing superb minerality and sophisticated structure. Yum.



Keppell Smith and Kai Schatzel with IWFS Singapore

IWFS Huang Pu

IWFS Huang Pu (Shanghai) continued its “Grand View” dinner series in September 2020, taking members behind the exclusive doors of the magnificent Portman Ritz Carlton Presidential Suite. Located on the 41st floor with breathtaking views of the renowned Jing’an district, Chef Fabio and the banquet team took everyone on a delightful culinary journey touching on delights from the ocean and land. Scallops, pan seared duck liver, Lobster Vialone, 48 hour bus vide wagyu and artisanal cheeses to finish. Wines were presented in a “La Paulee Party” Burgundy theme, including Grand Cru Chablis and 1er Cru Meursault and Gevrey- Chambertin. Much enjoyed!



Pics from the Grand View Event with IWFS Shanghai

Branch Fun



2020 in Review continued....

Branch Happenings

IWFS Huang Pu

To celebrate the end of 2020, members of the Huang Pu Branch in Shanghai gathered together at the River Drunk Restaurant in the Wanda Reign Hotel. Organised by Branch President Robin Saby, traditional style dishes were enjoyed and paired with Prosecco, Champagne, Chablis, Burgundy, Pomerol and Ximinez wines.



Attendees at the Huang Pu Branch dinner

IWFS Taiwan

Notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic, Taiwanese branches were able to meet on a regular basis last year. On December 12th 2020, the five IWFS Taiwanese branches met for a gala dinner in Taichung, hosted by the Chungnan Branch. 42 members participated in the event. They hope to make it an annual gathering. Taiwan's five branches (Chungnan [Taichung], Kaohsiung, Taichung, Taipei and Taiwan Belle) wish all members in the APZ a very Happy Lunar New Year!



Members from Taiwan's five branches - Chungnan [Taichung], Kaohsiung, Taichung, Taipei and Taiwan Belle

2020 in Review continued....

Branch Happenings

IWFS Kuala Lumpur

IWFS KL managed to organise four events for the year - January at Le Sense (Cantonese Cuisine with Wines), February at KinMe (Japanese Cuisine with Wines and Sake), September AGM at Trader's Hotel (Western Fusion with Wines) and October at Soleil (French Belgian utilising both imported and Locavore). Wines tasted included 2017 Pio Cesare L'Altro Chardonnay and 2008 Almaviva in Magnum, Shichiken Yamanokasumi Sparkling Sake, Wa Bi Premium Japanese Gin and the excellently drinking 2010 Chateau Talbot. View photos and information on the IWFSKL Facebook page.

The various stages of Movement Orders in Malaysia has meant that meetings have been difficult to convene. In Kuala Lumpur the committee was able to hold a combination of face to face and virtual meetings. Four committee members would gather at a friendly venue whilst the other six plus an advisor would attend via Zoom or WhatsApp. Each with a glass of something nice. Of course.



IWFS Kuala Lumpur pre MCO in September 2020



IWFS Kuala Lumpur at Soleil September 2020

IWFS Saigon

IWFS Saigon President James Young and Newsletter Editor Simon Pugh have been busy with their monthly newsletters to keep members abreast of events. Look out for their Moments of Joy theme in January, where they want members to share photos of something that brought them joy during 2020.

The International Wine & Food Society - Saigon **DECEMBER 2020**

IWFS MISSION: "The provision of a broad knowledge and understanding of both wine and food; the enhancement of their appreciation; and the nurturing of camaraderie among those who share the pleasures of the table."

"If I wake up in the morning breathing, the rest of the day is upside!" *Blissful!*

From the President's Table: James Young

2020 has managed to use up every iteration of words about shock, loss, fear and uncertainty in every language on the planet, at the same time getting us used to phrases like 'social distancing', 'Covid-normal' and 'pandemic response'. The year has been exhausting as we have adapted to a new set of circumstances none of us could have possibly predicted when we decided ourselves to celebrate Christmas in 2019.

It is easy to forget, among the avalanche of unsettling news that there are still things that we should remain grateful for. And yet... I look back at the newsletters and photos of IWFS events this year and I am reminded of how lucky we have all been, least said in a country whose response to this year's events has been nothing short of remarkable. Because of this, we missed hosting dinner for just one month and otherwise were able to do a month of "Share the Love" visiting 4 venues in 4 weeks, raising 20million VND to donate to local families in need, still new venues and have dinner of up to 36 people. In fact of all this, attendance at 2020 IWFS events has been the highest we have ever seen!

Whilst my first year as IWFS President Saigon has come at an unusual time, I am grateful for the hard work and assistance of this year's committee, working to choose wines, get wines arranged discounts for our membership cards, balance the books and communicate out to members. We will be holding the yearly election of committee members at our January Dinner on the 20th. All committee positions are open for nominations and members are welcome to nominate by emailing the secretary: souph@1502@gmail.com. Please come along at 5.30pm to vote, followed by dinner afterwards.

Our dinners this year brought 384 people together to enjoy good food good wine and great friendship. We look forward to continuing to do so next year. On behalf of Sibylla and myself we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a safe happy 2021 when we may have the chance to reconnect with loved ones overseas. Stay safe, stay happy, stay grateful. See you at the next dinner and Bon Appetit!

www.youwine.com/venue/1502-desktoptv/5071e6b0a0a0

"the dish has asparagus which is most challenging thing to pair wine with!" IWFS Wine Committee

November Gala Dinner **R&J @ The Revelle**

Remember Gala Dinner saw us all return to the decadent settings of Rimes & Jules Restaurant at The Revelle. The underground location perfectly captured the spirit of the Great Gatsby themed dinner and our members didn't disappoint with stylish costumes and a fun atmosphere. The menu and wine pairings were also unmissable - a great night out!

COMING UP... save the date

Jan 20th (Sat) Dinner Vietnam House ... LUKE NGUYEN

We kick off 2021 with the elevated Vietnamese stylings of Australian-born Vietnamese celebrity chef Luke Nguyen. From its iconic 1910 building, Vietnam House is bringing Vietnamese cuisine to the World Stage. Showtime!

Share your photos & stories on the IWFS Saigon member only facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/iwfsaigoin>

For further details contact Simon Pugh - Secretary s.pugh@1502@gmail.com

STAY INFORMED

Do you have the updated IWFS App?



Member App

Vintage Card

WF&F Current Issue

Food & Wine
Current Issue

Society Archives

Society Archives

Current Issue
Food & Wine

Just released - a new Member App designed to give you quick online access to member benefits such as the Vintage Card, Society Publications (including Zone magazines) and Festivals. [Click here to view it now.](#) Look out for extra links which will be added. Click [here](#) to add the icon to your phone/tablet.

Save The Date

IWFS APZ AGM Weekend in Singapore scheduled for 18th to 20th June 2021 - notice inviting expressions of interest to attend were emailed to all APZ members in November. If you did not receive it, please email our Admin Managers at apz@iwfs.org

Do you have the IWFS Merchandise?



Coming soon. Cuff Links, Lapel pins, 1 and 2 bottle Neoprene bottle bags, Blind Tasting Bottle Sets, Drop Savers and Champagne stoppers. You know you want some... Courier fees will apply in addition to purchase prices and will be quoted on order. Contact apz@iwfs.org for details.

Do you receive the Grapevine?

Full of detail on international happenings, the IWFS Grapevine newsletter December 2020 edition was emailed out to members worldwide on 4th January 2021. If you didn't receive it, please email our Admin Managers at apz@iwfs.org