



EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 12, December 2019



Alsace photo Photo © Peter Holland

OUR FESTIVALS: VALENCIA 4-7 October 2019 EAZ AGM AND GREAT WEEKEND



We combined our 2019 Europe & Africa AGM with a wonderful weekend in Spain – and what a treat it was! The weekend was hosted by our newest branch, Valencia, which although only just approaching three years old is maturing gently like a fine wine, under the direction and enthusiasm of Eduardo Aguilar and his partner Sophia Lusch. The sunshine encouraged an informal,



relaxed approach to enjoying life, to dining *al fresco* and relishing local produce, typically grown organically, accompanied by regional and local wines. There were gastronomic treats in the central Mercado, lunch in a vineyard under a 200 year-old oak tree, cruising through paddy fields of Bomba rice and finally a superb jumbo Paella serving 70 from one pan. Throughout the weekend local branch members and their families joined us and made us feel at home – thank you.



OUR EVENTS: CONFRÉRIE ST-ETIENNE D'ALSACE DINNER 26 November 2019

This was a splendid event held at Vintners Hall and organised in association with the EAZ. Resplendent in red robes and black tri-corn hats, the Confrérie welcomed a total of 80 guests, 10 being IWFS members, serving two mystery wines, followed by a tutored tasting of five wines from the region and then a most enjoyable dinner featuring a further five wines. The guests were able to enjoy tradition and ceremony of the Confrérie which dates back to the fourteenth



Photo © Peter Holland



Photo © Peter Holland

century and is the oldest wine association in the world.

A total of 31 new members were inducted – 19 Apprentis who had passed a blind tasting test earlier in the evening (London branch member Richard Jackson is seen here wearing his new medal [blue ribbon]), and 12 special awards were made to those who have helped promote the wines of Alsace including Jancis Robinson OBE MW and EAZ Events Co-ordinator, Stephanie Shepherd who received the Consoeur Senechal. Congratulations to all.



Photo © Peter Holland

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



The Members' Forum in Valencia was very successful with over 50 members joining the discussions in small groups. We were also able to tap into the thoughts of members of our newest branch, Valencia, as one of the groups held their discussion in Spanish. A summary of these discussions will be included in the printed version of Food & Wine, which is due out late January.

Investing in our Future In the last edition of F&W online, Ian Nicol set out the challenges faced by the EAZ in sustaining and expanding membership. A marketing plan is being developed by the EAZ, using the ideas generated by the Members' Forum and through discussions with the APZ and the Americas. This will be shared with the EAZ membership in due course however the branches will be key in the implementation of these ideas. The Executive Committee (Exco) has recognised that branches may need financial assistance with this and therefore branches, or even individual members, can apply for funds to implement branch initiatives (see [IWFS website](#) or page 37 of issue 136 of Food & Wine).

Vintage Card Promotion as part of the marketing drive, Council has agreed to forward to each branch a supply of non-member Vintage Cards as an aid to promoting the Society. These will be distributed to branches with the 2020 Membership Cards. It would be great to hear how branches have used the cards and whether they have been effective in attracting new members or in raising the profile of IWFS.



In the meantime, Joan and I would like to wish all our members a prosperous New Year.

It would be great to hear of any interesting and successful wine and food pairings (or even any which should be avoided!) or any very special wines that you enjoyed during the Christmas festivities. Please send an email to eam@iwfs.org telling your story. We will award the best with a small prize.

John Nicholas



WINDOW ON THE WEBSITE

The new website is well-established now, and there have been very few problems with it. The main challenge is to encourage branches to make more use of the capabilities that it offers.

Council has now approved a programme of improvements to the site which will be introduced over the next year. EAZ has had a major input to these. Many of them are directed at making the site easier to use for branch administrators.

The most substantial changes will be a major upgrade in the facilities for managing festival bookings, some of which will also be made available for managing events at branch level.

TIP: Members sometimes mention that they find it hard to get hold of details about the major events that are being organised by the EAZ. Once they are publicised they tend to fill up very fast. Now you can go straight to the EAZ Regional Events page by clicking the relevant publicity flash on the Site home page, and be first in the queue.



Alan Shepherd

EAZ Website Coordinator

YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



John Nicholas
(Zurich)
Chair and Treasurer



David Chapman
(Manchester)
Secretary



Ian Nicol
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast)
Webmaster



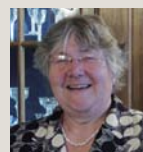
Dr Margaret Chippendale
(Manchester)
Membership Registrar



Dr Tricia Fletcher
(Manchester)
Awards Officer



Hilton Kuck
(Cape Town)
African Branches
Representative



Mrs Stephanie Shepherd
(London)
Events Co-ordinator



Mrs Leonie Allday
(Bath & Bristol)
Marketing representative



Peter McGahey
(Herefordshire &
Monmouthshire)
Food & Wine Editorial
Liaison Officer

VACANCY – TREASURER

Are you good with numbers? If so, you could be just the person we are looking for. There is currently a vacancy for Treasurer of EAZ/IWFS Europe Africa Ltd. John Nicholas, now Chair, will be on hand to provide guidance and advice. Please do consider and email John if you would like to discuss this.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

CAMBRIDGE, UK EAZ AGM AND GREAT WEEKEND 18-21 September 2020

The arrangements for this weekend are almost complete and we expect to open for bookings early next year. This will be a great chance to explore this fascinating University town as well as take the opportunity to enjoy black tie dinners in two of the University colleges – Corpus Christi



and Magdalene (experiences that money cannot buy); a trip to Ely visiting the Cathedral (pictured left) and the fascinating Stained Glass Museum; time to tour the City and finishing with a dinner in the iconic University Arms Hotel.

MADEIRA, PORTUGAL 1-7 November 2020

This festival is now fully booked however do get in touch if you would like to be added to the waitlist. We hope that the programme will combine both the opportunity to learn all about this delicious wine but also discover some of the other features that make this island such a unique place to visit. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Stephanie Shepherd
Events Co-ordinator



OUR AWARDS

ANDRÉ SIMON BRONZE AWARDS

EAZ is proud to report the award of the prestigious André Simon Bronze medal to **Andy Anderson** (Lusaka) who received his award on 29th September 2019 recognising his 50 years of membership, and work as Branch Chair and committee member and his stint as the Africa representative of the EAC; and **Margaret Chippendale** (Manchester) who was presented with her award



during the Valencia Great Weekend on 4th October 2019 which recognised her membership of the Executive Committee of EAZ since 2015 and in her role as Membership Registrar, as well as being a supportive member of her branch.

EAZ EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARDS

Also, during the Valencia Weekend three EAZ Exceptional Service Medals, and a Diploma, were presented to: **Tony Griffin** (Bath & Bristol) for his



exceptional contribution to his Branch;

Leonie Allday (Bath & Bristol) for her Branch leadership, for establishing the Members' Forum which attracted 50+ members and for her contribution to the development of the EAZ PR & Marketing strategies; and **Eduardo Aguilar** (Valencia) for his enthusiasm and hard work in founding the Valencia branch and his organisation of the Valencia Great Weekend.



MARKETING MATTERS

We are developing a marketing strategy for the future and below are some of the headlines being worked on to move forward. The Society's **strengths** lie in its uniqueness as much more than a dining club, its appeal to its members (good, food, good wine, good friendships) and the loyalty, commitment and hard work of long-standing members; the **weaknesses** are its declining membership and its difficulty in recruiting younger members along with its limited use of e-communications and its low visibility in the market-place; the main **opportunity** is to raise the profile of IWFS amongst food and wine producers, professionals and influencers; broadening what it offers members; supporting branches practically and financially in promoting the Society at local food and wine events; and extending its reach to a younger

age-group through more effective use of social media. The threat to the Society is that branches will not recruit new members and it will lose its presence globally. Having identified the key areas we now need to be clear as to "What" we are promoting and "To Whom", in order to move to the "How" This needs to be done at all levels of the Society. At our Zone level we have already been guided by some useful input from this year's AGM Members' Forum (see the next issue of Food & Wine for details) and we are now working on Goals and Plans with measurable outcomes. That's for next time! If you have any comments on these initial thoughts, please let me know.

Leonie Allday



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SOUTH AFRICA Cape Town

6 January 2020

Our AGM will be held at the Steenberg Golf Club.

Contact [Norma Davison](#) for details.

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

15 January

La Boheme, Lymm. Dinner for 7.30pm. Contact [Tim Hodges](#) for info.

UK Devonshire

16 January 2020

Bianco's (Torquay), dinner at 7pm for 7.30pm. Contact [Geeta Lloyd](#) for details.

UK London

28 January 2020

Dinner at Grumbles in Pimlico, £55. Email [bookings@iwfs.london](#)

UK London

6 February 2020

A Comparative Tasting of pairs of French and Australian wines at the Naval Club, £60. Email [bookings@iwfs.london](#)

FINLAND Helsinki

8 February 2020

We will enjoy a meal focussing on the dishes of Madame Maigret matched with delicious French wines. Starting at 3 pm. Contact [Jaana Keränen](#).

UK Devonshire

13 February 2020

Dinner at Torquay Golf Club. 7pm for 7.30 pm. Contact [Geeta Lloyd](#) for details.

UK Bath & Bristol

19 February 2020

Dinner at Mediterranean, Congresbury. Join us for exceptional modern Italian cuisine. Contact [Janet Bagot](#) for details.

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

29 February 2020

Bells of Peover. Our branch AGM and lunch at this historic building dating back to 1839. Contact [Tim Hodges](#) for info.

FINLAND Helsinki

7 March 2020

It's Asparagus season – we will be enjoying various asparagus dishes and tasting some of the best wine matches with each. Starting at 3pm. Contact [Jaana Keränen](#) for details.

UK London

12 March 2020

A tasting of Champagnes and English Sparkling Wines of different levels of maturity at the Naval Club, £58. Email [bookings@iwfs.london](#)

UK Devonshire

16 March 2020

Old Vienna, Torquay, dinner at 7pm for 7.30pm. Contact [Geeta Lloyd](#) for details.

UK Berkshire

20 March 2020

Wines of South Africa (Red Squirrel Wine), with two-course dinner, 6.45pm at Neville Hall, Waltham St Lawrence. Contact [Ian Roe](#) for details.

UK Bath & Bristol

24 March 2020

Lunch at The Ivy, Bath Brasserie (sister restaurant to the Ivy in Bristol). Contact [Janet Bagot](#) for details.

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

2 April 2020

Dinner at Next Door, Frodsham. Contact [Tim Hodges](#) for info.

UK Berkshire

17 April 2020

Wines of New Zealand (Antipodean Sommelier), with two-course dinner, 6.45 pm at Neville Hall, Waltham St Lawrence. Contact [Ian Roe](#).

UK Bath & Bristol

21 April 2020

70th celebration dinner at Merchants Hall. Black Tie event with speaker. Contact [Leonie Allday](#) for details.

YOUR BENEFITS DECANTER PREMIUM

Take out a subscription before the end of the year! Keep up-to-date with fine wine news and recent tastings with a subscription to [Decanter Premium](#) – members receive 20% discount for a year's subscription (£60). If you prefer your news in print save 50% on a year's subscription to [Decanter magazine](#).

For full details of both offers [click here](#) to go to the IWFS website.



UK Devonshire

23 April 2020

The Linny, Coffinswell, dinner, 7pm for 7.30pm. Contact [Geeta Lloyd](#) for details.

UK Surrey Hills

2 June 2020

Tasting and tour at High Clandon Vineyard, then lunch at the Queen's Head, East Clandon, Surrey. More details later. Contact [Susie Punch](#).

FRANCE Paris and Bordeaux

16-25 April 2020

Join the wait list to be part of this amazing event visiting some of the most exclusive venues in Paris and then in Bordeaux a stunning itinerary includes private tours and tastings of famous chateaux. For more details [click here](#).

UK Cambridge

18-20 September 2020

An EAZ AGM, Members' Forum and Great Weekend – see 'Our Festivals' on page 3. Further details to follow.

UK West Yorkshire

10 October 2020

'A Feast of Venison' – from deer park to table, witness the renaissance of a noble beast that has been eaten in Britain for thousands of years. A special event on the Harewood Estate, West Yorkshire, hosted by Josh Whitehead. Enquiries to [Sue Timme](#).

PORTUGAL Madeira

2-8 November 2020

This event is now full. Please email [Stephanie Shepherd](#) if you would like to be added to the wait list. See 'Our Festival' on page 3 for further details.

CHINA Hangzhou and Shanghai

12-19 November 2020

Join the APZ for a wonderful festival in China. Start and finish the festival in Shanghai, east China's cultural centre, then head to Hangzhou, a UNESCO site and one of China's most beautiful cities, for the main festival. Invitations will be sent out in January 2020.

Looking to further ahead...

ARGENTINA Buenos Aires and Mendoza

October 2021

The next Triennial International Festival will be held in South America's most sophisticated city and its most important wine region. Open to all members. Booking details available last quarter of 2020.

If you are interested in joining an event that is full, or reservations closed, then please contact the organiser in case space is available.