



EAZ Food & Wine Online

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE EUROPE AFRICA ZONE

Issue 16, January 2022



Introducing our new Excellence Award – see inside for latest news.

OUR FESTIVALS

Different tastes of history in Cambridge and Madeira – Yes, the Europe Africa Zone was delighted to be able to run two festivals towards the end of last year. Although both destinations have long and interesting histories the festivals provided very different experiences for our members. **Cambridge** (16th to 19th September) provided unique dining events in three of the historical university colleges – invitations which are rarely extended outside the colleges. Members who headed to

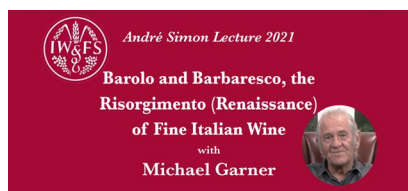


Madeira (30th October to 6th November) enjoyed five different Madeira tastings of about 50 wines of different styles and vintages, visiting the producers and soaking up the local culture as well as some of the delightful sunshine. A sprinkling of members from other zones, also attended, adding an extra international touch.



Upcoming festivals – three festivals are planned this year: Alsace, Piedmont* and Newcastle-upon-Tyne (see Dates for the Diary for more details). Many thanks to the organisers of these events, led by Stephanie Shepherd, EAZ's Events Coordinator.

* Whether you are visiting Piedmont later this year, or not, don't miss the 2021 André Simon lecture with Michael Garner.



OUR EVENTS

Learn to make traditional Italian pasta – an interactive masterclass – what fun! On 25th November members from London to Yorkshire joined this EAZ event online – with all pre-delivered ingredients to hand. The session was lead by **Emilia Strazzanti**, one of three daughters of this Sicilian family business. Attendees learnt that they only needed to add water



to the Sicilian twice-milled Semolina as it was a hard wheat flour containing more protein than its northern version – so simple. Emilia deftly prepared the different shapes using various utensils and members worked quickly to follow her instructions. During the fun session members learnt how to make four varieties of pasta – cavatelli, orecchiette, casarecce and busiate – and not a pasta machine in sight! Once the pasta was cooked, following Emilia's precise instructions, the Strazzanti Pesto all Trapanese pesto, made from their Nonna's closely guarded recipe, was added and served with parmesan and a glass of Italian red – delicious. Novices to 'experts' in 90 minutes. A sense of real achievement for all.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



I am writing this on New Year's Eve – a time for reflection on the year about to finish and for anticipation of the year ahead.

Firstly, a huge thank you for remaining members through these difficult times. Many branches have held events, both in person and on-line. I also hope that publications, both written and on-line, have enabled you to maintain contact with the world of food and wine. Have you found [Sid's blog](#) on the

website? A big thank you to all of you who have given and continue to give their time to managing IWFS Europe Africa and its branches, organising events and keeping in touch with members.

Looking forward, I hope that both branches and Europe Africa will be able to organise a full spectrum of events in 2022. Plans are well advanced for the international festivals in Alsace and Piedmont in Spring 2022. There are a few places available, please contact [Stephanie Shepherd](#) if you are interested in joining these trips.

Many branches, as well as Europe Africa, are considering whether to continue with online events as well as "in-person" events. A hybrid version has also been tried where members meet in one place and "experts" present wine and/or food to those members. I would like to encourage more interaction between branches, particularly in the UK, with joint events being set up (under consideration by the branches North of Birmingham) or simply by inviting members of nearby branches to your events. It would be great if branches could publicise their events on the website – we are looking for ways to make the full list of events more easily accessible. If you are holding on-line events, may I suggest you could extend invitations to independent members and/or those who are not even in your country!

Seeking volunteers

Hopefully members saw my email, of 23rd December, requesting volunteers to contribute to the development of the IWFS. A number of responses were received, but it's not too late. The roles were:

- Develop and support strategic initiatives to sustain and develop IWFS over the next 10 years – contact [Stephen Harrison](#)
- Act as Independent Examiner for the Europe Africa accounts – contact [Steve Graham](#)

If you think that you could use your skills and experience to assist in the management of IWFS Europe Africa in any other way, please contact me.

Finally, I would like to wish you, your families and friends best wishes for 2022, remain healthy, enjoy your gastronomic experiences and let us all hope for a return to some sort of normality.

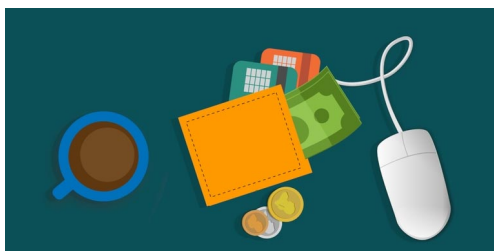
John Nicholas

Chair, IWFS Europe Africa



WINDOW ON THE WEBSITE

I am pleased to advise that there have been some major improvements to the festival booking system on the Society website, and we will now be using it



for most of the EAZ major events. We hope you welcome these improvements as they allow members to book their places and to pay by credit card online.

Alan Shepherd

EAZ Website Co-ordinator

YOUR EXCO MEMBERS



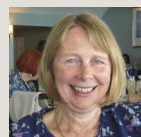
John Nicholas
(Zurich)
Chair



David Chapman
(Manchester)
Secretary



Ian Nicol
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast)
Webmaster



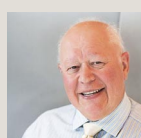
Mrs Leonie Allday
(Bath & Bristol)
Marketing



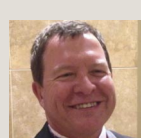
Dr Tricia Fletcher
(Manchester)
Awards Officer



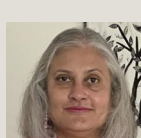
Stephen Graham
(Manchester and
St James's)
Treasurer



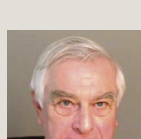
Tim Hodges
(Merseyside &
Mid-Cheshire)
Marketing



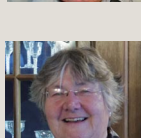
Hilton Kuck
(Cape Town)
African Branches
Representative



Mrs Geeta Lloyd
(Devonshire)
Membership Secretary



Peter McGahey
(Herefordshire &
Monmouthshire)
Editor – Food & Wine



Mrs Stephanie Shepherd
(London)
Events Co-ordinator

NEW EAZ EXCELLENCE AWARD



This award, and the process for making the award, has been developed by the Marketing Committee led by Leonie Allday. It is now being trialled in eight branches across the UK and is being well received. It is aimed at giving branches the ability to themselves nominate and reward venues in their area for high standards of food, wine, hospitality and

ambience. It is hoped to be rolled out across the zone by mid-Summer. Recipients of this award could be restaurants, pubs, vineyards or catering colleges and they are given a window sticker (which can be customised with the branch name) to display as they wish. This award is in addition to our Restaurant Award which will remain the "Gold Standard". Full details will appear in the next issue of Food & Wine.

The first Excellence Award was presented to the team at Warrington & Vale Royal College on 18th January 2022. The course students provided a creative menu and exceptional

service to some 30 IWFS members on 10th November 2021 at a dinner in Buckley's restaurant (front of house for the college). The Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire branch felt that the care and attention shown by the students was truly professional and therefore they were worthy recipients of the award. Pictured left to right Tim Hodges, branch Chairman, presenting the award to Jayne King (F&B course leader) and Paul Ratcliffe (course leader) who were delighted to receive the award. Wishing them much success in the future.



OUR BRANCH EVENTS

The spirit of the IWFS is still very much alive in Europe Africa with so many branches running events, as the pandemic allows. Congratulations to all and here is a gallery of some of your meetings in 2021. Here's to many more successful events in 2022.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

NORWAY Oslo

5th February 2022

Enjoying Oysters and Champagne.
Contact: Anders Christiansen

UK Bath & Bristol

15th February 2022

Lunch at The Pig, Huntstretre Contact:
[Leonie Allday](#)

UK London

17th February 2022

Napa Valley – Modern Classics A tasting of premium Bordeaux-blend wines from Napa Valley, including mature vintages, from members' cellars. Venue: The Army and Navy Club (RAG), London. Contact [bookings](#)

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

17th February 2022

Lunch at The Spirit, Warrington, Cheshire. Contact: [Tim Hodges](#)

UK Berkshire

18th February 2022

Tasting of Argentinian Wines with Mark Bradbury (Ruta40), followed by two-course dinner at Neville Hall, Waltham St Lawrence. Contact: [Ian Roe](#)

UK Wessex

20th February 2022

Lunch at The Castleman Hotel, Chettle, Blandford at 14:00. Eating in a private dining room and selecting the our choice of wines. Contact: [Isabel Sinclair](#)

UK London

24th February 2022

The Quality Chop House. Pamela Rustem has recently taken over as the London Branch's Events Manager and this is her very first event for the Branch, so she is looking forward to seeing many of our members at this special luncheon. Contact [bookings](#)

UK London

24th March 2022

Fine Châteauneuf-du-Pape – A Memorial Tasting of Wines selected by Paul Mapplebeck at The Army and Navy Club (RAG), London. Contact [bookings](#)

UK Bath & Bristol

4th April 2022

"Sunday Lunch" at Michel's Kitchen (Bath) – this is likely to be branch members only as space is limited Contact: [Leonie Allday](#)

FRANCE Alsace

25th to 30th April 2022

The EAZ are planning to head to the city of Colmar in 2022. Colmar is the capital of this historic wine region and the festival will aim to give you a taste of some of the best wineries and restaurants in the area. This event is now open for [booking](#).

ITALY Piedmont

2nd to 7th May 2022

The pandemic forced us to move this event to May 2022. Members who had booked for 2021 have all been contacted and most have rebooked for the new dates. We do still have one or two spaces and will be opening a wait list. If you think you might like to join us you can do so via the [website](#) which has full details of the programme.

NB – if you wished for an extended holiday in Europe It would be possible to join both tours, of Alsace and Piedmont, although they are being run separately.

FRANCE Paris and Bordeaux

5th to 13th May 2022

This amazing Americas event has been rescheduled for next May – the itinerary will be in essence the same. The itinerary includes visiting some of the most exclusive venues in Paris; then in Bordeaux a stunning itinerary includes private tours and tastings of top chateaux. Last few places available. For more details go to the [website](#)

NORWAY Oslo

12th May 2022

A Summer event is being planned. Contact: Anders Christiansen

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

17th May 2022

Dinner at Next Door, Frodsham, Cheshire. Contact: [Tim Hodges](#)

UK Wessex

22nd May 2022

Lunch time Garden Party. We are delighted to advise that we are to be joined by David Felton, the Honorary President of the IW&FS who is visiting the south coast that week. Anthony Atkinson will again be supplying wines from his extensive cellar. Contact: [Isabel Sinclair](#)

UK Bath & Bristol

27th May 2022

An Evening of Wine and Cheese at Waldegrave House – again this is likely to be branch members only Contact: [Leonie Allday](#)

SINGAPORE

3rd to 5th June 2022

The APZ are making plans for a festival on this delightful island country for members to enjoy its culinary delights and explore the many jewels of this island including the Singapore Botanic Gardens – the only tropical garden in the world to be awarded a UNESCO Heritage Site. The APZ AGM will also be held during this weekend. Details to be released as available. Programme and event subject to change depending on the pandemic

UK Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire

5th June 2022

Garden Party at Paul and Val's home in North Wales. Contact: [Tim Hodges](#)

UK Wessex

10th June 2022

Dinner at the Guildhall Lounge, Poole where we will be enjoying a French themed menu and wines to match. Contact: [Isabel Sinclair](#)

Looking ahead to EAZ and other Zone festivals later in the year:

UK Newcastle upon Tyne

15th to 19th September 2022

Plans are afoot for a visit to Newcastle upon Tyne in September incorporating the AGM and Members Forum. 2022 is a big year in the northeast. Hadrian's Wall is celebrating 1900 years since the first stone was laid and the Lindisfarne Gospels are visiting from the British Museum. We hope to visit both. Details will be available in the next few weeks. Keep this weekend clear in your diary.

USA Washington DC

12th to 15th October 2022

The Americas next Great Weekend takes you to the Nation's Capital. October is a perfect time to visit, when the weather is wonderful and the tourists have mostly gone. Guests will be staying at the Five-Star historic Willard Hotel, enjoying some of the major sites, as well as dining at the finest restaurants in DC. More details will be sent out in April. Do join us.