



the *IW&FS* Grapevine

IWFS INTERNATIONAL NEWS
FEBRUARY 2019



OUR 85TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

2018 – what a year of celebration for the Society. Here is just a taster of the 85th Anniversary events held around the world last year by 17 branches in all three zones. Full reports will be in your forthcoming zone magazines.

The judging will take place before the APZ festival in Auckland, New Zealand, on 8 March and the winner will be announced shortly afterwards.



July 30th: The **Manchester**, UK branch launched the season of celebrations and chose one of the city's latest "destination" restaurants, **20 Stories** with renowned chef Aiden Byrne.

Around 50 members and guests enjoyed a memorable dinner combined with a selection of wines from the **Waterkloof** estate in South Africa, star project of Mancunian Paul Boutinot, whose son Louis was present to introduce the wines.

August 10th: The next stop was way south in **The Northern Club** in **Auckland**, New Zealand - where members met for a "scrumptious" five-course dinner including **La Pedrix au Choux** (partridge or quail with cabbage) following the original Alsatian recipe, served at the lunch in 1933. Members enjoyed live music, a guest speaker from the influential **WineGuy.co.nz** and were surrounded by fine art from the **Fletcher Trust Collection** displaying a sweep of New Zealand's art history.



OUR BRANCHES PHUKET, THAILAND

With 17 founding members and under the leadership of Paolo Nesi, our new Phuket branch held its opening dinner at 9th Floor Restaurant in Phuket on January 24. It was a fabulous night with some great seafood dishes matched to a Champagne theme, looking at the full range of Nicolas Feuillatte cuvées.

The branch has decided that each event will include a strong educational component so we all enjoyed a Champagne 101 lecture prior to the dinner.



This is a branch of members who are really serious about their food and wine, including many cooks and wine educators. They are also planning to have a whole lot of fun! Congratulations to everyone involved in setting up this superb new branch.

Continued on Pages 4 & 5



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Congratulations to all the branches around the world that put on such a tremendous array of 85th Anniversary events. The seventeen branches whose events are described in this issue have entered our competition. A special prize will be awarded to the branch which is considered to have put on the most imaginative event. I think that André Simon would have been proud of the way in which we celebrated the magic of fine food, wine and friends in the true spirit of the Society which he founded 85 years ago.



Felicity and I are looking forward to our first visit to New Zealand in a couple of weeks' time. We will join the pre-festival tour based in Napier, the principal town in the Hawke's Bay wine region and then go to Auckland where I shall chair a meeting of the International Council.

Andrew Jones Chairman,
International Council of Management (ICM)

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME...

This year's monograph focusses on the fragrant world of "spices". Award-winning food author, Jill Norman, will review many of the leading spices, defined by flavour and aroma, looking at how they are used in modern dishes around the world. It is due for release in July.



2019 VINTAGE APP

Specially for members, the latest version of our Vintage App is now ready to download, just click on one of the following links, according to your zone:

[Americas](#), [Europe Africa](#), [Asia Pacific](#)

You will be able to view the latest vintage assessments and updated drinkability for past vintages. For those of you who are not yet converted please take a look. Once downloaded onto your phone or tablet, it will be like having a personal sommelier at your side - you can view which wine and vintage to drink from your cellar, or when out to dinner check out which vintage is best. The advice will be there in an instant - you won't look back!



SOCIETY MERCHANDISE

A reminder of the popular items of branded merchandise available to add that professional touch to your branch event or for your own personal use. These are available to purchase from your zones and include (left to right, top to bottom):

DropSavers (packs of 3)

Make pouring wine at tastings a breeze with these.

Blind Tasting Bottle Kits

Embroidered bottle bags to raise the praise at any blind tasting.

Medallions

Always a favourite amongst members

Lapel pins

A small, but smart, way to show you are a Society member

Neoprene bottle bags (1 or 2 bts)

Transport your wine in style.



IWFS International Council of Management (ICM)



CHAIRMAN:

Andrew Jones
(Cayman Islands & New York)



TREASURER:

Dwight Catherwood
(Los Angeles, USA)



COUNCIL MEMBER & GLOBAL BRANCH AMBASSADOR:

Yvonne Wallis
(Victoria, Australia)



COUNCIL MEMBER:

Ian Nicol
(Blackpool & Fylde Coast, UK)



COUNCIL MEMBER:

John Nicholas
(Zurich, Switzerland)



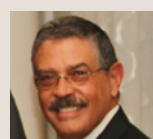
COUNCIL MEMBER:

Mike Donohoe
(Houston & Santa Fe, USA)



COUNCIL MEMBER:

James Lin
(Taipei, Taiwan ROC)



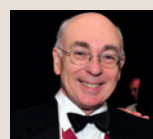
COUNCIL MEMBER:

Antonio Escudero-Viera
(Puerto Rico, USA)



HONORARY PRESIDENT:

Dave Felton
(Pasadena, USA)



SECRETARY:

Michael Messent
(Wessex, UK)



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT:

Andrea Warren
(London, UK)

ZONE NEWS



AMERICAS CHAIR: Mike Donohoe

By the time you read this Grapevine, the Americas will be in the midst of winter, but eagerly anticipating the emergence of spring. Our next directors meeting will be held in Houston in April. In early June 100+ members worldwide will climb aboard a Uniworld vessel

which has been reserved in its entirety for the IWFS, transporting us up and down the Portugal's Douro River; following a few days of acclimatizing in Lisbon. A new branch in the Hudson Valley of New York was welcomed into the Americas in December. We are excited to have them.



ASIA PACIFIC CHAIR: James Lin

Preparations look fabulous for our upcoming festival in NZ, with some terrific plans for our time in Auckland, Hawke's Bay and Central Otago. Lots of action in Thailand with the opening dinner of our new Phuket Branch held in January, and the re-launch of our Bangkok branch set for April. Congratulations to all those branches who held a special event to celebrate the Society's 85th anniversary - we saw some spectacular events.



EUROPE AFRICA CHAIR: Ian Nicol

Our Zone looked back on a very busy year with the London Festival and 85th Anniversary events. Already Bordeaux is waitlisted and a great deal of interest is being shown in the Valencia Great Weekend in October, booking soon to be released. Renewed interest in new branches in Budapest and Munich shows that the values of the Society transcends political issues such as Brexit in Europe.

HONORARY PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS



I was gifted an interesting book from my son over the holidays - "Godforsaken Grapes", by Jason Wilson. As its name implies, the author tastes and investigates wines made from grapes that generally are not on our radar. We may love our cabs, pinots & syrahs, and our chards & sauvy blancs. But how often do we venture out to taste wines made from the other 1400 or so varieties? Yikes! That many?

You may know that Mitsuko & I bought a little vineyard in Argentina, where we're growing malbec grapes. Is that a grape usually found off the beaten path? Well, no. Malbec is one of the original five blending grapes of Bordeaux. So, I'm not really stepping outside the mainstream with our little venture. But I've been enticed. We travel. So we will begin looking for and tasting some of these many godforsaken grapes. How about you?

Dave Felton Honorary President

OUR AWARDS

Peter McGahey (Herefordshire & Monmouthshire) was awarded the André Simon Bronze award on Thursday 13 December at the branch Christmas Dinner at Glewstone Court Country House Hotel near Ross-on-Wye. Peter was presented with the award for his services to the EAZ Committee with which he has been involved for over ten years in total as well as serving as Chairman and Secretary of his branch. A well deserved award.



Ian Nicol & Peter McGahey

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

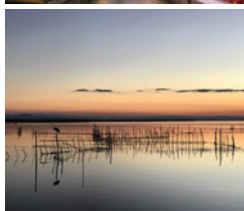
Valencia, Spain

OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2019

Members are invited to experience the variety of Valencia on this EAZ Great Weekend and AGM event. Members will get the chance to soak up the local culture and enjoy the delicious food and wine of the region - dining out (Michelin star style), touring the Central Market in the Old Town, visiting a local winery, getting a taste of the traditional Valencian meats and tapas paired with regional wines plus taking a boat tour around the rice fields.

The EAZ AGM and Members Forum will take place on the Sunday but there is plenty to explore in the city for those not attending.

[Click here](#) to find out more or email Stephanie.Shepherd@eaz.org to register your interest.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



AUCKLAND (NZ), 8-10 MARCH 2019

The 2019 APZ AGM Weekend will be held in Auckland, with a pre-tour to Napier, North Island and a post-tour to the fabulous Queenstown in the Central Otago wine region South Island. [Click here](#) to see our itinerary.

BORDEAUX (FRANCE), 4-8 JUNE 2019

Visits to chateaux in Pessac-Léognan, Pauillac, Margaux and St-Emilion are amongst those on the itinerary to this classic region. This event is now sold out. [Click here](#) to see the details and email eaz@iwfs.org to be placed on the wait list.

DOURO RIVER CRUISE (PORTUGAL), 9-16 JUNE 2019

A wonderful cruise, being run by the Americas, is taking members along this major river on the Iberian peninsula, designated as a World Heritage Site. There is also a pre-tour to the Portuguese capital city of Lisbon - one of the oldest cities in the world. A popular event which is sold out.

VALENCIA (SPAIN), OCTOBER 4-6 2019

An EAZ Great Weekend plus our AGM and Members' Forum. All members are invited to experience the cultural and culinary delights of this coastal city port. To find out more, see "Upcoming Festivals" below or [click here](#) to go to the website.

CHARLESTON (AMERICA), 16-19 OCTOBER 2019

Join the Americas in Charleston, South Carolina - one of the US top destination cities. Events include a tour of where the first shot rang out that started the Civil War, Fort Sumter and a not to be missed southern mansion visit and more. The best Southern Cuisine will be perfectly paired with world-class wines. Visit our [website](#) to find out more.

BORDEAUX (FRANCE), 19-25 APRIL 2020

The Americas are also planning a trip to Bordeaux in April 2020 including a pre-tour in Paris. Details to be sent out when available. These events will be open to all members.

CAMBRIDGE (UK), 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2020

An EAZ Great Weekend (plus our AGM and Members' Forum). All members are invited to join us visiting this historic city, dining in two of the University's historic Colleges. We plan to spend a full day visiting Ely to explore the historic cathedral and the stained glass museum. Further details to follow.

MADEIRA (PORTUGAL), 1-7 NOVEMBER 2020

The Europe Africa Zone is planning an event to this historic winemaking island and you will have the chance to taste Sercial, Verdelho, Bual and Malmsey on home ground. More details as they become available.

HONG KONG 10-13 NOVEMBER 2020

The Asia Pacific Zone is planning a wonderful festival in Hong Kong open to all members. There will be a Macau pre-tour from 8-9 November and a Gourmet HK post-tour from 15-16 November. Stay tuned for further details.

TRIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, ARGENTINA, OCTOBER 2021

Although still in the planning stage, mark this month in your calendar for a true South American experience enjoying the culture and energy of Buenos Aires for a pre-tour and then visiting the wonderful wine region of Mendoza for the main festival.

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



OUR 85TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



September 18th: The **Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire**, UK branch, celebrated with a 1930's themed lunch at a popular venue, *Next Door in Frodsham*, together with members invited from the Manchester branch. They replicated the inaugural Society menu, as near as possible and served Alsatian wines. The organiser, Paul Bishop, produced menus and place settings in the design of the era and members were invited to dress in the fashion of the 1930s.



November 5th: The **Pasadena**, USA branch chose the *Athenaeum*, Caltech's famous faculty club and the US home to Albert Einstein as well as dozens of other Nobel laureates, as their venue. Dinner was held in the Club's most magnificent wood-panelled main lounge. Thinking "big" members toasted André Simon with a Salmanazar of Pommery Champagne - the house André had represented for 30 years. Dave Felton, the Society's Honorary President, gave a brief history of the Society and their dinner concluded with a luscious Rare Wine Company Historic Series New York Malmsey.



November 10th: **Puerto Rico**, USA's event was "A Night at the Museum" theme at the restaurant *Ariel*, in Miramar, with a painting from a different Puerto Rican artist on each table. The 60+ diners, including a number of past branch Presidents, enjoyed fine food and wines - with one wine in particular, *Chateau Haut Brion 1989*, giving that extra something to such a special evening.



November 11th: With events continuing in the USA, the **Houston** chapter gathered at *Etoile Restaurant* for a French themed luncheon inspired by the founding event. Being the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I, they invited the guests to raise a glass to the many veterans in their company. Linda Jackson, past President read the Grace and Toast from a signed copy of "By Request", an autobiography by André Simon, which she received from Joy Fontes-Rothwell one of the first female members of the Society.



November 13th*: **London** and **St James's (London)**, UK branches joined forces for an Alsace themed evening at the *Livery Hall of the Worshipful Company of Innholders*, an historic building in the City of London on a site first developed as a livery hall in 1473. The menu was prepared by Herbert Berger (past winner of three Michelin stars), and matched with wines which honoured the Society's inaugural lunch, including the *Gugelhof* shown here, but with a 21st century twist. The reception wine was generously donated by *Dopff au Moulin*.



November 14th*: The **Blackpool & Fylde Coast, Liverpool, Manchester** and **West Yorkshire**, UK branches hosted an event in the "north" at the *Northcote*, on the actual anniversary date with five courses based on the original menu, but brought up-to-date by Northcote's Michelin starred executive chef Lisa Goodwin-Allen.

*Guest of honour at the London and Northern branches events was David Ling, Grand Conseiller International and former Grand Master of the *Confrerie de St Etienne d'Alsace* and Alsace consultant for the IWFS Wines Committee who talked about the wines served each evening.

November 14th: Later on the same day, but in a different time zone, the anniversary was celebrated by the **Cayman Islands** branch. A superb evening was held at *Blue by Eric Ripert* which graciously opened earlier than scheduled so that the event could be held on this special day. Eric Ripert was present to supervise a specially designed menu. Andrew Jones spoke about the inaugural lunch and the Society's early history. The evening concluded with a *Campanario Boal 1933*, an 85-year old Madeira for an 85th Anniversary dinner.



November 17th: **Jacksonville's**, USA, 85th event focused on a bountiful "farm to table" inspired menu. The evening was held at the city's prestigious dining venue *The River Club* which offered guests stunning views of the skyline while enjoying their meal. Some members and guests travelled from as far afield as Sonoma, CA and Huntsville, AL to take part in this special black tie celebration.



OUR 85TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



November 18th: Council Bluffs, USA – the attention to detail for this event was outstanding and contained elements of the Society's inaugural lunch at the Café Royal and the first dinner held at The Savoy Hotel in January 1934. The venue, Le Bouillon, was French. Ladies were encouraged to wear 1930's era dresses and accessories. The menu was a modern adaptation of the 1933 Alsatian lunch. An eight page commemorative brochure was produced, covering many aspects of the Society's founders, including André's 90th birthday address which was even played on the evening. One added aspect of the evening was a sit down Madeira tasting, finishing with a D'Oliveira Verdelho 1932. The simple, but elegant table decorations set the scene and the final touch of authenticity was black and white photographs of the event.



November 24th: The Helsinki, Finland branch's celebrations were in true Finnish tradition, marking the occasion by treating members to both favourite local dishes and the music of their famous composer and violinist, Jean Sibelius. The dishes included Kurnik wedding pastry (Osborne Manzanilla Sherry) and finishing with Jasnaja Poljanan apple pie (Puklus Pincészet Tokaji Aszú 5 Puttonyos 2013). A celebration of two masters - André Simon and Jean Sibelius.



November 26th: Perth, Australia branch, hosted a "Great Gatsby" event at the magnificent Montgomery House. An elaborate invitation and booklet was produced, putting into context the world scene in 1933. Plus an exclusive selection of wines was provided from the last eight decades, including a 1933 Seppelt Para "port". A truly spectacular evening with members in period dress and the room adorned with peacock feather boas floating above golden champagne bottles – in true "Gatsby" style.



November 30th: Greater Omaha, USA branch gathered at the Omaha Country Club which was beautifully decorated and delightful piano music added greatly to the celebration. Wines from Austria and France complemented the delicious food prepared by chef Aleksey Shalev. Jeff Deeths, past Society Chairman, gave an overview of André Simon's philosophy of wine and food and then led the guests in a toast to the 85th anniversary of the Society.



December 11th: Montreal, Canada branch held their event at the Mount Royal Club which was established in 1899 and is still a meeting place for well know Centenary Families such as the Molsons, Mulroneys etc. The menu served was quite typical for a cold winter evening as would have been enjoyed 85 years ago.



December 2nd: The many aspects of the Boston, USA branch's 85th event lead it to be commended by some as one of the best Society events they had ever attended. This included the sumptuous décor, embossed handmade bound booklets and guests wearing finery reminiscent of the period.

The first three events of the Society were included in the evening - soup paired with Madeira (Madeira tasting), La Perdrix au Choux (inaugural luncheon) and red wines from "The Continent" (the third event).

An exceptional touch to this event has to be the skit performed on the evening where members role played the "conception" of André's idea for a wine and food society - featuring André Simon, Lady Swaythling, Professor Armstrong and AJA Symons. Flubbed lines and clever ad libs meant the players and audience alike thoroughly enjoyed the comedy sketch.



December 15th: The celebrations ended in Spokane, USA where an elegant evening was held in the beautiful old library of the Spokane Club. Special attention was given to the décor, dinner and wines for the evening. Spokane was one of several branches to serve Dopff & Irion's Cremant d'Alsace. The Branch President gave a brief history of the Society and read the opening remarks made by André Simon at the first meeting in 1933. All present were thrilled with the evening and pleased to celebrate the magic of fine food, wine and friends in the true spirit of the Society.

A huge thank you to the many members who have committed so much of their time into putting on these wonderful events.



OUR IWFS BRANCHES 138 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE

AMERICAS (80)

CANADA

ALBERTA - Edmonton

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver
Victoria

ONTARIO

Kitchener-Waterloo
Niagara
Oakville
Toronto

QUEBEC - Montreal

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Cayman Islands

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican Republic

MEXICO

Tecate
Tijuana

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ALABAMA - Birmingham

ALASKA - Anchorage

ARIZONA

Paradise Valley
Phoenix
Tucson

CALIFORNIA

Chula Vista
Coachella Valley
East Bay
Hollywood
La Jolla
Laguna Beach
Los Angeles
Marin County
Monterey Peninsula
Napa Valley
Orange County
Pasadena
Physicians Of Los Angeles
Rancho Santa Fe
Riverside
Sacramento-San Joaquin
San Fernando Valley
Santa Barbara
Southern California

FLORIDA

Boca Raton
Jacksonville
Miami
Naples
Palm Beach

GEORGIA - Atlanta

HAWAII - Honolulu

ILLINOIS - Chicago

INDIANA - Indianapolis

IOWA

Council Bluffs
Okoboji

LOUISIANA - New Orleans

MARYLAND - Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston
Central Massachusetts

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis/St Paul
Rochester

MISSOURI - Kansas City

MONTANA - Bozeman

NEBRASKA

Greater Omaha
Norfolk
Omaha

NEVADA

Lake Tahoe
Reno

NEW MEXICO - Santa Fe

NEW YORK

Buffalo
Hudson Valley
Long Island
New York

OHIO - Cleveland

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Central

PENNSYLVANIA

Bucks County
Philadelphia
York

PUERTO RICO - San Juan

SOUTH CAROLINA - Aiken

TENNESSEE - Memphis

TEXAS

Austin
Dallas
Fort Worth
Houston
Northeast Texas

WASHINGTON - Spokane

WASHINGTON DC
Washington DC

ASIA PACIFIC (32)

AUSTRALIA

Margaret River
New South Wales
Victoria
Western Australia

CHINA

Beijing City
Chaoyang District (Beijing)
Shanghai

HONG KONG

Hong Kong

INDIA

Bombay
Delhi

INDONESIA

 - Jakarta

JAPAN

Jiyugaoka
Roppongi
Tokyo
Tokyo Bay

MALAYSIA

Ipoh
Kuala Lumpur
Penang

NEW ZEALAND

 - Auckland

PHILIPPINES

Cebu
Manila Ladies
Philippines

SINGAPORE

 - Singapore

SOUTH KOREA

Decanting Soul
Seoul

TAIWAN R.O.C.

Kaohsiung
Taichung
Taipei
Taiwan Belle

THAILAND

Bangkok
Phuket

VIETNAM

 - Saigon

EUROPE AFRICA (26)

ESTONIA - Tallinn

FINLAND - Helsinki

NORWAY - Oslo

RUSSIA - Moscow

SOUTH AFRICA - Cape Town

SPAIN - Valencia

SWEDEN - Malmö

SWITZERLAND - Zurich

UNITED KINGDOM

Bath & Bristol
Berkshire
Blackpool & Fylde Coast
Devonshire
Herefordshire & Monmouthshire
Leicester
Liverpool
London
St James's (London)
Manchester
Merseyside & Mid-Cheshire
Northampton
Surrey Hills
Sussex
Wessex
West Yorkshire

ZAMBIA - Lusaka

ZIMBABWE - Harare

For more information or
to contact a branch, visit

WWW.IWFS.ORG



@IWFSGlobal

Follow us on Twitter for
Society news, updates on
special member benefits
or news about events
happening further afield.



INTERNATIONAL WINE & FOOD SOCIETY

International Secretariat
Andrea Warren
sec@iwfs.org

Americas
Rose Clemson
admin.americas@iwfs.org

Asia Pacific
Amber Dowling
apz@iwfs.org

Europe Africa
Margaret Chippendale
eazmembership@outlook.com

