

News from the Tasting Room

Wine... always the perfect gift. This holiday season make a visit to the Wildhurst Vineyards Tasting Room your top priority. You'll find all your holiday favorites, including ideal glassware and accessories to showcase your favorite Wildhurst wines. Fun "whine" quotes on cocktail napkins and wood signs, bottle tags and bags for gift giving, and table linens and candles for home entertaining are featured.

With complimentary wine tasting, Wildhurst is the perfect place to bring all your holiday guests. Friendly people and great wines will make your visit even more enjoyable. Tasting Room staff - Sara Brown, Lynn Rue, Ray Schwatka, Katee White, and Shirley Malone - will help you build your own basket with

gourmet foods and your favorite wines. While in Kelseyville, plan on spending extra time to see what's new in town, take lunch at Studebakers Deli, or have dinner at the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro.

A party planning tip: we're often asked "How much wine will I need?" On average, you will serve one glass of wine every 45 minutes. That's about 3-4 glasses per person for a 3-hour event.

Enjoy the holidays - we look forward to seeing you in the Tasting Room!

Valerie Ramirez
Tasting Room Manager



Lake County Model A's visit Kelseyville.

"Girls Just Wanna Have Wine"

Our wildly popular "Girls Just Wanna Have Wine" event on Friday, November 9 was a huge success. Over 80 women celebrated friendships and the pleasure of sipping great wine together. Guests came wearing either red or white to support their favorite wine.



Winners of the special awards were Nell Shaul, "best glam-fab look," Christie Otto, "best vintage look," and Susan Baylis, "most creative."

Wildhurst plans this special gathering for women two times a year, in the spring and the fall. For next time, invite your girlfriends or your mother, sister, or daughter and celebrate a Girls Night Out with us.

Hawaiian Harvest Party



❧ *Happy Holidays from the Wildhurst Family* ❧

Wildhurst Recognizes Key Employees

Wildhurst is marking its fifteen-year anniversary of existence and we would like to recognize three key employees who have done so much to contribute to our success.

Mark Burch

Mark showed up on our doorstep in 1997 saying that he could take time away from Kendall-Jackson in Lakeport to work part time for us. We said, "This is going to be a real test because you'll be making wine in the pear packing shed." He convinced us it could be done, and in 1998 we built our present cellar and Mark came to work full time. Today, there is no packing shed and we are using the former cold storage building for storing barrels and case goods.

Now, on Mark's tenth anniversary, he is responsible for production and quality control and working with custom clients. He does it ALL, from training cellar employees, to planning the bottling, ordering the packaging, and sourcing outside grapes. Plus, he



makes the wines!

Mark is recognized in the Lake County winemaking community as the trend-setter for Lake County Sauvignon Blanc. In 2005, he supervised the production and bottling of 75,000 cases of wine from 20 different lots and varieties. His greatest achievement has been continuously improving the quality and presentation of Wildhurst and Lake County wines to the wine industry. Congratulations, Mark!



Pam Irwin

Six years ago, Pam applied for our Office Manager position on the recommendation of a friend. She said that she had worked in a dentist's office, but would like to give this a try. Today, Pam is responsible for all financial reports and works closely with vendors and wine distributors as well as handling the day-to-day bookkeeping and compliance. Pam also is the Briarcliff Wine Group bookkeeper and does all the invoicing and shipping of the national sales for Wildhurst and Carneros Creek brands.... all a far cry from "the dentist's office."



We want to especially recognize Pam for completing her Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Pacific Union College while working full time. During the past five years, starting with Mendocino College courses and finishing with two years of weekly classes at Angwin, Pam diligently pursued her goal of getting her degree. Congratulations, Pam!

Valerie Ramirez

After operating her own clothing shop in Kelseyville, Valerie said, "I don't know much about wine, but I would like to learn," when she applied for a Tasting Room job. Today, she is completing seven years with Wildhurst and has been Tasting Room Manager for the past five years. Valerie represents Wildhurst to the public and projects



the personality of Wildhurst to the community. The appearance and presentation in the Tasting Room is a reflection of her good taste.

Valerie has been active in the community, serving on the Kelseyville Unified School Board of Trustees for six years. She is a committee member for the Lake County Wine Alliance, which annually presents the major wine industry fundraising charity benefit every October. Valerie also is the treasurer-elect for the Kelseyville Business Association. Congratulations, Valerie!

We are very grateful to Mark, Pam, and Valerie for their dedication and their loyalty to Wildhurst and ourselves. Most of all, we appreciate them as good friends.

Myron and Marilyn Holdenried

Special Events

February 9, 2008

Annual Valentine's Day Winemaker Dinner

Wine Club members and guests are invited; call the Tasting Room, 707-279-4302, for information and reservations.

February 16, 2008

2nd Annual Wine & Chocolate

Benefit for the Lake Family Resource Center Domestic Violence Family Shelter, Mt. Konocti Growers, Noon-4 p.m. Featuring premium Lake County wines and gourmet chocolates; music; wine country lunch; \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. Call 707-262-1611 for information.



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🌿 Reflections on the Lake County Wine Auction 🌿

I'm new to Lake County, and I must admit I wasn't sure what to expect from the Lake County Wine Alliance auction. Valerie asked my husband and me to pour for Wildhurst and I was worried there wouldn't be enough food to keep my husband happy wearing a suit for the evening. I have to say with all honesty that I had some trepidation about it for myself. Having to work in high heels and fake lashes, even for charity, is a dreadful idea.

Wow, fear not...it was so much fun! Wildhurst was one of the 21 participating wineries, along with 14 local restaurants. It was a party, not a stuffy fundraiser. Everyone is dressed up and you get to see the people you recognize from the bank and the grocery store in a whole new light. With each winery pouring at least 2 of their varietals, I'm glad I planned on a designated driver. The food was

awesome and beyond plentiful. The restaurants provided a large selection of cuisines, from sushi to barbeque. It was a pleasure to be a part of this event because it was not only fun, but also very important to this community.



The auction raised over \$90,000 for local community organizations and programs. Meals on Wheels, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Fine Arts Education Programs at five Lake County high schools are just a few of the auction's beneficiaries. The evening

event is truly focused on helping Lake County organizations, and I am proud to be a part of the Wildhurst Team for its contributions. Wildhurst donated wine and time, as well as a "Barn Dinner" with Myron, Marilyn, and Mark that fetched top dollar from a special bidder. All proceeds from the event are put straight back into this community.

So you have a lot of wine, food, and dancing...all for a great cause! When the auction is over, the dance party begins and you get to see your boss dance to James Brown.

The event was held on October 20 at the Buckingham Golf Course. For information about attending future Lake County Wine Auctions, please call the Wildhurst Tasting Room at 707-279-4302.

Sara Brown
Assistant Tasting Room Manager