



MONTAGE RESORT & SPA EXPANDS ITS WEEKLY WINE SEMINARS

Weekly Seminars Held on Sunday Afternoons at The Loft Bistro

- WHO:** All wine lovers welcome, open to the public.
- WHAT:** *THE ARTISTRY OF WINE* is an exciting new wine education series that features tastings of different varietals and vintages from wine regions around the world. Seminars and tastings led by Montage sommeliers and prominent winemakers focus on wines from “Italian Super-Tuscans” to “The Wines of South Africa” and “New World Blends”. Also includes a session showcasing “Beer – Handcrafted Artisan Masterpieces”.
A program calendar is attached.
- WHEN:** Sundays, October 1 through April 29, 2006 (except holidays)
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.
- WHERE:** The Loft Bistro at Montage Resort & Spa
30801 South Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, CA
- WHY:** Montage Wine Director Christopher Coon and his team of wine-loving sommeliers wanted to share their enthusiasm for wine knowledge and tasting with locals and hotel guests in a relaxed comfortable environment during leisurely Sunday afternoons.
- HOW:** To reserve a seat, please call 949-715-6420. Price per person, \$25. Space is limited.

- more -

OCTOBER 1

Sonoma Chardonnay – The Best of the Best

Flowers ~ Gary Farrell ~ Hanzell ~ Kistler ~ Ramey

Some of the biggest names in Chardonnay come from Sonoma. The perfect combination of cool nights, long sunny days and meager soils makes this a premier area for growing the king of white wines.

OCTOBER 8

Zinfandel – An American Immigrant

Rafanelli ~ Highlands ~ Ridge ~ Ravenswood ~ Bourassa Vineyards

Zinfandel is a uniquely American grape with roots as deep as the vines themselves. Allow us to showcase some of the finest examples, crafted in the hills of California.

OCTOBER 15

Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Rutherford ~ Stag's Leap ~ Oakville ~ Spring Mountain

In the eyes of the world, Napa Valley has a special place of respect. This was the first New World wine region to take on the French, and in many ways, win. Taste incredible wines from the place that started the New World wine revolution.

OCTOBER 22

New Zealand – Not Just Sauvignon Blanc

Hawkes Bay ~ Martinborough ~ Marlborough ~ Central Otago

The world's southernmost winemakers reinvented this classic white wine and secured themselves a global reputation. Join us and taste what other wines they proudly produce. You will be pleasantly surprised.

OCTOBER 29

Champagne – Taste All the Styles

Brut ~ Rosé ~ Blanc de Blancs ~ Blanc de Noirs ~ Extra Dry ~ Demi-Sec

The whole world is looking for single grape, single vineyard, single vintage wines, and Champagne doesn't care. They produce mostly blends of three different grapes, from different villages and from different years. Come taste the full spectrum of styles from this timeless wine region and learn a little about what's in their bottles.

NOVEMBER 5

Bordeaux – Finding the Everyday Value Wines

Haut-Médoc ~ Lustrac-Médoc ~ Moulis ~ Côtes-de-Castillon

It's easy to find the blue chips, the well-known and respected wines from this revered patch of French ground. But, what if you want to find something that isn't well-known. Consider some very good wines that won't cost you a small fortune.

NOVEMBER 12

Blind Tasting – Listening to the Wine

You really never learn more from a wine than you do when “blind tasting”. This means to taste without knowing what the wine is. Grape variety, producer reputation, price, etc. all act to sway our opinions even before we take the first sip. Come see if wine tastes the same way when you can’t see the label.

NOVEMBER 19

Australian Shiraz – All the Fruit and Spice You Can Handle

Penfolds ~ Marquis Philips ~ Majella ~ Rockford ~ d’Arenberg

Most of a wine region’s best wines are the ones you rarely see. Try these lesserknown gems that redefine “full bodied”.

NOVEMBER 26

New World Blends

De Lille Cellars ~ Bacio Divino ~ Veraison ~ Col Solare ~ Tablas Creek

Most of the finest wines in the Old World are made of carefully constructed blends, each grape lending an essential element to the finished masterpiece. Come discover a New World approach to Old World style.

DECEMBER 3

Spanish Reds – New Wines from Old Vines

Rioja ~ Priorato ~ Ribera del Duero ~ Toro

Modern techniques, new winemaking talent and seriously old vines combine to make Spain the country to watch over the next several years.

DECEMBER 17

Port – Velvety, Sweet Goodness in a Glass

Taylor Fladgate ~ Dow’s ~ Broadbent ~ Ferreira ~ Graham’s

On a brisk winter’s night, what could warm your body and spirit better than a glass of Port? Taste five great Port houses and see why this incredible wine never really goes out of fashion.

JANUARY 7

Sparkling Wines – Bubbles, Bubbles Everywhere

Whether it’s the romance, the tickle of the bubbles or just the taste, the entire world is in love with sparkling wines. Virtually every country in the wine-producing world makes its own version. Delight in an assortment of sparkling wines from Champagne to Tasmania.

JANUARY 14

Washington vs. Napa – Merlot Shootout

With its ripe fruit, appealing aromas and creamy texture, Merlot will never really be out of fashion. But who makes the best? Taste some great wines from two benchmark regions and decide for yourself.

JANUARY 21

Blind Pinot Noir Tasting – Which is Your Favorite... Really?

Pinot Noir is enjoying some amazing popularity, and it couldn't have happened to a nicer grape. What region makes your favorite Pinot Noir? Try versions of this incredible grape from some of the most noted wine producing regions.

JANUARY 28

New Zealand, Not Just Sauvignon Blanc

Yes, the New Zealanders built their wine reputation on producing vibrant and distinctive Sauvignon Blanc. But, are there more wines coming from this magical destination? Try some shockingly good wines that have nothing to do with Sauvignon Blanc.

FEBRUARY 4

Bordeaux-Style Blends – Taste the Building Blocks

The term Meritage comes from two root words: merit and heritage. Merit because it's one of the best wines from the producer and heritage because the wine is made in the Bordeaux tradition from only Bordelaise grape varieties. Sample what these varieties taste like on their own.

FEBRUARY 11

Wines with Dessert, Classic Wines for Chocolate

Many dessert wines are actually desserts unto themselves and should be enjoyed separately to experience all the wine's intensity. Some, however, are absolutely perfect with chocolate. Explore some beautiful wines that pair wonderfully with the world's most favorite food.

FEBRUARY 18

Little-Known Wine Regions of the United States

There are 50 states in the U.S. and wine is produced in 40 of them. Taste what the United States has to offer outside of California, Oregon and Washington. You will be amazed.

FEBRUARY 25

Northeastern Italy – Vibrant Whites and Juicy Reds

From the fragrant and crisp Tocai Friulano in Collio to the ripe and heady Amarone della Valpolicella of Veneto, few wine regions show as much diversity as northeastern Italy. Enjoy some classics as well as some little-known wines and rediscover the charm of Italian wine.

MARCH 4

South America – What’s Happening Down There?

Chile has the reputation of making the finest wines of South America. However, a few Argentinean estates set the wine standard for the entire continent. Explore this incredible region and discover some new favorites.

MARCH 11

Sauvignon Blanc, the Other White Grape

A few places in the world turn Sauvignon Blanc into art itself. Taste wines from France, Italy, South Africa and New Zealand, and see the difference location can make.

MARCH 18

The Subregions of Napa – Location, Location, Location

Napa has the distinction of being California’s premier wine producing region. What characterizes Carneros from Stag’s Leap, Rutherford from Howell Mountain? Come sip through the valley and see what distinguishes one subregion from another.

MARCH 25

Australia, More Than Just Shiraz

The land down under produces more than just Syrah on steroids. The vast country of Australia also produces fragrant whites, earthy reds and sticky-sweet dessert wines, and everything in between. Try some incredible selections from Australia that you might never find elsewhere.

APRIL 1

Napa vs. Sonoma – Chardonnay Shootout

Chardonnay is the king of white wines representing the lion’s share of white wine sales in the U.S. But, where does the best U.S. Chardonnay come from? Is it from the cooler more rural Sonoma Valley or the more developed world-famous Napa Valley? Taste and decide for yourself.

APRIL 8

Food and Wine Pairing – Things That Make You Go Oooh

Good food and good wine don’t always play nice together. Join us to see how food flavors and wine interact – be ready for your next dinner party.

APRIL 15

Blind Tasting Game – Test Your Palate

Come discover what classic grape varieties from classic places taste like. Then, put your new skills to the test by tasting four wines. Tell us what they are, where they’re from and when they were made. Maybe the most fun you’ll ever have taking a test.

APRIL 22

Stars of the Central Coast

The Central Coast is quickly emerging as a diverse wine producing region with strengths in its Burgundian and Rhône-style wines. Taste some choices from up-and-coming producers that will be making headlines for years to come.

APRIL 29

Oregon, More Than Just Pinot Noir

Oregon is famous for Pinot Noir that has the ripeness of California and the structure and earthiness of Burgundy. But, what else do they produce? You decide if they are a one-hit wonder or if Pinot is just the tip of the iceberg.

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