



August 2017



Hello Friends of Democracy!

You've no doubt heard the phrase "the dog days of August", commonly assumed to refer to the hot, sultry weather and evocative images of poor pooches panting in the shade. In reality, "dog days" goes back to the ancient Greeks and Romans who associated this time of year with the rising of the dog star, Sirius. So, what does all this have to do with wine? Not much. But, August 26 is National Dog Day in the U.S. so that seemed like a good reason to celebrate our canine Friends of Democracy at the tasting room. For details about that and other August

and September events, keep on reading!

We want to thank Lazy Days Winery, Mountain Cove Vineyards and Rebec Winery who joined us at Birth of Democracy, as well as the three wonderful musicians – Pete Farnham, Sue Harlow and Renee Ruth Peckham – who serenaded us throughout the day. We also extend our appreciation to the many vendors that turned out and to Pok-E-Joe's BBQ that supplied all manner of delicious treats for our guests. Those who were curious about the Democracy [wines] versus Trump [wines] blind tasting can find the results at the end of this newsletter.



In The Tasting Room

Music and More –

Sunday, August 6 from 2 to 5 pm Ragtop brings their classic rock, R&B and blues to the tasting room.

Saturday, August 26 we celebrate **National Dog Day** with special treats for our four footed friends and music from **2 to 4 pm** with guitarists **Gene Temple** and **Robin Tolley**.

Looking ahead

Labor Day Weekend –

- **Sunday, September 3 – 2 to 5 pm** – singer/songwriter **Paulo Franco** jams progressive country on the guitar
- **Monday, September 4 – 2 to 5 pm** - **Ragtop** returns to bid farewell to summer.

September 10 – It's **Grandparents Day!** Come on out and enjoy some golden oldies with **Ray VanWagner** for an afternoon of smooth classics from the 1940s, 50s and 60s on the keyboard from **2 to 4 pm**.

Saturday, September 30 – **Vicky Lee** entertains on the Celtic harp from **2 to 5 pm**

Sunday, October 1 – honky tonk fun with the **Free Radicals** from **2 to 4:30 pm**.

Thanks to our July musicians **Paulo Franco, Jason Burke and Bill Statin** and **The Free Radicals** and to **Sharon Cheng** a fun and relaxed conversation on mastering pairing wine with food. Thank also to **Dean Cheng**, author of *Cyber Dragon: Inside China's Information Warfare and Cyber Operations* for a very enlightening presentation on the role of China in the world and the future of U.S.-China relations.

Upcoming Festivals

Thanks to Susan Lineberry and Renee Grant for cheerfully shepherding the Augusta Wine Festival at the end of July despite some chilly weather! Catch Democracy Vineyards at the following festivals this fall and if you'd like to join the Democracy festival team, shoot us an email to democracyvineyards@att.net with "Festival Help" in the subject line.

September 16 and 17 – Stratford Hall Wine and Oyster Festival – Saturday 10 am to 6 pm; Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Tickets \$20 in advance. Enjoy wines from 14 Virginia wineries, oysters from Chesapeake Bay and Tidewater growers, arts and crafts, local and international foods, offerings from craft distilleries, live music, miniature farm animals, living history reenactors and more at the birthplace of Robert E. Lee. For more information, go to <http://www.stratfordhall.org/events/2017-wine-and-oyster-festival-2/>

September 23 – Gloucester Wine Festival at Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, Va. From 11 am to 5 pm. The festival will feature 12 wineries plus cideries, food vendors, music amidst the lovely gardens. Tickets are \$25 in advance. For more information, go to <http://gloucesterwinefestival.com/vendors/>

October 7 – Yorktown Wine Festival from Noon to 6 pm along the River Walk in historic Yorktown, Va. For tickets and other information go to <http://www.villageevents.org/>.

October 6, 7 and 8 – Mt. Vernon Wine Festival – 6 to 9 pm each evening – Savor wines from 18 Virginia wineries on the banks of the Potomac while listening to great blues music. George and Martha Washington will be on hand to welcome visitors for special evening tours of their home. Ticket pricing and other information can be found at <http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/fall-wine-festival-sunset-tour>

October 14 and 15 – Virginia Wine Festival at Oronoco Bay Park in Alexandria, Va. From noon to 6 pm. In addition to xx wineries, the festival will feature music, food trucks, gourmet local food vendors, artisans and a Virginia oyster pavilion! For ticket and other information, go to <http://virginiawinefest.com/>.

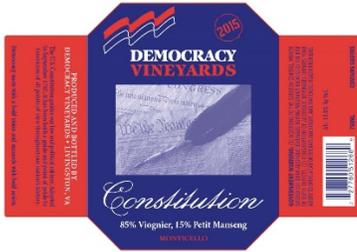
Notes from the Pairing Food with Wine Presentation – As noted above, Sharon Cheng shared her wine expertise in a fun program on July 22nd. We learned some basics such as – Do drink what you like but think about side dishes, sauces and cooking style when complementing food with wine. Acidic wines brighten food and decrease saltiness. Sweet wines soften tart foods and temper spiciness. Tannic wines will bring out salty and bitter qualities of food but are great at balancing food with some fat in it. Oaky wines enhance the richness of a dish's flavor but high alcohol wines will overpower lighter foods. Sharon also suggests that to serve wines at the best temperature, pull white wines out of the refrigerator 15 minutes before pouring and put your reds in the refrigerator for 15 minutes prior to enjoying.

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Finally, we thought you'd get a chuckle out of this lighthearted commentary that appeared in the Charlottesville Daily Progress on July 8th.

Opinion/Editorial: Make America grape again?

Google "Democracy vs. Trump," and you're likely to get a slew of websites opining on the president's perceived leadership shortcomings. (Sorry about that, MAGA fans.) But that wasn't the issue last weekend at Nelson County's Democracy Vineyards. There, as the vineyards' newsletter put it, the contest was about

Democracy (wines) vs. Trump (wines). Democracy (the vineyards) has built a history of combining cheekiness with a serious attention to politics. And, come to think of it, that's sort of like democracy (the political philosophy) — at least as practiced in America. We do tend toward political irreverence on occasion. Democracy (the vineyards) held a blind tasting competition between its wines and those of Albemarle County's Trump Winery. As of press time, we haven't been able to determine the winner. But we certainly salute the idea of a little friendly competition. Cheers!



Now, ladies and gentlemen – drum roll please! Final results from the Democracy [Wines] vs. Trump [Wines] blind tasting at the Birth of Democracy Festival. Guests were invited to taste 3 different wines from each producer [a Viognier, a Rose, and a Red Blend] disguised in non-labeled bottles - then cast their "votes" in the "ballot boxes" provided. Counting of the votes was overseen by a bipartisan panel of tasting room staff. **Democracy's wines prevailed!** – Viognier: 20 to 13; Rose: 23 to 10; Red blend: 17 to 15.

Remember to Like and Follow us on Facebook and remember – Democracy is about choices! In our case, red, white or apple wine!

Cheers! Susan & Jim