

Notes from AWS Rochester Tasting of German Wines on 6/20/09

Committee chairman Brian Thomas welcomed a large group of German Wine enthusiasts to the June meeting of the Rochester Chapter, which included more than 10% German born attendees on that evening! Brian explained that 2009 was a very appropriate year to celebrate German wines, as this year marks the 20th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the 40th anniversary of the founding of the two German republics after World War II, in 1949.

After a brief summary of German wine growing regions and classification systems, the group was challenged to identify which was the German and which was the Finger Lakes wine in a blind flight of two 2007 dry Rieslings. No one in the non-committee group was successful! Two Riesling Kabinetts were complemented with Leberwurst and German rye bread. These wines showed that Kabinett style can vary enormously depending on the level of sweetness the winemaker has chosen. A luscious Rheingau Rudesheimer Riesling Spätlese was partnered with tuna fish and cucumber hors d'oeuvres, and with an exotic Pfalz Spätlese from the Scheurebe grape we tasted a true German speciality, Angemachter. The recipe, kindly provided by Gerhard and Charlotte Klose, is reproduced below.

One Camembert, round and soft, about 10 oz.

One small onion, chopped finely
one tsp. of butter
1/4 cup of beer, preferably dark
some pepper and paprika

Break up and mix the camembert with a fork until smooth, then combine with the other ingredients. Let stand before serving on dark German bread. Enjoy!!!

Finally, two classic Riesling Auslese from the excellent 2007 vintage. German blue cheese, "Cambazola", helped open up these wonderful wines.

Wines Served

2008 Dr Loosen "L" Riesling: \$9
2007 Dr Basserman Jordan Riesling Trocken (Dry): \$16
2007 Ravines Dry Riesling: \$14
2007 Johannishof Joannisberger "V" Riesling Kabinett: \$18-20, (#2)
2006 S.A. Prüm Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett: \$19
2003 Kessler Rudesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling Spätlese: \$23, (#3)
2005 Müller Catoir Haardter Mandelring Scheurebe Spätlese: \$30 (#4)
2007 Jakoby-Mathy Kinheimer Rosenberg "Eulenlay" Riesling Auslese: \$27, #1
2007 Merkelbach Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese (1 star): \$24