On March 13, 2005 the American Wine Society – Tucson Chapter invited Joe Richie, a very experienced home winemaker to provide us with a presentation on making wine at home. Carla and Kendall Head opened their beautiful home for this event. The group brought appetizers share, which would go along with our wine tasting. The weather was great so after mingling a while we moved the meeting out onto the patio. Chairman, Bryan Barlow, started the meeting off with a thank you gift for Carla & Kendall of an oak wine tote for being our hosts, then he presented Joe Richie with a wine cozy for providing us the presentation.

Joe presented the various steps and processes for making wine. Joe had some photos and also discussed the equipment and supplies needed along with references of where to acquire them for those interested in giving winemaking a try.

Joe also brought a few of his homemade wines for us to sample. Joe said that his goal is to be able to make an equivalent $15 - $25 bottle of wine for about $5 - $10. The wines Joe provided for us were very good. There were subtle differences between the various grapes and Joe provided us with some details on how each of the bottles was produced.

Winemaking Reference Web Sites

http://winemaking.jackkeller.net Tons of information, especially on non-grape wines
http://brehmvineyards.com Large selection of premium grapes. Also has an online discussion forum. This is where Joe buys his grapes.

Winemaking Supplies

Brew Your Own Brew. 2562 N. Campbell Ave. 322-5049
Presque Isle Wine Cellers http://www.piwine.com
Morning Glory Fermentation Supply http://morninggloryfermentation.com
The Wine Lab (Napa) http://thewinelab.com. Tremendous information.
Best prices for bulk chemicals, yeast, cultures, etc.

Winemaking Books

* The Complete Handbook of Winemaking. American Wine Society
* The Home Winemakers Manual. Lum Eisenman.
* http://home.att.net/~lumeisenman/index.htl (online PDF format)
* Making Table Wine at Home. UC Davis Dept of Viticulture and Enology.
* http://wineserver.ucdavis.edu/WineGrape/Homewine/index (online PDF format)
* Grapes to Wine. Philip M. Wagner
* Modern Winemaking. Philip Jackish

The following is taken from Presque Isle Wine Cellars Web page:

"Winemaking Kit 5 Gallons. From Presque Isle Wine Cellars ~ $36.50

Kit contains: 5 gallon glass carboy, Potassium Metabisulfate, Rubber Bung, PIWC Bottling Siphon, PIWC Beginners Book of Winemaking, Two-Bubble Plastic Airlock, Hydrometer (0-30 Brix), Plastic Hydrometer Jar, Yeast Nutrient, Wine Yeast (5g pkt).

The equipment for making wine is neither complicated nor expensive, and there are only a few basic pieces of equipment needed to produce your batch of wine. Our kit for the beginning winemaker is designed to make your first winemaking endeavor an easy and rewarding experience. A 5 gallon batch of wine will yield 25 standard (750ml) bottles of wine at a cost of about $2.50/bottle, dependent on raw material cost. Since much of the equipment is reusable, future per bottle costs will be even lower.

This kit will work with fresh, frozen or concentrated juice. It includes the items needed to make a 5 gallon batch of wine, with the exception of the juice or concentrate. If fresh juice is not available check out our list of concentrates. An additional container will be needed when it is time to rack your wine. A food-grade 5 gallon plastic container is adequate, many prefer a second carboy."

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