



“Winery Tour at Shelton Vineyards”

Touring the Vines

Official Newsletter for Yadkin Valley Wine Tours, Inc.

Volume I

Issue II

Thanksgiving Tour

Saturday Nov. 17th
Old Stone, Stony Mountain,
& Raylen Vineyards

Christmas Tour

Saturday Dec. 8th
Stonefield Cellars,
Chinqua-Penn Plantation,
& Grove Winery

Please check website for
changes and more details
www.yadkinwinetours.com

What's New at YVWT ?

Charlotte Wine Tours

Yes — If you live in or near
Charlotte NC we will be origi-
nating tours from Charlotte to
the Yadkin Valley.

Call our new Director of Sales
for Charlotte Area,
Amanda Hofmeyr
803-804-9664

Limousine Tours

Tour the Yadkin Valley in a
Limousine. Bachelorette
Party, Birthday Party not the
matter — showing up in style
is what counts with this tour.
These tours are custom tours
so pricing is determined by
only your imagination.

We are Looking for ??

Director of Sales for RTP /
Durham / Chapel Hill Area

What is Wine Anyway?

by Jim Lavis

OK, all you wine enthusiasts out there, settle down into your favorite easy chair and let's continue with our wine 101 discussions. Last time we talked about wine storage and a good method to tasting wines to maximize your pleasure with the experience. In this article I want to explain what we mean by “**good balance**” in a wine. Your new found knowledge on the proper way to taste wine is essential to understanding this term.

A well balanced wine is determined in large part by exploring **sight, taste and weight**. Start with a visual examination of the wine in your glass. Remember when you looked for clarity and consistency of color from the center of the glass outward, and checked for “legs” or “tears”; those streaks or stems of wine rolling down the interior of the glass after you swirled and tasted it. An abundance of these legs/tears is a good indicator of proper aging, letting you know it is probably a well-made wine.

To help us evaluate taste, we need to rely on our tongue and the back of the throat, which are well equipped to help us analyze the wine, so that we can use verbal “descriptors” to help us resolve the question of balance.

The tongue has four areas, or zones that help us describe taste. The tip of the tongue senses sweetness. If you've ever tasted a sweet wine, the tip of your tongue likely reacted in a manner that we call “dancing with the sugar”. The front sides of the tongue sense saltiness, the back sides sourness, and the rear part senses bitterness. In addition, the back of the throat senses the level of alcohol, or “burn” when tasting a wine. Remember to roll it all around the inside of your mouth to allow your tongue to do its job. It's best to allow yourself two tastes before making an evaluation. Since wine is made from grapes which are fruit, the goal is to find wines that achieve a good balance of fruit and alcohol by evaluating the wine's sweetness, sourness, bitterness, and level of alcohol. Ask yourself questions like, is there too much alcohol and not enough fruit; too much fruit and not enough alcohol. Is the wine overly sweet, too bitter, or does it have a sour note? Sweetness is an indicator of residual sugar in the wine, often left there

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.YADKINWINETOURS.COM

*Wine is more than just a beverage with
food, it is a romance with life...
....stop and take a drink of it.*

You don't have to fly five hours and spend thousands of dollars to experience fine wines and scenic vineyards...

"The Yadkin Valley area is in the piedmont and foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and some have compared the grape-growing conditions of the area to France's Burgundy."

Our goal is to provide a complete touring experience of the Wineries & Vineyards in the Yadkin Valley and beyond, which is both fun and educational.

Our public tours are offered on Saturdays, April through November. Private tour groups of ten or more persons are welcomed year-round.

Our all day tours include:

* Fun and informative wine tastings at 3-4 wineries. Let us teach you the "technique" of wine tasting. We will discuss the history of our state's fast growing wine industry, and the attraction of North Carolina's wines.

* A delicious lunch in North Carolina's wine country (inform us of special dietary needs).

* A chauffeured ride through the Yadkin Valley and beyond, along North Carolina's scenic highways and backroads.

* Tours depart at 10:00 AM from and return by 5:00 PM to the Village Inn and Conference Center, 6205 Ramada Drive, Clemmons, NC 27012.

* Cost includes all wine tasting fees, lunch, transportation, and a complimentary gift.

What is Wine Anyway—Continued

intentionally by the wine maker. A sour note may indicate a wine too high in acid, although some acid is important in a wine when paired with foods. Is the wine too bitter or dry for you, indicating high tannin?. Here again, some level of tannin (present in red wines) is important to allow wines to age well. Also, does the wine burn the back of your throat, an indication of unusually high alcohol content for that wine. Being aware of these sensations and asking yourself these questions will help you answer the question of "good balance". A well balanced wine brings all these sensations together in harmony, eliminating excessiveness of any one over the other.

Finally, there is the question of wine "weight", that is to say, the feel of the wine in your mouth. Does it feel very light, very heavy or somewhere in between? Which do you prefer? It comes down to personal choice. Some folks like wines that are very heavy and some prefer lighter wines. Very often, your choice may depend on what type of food you are serving with that wine. However, that's a discussion in itself. We'll walk through that door another time. In the meantime, call me at Carolina Winesellers, "a virtual store – delivering to you", with questions you might have, 336-408-4259, delivering to Winston-Salem, Clemmons, Lewisville, and Phafftown. Remember, wine is more than a beverage with food, it is a romance with life, stop and take a drink of it. Salute!

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