



Coy's Comments & Cogitations...

Volume 35, Issue 12 ~ December 2011



Kevin Coy
President

As this year is coming to a close, I look back and see that the OCWS has many reasons to be thankful. First, the fairgrounds were not sold this year. As a result, we have been able to get back to business as usual and are looking forward to a continuing future as one of the family members at the Orange County Fair and Events Center. Second, the Orange County Fair had a banner year and so did The Courtyard. This year, we worked closely with the Fair Administration creating improvements for a new look in The Courtyard, which I sin-

cerely think helped to establish this year as one of our best years ever at the Fair.

Finally, we had some exceptional events this year, with record attendance at our Winery Programs, Annual Membership Barbecue, and Chili Cook-Off. These were all outstanding events, mostly because our membership is dedicated to working so hard to organize the events—and to having lots of fun!

Kudos to Director Kevin Donnelly for organizing the

2nd Temecula DePortola Wine Trail wine tasting trip. Sixty members enjoyed plenty of nice wine along the trail in addition to another outstanding gourmet lunch at Gershon Bauchus Winery. Additional accolades to Director Sam Puzzo for the November Rhône Varietals Mini-Tasting. Five locations hosted over seventy-seven OCWS members and friends with some exceptional wine from Cass, Carol Shelton, and several other wineries.

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Holiday Dinner & Dance ~ December 2

Depending on when this newsletter is published, you may have time to join your fellow Wine Society members at the Holiday Dinner and Dance. Although the signup deadline has passed, we may still have a few available seats. Due to the short time left before the event, last-minute signups can only be made by calling the OCWS office.




The festivities take place Friday, December 2, at the Santa Ana/OC Airport DoubleTree Hotel. The price for this fun-filled evening, including tax, tip, and gratuity is the same as last year—\$80 per person. Enjoy great food and fine wine as we party all evening with fun, high-energy music from the Rock-Its and Hi-Lites.

Once again, the Orange County Wine Society is supporting the Fire Department's "Spark of Love" Program. If you're attending the event, your donation of a new, unwrapped toy for a child would be most appreciated. Especially needed are toys suitable for children in



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December 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2  | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10  |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

December

- 2 Holiday Dinner and Dance ~ DoubleTree Hotel / OC Airport ~ 6:30 p.m. ~ Details in Newsletter
- 10 Winemakers Group ~ Christmas Potluck and Wine Tasting ~ Details in Newsletter
- 25 Merry Christmas!

February

- 25 The "High & Low" of Cabernet Sauvignon ~ OCWS members' Residences ~ Details in Newsletter (No signups accepted until January)

2011 ~ 2012 Board of Directors

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Secretary ~ Kevin Donnelly
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714.692.9463

Director ~ Sam Puzzo
714.547.3877

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949.360.7954

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The Wine Press is the official newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc. If no one procrastinates too much, it is published monthly. The opinions expressed herein are those of the editor unless he can find someone else to blame.

The OCWS welcomes your letters and comments. All topics from complaints about the organization, to questions about wine and winemaking may be addressed. Send to: OCWS, Attention: Editor, *The Wine Press*. Your name can be withheld on request.

The OCWS is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of California with its principal place of business in Costa Mesa, California. For your convenience, our office is staffed five days per week along with our 24-hour answering and facsimile machines. Additionally, the OCWS has a web site with email and secure event sign-up capability. Visit us online at www.ocws.org.

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Coy's Comments... (Cont'd)

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I hope that you were able to spend time with family and friends this past Thanksgiving Day, reflecting on all the good fortunes—and great wine that life has provided for each and every one of us. The Holidays are now upon us and I sincerely hope you are able to continue through this season with much happiness and cheer. We have two final events this year that will help you get into the holiday spirit. The first is the OCWS Holiday Dinner and Dance to be held on Friday, December 2. This year, it will again be at the Double-Tree Hotel in Santa Ana. Check with the OCWS Office to see if there are any more seats available and don't forget to reserve your room with the DoubleTree at a special OCWS rate!

The second and final official event of the year is the Winemaker's Group Christmas Potluck and Wine Tasting. This year, it will be held on December 10th at the residence of member Armen Shahbazian. The Winemaker's Group puts on some fun events with some great homemade wine. For more information, Contact Director Kevin Donnelly. Even if you're not a home winemaker, you're still welcome to attend—you can always be converted!

It's also not too late to sign up for the Paso Robles Winery Trip scheduled for March 29 through April 1. This promises to be another exceptional OCWS Winery Tour trip! Contact Director Ed Reyes for further information or sign-up on the OCWS website.

Director's assignments have been completed and are posted on the OCWS Website. There are many events that the OCWS hosts and each requires different volunteer skills and abilities. If you're interested in helping on one of the committees, please go to the website and locate the director in charge of the program. Give them a call or shoot them an email to see if you might be able to help out. Don't forget to put Sunday, March 18, on your calendar as well. It's the date of the 2012 OCWS Wine Extraordinaire. We're always looking for volunteer assistance for this event. Volunteering is the best opportunity you have to meet other members and to learn more about the OCWS.

I look forward to seeing you all at some of the member-hosted parties this holiday season. One of the benefits to volunteering is the additional parties that you get invited to! Please be careful to limit your intake as you never know if a black and white might be driving behind you on the way

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Holiday Dinner & Dance (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

the 8 to 12 year old age group.

See you at the event,

Ed Reyes



By-laws Change Approved

As part of our annual election in September, a By-Law change was included on the ballot and was sent to the OCWS membership for a vote.

The By-Law change was passed by an overwhelming majority of our voting members and it stands as amended.

“Article 4 - Section 6. Removal from the Board of Directors

2. Any or all members of the Board of Directors may be removed from the Board by a two-thirds majority of the ballots cast by the OCWS membership. Such vote shall be taken at a special election as set forth in Article 8 of these By-laws.”

The OCWS Board of Directors would like to sincerely apologize for an error in the By-Law change process. The suggested By-law change should have been presented to the membership at our September 9 OCWS Business Meeting. It was a process that was overlooked for no other reason than an oversight.

If you have any concerns regarding this process, please contact Director Sam Puzzo, By-laws Committee Chairperson.

Coy's Comments... (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

home! And we want to see all of our members joining us once again after the New Year!

On behalf of the Orange County Wine Society Board of Directors, we wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas! May Santa Claus leave many nice bottles of wine under the tree for you! If you celebrate another holiday, we wish you the very best during this joyous season!

Kevin Coy



2012 Mini-Tastings

Directors Sam Puzzo and Wendy Taylor have an exciting schedule of Mini-Tastings on the 2012 calendar.

The first will be held on February 25, and will feature a program called the High (over \$40) and Low (under \$20) of Cabernet Sauvignon. We will pair a high dollar Cabernet Sauvignon with one at a much lower cost that received special recognition through Gold Medals, reviews, and recommendations. If you know of a wine for under \$20 that may be a candidate, let Sam Puzzo know.



We are taking names for host sites, so if you are interested please let me know. To be selected as a volunteer host, we ask that you have some experience hosting or prior attendance at Mini-Tastings. Additionally, we try to select host sites that are geographically dispersed around Orange County. Unfortunately, we don't need six sites in Laguna Niguel! We are expecting to have six sites for this tasting. Please email Sam at sampocws@earthlink.net if you are interested.

Sign-ups will not start until after January 1, 2012 while we evaluate costs for this unique tasting. More information in the January newsletter.

Additional planned dates for 2012 are April 28, July 7, and November 10.

Sam Puzzo



Sam Puzzo
Director

Membership ~ “Who’s New?”



The Orange County Wine Society welcomes our newest members whose membership was approved by the Board of Directors at the November Board meeting...

*Darryl and Becky Bassani
Mike and Tammy Cairns
Cleveland and Geraldine Lewis
Bob and Joyce Murphy
Nicholas Nelson*

Newcomers, we look forward to seeing you at our many events in 2012. Keep in mind that a great way to meet your fellow OCWS members is by volunteering, either the day of an event or on the committee which organizes them.

As of the December Board of Directors’ meeting, there are 960 members consisting of 374 dual and 212 single memberships.

Attention all members. We know that many of you, especially those with a dual membership, have more than one email address. Send that second email address directly to me at ed@ocws.org. We’ll add it to your membership record so you’ll be sure to receive all OCWS information via email.

Happy Holidays to all and I look forward to seeing you at our events in 2012.

Ed Reyes
Membership Chair



Ed Reyes
Director

Paso Robles Bus Trip



The Wine Trips Committee is working hard to finalize the details of our Paso Robles bus trip, coming up Thursday, March 29 to Sunday, April 1, 2012. This all-inclusive trip features round trip bus transportation from Orange County to Paso Robles, tours, hotel accommodations, and all meals including wine. It’s a great value for the price and includes...

- *Three nights at La Quinta Hotel*
- *Daily hot breakfast buffet*
- *Visits to award-winning wineries including one with sparkling wine*
- *Lunch each day; three with wine*
- *Dinners with wine each day*
- *Luxurious coach travel the entire trip*
- *Wine blending seminar*
- *Special winery tours*
- *Gourmet winery barrel room dinner*
- *Gourmet dinner at Tenth Street Basque Cafe*

Tasting fees, corkage, taxes, and gratuities are also included. Plus we’ll get the wineries’ club pricing on wine purchases.

Cost for this all-inclusive trip is approximately \$925 per person, double hotel occupancy. Single cost is approximately \$1,125. Singles, if you like, we’ll help match you with someone so you can take advantage of the double occupancy rate.

For new signups, a \$400 payment per person is now due. A \$300 payment is due December 15 with balance due January 15. When signing up, please indicate room preference of king or queen bed. We expect a sell-out so sign up now. Space is limited due to small winery capacity.

Enjoy springtime in the vineyard, rolling green hills, and bud break on the vines as we explore this fabulous and close-by wine region.

Ed Reyes
Wine Trips Committee

Dine With Wine



It looks like you have a new Dine With Wine Coordinator. OCWS Member Rich Skoczylas and I have been in negotiations for Rich to take over the Dine With Wine Program. Rich and Suzy were in Paso Robles on a wine tasting trip and Rich and I were fervently emailing back and forth, trying to pick each other's brains for ideas for the upcoming year.

Rich is a genuine giving person and a perfect match for the Dine With Wine Program. He helped me with my very first Dine With Wine event at the Blue Water Grill in Newport Beach. In fact, he did the majority of the work. He negotiated with the restaurant, set an outstanding menu, and a nice price that many OCWS members and friends enjoyed. I know Rich will do an outstanding job with this program. Look forward to some very nice upcoming dinners!

Once again, please continue to look for future e-blasts on upcoming events and remember to visit our supporting restaurants...

Catch of the Day
6854 Edinger Avenue
Huntington Beach

Canyon Neighborhood Restaurant and Bar
5775 E. Santa Ana Canyon Road
Anaheim Hills
www.canyonrestaurantoc.com

Doug's Downtown Grill
12900 Main Street
Garden Grove
www.dousdowntowngrill.com

Mad Mike's American Gourmet at Buster's Sports Grill
28621 Marguerite Parkway
Mission Viejo
www.madmikestore.com

Memphis Soul Café and Bar
2920 Bristol Street
Costa Mesa
www.memphiscafe.com

Ten Restaurant Group – Il Giardino Restaurante
4647 MacArthur Boulevard
Newport Beach
www.tenrestaurantgroup.com

Two 40 South Restaurant and Wine Bar
240 S. Brea Boulevard
Brea
www.two40south.com

Nothing Bundt Cakes
The District at Tustin – Legacy
2875 Park Avenue
Tustin
Irvine-tustin@nothingbundtcakes.com

Escoffier – Personal Chef & Catering
www.lacuisineescoffier.com

For more information about our Dine With Wine Dinners with our supporting restaurants, please feel free to contact Rich at rdskozy@aol.com or call him at 714.891.0737.

See you at the next one!

Kevin Coy
Outgoing Dine With Wine Coordinator



Kevin Coy
President

Winemaker Group Newsroom

Annual Winemaker Group
Christmas Holiday Potluck and Wine Tasting Party
Saturday, December 10
Hosted by Armen Shahbazian
1691 Serrine Drive, Santa Ana 92705
4:00 p.m. - Until



Come join us for an evening of great food and wines with our host – Armen Shahbazian. This will be an opportune time to enjoy the company of other winemakers in an informal atmosphere where we can share our food, wine, and good conversation.

Bring your favorite dish – appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert and a special bottle of wine to share. Plates, napkins, and tableware will be furnished. You will also be able to heat up any food if needed. Make your reservations no later than December 2 by sending an email to Jim Graver at winemaster72@earthlink.net or phone 949.581.9599. If no answer, leave a message. As preparations need to be made ahead of time by our hosts, your prompt reservation will be greatly appreciated. If you arrive promptly, maybe Armen will take us on a tour of his wine tasting room and taste some of his Limoncello or other outstanding liqueurs.

Homewine Educational Seminar

On November 15, Winemakers Kevin Donnelly and Jim Graver gave a presentation on “Winemaking at Home” at the University of California at Irvine to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, discussing the winemaking process from vineyard to bottling. Thanks to Winemaker Less Silver for arranging this presentation to an enthusiastic audience and our chance to talk about this “thousands of year old” tradition and our passion.

Wine Blending Seminar & Workshop

Recently, many winemakers attended and participated in a Wine Blending Seminar and Workshop given by Jim Graver. They learned the reasons, the pros and cons of wine blending, the types of blending wines, procedures, and the factors that affect wine when blended. Wines are blended to enhance the aroma, improve color, adjust the pH, raise or

lower the acidity, correct an over-oaked wine, and many other reasons.

The winemakers were split into several groups and had a chance to test their skills by using three different varieties; evaluating each one and then determining what wine would benefit most by blending and then determining what characteristics of the other wines if any, might enhance the selected wine. After each group blended their wine, it was then tasted by the others and compared.

Miller's Pot Luck Winemaker's Descend upon Yorba Linda

About forty-five winemakers and members of the OCWS visited the lovely home of Bob and Deborah Miller on October 8 for our Quarterly Potluck and Wine Tasting. A beautiful day allowed all to relax by the sparkling pool with great dishes and over forty bottles of wine. Included were reds, whites, and even a sherry and some dessert wines.

As always, the event was preceded by SO₂ testing. Sulfur dioxide is an important additive in wine. It prevents spoilage and winemakers closely monitor the levels of SO₂ in their wines. We meet quarterly to test our stock and use a sophisticated instrument that the Winemaker Group bought with proceeds from the Bud Aust Memorial Fund.

Thanks again to Deborah and Bob for graciously sharing their home and Jerry and Kim Guerin for again leading the testing of our wines.



Winemaker Group Deals with Another Challenging Year for Weather

Despite the challenging grapes harvests of 2010 and 2011, the Winemaker Group is growing. We've recently added several first-time winemakers. Some arrived just in time to participate in purchasing grapes with the group. Making wine is a great hobby, and the Winemaker Group will assist you. For more information, please contact the head of the Winemaker Group, Jim Graver. His email is listed above.

Like last year, 2011 provided us with challenges in availabil-

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Winemakers Group Newsroom

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ity of prime grapes. The Winemaker Group sourced grapes this year from several California locations, including:

- ◆ Barbera – from Boorman Vineyards in Murrieta's Santa Rosa Plateau
- ◆ Zinfandel – from Lopez Ranch Vineyard of Galleano in Cucamonga
- ◆ Syrah – from Cucamonga
- ◆ Pinot Noir – From the Rio Vista Vineyards in Santa Rita Hills
- ◆ Cabernet and Refresco – from Filipponi and Thompson Vineyards in Paso Robles
- ◆ Chardonnay and Merlot – from Van Alyea Vineyards in Dry Creek
- ◆ Cabernet Sauvignon – from Pine Mountain

Post Crush Meeting – We share all the secrets

On November 15, twenty-five of our winemakers attended a post-crush discussion at the Memorial Gardens Building at the OC Fair & Event Center. This annual event is held just after the harvest and is an informal session of wine, pizza, and sharing of information. Members shared information on sources of grapes, testing information, and adjustments to acids and sugar levels we had to make on account of the unusual weather. Some wine making tales were "tall"... some were even true; all were worthwhile.



| DATE | EVENT |
|-------------------|---|
| December 10, 2011 | Christmas Potluck & Wine Tasting |
| January, 2012 | 2012 Event Planning Meeting |
| February, 2012 | Quarterly Potluck / Winetasting & SO2 Testing ~ Ed and Debbie Reyes Residence |

Happy Holidays from the Winemaker's Group!

Rich Skoczylas

Scholarship Program Update



The Scholarship Program Coordinator position continues to be an extremely gratifying experience. This time around, Vice President Greg Hagadorn and I were enthusiastically welcomed at the Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona.

It was November 3, and the college was hosting their annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon. While waiting to enter the student-run restaurant, we were warmly greeted by one of the school's professors, Dr. Jerry Chesser, who is also the President of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. He quickly introduced us to three aspiring culinary arts and wine marketing students. The enthusiasm and energy that each of them exuded was impressive. They seemed to really enjoy their education and were making the best of it.

Seating was prearranged so that Greg and I were able to sit with our scholarship recipients, Stephanie Khalife and Natisha Patel. Both were very sociable and both were excited about their scholarships and their futures in their intended industries. It was fun to sit with them while enjoying an outstanding lunch planned, created, and served by their fellow college students. It reminded me of the good ol' days when school and learning was fun—and back when I knew I had a world of possibilities ahead of me.

This year's Cal Poly Pomona Collins College of Hospitality Management, Orange County Wine Society Scholarship recipients are...

Stephanie-Andrea Khalife
Scholarship: \$1,500
Objective: Hospitality Industry
President, Cal Poly Hospitality Association

Natisha Patel
Scholarship: \$1,000
Objective: Beverage Distribution Industry
Member, Cal Poly Association of Beverage Professionals

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Scholarship Program Update Cont'd)

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At the end of the luncheon, I noted that both students were nervously looking at the time on their watches. We found that both students had a class to attend and did not want to be late. It was obvious they both wanted to be polite and did not want to rush off.

Both students said to be sure to thank all of the members of the OCWS for their kindness and generosity.

Thank you as well for allowing Greg and I to represent you at this event!

Kevin Coy



Mini-Tasting “Wrap”

This Mini-Tasting featured a variety of reds and whites with results that produced four different favorite wines at the five host sites, with an inexpensive Gold Medal-winning Rhône Blend that almost was an overall favorite and a wide range of scores that showed many votes for all of the wines entered. Thanks to all who hosted and to all who attended bringing the usual array of creative and tasty food selections. The wines from top to bottom, Hosts and Chef's of the evening at each site follow. Look for recipes from the Chef's of the Evening on the web site in December.

Thanks to Judi Taylor for her help with this tasting including research and selection of wines. The results are sorted from the most favorite on down...

- ◆ *Carica, 2008, Red Blend*
- ◆ *Thomas Coyne, 2009, Quest, Red Blend*
- ◆ *Dehlinger, 2007, Syrah*
- ◆ *Woodenhead, 2009, Corinne*
- ◆ *Graves, 2007, Mourvedre*
- ◆ *Melville, 2010, Viognier*
- ◆ *Stolpman, L'Avion, 2008, Roussane*
- ◆ *Cass, 2009, Grenache*
- ◆ *Carol Shelton, Coquille Blanc, White Blend*
- ◆ *Tensley Camp, 2009, White Blend*

Hosts and Chefs of the Evening (And Favorite Wine from Each Site)

Bill and Lois Clark - Thomas Coyne
Chef Pam Carter - *“Pam's Holiday Pumpkin Cookies”*

Armen Shahabazian - Thomas Coyne
Chef Lowell Dickson - *“Sicilian Caponata with Roasted Tomatoes”*

Pat and Frank Solis - Carica
Chef Jim Burk - *“Rhône Style Lamb Stew”*

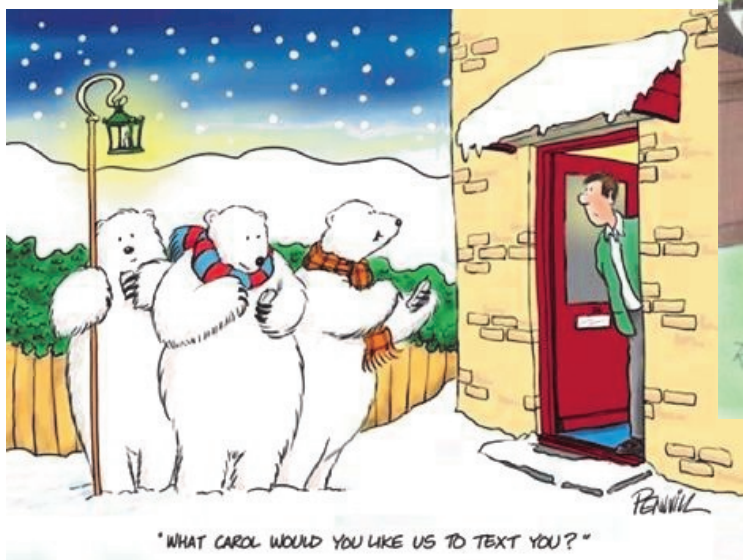
Scott Chappell and Wanda Andreas - Woodenhead
Chef Joan McCann - *“Manicotti”*

James and Marcia Vaughan - Dehlinger
Chef Wendy Taylor - *“Chicken with Mushrooms and Artichokes”*

Sam Puzzo

The Last Laff...

It's Christmas, so here are a few of my favorite holiday cartoons...





Gibbletoons By Dan Gibson



Virtual Humor

by Kevin Duffy



Santa's sexual harassment trial takes a dramatic change for the worse

And a great Holiday Season to all!
John Goodnight, Editor & Publisher

Paso Robles Bus Trip
March 29 through April 1
In and around Paso Robles

Member _____

Co-Member _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Night Phone _____

Email _____

~ Payment ~

Number of Deposits @ \$100 each _____
 2nd Installment \$300 p/p due December 15
 Final Installment (approximately) \$225 p/p due January 15

- Personal Check
- Credit Card
- Credit Card number on file

Card Number _____

V Code _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Total Enclosed _____

~ Accommodations ~

- I request a King bed
- Two queen beds

Deadline for reservations to be announced. All reservations must be paid in advance, either by check or credit card and may be made by mail, website, or fax. All website, or fax reservations are credit card only. Requests for refunds will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Note that many of the activities during this trip are cost estimated only. Final pricing to be determined after all events have been firmly priced. As we go to print, the Trip Committee believes most estimates to be accurate. For information, call the OCWS office at 714.708.1636.

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS
 Paso Robles Bus Trip
 P.O. Box 11059
 Costa Mesa, CA 92627

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OCWineSociety/>

YAHOO!



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