

On Being Judgemental

By Sandor Johnson

In 1976 in Paris, France “The Judgement of Paris” wine competition challenged a group of French judges to two blind tasting comparisons of Bordeaux wines from France and Cabernet Sauvignon wines from California. In each category a Californian wine hammered the best French selections. This shocking result summarily had the French authorities sending the judges to the guillotine “tout suite” and, forthwith, beset an entire nation to fret over their crepes while angrily chain smoking Gauloises. It was a rout that neither the elitist French, nor the bombastic Americans forgot. And thus a new era of “New World” wine was born.

Fast forward forty-three years to Kingston, Ontario for the fourth annual “Judgement of Kingston” competition at the waterside Residence Inn by Marriott where Pinot Noirs

from Prince Edward County will be compared to New Zealand’s best! The event will take place on Saturday, November the 2nd, 2019 from 3-6:30 p.m. Tickets are available now at www.judgementofkingston.ca but will not last long. A group of wine experts including Tony Aspler, Michael Godel, Jennifer Huether, Melissa Pulvermacher, (and myself, as Master of Ceremonies) will blind taste wine sourced from the heart of Prince Edward County, versus “The Shire” to determine what wine is the very best. (Or what wine pairs best with a broken marriage and a TV dinner.)

The event promises to be a fun-filled afternoon of tasteful sheep jokes and an education comparing both wine regions to further your oenological knowledge about things like, say, how to grow Pinot Noir wine popsicles in -20C whilst simultaneously

learning about ruminants, Peter Jackson movies, and rugby.

However, make no mistake. This isn’t a sporting match. Event organizers Lubomyr Luciuk and The Royal Winers are very serious about celebrating our region’s achievements. The competition provides a fair forum to compare, contrast and whittle down the offerings to the victorious - solely on the merits of each wine by a fair voting process.

Chris Whyman, Kingston’s Town Crier, dressed in attire that looks like he went shopping at Forever 1841, will officially open the event with cries so loud, you’ll think that you were standing on the set of CNN and Donald Trump just won the 2020 election. Dr. Kim Meathrel, a local plastic surgeon, and graduate of the University of California Davis winemakers’ program, Certified Sommelier by the Court of Master Sommeliers, and owner of Decantress Wine and Spirits Education, will also grace the event. She will help facilitate the wine judging and, we’re hoping, will also provide nose jobs for anyone unfortunately sniffing anything pungently grimy, maybe made by Frodo Baggins’ new winery ‘Tea Bagg Estates.’

Every year the Judgement of Kingston attracts hundreds of folks who want to see what it’s like not to drink alone. So grab your ticket while there’s still some left. Sit down, relax, and watch the pleasant bliss of your neighbour sniffing the most delicate of the world’s reds. Or, if the expression reminds you of the guy in that movie opening the Ark of the Covenant, maybe a not-so-delicate red.

You’re never too old to experience an afternoon punctuated by total bliss, sheer terror and complete mediocrity - all within minutes of each other! And no, I’m not referring to an unfortunate incident at summer camp. I’m talking about the Judgement of Kingston. See for yourself if your wine scoring expertise matches that of the judges and members of the audience or if you’re ‘The People vs Larry Flynt.’ Either way, it’s an oenophile rollercoaster thrill ride and a great afternoon to brighten up an otherwise dreary November Saturday. Trust me. I’ve been there.

So come on out! And you be the Judge. 🍷

Blind Tasting of Pinot Noirs JUDGEMENT OF KINGSTON 2019

Pinot Noirs of The County versus some of New Zealand’s best!



Residence Inn by Marriott (Water’s Edge)
2 November 2019
3 pm - 6:30 pm

Proceeds from the JoK silent auction
support local and regional charities

Tickets available online at
judgementofkingston.ca

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