



West Suffolk Fine Wine Society

Newsletter January 2026

Tastings Update

Dear Members,

As promised. herewith information on our upcoming tastings and dates for your diary.

- **Monday 9 February 2026 -Great Barton Village Hall 7.30pm**
Paso-Primero - wines from Spain made by a Brit!

We are delighted to say that our first tasting of the new programme for 2026 promises to be an unusual and exciting event. It is with great pleasure that we welcome a visit from Tom Holt, a winemaker who lives in Shrewsbury but makes a range of innovative and successful wines in Northern Spain. He has a story to tell - and 8 wines for us to taste including whites, reds, a rose and a vermouth. Using both well-known and rare indigenous grape varieties

Tom has produced wines which have won many awards (International Wine Challenge, London Wine Competition, People's Choice Wine Awards) and much praise from top critics such as Jamie Goode ("Lovely aromatics, lively and vivid, very bright. Lovely crunchy freshness. Beautifully expressive" Wine Anorak), Fiona Beckett ("Gloriously bright and fruity, this unusual Spanish red from a rare grape variety is one of the most joyous wines I've tasted this year" The Guardian), Jancis Robinson ("Deeply satisfying" jancisrobinson.com), Joe Fattorini "I adore this limey, minerally treat" and "It's there with the best value wines I've had this year" The Wine Show).

Of his own wines Tom says "We only ever make wines we want to drink. It sounds simple but there are too many wines out there that have been created to fit a corporate brief or chase a target market. We don't want our wines to come from a boardroom or a focus group. We want our wines to be an extension of ourselves and our vineyard. We want every bottle to reflect our passion for wines with provenance and purpose".

The code for this wine tasting is PP, and the cost is £12 per member

Please book and pay as soon as possible and definitely by 2 February. If you would like to bring one or more guests, please get in touch with Wynn (wynn.rees@btinternet.com or 07580 132568)

- **Monday 9 March Great Barton Village Hall 7.30pm- Wines from Germany**

It's a very long time since we had a tasting of German wines, and for some there is a lingering question mark about their interest and quality. We are extremely pleased to have

found an enthusiastic young German presenter, Jana Schaffner, for this tasting, who will take us through a selection of high-quality wines and try to dispel any doubts.

Jana writes: "Join me in March for an introduction to German Wines. I had the privilege of growing up in Germany where I developed a deep appreciation for the country's rich wine culture. Since moving to England my career has taken me from pairing wines at a four-star hotel to working at Virgin Wines, completing my WSET qualifications, and now at Corney & Barrow, where I continue to explore the world's finest wines.

German wines are often underestimated and are still tainted by a bad reputation, yet they offer an incredible range of styles - from vibrant zesty Rieslings to elegant nuanced Spatburgunders (Pinot Noirs). At this tasting we'll explore these wines in order, learning how terroir, vineyard ages and winemaking choices shape their character. From vibrant youthful wines to mature complex examples, you'll discover the depth and elegance that make German wines among the finest in the world."

The code for this event is JS, and the cost is £12 per member.

Please book and pay as soon as possible and definitely by 2 March. If you would like to bring one or more guests to this tasting, please contact Wynn. wynn.rees@btinternet.com or 07580 132568)

Membership Renewal

This is the last chance for membership renewals before we close the list. Future emails will only be sent to members registered for 2026.

Completed forms should be returned to me sue.leake@btinternet.com

Monies sent to Wynn via BACS using the code MR.

Forthcoming events-2026-Dates for your Diary

- 13th April
- 11th May
- 8th June
- 13th July
- 12th October
- 9th November
- 14th December

We look forward to seeing you all at future events

Kind regards

Sue

Sue Leake

Secretary

WSFWS