



Wine 101

Houston Symphony League Orchestra Size: Group 1 Metro Houston: 6.4 Million
615 Louisiana Street, Suite 102
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Project Description: In April, 2020, Bob Weiner, Chair of the Houston Symphony's Wine Dinner and Collector's Auction, reached out to Houston Symphony Musicians, Staff, and Auction Committee members, including myself and my husband Edwin Friedrichs, to begin a recurring class on Wine Education during the Corona Virus Pandemic. It was planned as a weekly online Zoom class to educate members on all aspects of wine tasting, with the additional benefit of maintaining relationships during the COVID shutdown with the varied members of the Symphony family in a fun, casual atmosphere.

The weekend before each Thursday evening's class, Bob, my husband Edwin and I would decide on a wine varietal (for example, Zinfandel) and research which specific wines of a certain quality and price range were available in Houston wine and grocery stores that week. An email would go out by Monday to the Wine 101 members with this information plus the Zoom link. Our discussion would include the expected characteristics of the grape, the wine-growing region, the best

temperature to serve, and pairing with food. Members would share which bottle(s) they purchased and their thoughts on the wine. Everyone's comments were welcomed as there are no right or wrong answers (and no stupid questions) when it comes to wine. Members would come and go, some attending one class and some coming to most classes.

Timeline:

Weekends: Decide on the wine varietal, research which specific wines of a certain quality and price range are available in Houston wine and grocery stores that week.

Mondays: Send out an email to the Wine 101 members with the wine list, price, ratings, and where to purchase, plus the Zoom link.

Before Thursday evening: Research wine characteristics, applicable wine-growing region, optimum serving temperature, and food pairing. Make wine(s) purchase.

Thursday evenings: Hold Wine 101 Zoom class.

Financials: Expenses: Wine prices averaged around \$23 per bottle. Each Wine 101 member decided how much to spend each week.

Successes: This project brought Symphony Musicians, Staff, and Wine Dinner Auction Committee members together virtually during the Corona Virus Pandemic after we had all been isolated for several weeks. Each week we enjoyed learning details on specific wines in a fun, casual atmosphere. The Symphony wrote an article about Wine 101 in their July, 2020 Symphony Notes e-magazine, spotlighting our project. As of March 2021, we are still holding weekly Wine 101 Zoom classes. It has been a fun, rewarding project, getting to know members of the Houston Symphony and Staff better and watching everyone's progress in wine education.

Submitted by:

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and Houston Symphony Wine Dinner Auction Committee Member
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