

AND NOW... FEATURING THE TASTING PANEL!

The panel members are a perfect blend...

From “*professionals*” who taste and judge at wine competitions,
To “*connoisseurs*” who know a lot about wine, and have made wine a priority in their lives,
To “*almost connoisseurs*” who very much enjoy wine, drink it regularly, and know a lot more about it than they think they do.

Most important is that they have been selected based on their particular wine style preferences.
These styles generally fall into two different camps:

- ❖ Those who most enjoy the “big” / “fruit-forward” / high alcohol wines.
Wines I tend to refer to as “Fruit-bomb” styles.
- ❖ Those who most enjoy the more “elegant” / “balanced” / lower alcohol wines.
Wine I would have to call the more “Food-friendly” styles.

Not to say they won't appreciate both styles – or even “switch sides” every now and then. It all depends on the wine being tasted. There are wines that could be perceived as excessively fruity, but if this fruitiness is balanced by comparatively excessive acids and tannins, then this could still be considered an “ideally balanced”, very enjoyable “big, intense, mouth-filling” wine. Conversely, wines that are delicious and work magic with foods may have a fresher, crisper acidity that makes your taste buds perk up and pay attention.

CONSENSUS – OR NOT

When you read what are sometimes very different comments about the same wine, this is to be expected and desired, since the panel has been selected not just according to their varying levels of wine expertise, but also their wine style preference (mentioned above).

That's what makes the Tasting Panel so valuable to *you*. When you've found the Panel member who most likes the style *you* like, you're much more likely to find wines you truly enjoy.

MEET THE JURY

Occasionally names and faces may change – not to protect the innocent, because none of the Tasting Panel members listed below could be accused of that – but to accommodate their schedules, and occasionally to maintain the Panel's style-preference balance.

Here are some names you'll get to know.

Debra **Cory** **Donna** **Jim** **Mary**
Ingrid **Bill** **Rob** ***Linda**

* **Linda** is co-owner of the PELICAN GALLERY where our Panel tastings take place. As a result, Linda is an ongoing “guest panelist”, who just happens to have a really good palate for evaluating wines as well. Perfect!