

What Are We Tasting? Merlot? Brie?

Exploring the famous wine and cheese producing regions of the world

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to understand the varieties, characteristics, history, and flavors of many wines and cheeses from the most famous producing regions of Western Europe, the Americas, New Zealand, and Australia.

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| Course # | 19SWT |
| Format: | Seminar |
| Moderator: | Cynthia Barker |
| Co-moderator: | Marybeth Bridegam |
| Date and Time: | Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 10 weeks, starting February 26 |
| Location: | Amherst Woman's Club |

Description: The first session will feature a basic orientation to wine and cheese. Each subsequent week will feature one presentation about a famous wine-producing region and one presentation about that region's cheeses, or an alternate region depending upon the local availability of cheese. Each session will include both presentations and a modest sampling of wine (maximum of 5 total oz.) and cheese under discussion.

During the seminar we will learn where some of the most popular wines and cheeses originate, their history, varieties, characteristics, how they are produced, how they are stored, how to decipher a wine label, how to pair wine and cheeses, how to pair wines with other foods, where to purchase some great offerings, and, above all, how to enjoy drinking and eating wonderful wines and cheeses.

Role of participants: Each participant will select one famous wine OR cheese producing region from a list provided by the moderators. Participants will prepare a presentation about the area, and provide 2-3 bottles of wine (could cost \$50-\$100) OR 2-3 varieties of cheese for tasting. Coordination of presentations (i.e., wine and cheese pairings) among participants is not required.

Resources: Most useful resources are available on-line. Participants will have access to the digital archives of Wine Spectator containing wine tutorials, regional maps, critics' wine ratings, tasting notes, and an inventory of high value affordable wines. A variety of books and periodicals will be referenced.

About the Moderators: Cynthia Barker has participated in many 5CLIR seminars and has enjoyed collecting wines for nearly fifty years. Marybeth Bridegam has moderated a great variety of seminars and has traveled extensively throughout many of the countries we will be exploring on our wine and cheese tour.

Maximum number of participants: 16

Auditors accepted: no