

The WINE Press

News from the New York Wine & Grape Foundation



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American Wine Society Comes Home

More than 40 years ago, Dr. Konstantin Frank turned a vision into a reality: the American Wine Society, a nonprofit organization of avid wine consumers and home winemakers which began as a small regional group and has since blossomed into a national organization.

This week, the AWS returned to its roots by holding its annual national conference in Rochester, starting Thursday evening with a Welcome Reception involving about 20 New York wineries. Yesterday I gave a tasting and presentation on "New York Gold", featuring an eclectic array of Gold medal wines from our New York Wine & Food Classic competition; and Bob Madill, President of the Finger Lakes Wine Alliance, conducted a tasting of "Vivacious Finger Lakes Rieslings" the day before.

Many of us are involved with various industry organizations like wine trails, statewide groups, WineAmerica, and FIVS, but AWS has much more of a consumer focus--and without consumers, we wouldn't be in business. It has local chapters throughout the country, with dues that are eminently affordable, and a jolly group of people who get together annually to share and celebrate the joys of wine. This week's conference drew more than 500 people from around the country, and they are very serious wine people.

For more information, visit www.americanwinesociety.org.