

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee – By Linda S Trapasso

So Much Wine, So Little Time

If you haven't noticed, the kosher wine industry is growing and you can find just about any type of wine that you favor. According to Uncorking the Secrets of Kosher Wine (http://www.ou.org/index.php/jewish_action/article/9997/), "...kosher wine is made from some of the finest grape varieties, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Chardonnay, Shiraz and others. These wines—from around the world, including France, Italy, Spain, New York, California, Israel, Chili and Australia—can easily measure up to and even surpass the qualitative standards of non-kosher wine." (If you're interested in how kosher wine is produced, this article provides a description, including a definition of meshuval kosher wine.) So how do you sort through what's available?



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To learn more details about kosher wines, and have fun in the process, head to The Kosher Wine Society (<http://www.kosherwinesociety.com>). On the main page, you can sign up for a free newsletter or download an app for your iPhone/iPad. If you want some quick ideas on wine and food pairings, use the Food and Wine Pairing box in the upper right. The society is based in the New York City area and offers events, including a yearly Kosher

Food and Wine Experience, where you can taste kosher food and wine. (The 2013 event is on February 4, but you can plan ahead for next year!) The society also offers membership at different levels.

What I liked about The Kosher Wine Society site is the extensive information. On the main page, click the Wine Education tab. The next page displays a list of wine varieties on the right (click on a name to get a description, suggested food pairings, and suggested brands). On the left side of the page, the Wine Glossary is extensive and enlightening if you're not familiar with wine terminology. Also the Wine Articles provide good reading, from wines presented at the Jerusalem Wine Festival to an interview with the winemaker of Red Fern Cellars of Long Island, New York.

Also check out The Kosher Wine Review (<http://www.kosherwinereview.com>). Click All Wines (under the grapes image) and a list of over 150 wines displays. Many varieties of wine are represented, as well as wineries. The wine list includes color, dryness, and rating. Click on a wine name to get a brief description/review. One that caught my eye is a Pomegranate Dessert Wine from Rimon.

If you'd like to watch a wine review, go to YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>) and do a search for kosher wine. There is a large selection of reviews as well as video articles about wine making, wine expos, and wineries.

So, what else can I tell you about kosher wine and drinking? My Jewish Learning (<http://www.myjewishlearning.com>) offers several articles:

- Drink Wine - one part of the Sabbath Manifesto (select Practices > Ritual > Shabbat the Sabbath > Themes and Theology, on the left > Sabbath Manifesto, on the left > Drink Wine, on the left)
- Wine and Intoxication: A View from Jewish Sources (select Practices > Ethics > Our Bodies > Health and Healing, on the left > Smoking, Alcohol, & Drugs, in the middle > Intoxication, on the left)
- Drinking on Purim (select Holidays > Jewish Holidays > Purim > At Home, on the left > Meal, on the left > Drinking on Purim, on the left)

And in case you are wondering about Pesach...yes, there are Kosher for Pesach wines. You can find a description of the difference at Kosher Food on About.com (<http://kosherfood.about.com>). Select Holiday Cooking > Passover > Passover Seder Menus and Recipes > Passover Seder Menus > Kosher for Passover Wine (scroll down).

L'chayim!



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