



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We hope you are all well and we miss you all. As the impact of the pandemic continues, we wanted to reach out and let you know your board is continuing to monitor restrictions and we look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

In early fall we successfully held our only event of the season, *Plates and Palates*, thanks to Doug for his hard work and dedication to running a safe event. Ray planned the *Bubbly Brunch*; however, due to government restrictions the event was unfortunately cancelled. We appreciate everyone's patience in waiting to receive your refunds.

The board met in late January and discussed our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and future events, and made a decision to delay the AGM and postpone the remainder of this season's events. Unfortunately, our annual Highwood event has been cancelled by the venue. As restrictions ease, we will begin planning events. In addition, this year is the Club's 30th Anniversary, we are hopeful we will have a celebratory event before seasons end. Stay tuned for details.

Your board is excited to get planning again and we miss you all.

Stay safe.

Ian

## TASTING & VIRTUAL EVENT OPTIONS

Like many of you, we are sure everyone is looking for some welcome distractions during these winter months. Here are 3 options you can do from the comfort of your home that we think you might be interested in:

- 1) **Vine and Dine:** Linda Garson is a community fixture when it comes to creating wine and food experiences. She is currently offering safe, socially distant wine dinners at several restaurants throughout the city, as well as some great at home wine and dine dinners. For additional information check out her website at <https://www.vineanddine.ca>
- 2) **Bricks Wine Company:** This small Inglewood wine shop has been doing some great Virtual tasting and has one with a focus on South African wines coming up the end of February. This is a new format as they have just received approval from AGLC to break bottles down into tasted, so you will have 5 2 oz pours and don't have to worry about having extra wine....although that usually isn't an issue with our members. For more information check out their website at <https://www.brickswine.ca>
- 3) If you are looking to brush up on some cooking skills, check out the virtual cooking classes at **Cuisine and Chateau**. This cooking school is based in Kensington and put together comprehensive packages for you to cook and learn at home, and add your own wine options. For more information, check out their website at <https://www.cuisineandchateau.co>.

There are many places offering similar experiences, you are only limited by your imagination.

**Enjoy and Cheers!**



## **DISCOUNTS & SAVINGS**

We hope you are all staying warm, safe and have discovered the convenience and incredible savings of our discount programs. Simply visit our website to view participating merchants.

Something new for our members this year, **Highlander Wine & Spirits** is pleased to offer a Corporate Program for Friends of the Vine.

To join, just sign up at [sales@highlanderwine.com](mailto:sales@highlanderwine.com) **prior** to shopping in-store or online.

**Discounted Pricing** will be provided to participants when shopping in-store at any of our 9 stores, 8 of which are in Calgary and include Bin 905, plus the newest Highlander location in West Edmonton, beside the Italian Centre Shop. Discounted pricing is offered on regular priced wine, spirits and beer and is calculated at cost + 16%. On average, retail pricing on wine in Alberta is calculated at cost + 50%, so cost + 16% provides a significant discount. Most often the wine discount will work out to **20-30% off on regular priced wine and up to 15% off on regular priced spirits and beer**. When shopping online, pricing is calculated at 20% off on regular priced wine and 10% off on regular priced spirits and beer.

**Wine Club** offers a curated selection of wines at exceptional values, available exclusively to Corporate Program participants through email and online purchase. Wine Club offers are sent out on Mondays. Please make sure to select email\* when using the sign-up link.

Please feel free to forward the sign-up link to members of Friends of the Vine, inviting them to take advantage of the Friends of the Vine Corporate Wine Program. "Friends of the Vine" can be entered into the Company field on the signup page.

This is in addition to their regular Tuesday-Thursday online program. For that program you have to sign up in their store.

## **MEMBERSHIPS 2020 – 2021**

We are still accepting new members for this upcoming year. A reminder that memberships are valid until December 2021 so there is still lots of time to enjoy our great discount program, as well as participate in events in the latter part of this year. To sign up, just complete the fillable PDF form that is available on line. Merely click on the link on our website. Memberships are \$25 for a single or \$40 per couple. We are now accepting MasterCard and Visa as payment options for memberships as well as events. The charge will show up on your credit card as a charge from Zone 4.

Gift memberships available and are a great way to say Thank You, Happy Birthday or Just Because.

## **NEW BOARD DIRECTOR NEEDED**

The AGM is coming up. Stay tuned for additional details. We hope to hold this event in person, and are closely monitoring current health restrictions, which will determine the date. We are looking for a new Director to take on the very important role of Treasurer. If you are interested in this role or joining the board in any capacity, please email FOV at [info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com](mailto:info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com).

Sending warm, wine wishes to all!

**STAY SAFE, WARM & HEALTHY!**