

Cleanse your palates ? Art of Wine is back



By Brock Weir

Wine has been considered, analysed and, of course, enjoyed for millennia, inspiring art, poetry and other forms of creative expression.

After thousands upon thousands of years, it is a humble drink which continues to entice and fascinate. For the third year running, the Aurora Cultural Centre will celebrate the fruit of the vine.

The Art of Wine, the third annual fundraiser for the Aurora Cultural Centre, will be held next Friday, November 22, at the Church Street landmark. Organizers promise an evening of ?tutored tastings? guided by Adrian Marquez from Grapebrand wines.

?Mr. Marquez will present an illuminating evening educating guests in the nuances of selected wines,? says program organizer Jane Taylor.

They aim to introduce guests to a series of five Italian wines that might be a different experience from the norm and, most importantly, no previous knowledge is required.

Although no previous knowledge is required, guests should expect, if previous years are any indication, to leave, knowing a bit more than they had coming in.

?It's great to learn about different wines, and I'm not even a wine drinker,? says Cultural Centre board member Cathy Harris. ?But, in the past, I have learned about [things such as] different glasses and how you shouldn't have a rolled rim so it lands properly on your palate.?

Ms. Taylor says this year's event is a bit of a departure from previous years as they are focusing strictly on the wines of Italy. A focus on a specific region has been a natural progression, she added, as regular patrons have become more knowledgeable on what international wines have to offer and what they can be paired with.

?Although I think all wine goes with all food, but who am I to say?? she jokes. ?We have created a fun evening. It's not an overly serious, hushed kind of tasting. Knowledge comes in, but at the end of the day we bill it as a really fun evening.?

Tickets for The Art of Wine are available through the Aurora Cultural Centre for \$69 by calling 905-713-1818. Tickets include five tastings, appetizers, door prizes, and two Riedel crystal wine glasses.