



50th Anniversary Dinner!

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Reception: 6:00 PM, Dinner: 6:30 PM

Faculty Club, Univ. of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Members' Fee: \$190; Guests'/Non-Members' Fee: \$250

What if there was a club that acquired and cellared wines for its members? One where you did not have to be rich to afford the initiation fee to join and gain access to the cellar? One where, in fact, there is no initiation fee and annual dues are trivial in amount? Such a wine club existing is improbable, yet Toronto is home to several. Celebrating its 50th Anniversary the Toronto Vintners Club (TVC) is the longest continuously running wine tasting club in the city



Traveling back 50 years takes you to 1975. In 1975 a Ford was not premier, but there was one in the Whitehouse. The Prime Minister's residence at 24 Sussex Drive was inhabitable, and the Trudeaus lived there. Jaws was playing in movie theaters, Captain & Tennille had the number one song, the Vietnam War ended, and a small company called Microsoft was created. If that information makes you feel like 1975 was ancient history, consider that the LCBO had dropped its passport requirement and started allowing self-service stores just 6 years prior. Courtesy of the archives at The Star, a flagship LCBO store in Toronto in 1971 looked like this:



BACK IN 1975

Microsoft is founded by Bill Gates & Paul Allen

NEWS STORIES

- Bill Gates founded Microsoft in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Volkswagen introduces the Golf, its new front-wheel-drive economy car
- Fire breaks out in the World Trade Center
- The Rocky Horror Show opens on Broadway
- Universal Pictures releases Steven Spielberg's adaptation of Peter Benchley's bestseller *Jaws*

What things cost?

- Gasoline - \$0.57/gal
- Toyota Corolla - \$2,711
- Men's sportcoats - \$30
- Bananas - \$0.19/lb
- Cleanser, Comet - \$0.30/21 ounce can

Inventions

- Digital Camera
- Ethernet
- Breakaway Rim (Basketball Hoop)
- Altair 8800
- X10 Home Automation System

MUSIC

- Love Will Keep Us Together - Captain & Tennille
- Rhettian Cowboy - Glen Campbell
- Philadelphia Freedom - Elton John
- Before the Next Teardrop Falls - Freddy Fender
- My Eyes Adored You - Frankie Valli

Movies

- Jaws
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
- Shampoo
- Dog Day Afternoon
- The Return of the Pink Panther

BORN in 1975

SPORT

- World Series Champions Cincinnati Reds
- NBA Champions Golden State Warriors
- Super Bowl Champions Pittsburgh Steelers
- Stanley Cup Champions Philadelphia Flyers

In 1975, wine lovers were parched and sad. Where were the things we take for granted today, such as wine agents, sommeliers, or product choices? Where did wine lovers get information on countries, regions, producers, vintages, grapes, and terroir? Perhaps the most important questions are how did a wine lover explore, get experience, and meet fellow enthusiasts?

Enter the scene Ted Turner, a Toronto entrepreneur who loved wine and travel. Through his journeys, he discovered a "Vintners" club in San Francisco (founded in 1971) and thought Toronto was a community ripe for that concept.

The theme of the first tasting he organized is a mystery as the wines served ranged from an Andres wine made from the humble De Chaunac hybrid grape to the now highly sought-after **Château Rausan Segla** from Bordeaux. Perhaps one of the men standing guard behind the counter at the LCBO told Ted what he was allowed to buy and serve.



That event attracted 150 people and, from there, attendance grew and grew. A few years later, TVC was so large that no venue in Toronto could host its events, and the sister club that would become **Winetasters (WT)** was formed.

Consider that a span of 50 years and reflect on the hundreds of events and the thousands of wines that were explored. How many friendships were spawned through the community that enjoying and learning about fine wine facilitates? Indeed, members of both clubs have a lot to celebrate. This anniversary celebrates the TVC's and WT's past, present, and future role in fostering Toronto's wine community's deep appreciation of wine. **Let's celebrate in style!**

THE MENU

Reception

Ahi Tuna Cups

Goat Cheese & Candied Pecan Bites

Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese Bites

Selection of Champagne from the TVC Cellar

First Course

Gemelli Pasta with Roasted Mushroom, Garlic, Parmesan Cream with Reggiano and Pangratto

2005 Domaine Laroche Chablis 1er Cru les Fourchaume Vieilles Vignes

Bonus Wine: Selection of Rosé from the TVC Cellar

Second Course

8 Oz. AAA Beef Tenderloin, Red Wine Demi-Glaze w/Potato Chive Croquette, Spring Vegetables

OR

Braised Short Ribs with Red Wine Juice w/Potato Chive Croquette, Spring Vegetables

OR

Vegan GlutenFree Braised Cauliflower, Vegan Mozzarella Cheese, and Chive Croquettes. Garlic Fried Spinach, Roasted Peppers, and Portobello Mushroom. Charred Tomato Aioli

2011 Château Trotanoy Pomerol

Bonus Wine: Sangiovese from the TVC Cellar

Dessert

Crème Brûlée with Fresh Berries

2009 Château Coutet Sauternes

The amount of wine poured from the cellar will be generous. Some members have asked if they can bring wine to add to the festivities and perhaps share with their friends or table. You are both welcome and encouraged to do so. There is no corkage fee. Fifty years is a remarkable achievement and we are so happy you will be part of the celebration. And if you were around and of legal drinking age in 1975 we would love to hear a story or two!



Members \$190
Toronto Vintners Club
Winetasters of Toronto

Non-Members \$250

All-in price that includes
food, wine, service, and taxes.

REGISTER/ BUY TICKETS online at [50th Anniversary Dinner April 15](#) and pay by e-transfer, credit card (via PayPal) or by cheque. E-transfer & credit card payments must be received within 48 hours of signing up to secure your reservation. Deadline to register is April 7. You will be sent an automated email confirmation from our online reservation system, Jotform, after submitting your registration. All ticket sales/reservations are final. If you tried to register but did not receive your confirmation, please contact winetastings@torontovintners.org before trying to register again. In order to maximize everyone's tasting experience, we ask that you please refrain from wearing scented products.org before trying to register again.