

Wine Creators - see you in Ronda?

30 Jan 2008 by JR

Several of you have asked for more details about a public symposium being held on 18 and 19 April in Ronda, southern Spain which has been advertised in the press recently.

Wine Creators is the brainchild of Spain's leading wine commissioner José Peller and José Luis Pérez Vique, the Penedès power (Bibi Mattewi). They are worried by the fact that wine styles around the world seem to be converging and are convinced that there are many opportunities for broadening the scope of wines produced. Funded by La Montera, a wine-based development project near Florida, they have put together a two-day event in the dramatic, historic hill town of Ronda in Andalusia during which a team of well-known wine critics around the world get together with some of the world's most creative winemakers, or Wine Creators, to discuss various pertinent aspects of wine production today. Fine wine will be tasted.

We wine writers voted for which winemakers we wished to invite to the event and we have just about all of our chosen few except for Jean-Claude Berrouet of J.P. Moueix who has a meeting in London then and Olivier Humbrecht who is a reluctant traveller (although we plan to look at their wines), and Michel Rolland who will be on his annual tour of duty in South America then. I am indeed that his wife and alter ego Dany Rolland, herself a highly competent enologist, is coming instead - a much-needed female injection in the all-male club. So the winemaking attendees will be:

Alejo Peralta, Spain (J. Torres etc)

Peter Siseac, Spain (Pipera etc)

Stéphane Derenoncourt, France (enologist profiled [here](#))

Denis Dubouche, France (enologist)

Dany Rolland, France (enologist)

Dix van der Mijpout, Portugal

Ricardo Cotarelli, Italy (enologist)

Carlo Ferrini, Italy (enologist)

Alex Kotsicak, Slovenia (Biondi)

Paul Draper, US (Ridge Vineyards)

All of the wine writer voting panel listed below are expected in Ronda, with the exception of Bob Campbell MW and Charles Melville who will be busy judging wine in London.

Michel Bettane, Bordeaux & Chassagne Traine, France

Bernard Burtschy, La Réserve du Vin de France, France

Pierre Casanave, La Réserve du Vin de France, Terre des Vins, France

Michael Fridgen, Business Day, The WineMaker, Wine Magazine, South Africa

Ernesto Gentili, L'Espresso, Italy

Rodolfo Gonzalez, Cerveza, Mexico

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits, US

James Halliday, Wine Pro, Australia

Robert Joseph, Wine Business International, UK

Peter Moser, Falstaff, Austria

Joel Payne, Wine Business International, Germany

Joak Pellen, Santes, Spain

John Radford, www.jancisrobinson.com, UK

Jancis Robinson, Financial Times www.jancisrobinson.com, UK

David Schilbach, The Wine Advocate, US

Ekaterina Schelen, Vinnyay Farm, Gostomov, Russia

Victor de la Serna, El Alambic, Spain

Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar, US

You can find out more about the event and how to sign up at www.winecreator.net / www.thewinecreators.com, both of which lead to the same site). Nearest airports are Málaga, Jerez and Sevilla. Malpensa is a short and spectacular drive away.

Some of you may wonder why there are so many Bordeaux-based Winecreators and so few from outside Europe. Perhaps it will help to explain that we needed people who generated several votes from our panel of wine writers, all of whom tend to have very different tastes. As the person given the job of chairing our selection meeting in November, with such redifensive participants as Bettina, Schilbach and de la Serna, I can tell you it's a miracle we came to any consensus at all.

When - 18-19 April 2008

Where - Ronda, Spain

To find out more, visit www.winecreator.net / www.thewinecreators.com