

Harvard College Wine Society



Guidelines for Membership in the Harvard College Wine Society (Spring 2017)

1. **Refund Policy:** Please note that the Harvard College Wine Society cannot provide refunds to members for missing events. Once an individual has completed the registration and become a full member of the Wine Society, they will not be refunded if they choose not to participate in the Wine Society or if they miss individual tastings or lectures. Many of our events are planned far in advance (3-6 months) and we budget a certain amount of money per event based on our membership numbers. Membership in the Wine Society is per semester, and if you choose to take a membership spot in the beginning of the semester, we assume that you will attempt to attend all four tastings and lectures.
2. **Attendance Rule:** Before each event, we ask all members to RSVP. Typically, a form is sent out at the beginning of the week and responses close at noon on the day before the tasting. Only those members who RSVP and indicate that they will be attending have a right to get into our events. However, if members incorrectly RSVP for a tasting (i.e. you say that you are going to be there and then you do not attend), they will forfeit their right to attend the next event. Exceptions will be made only for demonstrated medical necessities or the like. The number of members admitted to each tasting is also limited to 70 people and decided on a first come first serve basis using the timestamp on the RSVP form.
3. **The 50-2-6 Rule:** During a wine tasting you will be served approximately 50 ml of wine per glass, up to 2 glasses of each wine, and up to 6 wines during a tasting. The average alcohol content of wine ranges from 12.5-14.5%. A blood alcohol content (BAC) level greater than .06 is high enough to impair vision, perception, and reasoning in some individuals. 300-600ml of wine is more than enough to drive most people's BAC above the .06 mark. Know your limit.
 - a. **When It's Polite to Spit.** For the sake of sobriety, expert and amateur wine tasters often spit wines after tasting them. We encourage all members to keep this option in mind while tasting. The goal of our tastings is for members to have the opportunity to taste and compare a variety of wines in one sitting; not to test their drinking limits.
 - b. **Alternate To Keep it Classy.** Taking sips of water between different wines is the best way to cleanse the palate and to stay hydrated. This will be emphasized during tastings. Pitchers of water will be available for the duration of the events.
4. **The Responsibility Rule:** The Wine Society is here to teach you about wine, not to get you drunk. You are responsible for your own actions. The Harvard College Wine Society hereby waives all responsibility for the actions of its members before and after the wine tasting. Please keep in mind that you will be presented with the opportunity to consume a fair amount of alcohol at our tastings. Act accordingly.
 - a. If you're taking *any* medication, prescription or over-the-counter, check with your doctor before taking any alcoholic beverages. Be overly cautious if you're unsure. Alcohol can be dangerous and even deadly when mixed with painkillers, including acetaminophen (Tylenol), anti-depressants, cold remedies and many other medications.
 - b. Under no circumstances should you operate heavy machinery, including vehicles after a tasting. Also, please stay safe and alert when walking back. We encourage members to walk back together and to watch out for each other's safety.
 - c. The Wine Society reserves the right to ask any member to leave a tasting if they are being disruptive, disorderly, or doing anything to put themselves or other members at risk. Based on the severity of the offense, members may or may not be allowed to return.
5. **You break, you bought it:** Try not to break our glasses. They cost money. If you break any, we reserve the right to charge you for the replacement.
6. **Potential Schedule Changes:** It is important to note that the Harvard College Wine Society reserves the right to make any changes in the semester's program (This may include postponing or canceling events). Members will be notified at least two weeks in advance.

I, _____, have read and will adhere to the above guidelines of the Harvard College Wine Society.

Signature: _____

Date: _____