

Divine Wine Tasting
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Basye, Virginia
November 1, 2024

Conducted by Boo Elmore, Mary Kittle, and Joe Kittle

Theme: The theme for this twelfth Annual Tasting at Prince of Peace Church was “Double Blind.” This was a blind tasting with the guests trying to identify the type of wine, and the predominant grapes. As the wines were presented, the participants savored the aroma and taste of each wine, discussed the grape varietal, noted the difference of the wine taste after sampling some of the meats, cheeses and chocolate, and then rated the wine. Following this the wines were identified, but the wine labels were taped over so they could not be seen – the second part of the double-blind theme.

Special Event: The wines, door prizes, and auction items were donated by the presenters, and all money collected from the participants for the tasting and auction was donated to the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund for flood victims. The money collected for the tasting totaled \$380, and the auction items brought another \$236 for a grand total of \$616.

Order of wines served and ratings:

Kirkland Signature Champagne (France)	91 points	Price \$20
Kirkland Sauvignon Blanc	85 points	Price \$7.50
Kirkland Pinot Noir	90 points	Price \$12
Kirkland Cabernet Sauvignon	88 points	Price \$9
Kirkland Zinfandel	90 points	Price \$10

Process: There were 20 raters of these wines. Each wine was presented in the order listed above, and the raters were reminded how to taste and rate these wines. Ratings were done after each wine was tasted and collected later for tabulation. There were ample cheeses, sausages, crackers, water, and other foods available for pallet cleansing and comparative tastings with and without food. Chocolate was served with the red wines. The environment was conducive for many comments, firsthand experiences, and questions. Each wine was fully discussed during its tasting and rating. The wine retail prices were provided at the end of the event. Door prizes were given, and several items were auctioned with the proceeds going to the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund.

Results: Individual ratings for these wines ranged from “Extraordinary” (96 to 100 points) to “Below Average” (65 points). But, most of the ratings were between 85 and 91 points indicating that we made a good selection for the tasting. There was a 6-point spread between the highest and lowest rating with the winner being the Kirkland Champagne, which is produced by Janisson Champagnes, a Grand Cru village in the Village of Verzenay, France. Value ratings were also computed for these wines with value being defined as “rating points per buck spent.” With a rating of 85 points and a price of \$7.50, the Sauvignon Blanc was the clear winner in value per dollar spent.