

August 1, 2022

Dear Society of Medical Friends of Wine Fellow Travelers,

This is a message of appreciation to each of you who participated in the **Petaluma Gap Wine Tour** on Saturday, July 23, 2022 at the Keller Estate Winery and at the Brooks Note Winery and Tasting Room located in the Petaluma Gap AVA environs.

What a triumph to realize that, in spite of challenges posed by the successive variants of the Covid-19 epidemic, we managed to gather outdoors and indoors with appropriate precautions and resume the guided tour experience through learning about the Petaluma Gap viticultural area, and tasting and comparing varietals presented by Keller Estate Winery, Brooks Note Winery and Thirty-Seven Wines.

I tip my hat to each of you who undertook this local driving tour, first assembling in the morning above the San Pablo Bay vista at the Keller Estate, then enjoying the pleasure of each other's company at our casual lunch and subsequent tastings at the Brooks Note Winery Barrel Room in downtown Petaluma.

I wish to recognize our winery hosts and presenters: Jose Cruz, Director of Hospitality at Keller Estate; Garry Brooks, Owner/Winemaker at Brooks Note Winery; and Al and Lisa Brayton, Proprietors at Thirty-Seven Wines. I personally gained an enriched perspective on the varietals that thrive in the Petaluma Gap AVA, as well as the many complex factors related to wine production in this area.

I hope that those who purchased wines will continue to enjoy the unique taste experience introduced through our private tour, and that we may continue to seek out the Petaluma Gap labels introduced to us at our favorite wine shops or restaurants closer to home. Thanks to those participants who posed thoughtful questions to our presenters, rounding out the educational experience for all of us.

I would like to thank Claire Bloomberg Keiser for her work on this event before and during the tour. Thanks are also due to Cellarmaster Dr. Bob Blumberg, Past-President Dr. Jim Gallagher and Secretary Susan Schwartz for their help in planning and coordinating the SMFW Petaluma Gap 2022 Wine Tour.

I invite you to contact me with feedback on your experience of this particular wine tour, and also with any suggestions that you may have for future SMFW wine education tours, wine dinners and/or virtual wine tastings. You may contact me anytime through [societyofmedicalfriendsofwine@gmail.com](mailto:societyofmedicalfriendsofwine@gmail.com)

I wish each of you an enjoyable remainder of the summer, and I hope to see you at either the French Club of San Francisco wine dinner on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, or at the annual Cheese and Wine event with Janet Fletcher on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> (additional details will be forthcoming).

Cheers,

*David Schwartz, MD*  
*President, Society of Medical Friends of Wine*

