

## Event at Rockway Vineyards by Ingrid Merola



On Monday, August 20, 2018 members enjoyed another wonderful evening at Rockway Vineyards. The evening began with a reception on the outdoor patio, with Rockway serving its “9” sparkling Vidal wine, alongside delicious bread, cheese and charcuterie platters. The weather was perfect and, from the patio, members enjoyed views of the vineyards, the golf course and the lovely countryside surrounding the winery.



Jackie Barrett, President, welcomed members to the event, and introduced guests attending their first event – Martin Hockham and Ann Tenore, Barbara Batcules, and Rob Kondur. Jackie also thanked event organizers for the evening, Executive Members, Nick and Ingrid Merola.



Members then proceeded inside to the banquet room, where Karli Rogers, Wine Store Manager, welcomed guests, spoke a bit about the history of Rockway vineyards, and introduced winemaker,

David Stasiuk. David led us through a tasting of 6 wines including 3 whites – the 2016 Sauvignon Blanc, the 2016 Gewurztraminer and the 2015 Riesling – and 3 red – Meritage from 2011, 2012 and 2013.



David talked about each of wines and noted where Rockway vineyards were located, and where each of the grape types was grown. David highlighted the impact of the soil type and elevation of each of the vineyards on the grapes and ultimately the flavor of the wine. During the tasting, David also provided helpful commentary on recommended food pairings with each of the wines. Gewurztraminer, for example, he suggested pairs well with Thai and other spicy food.

After the wine tasting, Ingrid Merola, Director of Planning, with the help of Planning Committee members, introduced and distributed a survey offering members the opportunity to comment on events and provide feedback and recommendations for future events. The Planning Committee will use this feedback as they plan for 2019 events.



The evening ended with a wonderful buffet of finger foods, prepared by Rockway's Chef David and sous Chef Kylie, including a variety of flatbreads, chicken and beef skewers, spring rolls and prosciutto wrapped asparagus. Delicious and plentiful!

Thank you to Rockway for their generosity and ongoing support of the Ontario Wine Society, not only through hosting events such as these, but also through their membership as an Industry Partner.

Photos are by Niagara Chapter photographer, Bruce Jackson. More of Bruce's photos can be seen at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/photoshoplake/albums/72157694675083610>