



THE GRAPEVINE

NEW: Era Wine Bar | Updates & Local Spots | Destination: London

Club Updates

- ☼ **AUG 16TH TASTING MEETING** Our "journey on *The Oregon Trail*" to explore the wines of the Willamette Valley (OR) was a fun time! Some wines we liked, some wines not so much. Lol. But this region is definitely one we should visit!
- ☼ **SEPT 20TH DAY TRIP** The "Stomp the Grapes" at Bluemont Vineyard (VA) trip is right around the corner! REMINDER: Balances are due by Sept. 13.
- ☼ **FALL MEMBERSHIP** It's not too early to sign up for our Fall Qtr. Details available on the TtG website.

In the Neighborhood

- ☼ **DEATH & CO. DC** Death & Co. is one of the world's leading cocktail bars. They have outdoor seating at their NW location near the Convention Ctr. Great for the upcoming Fall season.

Raise a Glass

Dearest Gentle Reader,

Back in April, I featured the **Era Wine Bar** in our "In the Neighborhood" section. Little did I know that it would soon become an award winning local industry standout!

Congratulations to Era Wine Bar for winning the 2025 RAMMY (Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington) for Best Wine Program of the Year!!!

Black-owned Era Wine Bar in Mt. Rainier, MD is the creation of sommelier, Dr. Michelle Grant, and her husband Ka-ton Grant. The bar, located in the Rhode Island Ave corridor, offers its customers between 80-125 different wines to taste, depending on the season. Their menu consists of appetizers, such as a variety of charcuterie boards, flatbreads, and crostini; entrees like Tandoori wings, pan-seared Atlantic salmon, and a 9-oz NY strip; a small sampling of desserts; and brunch service.

Dr. Grant has even co-authored the book *Wine for Dummies*, which showcases her vast knowledge of all things wine!

Let's try to find a date in October when we can schedule a TtG Meet-up to check out this award-winning wine program!

Cheers! 





Cocktail of the Month

GIN & TONIC

I can't do a feature on London without repping the Gin & Tonic, or G&T. I've had my fair share of these easy to make cocktails. In fact, they're so easy to make that instead of sharing the recipe, I will share some gin and tonic (and soda) recs instead.

My favorite gin is **Monkey 47**. It is soooo aromatic! And not the cheapest bottle on the shelf either. The Brits lean toward **Beefeater** (which I'm ashamed to admit I haven't tried) or **Tanqueray**. Both are London-dry gins with strong juniper notes and crisp, dry finishes. Other good options are **Tanqueray No. Ten**, **Bombay Sapphire**, **Hendrick's**, **Plymouth**, or **Suntory Roku Gin**. The key is to find the flavor profile that you like best. And know that different gins work well with different cocktails. So just because you like a gin in a G&T, that doesn't mean it's the right one for a **Bee's Knees** cocktail.

And don't forget about the tonic water! **Fever Tree** tonics are my fav, though some say that **Q Mixers** tonics are the best. Fever Tree has an elderflower tonic and other flavors to add some zing to your G&T. Or you can go with one of their sparkling sodas instead, like my fav, Pink Grapefruit. Enjoy!

Vaya Con Gusto

LONDON - JULY 2022 & 2025

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, I took a trip to the UK with my husband in July. We also visited London in the summer of 2022. We have family there, so we try to visit when we can.

On my most recent trip, we stayed in the **Tower Bridge** area. Most of my pics were from the bridge not of the bridge, so I decided to include pics of two other landmarks instead. But the Tower Bridge area is really nice! Traffic on the bridge can get crazy, but the views are amazing and there are lots of restaurants in the area! In fact, one of the best meals I've had in London was at **Santo Remedio Mexican Restaurant**, just a few blocks from the bridge. I've discovered that you should probably choose an ethnic restaurant in London if you want flavorful food. The London pubs are great for drinking, but the food can be a bit of a letdown – even the fish and chips (though I highly recommend you try it at least once).

Twice we stayed in the **South Kensington** area at the **Amperсанд Hotel**. Love that place! Luxury accommodations and great service! Also just a few steps from an Underground station, London's metro, which is a great way to get around the huge city! South Kensington is not far from the **Knightsbridge** area, where you'll find **Harrods** and other great shopping locations.

Even though the Brits aren't big on "air con,," summer can be a nice time to visit. We got in some great sightseeing when we visited in July 2022. The pics below are of the **London Eye** and **Big Ben**. We also saw **Kensington Palace**, **Westminster Abbey**, **Belgrave and Eaton Squares**, **Piccadilly Circus**, and more. London is one of my favorite cities to visit. It's definitely a must-see!

Photos by Michon Watts

