

Party pours on fine wine, swooning tuning

By Leslie Shaw
Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA MESA —The Homestead Valley Community Council's wine and cheese party Saturday evening should have been called a wine and feast party. Fine wines from Proudfoot Vineyards were served by Jim Harvey and Catherine Janowicz, and the food was the usual vast and satisfying spread the council hosts every month.

Paul Gerkin began the entertainment by playing his guitar to a full and festive house.

After Gerkin's set, Johnson Valley wine aficionado Michael Lombard shared interesting information. Did you know Merlots were not drinking wines in the United States 30 years ago? They were always blended with cabernet grapes in France before importing to the U.S. until the San Sabastiani vineyard imported them to California.

Blush wines are created by leaving grape skins to soak in a container of wine for seven to 25 days, Lombard told the crowd.

He also advised them that, contrary to the common taboo, it's OK to serve red wine with fish, as long as the wine is light and the fish is strongly flavored, like shark or swordfish.

After his lecture, Lombard retreated behind the bar to answer questions.

The evening's entertainment headliner, county 3rd District Supervisor Neil Derry, serenaded the crowd with Frank Sinatra-style hits such as Cole Porter's "Night and Day" and "Witchcraft." Derry's performance was well received, with every song ending in a loud round of applause.

Prizes, including a set of Italian wine glasses and an orchid, were given away to ticket holders all evening.



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The Homestead Valley Community Council's wine and cheese party provides an unexpected banquet.



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County 3rd District Supervisor Neil Derry serenades the crowd with his Frank Sinatra hits.



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Wine aficionado Michael Lombard shares his knowledge on proper wine and food combining.