

# Old Patrician



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## Wine on the Beach

Those of us who stay here all year round like to kick back and take things a tad slower in the summer. So to set this mood the SocComm is throwing a wine party on the beach. This one is a freebie where each attendee will bring their own favorite wine and wine accompanying snacks. This is a do-it-yourself wine tasting.

We will all gather at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 on our “front yard” aka the Atlantic ocean. Tables will be set up such that you can place your bounty on a solid foundation. Tubs of ice will keep the white wine cold. If you want to sit we suggest you bring beach chairs.

This event is billed as a cocktail party, however, there is nothing stopping you from making a picnic supper of it. As it is

very informal, you should coordinate your food with others as we often do for our barbecues.

For anyone who feels the slightest bit intimidated with wine selection let me offer a few suggestions. This is the perfect setting for “light” wine. If you like red wines I would go with a Merlot. This is in spite of the bad rap Merlot got in the movie *Sideways!* Total Wine has an outstanding one from Oak Grove vineyards.

If you want to go with a white, consider a California Chardonnay. These wines are known for their “buttery” flavor in contrast to their French brothers that have a dry taste. My favorite is Hacienda Chardonnay which I buy by the case as our “house” wine.

If you are in doubt, I would trust the team

at Total Wine, and no, I have no stake in that company. Explain to the staff member what this event is and your budget. You will not be disappointed in the advice and selection that will be recommended. Cheers!



Our front yard

## “Summer Time, and the Living Is Easy”

Most of the snowbirds have returned to the north like the swallows to Capistrano. Life on South Ocean Boulevard has settled into its summer tempo like the song says, “easy.”

We had a full social schedule during May and people I have talked to said that the first full season of the SocComm was a success. Thus, May was the capstone and the afterglow of pot luck suppers and barbecues should remain with the snowbirds as reminders of things to come next season.

The pot luck meal proved once again the cooking prowess of our residents. From

salads to breads to appetizers to entrées to deserts (and who is counting calories anyway) it was a spread to remember. The social room was packed to the gills such that it would have been hard to fit any more people in the door. Three large tables, a small one, and the bar were used to hold the feast.

The final barbecue of the year for the snowbirds demonstrated how a little rain, OK a lot of rain, will not dampen the spirits of our stout-hearted band. We pulled the charcoal grills close to the awning so that the chefs would not get drenched. Note the picture from 2006 lacks same as we were still waiting for the last repairs of the Wilma damage.

Once again we all crammed, cheek to jowl, into the social room to partake of the cookout. There was plain and there was fancy, but no one left hungry or thirsty. I was impressed with the amount of beer and wine I had around me and if the truth be known... in me! I can remember my late father saying that life at the Patrician was like one big fraternity

party that goes on forever. I might remind you all, my readers, why I call this newsletter *Old Patrician*. As the French say: “plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.” The more things change (with the passage of time) the more they remain the same (down here).

And while we are on the subject of wine I would hope that all of you who did not flee to the north will turn out for the wine bar on the beach described above. That will be followed by a barbecue on June 17<sup>th</sup>. July will have two barbecues. The first will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the second on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be sampling minor league baseball at Roger Dean Stadium on Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>.

August will have a barbecue on the 12<sup>th</sup> and will reprise last summer's restaurant success with another *Summer of the Grape* meal at Michael R. McCarty's. By the time we have a cup of coffee on that occasion we will be thinking of the returning snowbirds and seasons turning round again down here in South Florida. Have a great summer all...

