

# An Evening of Rustic Simplicity

By Eva Bondar

ON JUNE 24, THE MAUI CHAPTER GATHERED TO ENJOY fantastic cuisine and wine at Café Marc Aurel, an espresso and wine bar in Maui. The evening was filled with food, friendship, and fabulous performances. The extraordinary efforts of the staff who created “An Evening of Rustic Simplicity” made it a night to remember. We were entertained by Randall Rospond and JP Pollock of the Rabbit’s Foot Minstrels as well as by the beautiful dancing of Krissy Kopp.

At the outdoor champagne reception, we enjoyed assorted amuse-bouches with Cristalino Brut Cava N.V. Then came a delectable “gazpachotini”—smooth and spicy gazpacho served in a martini glass. A spectacular menu followed, with each course partnered with a stunning wine.

The stage was set with organic spinach salad, complemented by Chappellet Chenin Blanc Dry St. Helena 2004. The second offering of mini Rueben sandwiches was matched with Künstler Riesling Spätlese Rheingau Kirchenstück 2003. Lemon sorbet with a splash of Chopin Vodka prepared our palates for a gourmet meat and cheese platter, which positively danced with Nuits-Saint-Georges Longecourts 2004.

Arriving next were stuffed black mission figs. Paired with PlumpJack Merlot Oakville 2004, the figs set our taste buds whirling.

Goat cheese Napoleon terrine was married with Howell Mountain Zinfandel Black-Sears Vineyard 2004. Lamb in yogurt sauce, accompanied by Bonaccorsi Syrah Lerner Vineyard Santa Ynez Valley 2004, made for a magical entrée. After a refreshing orange fennel salad, we savored a silky chocolate fondue and espresso.

Under the guidance of Owner Marc Aurel, chefs John Ryan, Julia Koltzoff, Ryan Vice, and Robert Osborne put forth an impressive effort. Mr. Aurel brought his passion and dedication to excellence to the table, not to mention his colorful personality and contagious enthusiasm.

Professional members and “professional eaters” alike came together to socialize and enjoy the best food and wine on Maui. Among the professional confrères in attendance were Bailli Christopher Speere of the Maui Community College Culinary School, Chambers & Chambers wine merchant Professionnel du Vin Jim Powlan, and Maître de Table Hôtelier Gregg Nelson, general manager of the Napili Kai Beach Resort. Event organizers were Bailli Honoraire Mitch Kysar, Professionnel du Vin Powlan, Vice Chargé de Presse Ronald Kawahara, Vice Chancelier-Argentier Robert Cartwright, and Chevalier Dan Schulte. The stellar evening concluded outside under the Maui stars. ☀



PHOTOS BY JESSICA PEARL

**1** Vice Chancelier-Argentier Robert Cartwright and Tess Cartwright. **2** Bailli Christopher Speere, Becky Speere, Blossom Kawahara and Vice Chargé de Presse Ronald Kawahara. **3** Bailli Provincial Hon. Fred Honda, Bailli Provincial Laurence Vogel, Professionnel du Vin Jim Powlan, Eva Bondar and Maître de Table Hôtelier Gregg Nelson. **4** Members of the Maui Bailliage. **5** Chef Ryan Vice, Chef John Ryan, Chef Julia Koltzoff, Bailli Christopher Speere and Co-Owner Marc Aurel.