

The Cork Report



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A Monthly Journal from Talk to the Cork and the Order of Cork Dorks

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<https://talk-to-the-cork.kit.com/dc53b7c29b>

An Opening Message from CorkDorkOne

Welcome to our inaugural issue of **The Cork Report**.

Wine has captured our attention for many a millennium. It is art, history, geography, and chemistry, bottled together and ready to be enjoyed by all five of our senses.

Enjoying a bottle of wine gives us much to think about. It doesn't offer a single, static flavour. It unfolds, from nose to finish, with vibrancy, complexity, and a lingering memory. It presents as a living entity.

We may ask ourselves whether we like it, then find ourselves wondering what went into making it: the grape varieties, the place they grew, the weather, the season and the soil, the person who made it, or why it tastes so completely different from the bottle we enjoyed last week.

Wine slows time. It disarms us, and in the pause that follows, stories are shared, defences drop, and memories are made.

These are just a few of the questions, conversations, and connections that are fundamental to **Talk to the Cork**.

With this initiative, I am striving to create an environment where we can follow our curiosity, learn something useful, and discover new understandings, all while enjoying a glass of wine in the company of others doing the same. Some of us will arrive with years of experience. Others will be wondering where to begin. There is room for both, and plenty we can learn from one another. We may take our wines seriously, but not so much ourselves.

There are two connected parts to this undertaking. There's the *Discovery* side, where we explore the intricacies of the world of wine at TalktotheCork.com, and the *Travel* side, where we personalize our wine experience, both near and far, through the guidance of the **Wandering Cork** at TalktotheCork.net.

And then, collectively, we can come together as a community, as members of the *Most Solemn and Highly Questionable Order of Cork Dorks*.

This first edition of **The Cork Report** is our introduction to that world – and it extends our invitation to make the experience your own, by participating in the growth of both the *Discovery* and *Travel* segments, and by joining (*for free*) our whimsical *Order of Cork Dorks*, by so doing declaring yourself to be nothing more than a fully-fledged **Cork Dork**.

Solemnly and questionably yours,
CorkDorkOne

The Discovery

Follow Your Curiosity

At [Talk to the Cork ~ Discovery](http://TalktotheCork.com), we are building a knowledge base of wine and wine-related subjects, where one discovery leads to the next.

You might arrive wanting to know more about an unfamiliar grape variety, or a wine varietal that you have never tasted. That in turn could lead you to a wine region, a style of wine, a winemaking method, or a producer whose approach catches your interest. Before long, you are in your favourite wine store, looking at each bottle with new eyes.

When you browse TalktotheCork.com, you can explore wines and wineries, the people behind them, the places that shape them, and the history and practices that help explain what ends up in your glass. Tasting and food pairing belong here too, along with the tools and paraphernalia that sometimes make the wine experience easier and more enjoyable.

This is a work in progress, and the website will keep growing. You can help by becoming a **Contributing Dork**. Fill in our forms, send us your ideas, stories, and photographs, and help shape what the rest of the **Cork Dorks** find here.

Our goal with [Talk to the Cork](http://TalktotheCork.com) is to bring fun-loving people together to explore the world of wine through discovery, shared knowledge, and real-life experiences. Either through the *Order of Cork Dorks* or as an individual, everyone is invited to contribute, to help shape what we build, and to see where their curiosity leads.

Start your discovery today at TalktotheCork.com.

Wander

Wherever the Cork Takes Us

Reading about a wine region can make us curious. Standing in a vineyard, meeting a winemaker, or tasting with someone who knows the terroir puts a face and a flavour to that curiosity.

The **Wandering Cork**, part of **Talk to the Cork ~ Travel** at TalktotheCork.net, is where discovery leaves the home screen and goes on location.

Sometimes our wandering will keep us close to home: a local gathering, a tasting room, a conversation over dinner, or a winery we have somehow never visited. At other times, it may lead us to a wine or wine region on a different continent in another country.

There is much to discover and learn along the way – the food, the landscape, the customs, and the people whose lives are interconnected with wine.

As this element of **Talk to the Cork** develops, we will suggest excursions and junkets that our **Wandering Dorks** might enjoy. Small groups, travelling together, sharing their common interest in viniculture and viticulture, geography and society.

Here too, your inputs will help us choose where to begin, so our first journeys are ones you actually want to take. Tell us about the places you know, the places you would like to go, and the experiences you would find worthwhile. We've made it easy for you to send us those suggestions.

<https://talktothecork.net/#first-adventure>

As we get our bearings, specific gatherings and journeys will unfold in future issues of **The Cork Report**.

For now, consider this the first round of a long conversation.

Belong to The Order of Cork Dorks

If you have ever turned a bottle around to study the rear label, asked one more question at a tasting, or wanted to know why a wine tasted the way it did, you may already recognize yourself as a **Cork Dork**.

And you're not alone.

The *Most Solemn and Highly Questionable* **Order of Cork Dorks** gives that shared curiosity and mischievous attitude a community home.

No wine snobs here! We have no intention of taking ourselves seriously. Yes, we want to learn, discover, and enjoy the world of wine together, but we want to have fun doing it. Within our community, the *Cork Dork Collective*, there will be wine aficionados from all walks of life, with all levels of expertise, from the master sommelier to those who simply answer the question, 'Yes, I like wine!' These are our people, our **Cork Dorks**, mischievous, whimsical souls who are drawn to travel, food, history, vineyards, grape varieties, cellars, wine varietals, and subjects we have yet to consider.

You may enjoy several of those things. You may discover an interest you did not know you had.

Joining is free and participation can take many forms. Read and explore. Ask a question. Share an experience. Suggest a place. Help someone understand what you have learned. Join us on an overseas adventure when the opportunity suits you.

You do not need an elaborate cellar or a vocabulary full of tasting terms. Bring your curiosity and a willingness to let other people share their tastes while you share yours.

Members of the *Order of Cork Dorks* should recognize their love for wine, for camaraderie, and for adventure in what we publish and where we go next.

Your Contribution Matters

Leave Your Corkprint

That brings us to where you come in: you can help shape the **Talk to the Cork** experience, both *Discovery* and *Travel*.

Perhaps you have found a wine you think deserves attention. Or know of a grape variety we have yet to list. Perhaps a winery visit introduced you to a winemaker with a remarkable story. You may know a location others would enjoy, have a photograph that captures an experience, or want to ask a question that opens a useful discussion.

As you navigate our screens and pages, you might come across a misnomer or two. Perhaps you've spotted a fabulous faux pas, or a fanciful foible. We're not infallible. Point out the error of our ways, and we'll set about correcting it faster than a Champagne cork can fly across the room.

You get the message. We want to hear from you.

Your contribution need not be a polished article. A clear account of what you found, why it interested you, and what you think others might appreciate is a useful beginning. Our forms and suggestion links make the process easy for you.

We will vet submissions before posting them, checking details and arranging appropriate credit. We may come back with questions or suggestions as we prepare material for publication.

Over time, your contributions will make **Talk to the Cork** a much richer resource than we could build alone. Each useful addition gives someone else a new place to begin.

Your suggestions can also reveal what we would enjoy doing together. Several people interested in a region, a style of wine, or a particular experience can lead to a starting point or a destination for an event or journey worth making.

Help us make the experience better for everyone.

Leave Your Corkprint

<https://talktothecork.com/leave-your-corkprint/>

Stay Connected

Subscribe to The Cork Report, and join the Order of Cork Dorks

The Cork Report will arrive monthly, connecting what's new with the people who are helping us grow. Subscribing is free.

In subsequent issues:

We'll uncork new articles, resources, and discoveries

We'll explore where the *Wandering Cork* may take us as we plan future gatherings and journeys, and

We'll announce our plans for making wine-related swag, loot, and wares available to you.

At the same time, we will keep building out **Discovery**, adding new grapes, wine varietals, regions, wineries, people, and organizations of interest, many from your suggestions and contributions.

I invite you to subscribe to ***The Cork Report***, join the *Order of Cork Dorks*, or choose to do both.

Talk to the Cork — Subscribe & Join

<https://talk-to-the-cork.kit.com/dc53b7c29b>

As we shape our membership, should we consider offering a dedicated members' area, where special resources, unique opportunities, and a few surprises would be available on demand?

Details continue to take shape. What matters now is getting the conversation started and hearing from Cork Dorks like you. Please tell us what you want this ecosystem to be.

Bring your curiosity. Share your discoveries. Help shape what comes next.

Come curious, leave curiouiser.

Partnerships & Collaborations

We welcome inquiries from potential partners, collaborators, and sponsors who share our enthusiasm for wine, travel, discovery, and memorable experiences.

To Get in Touch ~ email: hello@TalktotheCork.com