

California Wine Expert to Speak in Lafayette

By A. K. Carroll

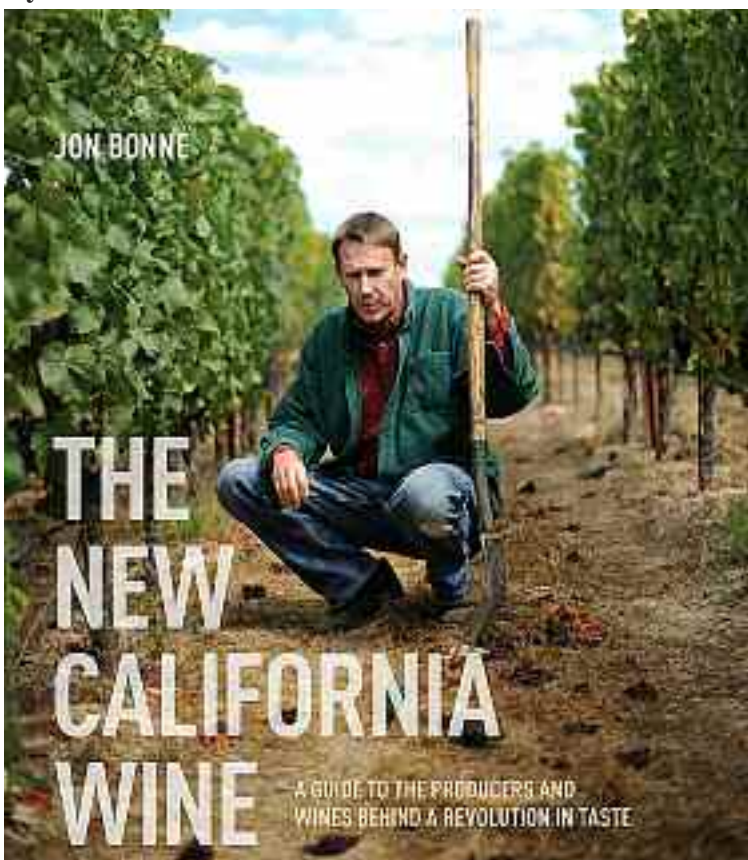


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“It’s been a thing all my life,” said Jon Bonné, sipping the last of his Sight Glass coffee on a Monday afternoon in San Francisco. “I kind of grew up with wine.”

The wine editor for The San Francisco Chronicle and author of “The New California Wine” (released in 2013), Bonné will be speaking at The Commonwealth Club of California’s “Tasting the New California Wines with Jon Bonné.” An informational talk followed by a wine tasting, the event will be held at the Lafayette Library on Tuesday, Dec. 9, bringing one of the nation’s top wine experts to the Lamorinda area.

“It’s an industry that covers so many different pieces of the world,” said Bonné, whose early ventures in

journalism included politics, business and environmental science among other fields. By the time Bonné turned to covering wine, he realized that not only was it a good beat, but that much of his previous work had prepared him for success in the field. “You have to be able to do a little bit of all of those other skills,” he remarked. Or you do if you want to do well.

Bonné’s work with the Chronicle has earned him two James Beard Foundation Awards. His writing, which has also appeared in Decanter, Saveur, Food & Wine and the Art of Eating, has additionally won numerous awards from the Association of Food Journalists. Bonné’s upcoming Commonwealth Club presentation will focus on his book, which explores

young, innovative wine producers who are “rewriting the rules of contemporary winemaking” in a “quest to express the uniqueness of California terroir” and to “move the state away from the overly technocratic reactionary practices of its recent past,” according to Bonné’s website.

“The revelation for me is that these aren’t necessarily new discoveries,” Bonné remarked on his research for the book. “They (the wine producers) are simply looking to a time before wine became so snobby and so elitist; when wine was simply a part of people’s lives. There was a much greater diversity and all of these really interesting grapes and wines had enormous appeal.”

As the nation’s oldest and largest public affairs forum, The Commonwealth Club looks forward to offering this presentation in the Lamorinda area. The hour-long program (which will likely include a time of Q&A), will be followed by a wine tasting and book signing. “We’ll talk about the change in California wine, the style and layers,” Bonné remarked. “Also, what that means culturally and how it fits into these larger changes in food culture and farming culture, the way that people eat and drink.”

It’s sure to be an evening of new and unexpected information and experience.

The formal program begins at 6:30 p.m., with check-in starting at 6 p.m. Wine tasting follows at 7:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Library. Tickets are \$25 for general admission (participants must be over 21) and \$15 if you are a member of the Commonwealth Club. Register online at <http://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2014-12-09/tasting-new-california-wines-jon-bonne>.

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‘The Theory of Everything’

By Derek Zembrak

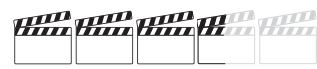


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It’s that time of year again – the leaves are changing colors, the weather is getting colder and families are gathering together for holiday celebrations. As the leaves are falling, Oscar buzz is in the air. The Oscars are always an unpredictable event but this year there is a sure front runner for best actor – Eddie Redmayne for his portrayal of the 20th century genius Stephen Hawking. No one has been a shoe-in to win best actor since maybe Daniel Day Lewis for his role in “My

Left Foot.”

I wrote in 2011 after seeing Redmayne in the independent film “My Week with Marilyn” that he is the one to watch and will receive an Oscar someday. Well this is his year. He already won Best Breakout Performance two weeks ago at the Hollywood Film Awards, which kicks off the award season.

“The Theory of Everything” is a movie based not only on Hawking’s incredible mind but also on the relationship between

Hawking and his college sweetheart and wife, Jane, solidly played by Felicity Jones (“The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014),” “Like Crazy”). When the two met while studying at Cambridge, it was love at first sight. They experienced a healthy relationship as college students until one day when Hawking was stricken with a motor neuron disease related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). This event changes everything in both their lives. Hawking was told he had only two years to live. Jane loved him so much she agreed/demanded to marry him and take care of him.

What is the theory of everything? Love.

“The Theory of Everything” is rated PG-13 and has a total running time (TRT) of 2 hours and 3 minutes.

Derek can be heard each Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on KEST 1450AM discussing movies and entertainment in the Bay Area.

MOVIE REVIEW



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Orinda Theatre Square

SATURDAY, DEC. 6
 Real Snow Wonderland - Build Your Own Snowman / noon until the snow melts
 Kids Ornament workshop hosted by Hello Tiara / 4-6 pm

SATURDAY, DEC. 13 5-7PM
 Visits from Santa Around the Square
 Horse & Carriage Rides
 Holiday performances by Lamorinda Theatre Academy / beginning at 6:30pm
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