

# La Verne indulges at Wine Walk

Brandi Peters  
Staff Writer

Swirl, sniff and sip is normally what you think of doing when it comes to a wine tasting. At La Verne's Wine Walk on Friday in the downtown district, there was more than just the usual reds and whites to indulge.

It was a moment for friends near and far to gather and enjoy the sun, music and vibes, along with your occasional sip of delicious wine and delectable savory food.

The event was centered right in the heart of the historic district. This allowed people to experience the beauty of the local businesses and the improvements that the Old Town La Verne Business Association has made to make the downtown area look inviting to the community.

In the past, the proceeds from events like this have gone to help put lights on the trees in the downtown district area, as well as donations of money to the city to help build the new fountain in Mainiero Square and various other improvements.

This year the event encompassed 27 businesses that offered wines paired with food samples from restaurants in the surrounding area. The La Verne Wine Walk spanned from Bonita Ave down to D Street. The cost of a ticket is \$55 and included a commemorative wine glass and 12 tickets to sample 12 different wines. They also offered a designated driver ticket for \$25, allowing you to enjoy the foods and festivities and skip the wine for safety.

"All the wines are purchased by the association so they can control the quality," Craig Walters, chair of the Old Town La Verne Group, said. "The wines are imported from Spain, Italy, Argentina and domestic wines



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*While waiting in line to taste wines and enjoy crudité, two people steal a kiss at the start of the Downtown La Verne Wine Walk on*

from Napa Valley and Paso Robles. It's really international in nature, we try to be very diverse. We have over 40 wineries represented here today."

The event, which expected 1,000 people, did not disappoint with the many musical entertainment options. Guests had several stops to enjoy while they danced, drank and ate.

One band that had everyone going until the end of the night was JTD Motown Band, a group of three brothers that play soulful hits. This band really set the tone for an outdoor pre-summer event. Other local musical artists included Soundwave, Brant Cotton Band, Masomenos and Harmony Sisters, just to name a few.

"The music is fantastic, the wine is delicious, the food is free and I'm having a blast. There's a lot to do," Javier Brown, resident of Upland, said.

Micky's Jewelry Studio was

paired with Fourth Street Mill who served a sample of a white pasta, and The Corner Butcher Shop who served pulled pork topped with coleslaw, and your choice of a wine sample.

The moment was not just fun, food and drinks, it was really an opportunity for the businesses to tug at the hearts of the locals, as part of the proceeds of the wine walk were being donated to charity and downtown improvements.

"We always donate a portion of the proceeds to charity. This year is San Dimas La Verne Soroptimist Club," Micky Rehm, owner of Micky's Jewelry Studio and chair of Wine Walk, said.

The Soroptimist International of San Dimas La Verne is an

*Saturday. Several downtown businesses opened their doors to share local wines with visitors throughout the evening.*

international Businesswomen's organization that helps women and girls from all around the world live their dreams through education.

"Soroptimist has international programs in Papua New Guinea to help with birthing centers, Thailand for women that have been trafficked, clean water programs in Africa and a sister program in Kenya that help pay for girls to go to school, and a sister club in Japan that were wonderful when 9/11 happened," Karen Zubiante-Beachamp, member of the Soroptimist club, said.

This organization has been in the area for 35 years, the Soroptimist Club meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month and encourages people to come and be part of the organization.

As they participated in the wine walk this year, 11 of their members worked hard to help check in and guide people to the fun.

Traveling friends Kimberly Jenkins, University of La Verne alumna, and Adam Hampton, Rancho Cucamonga resident, were happy to support La Verne this year.

"The only thing I would recommend is closing down the main street, giving it more freedom to roam, mix and mingle and not have to worry about the cars," Jenkins said. "Knowing where you can and can't carry your alcohol. But, overall, it's been a beautiful evening."

For other upcoming events, visit [oldtownlaverne.org](http://oldtownlaverne.org).

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## Professor...

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In 2006, the College of Law received its provisional accreditation. When a school receives provisional accreditation, the college has five years to be in full compliance with all ABA standards. Donald J. Dunn, former dean of the College of Law, was instrumental in achieving provisional ABA accreditation. Halfway through the five-year period, Dunn died. Rubin explained that the steps taken after Dunn's passing was a mismanagement of the college.

"I like that he was able to share his dislikes when it came to the College of Law, because not many professors would come out with it," Caroline Guzman, freshman honors child development major, said.

Rubin opposed the search for a new dean while the college was in the middle of the accreditation process.

"When he continued to talk about the college, I understood

what he meant when he said that there was more to talk about," Johanna Vargas, freshman honors criminology major, said.

Despite changes, the College lost its provisional accreditation in 2011.

"I was surprised with the statistics about the college, I didn't expect the college to be so diverse," Elizabeth Hernandez, freshman honors political science and philosophy major, said.

Going into the spring 2023 semester, the College of Law had an enrollment of over 300 students and non-white students represented 71.5% of their student body. Due to the Cal Bar status, Rubin said that the College has a \$3 million surplus.

"Teaching is a privilege and you should never be in it for the money," Rubin said. "Not only do I get to teach, but they pay me to do it."

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