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Guide to the Phillip DeVito Collection

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Linfield College

Janice DeVito

Guide to the Phillip DeVito Collection

Creator: Janice DeVito

Title: Phillip DeVito Collection

Dates: 1966 to 1999

Quantity: 7 linear feet

Collection Number: OWHA19

Summary: The Phillip DeVito Collection contains documentation in the form of articles, letters, photos, awards and other artifacts to Mr. DeVito's career and his contribution to development of the wine and hospitality industries of Oregon.

Digital items selected to highlight the collection are available here:

http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/owha_devito/. Collection items available in the digital repository can include documents, photographs, audiovisual materials and/or oral history interviews.

Repository

Jereld R. Nicholson Library

Linfield College

900 SE Baker Street

McMinnville, OR 97128

Reference Number: 503-883-2734

Reference Email: archives@linfield.edu

Language: English

Biographical Note

Phillip DeVito worked in Oregon's restaurant and hospitality industry for over 60 years. His career began in the late 1940's when he began working as a waiter in private clubs and fine dining restaurants in Portland to pay for college expenses and to support his family. Part way toward a master's degree in clinical psychology, he changed his focus to pleasing and entertaining guests through showman-style food preparation and excellent service. Soon, DeVito turned toward restaurant management responsibilities, eventually becoming a successful maitre d'hotel, sommelier (caviste) and cellar master. By the late 1950's, he discovered a passion for learning to pair wine and food flavors. DeVito

shared his growing sommelier knowledge with the dining public as well as those he supervised.

During his long career, Phillip DeVito received many commendations for his wine expertise. His first distinguished award was from the Oregon Chefs de Cuisine Society in 1967 – the “Al C. Giusti Caviste Award for Meritorious Service.” This recognition as a “Caviste” (Sommelier) led to DeVito embarking on a 1969 wine study tour throughout many of the famous wine regions of Europe.

In 1972, Phillip DeVito became maître d’hôtel and cellar master for the fine dining and wine program at Salishan Lodge. During DeVito’s 22 years at Salishan, and through the support of Salishan owners John and Betty Gray, he developed a world-famous wine collection that received numerous prestigious awards. Under DeVito’s management, The Dining Room at Salishan received the highest hospitality industry awards from Mobil and Triple A. In 1988, Salishan received an award at the World of Wine Festival as “the greatest international wine list in America.” The Salishan wine list program received the top industry Wine Spectator Grand Award every year from 1983 to 1992 – for quality of a collection that eventually totaled 32,000 bottles.

Initially an expert in international wines, as the Oregon wine industry developed, Phillip DeVito became committed to its promotion. He is credited with supporting the emerging Oregon wine industry by selecting the best quality Oregon wines for the award-winning wine program he created at Salishan. He developed many friendships and business ties with early Oregon winemakers, and educated the dining public and his staff about quality Oregon wines – especially world-recognized Oregon Pinot Noir.

Content Description

The collection is comprised of articles, letters, photos and other artifacts that feature attributes, reviews, events, celebrations and announcements pertaining to Mr. DeVito and Salishan Lodge. The majority of the collection is an account of Mr. DeVito’s success as the maître d’ and cellar master at Salishan Lodge in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. There is documentation in the Phillip DeVito Collection illustrating how people would travel to Salishan primarily to have an encounter with Mr. DeVito and benefit from his wine expertise.

Restrictions on Access

Access is by appointment only. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment.

Preferred Citation

Phillip DeVito Collection. Jereld R. Nicholson Library. Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon. Gift of Janice DeVito.

Provenance

Janice DeVito, widow of Phillip DeVito, donated The Phillip DeVito Collection to the Linfield College Archives on June 21, 2013.

Location of Originals

Jereld R. Nicholson Library, Linfield College

Related Material

None.

Processing Information

Processed by archives technician Kathie Byers, with the assistance of archivist Rachael Cristine Woody.

Arrangement

This collection is comprised of 12 boxes covering Salishan history, travel, awards and recognition, plus audio and video of DeVito.

Box 1

- Folder 1: Biographical Information 1966 – 1994
- Folder 2: Awards 1967 - 1992
- Folder 3: Articles 1970 - 1983
- Folder 4: Articles 1984 - 2003
- Folder 5: Salishan Wine Cellar Photos

Box 2

- Folder 1: Chef de Cuisine Event 1967
- Folder 2: Giusti Wholesaler Event 1968
- Folder 3: Gold Coin Restaurant 1968
- Folder 4: Early Wine List & Promotions 1970-1980
- Folder 5: Western States Governors' Conference 1973
- Folder 6: Letters of Praise 1973 – 1988
- Folder 7: Salishan Lodge 1981 – 1993
- Folder 8: John and Betty Gray (Owners of Salishan Lodge)
- Folder 9: Chaine des Rotisseurs 1982 – 1984
- Folder 10: Tri-Cities NW Wine Festival 1982
- Folder 11: Salishan Wine List (received Wine Spectator Grand Award) 1983
- Folder 12: Wine List, Caruso's Italian Café and Catering

Box 3

- Folder 1: Salishan Lodge Bastille Day Celebration 1983
- Folder 2: Wine Spectator Grand Award 1983 – 1992
- Folder 3: Oregon Wine Brotherhood (Knights of the Vine) 1984
- Folder 4: Annual Lincoln City Wine Festival 1984

Folder 5: Correspondence 1985 – 1992
Folder 6: New York City Wine and Food Promotion 1987
Folder 7: Salishan Wine List 1987 – 1988
Folder 8: World of Wines Festival Best Wine List Award 1989
Folder 9: Art of Food & Wine 1989
Folder 10: Wine Tasting with M. Jean Jacques Moreau 1990
Folder 11: Cellar Master Rap (A tribute by John Bingham) 1990
Folder 12: Commander's Award Knights of the Vine 1992
Folder 13: Salishan Wine List 1992
Folder 14: Retirement Party, Benson Hotel in Portland 1994
Folder 15: Wine & Food Consulting Records 1996 – 1999
Folder 16: Representatives of the Wine Trade 1997
Folder 17: Society of Wine Educators Northern Italy 1998

Box 4: Award Plaques

Box 5: Medals and other award memorabilia

Box 6: Wine Spectator Grand Awards, 1984-1989, 1991-93

Box 7: Medallions, pins, other award and club membership items

Box 8: Phil DeVito's Retirement Celebration Guest Book, September 9, 1994

Box 9: "In Honor of Phillip DeVito," Salishan Lodge Wine Bottle, September 9, 1994

Box 10: Photographs (5x7 and smaller)

Box 11: Photographs (8x10 and other large-sized)

Box 12: European Study Tour 1968-1969 Part 1 of 2

Box 13: European Study Tour 1968-1969 Part 2 of 2

Box 14: Wine Wheels

Box 15: Miscellaneous publications on wine, cassette tapes, and VHS tapes.

Wine Spectator Pocket Guide to The Greatest Restaurant Wine Lists in America 1984
2003 Guide to Recent Vintage Premium Wines by Michael Amorose
2004 Guide to Recent Vintage Premium Wines by Michael Amorose
2005 Guide to Recent Vintage Premium Wines by Michael Amorose
Wine Spectator Guide to Great Restaurant Wine Lists 1988
The Wine Spectator New York Wine Experience 1989
Oregon Winegrape Grower's Guide 1983
Brochure announcing 1988 opening of Salish Lodge at Snoqualmie Falls

“The Black Tie” by Freddi Krueger 1980
VHS “Phantom Reviewer” (Salishan Dining & Wine) 1992
DVD – Television program “PM Northwest” highlights Salishan
DVD – Wilson Daniels, Ltd. European Tour 2003
Cassette Tape – Tutorial on “How to Teach NW Wines.”
Cassette Tape – Tutorial on “Aroma Wheel Wine.”
Cassette Tape – Tutorial on “White Wine Aging Port.”
Cassette Tape – Tutorial on “Mystery Wine of Rhone.”

Box 16:

Folder: Thumb drive and accompanying papers- audio recordings of DeVito from 1980-1994
DVD 1: Television Program “AM Northwest” on May 21, 1984
DVD 2: Retirement Celebration at the Benson Hotel on September 9, 1994
DVD 3: Video for the Memorial of Phil DeVito on December 5, 2011
VHS 1: “AM Northwest” on June 10, 1984
VHS 2: Portland Retirement from Salishan on September 9, 1994
Cassette 1: Phil DeVito on the Tom Narruc Show on May 15, 1980
Cassette 2: “Phil DeVito makes a Caesar Salad”

Box 17:

Folder 1: Articles related to Phil DeVito and Salishan
Folder 2: The Good Ole Boys
Folder 3: Friends of Phil DeVito: Alex Murphy
Folder 4: Friends of Phil DeVito: Aubert de Villaine
Folder 5: Friends of Phil DeVito: Michael Amorose, Bob Bacon, Vern Anderson, Paul Deshaw, Al Giusti
Folder 6: Friends of Phil DeVito: Rod Ault, Jim Bosley, Alessandro Fasani, Ed Asner
Folder 7: Friends of Phil DeVito: Nick and Pauline Alexander
Folder 8: Friends of Phil DeVito: Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Gail Freifeld
Folder 9: Friends of Phil DeVito: Pierre Alarco
Folder 10: Friends of Phil DeVito: Joe and Alice Heitz, Heitz Vineyards
Folder 11: Friends of Phil DeVito: Bob Thompson, wine writer for *Sunset Magazine*
Folder 12: Friends of Phil DeVito: Freddi Krueger
Folder 13: Friends of Phil DeVito: David and Diana Lett, Eyrie Vineyards

Box 18 – Oversized objects: posters and other framed memorabilia.