

“ORGANIZING A
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MORE ABOUT WINE
OR DISCOVER
SOMETHING NEW.”
—CELINE RIQUELME

OENO FILES

SOMMELIERS ARE
TAKING THE SUBURBAN
DINNER PARTY SCENE
TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

BY MARNI MANKO

When Merion’s Gail Slogoff was planning an intimate 40th birthday dinner party for her husband Reed, a principal of Pearl Properties, she knew that while the food was important, the wine choice was critical. As oenophiles with a robust selection of bottles in their wine cellar, not just any wine would do. “We’ve been collecting wine for years, and I thought that having a sommelier would make the evening even more special,” she says. “Everyone enjoyed the CONTINUED...



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PENN VALLEY \$1,395,000



Magnificent 6 Bedroom, 5 1/2 Bath, 8231 Sq Ft, Norman Style center hall Pennsylvania Fieldstone home, built in 1929. This extraordinary home is situated on a luscious 2.49 acres in sought-after Penn Valley. This attractive, impeccably-maintained, 3-story residence has great quality and character, stunning hardwood floors and high ceilings throughout the entire home with an exquisite Vermont Slate Roof.

BRYN MAWR \$1,995,000



Spectacular, 6 Bedroom, 6 Full Bathrooms, 2 Powder Rooms, 9198 Sq Ft, stone, luxurious masterpiece located on a cul-de-sac in the exceptional sought-after Harriton Farm Community in the heart of Northside Bryn Mawr. This 14 year old marvelous estate home was built by Pohlig Builders and features custom millwork and architectural details throughout with meticulous attention to detail.

RITTENHOUSE SQ \$3,690,000



Exquisite 4 Bedroom, 5 Bath, 7155 Sq Ft, stone, brownstone, Circa 1860, with 2-Car Parking. This renovated, grand, stately Mansion has been impeccably designed, meticulously maintained, boasting Old World Charm, strong architectural features, custom high-end appointments and craftsmanship. The original Millwork has been exquisitely restored with soaring 14 ft ceilings, 9 gorgeously appointed Mahogany or Marble fireplaces, elegant Mahogany Staircase, and hand laid hardwood floors throughout.

RITTENHOUSE SQ \$2,995,000



Stunning, 4 Bedroom, 4 1/2 Bath, 5936 Sq Ft, brick residence located on one of the most prominent tree-lined streets in sought-after Rittenhouse SQ. This historic, Circa 1861, one of a kind, Delancey Place Town home has a 2-car Garage, extremely rare 6-Story elevator, which exits to a spectacular roof top deck, Juliet Balcony, leaded glass windows, exquisite hardwood floors and original solid wood doors throughout. This beautiful home has been meticulously maintained and impeccably restored.

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MAIN LINE STYLE ENTERTAINING

meal, but having the expertise of a wine specialist was the perfect touch to personalize the evening.”

And Slogoff was on to something. Today, more and more Main Liners are taking the de rigueur dinner party to new heights by hiring private sommeliers and wine experts to not only pick the wines to pair with the courses, but to also educate, instruct, and even inspire guests to know all about what they’re imbibing, down to the last tannin.

“Wine can be intimidating—organizing a tasting during an event will encourage people to learn more about wine or discover something new,” says Celine Riquelme of Three Cheers Wine (*threecheerswine.com*), a wine-business consultancy. “They have an opportunity to taste different wines, give their

opinion, and interact with other guests.”

As for the process, “it always starts with a conversation about what the person wants,” says Marc Supsic, owner of Wine Living (*wineliving.info*). “First, we find out what the event is about. Then we talk about number of guests, budget, and the kind of wines they’re aiming for. What’s the theme and setting? Is it formal or a backyard barbecue? Is there a topic such as Italian wines or New World wines you’re interested in learning more about?”

Noah Reagan, manager and certified sommelier at Nectar (*tasteneectar.com*), implores you not to lose sight of what matters most. “Remember that this is your party so be sure that you like the wine and that it showcases your personality.” ■

