

Vineyard Murder Mystery

Official Detective Notebook

Saturday, July 10

7:00 - 9:00 pm



	Motive	Means	Opportunity
Claire Restaurant Manager			
Don Tourist			
Alexis Wine Critic			
Jean Tasting Room Manager			
Jessica Heartbroken Tourist			
Sam Winery Owner			

The Suspects

Claire Sperrazza

Claire is Spencer-Gasser's on-site restaurant manager. Soft-spoken and seemingly timid, Claire runs the restaurant with ruthless efficiency, and like most staff, lives on the estate in the staff quarters on the second floor. Claire has a vast knowledge of pairing fine wine with gourmet food, and works closely with the estate chef to create meals for special events and any guests the winery may accommodate.

Don Espada

Don is a tourist who has come to the winery for one evening only, to taste the new vintage of Verso. Distinguished and elitist, Don is talkative and personable, although slightly pushy about their views on certain topics.

Alexis Biagi

Wine critic Alexis is known the world over for being one of the most brutal, nasty and difficult-to-impress wine critics. Working for Oenophile Monthly magazine, Alexis's critiques are syndicated worldwide to over 50 magazines and newspapers. A single foul word from Alexis can sink an entire winery, and Alexis enjoys the power they wield with nothing more than their opinion.

Jean Marullo

The Tasting Room Manager and winery villain, Jean is sharp-tongued with a quick temper and a mean streak. To the guests and those who come to the winery for a tasting, Jean is polite and sweet, but those Jean works with know better – they are to be avoided at all costs and are quick to rage. Jean goes after what they want and are rarely disappointed.

Jessica Arbor

Jessica Arbor is a tourist who has been staying in the on-site cottage. After a tough break-up, Jessica has been traveling, trying to mend a broken heart. Jessica had only planned to stay at the winery for two nights, but decided to stay indefinitely after meeting Enrich Newgate. Jessica is slightly naive about wine, but is eager to learn everything while at Spencer-Gasser.

Sam Erlanger

Sam is the owner of Spencer-Gasser winery. Sam is confident and has a presence that attracts others. Sam's former brand, Erlanger Estates, was failing, but they fired all the staff, hired on a brand new team and rebranded. The move was successful, and Spencer-Gasser is enjoying record sales for the winery and vineyard.

The Murder

The victim

Just five minutes ago, one of the staff was in the barrel room, bringing up more bottles for the tasting, when they spotted a trail of blood on the floor. They followed it and stumbled upon a gruesome sight. The victim, Enrich Newgate, was found in the cellar, stabbed in the neck with a corkscrew. He wouldn't have initially been noticed, as he was pulled behind a number of barrels.

Enrich Newgate had been working at Spencer-Gasser for around three months. He was initially hired on as a jack of all trades and came with unbelievable experience and stunning references. He was staying in the employee quarters on the second floor with the rest of the staff.

It's clear that this murder has been committed within the last twenty minutes. While there was a lot of movement around this time, no one has left the premises, so there is no doubt that the killer is someone here with us. The investigators won't arrive for hours.

The location

Welcome to the Spencer-Gasser winery! On the eve of the launch of the limited edition vintage, Verso, the winery has opened their doors for a private tasting.

Spencer-Gasser is a grand estate winery on the top of a hill, surrounded by the winery's private vineyards. The estate opens its doors to travelers and other wine lovers, and has a restaurant, tasting room, and even offers a self-catered cottage that can accommodate two parties simultaneously with a shared kitchen. The winery owner, Sam Erlanger, offers the cottage to travelers and wine lovers from around the world to stay for an evening, a few days or even weeks as they get away from it all, enjoying the stunning vineyard view and learning about wine firsthand.

Most of the staff have quarters on the second floor of the estate, and those who don't live onsite call the nearby village of Old Diggings home, which is a lovely twenty minute downhill stroll from the winery.

This is the third year that Spencer-Gasser has released Verso, a limited edition vintage made from grapes grown on the northeast end of the vineyards, close to the estate. No one knows why the grapes from this area taste slightly different, but Verso is met each year with mixed critical review. Verso is only one of the wines that Spencer-Gasser's offers, and the others are usually met with quite favorable reviews. This is surely music to the owner, Sam Erlanger's ears, as three years ago, almost to the day, all staff were fired, new staff were brought on and the branding of the winery was changed from Erlanger Estates to Spencer-Gasser. So far, the strategy has been wildly successful, and the winery has seen success once again.

Welcome, Detective

Your role

You will have an opportunity to question each suspect. At the end of the night, you'll take all of your information and make your accusation before the killer is revealed. Use this notebook to keep track of what each suspect tells you.

What to ask

You may ask the suspects whatever you wish. However, if the suspect doesn't have an answer to your question, they will respond with

"I have nothing to say about that."

This is your cue that this particular line of questioning is not relevant.

Tips

With each suspect, find out if they had

- ✓ Motive (the reason for committing the crime)
- ✓ Means (the tools or methods used to commit the crime)
- ✓ Opportunity (the occasion that would allow the crime to take place)

Find out from each suspect:

- ✓ Where were you at the time of the murder?
- ✓ Can anyone verify your whereabouts?
- ✓ Have you seen anything suspicious?
- ✓ Do you know of anyone who would have wanted the victim dead?
- ✓ What are your connections to the other suspects?



