

SELI NEWS

Summer English Language Institute • College Writing Programs

Summer Sessions, University of California, Berkeley

Issue #3, July 28, 2008

Welcome to UC Berkeley and to the Summer English Language Institute (SELI). The instructors and staff are delighted that you could join us in Berkeley this summer. This newsletter provides information that you need to know for your stay with us. Throughout the summer, we have many events planned for outside the classroom. And, we'll let you know about events around campus, around town and around the Bay Area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 1, 2008

Sonoma Wine Tasting and tour



Visit beautiful Sonoma! See the dramatic coastline, and visit 3 popular wineries where you will touch grapes in the fields, learn

about wine making and taste various selections of wine at each winery. We'll go by chartered bus to Ravenswood Vineyards, Benziger Winery and Valley of the Moon wineries. See details on page 2.

AUGUST 8, 2008

Gold Rush Walking Tour of San Francisco



Did you know that San Francisco became an instant city

during the California Gold Rush? Learn about SF's unique history, including the Vigilance Committee, the fleet of abandoned ships, and Emperor Norton. Follow the footsteps of the original 49ers on this guided walking tour. See details on page 2.

STUDENT ESSAYS

My First Impression of the Bay Area

By Hsu, Wen Lin (Jessica)
Taiwan

This is my first time in America. When the plane landed, I was as excited as the people who had the American Dream. After chatting with my roommate, I realized how difficult it is to enroll in this school and began to admire the students here. All of the continuing students must be very intelligent and hard-working. People are friendly, just like my roommate. The campus is wide and the

halls are as magnificent as a palace. The weather here is comfortable. Even though it is a little hot at noon, I seldom sweat. But I think the environment here is a little messy. Maybe it is because there are all kinds of people in and out of California. To conclude, I am happy to be here and expect my summer session and trip to be wonderful.

My First Impression of the Bay Area

By Jonathan Dulin
France

I went to the Bay Area of San Francisco one day ago. It was my first time in this American town. The first impression and feeling I had this day begin on the bridge during the bus transport. I saw a wonderful environment where the earth and the sea were in perfect harmony. The sun was burning on my head, my hair played with the wind and my eyes were completely open.

There was no boat on the sea, but with my own imagination I can see how it could be. On the right side of the bus there were small houses and buildings touching the sky and on the left side was the most beautiful and successful bridge I had ever seen before, The Golden Gate. Then, I had seen a little island basically lost in this big and incredible bay: Alcatraz Prison.

Finally, this Bay of San Francisco is really beautiful and amazing. This is, to me, the perfect example of a moment that takes your breath away.



Useful Info

Summer Session D Deadlines

Last day to change your grade option: August 1

Summer Session E Deadlines

Last day to drop a course: August 8

Last day to change your grade option: August 1

Last day to add a course: August 1

Last day for a refund: August 1

Need to use a Mac or PC?

If you need to use a computer to complete class assignments or to stay in contact with those at home, visit the campus' micro-computer facilities. Facilities are located in Moffitt Library and Wheeler Hall. Consult your SELI Student Handbook for details.

Want to Workout?

Take an exercise class or use the fitness center in the Recreational Sports Facility (RSF) for only \$10. Consult your Student Handbook for details.

Want a UC Berkeley email account?

Go to <http://calmail.berkeley.edu> and click on <Create an Account>. You'll need your Calnet ID and passphrase to create an account.

Want to join a Free Conversation Group to Practice English in a relaxed, informal setting?

Sections meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. or 7-8 p.m. in 100 Wheeler Hall. Fill out the white sheet in your SELI folder and bring it to the class. If you missed the first session, you can still join the groups- just attend the next class. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Robinson, at: jennydrobinson@gmail.com.

SELI Office

116 and 117 Wheeler Hall
UC Berkeley Campus
510.642.5975

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday,
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

EVENT DETAILS

Sonoma Wine Country Tour & Tasting

Date: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2008

Time: 8:15 A.M. TILL ABOUT 5:00 P.M.

Place: BENZIGER, RAVENSWOOD

& VALLEY OF THE MOON WINERIES

Cost: \$50

Sign up: Sign up is required! You MUST be 21 in order to take this trip. Bring a passport or driver's license to the SELI office, at the table in the lobby outside of 112 Wheeler Hall. Tickets may be purchased Monday, July 28- Thursday, July 31 from 12-2 p.m. and 4:30-5 p.m. only. Exact Change is required. No tickets will be sold to you if you forget your I.D. Cash Only. Maximum 35 students.

Where to Meet: We will take a charter bus. A group of students and teachers will meet at the bus at the intersection of Telegraph Avenue and Bancroft Way. You must be there at **8:15 a.m.**

Weather: It gets very hot walking through the vineyards, so wear light clothes, and bring plenty of water.

Lunch: Please bring your own lunch, or be prepared to buy lunch at a deli.

Details of Winery tours:

Benziger: Take a tram ride at Benziger's Biodynamic vineyards, visit the fermentation facility and crush pad and walk through their barrel caves. Biodynamics, a method of organic farming, emphasizes the interrelationship of the soil, plants, animals as a closed, self-nourishing system. It uses manures and composts and excludes the use of artificial chemicals. The tour includes a special tasting of Benziger's Biodynamic and other award-winning wines.

Ravenswood: Ravenswood's motto is "No Wimpy Wines." Find out what this means during your visit. Stroll through the estate vineyard to examine the vines up close, then return to the cellar to sample wines straight from the barrel and taste current releases. At the home of No Wimpy Wines, you'll get to taste mind-blowing zinfandel, and enjoy witty conversation with the behind-the-bar staff.

Valley of the Moon: This winery has been in operation longer than any other winery in the Glen Ellen area. The stone structures themselves date back to 1863. In 1997 the winery was transformed into a contemporary wine making facility; still the original heritage was preserved. We'll take a tour of the facility and taste some wines.

Gold Rush Walking Tour of San Francisco

Date: FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2008

Time: 9:45 A.M. TILL ABOUT 1:00 P.M.

Place: The walking tour starts on the northeast corner of Clay & Montgomery at the Transamerica Pyramid and goes through downtown San Francisco.

Cost: \$10 for the tour and \$6.80 for roundtrip BART from Berkeley to Montgomery Street Station in San Francisco. You will prepay for the tour and buy your BART ticket at the station. Please bring exact change. Maximum 24 students.

Sign up: Sign up is required! Please sign up at the SELI office, at the table in the lobby outside of 112 Wheeler Hall. Tickets may be purchased Monday, July 28- Thursday, July 31 from 12-2 p.m. and 4:30-5 p.m. Exact Change is required.

Where to Meet: Meet at the bottom of the escalator at the Downtown Berkeley BART station at **9:45 a.m.** We will take the 10:10 Millbrae train to San Francisco. The walking tour starts on the northeast corner of Clay & Montgomery at the Transamerica Pyramid at 11:00 a.m. It's a short walk up Montgomery from the BART station.

How to Get Home: You'll get back to Berkeley on your own, but you can walk back to BART with the faculty guide, Joyce PODEVYN, after the end of the tour. Take the Richmond train back to Downtown Berkeley or spend the day in San Francisco.

Contact: : Joyce PODEVYN (jpodevyn@yahoo.com)

Website: : www.sfcityguides.org (click on "Gold Rush City" under "Tours")

AROUND BERKELEY

Rasputin Music

2403 TELEGRAPH AVE, BERKELEY

With three stories of music, Rasputin carries basically everything you can imagine, from rock to jazz, from Mouse on Mars to Serge Gainsbourg. Just descend a staircase and you will be in LP heaven. The greatest part of all of this? They're not Borders, which means that everything is reasonably priced.



WINE TASTING TIPS

This Friday a group of Summer English Language students, instructors, and staff will travel to Sonoma to tour wineries and taste wine. In the article below, we turn to everyday living expert, well-known to most Americans, Martha Stewart for advice on how to properly taste and judge a wine.

General Rules

The variety of grapes such as Chardonnay, Merlot, or Zinfandel determines the wine's taste, color, and aroma. Most American wines are named for the principal grape used in making them; a European wine label can be more difficult to decipher. For this reason, beginners may want to start by tasting American wines.

Appearance

Begin by looking at the wines in the glasses. Hold them up against a white surface, such as a sheet or a piece of paper. A white wine should be clear, and it will range from almost white to gold. Red wines are purple to red-brown. The deeper the color, the more full-bodied the wine.

Aroma

A wine's aroma is very telling of its taste and character. Swirl each wine in its glass, then take a deep, gentle whiff of the wine. With your guests, describe the aromas you detect. Start with general terms such as fruity, spicy, herbal, floral, and earthy, then be more specific, even creative. Good wines have a complex aroma, which is the reason professional wine tasters use such terms.

Smell each one, then go back and forth among the glasses, comparing their aromas. A subtle scent hints that the wine will be light and delicate in flavor.

At last it's time to taste the wines. Take a sip, then breathe a little bit of air into your mouth to release the wine's flavors. Take 10 to 15 seconds to move the wine through your mouth; different parts of your tongue will register different details. Ask yourself how the wine tastes and feels; when you swallow, does the flavor linger?

Here are a few things to look for: In the whites, the Sauvignon Blanc is light, dry, and herbal; the Chardonnay is full-bodied, creamy, and has an oaky taste from the barrels it is aged in; the Riesling is fruity and crisp. As for the reds, the Pinot Noir is fruity and light compared to the others, with a spicy taste; the Merlot is more subtle and smooth; the Cabernet Sauvignon is more complicated, evoking black currant and dried herbs.

Full article available at <http://www.marthastewart.com/article/wine-tasting-party-101>.