

Domaine Hudson Demystifies Wine

A CPA fulfills his passion

By Katrina Mitzeliotis

For 10 years, in the accounting office of Tom Hudson, CPA, hung a framed painting of a restaurant with a sign over the doorway that read "Hudson's."

"I would look at it and say, 'One day,'" says Hudson.

That day has arrived, and the same painting now hangs in Domaine Hudson Wine Bar and Eatery, which opened last October. Located on North Washington Street in Wilmington, the restaurant is owned and managed by former accountant Tom Hudson and his wife, Meg.

"Being a part of the wine business has been my passion," Hudson says.

The restaurant aims to make wine tasting an approachable, knowledgeable experience. "Wine is the ultimate compliment to quality food," he says. "Oftentimes, though, wine can

be intimidating. People find what they like and they stick to it."

Domaine Hudson's wine list offers a choice of 50 wines, served in three sizes: 1 ½-oz., 3-oz. and 5-oz. glasses. Hudson says offering a variety of sizes encourages people to sample new wine in smaller, affordable portions.

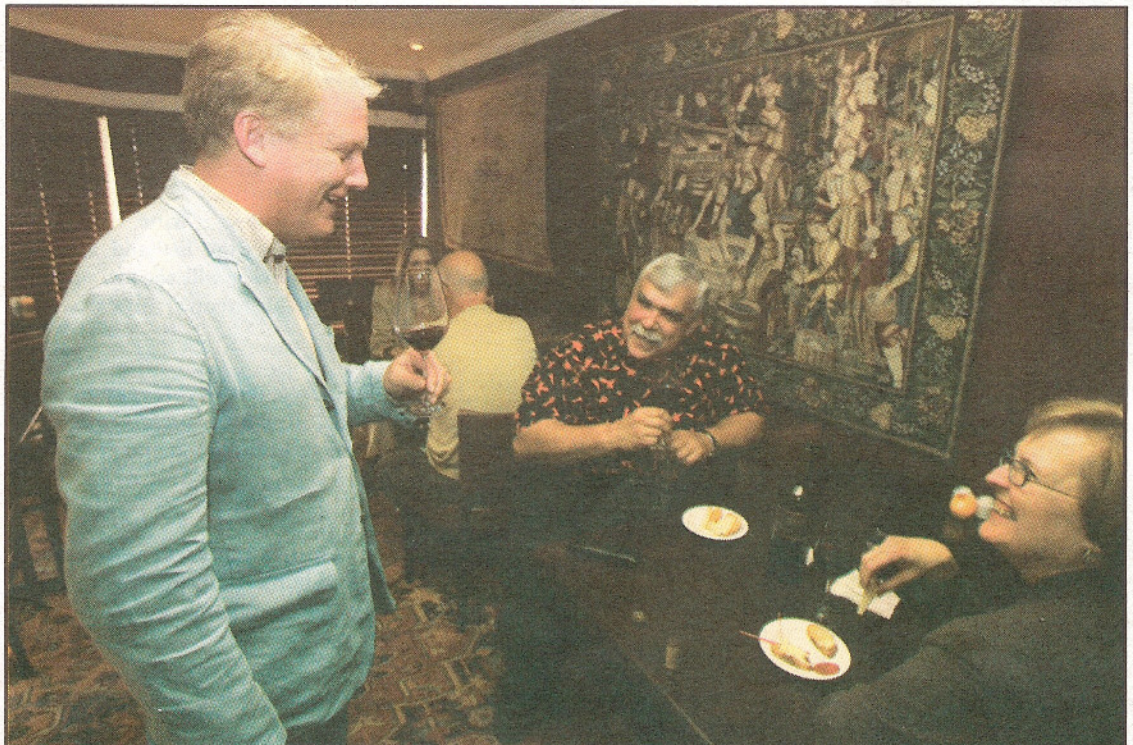
"Often when people are faced with a big wine list they have to buy a bottle," he says. "If you don't like the wine, it could end up being an expensive mistake."

The restaurant's menu, which was chosen to complement the wine flavors, features small plates and half-size entrees. And there is a separate section for cheeses.

"How simple is wine and cheese?" Hudson asks. "No one does it anymore."

He says the restaurant has been well-received.

continued on next page



Tom Hudson (left) is a former accountant who fulfilled his dream of opening his own wine bar. *Photo by Tim Hawk*

Domaine Hudson —

continued from previous page

“People have expressed a thirst and demand for knowledge,” he says. “We provide that for people because it wasn’t available before in Wilmington.”

The decor of the restaurant features Ralph Lauren wallpaper, houndstooth chairs, leather and dark wood. The masculine look is softened with scattered fresh flowers and paisley prints.

Most of the furnishings came from the Hudsons. For example, in the private dining room, the candelabras on the table belonged to Hudson’s grandmother. The maroon paint and crown molding are also characteristics borrowed from the Hudson home.

“We try to reflect the way we live and entertain at home in the restaurant,” he says.

The walls of the private dining room and the women’s bathroom are decorated with framed black and white photographs from the 1950s of the Chevaliers du Tastevin, a group of men from Philadelphia’s Main Line who annually traveled to France for wine tastings. Hudson says the pictures were purchased at a flea market and originally displayed in his home.

“Wine, conversation and company—that’s what they represent, and that’s what we try to do here,” he says.

— *Domaine Hudson is located at 1314 N. Washington St. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. For additional information, visit www.domainehudson.com.*