

Even the guys enjoyed "My Fair Lady" when it came time for the opening race at our dinner club party set to the race sequence from the Rex Harrison/ Audrey Hepburn film.

**Set:** We set cafe tables around our back porch and decorated them with an array of flowers and baskets. At our front door, we took a serving cart and dressed it to appear much like Eliza Doolittles flower cart from Covent Garden.



**Costumes:** The ladies had a "field day" for our "My Fair Lady" film evening, making their own Ascot Hats, the guys dug into their formal ware.

**Catering:** Cuisine was Spanish tapas, as in "The Rain in,,," to give an extra challenge to the chefs in our dinner club.

**Score:** For music, we found a CD with great old time British pub songs to play as our guests arrived. We added a sound effect CD looped for crowd noises and race track effects to create the din of attending a real horse race.

**Action:** The special event was the Royal Ascot Races, with Video Horse racing and charity betting on your favorite horse. We found a series of DVDs of Horse Racing games online and ordered one for the party. Guests received play wagers (we took in a collection for our favorite charity) and watched the race on the big screen. The ladies were keeping in character as they

screamed, like Eliza, for the horse to "move yer arse"!



**Drink:** Our club sommelier, Craig, outdid himself in recommending wine pairings for our Spanish tapas.

"All of the wines that I am discussing can be purchased at fine wine stores in most neighborhoods, perhaps at the next review I will pick another wine store to keep things interesting. Rioja is probably the most famous wine region in Spain. It is named after the river Oja (as in Rio Oja). It is in the North of Spain and has 3 different regions – the Rioja Alto, Rioja Alavesa and the Rioja Baja in order of quality They make red wines with the Tempranilla grape> They are matured in Oak casks as would a wine in Bordeaux and are bound to certain ageing minimums. The flavor takes on an oak bouquet and taste. Rioja Crianza is a wine released in its 3rd year – one year of which it must have been stored in a barricas (oak barrel). A Rioja Reserva must have been stored in the barrel for a minimum of 1 year but that usually turns into 2 years. Of course, the longer the storage – the higher the cost. So the Crianzas are the lowest price. So here are 2 to try at around \$13

