

# ARROYO VINO

RESTAURANT AND WINE SHOP

## Sunday Dinner and a Movie American Achievement Series Part 2 “Hidden Figures”

Serves Two, Includes Wine

85

Order Today; Pick-up

Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

505-983-2100

*please inform us of any allergies or dietary restrictions*

**Octopus, Shrimp, and Scallop Ceviche Aguachile**  
cucumber, cilantro, serrano, avocado, pickled red onion,  
tortilla chips

**Chicken and Spinach Enchiladas**  
tomatillo sauce, monterey jack cheese

**Black Beans and Green Rice**  
herbs

**Tres Leches Cake**  
deliciousness, love

### Ridgecrest Estate Grüner Veltliner Ribbon Ridge

This is a power-house movie about powerful, kick-ass ladies that helped not only to launch a man to the moon, but to launch the United States into the future. As luck would have it, we happen to have a kick-ass, tasty wine made by a power-house of a woman to accompany it. Conveniently, this Oregon grown Grüner is full of just the right juicy, starfruit, pear, white pepper, and wet stone flavors required to compliment the meal our own kick-ass, super talented Chef Allison came up with. So let's give a good ole twist to the cap, pour a hefty glass, and give a hearty cheer to the accomplishments of all these fine American ladies and their outstanding accomplishments.

Movie available to stream on multiple platforms

Synopsis provided by James Selby, former professional actor, lifelong movie buff, wine rep extraordinaire, and all-around super star human.

As a title, *Hidden Figures*, a vitally upbeat, affecting film based on Margot Lee Shetterly's book, contains a poignant double entendre. Her title is a tad longer: “*Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race*,” but it perfectly summarizes this factual tale. The figures hidden are both the mathematical quandaries sought by NASA, crucial to winning the space race with Russia, and the segregated African-American women who helped decipher those trajectories. Space racism, we might say.

The film is set at Langley Research Center in 1961. At this point “computers” were people, not machines, and a unit of all Black women were required to use separate dining and bathroom facilities. The film follows a real-life trio. The quietly focused Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson, Golden Globe winner, *Empire*); the practical, unflappable Dorothy Vaughn (Oscar winner Octavia Spencer); and quick-witted, firecracker Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe, seen in *Moonlight*). One morning on the way to work their car breaks down and a White policeman pulls up to investigate. There's tension until he discovers they're NASA employees and dutifully offers a police escort, lights and siren ablaze. “Three negro women are chasing a white police officer down a highway in Hampton, Virginia,” quips Mary. “Ladies, that there is a God-ordained miracle!”

The Jim Crow tensions don't end at the facility gate. When Katherine walks into her assigned department, a busy hive of a room, thirty White male mathematicians and a White secretary stop cold. The chill remains as Katherine goes about her job, confident in her work and backing it up whenever questioned. But every slight, stare, and sneer, every hit to her dignity, registers on her face. Her boss, Al Harrison (Kevin Costner), tough but fair, is focused on one thing: the irrefutable calculations to help put an American into orbit. Costner is expert. His character travels, not in a rocket but in his soul, and is utterly compelling. Mahershala Ali (also in *Moonlight*) is every bit as strong in his romantic courtship of Katherine. (Hey, it's Hollywood!) And John Glenn (the charming Glen Powell) is colorblind when it comes to the right stuff. In nervous moments before Glenn squeezes into the capsule atop Friendship 7, a problem threatens the launch. “Get the girl to check the numbers,” says Glenn. “Which one?” asks Harrison. Glenn smiles and says, “The smart one.”

Footlights: Katherine Johnson, who died in February 2020, said, “I didn't feel the segregation at NASA because everybody there was doing research. You had a mission and you worked on it, and it was important to do your job...and play bridge at lunch. I didn't feel any segregation. I knew it was there, but I didn't feel it.”