



Saturday, April 15—Outstanding New Wineries
Sunday, May 21—California Route 128 Wine Adventure
Thursday, June 15—Cañon de Sol Syrah Vertical

Outstanding New Wineries

The Purple Grape

The day is fast approaching, not when your taxes are due, but the really important day of tasting outstanding new wineries offerings. On **Sunday, April 15**, come join the Tri-Cities Wine Society at the Holiday Inn Express and celebrate tax day by consuming award-winning wines from wineries that have opened only recently.

Several of the selections are medal winners or from wineries that have received accolades from Wine Press Northwest, the Wine Spectator, or the Tri-Cities Wine Festival. The selection process was a challenge with so many new wineries and wines to evaluate. Ted Davis & Marie Pennella, with help from others have chosen the following Yakima Valley wines: the **2004 Alexandria Nicole Sauvignon Blanc** (crisp, smooth with lots of citrus), **Chandler Reach's award winning "36" Red Blend**, (wonderful nose, lots of fruit and a long finish), and **Cowan's '03 Tartan Red** (blend of Merlot, Cab & Cab Franc), a bronze medal winner at the 2005 Wine Festival.

From the North Cascade area: **Benson Winery** will

Important details:
Outstanding New Wineries
Event Chairs: Ted Davis and Marie Penella

Date: Saturday, April 15, 2006
Starting Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Holiday Inn Express—Richland (near Home Depot)
Price: \$25.00 members, \$30.00 guests
Limit: 48 people
Type: Social Tasting
Bring at least one glass
Cut-off Date: Tuesday, April 11
Cancellation Policy: For refund, cancellation must be made by *phone* to 627-6579 on or before **April 11**.

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California Route 128 Wine Adventure

Mary Binder

Tick, tick, tick ... time is quickly passing. Have you marked your calendar for **Sunday, May 21**? If yes, great! If not, grab that calendar – paper, hand held, computer, whatever you use in today's high-tech world – and mark the date. Join us for a special adventure to one of California's more unique wine areas, **Route 128 in Mendocino County's Anderson Valley**.

Whether you approach Route 128 from U.S. Highway 101 or from California's Route 1, you will travel through one of the state's very scenic but less traveled wine areas. From a spectacular Redwood forest, to a town with its own quaint language to award-winning wineries with picnic spots where you can relax, kick back and enjoy some wine and scenery, Route 128 has much to offer – especially to those wanting to venture off the beaten path and take what, at times, feels like a step back into another era.

The Anderson Valley is one of California's coolest growing areas. According to literature from the **Mendocino Winegrowers Alliance**, the northwest end of this 25-mile valley is very cool and often foggy. Gewurztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay (for both still and sparkling wine) do best here.

(Continued on page 3)

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Spring at Meadows Springs

Floyd Hodges

Wow! What a weekend, with two fabulous dinners at the **Meadow Springs Country Club!**

The first dinner was our **Society Annual Meeting**, a wonderful event put together by Ken Ferrigno. The dinner was complemented by lovely wines from **Amavi and Pepperbridge wineries**, all made by Swiss-born winemaker Jean-François Pellet. As an added treat, we had part owner and Marketing Director Eric McKibbin tell us about the history of the wineries and their wines. Over all, a really friendly experience in a beautiful setting.

In the business part of the meeting we managed to reelect nine current Board members and elect two new members to the Board. **Mary Binder**, whose husband and current Board member Don is away helping the Corp. of Engineers with Hurricane Katrina-related problems, has recently retired as Head of Public Relations at the Umatilla Army Depot, and brings honed public relations skills to the Board. **Ted Cress** replaces Gita Golcar who decided to pursue other interests. Ted also brings much needed computer knowledge to the Board and has taken over our web site's management. We thank both Don and Gita for their contributions to our Society and wish them well in all of their future endeavors.

The second event was **Perfect Harmony**, the dinner and auction that our Society sponsors to raise money for the **Mid-Columbia Symphony**. Approximately 150 people enjoyed a wonderful dinner accompanied by prime local wines. They participated in a **silent auction** that included some outstanding works by local artists, and in an **action-packed live auction** that sold 30 lots of excellent wine. It is a beautiful event, for a worthy cause, and you should really consider attending next year.



In The Makings for June: Cañon de Sol Syrah Vertical

Dominique Vetrano

June 15 promises to offer another unique tasting, featuring a talented winemaker and his specialty wine production. **Victor Cruz, of Cañon de Sol Winery and Vineyards**, came up with his own idea of a program for our Wine Society members and their guests. For us, he will pour his syrahs from an array of years, treating us to a special tasting in his own boutique winery.

**Mark June 15 on your calendar
and make sure to follow the story
in our May EVOE**

**Renew Your Membership Now: fill out
the coupon on page 5, or contact Marieca
Davis at marieca1@verizon.net**

Coming up in July

2nd Labels

*Look in the next EVOE for details about
this event*

**Please Note:
Minimum Age 21 At All Events**

Due to Washington State Liquor Board regulations, we are not allowed to have persons under 21 years of age present at monthly program events or at the Tri-Cities Wine Festival.

Even though a baby in a stroller or back carrier may seem harmless enough, the regulations tied to our banquet permit prohibit any minors from attending. Please make arrangements for child care when you're planning to attend a society meeting or event.

(Continued from page 1)

Outstanding New Wineries

be presenting their **2004 Pinot Gris**, a bright, light and refreshing wine that complements a hot summer Tri-Cities summer night with light foods. As a **silver medal winner at San Francisco International Wine Competition, Vin du Lac** has so many award-winning wines that it was hard to choose. Their **2003 Viognier** represents this varietal at its best

Few of you have ever heard of **Morrison Lane** in Walla Walla. They have been open for less than a year but were one of the first growers in the Valley, selling product to such pioneers as Gary Figgins of Leonetti Cellars. Current offerings besides the “usual” are, a Nebbilio, Sangiovese, Carmenère, and the wine to be served on the 15th, a **2003 Cinsault** (phonetically pronounced “sanso”).

If you attend this tasting, you will be the first to taste **James Leigh’s 2003 Cabernet**. This wine will be released to the general public in June, but is ready to be consumed. It is so new that the winemaker had to be convinced to let the Wine Society purchase it ahead of public release. We watched as the winemaker applied the labels and seals on the bottles so that we would be ATF legal. This wine is big, rich, full bodied, with a long after taste.

Fort Walla Walla’s 2003 Merlot was selected for its complexity, smooth texture, fantastic nose and long legs. The Purple Grape was told on the “QT” that Ft. Walla Walla has just received a call from Wine Spectator requesting a private tasting to include barrel samples. This usually means the winery will be featured in an up-coming issue and has wine that will receive have a 91 or greater rating. It was a real toss-up between the merlot and the cab, but the merlot won out.

Lest we forget the food. It has been chosen to pair with each of the fabulous wines. Foods will include imported Gorgonzola and other cheeses, seasonal fruit, chocolates, gourmet breads with designer dipping oils, sauces, selected meats and a mystery seafood, all selected to offer a wide variety to sample with the fine wines.

The event will be held in the board conference room at the **Holiday Inn Express**, which is on Center Parkway near Home Depot in Richland. The room size will limit the number attendees so use the EVOE coupon to sign up quickly or you may miss out. The event will start at 6:30 p.m., and cost will only be \$25 for members and \$30 for guests.

Bring a glass, a quest for the new and exciting, and a friend or two or more to enjoy eight wines and wonderful accompanying foods. Remember: **VITA VINUM EST** (Latin) translates to **WINE IS LIFE**. So send your coupon in now to reserve your spot and enjoy life with your fellow Wine Society members. Close out will be 48 or April 11th whichever happens first.

(Continued from page 1)

California Route 128

The southeast end is warmer and better able to ripen varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc. However, move up to sun-exposed ridges above the valley and you’ll find Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The Anderson Valley has been an approved viticultural area since 1983.

With all this in mind, your event planners have been

Anderson Valley
Photo courtesy of Mary Binder



busy assembling a representative sample of wines and sparklings from this valley’s wineries. Between suggestions from other Society members and our own experiences, it has been challenging but fun to narrow the choices to the “final eight” and create your “passport” to tasting and adventure. But, we’re almost there! Also, the Tri-City Country Club staff is excited about this opportunity to work with us and pair a number of hors d’oeuvres with the various wines and sparklings. Further, the Mendocino County Alliance is assisting us by providing additional winery and area information for event attendees.

So, while the wine selection is not quite finalized, award-winning wineries such as **Claudia Springs Winery, Esterlina Vineyards and Winery, Goldeneye Winery (part of the well-known Duckhorn wine family), Navarro Vineyards, Roederer Estate and Scharffenberger Cellars** will most likely be represented. To provide a broad selection of wines as a representative sample and to serve a range of tastes, your event planners are including whites, reds and sparklings. Whether you are a Zinfandel fan, prefer a Chardonnay, are a sparkling fan ... or enjoy all and more, we are confident you will find this opportunity to learn more about another viticultural area both educational and a tasting adventure.

The May EVOE will have the final wine list and any other last-minute information. So, stay tuned. Meanwhile, is your calendar marked for Sunday, May 21? We hope so and are looking forward to seeing you at the Tri-City Country Club for this event.

Important details:

California Route 128

Event Chairs: Don and Mary Binder, Judy Stewart

Date: Sunday, May 21, 2006

Starting Time: 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Location: Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick

Price: \$30.00 members, \$35.00 guests

Limit: 60 people

Type: Tasting with finger food, plus winery and area information

Cut-off Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Cancellation Policy: For refund, cancellation must be made by phone on or before May 16. Call Judy Stewart at 627-6579 to cancel.

Wine Tidbits

Compiled by Dominique Vetrano
and Lois McGuire

SIP TIP

The Big Five-Oh

Is someone you know turning 50 this year? To mark the milestone, why not give him/her a bottle of wine from his/her birth year? Alas, you'll probably want to skip Bordeaux, since 1956 wasn't a particularly good vintage there or in most of France. (Now, if your special someone is turning 21, good news: 1985 was a stellar year in both Bordeaux and Burgundy.) France aside, 1956 was an outstanding vintage for reds in two other, highly respectable regions: Tuscany and Rioja. From Tuscany, look for Brunello di Montalcino in particular. From Rioja, look for *gran reserva* bottlings. Half a century is remarkable—for both wine and a human!

Wine Words

AUSTERE: When applied to wine, the word *austere* isn't always a compliment. Sometimes it's an euphemistic way of saying that a wine is not very giving—that's hard, tannic, lacking fruit, or otherwise un-pleasurable. Yet an austere wine can be strangely appealing. Precisely because it's not easily likable or immediately pleasing, an austere wine can inspire reverence and contemplation. Moreover, wines that are austere when they are young are often those that age the most gracefully over a long period of time. Sounds just like some people, doesn't it?

Question of the Day

Q: Which state in the United States is the only one to have a formal definition of the word *reserve* on wine labels?

A: Washington State. In 2001, Washington became the first state (and is still the only one) to define the word *reserve*. According to a measure adopted by the Washington Wine Quality Alliance, a voluntary industry initiative to which about 75% of all Washington wineries belong, the word *reserve* can be used on no more than 10% of a winery production or up to 3,000 cases (whichever comes first). Thus, reserve wines truly are the best of the best.

Pop Quiz

Three of the regions below are not yet famous but up-and-coming wine-producing regions in Spain. Which of the following regions is *not* in Spain?



1. Rías Baixas

2. Bierzo

3. La Mancha

4. Mendoza

ANSWER : 4. Mendoza is in Argentina famous above all for its red wine, malbec.)

Grapes Thoughts

“What, then is taste? We secretly pride ourselves on our taste. Yet nothing is more terrifying to contemplate. And no taste is more awkward to contemplate than taste in wine. Wine is the ultimate exercise in this nuanced zone of pleasure.”

-LAWRENCE OSBORNE, *The Accidental Connoisseur*

Membership Application

Single: \$18.50

Couple: \$25.00

New Referred by: _____

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How would you like to receive the EVOE newsletter:

Phone # _____

- PDF file attached to email (*current email address requested)
- US mail

Email* _____

Outstanding New Wineries—Saturday, April 15, 2006

Members \$25.00
Guests \$30.00

Member _____

Member _____

Number of members attending: _____
Number of guests attending: _____
Limit: 48

Guest 1 _____

Guest 2 _____

Cut-off date: Friday, April 11, 2006

Phone Number _____

Yes, I (we) would like to help at the event.

Email _____

California Road 128 Wine Adventure—Sunday, May 21, 2006

Members \$30.00
Guests \$35.00

Member _____

Member _____

Number of members attending: _____
Number of guests attending: _____
Limit: 60

Guest 1 _____

Guest 2 _____

Cut-off date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Phone Number _____

Yes, I (we) would like to help at the event.

Email _____

EVOE
*Newsletter of the
Tri-Cities Wine Society*

Dominique Vetrano, Editor

Need an info? Have an idea?
Contact us!
evoe2go@aol.com



Please write your check to
TRI-CITIES WINE SOCIETY
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Special Electronic EVOE Paso Robles Wine Festival Announces New Features in 2006, Tickets on Sale

PASO ROBLES, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--March 30, 2006--Tickets are now available for the 2006 Paso Robles Wine Festival, which will take place Saturday, May 20, 2006, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the downtown city park in Paso Robles, California. The tasting features more than 70 wineries, making it the largest outdoor tasting in California, and is the marquee event during three days of special Paso Robles Wine Country festivities at more than 90 area wineries. Centrally located midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles on California's scenic central coast, Paso Robles Wine Country is the state's third-largest and fastest growing wine region. Paso Robles Wine Festival activities will begin Friday, May 19, when area wineries begin hosting on-site activities including winemaker dinners, special barrel tastings, tours, seminars and more. These activities will continue Saturday and Sunday throughout the region, and offer wine enthusiasts a chance to discover the distinct, different characteristics of Paso Robles wines while meeting the winemakers who created them.

Also on Friday, the annual Wine Festival Golf Tournament, benefiting the American Viticulture Foundation, will take place at Hunter Ranch Golf Course, with check in beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The main event takes place on Saturday, May 20, 2006, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the downtown city park, where thousands of wine enthusiasts will gather for an unlimited tasting of wines from more than 70 Paso Robles wineries during the Paso Robles Wine Festival. Event organizers have announced a number of changes for 2006, designed to enhance consumers' experience at the festival.

"The downtown city park is where the Paso Robles community gathers," said Stacie Jacob, executive director of the Paso Robles Wine Country

Alliance. "During the wine festival we get to invite all of our friends in the wine enthusiast community to come and share a day of celebrating the great wines of Paso Robles."

Changes for the 2006 Paso Robles Wine Festival include the advent of a designated tasting area, a new separate picnic area, commemorative Riedel glassware and a host of high end food vendors. The new designated tasting area allows visitors to enjoy unlimited wine tasting from 1 to 5 p.m. while listening to live music from two stages (one within the tasting area, one in the exterior picnic area). Only ticketed tasters will be allowed in the cordoned off area, which will cover about two thirds of the city park, making movement from each winery to winery booth easier.

Two ticket options are available for the Saturday afternoon tasting. A \$50 Tasting Ticket package includes unlimited wine tasting from 1 to 5 p.m., as well as a commemorative Riedel tasting glass. A \$15 Designated Driver ticket includes four free non-alcoholic beverages, a commemorative beverage container and entry to the tasting area for guests 18 and older. Tickets may be purchased online at pasowine.com or by phone at 800.549.WINE. Photo identification verifying age will be required at the time of entry.

The Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance (PRWCA), represents wineries, growers and businesses in Paso Robles Wine Country. Centrally located between San Francisco and Los Angeles, along California's Central Coast, Paso Robles Wine Country is California's fastest growing wine region. It encompasses more than 26,000 vineyard acres and more than 170 wineries.

Complete event details, including what's new for 2006 can be found at www.pasowine.com

April 2006 - Calendar of Events

(**) Events organized by Tri-Cities Wine Society (TCWS)

5th Annual Celebration of Syrah, April 7-8, Troutdale, OR. McMenamins Edgefield will play host to winemakers and distributors from the Pacific Northwest, California, Australia and France who will showcase their best Syrahs. Guests can attend a private reception and gourmet dinner hosted by the winemakers themselves, barrel tasting of 2005 Syrahs, and participate in a silent auction to benefit ¡Salud!, a non-profit organization that aids Oregon's seasonal vineyard workers in securing medical care. Location: McMenamins Edgefield. Hours: All day. Cost: Various prices throughout the weekend. For more information, go to www.celebrationofsyrah.com or call McMenamins Edgefield at (503) 669-8610 or (800) 669-8610.

****Introducing Outstanding New Wineries** April 15 – 6:30 p.m. Holiday Inn Express, Kennewick WA.** This tasting offered by Tri-Cities Wine Society will feature wines from new wineries that have, in their brief existence, been recognized with awards from various wine competitions. These wines are normally only available at the wineries. Many have only been in business for a couple of years, yet produce outstanding wines now and represent the future of the Washington wine industry. (p.1, 3)

Regional Wine Tasting, April 15, Hood River, OR. This annual gathering of the premier regional wineries shows off their newest and best vintages in the elegant dining room of the historic Columbia Gorge Hotel. Admission includes unlimited tastings, light appetizers and souvenir glass. Just off I-84 at exit 62. Location: Columbia Gorge Hotel. Hours: 1-4 pm. Cost: \$20. Call 800-345-1921, e-mail cghotel@gorge.net or go to www.ColumbiaGorgeHotel.com.

Spring Fling, April 21-30, Yakima Valley, WA. This all-valley event is in conjunction with Yakima Valley Wineries' Annual Pre-Barrel & Spring Barrel Tasting weekends. It offers visitors a variety of activities in addition to wine tasting and showcases the many amenities of the Yakima Valley. Many activities are suitable for all ages. Location: Various. Cost: \$3-\$40. Call 1-800-457-8089 or go to www.springflingfest.com.

Maryhill Winery Mother's Day Weekend Open House, May 7-8, Goldendale, WA. Maryhill will be sampling a broad selection of dry white, sweet white, dry red, and sweet blush wines. Bring mom and enjoy live music. Location: Maryhill Winery. Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.. Cost: Free. Call 877-627-9445, e-mail maureenl@maryhillwinery.com or go to www.maryhillwinery.com