

Missouri Wine & Grape Board Newsletter



Going for the Gold

The results are coming in from several National and International wine competitions and Missouri wineries have earned enough Gold to make a pirate jealous.

At the 2009 Monterey Wine Competition St. James Winery earned Double Gold honors for 2006 Reserve Chardonal, 2006 Concord Dessert wine and Strawberry wine plus a Gold medal for Country Red. In Southern California at the 2009 Jerry Mead New World International Wine Competition Blumenhof Vineyard earned Best of Class, Gold medal honors for 2008 Vignoles as well as Silver for 2008 Traminette and 2008 Femme Osage. Les Bourgeois Winery earned Silver for 2007 Winemaker's Select Chardonal and 2007 La Belle. St. James Winery earned Best of Class Gold, Best of Varietal for Country Red as well as Best of Class Gold for 2005 Reserve Norton, Double Gold for 2005 Norton and Gold for Blackberry.

Back in sunny Southern California at the 2009 San Diego International Wine

→ Grapes Weather the Cold Snap

Despite sub zero temperatures, the freeze earlier this month was not a replay of the April 2007 freeze which severely damaged Missouri's grape crop. One major difference between the catastrophic freeze of '07 and now is that this year the vines were not in as advanced stage of bud growth as they were when the cold hit then.

Vineyards around the state are reporting no damage from the recent ultra cold weather. Only the early budding grape varieties, like Concord and Cayuga, were near bud break, however temperatures did not dip low enough for an extended period of time to do major harm. The buds on most grape varieties were still tightly closed, and therefore able to handle the sub freezing weather.

"The critical factor this time of year is how low the temperatures go. If temperatures stay in the mid to upper 20s then damage should be minimal. However, if temperatures drop below around 25 then there could be a significant amount of injury on several cultivars, particularly the early budding ones," explained Andy Allen, Extension Associate - Viticulturist at the Institute for Continental Climate Viticulture and Enology in Columbia.

Grapevines emerge from winter dormancy when budbreak occurs. Tender vine shoots and leaves push out from the dormant vine and are vulnerable to frost or freeze damage during spring. Missouri's grapevines are not out of danger until early May.



The current cold front actually helped the state's vineyards says Jon Held of Stone Hill Winery in Hermann. "The cold should slow the bud break down, which we definitely need since we really aren't out of danger from freezing weather until the end of the month."

Cory Bomgaars of Les Bourgeois Winery agrees, "Hopefully the cool temperatures will delay bud break and give us a little more protection from late season frosts."

→ Happy Trails

This weekend Route du Vin, the Ste. Genevieve area Wine Trail, is celebrating Earth Day and Spring in a big way April 18 & 19. Each winery along the trail is offering seasonal cuisine prepared with fresh spring herbs paired with their delicious wines. Plus, you can start your own herb garden with

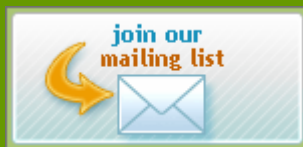
Competition Stone Hill Winery earned Double Gold for 2008 Steinberg White and Gold for 2008 Vignoles and 2008 Late Harvest Vignoles. St. James Winery took Best of Show Fruit honors for Strawberry and Double Gold honors for Country Red and Country White. Gold medals went to Peach, Pink Catawba, Velvet White, 2007 Vintner's Select Vignoles, and 2005 Late Harvest Chardone1. For a complete list of ALL of the awards Missouri wines have won so far this year visit the Trophy Case at

www.missouriwine.org

Quick Links

www.missouriwine.org
www.nortonsays.com

<http://tourofmissouri.com>



complimentary herb seedlings from each of the trail's six wineries. For tickets visit www.rdvwinetrail.com

May 16 & 17 the Route Du Vin hosts it's Progressive Dinner trail event where fine wines are paired with a delicious "Progressive Dinner" course at each winery. Mom would like that.

It's all about Norton at the **Hermann Norton Wine Trail** May 2 & 3. The six Hermann area wineries along the trail are offering mini tutorials on Norton, Missouri's premier grape, as well as tasty food paired perfectly with our state grape(Norton of course!) For tickets visit www.hermannwinetrail.com

→ Art Meets Wine

Missouri wine country around Augusta plays host April 22 - May 2 to the 7th Annual Plein Air Art Event. Artists from around the midwest will set up their easels and paint outdoors at several area wineries including Sugar Creek, Mt. Pleasant, Chandler Hill, Augusta and Balducci. Observers are welcome to watch the artists create while enjoying a glass of Missouri wine. For more info visit www.missouribeautiful.com

→ Site-See

Check out these Missouri wine blogs for all the latest on what's happening in the world of MO wine:

[Missouri Wine Girl](#)

[A Day in the Life of a Missouri Winery](#)

[Cave Vineyard](#)

[Jowler Creek Vineyard & Winery](#)

[OOVDA Winery](#)

[PeacefulKT's Pursuits](#)

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