

Temecula Valley



Vine

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**Wiens Concert to
Benefit Winegrowers**

Golden Crown Productions is living proof that concerts are about more than just lively music and good times. Over the past three years the Temecula-based concert organizer and promoter has raised more than \$60,000 for a half-dozen local charities. This summer Golden Crown will lend a helping hand to the **Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association**, a non-profit group that represents more than 70 vintners and growers. All the proceeds from an auction during a July 18 Missing Persons concert at Wiens Family Cellars will benefit the winegrowers group. "The concert at Wiens offers the TVWA the opportunity to raise funds for our ongoing marketing efforts, which are geared towards getting folks into Wine Country," said Peggy Evans, interim executive director of the winegrowers group. "We're excited to partner with Golden Crown and appreciative of the support of Wiens Family Cellars in our efforts to do so." Tickets for the Missing Persons concert start at \$59. For more information go to:
www.goldencrownproductions.com

**Keyways Debuts Chic-
Only Wine Club**

Keyways Vineyard & Winery, which has already made a name for itself as the only women-owned and -operated winery in Southern California, is about to break new ground. On April 23 at 7 p.m. the winery will hold the first meeting of Terri's Brix Chix, one of the first woman-only wine clubs in the

nation. “Terri’s Brix Chix is a wine club for local ladies who enjoy wine to come together for education, inspiration, entertainment and empowerment,” explained Terri Pebley Delhamer, winery founder. “As far I know, we are the only such club in California.” Monthly meetings of the club’s Chix Clix will include wine tasting, food, networking, education on wine and women’s topics and games and fun activities. Occasionally the club will hold events that would include spouses and significant others. The club gets its name from brix, a unit that measures sugar content of grapes, grape juice (must) or wine. For more information call (951) 302-7888 or go to www.KeywaysWine.com

**Winegrowers Honor
Pioneering Viticulturist
Moramarco**

The **Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association** honored pioneering viticulturist **John Moramarco** with a lifetime, honorary membership in an organization that he helped to establish and today represents more than 65 growers and vintners. During a ceremony at the March 25 general membership meeting of the association, winery owner and association director Mike Rennie presented Moramarco with an honorary membership and a plaque noting his accomplishments in Temecula’s Wine Country. “John was mentor to all of us here,” said Rennie, co-owner of Leonesse Winery. “His legacy and his value are always something we will appreciate.” Leonesse and many other wineries in the Temecula Valley would not exist without Moramarco’s help. “John Moramarco personally worked with us and got our wineries going,” Rennie said. Moramarco spent about 70 of his 81 years working among the vines. He is an 11th generation viticulturist who started working at his family’s Old Mission Winery in Los Angeles when he was about eight. He worked as vineyard manager from 1945 to 1967 at the Capistrano Winery & Vineyard, which he and his older brother Mike expanded to 640 acres in Fontana. When Brookside Winery purchased 460 acres of property from Kaiser in the mid-1960s it hired Moramarco to plant and manage their Temecula vineyards. In 1968 he helped persuade

entrepreneur Ely Callaway to plant vineyards in Temecula on about 105 acres. After 30 years with Callaway, Moramarco retired as general manager and senior vice president in 1999. He also was instrumental in the merger of separate grower and vintner groups to create the TVWA in 2001.

**Association Members
Vote on Bylaw Changes**

Members of the **Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association** are voting on changes to its bylaws that make it easier for small growers and wineries to join the group and aligned its membership requirements to match what Riverside County requires of new wineries. The winegrowers group is considering changes that will open its door wider to small-scale vineyard owners and vintners. The non-profit association created a new membership category for those with 3.75 acres or less of grapes that it calls associate grower member. These new members would not have voting rights but would be able to attend general membership meetings, participate in seminars and technical committee meetings. "Many wine regions provide important membership benefits to grass-roots level growers and wine makers," said Bill Wilson, winery owner and president of the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association, which represents more than 65 growers and vintners. "It's all about including as many growers and winemakers as we can and making sure they have access to all the information our full members have." The winegrowers group also created an associate winery membership for smaller wineries that might operate a tasting room in Old Town Temecula, for example, but not qualify for full membership, said David Bradley, a grower who headed the bylaws revision committee for the association. In addition, the association now requires its members comply with many of the requirements that Riverside County does of new wineries. That would include a bonded winery basic permit from the Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), a California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) winegrowers license and a county-approved plot plan that complies with Wine Country zoning requirements. "By making the process at the TVWA identical with that of the

county, we hope to simplify the process and make it easier for anyone to open a new winery and expand an existing one," Bradley said.

Callaway Offers Unique Winemaking Seminar Series

Callaway Vineyard & Winery will give wine lovers and the curious a chance to see first-hand what it takes to grow grapes and transform them into award winning wine. The nuts-to-soup A Taste of Winemaking - Seasonal Seminars will be held on four Saturdays during the next eight months from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the winery. Callaway winemaker, Craig Larson, will be your guide on a journey through the winemaking process. Classes will include hands-on instruction on vineyard management, the harvest and crush processes, fermentation, barrel aging and even how to taste, serve and store wines. Participants also will "adopt a vine" for the length of the course, track its growth and learn how to harvest and prune your vine. Callaway kicks off the seminar series on April 25 with a Meet and Greet Continental Breakfast with the Winemaker. Cost: \$75 per seminar; \$270 for all 4 seminars.

Celebrate with Mom in Wine Country

Mother's Day is coming up fast, so it's not too early to make plans for a special day in Wine Country. On Mother's Day weekend May 9-10, pick from several venues, each offering a unique package of wine and food. On the day before Mother's Day, **Callaway Vineyard & Winery** will give mom a chance to relax, sip and shop as it hosts A Treat for Mom "Time Out" Tasting. Seatings are at 12, 2 and 4 p.m. and include the first release of the winery's dry Rosé of Sangiovese, sparkling Bella Rosé and Nebbiolo Bello. It all comes with a chocolate dipped strawberry, a pink rose and a souvenir wine glass. Cost: \$20. **Falkner Winery** will hold a Mother's Day Champagne Brunch at Pinnacle restaurant on May 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All food will be prepared by new Executive Chef Gianni Ciciliot. Live entertainment will be provided. Cost is \$54.95 per person; children 6-12 are \$24.50; children under 6 are free. **Ponte Family Estate Winery** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. is hosting its 6th annual Mother's Day

Brunch, which features breakfast favorites, seafood and desserts and an open bar with Ponte wines, mimosas, bellinis, and the Smokehouse Restaurant's famous sangria. Seatings are on the hour. Cost: \$70 per adult; \$30.50 for children. A Mother's Day Luncheon at **Wilson Creek** includes numerous buffet stations, mimosas, almond champagne and sangria, indoor seating and live entertainment. Cost: \$70 per person; children \$34. Mother's Day Brunch at **Thornton Winery** includes a fabulous three-course menu. Cost: \$49.95 for adults; \$19.95 children 6 to 12; children under 5 free. **South Coast Winery Resort & Spa** will host a Mother's Day Brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reha to Handle Winemaking at Orfila as Well

Award-winning winemaker **Don Reha** has agreed to split his time between **Thornton Winery** in Temecula and **Orfila Winery** in Escondido. Reha joined Thornton six years ago after stints with Fetzer and Cline wineries in Northern California. He fills a spot created by the death earlier this year of long-time Orfila winemaker Leon Santoro, who was noted for his Rhone and Italian winemaking skills. "It's an honor and a privilege to come in to Orfila after Leon and carry on his legacy that will always remain here," said Reha in an interview with wine critic Frank Mangio. "My ideas of winemaking are the same ideas as Orfila had with him."

Palumbo Hosts Slow Food Dinner

Palumbo Family Vineyards and Winery on April 25 will host the next in its series of "The Farmer, the Chef and the Winemaker Dinner. Chef Christian Graves of J Six in San Diego will be pairing foods grow by Crows Pass Farm of Temecula with wines from the winery. An optional farm tour will be held at 5 p.m. at Crows Pass Farm, then it's off to the winery for a family style feast served up al fresco. Seating is limited to 30. Cost: \$95 per person.

Temecula Wineries Walks Off with Gold Medals

Temecula Valley wines shined in the 2009 New World International Wine Competition, which attracted 440 wineries from around the globe and more than 1,800 entries. **Baily Vineyard &**

Winery's 2008 Montage (\$19.95) was a double gold winner and judged best of its price class. **South Coast** also was a double gold and best of class winner for its 2008 Gewurztraminer (\$14). South Coast also received golds for its 2007 GVR white blend (\$18) and NV Port (\$38). Awarded a gold medal was **Callaway Vineyard & Winery's** 2008 Special Selection Rosé of Sangiovese (\$18). For the first time, the competition, which included wines from the United States, Chile, Argentina, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, awarded no bronze medals.

South Coast Shines in First-Ever Female Wine Competition

What do women really want? If you believe an all-women panel of wine judges, **South Coast Wines** rate high on their list. In the first ever 2009 National Women's Wine Competition that was held in Santa Rosa, three of South Coast's entries received gold medals. Getting high marks from a field of 1,800 wines were South Coast's 2007 Grenache Rose (\$14), 2007 Chardonnay Reserve (\$22) and 2007 Chardonnay Sans Chene (\$15). "Women want to be recognized. They want to have their own venue," said organizer Lea Pierce. "I do think it's very important, long-term, to raise up a new set of women critics." Judges included Gina Gallo, 3rd generation family winemaker; Mary Ewing Mulligan, president, International Wine Center; Leslie Sbrocco, wine consultant and TV host; plus author, sommelier, Natalie MacLean.

Odds and ends.... South Coast Winery and Falkner Winery will host the 5K Wild Women of Wine Country Walk/Run Through the Vineyards on May 2, benefitting Michelle's Place Breast Cancer Awareness Center. Go to www.WildWomenOfWineCountry.com now to register... On May 2 starting at 8:30 p.m., **South Coast Winery** presents The Comedy Store, Wine Country style. Three comedians are featured in each monthly show. In May it's Kirk Fox, Kevin Christy and Melissa Villa Senior... Friday night piano bar at **Keyways**. \$15 cover; \$25 includes a buffet dinner that changes every week. Keyways also

has Sangria Serenade Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. No cover... **South Coast Winery Resort & Spa** on June 27 hosts the Shriners Hospitals for Children's 3rd Annual Rhythm on the Vine concert starring R&B great Jeffrey Osborne and saxophonists Kirk Whalum and Gerald Albright.... Hank Anderson has joined **South Coast Winery Resort & Spa** as director of sales and catering. Previously he worked at La Quinta Resort & Club, Riviera Resort & Spa and Hyatt Grand Champions... **Wiens Family Cellars** kicks off its summer concert series on May 8 with The English Beat with special guest Richard Blade. Tickets start at \$59 and are available at www.goldencrownproductions.com... Celebrate the May 23 grand opening of **Temecula Hills/Villa de Calabro Tasting Room** in Old Town, right across the street from Public House restaurant. The venture brings together Oak Mountain Winery proprietors Valerie and Stephen Andrews and winemaker Mike Calabro, who will pour his own line of Via Di Calabro wines as well as his newly pressed olive oil from local Temecula olives... **Thornton Winery** received three awards from the Southern California Restaurant Writers; two were for its Café Champagne Restaurant, the other celebrates John and Sally Thornton's humanitarian efforts.

New releases... **Thornton** has released a Temecula Valley 2006 Nebbiolo (\$32), the venerable grape of the legendary Italian wines Barolo and Barbaresco but with a value price. Best of class at the 2008 California State Fair... **Wien's Family Cellars** released a 2008 Pinot Gris (\$24), 2007 Mourvedre (\$38) and 2007 Refugio Cabernet Sauvignon (\$55).

The Vine Times is generously sponsored by the Riverside County Economic Development Agency.

For more information about items in this newsletter, to request media passes to Wine Country events or to schedule a private media tour of Temecula's Wine Country, contact

*the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association at 1-800-801-9463 or
winecountrydir@aol.com*

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