

Temecula Valley



Vine

Times

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**South Coast Best
Winery in State Two
Years in a Row**

For the second year in a row, a winery from the Temecula Valley was judged the best in the state at the California State Fair. South Coast Winery, which opened its doors just six years ago, again won the fair's Golden Bear Winery trophy, which goes to the winery that wins the most medals and awards at the prestigious wine competition. South Coast beat out more than 600 other wineries to capture the trophy, which in the past has gone to such well-known wineries as Kendall-Jackson and Geysler Peak. "With this back-to-back win, South Coast Winery continues to demonstrate to the world that Southern California's Temecula Valley is a quality, award-winning wine region," states Jim Carter, owner/vintner of South Coast Winery Resort & Spa. "While I am personally pleased with our performance, this win is not just for South Coast Winery. We are proud to share this prestigious accomplishment and the attention with the entire region." Other Temecula Valley wineries that won gold medals and best of class awards at the California State Fair included Wiens Family Cellars, Maurice Car'rie Vineyard and Winery and Falkner Winery. Altogether, Temecula Valley wineries brought home 7 golds, 29 silver and 15 bronze medals from the state fair. Despite the recognition, Carter finds it ironic that wine maps of California in Wine Spectator stop at Santa Barbara and fail to include Temecula and the rest of Southern California, which is home to more than 100 wineries. "I think this clearly shows all of California

that wines from the Temecula Valley are at least equal to those from the rest of California,” Carter said.

Renzoni Vineyards Joins Association

Robert Renzoni Vineyards & Winery , a family-run winery that celebrated its first anniversary in April, has joined the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association. Although the winery opened its tasting room in the spring of 2008, its family owners are part of a winemaking tradition that goes back more than 100 years. Its wines can be found in nearly three-dozen restaurants from Oceanside to Lake Elsinore. In the coming year the winery plans to introduce several new wines made from Mediterranean varietals. The 12-acre estate currently includes a 4,000-square-foot tasting room/production facility and about 9 acres of vineyard planted with the premiere Brunello clone of Sangiovese, Pinot Grigio and Cabernet Sauvignon. In addition the winery offers a rose’ of Sangiovese, Old Vine Zinfandel, Concerto (a blend of Zinfandel, Syrah and Merlot), Moscato, Bellissimo (Italian style Riesling) as well as oaked and non-oaked Chardonnay. Robert Renzoni Vineyards & Winery tasting room is located at 37350 De Portola Road and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wine Competition Expands to Include All of Southern California

Entries are starting to trickle in for the Temecula Valley Wine Society’s 5th Annual Southern California Wine Country Wine Competition, which has been opened up this year to the 100 or so wineries from Malibu to the Mexican border that make up the South Coast winegrowing region. The Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association also is partnering with the Wine Society to put on the event. Judging will take place on July 28-29 by a panel that includes Bob Foster, Jeff Slankard, wine director for Barron’s, Dan Berger, wine writer, and Stacie Hunt , sommelier and host of a radio food show on KCRW-FM in Santa Monica. Winners will be announced at a gala dinner at Wiens Family Cellars on July 29 at 6 p.m. that will be catered by The Forge. Cost of the dinner is \$55. Proceeds benefit the Wine Society’s scholarship fund. For

reservations, send check payable to TVWS to: Vicki Nelson, 30886 Curzulla Road, Winchester, CA 92596. Phone: (951) 926-1160. E-mail: dalenvicki@msn.com

Temecula Wines Debut at Air Show

The MCAS Miramar Air Show on Oct. 2-4 will showcase the U.S. Navy Blue Angels jet demonstration team and the Canadian Snowbirds, a nine-plane military jet demonstration team. But the popular air show will feature some down to earth entertainment. For the first time, the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association is partnering with show organizers to sponsor a wine garden that will feature as many as 18 Temecula wineries pouring their award-winning wine to as many as 700,000 air show spectators. Association executive director Peggy Evans said the air show is the largest public event Temecula wineries have participated in. David Bradley, co-owner of Vindemia Vineyards and California Dreamin' airplane and hot air balloon ride company, will be flying his vintage 1928 Travel Aire 4000 red, white and blue bi-plane down for display in the garden.

Wine on the Range a Big Hit at Pechanga

Who said golf and wine don't mix?? Temecula Valley wines are being poured at Journey at Pechanga for their Summer Nights program called Wine on the Range, a series of bi-weekly social events that runs through August. On July 15, Wilson Creek was featured, followed by Stuart Cellars and Hart Winery pouring their best varietals on July 29. A \$10 cover charge includes 5 wine tastings, appetizers, live music and all the balls you can hit on Journey's driving range every other Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. The practice facility is recognized as one of the best in all of Southern California. The event is incredibly popular, according to Pechanga spokesman Robert Bledsoe. He estimated that 250 people attended the last one.

Wine Country Bargains Galore

Wine Country excursions mean good wine, great food and wonderful times. But trips to the Temecula Valley also are about value. The folks in Temecula's Wine Country are making it easy to get more bang for your dwindling bucks. Callaway Vineyard & Winery and Cougar Vineyard & Winery offer complimentary winery tours daily starting at 11 am. Every Tuesday and Wednesday in the Vineyard Rose Lounge at South Coast Winery Resort & Spa munch on half price appetizers and draft beer plus \$3 off glasses of select South Coast Wines from 5:30- 9 p.m. A number of wineries offer free music. Falkner Winery offers "Free Jazz on Sundays" from noon to 3 p.m. on the lawn. At Keyways Vineyard & Winery enjoy complimentary acoustic guitar music every Sunday from 2-6 p.m. It's a great opportunity to sample the winery's very popular sangria and taste award winning wines. Every Tuesday this summer South Coast Winery makes dining out easy on the wallet. Its Dine 29 program features an extraordinary three-course menu selection complete with choice of salad, entrée and specialty dessert for just \$29 per person.

Odds and ends... Wine connoisseur Frank Mangio recently selected **La Cereza Winery and Gallery's** 2008 Viognier (\$24.95) as one of his Top Ten Wine Tastings in the first half of 2009... **Temecula Creek Inn** is offering a "Chauffeured" Wine Country Getaway Package for two that includes one night accommodation, tasting at three wineries, custom picnic lunch, bottle of wine and chauffeured limousine to take you through Wine Country. Cost: \$299 per night Sunday-Thursday; \$379 per night Friday-Saturday

Coming up... **La Cereza Winery and Gallery** is inviting guests to join them in celebrating the flavors of Spain with The Andalucian Feast on Aug. 15 from 2 - 6 p.m. at La Cereza Winery and Gallery. Choose from valenciana, campesina, or a vegetarian paella, all served with a refreshing sangria.... On Aug. 29 starting at 6 p.m., **Falkner Winery** will host a New Release Sunset Wine Dinner, a multi-course gourmet meal paired with

Falkner's soon to be released wines. A dinner prepared by Pinnacle Restaurant Executive Chef Gianni Ciciliot will be served outside in the garden area. A signed bottle of one of the Falkner new release wines will be provided as a gift to each guest. Cost: \$99 per person... Keep an eye on your computer in early August to catch the debut of the **Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association's** new and improved Web site at www.temeculawines.org... Café Champagne at **Thornton Winery** is making it easy and affordable to enjoy great international food and wine. Aug 3-6 the winery will host Taste the Flavors of France from 5-9 p.m. The multi-course gourmet meal is paired with Thornton wines and champagne. Cost: \$45 per person.... Aug. 1 The Comedy Store will bring three great comedians to **South Coast Winery Resort & Spa**. Cost: \$21 with a two-drink minimum... *Angels in the Vineyard* benefit will be held on Aug. 8 at **South Coast Winery Resort & Spa**. Co-hosts are Eva La Rue of CSI Miami and Jack Coleman of Heroes. Other celebrity appearances include former San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds and Sheila E. who will perform with special guests including Wendy Melvoin of Wendy & Lisa. General admission tickets: \$37.50. Proceeds benefit the Elevate Hope Foundation.

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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