

Temecula Valley



Vine Times

Volume 5, Number 9, Five Pages

September 2009

Celebrate the 2009 Harvest Temecula Valley Style

The 2009 wine grape harvest in the Temecula Valley promises to be a memorable one. Grape quality is up from previous years and the crop is bountiful. Come join the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association on Nov. 7-8 for the annual Harvest Celebration Barrel Tasting. The two-day event is a great chance to try new and unreleased wines from more than 20 wineries, taste barrel and tank samples and enjoy food that is specially paired with each wine. Buy the two-day pass before Oct. 5 and the per person cost is just \$79. It goes up to \$89 per person after that. Either way it's a great way to visit nearly two-dozen award winning wineries in one weekend at a set price. For more information go to www.temeculawines.org or call (800) 801-9463 for media passes.

Wine Society Honors Best Wines of Southern California

Three Temecula Valley wineries and one from Fallbrook were the top winners of the 5th annual Southern California Wine Competition. The awards dinner was recently held at Wiens Family Cellars. The competition, which is hosted by the Temecula Wine Society, awarded best of class to: Fallbrook Winery's 2008 Sangiovese Rose , Falkner's 2008 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc , Callaway's 2008 Winemaker's Reserve Late Harvest Chardonnay and 2008 South Coast Wild Horse Peak Thunder Bolt Block Sangiovese) and Blanc de Blanc. This was the first year the completion was opened up to the 100 or so wineries from Malibu to the Mexican

border that make up the South Coast winegrowing region. Previously it had been a Temecula Valley-only contest. The judges panel for the competition included Director of Judges, Bob Foster, editor of California Grapevine News, Jeff Slankard, cellar master for Barrons Market Place, Dan Berger, syndicated wine writer, and Stacie Hunt, sommelier and host of a radio food show on KCRW-FM in Santa Monica. Wineries receiving gold medals included: Palumbo Family Vineyards & Winery, Ramona Winery-Schwaesdell, South Coast Winery, Thornton Winery, Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyards, Hart Winery, La Cereza Winery, Ponte Family Estate Winery, Villa di Calabro, Falkner Winery and Eagles Nest Winery.

Dean Named Top Chef at South Coast

Dean Thomas, 2009 San Diego Chef of the Year nominee for the California Restaurant Association, has joined Vineyard Rose Restaurant at South Coast Winery Resort & Spa as executive chef. Dean arrives in Wine Country with an impressive culinary career, spanning over 30 years at various dining establishments and five-diamond resorts. His professional achievements includes the state championship for Arizona Taste of Elegance and he was top contender in the National Taste of Elegance held in Chicago. Previously, Thomas was executive chef at Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino, in Lakeside, Calif. Thomas has been a dedicated member of the American Culinary Federation for 20 years and has earned numerous awards. He was California representative in the National Seafood Cook Off in New Orleans and the ACF Chefs and Culinarians of San Diego Chapter's Chef of the Year in 2008. Dean is already making his mark in the kitchen at South Coast with the introduction of Dine 29. Every Tuesday night between 5:30 and 9, Vineyard Rose features a three-course menu selection complete with choice of salad, entre and specialty dessert or \$29 a person. Chef Dean also has put together 15 lunches under \$15 for value-conscious business people.

**Jazz Series Winds
Down 21st Season**

As the summer fades to fall, it is not too late to enjoy music in the vineyards with the Champagne Jazz Series at Thornton Winery. As the 21st season winds down there are still plenty of top-notch performers to enjoy. Join Peter White on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$65; three-course gourmet supper package is \$140. Jesse Cook will be in concert on Oct. 11 at 4 p.m. with a special guest. General admission: \$55; Gourmet dinner package \$130. For media passes call: (951) 699-0099.

**Still Time to March to
the Beat of the Grape
Stomp**

Nothing brings home the traditional earthiness of the harvest season than a good ol' grape stomp. **Wilson Creek** makes the annual purple feet fest an all-evening affair with food, entertainment and wine. The winery's annual Sip, Savor & Stomp; "Grape Stomp" runs from 5 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 4 and includes appetizers up on Merlot Mesa after an adventurous ride in a tractor-pulled hay ride, home-spun Wine Country buffet dinner and grape stomping. Live entertainment continues through 10 p.m. Cost: \$75. **Wiens Family Cellars** gives the grape stomp a decided German flavor on Oct. 18 from 4 to 8 p.m. Festivities at Wiensfest include a grape-stomping competition, German food, beer and Wiens wine. traditional German omm-pah band and prizes for the best outfits. Cost: \$30.

**Wine Smarties Founder
Puts on Seminars at
Wilson Creek**

Lindsay Polmeroy, creator and owner of The Wine Smarties, a San Diego-based wine events, education and consulting company, will hold two Vines and Wines 101 classes at **Wilson Creek** Winery for Wine Club members and wine lovers. The class is perfect for the aspiring wine professional or the average person who just wants to know a bit more about wine. In the inaugural class on Oct. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m., Polmeroy will teach attendees how to identify aromas, taste like a professional and get to know different styles of wines and grape varieties. Also discussed will be the influence of oak, aging and how different

varietals express themselves. Cost: \$40. The second class in the series on Dec. 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. will focus on pairing wine and food. Cost: \$50. For more information call: (951) 699-WINE (9463)

**Wine Country
Extravaganza Helps
Hospice of the Valleys**

On Sept. 27, A Day of Wine and Chocolate will take place at **Wilson Creek Winery** in Temecula from 4 to 8 p.m. Proceeds benefit Hospice of the Valleys, based in Murrieta. Pouring wine at the fundraiser will be **Keyways, Falkner, Briar Rose, Boorman Vineyards, Frangipani Winery, Keyways Winery, Filsinger Winery, Oak Mountain Winery, Temecula Hills Winery, Palumbo Family Winery, and Temecula House of Wine, Atwood Winery, Wilson Creek Winery, Callaway and Wiens Family Cellars**. The event will also include cheese tastings from the Temecula Cheese Company and Winchester Cheese and dozens of chocolate treats including Jodee's Bakery, Fran & Patties Past Times Chocolate Shop, Trader Joes, It's a Deli, Valle d' Brume, Creekside Grille, Baily's Fine Dining with Chocolate Mousse, Healthy Chocolate and Nestle's premium chocolates. Dance that chocolate away with Sligo Rags, Orange County's favorite folk and Celtic band. The day also includes chef demonstrations and carriage rides through the vineyard. Cost: \$50 before the event; \$60 at the door. Tickets available online at www.hospiceofthevalleys.org. Call (951) 678-1456 for more information.

Odds and ends... Wilson Creek is making it easy to celebrate California Wine Month in September. Order its newly released 2008 Chardonnay online, and pay only \$14.21 a bottle for a minimum two-bottle order – that's 25 percent off the regular price of \$18.95...**Keyways Vineyard & Winery** will hold a Wedding & Special Event Showcase on Sept. 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The day will include an interactive fashion show and live entertainment. It's a great way to enjoy outstanding wine, food and desserts and meet some of the best in the wedding and event industry. For more information call: (951) 302-7888.

Coming up... La Cereza Winery will host a Bridal Faire on Oct. 4 and 31 at 4 p.m. Cost: \$8.50. For more information go to:

www.allwedsites.com/bridalfaire/temecula...

Falkner Winery's Wine Appreciation Class will be taught by in-house sommelier George Myers on Oct. 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$45 per person...An arts and craft fair is held every Saturday and Sunday on the picnic grounds in front of **Maurice Car'rie Winery**. It features an array of handcrafted merchandise. Call (951) 676-1711 for more information. **Wiens, Thornton, South Coast, Maurice Car'rie, La Cereza, Falkner and Callaway** are among the more than 170 wineries taking part in the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival on Nov. 18-22... For the first time, the **Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association** is partnering with organizers of the MCAS Miramar Air Show on Oct. 2-4 to sponsor a wine garden that will feature as many as 12 Temecula Valley wineries pouring their award-winning wine to as many as 700,000 air show spectators. 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.

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 peggy@temeculawines.org

Temecula Valley Vine Times is produced and distributed by Parallax Communications, Temecula, CA. (951) 302-1045