

Temecula Valley



Vine Times

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Winter in the Vineyards with Winemaker Craig Larson

Callaway Vineyard & Winery will offer the fourth in a series of winemaking seminars on Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Winemaker Craig Larson will take you into the vineyard and teach you why pruning is good for the vine, how to prune correctly and what to consider before snipping away. This instruction will be followed by a relaxed tasting in the Chardonnay Room where topics like how to serve and store wines will be discussed. In addition various bottle sizes and shapes will be viewed and you will learn what their shapes can tell you about the wine that's in them. We finish this series of seminars with a delightful tasting of our sparkling and dessert wines as well as our tawny port. We will be pairing these wines with dessert, of course! We send you home with a bottle of Callaway wine, two wine glasses, a collection of dessert recipes that pair well with Callaway wines and a certificate of completion. Cost: \$75 per seminar.

Miramonte Owner on 'Hip and Trendy' Marketing Panel

Cane Vanderhoof of **Miramonte Winery** was among 20 "new generation" vintners and growers brought together by The California Association of Winegrape Growers and the Wine Institute at Point Lodge in Sausalito on Nov. 17. to share their perspectives on California wine trends. Vanderhoof participated in a session on "Hip and Trendy Marketing," which highlighted the new marketing tools involving social media, blogs, content-rich web sites, video, radio, and live events to spread the

word about wines to both existing customers and those new to wines. Vanderhoof uses various media to not only inform his readers about his wines, but also the trials and tribulations of farming and business in California through active social media such as Facebook and Twitter, blogs, and turning their winery into a destination for local customers with music events and more. “The next generation of the California wine community is building on our great growing and winemaking traditions, combining it with their own perspective and talents,” said Karen Ross, president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers. “It is fun and exciting to see so many dynamic younger people taking the reins. With their enthusiasm and new ideas, California growers and vintners will continue to set trends and be a global influence for generations to come.”

**Meritage Chef Wins
Temecula Valley Open**

Michael Henry, **Meritage at Callaway's** Executive Chef, was the winner of the Temecula Valley Chef Open, an event that was part of a fund-raiser for the Oak Grove Center for at-risk youth in Murrieta. The competition, which featured chefs from local restaurants including Anthony's Lounge and Ristorante, Crivello Ristorante Italiano and Twenty/20 Grill and Wine Bar, was held at Pechanga Resort and Casino. Chef Henry's winning dish was a Balinese peppercorn seared ahi with a pomegranate sauce and a salad of butternut squash, fennel and duck confit.

Food and Fine Dining:
*Holiday Offerings in Wine
Country*

Join Michael Henry, executive chef of **Meritage at Callaway**, for a Yuletide Traditions Cooking Class on Dec. 10 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Learn how to create shrimp and crab tamales with chile verde and crema, cider brined pork tenderloin with pomegranate salsa and roasted yams, manicotti with ricotta cheese, spinach and wild mushroom cream puff tower with vanilla custard and red wine and chocolate ganache. Cost: \$50 (951) 676-4001...**Cougar Vineyard & Winery** is a great place to enjoy your picnic. Bring your own blanket or sit at one the winery's picnic tables and enjoy lunch and

wine surrounded by olive trees overlooking the vineyards. For those who forgot their lunch, the winery has deli items from Boar's Head as well as non-alcoholic products ranging from Reed's Original Ginger Brews to Virgil's Root Beer. For more information call: (951) 491-0825... **Maurice Car'rie Winery** now offers a weekend brunch that starts at 11 a.m. and costs \$18 per person. Every Saturday and Sunday the winery's Champagne Brunch will include omelets, salads, fruit, pasta, a beef station, desserts as well as mimosas, margaritas and champagne. For more information call (951) 676-1711... Enjoy a Victorian Christmas as **Briar Rose Winery** is transformed into 19th Century London on Dec. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. Sit back and enjoy a Christmas Carole performance and English dinner with holiday wassail. Cost: \$60 per person. Proceeds benefit Oak Grove Center (951) 308-1098... Holiday Candlelight Dinner at **Callaway Winery** on Dec. 5 starts at 6:30 p.m. with a sparkling wine and hors d'oeuvres reception followed by a four-course gourmet dinner paired with Callaway wines. Cost: \$85 per person (951) 676.4001... Between Dec. 26 and 31 the Pinnacle Restaurant at **Falkner Winery** will be offering a Christmas holiday lunch special for \$55 plus tax and gratuity for two people including two glasses of wine. Call (951) 676-8231 x1 for more information.

**Holiday: Shopping,
Sipping, Fun Things to
Do**

Callaway is making it easy to get ready for and celebrate the holidays from Dec. 7 to Dec. 11. During this special period get six tastes of wine and a delightful Ho Ho Ho glass for \$10. Receive 2 holiday tastings for the price of 1 when you bring an unwrapped gift that will be donated to a local children's charity. Shop in Callaway's gift shop while sipping wine. The more you purchase the more you save: 10 percent off \$100, 15 percent off \$150, 20 percent off \$200 and 25 percent off \$250 or more. Maria Hunt, author of *The Bubbly Bar: Champagne and Sparkling Wine Cocktails for Every Occasion*, will be at Callaway on Dec. 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. to sign copies of her book, which features several champagne and wine cocktails, including one made from Callaway Bella Blanc. Enter to win a

hand-made Gingerbread House each time you visit Callaway. A drawing will be held Dec. 11 at 7 p.m... **Keyways Vineyard & Winery** is offering wagon rides through its holiday lighted vineyards Friday through Sunday starting Dec. 4 and lasting until Dec. 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. Adults: \$10. Children 12 and under: \$5. Wine, coffee, hot cocoa and cookies available for purchase... **Wiens Family Cellars** Holiday Shopping Night on Dec. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. includes a choice of wine and light refreshments while you shop for the perfect holiday gifts. Spread the joy by bringing an unwrapped toy for the Thessalonika Family Services toy drive... Starting Dec. 22 and lasting until Dec. 24, **South Coast Winery Resort & Spa** will give Southern Californians a chance to chill out this holiday on their Family Courtside Skating Rink. Enjoy holiday music, hot chocolate and other beverages and food as you skate the day away on an 1,800-square-foot ice skating rink... **Stuart Cellars** will hold a Holiday Open House on Dec. 16 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. The evening will include food, musical entertainment and a special library tasting for guests. Cost: \$15. For reservations call (951) 676-6414... Get free tastes of **Falkner Winery's** holiday mulled wine called "Hot Lips". This wine is available to everyone over 21 purchasing a wine tasting at the winery or dining at the restaurant. Two bottle gift packs including the spices and recipe are only \$33.95.

The GrapeSeed Spa at **South Coast Winery** has teamed up with the skin care professionals of Kerstin Florian to host an exclusive "Fabulous Facial" event on Dec. 16. Schedule an appointment at the spa between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and you'll receive an ultimate 40-minute advance results facial, plus a one-on-one educational session with a skin care professional for \$40... **The Inn at Churon Winery** wants to rub you the right way. Its Chateau packages include an overnight stay; 50 minute in-room massage for two including wine reception and breakfast. Cost: Sun-Thurs: \$355; Fri-Sat \$465; Want to Soar above it all? Try a balloon ride for two and overnight stay, including wine and breakfast.

Personal Care: *Treat Yourself to a Wine Country Spa Experience*

Cost: Sun-Thurs: \$585; Fri-Sat \$710.

New Year's Eve:
*Celebrate 2010 Wine
Country Style*

Bring in the New Year at **Wiens Family Cellars** Vintage Hollywood Soiree. It's a great chance to celebrate the golden era of Hollywood and the coming of 2010. Step out onto the red carpet and feel like you've stepped back in time to the glamorous days of old Hollywood. This fabulous evening starts at 7 with a champagne reception and will be full of amazing food, high energy music and dancing. Tickets: \$110 per person. If Wiens is going Hollywood, **Wilson Creek Winery** is taking in the Big Easy. Join the Wilson family for New Year's Eve Mardi Gras Masquerade in its Champagne Ballroom. Guests will receive beads and feathered masks as party favors, as well as a gourmet meal with a New Orleans flair. Tray passed appetizers include Frenched chicken drumettes with bourbon glaze and shitake mushroom drops. During the cocktail hour a New Orleans-style raw seafood bar will feature fresh-shucked oysters on the half-shell, tuna tartar and house-cured salmon gravlax. Guests will dance the night away to the great sounds of Audiocast, voted best band in 2009 by the North County Times Readers Choice Poll. This rock'n six-piece band with vocalist will keep you dancing all night long! "No sleepy music here," boasts co-owner Bill Wilson. Tickets: \$160 per person. **Keyways Vineyard & Winery** turns the clock ahead for its New Years on New York Time! Celebrate the New Year three hours earlier at an event that runs from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets starts at: \$95. Entertainment includes Comedian Ron Ruhman, Improv Comedy and plus Joey P and the Hats.

Holiday Wine Bargains

Several Temecula Valley wineries are offering Christmas cheer wines at discounted prices. **Briar Rose Winery's** exclusive Winter Blessings award winning 2004 Petit Verdot is specially priced at \$63. **Wiens Family Cellars** has dramatically reduced the prices on several wines, will be offering a number of gift boxes and will be selling futures of the 2008 Refugio Cabernet Sauvignon. For example, the 2008 Pinot Gris and 2007 Estate Chardonnay, 2007 Viognier now sell for \$19. The White Port is \$29,

2007 Tempranillo \$24, 2007 Mourvedre \$22 and 2006 Merlot \$27. When the '08 Refugio is released it will be \$59 per bottle. Customers can save by purchasing futures at \$425/case or \$283/half case. **Wilson Creek** is offering a Sweet Holiday Treat, which includes a fourth bottle of port or sherry for only 5 cents. The Last of Legacy special on their 05 and 06 Family Legacy wine is \$50, which includes a signed box with every 2 bottle purchase. **Stuart Cellars'** Holiday Wine Special offers pre-packaged 6 bottle selections available in red, white or mixed for \$75-\$150. **Churon Winery** is offering Holiday case discounts of 35 percent off all cases plus free shipping on orders exceeding \$30. **Robert Renzoni Winery's** December special features Novello Sangiovese for 3 bottles for \$48; regularly \$20 each plus free shipping on 6 or more bottle purchases.

Coming up... Lindsay Polmeroy, creator and owner of The Wine Smarties, a San Diego-based wine event, education and consulting company, will hold the second Vines and Wines 101 class 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. The class 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)

New releases... **Filsinger Vineyards & Winery's** Tre Rose Amore (\$11.99) has a slightly sweet start lots of berry taste and a tart finish and Sweet Desire (\$24.95) is a late harvest Zinfandel desert wine with hints of raspberries and cherries... **Robert Renzoni Winery** has released Paradiso Port (\$48) a dessert wine crafted from the authentic Portuguese grape Touriga. This wine offers rich and elegant flavors of blackberry and black cherry that are influenced by just a touch of caramel and dark chocolate.

Odds and ends... The changeover from Foote Print Winery to **Foot Path Winery and Foote Path Farms** is complete. New wine labels will appear

when existing inventory is sold off. Estate wines are made from 100 percent organically grown and certified grapes through California Certified Organic Farmers... **Palumbo Family Vineyards & Winery** is putting the finishing touches on a 2,700-square-foot warehouse. The addition will give Palumbo, a boutique winery that produces 2,000 cases a year, the ability to double its output. A new cobblestone walkway and patio was completed last month...

Stuart Cellars was recently featured in *Touring and Tasting Magazine*: "As one of Temecula's fine family wineries, Stuart Cellars opened its doors with one goal in mind: to produce high quality wine that they can proudly share with family and friends. To achieve this goal, the winery uses many of the time-honored traditions of the Old World, blended with California style. Throughout the process, Winemaker Marshall Stuart maintains a vigilant adherence to quality, which starts in the vineyard and culminates in the wine glass."... **The Inn at Churon Winery** hosts a five-course wine-paired dining every Friday and Saturday evening. Cost: \$65...

Cougar Vineyard & Winery has made a name for itself by specializing in estate grown Italian varietals including Vermentino, Sangiovese, Aglianico, Montepulciano, Primitivo, Malvasia Bianca, Arneis, and Pinot Grigio. That list will grow this spring with the planting of Nero d'Avola, Sagrantino and two other Italian varietals...

Miramonte Winery hosts a Happy Hour Wine and Beer Tasting every Friday and Saturday night starting at 5 p.m. that includes live music. Appetizers are available...If you are looking for an intimate wine experience treat yourself to **Oak Mountain Winery's** VIP Tasting. The candlelit, private tasting among oak wine barrels is conducted by the winemaker/ owner. It includes six wines, an appetizer plate and Reidel crystal stem. Cost: \$20 per person. Without the glass: \$15. Reservations for up to 12 can be made by calling (951) 699-9102.

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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

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