

Temecula Valley



Vine

Times

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**Enjoy Paella at
Temecula's Newest
"Old" Winery**

The Harvest Wine Celebration, which runs from Nov. 4-5, will be a good opportunity to visit one of Temecula's newest, old wineries. VR La Cereza, the very successful successor to Van Roekel Winery, will be matching its new Girlfriends dry Riesling blend and its Pasion del Rubio, a blend of Syrah and Petite Syrah, with a Spanish seafood paella at this year's event. The remodeled winery also includes an art gallery that carries some of the original artwork featured on the winery's labels. The Harvest Wine Celebration is a great opportunity to enjoy new and unreleased red and white wines and delicious wine-friendly foods at each of the 20 participating wineries. The \$83 ticket price includes access to nearly two-dozen wineries over the two-day event, a souvenir wine glass and wine and food at each winery. For more information or media passes call the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association at 1-800-801-9463, or email executive director Linda Kissam at winecountrydir@aol.com.

Now Hear This!

The Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association has added an entirely new and unique dimension to its Web page. In addition to being able to read about the nearly two-dozen wineries that dot the Temecula Valley, you now will be able to hear what they have to say. The association has added podcasts (also called MP3 or mini audio files) to the winery pages on its Web site at www.temeculawines.org. Each winery is now able

to "personally talk" to customers via a recorded message that any visitor can easily listen to while visiting the association's Web page. "As far as I know, we are the first wine region in California to do this," said Linda Kissam, TVWA executive director. "The Welcome Podcasts are just another way for wine lovers to connect with our award-winning wineries and hear firsthand why each winery is special."

Temecula Finishes 2006 Harvest in Good Shape

Despite a hot spell in July, Temecula vineyards had a normal harvest this year after record yields in 2005. The vines in 2006 produced anywhere from 3 to 7 tons per acre, depending on the age of the vine and varietal, according to Ben Drake, who manages more than 300 acres of grapes in the Temecula Valley. Yields were down from a year ago but that's pretty typical after a record harvest, he said. Tonnage was off in vineyards with older vines and about normal among younger vines. If anything, the two weeks of 95 degree plus weather in July helped accelerate the harvest, which finished about a month earlier than it did a year ago. "In 2005 we were still picking grapes in November," Drake recalls. This year the harvest began in mid-August and was completed by early October. With the post-harvest vines looking healthy, Drake expects vineyard yields to be above normal in 2007.

Good Times Roll at Miramonte

Music, Good Times Extend Beyond Summer
Summer is over, but the music continues at Miramonte Winery. Flamenco Fridays at the winery is a great way to enjoy wine, specially prepared food and Rumba, Flamenco and Latin jazz music. The \$6/\$8 cover charge includes a wine tasting. Entrees can be purchased for as little as \$8 every Friday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday Night Blues Jam runs through Nov. 4 at Miramonte and features some of the best up and coming musicians in Southern California. Starting Nov. 11, Miramonte will host Laugh Jam, which showcases top comedians and musicians. Entertainment starts at 7 p.m. and lasts until 10 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$30 with antipasto platter.

**Temecula Wineries
Featured in Pacific
Beach Tasting**

Temecula Wineries Featured in Pacific Beach California Wine Month carries over into October and November at Tower 23 Hotel and JRDN restaurant in Pacific Beach. A weekly wine and cheese tasting features a different Temecula winery each week. On Oct. 24 it's Baily Winery; Nov. 7 - Keyways Winery; Nov. 14 - Palumbo Winery; Nov. 21 - Falkner Winery and Nov. 28 - Leonesse Cellars. The \$25 event cost includes a class led by a winery representative, wine, cheese and bread. For another \$25, participants can enjoy a three-course dinner. Eric Rimelle, executive director of Tower 23 and JRDN has been a long-time fan of Temecula and its wines. He feels such events will help consumers and other San Diego area restaurants discover the quality wines now being produced in Temecula. For more information, go to: http://temeculawines.org/events/wine_series.asp

**Ponte Hosts Fall
Winemaker Dinner**

Ponte Family Estate Winery will celebrate the completion of the harvest and the arrival of autumn at its Fall Winemaker Dinner on Nov. 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. A multi-course meal prepared by Executive Chef Steve Stawinski is paired with a glass of Ponte wine. Get started with smoke cured duck breast with pomegranate glaze. Choose steak and lobster or a wild mushroom Napoleon for your entrée. Finish the meal with poached figs with blueberry Stilton cheese and chocolate Port sauce. Cost is \$130 per person; \$117 for wine club members.

**BC to BC: Regional
Wine Tasting Expands
Beyond California**

Once again Temecula will be the site of an historic wine-tasting event that will showcase wines from Baja California, Mexico to Napa to British Columbia, Canada. The Ultimate Regional Wine Tasting -- BC to BC-- is the second year that Temecula will host a remarkable event that allows participants to sample wines from different wine regions. Next year's event has been expanded to include wines outside California. Event goers will have an opportunity to speak with regional experts and taste more than 100 wines that express the individual characteristics of each appellation. The wine tasting will be held on March 24 from 1 to 4 pm at Callaway Vineyard and

Winery. Cost is \$58 per person. Price includes a souvenir wine glass, program, tasting tray, and cheese & fruit reception.

**Wiens Family Cellars
Opens \$4 Million
Facility**

Wiens Family Cellars has hit the ground running after opening its new \$4 million winery and special events center earlier this month. The family-owned and operated winery will host its first wedding later this month and is making plans to celebrate its first Meritage at a release party in March. Those who pre-order a case of the 2005 Meritage for \$288 can pick up their wine and partake in the festivities at the special release party, promises Jeff Wiens, one of the family owners. The 6,500-square-foot winery and tasting room, 3,800-square-foot special events and 1,500-square-foot storage room are located at 35055 Via Del Ponte, next door to Ponte Family Estate Winery.

**Mount Palomar Sold to
Loudar LLC**

Mount Palomar Winery, the second oldest winery in the Temecula Valley, has been sold to Loudar LLC, an Arizona real estate company. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. The sale to Loudar will allow the award-winning winery to expand and ultimately become part of a much larger Wine Country resort, explains Peter Poole, Mount Palomar president. Poole, winemaker Etienne Cowper, and other key employees will remain with the winery. The winery's 173 acres will be combined with adjacent land already owned by Loudar to create a 310-acre property that will include vineyard estate homes, additional vineyards and the resort. Mount Palomar Winery, founded by John Poole in 1969, began producing wine in 1974, one year after Callaway Vineyard and Winery. Over the years, Mount Palomar has been recognized as an environmentally friendly and innovative winery. It was the first to introduce now-popular Mediterranean grape varieties to the region.

**Temecula Meritage
Gets Recognition in
Italy**

Stuart Cellars Vineyard and Winery of Temecula was among 19 U.S. wineries whose Bordeaux-style blends were featured at an historic Meritage tasting in Vicenza, Italy. This was the first time that European winemakers have recognized the specials blends called Meritage that were started in this country nearly 20 years ago. "This is a tremendous endorsement for Meritage," said Marshall Stuart, winemaker/owner. "...It's the first time the European wine community has officially embraced the term." Stuart Cellars has been making its red Meritage, Tatria, since 1996. The winery is a member of the Meritage Association, which owns the Meritage trademark and has 160 members worldwide.

**Behind-the-Scenes
Winery Tour at South
Coast**

South Coast Winery Resort & Spa invites wine connoisseurs and amateurs to take a new tour to get a behind-the-scenes look at the goings-on in a real working winery. Tours run daily Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Stroll through the vineyards, explore the crush pad, enter the halls of the winery to see where the magic happens and enjoy wine right out of the barrels. The tour concludes with a private wine and cheese pairing experience. Cost is \$20 per person. For more information call 1-800-801-WINE.

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

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