

Orangewood Wines

Small Wineries, Great Wines

Orangewood Wines' Newsletter

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Introduction

When I wrote about the winery-distributor relationships in March, in the middle of the season, I thought I was writing a retrospective. Instead, it seems to have been a prospective. Now that summer, the non-season has arrived, some small distributors have closed their doors, some large distributors have joined together and there are only a few of us left standing. As a result, in addition to continuing to develop the brands of our existing suppliers, we are seeing opportunities to represent wineries that are already familiar to wine swilling Arizonans. One such is described under "New Wineries" below.

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New Restaurants

[Blackstone Country Club](#)

12026 West Lone Mountain Parkway
Peoria, AZ 85383

[Blue Adobe Grille](#)

144 North Country Club Drive,
Mesa, AZ 85201
(480) 962-1000

[Enchantment Resort](#)

525 Boynton Canyon Road,
Sedona, AZ 86336
(800) 826-4180

[Heartline Café](#)

1610 West State Route 89a,
Sedona, AZ 86336
(928) 282-0785

Hops on Birch

22 East Birch Avenue, Suite #2
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 774-4011

Sedona Wine and Beer

2575 West State Route 89a,
Sedona, AZ 86336
(928) 554-4682

Shugrue's Restaurant & Bar

1425 North McCulloch Boulevard,
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 453-1400

New Wineries

Jeff Runquist Wines

Jeff Runquist launched his own label with the 1995 vintage of the “Z” Zinfandel. Jeff, a graduate of UC Davis, was the winemaker and consultant to a number of California wineries in Amador, Paso Robles and San Jose. In the fall of 2006, Jeff purchased a five acre parcel in Amador County’s Shenandoah Valley. He constructed a small winery and tasting room that opened in May of 2008. All of Jeff’s wines share a similar theme of fresh fruit reflective of the varietal flavors inherent in the grapes. In 2009, Jeff was the recipient of the prestigious André Tchelistcheff Winemaker of the Year Award, awarded at the San Francisco International Wine Competition. Jeff Runquist Wines have been available in Arizona since 2000. He has many fans and Orangewood intends to add more.

Wine Topic of the Month: Petit Verdot

If you are a serious student of wine, then you know that Petit Verdot is one of the 5 or 6 Bordeaux varietals, and that it really does not have an “e” at the end of “Petit”. (Unlike the “Petite” in Petite Sirah.) On the other hand, if you are a poor student like me, Petit Verdot only showed up on the radar a few years ago as something to add to Cabernet Sauvignon for a little more complexity. That’s the way it’s used in Bordeaux too – as a blending grape. Jeff Runquist was visiting France some time ago and learned that the French love the grape, but are unable to get enough sunlight to it to get it to ripen. Hmm he thought, more sunshine! That’s what we have lots of in California! And he had a new experiment to try. He began 13 years ago, but it was not until 2009 that he made a bottling of 100% Petit Verdot wine. I had been trying to discern the Petit Verdot that has been blended into the Frank Family Cabernet Sauvignon for the past few vintages. I knew there was more complexity and thought I knew the particular notes that were added; now I can get familiar with the grape directly and be better prepared to detect this little grape’s presence. You can too.

Rambling

Do you ever get those calls from car dealerships offering to buy the car they sold you and, presumably, sell you a new one. I got one such call yesterday. They were enquiring about the Wine Box – the wine coloured Scion xB that was our first “real” delivery vehicle. Greg used to drive it and now John is the principal driver. We have a larger van that gets most of work these days, but when we have only a few cases of wine to deliver, the Scion gets a work out. “Yes, I still have it,” I said, “We love it.” The lady asked me how many miles we have on it. 250,000. It runs great. She seemed to lose interest in the conversation at that point.

Cheers,

Richard

The Rambler rambles towards Memorial Day – enjoy yours too...

Richard (newsletter writer), Laurie (editor) and Jim Wallace (another writer and editor)
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