

Local Wineries Prepare For May's Art, Wine And Seafood Extravaganza

The 21ST Annual America's Wild Rivers Coast Art, Seafood, and Wine Festival will host another excellent array of wineries to please the palettes of aficionados attending the event in Gold Beach on May 17TH and 18th.

Curry natives, Pete and Marcia Buffington, are returning once again from Scotts Mills, Oregon with their Abiqua Wind Vineyards hand-crafted wines and would enjoy seeing both old and new friends at their tasting booth.

Bradley Vineyard, planted in Elkton, Oregon in 1983 released their Pinot Noir in 2003 and was awarded the Silver in the Greatest of the Grape. There, the marine influence permits only cool climate varieties to ripen, like their Wadenswil clone of Pinot Noir, Riesling, and Gewürztraminer.

Chateau Lorane located 25 miles southwest of Eugene, offers a truly unique family of wines. What began over 20 years ago in Southern California as a small backyard hobby has for Linde and Sharon Kester, become a second career and a new way of life. In 1984 they planted a 30 acre vineyard in the historic Lorane Valley. Their first commercial wines were produced in 1991 and then in 1992 the Chateau Lorane tasting room was opened on their 200 acre estate with tall green stands of fir trees and a beautiful private lake.

Foris Vineyards of Cave Junction, Oregon, strives to combine viticultural excellence with traditional wine making. Nestled in the remote Illinois River Valley of southwest Oregon, a visit to this winery explains the choice for the name FORIS. Latin for "out of doors", foris conveys the mood of the flowing rivers and lush, fir-covered Siskiyou Mountains which surround the vineyards.

Henry Estate Winery - nestled in Southwest Oregon's Umpqua Valley, a land of swift rivers, bubbling creeks, and wooded hills - is known for its Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, and White Riesling. Winning numerous medals, "best buys," and consistently high ratings from both the Wine Enthusiast and Wine Spectator, Henry Estate Winery is always striving for quality in all facets of growing and production.

River's Edge Winery located on River Drive in Elkton, Oregon specializes in two varieties: Pinot Noir and Gewürztraminer. These wines are produced from grapes grown on two estate vineyards, Black Oak and Elkton, located in the northern most part of the Umpqua Valley. These two vineyards were planted in 1972 and are among the oldest in Oregon. Founded in 1998, their wine making style emphasizes a low-tech, hands-on approach utilizing small batch fermentation, exclusively barrel aging and bottling without fining or filtering.

Denise and Carlos Figueroa established Wild Rose Vineyard in 1995 outside of Winston, Oregon, using "old world" viticulture practices. Vines were planted 3 feet apart in the rows and individual planting holes were augured without disturbing the original soil structure. The resulting wines produced deep complex flavors and exquisite bouquets.

The Vern Garvin family from Brookings started the Cliff Creek Cellars in 1999. Located in Gold Hill, the vineyard encompasses 70 acres of red wine grapes. Cliff Creek Cellars was awarded a gold medal at the Northwest Wine Summit and was selected as one of the top 100 wines by the San Francisco Chronicle in December 2007.

Misty Oaks is a boutique winery in the Umpqua Valley currently producing 1,000 cases per year. The vineyard produces luscious big red blends as well

as elegant Pinot Blanc and crisp Pinot Gris wines.

Sienna Ridge Estate is a 240-acre vineyard with volcanic soils and unique moisture and temperature conditions. Fine varietal wines are produced and available for tasting on the beautiful historical estate near Oakland, Oregon. In May, the tasting comes to those venturing to Gold Beach for the festival.

The wines from HillCrest Vineyard, Oregon's oldest estate winery, were recently named "Best wines in Southern Oregon" by Frommers. This family owned and operated winery was the first in the state to plant Pinot Noir and 34 other varieties, now celebrating their 40th year of Pinot Noir production. Only 1,200 cases of 100 percent natu-

rally grown wines are produced from Oregon's oldest hillside vineyards.

While searching extensively for a dream small family-owned winery, Pat and Loree Spangler fell in love with southern Oregon where the warm weather and multiple microclimates allowed them to pursue a passion for Bordeaux varietal wines. Located in the Umpqua Valley, the Spanglers produce award winning Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Viognier.

Johan Vineyards is a new addition to this year's festival. Dag Johan Sundby, inspired by the legendary vineyards of Burgundy, found the latitude and climate of Oregon ideal for his 65 acre gently sloping estate in the Van Duzer corridor just west

of Salem, Oregon. The winery grows solely Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Gris varieties and is committed to environmentally responsible, sustainable farming practices.

Sea Mist Winery of Bandon and Hawk's View Winery of Myrtle Point round out this year's showcase of wineries. These two wineries based in southwestern Oregon produce wines from local growers of cranberries, blackberries, and other fruit common on America's Wild Rivers Coast.

Along with the featured wineries, beer lovers may once again treat themselves. This year's beer tastings will be in a special "Pub" being created just for the event featuring micro brews from Mad River Brewing

Company.

Art, local dining favorites and a variety of vendors will round out the event. This year's annual America's Wild Rivers Art, Seafood and Wine Festival will open its doors at 11:00 am, Saturday the 17th of May and again at noon on the 18th. The festival ends at 5:00 pm on Sunday. There's definitely something for everyone - and an event you won't want to miss.

For more information contact Elyse Power, Executive Director of the Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce at (541) 247-0923.

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