



MISSOURI WINES™

Consumer Edition

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Be a "Loca-pour"

People across the country are talking about the "loca-vore" movement where consumers buy and eat only locally grown foods. Now the "loca-pour" movement is making waves in the wine industry, encouraging



consumers to drink only locally made wines. The Wine & Grape Board, of course, thinks it's a great idea and October is the perfect month to become a

Missouri wine "loca-pour." The leaves are turning, there's a chill in the morning air. Fall is a beautiful time to visit a local winery and enjoy your favorite locally made Missouri wines. Better yet, avoid the crowds and visit during the week. Visit www.missouriwine.org and check out the events calendar for a list of fun happenings at a winery near you. Tour, taste, sip and enjoy a local pour of Missouri wines soon!

Winning Wines

It's no secret that Missouri wines win awards, a lot of awards. The latest award winning Missouri wines include an armload of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals from the 2008 Long Beach Grand Cru (California) for both Stone Hill Winery and

St. James Winery, including a Chairman's Best of Class award each - the 2005 Catawba Dessert wine from St. James and the 2007 Steinberg White from Stone Hill. Congratulations to all of Missouri wineries that earned awards from the 2008 Mid-American Wine Competition. Winning wineries include Adam Puchta, Augusta, Baltimore Bend, Chaumette Vineyards, Coopers Oak, Jowler Creek, Missouri State University, Montelle, St. James, Stone Hill, Stonehaus Farms, Terre Beau Vineyards and Twin Oaks Vineyard. A very special shout out to the following wineries and wines for their Gold medal/Best of Class wins at the competition; Coopers Oak, Cabernet Sauvignon; Jowler Creek, Butterfly Blush; St. James, Peach; Twin Oaks Vineyard, Two Brothers Sweet Rose.

At the 2008 Tasters Guild International Wine Competition Mount Pleasant Winery earned Double Gold for their 2005 Vintage Port and Gold for their 2007 Brut Imperial, Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2007 Concord. St. James Winery earned Double Gold for their 2007 Vintner's Select Vignoles and Gold for their 2006 Chardonnay Dessert and the 2005 Norton Dessert wines.

For a look at all of Missouri's award winning wines visit www.missouriwine.org and click on the Trophy Case.

Harvest 2008 on Rain Delay

Mother Nature has slowed the 2008 grape harvest. Many area vintners report a two to three week delay in their normal harvest schedule thanks to several climactic twists and turns.

First budbreak was late and our overcast, wet spring really put a damper, if you will, on vine development. July brought more rain plus heat. It was hot. When it's too hot (over 95 degrees) the vines basically stop growing, and that's just what some vines did. The heat finally broke, which was followed by a cooler than normal August which slowed the grape ripening process. Finally, just when things seemed to be getting back on track vine-wise, the remains of Hurricane Ike tore through Missouri, dropping up to four inches of rain on already soaked vineyards. The issue with too much rain is that the grapes take up extra water after a rainstorm and run the risk of the berries splitting. Also, soggy, saturated vineyards are no friend to tractors and harvesters.

Overall grape crop levels are still good, however growers are watching their crops for the variety of problems that rain and damp weather can cause in the vineyard. Thankfully our warm and dry weather conditions the last week of September were excellent for ripening grapes.

The 2008 grape harvest has been a good reminder that wine is farming and farmers roll with the punches that Mother Nature delivers.

The Grapevine

Best of MO

The Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis is the site of the 17th annual Best of Missouri Market, October 4 & 5. This not to be missed event features only the best Missouri made products including wine, food, and art. Make sure to visit all of the Missouri wineries at this year's market to sample and purchase your favorite, local wines. Visit www.mobot.org for hours and ticket info.

Celebrate Fall

Missouri wines along with other agricultural specialty products will be front and center at the sixth annual Missouri Chestnut Roast October 18 at the University of Missouri Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin. Locally grown and produced agricultural specialty products including wines from Les Bourgeois Winery and Crown Valley Winery plus nuts, meats, cheeses and more will be featured along with music, cooking demonstrations and a straw bale maze. Festivities start at 10 a.m. and admission is free. Sounds fun!

Happy Wine Trails

Several of Missouri's wine trails have special trail events scheduled for November.

The wineries of central Missouri present Vine & Market - A Taste of the Missouri River Wine Trail November 1 - 2. For ticket info visit www.missouriwine.com.

In the Hermann area the seven wineries of the Hermann Wine Trail are hosting their annual celebration of good food and good wine at the Holiday Fare Wine Trail November 15 - 16. Visit www.hermannwinetrail.com for tickets.

The wineries of Ste. Genevieve will present their Wine Diva Weekend November 22 - 23. For details and ticket info contact your favorite Ste. Genevieve area winery, or telephone 800-398-1298.

Happier Holidays

It's not too early to start thinking of gift-giving, the holiday season is just around the corner. Make your gift shopping a snap - send Missouri wines and Missouri wine gift baskets to your family, friends and business associates. Missouri wines make excellent gifts and Missouri's wineries offer a wonderful variety to choose from. Visit your favorite Missouri winery or www.missouriwine.org for gift giving info.



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