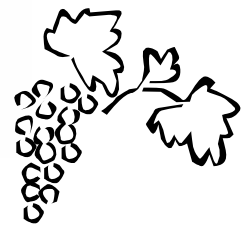




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The Grape Vine Newsletter



Schwarzenegger Declares "California Wine Month"

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger applauded California's vintners and wine grape growers recently for their economic contributions and "steadfast commitment to the highest standards of excellence" by issuing an official proclamation designating September 2006 as "California Wine Month."

As California's annual grape harvest season gets underway, wineries throughout the state are hosting fun events and offering special discounts to help everyone enjoy California's wines, fresh and delicious cuisine, unique attractions and spectacular scenery. If you have been planning a trip to California Wine Country, there is no time like the present!

"We appreciate the Governor's recognition of the wine industry as a unique and special part of California," said Robert Koch, President of the Wine Institute. "From the scenic beauty of our diverse growing regions with more than 96 distinct American Viticultural Areas, to the fascinating individuals behind every California wine label, to our leadership in sustainable winegrowing, California wine truly gives Californians something to celebrate."

California wineries, regional winery and grower associations, retailers and restaurants are teaming up to create a statewide calendar of special activities and events during the month of September.

California Wine Facts

California wines are world renowned for their quality, diversity and variety. The state is home to about

2,000 wineries, mostly family businesses, whose wines reflect their passion and dedication to winegrowing and the unique personality of the winery and region.

California's winemaking history dates back to the late 1700s when Spanish missionaries introduced winemaking to California through a chain of 21 missions, nearly all of which produced wine.

The combination of nearly 250 years of winemaking tradition and experience, a reputation for innovation and improvement, and an ideal climate to grow grapes, makes California one of the best places on earth to make wine.

Almost 100 winegrape varieties grow in 107 distinct American Viticultural Areas (AVA's). California's long Pacific Ocean coastline and coastal mountain range stretch more than 3,100 miles from

Mexico to the Oregon border and allow cooling ocean fog and breezes to moderate the state's steady sunshine. An ideal temperate climate and dozens of different microclimates and soil types, as well as the individualistic winemakers, add to and deepen the diversity.

- California is the fourth largest wine producer in the world.
- Golden State wineries produce 90 percent of all U.S. wine.
- In the U.S., two of every three bottles enjoyed by Americans is a California wine.
- California wines are also exported to 164 countries throughout the world.



Quote of the Month

For when the wine is in, the wit is out. Thomas Becon (1512 - 1567)

Wine Trivia

Most of the wine used in wine-tasting scenes of the movie "Sideways" was non-alcoholic. The actors wound up drinking so much of it that they got nauseated and had to periodically switch to the real thing to clean out their palates.



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Wine of the Month Club

Because California is widely regarded as the finest wine growing region in America and one of the best wine producing regions in the world, our featured wines are from *California's finest, boutique wineries* - arguably some of the best wines in the world.

Personalized Bottles of Wine

We have a great selection of wine label templates available on our website that you can use to create your very own bottles of personalized wine. Simply click your favorite label template and change the words. You can also take a digital photo, or create your own label design and email it to us. Either way, we will print professional quality labels and apply them to your choice of our fine personalized wine selections. *Minimum order - only 1 bottle!* Our private label wines come in popular red and white varietals and you can mix and match them as you please. *Private Label Wines are perfect for Birthdays, all Holidays, Thank You, Congratulations, House Warming, Corporate Gifts, Promotional Items, or any occasion at all!*



The California Wine Store

We always purchase a few extra cases of the fine wines we send our Wine Club members. While these fine wines last, we make them available to you in our Wine Store at prices that you won't be able to resist. As a bonus, our Wine Club members can buy more of the wines they really enjoyed, while they are available. *You simply will not find these wines at any other wine gift shop!*

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- **Online Beer Store** - A great selection of hand crafted, west coast microbrews available in our online beer shop. Mix and match to build your own personal beer selections.



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Flower of the Month Club - Each month, our flower club members receive a beautiful flower arrangement made up of a generous variety of seasonal blooms. Of course, we include a beautiful Gift Card with your personalized message along with the first monthly delivery. Bring a smile to their face again and again, as they receive a fresh bouquet of blooming flowers for as many months as you choose. Or, send "A Month of Flowers" and get flowers every week for a month, that's 4 consecutive weeks!



Plant of the Month Club - Each month, the plant club member will receive a luscious, living, indoor house plant, professionally planted in its own unique container. Our plant club memberships are the perfect way to start and build a beautiful and healthy indoor urban garden!



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This Month's **Classic Wine Club** Selections

Every month our **Classic Wine Club** members receive one or two bottles of our featured wines. The wines you get depend on the membership you are enrolled in. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

Coulson Winery

Coulson Winery is a small foothill winery specializing in varietal wines from grapes that excel in the El Dorado area where the average elevation is 2,500' - 3,000' above sea level, and the wines date back to the Gold Rush Days of the 1850's.

The winery was originally built in 1927 as an apple and pear processing and storage facility, constructed in the "post and beam" style, using single, hand-hewn trees as beams. The north half of building was later turned into a "cold room", reminiscent of a Midwest ice house from years past, with 24" walls insulated with sawdust, and is now used for white wine production and wine storage.

In 1972 the winery came into existence under the ownership of Placerville City Engineer "Mick" McGuire with the name "El Dorado Vineyards," producing small quantities of red wines.

In the summer of 1995, Coulson Enterprises negotiated a long term lease for the winery, renaming it 'Coulson El Dorado Winery' and began production with grapes from El Dorado County and Sierra foothill vineyards. Edgar Coulson, the CEO and winemaker, holds a degree in Chemical Engineering and has completed enology courses at the University of California at Davis. Before beginning a new career as a production winemaker, Ed won many state and regional awards for over 13 years as a highly skilled home winemaker.

The wines are made in small lots from carefully selected foothill grown grapes that are best suited to the soil and climate of El Dorado County, which in many respects is similar to the famed Rhone region of Southern France, Northern Spain, and Northern Italy. The wines are produced in the "Old World" manner with a minimum of handling and processing to yield wines of exceptional varietal character and intensity. At the end of 2004, the name of the winery was formally changed to Coulson Winery.

Zinfandel - 2002 "Safari Vineyard"

The third vintage from the Safari Vineyard, this full-bodied wine has loads of front fruit and is an excellent example of a Sierra Foothill Zinfandel. This wine clearly shows the positive influence and interaction of soil, climate and aggressive vineyard practices (thinning, leaf-removal and water management) on the finished aromas, flavors and body of the wine. Compliments most red meats and bold sauces. Serve at 65-70 °F.

Gann Family Cellars

Please refer to the next page for information about the winery.

Sauvignon Blanc - 2003 Alexander Valley

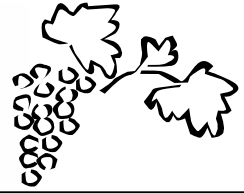
The Spring Hill Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc is produced from a special hillside parcel planted in 1978. These old and gnarled vines are prized for their amazing fruit representative of their "old vine" maturity. The soils found in this corner of the Russian River region impart a subtle mineral nuance - several sommeliers have commented that this wine has similarities with Sancerre, which gains its distinctive character from the limestone rich soils of the Loire Valley in France. Partially aged in oak for 5 months to further develop the vibrant flavors and rich mouthfeel, this pure varietal is comprised of 100% Sauvignon Blanc fruit with no secondary malolactic fermentation.

This wine offers vibrant citrus flavors of grapefruit combined with green apple. Subtle pear and apricot flavors combine with the mineral nuance to add intrigue. The slightest hint of oak adds the final layer of delicate complexity while a crisp natural acidity delivers a clean and lasting finish.



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This Month's Epic Reds Wine Club Selections

Every month our **Epic Reds Wine Club** members receive two bottles of our featured red wines. These wines are some of California's boutique winery's finest offerings. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

Gann Family Cellars

The Gann Family Vineyard is a 110 acre estate situated in a unique location, part of both the Alexander Valley and Russian River Valley appellations. Their vineyard lies approximately two miles east of Healdsburg bordered on the west by Fitch Mountain and the east by the Russian River.

The contrasting combination of steep hillsides and flat benchlands, cool foggy mornings and warm sunny afternoons, along with clone and rootstock selections make this a prized vineyard; one that has been the source of top Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah, and Merlot wines from Sonoma County.

The Gann Family Vineyard offers a wonderful combination of Alexander Valley and Russian River Valley appellation characteristics that are a vitally important aspect of "growing" grapes into award-winning wines. A unique, micro-climate advantage allows the grapes to develop their complex flavors and crisp acidity.

Today, Gann Family Vineyard is the exclusive source for Gann Family Cellars wines as well as a premier supplier of grapes to other award-winning wineries.

The winemaker, Chris Knedel, has many years of experience in the wine industry, in both Napa and Sonoma counties. While working at wineries such as Chappellet, Sebastiani, La Famiglia di Robert Mondavi and Fritz, he worked his way from lab tech and enologist to cellar master and winemaker. Now, as the Gann Family winemaker, he is able to further develop his own style of winemaking, and helps to create the winemaking philosophy that brings out the best in Gann Family Cellar's wines.

Their winemaking philosophy is centered around the estate vineyard where they cultivate extraordinary fruit that represents the unique terroir of the dual appellation. They are focused on producing wines that truly showcase the varietal characteristics of each grape in the purest sense, and prefer a minimalist approach in the winery, letting the fruit speak for itself.

Beginning early each year, every vineyard block is carefully cultivated in light of all the surprises that Mother Nature has thrown their way, continually adapting their farming practices to achieve the highest quality fruit.

At harvest, the grapes are hand-picked in the cool, early morning hours to ensure maximum retention of flavors and aromas. The fruit is loaded into small, half-ton "macro" bins for immediate transportation to the winery for crushing. They prefer to let the bins of red grapes cold soak overnight in the barrel room, thus giving the juice even longer contact time with the skins.

2004 Merlot, Alexander Valley

This wonderfully fruity Merlot comes from a special hillside block called Laurelwood. Planted in 1999, this young vineyard produces fruit exhibiting ripe flavors of plum and cherry. Aged for 15 months in 50% new French oak, this wine exhibits an extraordinarily smooth and velvety texture.

Only 325 cases of this beautiful Merlot were produced.

2004 Syrah, Alexander Valley

After a detailed survey of the estate's soils, micro-climates and topography, one location was proclaimed as the preferred site for "Grange quality Syrah" to which three different clones of Syrah were planted. The resulting wine displays aromas of cherry, plum and black pepper, then broadens on the palate to intense red fruit, cassis, clove, pepper spice and coffee. Aged for 15 months in French oak barrels.

Only 75 cases of this 2004 Syrah were produced! This wine is available exclusively to Wine Gift Club Epic Reds Wine Club members, and in the winery's tasting room. *Please enjoy.*