

Volume 3
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Wine Trail Traveler Newsletter

Texas Wineries & Vineyards

We enjoyed a delightful visit to Texas for 10-days in late April to early May. Our visit included 23 wineries out of 177 Texas wineries. During our visit, we covered 1,300 miles. Yes, it was a lot of travel but we enjoyed our first trip to Texas. Most of the wineries we visited on this trip were in the Texas Hill Country AVA.

As we discovered, Texans are friendly and just all around great people. We found very friendly winemakers and owners, who were willing to take time to share the joys and tribulations of winemaking in Texas.

As Bobby Champion, from the Texas Department of Agriculture, pointed out, Texas has 177 wineries with more expected to open soon. Texas wine production is growing quickly and currently is the fifth largest wine producing state. The Texas state government is supportive of the wine industry and they understand the value of the wine industry. Currently Texas has grants available geared to increasing vineyard acreage.

We discovered the Texan spirit and determination. Both small and large Texas wineries face many of the same difficulties. Pierce's disease, early spring frosts and freezes, hurricanes and flooding all take a toll on wineries and vineyards. Probably the most devastating destruction



Vineyard at Haak Vineyard and Winery, Santa Fe, Texas provides a perfect setting for proposals, weddings, events and relaxing with a glass of wine.

suffered by a Texas winery was at Lost Creek. In 2007, the LBJ Lake flooded a large area and the Lost Creek Winery lost cases and barrels of wine. The winery was submerged in mud and debris. Less than two years later, the winery is a destination site with a fine dining restaurant, sushi bar, amphitheater and quality wine.

Texas wineries are faced with a shortage of vineyards. As we have learned it is expensive to start a vineyard. However, Texans have a "can do" spirit and there are acres of grapes. Vineyards must face Pierce's disease. This is a destructive disease transmitted by a tiny insect. Research is ongoing to discover ways to eliminate Pierce's disease. Some vineyards have plantings of Black Spanish and Blanc du Bois grapes that are resistant to Pierce's disease. Hurricanes are unpredictable, viticulturists can work all year, and then, just before harvest, a hurricane can destroy this year's crop. A few weeks before we arrived in Texas, most wineries in the Texas Hill Country had experienced a freeze. Many grape vines lost their primary buds and some even lost secondary buds.

not possible they may source from other states including California. A number of wineries will not source grapes from outside of the state.

Whether you are looking for large destination winery sites or small boutique style wineries, you are sure to enjoy visiting wineries in Texas. Despite the number of miles between many of the wineries, it's worth a trip through the area to see a palate of colors. Texas Hill Country provides black-eyed Susan, Indian Blanket Flower (Gaillardia) along with other blue and white wildflowers. At the time of our visit, sections were covered with Indian Blanket.

K.S.



Barrel room at Driftwood Vineyards, Driftwood, Texas

When wineries need to source grapes, they try to source from Texas. When this is

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Father's Day - June 21, 2009

Many fathers (and mothers, too but we are talking about Father's Day) spend hours at work. They enjoy being at home with a chance to kick back and enjoy the day with their family at home. Why not consider a cookout at home? Consider the options: hamburgers, steak, hot dogs or fish are good items to grill. If you're not sure which wine to have on hand, consider purchasing a bottle of white and red so they can choose which wine they would like to drink with dinner.

On the other hand, perhaps your father would like to get out of the house or apartment with the family. A visit to a local winery might very relaxing. Some wineries allow picnic baskets and the settings are particularly beautiful at this time of year. Call in advance to be sure that it's okay to bring a picnic basket to the winery.

We wish all fathers a wonderful Father's Day!

K.S.

Summer Wine Festivals

Wine festivals are popular venues with many wineries and vendors participating. A wine festival provides visitors an opportunity to taste wines produced by several wineries rather than a separate trip to each winery. Wine festivals are about much more than wine. Live music adds to the congenial atmosphere. Artisans provide their products for browsing and purchasing. Watch for summer wine festivals in your local area.

Consider these tips to make the most of your day at the festival. Save money on your ticket by purchasing it in advance. Take a small notebook to write notes about the wines you taste. This is also helpful to write down the names of the wines you intend to purchase before you leave the festival. Always have water or purchase water. It's important to drink as much water as wine. Wear sunscreen and comfortable shoes.

Ask a friend or relative to be a designated driver. Designated drivers can enjoy the music, food vendors and artisans. A perfect thank you may be a bottle of wine from the festival.

K.S.

Food and Wine

Recipe with Wine

Port Pecans

Ingredients:

1 c pecan halves
1/2 c sugar
1/4 c Becker Vineyards Vintage Port

Directions:

1. Combine sugar and Port in pan over high heat. Stir constantly. As soon as mixture begins to boil, add pecans. Stir and turn pecans to prevent burning. Within 5 to 6 minutes, mixture becomes thick, and Port red color changes to a dark caramel color. Remove from heat at this point. Do not touch pecans -- mixture is very hot.
2. Carefully -- without touching by hand -- spread pecans on cookie sheet. Let cool 15-20 minutes.
3. Break into small pieces when cool.

Serving suggestion: Munch on the Port Pecans as a snack, crumble on top of ice cream, add to the top of a chocolate cake or cheesecake, or crumble onto a warm Brie wedge.

Provided by Paul Gingrich, former [Becker Vineyards](#) (Stonewell, Texas) staff member.

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Sara's Best Yellow Cake

Ingredients:

2 c sugar
4 eggs
1 c vegetable oil
1 c Mill Creek Vineyards' Chardonnay
2 1/2 c flour
1/2 t salt
2 1/2 t baking powder
1 t vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Beat sugar and eggs for 30 seconds on high speed. Add all other ingredients and beat about one minute on medium speed until consistency is smooth. Grease and flour a 9"x13" pan.
3. Pour in batter. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until knife inserted comes out clean. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or serve with strawberries over the top

Provided by [Mill Creek Vineyards](#) Healdsburg, California.

Wine Trail Traveler Partners

California



Temecula Valley Quality Wine Alliance

951-526-4540



Temecula Valley Wine Growers Association

34567 Rancho California Road
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1601
Temecula, CA 92593
Phone: 800-801-9463



Briar Rose

41720 Calle Cabrillo
Temecula, California 92592



Keyways Vineyard & Winery

37338 De Portola Road
Temecula, California 92592



Thornton Winery

32575 Rancho California Road
Temecula, CA

Colorado



Balistreri Vineyards

1946 E. 66th Ave.
Denver, Colorado 80229



Garfield Estates Vineyard & Winery

3572 G Road
Palisade, Colorado 81526



Garlic Mike's

2674 Hwy 135
Gunnison, Colorado 81230
970-641-2493



Garlic Mike's

103 Rose Lane
Montrose, Colorado 81401
970-249-4381



Two Rivers Winery & Chateau

2087 Broadway
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503



The Wine Country Inn

777 Grande River Drive
Palisade, CO 81526

Maryland



Fiore Winery

3026 Whiteford Road
Pylesville, MD 21132

Michigan



Bucci Ristorante

20217 Mack Ave.
Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan



Country Hermitage Bed & Breakfast

7710 US 31 N
Williamsburg, Michigan 49690



Chateau Chantal

15900 Rue de Vin
Traverse City, MI 49686

Nevada



Pahrump Valley Winery

3810 Winery Road
Pahrump, Nevada 89048

New York



The Halsey House

2057 Trumansburg Road
Trumansburg, NY 14886
Phone: 800-387-5590



Masten Designs

2710 Astoria Blvd. Apt. 2C
Astoria NY 11102



North Fork Wine Tours

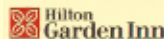
PO Box 805
Greenport, NY 11944



Three Brothers Wineries & Estates

623 Lerch Road,
Geneva, NY 14456

Ontario, Canada



Hilton Garden Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake

500 York Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
L0S 1J0
Phone 905-984-4200
Toll free: 866-777-9877

Wine Trail Traveler Partners

Ohio



Ferrante Winery

5585 N River Road W (State Rt. 307)
Geneva, Ohio 44041



Ferrante Winery & Ristorante

5585 N River Road W (State Rt. 307)
Geneva, Ohio 44041



Grand River Cellars

5750 South Madison Rd. (Route 528)
Madison, Ohio 44057



Laurello Vineyards

4573 State Route 307 East,
Geneva, Ohio 44041



Winery at Versailles

6572 St Rt 47
Versailles, Ohio 45380

Oregon



Kramer Vineyards

26830 NW Olson Road
Gaston, OR 97119-8039

Pennsylvania



Paradocx Vineyard

1833 Flint Hill Road
Landenberg, PA 19350



The Winery at Wilcox

1867 Mefferts Run Road
Wilcox, Pennsylvania 15870



Hilton Garden Inn, Kennett Square

815 E. Baltimore Pike
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348
Phone (610) 444-9100

Texas



Brennan Vineyards

802 South Austin Street
Comanche, Texas 76442



Fredericksburg Winery

247 West Main Street
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624



Grape Creek Vineyards

10587 East Highway 290
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

Texas *continued*



Spicewood Vineyards

1419 County Road 409
Spicewood, Texas 78669



Texas Legato

2935 FM 1478
Lampasas, Texas 76550

Virginia



Barrel Oak Winery

3623 Grove Lane
Delaplane, Virginia 20144



Chateau O'Brien at Northpoint

3238 Rail Stop Road
Markham, VA 22643



Kluge Estate Winery & Vineyards

100 Grand Cru Drive
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902



Miracle Valley Vineyard

3661 Double J Lane
Delaplane, VA 20144



Pearmund Cellars

6190 Georgetown Road
Broad Run, VA 20137



Three Fox Vineyards

10100 Three Fox Lane
Delaplane, VA 20144



Veritas Vineyard & Winery

145 Saddleback Farm
Afton, Virginia 22920



Vint Hill Craft Winery

7150 Lineweaver Road
Vint Hill, Virginia 20187



White Fences Vineyard & Winery

170 White Fences Drive
Irvington, VA 22480



The Winery at La Grange

4970 Antioch Road
Haymarket, Virginia 20169