

Temecula Valley



Vine

Times

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**Wine Country Lodging –
Simply Point and Click**

The **Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association** is making it easier for visitors to enjoy overnight stays while touring Wine Country. The association's web site -- temeculawines.org – now features an easy-to-use online booking service that reserves rooms at Temecula area hotels, resorts and beds and breakfasts. Simply click on the lodging menu and pick from nearly a dozen places to spend the night in the Temecula Valley so you can spend more than one day enjoying the region's many attractions. The reservation system is operated for the association by San Diego-based Advanced Research Systems Inc., which also manages bookings for the California Travel and Tourism Commission.

**Winemakers Get
Creative with Bountiful
Harvest**

What do winemakers do with a near-record grape harvest and overflowing fermentation tanks? If they are Temecula winemakers they create special wines that allow us to enjoy a broader palate of wines. Jon McPherson, winemaker at **South Coast Winery, Resort & Spa** got creative when he ended up with 75 tons more of Merlot grapes than he had a year ago. The solution: He bled off some of the juice and made a Merlot Rosé, a light, slightly sweet, very drinkable wine that matches up well with nearly all food. The new wine will debut in January and retail for about \$12 to \$14 a

bottle. When Jay Weseloh, assistant winemaker at **Thornton Winery**, lost his source of Grenache grapes used in the winery's rosé, he turned to a plentiful grape --- Sangiovese. Although the grape that makes up Chianti is not typically used in a rosé, Weseloh liked its flavor and color in the tank. "It tasted like it would make a good rosé," he said. Thornton plans to release about 550 cases of the special rose this spring. It will be priced at \$14 to \$16 a bottle.

Two New Tasting Rooms Set to Open in Temecula

Starting next month, wine lovers will get chance to sample the fare at two new tasting rooms in Temecula Wine Country. The addition of tasting rooms at Wiens **Family Cellars** and **Oak Mountain Vineyard and Winery** brings to 22 the number of wineries that will let you sample their wines. Five years ago there were 15 tasting rooms in Temecula. Oak Mountain, which is located on DePortola Road across from Leonesse Cellars, will open a temporary tasting room in December. At the same time, Jeff Wiens said Wiens Family Cellars, just east of Ponte Family Estate Winery on Rancho California Road, plans to open a temporary 750-square foot tasting room with an oak bar by mid-month. He expects the winery to be completed in six months.

Temecula Wines Capture Gold in Las Vegas

Four Temecula wines garnered top honors at the 2005 American Wine Society Wine Competition held recently in Las Vegas. Receiving gold medals were **Baily** 2004 Rosé of Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.95), **Maurice Car'rie** 2004 Muscat Canelli (\$12.95), **Van Roekel** 2002 Zinfandel (\$18.95) and "Tenacious," (\$24) a 2003 Rhone blend produced by TVWA grower members Val and Andrew Stephens, who are building **Oak Mountain Winery** on DePortola Road.

Miramonte Expands Food, Entertainment Offerings

Miramonte Winery is making more room for wine production and storage at its hilltop location. Owner Cane Vanderhoof has moved his Celebration Cellars bottle-etching business out of the winery to a 5,000-square-foot industrial building in Temecula. The additional space in the winery will be used to house new production equipment and fermentation tanks and to make room for a new food and entertainment format that includes more variety. The winery will be adding additional refrigeration, a destemmer, crusher and new pumps as its boost annual wine-making capacity about 10 percent to 6,500 cases. At the same time, Miramonte is bringing in guest chefs from area restaurants to show off their culinary skills and is expanding the selection of musicians who perform at the winery on weekends. "We wanted to do something new and fresh, so we are going to mix it up every week," said Vanderhoof. As part of the reorganization and expansion, Steve Williamson was promoted to tasting room manager, Andrew George was named assistant manager and Amalia Garduno was promoted to Vanderhoof's personal assistant.

Coupons Make Food, Wine Taste Better

Wineries and restaurants in Wine Country are making it easy on your pocketbook to leisurely enjoy award-winning wine and great food during non-peak periods. Special coupons at the **Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association** web site are available for discounts on both food and wine at five Wine Country establishments from Nov. 14 to Dec. 16. Take advantage of 10 percent off coupons for weekday meals at the **Smokehouse Café at Ponte Winery**, the **Vineyard Rose** restaurant at **South Coast Winery Resort & Spa**, **Carol's Restaurant at Baily Winery** and **Allies at Callaway**. Also enjoy 2-for-1 coupons for wine tasting at Callaway, South Coast and

Baily wineries. Simply download the coupon from

<http://temeculawines.org/show/coupon.asp>

Temecula Wineries Featured in Top-Selling Cookbook

Carlsbad author Lynn Alley is best known for letting us know about unconventional and imaginative ways to prepare gourmet meals at home. Best-selling "The Gourmet Slow Cooker" (Ten Speed Press, 2003) elevates the art of one-pot cooking. In the soon-to-be released "Gourmet Toaster Oven", Alley reveals why toaster ovens are ideal for creating simple, yet sophisticated meals. In each instance, she paired wines from Temecula with the recipes in the books. Wines from **Mount Palomar** and **Hart wineries** are featured in the books, which can be purchased from Hart's tasting room or online from Amazon.

Get Stuffed in Wine Country on Thanksgiving

Want to get out of the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day and let someone else do all the cooking and cleanup? Why not spend the day in Wine Country at two fine restaurants that will do it all for you and your guests. **Café Champagne at Thornton Winery** will serve Thanksgiving dinner from 12:00 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 24. Choose from traditional roasted turkey or caramelized Atlantic salmon or braised pork tenderloin, or grilled Colorado lamb T-bone chops plus all the fixin's. The cost: \$44.95 per person. Children under 12: \$19.95. **Vineyard Rose restaurant at South Coast Winery Resort & Spa** will offer a buffet and sit down dinner. The buffet, which runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. will feature turkey, prime rib, shrimp and fish for \$29.95 per person. Or for \$39.95 per person, pick from a four-course dinner of traditional turkey with all the fixin's, prime rib, pork loin rib or salmon encroute served from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Women of the Wineries Raise Money for Cancer

Women of the Wineries and Women Associates held their second annual fund-raising luncheon **at South Coast Winery, Resort & Spa** on Oct. 25. The group, which attracted more than 150 women from Wine Country and Temecula and Murrieta, with help from Brighton Collectibles store helped raise \$800 for Michelle's Place, a women's breast cancer resource center that serves Southwest Riverside County (<http://www.michellesplace.org>). The group and the get-together was the brainchild of **Maggie Carter**, South Coast co-owner. She originally wanted the event to bring together women who worked in wineries and vineyards. But the gathering this year expanded to include women from surrounding communities as well. "It was nice to get together with many of the people we work with and at the same time help support a good cause," she said.

Palumbo Finds Small Is Indeed Better

Palumbo Family Vineyards and Winery is building a new 2,500-square-foot production and storage building, making plans to double annual capacity to about 3,000 cases and is developing a second label for its non-estate wines. But if co-owner and winemaker Nick Palumbo has anything to say about it, the 3-year-old winery will never be large. "Being small has huge advantages when it comes to quality," he says. Producing quality wines in small batches at his 12-acre winery and vineyard has been so successful that Palumbo was forced to close his wine club to new members because demand is greater than supply. The "small is good" approach has allowed Palumbo wines to be featured in several high-end restaurants that are looking for locally grown products for their menu. Their mantra is think globally and eat locally, he said. You can find Palumbo wines in restaurants such as Nine Ten in La Jolla, Arterra in Del

Mar and the Lodge at Torrey Pines.

**Callaway Sale
Completed; New GM
Named**

Callaway Temecula Limited Partnership, a family-owned investment group based in Del Mar, completed the purchase of **Callaway Vineyard & Winery** on Oct. 31. No price was disclosed. Patricia Lin, president of the investment group, established Callaway Temecula LP to acquire the winery from Allied Domecq Wines USA, which had owned it since 1986. The winery's 60 workers will remain Allied Domecq employees until federal licensing is completed in the next two to four weeks. In the meantime, Brent Smith, former controller at Callaway in the 1980s, was named general manager of the winery. Previously he was vice president and general manager of Southcorp Wines, Canada's largest supplier of Australian wines such as Penfolds and Lindemans. Lin will operate Callaway's winery on about 50 acres, including a 14-acre estate vineyard. Callaway officials plan to concentrate on consumer direct sales from the winery. Allied Domecq separately sold trademark and wholesaling rights to Shaw-Ross International, which will distribute Callaway wines to retail shops and restaurants.

And did you know... Temecula's not Tuscany, but it'll do until Orange County Register wine columnist Chris Knap can scrape up the plane fare. His observation comes after sampling **Falkner's 2002 Amante** Super Tuscan blend (\$24.95), which Knap said shows off the region's ability to artfully combine winemaking styles. Falkner's wine is primarily made from a Tuscan grape, Sangiovese, which is blended with smaller amounts of Bordeaux varietals Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc... .. A mixed case of Temecula wines got a good review from the crew during a filming of a new FoxTV reality show in Houston. The wine was supplied by Dan Glick, owner of **Sunrise Balloons**, a Temecula-based firm that has been providing hot air

balloon rides for the past 30 years... Tis the season to come to Temecula. Wine Country is one of the destinations of a San Diego-based Christmas tour offered by Atlas Cruises & Tours that includes six nights at the Hotel Del Coronado. The package includes an excursion to the Temecula Valley for wine tasting at Thornton Winery... Four Temecula wineries participated in the San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival, which was held Nov. 10-12 at the Embarcadero Park North in downtown San Diego, The Westgate Hotel, and Macy's School of Cooking and related venues. **Falkner, Stuart Cellars, Palumbo and Wilson Creek** wineries poured wines at the three-day event that featured wines and food from all over the world.

For more information about items in this newsletter or to schedule a private media tour of Temecula's Wine Country, contact Linda Kissam at the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association at 1-800-801-9463 or winecountrydir@aol.com

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