

Valley vineyards and artists come together at World of Wine

The Southern Oregon World of Wine (WOW) Festival takes place August 19 through 23 in Jacksonville. Billed as the premier wine and food festival in the region, the hallmark of the festival is a wine competition which attracts over 200 wines made exclusively from Southern Oregon grapes. The wines are judged by a panel of some of the top wine experts in the country, typically, one or more Masters of Wine. The event also offers wine sensory classes and special wine dinners. The final evening is devoted to a Grand Tasting which includes the opportunity to taste the award winning wines and a special 5 course meal.

New this year, painted wine barrels will be auctioned off to benefit the Asante Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network. Seven artists were invited to paint wine barrels and were each given a stipend for their time and cost of materials. Of the seven artists selected, three live in the Illinois Valley.

Deer Creek Vineyards owner Katherine Bryan was one of the promoters of the painted barrel idea and suggested it to WOW organizers. In recognition of the works accomplished for the 2012 Gateway Project, auction organizer and Grants Pass entrepreneur Hyla Lipson approached the Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC) for help in finding artists for the project. A committee consisting of IRVAC president Kent Fisher and board members Bonnie and Justin Campanoli selected "Gateway" artists Cheryl Williams Dolan, Karen Stiles and Bruce Stone for the project. Stone's barrel has been on display at Evergreen Federal Bank for the past few weeks.

The other four artists are: Bob Eding "Fall in the Vineyard," Anna Elkins, "Barrel of Cheers!" Vicki Magallon "Blackberry Moon," and Bill Stanton, "Our Beautiful Valley."

In her artist's statement, Cheryl Williams Dolan wrote: "It's called 'Bloom Where You're Planted'. The inspiration for the design came to me as a newcomer to Southern Oregon where I am trying to 'Bloom Where I'm Planted' and from my lily garden on one of those incredibly hot days in July. I was trying to bring the heat, the blue summer sky, and the joy of the lilies to the painting on the barrel. It was an amazing and fun project to work on, and I am so grateful for this opportunity. Thank you so much!"

Karen Stiles' barrel is


titled "The Serpentine Fen" and her statement reads, "While hiking in the mountains near my home in the Illinois Valley of Southwest Oregon I came across a serpentine fen. It is one of Oregon's rarest kinds of wetland. The serpentine bedrock causes the soil to have very high levels of metals and very low levels of nutrients needed by plants. They are best known for their cobra lilies (Darlingtonia californica), but also hold several species of plants found nowhere else in the world. I can imagine that grapes grown from the soil of Southwest Oregon would produce wines as rare and beautiful as the flowers found in a serpentine fen. My painting shows maidenhair fern, western azalea, California lady's slipper, heal-all, Darlingtonia, Siskiyou paintbrush, reed lily, stream orchid, and Vollmer lily. You might also see a golden mantle ground squirrel, bumblebee, Pacific tree frog, swallowtail butterfly and a serpentine rock mound."

Bruce Stone's barrel is titled "Dances with Wood". His artist statement reads, "I studied North Coast Native Art at RCC while pursuing my graphic arts degree. I have used strong graphic images to decorate some of my sculptural pieces that sit in my

front yard. Also, Illinois Valley non-profits just revived Hathkapsuta and the River Blessing Celebration, which I attended and have always enjoyed. Grandma Agnes was there, inspiring, as always. So I am sure all of these elements played a part in my decision to design a barrel with images that would celebrate the diverse people and life of Southern Oregon. I wanted to create something that would speak to people at a deep level and for me that is what makes a good work of art."

Lipson had this to say about the participating artists: "Your willingness to share your talent (and joy) with us is wonderful and very heartwarming. Thank you to all of the wineries who donated barrels. Thank you to Evergreen Bank for sponsoring this project with stipends for the artists. Thank you to the many people who helped with the logistics of this project. (Wrestling these barrels is not easy!) Thank you to the various locations who are allowing us to showcase the barrels as a preview. Here's to you and to this year and to looking forward to next year."





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