



Southing It

UMPQUA GIVES UP THE GOODS AND GREATS

Words by Lance Sparks | Photos by Kat Chinn

Oregon's glorious Umpqua Valley: See it, savor it now, tell the grandkids you were there when ...

... When the valley still sustained that small-town feel in places like Winston, Elkton, Rice Hill, even in the "city" of Roseburg.

... When the whole region struggled with changing its identity from a place defined by logging and milling to a place where, once again, some might see reborn

the dream of living a life by farming (the same dream that died a century ago, driving farmers into the woods to log or into the mills to labor as wage-dogs in someone else's business).

... When Umpqua wines were just emerging from the shadows of looming Callahan Ridge, the sheer escarpment that stretches a rain-shadow across low-rolling hills at its feet, to be recognized as among the very best wines anywhere.

This should come as no surprise, but, surprisingly, it still does: There's *great* wine in the Umpqua Valley. Not just good wine, though there's plenty of such, no, genuinely great: superb, delicious, world-class. Of course, a reputation for "great" takes time; in wine, in most cases, name recognition builds over centuries, and the Umpqua has had centuries — but not in wine.

In fact, the oldest vineyards in Oregon's post-Prohibition era are planted in the Umpqua Valley. In 1961, Richard Sommer, against expert advice, planted HillCrest Vineyards, just a little north and west of Roseburg, in the Riesling grapes that, he was convinced, would become the defining varietal of this verdant valley. Well, he was right: HillCrest Riesling was and still might

be among the finest, but the valley has also become home-land to others of the "noble" varieties (*vinis vinifera*). The full range, because the valley affords growers a wide spectrum of soils, climate and slopes, from the coolest of the cool in the north around the homey burg of Elkton, nearly perfect for pinot noir, to high-heat acreage suitable for the biggest of the big reds — cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot, tempranillo, syrah — and the wines, made by committed and talented makers, have begun raking in gold medals and winning hearts and minds of wider-world wine writers.

Heading for the Umpqua Valley is like taking a trip in time to a land where Oregon's past co-exists with its future. Wend your way an hour south to a wonderland:

Memorial Day Open House

Special Hours 10am - 6pm

New Wines:

- Cabernet Sauvignon
- Cabernet Franc
- Petite Sirah
- Syrah
- Unoaked Chardonnay

As well as
Special Sale Wines

Normal Hours: 11am-5pm daily
541-679-9654

491 Winery Lane • Roseburg
www.spanglervineyards.com

Easy Access
1/2 mile west of I-5, at exit 119
first left past first stoplight

HENRY ESTATE WINERY

Memorial Day Weekend

Live music • Hors d'oeuvres
Wine tours • Case discounts
Free wine tasting

Amenities & Events

- Boutique Gift Shop
- Children, Dog & RV Friendly
- Flower Gardens
- Tours By Appointment
- Tasting Room Open Daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Free Tasting of Award Winning Wines
- Facility Rentals for Weddings & Private Parties

Winery: 541.459.5120
Toll free: 1.800.782.2686
Fax: 541.459.5146
Email: winery@henryestate.com
Website: www.henryestate.com
687 Hubbard Creek Road • PO Box 26
Umpqua, OR 97486

WANTED

Celebrating 30 years of fine wines...

HENRY GOES WINE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2008

The Mixers 12:00pm - 4:00pm
The Vipers featuring Deb Cleveland 5:00pm - 9:00pm
In the Arbor: DeDe "Big Hair" Bardot • 4:00pm - 5:00pm