

At The End of The Bottle

Local entrepreneurs make interesting uses of corks BY BRIT MCGINNIS



The slogan of Creative Corks N' More is "Garbage Has Feelings Too." But the impression you receive from the web-based Eugene craft company isn't that they're working with garbage. They're working with materials they love. And they're making things too awesome to describe.

Even better: They're not snobby about the whirlwind success of their wine-cork products. "We started because we had a lot of corks and we didn't know what to give people for Christmas," laughs Tanita Brown, one of Creative Corks' founders.

A barrel full of corks later, Brown and her fiancée had the roots of a business. Creative Corks has become well known mostly for its hanging wall boards, especially those in the shape of letters. Each is

entirely composed of corks and takes about five hours each to create. "It can be tedious work, but it allows me to work at home and have time with my cat," Brown says.

She describes the letters as being especially popular for wedding gifts, though these orders often entail some level of specialization. "With weddings, they usually want etchings of people's names or the wedding date. They can even request the board to be made out of only champagne corks, when we usually only do wine."

Brown can't contain her enthusiasm for her budding business: "It's my full-time job now, and I'm always just wanting to jump and down for joy because of how successful we've been."



The head of the grassroots company, however down to earth, speaks with the ancient knowledge of a local crafter. Brown takes pride in the practicality as well as the beauty of her goods. She also has hope that the American crafting scene will expand over time. "People are going to craft more and more over time, just because of the economy. If you can make even one hundred dollars a week selling your crafts, that's enough to pay your cell phone bill. People are looking for new ways to earn money."

Creative Corks has enjoyed incredible commercial success through eBay, but most of its following comes from one of the most famous craft-marketing websites today — Etsy.com. The site's become an outlet for crafters to sell their goods to a global audience, and features all of Creative Corks' merchandise. Its types of goods have become more and more varied, now including not only cork letters but coasters, keychains and even more types of art featuring recycled material. The company's latest obsession: solar-powered lights made from Mason jars. You can't keep quirky but useful down. ❖

Visit Creative Corks 'N' More online at creativecorksnmore.etsy.com or facebook.com/pages/Creative-Corks-N-More

PHOTOS COURTESY CREATIVE CORKS N' MORE

Oregon's largest selection of wine!

SUNDANCE WINE CELLARS

King Estate • 2009 Acrobat Pinot Gris

Our best price ever on this iconic Pinot Gris. Crisp and fresh. Perfect for Spring.

Reg. \$13.95, NOW **\$9.50** (no further discounts)

Redman • 2007 Pinot Noir

A classic Ribbon Ridge Pinot Noir – elegant and characterful. Final blowout price!

Reg. \$29.95, NOW **\$8.95** or \$7.97 (case)

Chateau d'Anglès • 2006 Grenache, Syrah, Mouvedre

Made by the former winemaker of Chateau Lafite-Rothchild. An excellent value!

Reg. \$14.95, NOW **\$6.95** or \$6.18 (case)

Limited to stock on hand • No additional discounts

**Free Tastings 5 to 7 pm
Every Friday and Saturday**

2441 Hilyard Street in Eugene

Open daily until 7pm
541.687.9463 • www.orwines.com



Saturday, May 28th

The Valley Boys!
2 to 5 pm



Sunday, May 29th

Just Say Yes
2 to 5 pm



Monday, May 30th

APROPOS
2 to 5 pm



In our natural
amphitheatre if it's sunny,
or inside our beautiful
ballroom if it's raining...



**MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND
CELEBRATION!**

Join us for free wine
tasting, live music &
sale prices on our
award-winning wines!
Open 12-6 pm

**FREE
ADMISSION**

27012 Briggs Hill Rd. Eugene, OR
(541) 345-1945 www.silvanridge.com