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UNCORKED

May is Wine Month in Oregon, and in appreciation — and celebration — of all things vined and juicy, *EW* put together its annual edition of “Uncorked.” Writers and photographers came together to shed light on the impacts wine has had on our home-y wedge of the South Willamette Valley.

First, run along with the Grapes of Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile jaunt through the bucolic backcountry roads between three participating wineries — Noble Estate, Silvan Ridge and Sweet Cheeks (glasses of wine for those who cross, rides to Silvan for more). Pink Buffalo Racing helped organize the May 22 race, promising a beautiful course among spectators including, apparently, a running pig.

Next, learn more about two popular restaurateurs — Beppe Macchi of Beppe and Gianni's, and Wendy Watson, *maitre d'* of Rye — who have created wine programs that tickle diners' palates and complement their fare.

After that, meet Angela and Kristian Ferry, co-owners of Abbelone Vineyard and producers of some superb pinot noir (their 2013 vintage rang the bell for flavors and texture) and other fine wines. Although they've been bottling their juice since 2006, Abbelone is still one of the new kids on this region's wine block, but certainly worth getting to know: This kid has some great toys.

Finally, *EW* wine columnist Lance Sparks (tha's me) takes us into an in-depth look at how some local wineries and their owners contribute to area charities and nonprofits to benefit our communities. It's a story of generosity and innovation in the eternal struggle between available means and acute needs. Wine makes good neighbors.

We've only scratched at the surface. And don't worry: Brewers and distillers will get their due in future special issues, coming soon to your *EW*. — *Lance Sparks*