



Newsletter

April 2010 Edition

It's spring in the Rattlesnake Hills, and that means it's time for what we traditionally do every spring – roll out the barrels and have some fun!

2010 Spring Barrel Tasting, Rattlesnake Hills Style

Friday and Saturday the first weekend: **APR 17-18**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday the second weekend: **APR 23-25**

No ticket is required during event weekends – just a glass – to sample great wines and enjoy the festival atmosphere on the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail - and check out our Passport Program (only \$10) for some really amazing discounts!

Wine glasses and Passports are available at all the wineries on the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail. Passports are good one time at each winery, but never expire otherwise! They're not required, but definitely worthwhile!



April 17-18: Barrel Tasting in the Rattlesnake Hills (also known as Pre-Barrel) **on Saturday and Sunday**

The 3rd weekend of April in the Rattlesnake Hills just keeps getting better every year! What's the difference between this weekend and Spring Barrel Tasting the next? It's all about the wine this weekend! Smaller crowds, no live bands, and more one-on-one time with the winemakers. If you are serious about great wine, or want to learn more, come to the wineries this weekend to sample delicious new wines from the barrel, exciting new releases, and mouth-watering blends.

April 23-25: Spring Barrel Tasting on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (Three full days of wine sampling and festivities.)

Wine from the barrel is not all you'll experience during Spring Barrel Tasting weekend in the Rattlesnake Hills. Several wineries will have other things to tease you out of your winter doldrums, including live bands, BBQ at reasonable prices, and artists displaying their art.

But **the real entertainment is the barrel tasting**, where winemakers offer samples of their hand-crafted wares while discussing terroir, grape cultivation, fermentation, or the fruit forwardness of the barreled wine. Learn the art of tasting the fruit of the vine, made and refined in the American Viticulture Area that is so close to Yakima, the Rattlesnake Hills! (Complimentary – no ticket required either weekend)



Most of the wineries do not charge a tasting fee, except for their reserve wines, and no ticket is required to visit any of the wineries on the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail. You'll receive complimentary wine tasting direct from the barrels without having to purchase anything, but **you need a wine glass**, either brought from home or available at any of the wineries. We want you to experience the wines in the Rattlesnake Hills. Once you do, we're sure you'll want to buy! However, great discounts and/or free reserve tasting can be yours with a \$10 Passport card (see below for details). Ask about them at any of the 15 wineries on the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail or at the Visitor Center in Yakima off I-82 at exit 33A.

Three exciting days of great new wines, live bands, excellent cuisine, artists, and more are on the Trail during the annual Spring Barrel Tasting! See below for details:

WINERY EVENTS during the 2010 SPRING BARREL TASTING weekends:

Agate Field Vineyards

Passport holders will be treated to tasting of our premium wines including our New Release of our '06 La Moisson and barrel sample of Cabernet Franc on **April 17 & 18**. On **April 23 – 25**, the wines will be paired with our specialty appetizers, homemade dark chocolate brownies. We will also be offering a 10% discounts on all our Dancing Cowboy wines and 20% discount on Agate Field labeled wines, excluding new release and library stock wines. *10% discount on all wine purchased over \$25.00 with a Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail Passport.*

Bonair Winery

Join the Bonair Bunch on **April 17 & 18** for a weekend of celebration as we taste our **2008 Rattlesnake Hills Morrison Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon** from the barrel. This spectacular wine is from the oldest vineyard in the Rattlesnake Hills, planted in 1968.



We will have an assortment of tapas available so you can take a break, enjoy some great food, and have your pallet ready for the next adventure. On **April 23 - 25** at Bonair, Miz Dee and her finger-lickin' ribs and jambalaya will be serving up mouthwatering food. Dottie from J&K Creations will have all kinds of chocolate and sweet delicacies to purchase for your sweet tooth. We will have

some fun and exciting vendors selling their specialties on the “Bonair Campus.” Winemaker Bill, Vigneron Gail, Wine Goddess Shirley and Wine Therapist Lyn will be there to answer your questions and share their love of wine with you. Free admission! ***Rattlesnake Hills Passport holders receive 10% off all wine purchases and get free port tastings!***

Clair Cellars

Join owners Bob and Crista Whitelatch for our first annual mystery barrel tasting both **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. Guess the varietal to be entered to win a case of mixed wine! Live drawing Sunday, April 25th at 5 PM. ***Passport holders enjoy a 10% discount on 1-11 bottle, and an additional 5% on cases.***

Eaton Hill Winery

Eaton Hill will be tasting several soon-to-be-bottled red wines from the barrel and an array of other wines in the tasting room both weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. As usual, we will be featuring our proprietary gourmet soups. Winemaker Ed Stear and grower Chuck Fiola will be on hand to greet visitors and discuss our award-winning wines. ***Passport holders receive 10% off bottle purchases and an additional 5% off case purchases.***

Horizon’s Edge Winery

Cabernet Franc will be offered as samples from the barrel both **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. Listen to a great rock and roll Band from 12:00-3:00 PM on Saturday, April 24th. Our other wines are available to sample in the tasting room. Great times, great wines! ***Rattlesnake Hills Passport holders receive free Food and Wine Matching Wheel with any case purchase (one wheel per person) and 7% off all wine purchases, and 15% off with each case purchase.***

Hyatt Vineyards/ Roza Ridge

Visit Hyatt and enjoy the first annual Variety Day during April Barrel Tasting weekend, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. We’ll be sampling a red from the barrels. With the gorgeous view from our lawn and a bottle of wine (bring or purchase glasses), it’s the perfect Spring Barrel Tasting! ***Purchase a Passport and receive FREE Roza Ridge (our reserve wines) tastes and free ice wine samples.***



Knight Hill Winery

At Knight Hill, our ‘09 **Mourvedre** will be available to sample from the barrel both **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. Lunch/dinner plates will be available for purchase, too, on April 23-25. So come by, sit for awhile, and enjoy food and wine while taking in the beautiful view of the valley. Stop in and experience the Knight! ***Passport holders receive 10% off bottle purchases, 20% off 6 – 11 bottles, and 30% off case purchases.***

Maison de Padgett Winery

Pinot Noir sampling from the barrel both barrel tasting weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. Join us for live music with a great band from 12:00-3:00 PM on Saturday, April 24th. We’ll be sampling a new Pinot Noir from the barrel – one of our specialties!

Passport holders receive a free poster with any purchase (one poster per person) 7% off all wine purchases and 15% each case purchase.

Masset Winery

From the barrel, we will be tasting and comparing **Syrah** and **Petit Sirah** both weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**, also referred to as our non-identical twin grape varieties! This will give you a chance to really explore the details and do a compare and contrast of the two related varieties. A custom jewelry maker and artist will be on hand for that Barrel Tasting special memory piece. Catered lunch will be available too! **Passport holders receive 30% off bottles and 50% off cases of selected wines.**

Paradisos del Sol Winery

Paul Vandenberg (The Man in the Wild Pants) 30th Spring Barrel Tasting Educational Seminar: we don't quite know what this year will be about, but you know it will be educational and interesting. We recommend you visit before noon for the best experience. **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**, we will also have all of our famous food pairings with our wines. Paul Vandenberg has been voted "Best Barrel Tasting" for over twenty years. **30% off per bottle and 50% off per case on selected wines; 10% off purchases of 2 bottles or more with a Rattlesnake Hills Passport.**



Piety Flats Winery

Our **Junkyard Red** blend will be the featured wine sampled from the barrel this year during both of our Barrel Tasting weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. This is the wine created for a political statement, and one of our most popular! Try it with a number of gourmet foods available at the winery, play a little Bocce Ball, or have a picnic in our orchard. **Passport holders receive 10% off bottle purchases and an additional 5% off 6 or more bottles.**

Portteus Vineyards

Our '09 **Zinfandel** and **Petit Sirah** will be offered directly from the barrel both weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25** at Portteus Vineyards. **Passport holders will receive the case discount prices when they purchase six bottles – a savings of up to \$60 on a half case.**

Severino Cellars

Our **2008 Cabernet Sauvignon** will be available for barrel sampling both weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. Join the Severino Crew as we release new wines to celebrate Spring! Our 2009 Riesling will be available and what to have with it...fresh Oysters off the BBQ! That's right, BBQ'd Oysters will be available April 24th & 25th from 11am-5pm. For those of you looking for something red, try our 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon from the barrel. Are you a fan of Silpada? This beautiful sterling silver jewelry will be available Saturday April 24th from 11am-6pm (great idea for mother's day, fellas). Come sit, sip and enjoy the spring with Severino Cellars. Open from 10am-6pm. **Passport holders will receive 10% off a 2 bottle purchase and an additional 5% off case purchases.**



Silver Lake Winery at Roza Hills

Fresh air, sunshine and newly fermented wines right from the barrel. What a really great way to welcome in Spring! Come taste the future under the sunny skies at our vineyard and winery with a breathtaking view. Sample wines that have been in the barrel for a short time on both Barrel Tasting weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. Taste them now and then taste them when they are bottled months later. Bonneville Smoked Cheddar and Salmon will be available on Saturday. See you there! *Passport holders receive free tasting (\$5 tasting fee waived).*

Steppe Cellars

Steppe Cellars will be sampling our new vintage of **Petit Verdot** and **Tempranillo** from the barrel both weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. Come out for some wine and stay and relax away from the crowds with a picnic under our cherry trees. We will have sausage from our local butcher, Washington cheese, fruits, and breads for sale in the tasting room. We will also releasing our 2007 Artemisia (our Bordeaux style red blend) this weekend. *Passport holders receive the case discount on 6 or more bottles.*



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Once again, Steppe Cellars will be hosting a casual sit down dinner event on Saturday, **April 24th**. End your day with a gourmet meal by Bon Vino's Catering and paired with Steppe Cellars wine. This will be a fun, relaxing event. Talk about wine and life in the Yakima Valley with the owners of Steppe Cellars! Limited seating. Please call for availability or to reserve tickets. 509.837.8281.

Tefft Cellars

This traditional event has been a 'forever favorite' here at Tefft Cellars! Come join the fun as we taste our **Rattlesnake Hills 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon** straight from the barrel **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**, and learn why we are so excited about last year's harvest! We will, of course, be pouring more goodies in the tasting room as well. Relax in our solarium or take in the warm spring wine-country sunshine in our outdoor picnic area. Don't forget to bring a glass, or purchase one at the winery. *And Passport holders receive a 10% discount on a 6-bottle or more purchase.*

Two Mountain Winery

We will be tasting the **2009 Chardonnay** and a **TBD Red** from the barrel both weekends, **April 17-18** and **April 23-25**. The Red will be decided by the customers via Facebook and Twitter polling, so go to Two Mountain Winery's Facebook and Twitter pages and cast your vote before April 15th (tax day). *Passport holders receive a 10% discount on 3 bottles or more and a 15% discount on case purchases.*



Zillah Spring Fling: 7th Annual Spring Fling ~ April 17th, 2010

Main Event, 6:30 pm at the Zillah Warehouse Furniture store!

Wine tasting with all the Rattlesnake Hills wineries - Entertainment - Hors d'oeuvres!
Start the day off at noon with the Classic Car & Bike Show that bring lots of great cars to admire right in the middle of Main Street. At 6:30 pm at the Zillah Warehouse Furniture

Store we start the wine tasting with the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail wineries in attendance. The food that is never ending and top notch including BBQ Oysters, Prime Rib rolls, Shrimp Cocktails and much, much more. **Country Rock Association**, a band from Seattle, will be performing throughout the event. Please be sure to buy your tickets early due to "sell out" crowds for the past three years. **Tickets** will be limited to 500 people (\$35 each). See you there!

News at the Wineries:

Open Easter Sunday, April 4th:

Bonair Winery

Paradisos del Sol Winery

Piety Flats Winery

Silver Lake Winery

Tefft Cellars

Two Mountain Winery

Steppe Cellars' Annual SBT Dinner: Did you read this above? Steppe Cellars will be hosting their annual dinner event on Saturday, **April 24th**. Please call for availability or to reserve tickets. 509.837.8281.

Coming up in the Rattlesnake Hills:

May 22: The Grand Ole Barn Dance

Join the Rattlesnake Hills Wineries that support the Buena Library. Dinner, Dance, Wine Raffle, Auction, and Dance Lessons. Liberty Theater, Toppenish, WA. Dress is western or historic. 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. friendsofbuenalibrary@yahoo.com



May 29: Two Mountain Winery's Annual Chalk Party, benefitting the non-profit Pegasus organization which provides interaction and horseback riding for children with challenges. The winning chalk drawing becomes a label for one of our wines. For more information, call 509.829.3900 or visit www.twomountainwinery.com

August 28: The Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail's Fifth Annual *Snake in the Glass* Party for everyone that has completed the Passport. The theme this year? 'Dancing Under the Stars'! Wine, dine, and dance to great music with all the winemakers of the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail! Fabulous door prizes, gourmet dinner, wine from all the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail wineries, all set in the beautiful gardens of Maison de Padgett Winery.

By invitation only, available to Passport completers who have finished their Passport within the last year (and overlapping to the previous year to make sure we don't leave anyone out). If you finished your Passport a few years ago, it's time to do another one, as those who have finished in the last year are



the first to receive the invitations. Tickets are limited and sold out weeks ahead of the event last year. Invitations will be e-mailed and you will need a code to make your reservations. Please limit your reservations to four people to a Passport. Watch for that code in an e-invitation at the end of May! Make sure you finish your Passport by the end of June for an invitation – unless we're sold out by then! Only \$60 per person to attend.

Tasting Room Update:

Two Mountain Winery: Have you become a fan of Two Mountain on Facebook yet? Fans get to vote on what the red wine varietal will be that everyone will be tasting from the barrel.

Garnering Attention:

Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail: We are up for the Best of the Northwest in the Wine Tour category! Please go to <http://best.king5.com/contests/best-of-northwest-escapes/4764> and cast your vote for the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail!

Eaton Hill Winery Eaton Hill Winery's dessert wine, **2003 Orange Muscat**, was awarded a Gold Medal at the 2010 Capital Food and Wine Festival, St. Martin's University, Lacey, Wash. Made from grapes from Rogers' Vineyard and Emery and Sons Vineyard (Yakima Valley AVA), this wine has proved again that Gary Rogers is a superb winemaker. For those of you who know Gary and his wife Arlene, they continue to win recognition for their wines.

Also, Eaton Hill Winery's **2007 Riesling** won a Bronze Medal at the Capital Food and Wine Festival. Promising to be a favorite, this 3.6% Riesling (McGuire Vineyards, Yakima Valley AVA) is earning kudos in the tasting room and at wine shops.

In the Winter Issue of Wine Press Northwest, Eaton Hill's **Port-Style Cabernet Sauvignon** (30 months on oak) was given an Outstanding rating. This is another of Gary Rogers (and his brother Steve Rogers) award-winning wines. The grower, Chuck Fiola of Konnowac Vineyards (Rattlesnake Hills AVA), consistently grows excellent quality grapes.



Eaton Hill is proud to work with these growers - great grapes make great wine!

On another note, Eaton Hill Winery of Granger and Adytum Cellars of Woodinville are awaiting the final step - Federal approval - for their cooperative agreement to have tasting room space in each other's wineries. Adytum Cellars is known for its fine meads and honeys, and Eaton Hill is recognized for its red wines and white specialty wines. Together they will offer a most varied and pleasant tasting opportunity. And from their own vineyards, Eaton Hill won a Silver Medal on their 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon, 18 months on American Oak. Ed Stear is understandably proud of that!

Knight Hill Winery: We just bottled some really delicious wines: Sauvignon Blanc 08; Mourvedre 08; Syrah 08; Rook's Red (CS, MR, PS) 08. We will announce the release date soon!

Masset Winery: Watch for the next issue of Wine Press Northwest for the announcement of Award to Masset Winery for it's Semillon Ice Wine! After being briefly sold out the new release of le Petit Rouge is on sale now! Depending on when you read this, the new vintage of Masset Rosato may be available as well. It is a dry rose' made from hillside grown Rhone grapes in the Rattlesnake Hills. Featured on several top wine lists including The Shelbourne Inn and Restaurant, Birchfield Manor, etc. Those that came wanting it after August last year learned their lessons and will stock up early- some years it is sold out after Independence Day weekend- it is very limited in production in addition to being an outstanding value!

Piety Flats Winery: For those that have not been to the winery since Nov. make sure you try our newest release *Tango*. This is 50% Malbec and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon Blend.

Happy Easter and we hope to see you on the Trail soon! Cheers!

For more information on these or any other Rattlesnake Hills event, visit www.rattlesnakehills.com, e-mail info@rattlesnakehills.com or call 888.375.RHWT.

Submitted by Shannon Bird, Executive Director
Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail

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