



Newsletter

August 2010

Rattlesnake Hills – sophisticated wines, uncomplicated lifestyle

The countdown to our annual 'Snake in the Glass' Passport Party has officially begun! Do you have your reservations yet? There are still some tickets left but you only have until August 13th to make your reservations – at least, if there are any tickets left!

(2009 'Snake in the Glass' Passport Party. Pictures courtesy of Roger Althoff)



Here are the details of the upcoming party:

Have you visited 10 of the 17 wineries on the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail? If so, *do you have your ticket for the Passport Party yet?* If you haven't, now's the time – there are only two weeks left to complete it to receive an invitation to the best winemaker dinner around – the annual 'Snake in the Glass' Passport Party held on August 28th at Maison de Padgett Winery, open only to those who have visited 10 of the 17 wineries on the Trail. Only 250 tickets are made available to this all-inclusive party, so don't miss out on the fun! The theme this year is "Dancing Under the Stars". Don't miss out on a minute of this fantastic evening!

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM: Hors d'oeuvres and wine tasting with the wineries of the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail. Talk with your favorite winemakers or meet new ones as they walk among the guests pouring samples. Taste your favorite wines or sample those you've been meaning to try. There will be at least 30 wines available!

6:30 PM: The wine bar opens for glasses of your preferred wines. At least two varieties of wines from every winery on the 'Trail' are available for your enjoyment. With such a wide range of exceptional wines to choose from, you're sure to find that perfect one for your palate.

7:00 PM: Dinner is served. Delight in a beautifully-presented gourmet feast prepared by renowned chef Brad Masset, owner and chef extraordinaire of the acclaimed Birchfield Manor, served at your table by Birchfield Manor's trained staff. Enjoy the opportunity to speak one-on-one about the award-winning wines of the Rattlesnake Hills American Viticultural Area as the winemakers and winery owners of the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail join guests at their tables.

7:30 PM: Door prizes abound for our honored guests. Lucky winners may receive baskets filled with surprises or exciting wine-related experiences. These prizes are provided by the 17 wineries, some of whom plan all year for this.



8:00 PM: Entertainment! An amazing demonstration of dance for your viewing pleasure.



8:30 PM – 10 PM: Dancing to the music of Vicky and the Velvetones – a little blues, a little rock, a little swing, a little reggae – they've been playing together for more than 10 years and are a great way to cap the evening of fun.



(Tickets are limited and are only \$60 per person for all the above. Don't miss your chance to join us! Finish your Passport and turn it in to receive your invitation to the 2010 'Snake in the Glass' Passport Party. Tickets are on sale until August 14th unless sold out prior.)

A&A Motorcoach (800.798.9856) is providing transportation if you'd rather leave the driving to someone else. And partnerships with several hotels allow us to offer you special rates this weekend only.

The Ledgestone Hotel in Yakima at 509.453.3151

Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriot in Yakima at 509.452.3100

Comfort Inn in Zillah at 800.501.5433

Please ask for the Rattlesnake Hills Passport Party Rate. Visit our web site for details on the 'Events' page!

Coming up in the Rattlesnake Hills

(three months out - for additional events, check our web site):

July:

July 29 Paradisos del Sol - Come see us at **Ray's Boathouse in Seattle on Thursday, July 29th**, from 5:30-9:00 PM in the Northwest Room, immediately north of the Restaurant at 6049 Seaview Avenue, on Shilshole Bay. Along with our own wines you can sample the wines of seventeen other artisan Washington wineries. These will be paired with plentiful tapas style appetizers deliciously prepared by the staff at Ray's. Event description and ticket information is available on the organization's website at the following link:

<http://www.familywineriesofwashington.com/events.html>

July 30 Fridays on the Patio: Severino Cellars from 4 pm - 7 pm. Wine and appetizers available for purchase as we enjoy the end to a long week. Party's of 6 or more please call for a reservation. 509-829-3800

AUGUST:

August 1 Silver Lake August Music Series:

Romagossa Blu, Latin, Reggae, Jazz/Blues. We will be serving BBQ lunches from Noon to 4pm both Saturday and Sunday @ \$12 a plate. Reservations not required but are appreciated! Contact Taynea at Silver Lake Winery for any questions. (509) 829-6235 or

TStephas@silverlakewinery.com



August 8 Silver Lake August Music Series: Rose and Kat, female folk vocalists. We will be serving BBQ lunches from Noon to 4pm both Saturday and Sunday @ \$12 a plate. Reservations not required but are appreciated! Contact Taynea at Silver Lake Winery for any questions. (509) 829-6235 or TStephas@silverlakewinery.com

August 14 Two Mountain Winery Dinner and a Movie Night: Bring your favorite lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy our outdoor Dinner and a Movie Series at Two Mountain Winery. At \$25.00

per person, our 'Dinner and a Movie' events are the perfect way to unwind after a day touring Yakima Valley's wine country. 509.829.3900

August 15 Silver Lake August Music Series: Larry La Riviera, Cajun, Country etc. We will be serving BBQ lunches from Noon to 4pm both Saturday and Sunday @ \$12 a plate. Reservations



not required but are appreciated! Contact Taynea at Silver Lake Winery for any questions. (509) 829-6235

(Picture courtesy of Debi Ayres)

August 22 Silver Lake August Music Series: Wayman Chapman, Funk, Rock, Blues. We will be serving BBQ lunches from Noon to 4pm both Saturday and Sunday @ \$12 a plate. Reservations not required but are appreciated! Contact Taynea at Silver Lake Winery for any questions. (509) 829-6235 or TStephas@silverlakewinery.com

August 27 Fridays on the Patio: Severino Cellars from 4 pm - 7 pm. Wine and appetizers available for purchase as we enjoy the end to a long week. Party's of 6 or more please call for a reservation. 509-829-3800



August 28 'Snake in the Glass' Passport Party: Dine on gourmet fare with the winemakers and owners from the 17 Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail wineries, dance under the stars, be entertained, win prizes from the wineries, sip red, white, and rosé wines - if you've completed the Passport (visit 10 of the 17 wineries and turn in your Passport). See above and our web site for all the information! (Picture courtesy of Roger Althoff)

August 29 Silver Lake August Music Series: Ravin Wolf, Blues. We will be serving BBQ lunches from Noon to 4pm both Saturday and Sunday @ \$12 a plate. Reservations not required but are appreciated! Contact Taynea at Silver Lake Winery for any questions. (509) 829-6235 or TStephas@silverlakewinery.com

September:

September 4 Dinner and a Movie Night Every summer, we welcome wine lovers to bring their favorite lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the outdoor Dinner and a Movie Series at **Two Mountain Winery**. You'll enjoy a catered dinner and fabulous Two Mountain wines followed by a private screening of some of our favorite films, on the cool, soft grass outside our winery. Dinner begins at 7:30 pm and the movie starts at dusk. At \$25.00 per person, our 'Dinner and a Movie' events are the perfect way to unwind after a day touring wine country. Call (509) 829-3900 for reservations.

September 11 Bung's Birthday Bash at Bonair: Hard to believe, but Bung II turns 4 this year. Save the date! Saturday, Sept 11th for Bung's Birthday Bash at Bonair Winery to benefit the Humane Society of Central WA, SPCA and Meals on Wheels. Bring a donation!



October:

October 9 Two Mountain Winery Vineyard Crew at 10 am and GRAPE STOMP! (more info to come on this)

October 16 Two Mountain Winery 'Winemaker for a Day' at 2 pm

October 30 Hallowine!

Garnering Attention

Rattlesnake Hills wineries continue to beautifully show off the terroir of the AVA:

Eaton Hill Winery:

WinePress Northwest Magazine:

2003 **Orange Muscat Dessert Wine** received an "Outstanding Rating"

2005 **Eaton Hill Cabernet Sauvignon** "Excellent Rating"

2007 **Riesling** awarded a Bronze Medal at Sunshine & Wine Competition

Hyatt Winery:

2009 **Pinot Gris** and 2007 **Zillah Gorilla Zinfandel** are reviewed by Elixir Vitae – read the article by clicking the link:

<http://violentfermentation.blogspot.com/2010/07/sheer-mass-of-washington-state.html>

Silver Lake Winery:

Wine Enthusiast 2010 Awards:

Silver Lake Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc 2008 - 92 Points, Editor's Choice

This low-alcohol (10.4%) dessert wine, finished with 11% residual sugar is absolutely spot-on. Layers of textural detail amplify the concentrated core of lemon drop and candied orange, and an orange pekoe tea character adds still more flavor interest through the finish.



Silver Lake Late Harvest Riesling 2008 - 88 Points

This well-made, off-dry late harvest Riesling includes small amounts of Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc. The fruit shines here, and it was indeed picked really late, as the stats indicate: 13% residual sugar and 12% alcohol. As with most Washington late-harvest wines, the acidity is there to support all that sugar.

Silver Lake Reserve Chardonnay 2008 - 88 Points – Best Buy

An exceptional value, this is buttery and round. Loaded with peaches and creamy vanilla flavors. Solidly mainstream and quite delicious in a full-on, barrel-fermented, 100% malolactic Style.

Silver Lake Chardonnay 2008 - 87 Points – Best Buy

Apple and pear, cracker and citrus, pineapple and a hint of residual sugar combine in a soundly made, all-purpose chardonnay. The alcohol is just under 13% and the wine was not put through malolactic fermentation, leaving it crisp and fresh.

Pacific Rim Wine Competition 2010 Awards:

Silver Medals

Silver Lake Chardonnay 2008

Silver Lake Merlot 2007

Silver Lake Late Harvest Riesling 2008

Bronze Medals

Silver Lake Cabernet – Merlot 2008

Silver Lake Rose 2008

Silver Lake Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc 2008

Tasting Room News

Agate Field Vineyard announces the 2007 Moon Rider Cabernet Franc has been bottled and is ready for sale. Enjoy yours today!

Bonair Winery has two new releases – their **2009 Gewürztraminer Port** and their **2008 Cabernet Franc!** In Portugal, white Ports are a summer beverage. Just mix 50% club soda or seltzer with 50% white Port over ice. Add a twist of lemon (not lime) and you have a cold zesty carbonated summer drink. Adjust the ratio to your own preference of sweetness. It is much less filling than beer and just as refreshing. And the old Frankensauv (Cabernet Franc) is back with a vengeance. The 2008 is bigger, darker, deeper and richer than any previous vintage. Only \$14.99.

Shirley Puryear says: “August is a very special time for Bonair Winery. We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary of the Winery. Say “Happy Anniversary” and receive a 15% discount on our fun summer red wine called Bonnie Bonair. If you purchase a case of Bonnie Bonair at our winery during August and say “Happy Anniversary” and get a 25% case discount!! We are open every day from 10-5:00. Tapas (delectable Spanish appetizers) are available Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. We have expanded our menu this summer to include many new favorites. Enjoy a glass of wine on our patio on Saturday afternoons which Slava, our talented Russian friend, as he serenades you with his guitar and wonderful singing.”



Silver Lake Winery at Roza Hills now has a BBQ every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 PM. Reservations are recommended. Call 509.829.6235

And...

Last but certainly not least, the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail is asking for your input! A **survey**, sponsored by the Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau is on this link, and we would really appreciate your feedback about visiting the Yakima area, and the wineries! **PLEASE help us by going to the survey and answering the questions** – plus, who knows? You might win a \$100 gift certificate!!! Thanks for your help!!! <http://www.shortwebsi.com/studies/PGYV/cgi-in/ciwweb.pl?studyname=PGYV&SAMPLE=2>

Until next time,

*Shannon Bird, Executive Director
Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail*

‘Sophisticated wines, uncomplicated lifestyle – the Rattlesnake Hills’

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.

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Proud Supporters of the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail! Watch for information on this new planned community in the next newsletter! Or visit www.zillahlakes.com