



Message From The Bottle

May 2011

Spring Showers Bring May Flowers, Sunshine, Great Wine And Mother's Day!

Spring 2011 will go down in the Washington record books as one of the wettest and coldest on record. Now that May has arrived we have reason to be optimistic. Right now the sun is out, the spring flowers are bright and full of color and the wine is ready to be poured! As always we invite you to come join us for some sunshine and great wine with friends on the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail.



Mother's Day is this Sunday! Can you believe it? Start a family tradition and take your mom wine tasting in the Rattlesnake Hills this year. The vines are all leafing out in some of the most beautiful vineyards in the northwest, the fruit trees are in bloom, asparagus is available, and the weather is warm and sunny!

Here is a list of special goings on for Mother's Day at wineries on the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail:

Bonair Winery will celebrate Mother's Day by extending a FREE RESERVE WINE TASTING to all Mothers who come to our winery this Sunday. May is a special time at the winery. The ducks are happily at play in our pond; Bung the Wonder Dog is frisky; the flowers are blooming and the vineyards are leafing out.

Wine is available by the glass to sip outside and enjoy the SUNSHINE.
We are open every day from 10-5.

Paradisos del Sol will be giving away a flower to each Mother to add to their Mother's Day Bouquet. We are anticipating having our lilacs in full bloom and they are gorgeous and have a

wonderful aroma. We also will be waiving our tasting fee for all Mothers. Open 11-6.

Piety Flats Winery will be releasing our Next Generation **Mercantile Red**. Returning to a true Bordeaux styled table wine. Kris, I and a few friends uncorked the first bottle, for testing reason only you realize, and we feel it may be our best Mercantile Red yet. \$17.00 retail. 50% Cab. Sauvignon, 25% each of Merlot and Syrah. Mom will love this. Open Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-5.

Severino Cellars will offer all mothers 15% off on Sunday, May 8th.

Silver Lake Winery at Roza Ridge Saturday- Come out and celebrate the release of our new vintages of Girly Girl wines. Enjoy a \$10 food pairing with these four Girly Girl wines. We also offer wine by the glass for \$5 so you can relax and enjoy the sunny Zillah skies while looking out at the beautiful vineyards.

Sunday - Come and celebrate Mother's day with us. Enjoy our \$15 Salmon Lunch (alternatives available) 12-4 along with music by Jim Henson from 1-4. Sit back and enjoy the day with your friends and family.

Tefft Cellars will be sharing our amazing 2008 Nebbiolo on Mother's Day Weekend! You'll want to stop by to try this classic Italian varietal, a rare but cherished grape from our own vineyard. Enjoy complimentary tastings for Mom and your whole group and we'll even send Mom home with 10% off of her wine purchase!

Two Mountain Winery will offer a 10 % discount to all Moms. Open 10-6.

*All wineries are open regular business hours this weekend. The above is a list of special events for mom. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail office at: info@rattlesnakehills.com

Other events and specials in May:

This Saturday, May 7th Canine and Wine: Bring your pooch and walk through the vineyards. Stop at selected wineries and sample Yakima Valley wines, while your canine companion enjoys fresh water and treats. The festivities will begin at Cherry Wood Bed, Breakfast and Barn at 11 am. Maps will be available and the route is clearly marked. A \$10 donation is appreciated. An additional donation will get you a lunch at Cultura Winery. In 2009 and 2010 we raised \$3500 that went directly to the rescue dogs.

Paradisos del Sol will have a dog run that you can clip your dog to while you are tasting and lots of fresh water for dogs and people alike.

Eaton Hill Winery's tasting room is temporarily closed. Watch for our Grand Re-Opening soon!

Hyatt's 2006 Viognier-Chardonnay is on sale all month for \$89/case.

Steppe Cellars: Guerra's Gourmet will be cooking pizzas on Steppe Cellars wood fired pizza oven Saturday the 14th of May. We will be offering traditional wood fired Neapolitan style thin

crust pizzas with a variety of toppings from 11-5 at the tasting room. Chef Chris Guerra will have an amazing barbeque chicken and cilantro pie, a roasted vegetable and goat cheese pie as well as a signature Carne Picante pie featuring chorizo, roasted onions and salami. Come out and enjoy our amazing and unique view of the valley with a glass of wine and slice of pizza.

Two Mountain Winery Memorial Day Weekend: Rose Release - stop by to enjoy our latest release just in time for summer. Open 10-6.

Spring Bonus: [Click Here for Washington State Asparagus Recipes](#)



Ask the Winemaker

Now you can uncork the knowledge of the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail winemakers! Ever wonder why oak barrels, or no oak barrels? Wonder what malolactic fermentation is? Or what the difference is between Petite Syrah and Syrah? Planning a special dinner and don't know what wine to pair with your different courses?

Ask the Winemaker is here for you! In each newsletter as well as on our newly redesigned website (we will unveil in June) we want to share frequently asked questions about the wine making and wine tasting experience with you.

If you have a questions for our winemakers send it to: info@rattlesnakehills.com
Answers will be posted to the website beginning in June and selected questions and answers will be featured in the newsletter.

Our first question to get things started is frequently asked in the Bonair Tasting Room:

Where did the Rattlesnake Hills get its name?

Around 1854 the first settlers crossed the Columbia River near White Bluffs in what is now the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. They camped at a spring under the north slope of Rattlesnake Mountain. Rattlesnakes need water and the northern slope of the Rattlesnake Hills has large outcroppings of basalt with lots of denning capacity, so it is not unusual that they encountered rattlesnakes at that location. On the other hand, the southern slope of the Rattlesnake Hills is more gentle and less rocky, so it offers little habitat for Crotaus Viridis Oreganus aka the Northern Pacific Rattlesnake. That is why you don't see rattlesnakes in the Rattlesnake Hills AVA.

Save the Date!

The 8th Annual
"Snake In The Glass" party
Saturday, August 27
6:30-10pm
Silver Lake Winery
Tickets are \$65 per person.



Tickets are available to Passport completers at:

www.brownbagtickets.com

How do I get invited to "Snake In The Glass" party? Simply turn in your Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail passport with 10 stamps to one of our wineries on the trail or mail it to our office. (Our address is listed at the bottom of the email.)

Tickets are limited to the first 250 and are going fast! Please let me know if you need assistance with accommodations or reserving a seat on A&A Motor coach if you desire a ride to the party and back to Yakima.

Food will be catered by Brad Masset, Executive Chef and owner of Birchfield Manor and 5 North Restaurant in the heart of historic downtown Yakima.

Music will be provided by Vicki and the Velvetones. Don't miss the fun!



And the Award Goes To...

Here are several Rattlesnake Hills Wines that have received awards recently.

Eaton Hill Winery received a Silver Medal from the Pacific Rim International Wine Competition for their 2007 Malbec.

Hyatt Vineyards received the following awards from Pacific Rim International Wine Competition:

2006 Roza Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon, gold
2008 Roza Ridge Malbec, gold
2008 Roza Ridge Petit Verdot, gold/Best of Class
2006 Roza Ridge Syrah, gold
Beverage Testing Institute:
93 points for Roza Ridge '08 Malbec

Two Mountain Winery received the following awards:

2007 Syrah:	Silver Medal - San Antonio Wine Competition
	5/5 Stars - BevX Website
	91 points - Midwest Wine Guy
Hidden Horse VII:	Silver Medal - Finger Lake International Wine Competition
	4/5 Stars - BevX Website

2007 Cabernet Franc: 92 points - Midwest Wine Guy
2007 Cabernet Sauvignon: 91 points - Midwest Wine Guy
4/5 Stars - BevX Website
2010 Riesling: 90 points - Midwest Wine Guy

Your Ticket To Fun in the Sun!

Make sure you have your Rattlesnake Hills Passport any weekend you plan to come over and taste some wine. The Passport is your ticket to great benefits and discounts at all of our wineries.

Get your Rattlesnake Hills Passport at any one of the 18 member wineries on "The Trail" or at the Visitor Information Center located right off of I-82. There are only \$10 per person and don't expire!



[Click here for Passport benefits.](#)

The 18 Wineries of the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Trail: Click on their name for more information:

[Agate Field Vineyard](#)

[Bonair Winery](#)

[Claar Cellars](#)

[Eaton Hill Winery](#)

[Horizon's Edge](#)

[Hyatt Vineyards](#)

[Knight Hill Winery](#)

[Maison de Padgett Winery](#)

[Masset Winery](#)

[Paradisos del Sol](#)

[Piety Flats](#)

[Portteus Winery](#)

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[Steppe Cellars](#)

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[Two Mountain Winery](#)

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