Helping support the state’s evolving grape and wine industry because the potential economic opportunities in wineries, value-added agriculture and tourism are limitless.

Jefferson Cup Invitational Wine Competition

The Jefferson Cup Invitational wine competition celebrated its sixteenth year on November 19-20, 2015 in Kansas City, MO as the only competition honoring the best among wineries from all of America’s wine regions. The invitation only competition donated the remaining wines to an annual event benefiting children and adults in need and raised more than $90,000 for Angel Flight Central.

This year 733 wines from 24 states were entered in wine competition and 55 wines from sixteen states were awarded the prestigious Jefferson Cup award.

Dr. Murli Dharmadakari was one of the 17 judges invited for this event.

New Hires

Drew Horton, Field Specialist - Enology

Drew Horton joined the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute (MGWII) in July of 2015. He joins us from a year spent serving as Interim Research Winemaker at the University of Minnesota’s Horticulture Research Station, where he conducted lab analysis and research winemaking on numerous lots of single hybrid vines. He was wholly responsible for vinifying micro-lots of wines from new and as yet un-named varietal crosses as well as experimental lots of Marquette, Frontenac and La Crescent. He conducted lab-analysis and compared the effects of various strains of malic-converting yeasts in the search for more and better ways to manage the high acidity of many of the new cold climate hybrid wine grapes.

Prior to that, Drew spent over three years as founding winemaker for Chankaska Creek Winery near Mankato, MN, where he produced multiple gold medal and best-of-class Minnesota grown wines over the course of three vintages. Having been raised in California, Drew entered the wine industry in the Santa Barbara County area, where he climbed the ranks from salesman to tasting room manager, to lab technician, bottling
You can find other information about Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute on our website:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/wine/

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