

February
2016 Update

Update
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Iowa State
University
Extension
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Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

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

Wine Diamonds Producer Pays MGWII a Visit



Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari is interviewed by the Wine Diamonds team.

for an interview in the snowy vineyard at the ISU Horticulture Research Station.

Brad Johnson, Film Producer of the documentary *Wine Diamonds: Uncorking America's Heartland*, visited the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute team at Iowa State University on January 14, 2016. He and Kirk Monson interviewed Iowa State University's MGWII Director, Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari; Field Specialist and Winemaker, Drew Horton; and Viticulture Field Specialist, Mike White to be included in the film. The Wine Diamonds team also filmed excerpts of a simulated wine sensory panel and lab work with MGWII Education and Outreach Coordinator Erin Norton. In the photo at the far left (Photo Credit: Wine Diamonds team), Mike White gets mic'd up

As described on their website, "Wine Diamonds: Uncorking America's Heartland™ is a feature-length documentary film about the challenges and opportunities of developing a new wine region, showcasing the economic and agricultural diversity brought about by the wine industry, and how families are returning to and reuniting to grow wine grapes and build a new wine region in the Midwest."

To view the official trailer for the upcoming film, please visit <https://youtu.be/o1weXxuM-4Y>.

Drew Talks Wine Blending Strategies

Drew Horton attended the 2016 Wisconsin Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Conference held January 24-26, 2016 at The Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI. He was invited to participate as a speaker by his outreach colleague and former co-worker at the University of Minnesota Arboretum and Horticultural Research Center, Nick Smith. Nick is



Drew Horton gets ready to talk about winemaking with the Wine Diamonds team.

"In our tour of the midwest, it's very clear how well respected the MGWII team is and I'm proud to support my wine industry friends."

-Brad Johnson,
Public Relations
Consultant and
Film Producer of
Wine Diamonds

now an enologist at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Though both Nick and Drew began their cold-climate grape and wine careers in Minnesota, recently both have begun new respective positions in support of the Wisconsin and Iowa wine industries. Drew presented *Wine Blending Strategies in the Midwest*, a subject he knows well from his three vintages as winemaker at Minnesota's Chankaska Creek Ranch Winery. In addition, Nick and Drew gave a shared talk on styles and methods of rosé wine production as the market and popularity of blush or pink-colored wines is on a major upswing and are considered to be one of the next hot trends among Midwest wine consumers.

MGWII Staff Co-Teach Hort 276

On January 29th, Erin Norton taught her first HORT 276 class. Erin, Drew Horton and Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari are co-teaching this class titled *Understand Grape and Wine Science* with Horticulture Professor Dr. Diana Cochran. Dr. Cochran conducts research on tree fruit and grape culture and is the Extension Specialist for all fruit crops. During the course Erin will be covering the basic terminology and sensory evaluation lectures, Drew will cover the wine production and legal aspects, and Murli will cover wine faults and sparkling wine. This is a great way for the institute to be involved in an on-campus course. We look forward to providing our own on-campus wine appreciation course in the near future.



Erin Norton presents yeast behaviours to this semester's Hort 276 students.

Dr. Dharmadhikari Attends the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium



Paul Gospodarczyk, VTW Program Coordinator at Napa Valley College, talks to students on Murli's recent visit.

Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari traveled to California the last week in January to attend the 2016 Unified Wine & Grape Symposium presented by the American Society for Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) and the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG). This year's total attendance was 13,800. The event gives industry professionals a unique opportunity to hear from experts on a wide range of emerging wine, winegrape and marketing issues. This year's event was held January 26-28, 2016 in Sacramento, CA. While in California, Murli also visited Paul Gospodarczyk to tour the Napa Valley College teaching winery where Paul currently serves as the Viticulture & Winery Technology Program Coordinator.

MGWII Joins Facebook

The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute can now be found on Facebook. To follow along with the latest industry news, reports and what's happening at the institute and in the field, please like us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Midwest-Grape-and-Wine-Industry-Institute-723209621114387/>.

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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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