

## Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

July Updates  
2014

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### Research, Quality, Training

The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute was formed as a result of the state's evolving grape & wine industry.

Goals of the Institute include:

- Conduct research to evaluate cold-hardy grape varieties that can thrive in the Midwest
- Conduct enology research
- Assist with implementation of the Iowa Quality Wine Consortium (IQWC) - a quality-assurance stamp of approval program
- Establish an outreach program to the industry by training a team of specialists
- Partner with community colleges to develop job training programs specific to growing grapes and making wine.

### Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

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

### Research

#### Northern Grapes Project

- Despite that fact that we are still awaiting the accept/reject announcement from USDA, we are gearing up in anticipation of a grant renewal. Should the funding come through we'll be testing berries and making wine from this year's harvest.
- The lab completed chemical and instrumental analyses on wines produced from fruit grown in South Dakota as part of the Northern Grapes Project work.

### Lab activities

- The *Checkstab* cold stability equipment is up and running, it's been a wonderful addition to our diagnostic lab.

- Twenty service lab samples were received and processed, and troubleshooting support was provided.

### **IQWC program support**

- We received and processed seven samples in July. Four labels received the quality assurance seal of approval.



*British Columbia Vintners  
Quality Alliance*

- Murli and Tammi visited the British Columbia Vintners Quality

Alliance headquarters and testing site in Penticton, B.C. to learn more about their established program first hand. General Manager Stephan Berney and Coordinator Lorrie Zander generously shared how the program has evolved. The lessons of others' successes and challenges can be used to build and establish our IQWC program.

## Outreach



*Workshop participants diligently sniffed, swirled, sipped, and took plenty of notes.*

- The second tasting proficiency training of the summer was held here July 14 and 15. Twenty one participants from four states developed and honed their skills. Interested parties from this workshop plus the May and other previous workshops will be invited to test in August for the opportunity to become members of the IQWC sensory panel pool of volunteers.



*Murli (R), provides feedback to the owners of Old Town Winery Dr. John (L) and Lenee (C) Sinnott, on the winery patio in Ida Grove.*

- Murli and Jennie visited Old Town Vineyard & Winery owned by John and Lenee Sinnott in Ida Grove. What started as a 3-acre hobby is now a successful family operated business. Their grape varieties include: La Crescent, Prairie Star, Marquette, Noiret, Traminette, Sabrevois, Frontenac and Petite Pearl. Most of their wines are produced in dry style. The Petit Pearl wine was especially impressive and holds promise as an Iowa signature wine in the future. Winemaking processes were discussed and suggestions for making the operation more efficient and convenient offered.



*Heidi and David Kodd, owners of Annelise Winery in Indianola just opened their new tasting room earlier this summer.*

Murli, Jennie, and Tammi visited David and Heidi Klodd at their new Annelise Winery in Indianola. We were also joined by Mike White and Kathryn Pierson from the Warren County Extension office. At the time, the Klodds were ramping up for the National Hot Air Balloon Classic which takes place just across the road from them.

- Getting out into the field and visiting our industry partners is a favorite Institute activity. We strive to visit as many Iowa wineries as we can schedule. Invitations are always welcome.
- Murli was one of fourteen judges for the [Mid-American Wine Competition](#). This competition not only judges wines against other wines, it also provides the opportunity for wineries to have their wines judged against carefully selected food-friendly dishes (the first in the U.S. to offer this format). The judges rated approximately 550 wines and gave a total of 409 awards.

## Expanding our knowledge

- In addition to visiting VQA, Murli and Tammi attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Enology & Viticulture Conference sponsored by the British Columbia Wine Grape Council. B.C. has five official wine regions. Alan Marks of Scott Laboratories guided Murli and Tammi to a

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broad representation of wineries throughout the Okanagan Valley.

Another highlight of the trip was a tour of the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre (PARC), one of 19 research centers in Canada's national network. The research at PARC focuses on grapes and tree fruits.



*Viticulture Research Scientist, Pat Bowen, explains how a few of the custom tanks at Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre are being used for small batch production of experimental wine.*

- Institute staff attended and hosted the Iowa Wine Growers Association Central Iowa marketing workshop on July 1. We enjoyed learning more about the target markets of our industry partners as well as learning more about our own market.

### **Coming up...**

- August 7-17 Iowa State Fair Wine Experience
- August 19, Cold Climate Wine Judging
- August 21 and 22, Tasting Proficiency Testing

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