

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry

July Updates
2015

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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

Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition

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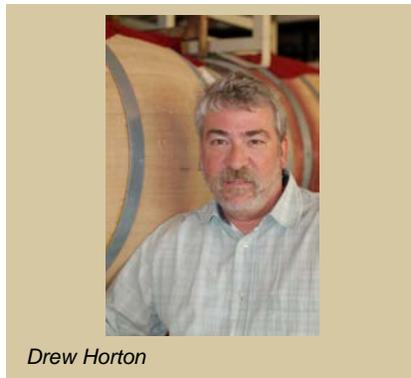
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www.extension.iastate.edu/wine

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

Staff



Drew has settled into his new position as Extension Specialist-Winemaker and is ready to provide assistance. Contact information:

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Research

Northern Grapes Project (NGP)

- In support of Objective 4d, assessing the potential of a

regional wine quality assurance program, MGWII is preparing to accept samples from 12 states for benchmarking trials. Interested parties expressed that before an organizational structure is developed, they first want to get a better grasp of how such a program might function. In response we proposed using the existing guidelines of the Iowa Quality Wine Consortium (IQWC) program to provide a "hands-on" experience. Each state is being invited to submit a limited number of samples. We project that 5 samples from 5 different wineries in the 12 participating states will be assessed for a total of 60 samples representing 60 different wineries across the region. Participants can then use this

experience to better understand if and how they would like to proceed with the creation of their own regional organization.



Paulina collecting LaCrescent berry samples.

- Several experiments are underway to help determine how phenolic compounds in grapes develop and increase from the time of veraison until harvest:
 - 1) *Analyzing grapes.* On July 22nd we started collecting grape veraison samples. Samples are being collected throughout whole ripening season on La Crescent, Brianna, Marquette, St. Croix, Frontenac, and Edelweiss. Samples will be frozen and testing will be performed on all types at the end of the growing season.
 - 2) *Analyzing wines.* Quantitative methodology is being developed for analysis of major volatile compounds in wines.
 - 3) *Leaf removal study in Marquette.* Leaves are being removed from the fruiting zone and berry samples are being collected from treated and untreated vines.
- *Additional research on grapes.* We are also studying the effects of Lalvigne aroma and lalvigne mature (a yeast derived material) on aroma and phenolic composition of white and red grape cultivars.

Expanding our knowledge

LC-MS installation was completed and training was performed.

IQWC program support

- The IQWC committee is discussing alternatives to using bottle stickers for certified wines. Ideas include a plaque which members can display in the tasting room. As individual wine labels receive certification, medallions could be added to the plaque. If you wish to participate in the conversation, please contact the IWGA board of directors.
- Few samples were received in July, so an internal panel was organized to preform sensory analysis. Three samples received IQWC certifications.

Lab activities

In July, 13 lab samples were submitted for analysis from 4 different wineries (2 based in Iowa and 2 from out-of-state).

Outreach



*IWGA boardmembers at Wabash Winery.
Photo: Mike White*

- The July IWGA board meeting was held at Wabash Winery in Shenandoah, giving Murli, Mike and other board members the opportunity to visit Western Iowa.
- Murli served on the panel of judges for the Mid-American Wine Competition. This year, the

competition had 530 entries! Wines were judged by 4 panels over two days. Five Iowa wineries received sweepstakes awards and thirty-six Iowa labels received Gold Medals. Overall, awards were presented to 80 wineries from 12 states.



A flight of reds presneted for judging at the Mid-American Wine Competition



Murli judging a flight of white wine.

- MGWII hosted a lab visit July 13-14. Dennis Drummond of Central Lakes College, Brainerd, MN, received a grant to set up a Minnesota Wine Quality Alliance laboratory with Minnesota Grown and the Minnesota Farm Winery Association at the College. He spent two days with Jennie and Murli learning about our IQWC program, including chemical and sensory analysis procedures.

Coming up...

- August 10, IWGA Board meeting
- August 13-23, Iowa State Fair. See our display at Grandfather's Barn and attend Drew's talk at 1 PM on Friday 14th.
- August 24, ISU Fall term begins