

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION

From Penn State Cooperative Extension

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New Grape Grower Workshop on Wednesday, November 12 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

TO ALL PARTICIPANTS: PLEASE NOTE LOCATION: Adams County Cooperative Extension Office, 670 Old Harrisburg Pike, Gettysburg, PA.

<http://adams.extension.psu.edu/>

Workshop registration fee is \$125. Please call 717.394.6851 to register. Registration deadline is Friday. Information and registration is attached.

Using Information to Make Better Wine: It is hard to learn anything or do anything well in an information vacuum. It's easy to get stuck on the farm and feel like everything is okay without really noticing what is going on around you. In the world of wine, it is rare that a wine grower can figure out how to make really good wine with the tools and information immediately at hand. Making wine is all about knowing your vineyard and cellar intimately, but it also involves an exploration of ideas and methods that will push the quality of the wine. There are wine makers who are satisfied with the status quo, even at a very high level. I could never be one of them. Getting better means learning more, taking risks and pushing hard on the trap door to the next level of quality. It involves activist learning that seeks out new ideas and knowledge that grows out of intellectual curiosity and creativity. A good wine grower loves a challenge. It's the only way to get better. I hope there is not a single wine maker who read this who believes he or she has made his or her best wine. If Chateau Petrus, Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, Domaine Leflaive and others of this repute have never for a moment rested on their laurels, we cannot even think about it. We have so far to go but, lucky for us, getting there is most of the fun.

Two Vineyards: We are getting more sophisticated as a wine region. Finally, vineyard sites are being selected for their viticultural virtues, and not for the legion of other reasons a piece of land gets planted with grapes. This means we can finally begin to determine the real potential of this wine region. No offense to anyone who has a vineyard that was in the family for generations, or got a bargain piece on a piece of property, but in the evolution of a wine region, this is where the serious business begins. There are two very well-developed vineyard projects in N. Virginia that have similar

wine goals but very different terroir. While they are both very new and unproven, it is a fun exercise to speculate on their potential and virtues and challenges.

Attachments:

[Info for Better Wine.doc](#)

[PA New grower workshop reg info.doc](#)

[Soil Slope Water Vyds.doc](#)

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