



Summer Newsletter 2006, Volume 14

Tularosa Vineyards releases 2005 Tempranillo!

Tempranillo is one of Spain's most important red grape varieties, and is often thought of as Spain's answer to Cabernet Sauvignon. The root word in Tempranillo is temprano, which means early in Spanish. One reason the grape was that name is because it ripens earlier than most red varieties. It is the primary varietal used in Spain's popular Rioja wines. Most people have heard of Rioja wines, but few know that Tempranillo is the predominant grape. As a young wine, Tempranillo is more approachable than Cabernet Sauvignon, and still has the alcohol and tannins to age for years. Tularosa Vineyards first produced Tempranillo in 2001 and was the first winery in New Mexico to produce wine labeled as Tempranillo. Early on it was apparent that it could produce excellent wine. Tularosa Vineyards has been busy replacing other varieties in our old vineyard with the wonderful Tempranillo grape variety. Our 2005 Tempranillo is very big and deep in color and should offer up wonderful aging potential. Although, New Mexico viticulture was started by Spaniards the King of Spain actually forbade the planting of grapes in what is now New Mexico to prevent competition against Spanish wine. Planting of vines and winemaking were conducted in New Mexico, but only one variety was planted and Tempranillo and numerous other superior winemaking varieties never made it here during the Spanish Colonial period.

Tularosa Vineyards Events Schedule

2006 Bernalillo Wine Festival: September 3rd, 4th, & 5th in Bernalillo, NM. This festival is one of New Mexico's largest wine festivals, with over 18,000 people attending in 2004!

Wine and Lifestyles Expo

Friday, September 1st thru Sunday, September 3rd, 2006
Balloon Fiesta Park, Albuquerque New Mexico

Harvest Wine Festival

Saturday, September 2nd thru Monday, September 4th, 2006
Southern New Mexico Fairgrounds, outside of Las Cruces

Tularosa Basin Grape Harvest Forecast

Based on preliminary cluster counting and surveying of some local Tularosa Basin vineyard we are predicting a grape harvest that is average to above average in crop load. Almost all varieties are showing good cluster count. The grapes seem to be ripening slower than normal and harvest should begin around the 2nd week in August for most varieties this year. The drought seems to have quelled most of the insect pressure and there is (as usual) no fungus to spray for. At this point the biggest danger to crop reduction would be hail or too much rain. One vineyard in the Basin did report some hail damage.

BURRO FLATS CHERRY WINE IS BACK!

After a long departure Tularosa Vineyards will release this year the Burro Flats Cherry Wine. A fun dessert wine made with cherries from the Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico! It's a great accompaniment to ice cream and an awesome after dinner drink. And Pongo the Burro is all fun and no work.

