



## Winter Newsletter 2006-07, Volume 16

### What does the future hold for Tularosa Basin grape growing?

With the year 2007 around the corner there are many factors and decisions to be made about the future of viticulture in the Tularosa Basin. An economical vineyard is a vineyard that produces a bountiful crop year in and year out and one that produces a distinct and desirable wine. A vineyard that produces an abundance of an unmarketable wine is of little use to a wine maker or a good winegrower. From another angle a vineyard that can only produce a minute amount of a high quality but desirable wine is almost as equally uneconomical. Of course there are many factors that determine the marketability of a vineyard and grape variety, of course, one of those is consumer demand. The Tularosa Basin has a lot of advantages as a wine growing region. Some of which have been covered in previous newsletters( Download them at [www.tularosavineyards.com](http://www.tularosavineyards.com)). But, we as Tularosa Basin winemakers and winegrowers must continue to learn and improve from our success and failures if we are to survive and even thrive in the future. As the year 2007 comes around there are closer to 100+ acres of wine grapes in the Tularosa Basin alone and we believe will continue to grow. As some of the vineyards are being planted (and replanted) to newer varieties and closer spacing we will learn from and advance the quality of the wines grown here. As the population of the Tularosa Basin grows the demand for water and land will also grow. We as winegrowers must learn how to use drought resistant rootstock and ever more efficient irrigation design and techniques. In 1985 when David Wickham planted all vinifera grapes on their own rootstock. It was done, because own rooted vines are much less expensive upfront (\$1.00 own rooted vs. \$4.25 for grafted vines) Grafted vines have a different grapevine root grafted or joined to a particular variety. For example you can have Cabernet Sauvignon vines on their own roots or you can have a Cabernet Sauvignon vine grafted to a particular rootstock like 110R. Tularosa Vineyards has learned a lot over the years about growing grapes, but we have only just begun some of the learning experience. There are so many factors involved with growing grapes and the soils and climate in the Tularosa Basin are so diverse that what might work really well in one vineyard site might not translate to success in another. In the year 2007 and beyond Tularosa Vineyards looks forward to many future vintages. Happy New Year!



### Jasmine and Ethan build a snowman at Tularosa Vineyards.

Behind Jasmine and Ethan Wickham is a vineyard that was formerly planted in 1985 to Chardonnay, Muscat, Grenache and Cabernet Sauvignon vines on their own roots (not grafted) 10feet between the vines and 10 feet between rows. The new vineyard to be replanted in 2007 will be Tempranillo and Sangiovese grafted onto 1103P with 10 feet between rows and 8 feet between vines. 1103P is described as having high vigor, root knot & dagger nematode susceptible, drought tolerant and highly resistant to saline soils. We hope a good choice for the sight at 23 Coyote Canyon Road.

### A little poetry about the land of enchantment.

As Eugene Manlove Rhode's described in Little Eohippus, which many believe led to the term the Land of Enchantment, but most definitely describes the Tularosa Basin.

"Afar, through a narrow cleft in the gray westward hills, the explorer's eye leaped out over a bottomless gulf to a glimpse of shining leagues midway of the desert greatness -- an ever widening triangle that rose against the peaceful west to long foothill reaches, to a misty mountain parapet, far-beckoning, whispering of secrets, things dreamed of, unseen, beyond the framed and slender arc of vision. A land of enchantment and mystery, decked with strong barbaric colors, blue and red and yellow, brown and green and gray; whose changing ebb and flow, by some potent sorcery of atmosphere, distance and angle, altered, daily, hourly; deepening, fading, combining into new and fantastic lines and shapes to melt again as swiftly to others yet more bewildering."