



Global Warming Shifting Wine Regions

As global warming alters weather patterns that farmers have counted on, wine growing regions around the world are applying old and new techniques to adapt. They must stay competitive as progressively hotter harvests open up the prospect of wine from regions once considered unsuitable for grape growing.



Portugal

Frozen land in Russia is beginning to thaw and is creating new wine growing opportunities. In France's southern Languedoc region, once-stringent rules against irrigating vines are being

relaxed. Some growers in the U.S. and other parts of the world are experimenting with genetically modified heat-resistant grapes; a practice in which organic vintners will not participate.

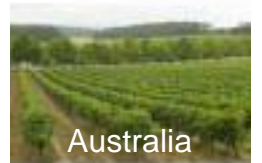
According to climate geographer, Gregory Jones of Southern Oregon University, within 50 years the world's premier wine-growing zones could shift as much as 180 miles toward the poles. In theory, that will make growing grapes in northern Europe or New Zealand easier than the now prolific appellations of Bordeaux or the Australian valleys.



Nova Scotia

Savvy vintners are scouting out new vineyard plots that get more shade, contrary to the ancient practices in both the northern and southern hemispheres. Producers in Argentina are planting closer to the Andean slopes and in Patagonia to keep the grape vines cool. In South Africa, winemakers have moved sauvignon blanc vines to higher altitudes and searched for plots open to cooling sea breezes.

Land vintners are nurturing their vineyards and harvesting earlier in the season. In some areas, according to harvest records, farmers are picking their produce the earliest since 1882. Leaving pinot noir and chardonnay grapes on the vine too long would risk too much heat, too much alcohol, and a peculiar new sweetness.



Australia

Temperature, humidity and microclimates are essential to the individual expression of the grape. Ready yourself for an array of new aromas as vintners vary varieties in response to warmer weather.

Wine Drinkers Across the Nation!

What a great future for wine enthusiasts! Following the ground-breaking Supreme Court Decision regarding interstate wine shipping, many new states have opened up to the shipping of wine. The people who live in these states may now order and enjoy upscale wines by mail, telephone, or the Internet.

Perhaps you have tasted an organically grown wine that you loved, only to find it unavailable at your local wine shops and restaurants. Yet still, maybe you have never tasted wine that has been bottled with organically grown grapes and are very interested in trying a variety to determine your favorites.

Family owned, small-production organic wines or boutique wines are increasing but buyers are often unaware of their availability, especially some of the few sulfite free wines. Locating and checking out these wines can almost become a career! Online buying from a club such as



Continued from frontside

EcoVine Wine Club can also give new choices to wine lovers who live in rural areas or small communities where selection is limited.

The following is a paragraph written on November 22, 2005 in the Fort Worth Business Press by Renie and Sterling Steves. "Of special interest to us is the EcoVine Wine Club (www.ecovinewine.com), which offers members premium wines made from grapes that are free of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides and are grown without synthetic fertilizers. Organically grown grapes yield these wines, which come from small, family-operated wineries and are not normally found on wine-shop shelves."

"Discovering EcoVine Wine Club where wines are shipped periodically to match your preferences can add another dimension to your lifestyle. Other special benefits such as discounted prices, winemakers' tasting notes, recipes created to match the wine, information about the winery and wine-club newsletters come with the membership. Prices and discounts may sometimes vary on premium and limited-production wines. Club members receive up to 25 percent on wine reorders." Relax, enjoy and drink to your health!



Harley Riders Come of Age

"The motorcycle lifestyle is all about freedom, about enjoying life and enjoying your friends," said brand manager, Scott Del Fava, describing the changing demographic of Harley enthusiasts who don't necessarily embrace the former outlaw biker lifestyle.

"Most bikers are now in their 40's and 50's with steady careers and families. What they share is a love of the finer things in life, and an interest in good food, good times, and of course, good wine."

Health Tidbit of the Month

There's no simple recipe for good health and a long life. But you'll be surprised how simple some of the ingredients can be. Hamilton Spectator reporter, Joanna Frketch, March 3, 2006, compiled a list of tips that will make a difference for you. Some will surprise. Others will be familiar, but seeing them again might be the nudge you require to stop making excuses and get it done. There's no way you can put all of them to work. But adopting even a few can make a difference in your life. And rest assured, they're all backed up by science.

Eat chocolate and drink red wine.

Go ahead and indulge -- but not too much. Studies have found that it can be good for your heart. Heart disease is a leading cause of U.S. deaths and heart related conditions. Cocoa beans and red wine contain flavonoids, a compound found to decrease the risk of heart disease. High-

density lipoprotein cholesterol, or the "good" cholesterol, at greater levels than LDL, may protect against heart disease as it works to loosen and remove plaques for processing in the liver. Flavonoids, also called bioflavonoids and now proven to help reduce the formation of blood clots; can also aid in lowering LDL cholesterol.

Red wine is also believed to restrict tumor development in some cancers and might help people with neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Dark chocolate is recommended because it's less fattening. But remember – check with your doctor if wine drinking is new to your life and everything in moderation!

Why Wine?

We might ask, why music? Why books? Why friends? Why conversation? Why good food? The answer is these things are life-enhancing. Cut out any one of them and existence would diminish. Wine has played a unique role in human civilization. Look back over human civilization – someone, somewhere, will be drinking wine. They may be drinking it while philosophizing; writing poetry or painting; celebrating a marriage; enjoying friends; or just relaxing.

"For wine has participated universally in the cultural ascent of man, serving as a festive drink at his birth, a solemn drink at his death, a sacred drink in religious ceremonies, and a stimulant of discussion in symposium and intellectual colloquia." Salvatore P. Lucia, MD, Physician and Writer

