

A good wine cabinet conserves your wine

Submitted to The Democrat

If you enjoy good wine, you probably want to keep a few bottles on hand for those special occasions.

However, wine should always be stored in the best possible conditions. If you buy wine that you intend to drink in a few years, it is preferable that you acquire equipment that will enhance the wine's fermentation and allow it to age in ideal conditions.

If you don't have the resources or the space needed to install a large wine cellar, consider purchasing a wine cabinet. It will allow you to store your wine at the right temperature.

Increasingly popular, wine cabinets are available in a wide range of models and finishes. From large high-end cabinets to smaller models, choose one according to the number of bottles you want to store. Ensure that the interior supports can accommodate the different types of bottles you intend to have.

You can choose a built-in cabinet that can easily be fitted anywhere in the kitchen or elsewhere in the house. Choose a model that makes very little noise. There should also be enough insulation to protect against unwanted vibrations of the refrigeration system, which impede the settling of sediment and affect the proper aging of the wine.

If the cabinet has glass doors, make sure that they are treated to block ultraviolet light. You can choose a model that includes a very precise digital thermostat, which allows the wine to age at the ideal temperature and ferment slowly.

If not, you will need to place a thermometer inside the wine cabinet to ensure that the wine is kept at the right temperature. The cabinet should also retain some humidity so that the corks remain expanded and properly sealed.



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Wine cabinets are increasingly popular for wine conservation.

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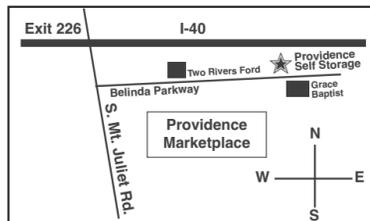
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 Cover designed by
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 Managing Editor, The Lebanon Democrat

All photographs from the 2009/2010 Toast
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 by Dallus Whitfield
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A pictorial view of past Toast to Tennessee Wine Festivals



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New seminars scheduled and record turnouts expected this year

By Laurie Everett
Mt. Juliet News Managing Editor

It's time to raise a glass and celebrate all things Tennessee at this year's Toast to Tennessee Wine festival held on the picturesque banks of Percy Priest Lake at Nashville Shores on Saturday, May 15, from noon until 6 p.m.

This premier wine festival is hosted by the Mt. Juliet/West Wilson County Chamber of Commerce and Director Mark Hinesley said what's new this year at the festival is the fact there are a record number wineries.

"We've never had this many wineries participate," said Hinesley. "There will be 19 participating this year."

He also noted there are a record number of vendors and artisans as well. He thinks the crowd attending the festival will also break the record books with an expected sell out of 2,000 tickets printed. Organizers noted that pre-sale tickets thus far are 100 percent more than last year.

The curb appeal for the festival has also changed a bit this year with the new and improved Nashville Shores unveiled. Festival goers will be some of the first to see the new wave pool and lazy river at Nashville Shores that's near the festival venue.

Tammy Algood, the food marketing agent with University of Tennessee Extension, is in charge of setting up the seminars at the festival. She said this year they are very unique.

"No other festival has this educational aspect included in the admission to their festival," she said. "We change the seminars every year so that repeat customers don't get repeated seminars."

Although there is a pairing wine and food class every year, they spotlight different foods each year. This year they are featuring a pairing cheese with wine classes that makes summer entertaining easy and delicious. They are also spotlighting a cooking segment that focuses on why recipes ask for wines to be reduced in recipes.

"You'll get to taste the difference between a reduction and a sauce that was made without taking the time to do so," she said. "You'll be surprised at the difference!"



nity wine connoisseurs will have to come together on a single day and sample and buy wine from 22 different quality wineries," Hinesley said. "The best of Tennessee wine will be in one place in our back yard!"

For more information, please go to www.atoasttennessee.com

DALLUS WHITFIELD • THE LEBANON DEMOCRAT

Rain or shine, the crowds flock each year to Nashville Shores at A Toast to Tennessee Wine Festival. Last year's festival experienced saw rain showers, but that did little to dampen the festivities of the day.

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WINE TASTING FESTIVAL ON
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For more information on the festival go to:
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Choosing the right glass impacts the enjoyment of the wine

By KIMBERLY JORDAN
Staff Writer

Want to make that inexpensive bottle of wine taste like it costs a fortune? Then maybe you should check out your wine glass collection.

Michael Leedle, sales manager with Lipman Brothers Distributors, said the main thing to remember when dealing with wine is "every wine has a very specific body."

"What happens is glasses are made so that you're getting the best taste possible" from the wine you buy."

The most noticeable difference between glasses made for red wines and those made for white wines is the bowl size. Leedle said red wine glasses are made larger due to the "power" in most red wine varieties, which usually have more alcohol content.

"A red glass is a larger bowl and has a larger opening ... allowing some of the alcohol smell to dissipate from the glass." In contrast, white wine glasses are smaller and often have a smaller opening to put more



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.LIPMANBROTHERS.COM

Lipman Brothers Distributors, who sells Riedel wine glasses such as this set for cabernet and merlot bordeaux wines, are a great source of information regarding the proper glasses for different wines.

focus on what Leedle calls "the finesse."

An example Leedle gave was trying to drink a riesling from a

cabernet glass.

"When you drink a riesling out of a cabernet glass, you lose the expression of the wine," he noted.

Another tip for how to maximize your enjoyment is to make sure you are able to swirl the wine inside the glass. According to basic-wine-knowledge.com, for all wine glasses "both red and white, the bowl must be large enough to swirl your wine, opening it up to more air and allowing its aromas to be released."

"Swirling your wine is not just for the connoisseur or the haughty, it really does serve a very important purpose."

The Web site also gives two other types of glasses, dessert and sparkling wine varieties. A sparkling wine glass, known as a flute, has a narrow bottom which helps retain the beverages' carbonation.

And according to the site, dessert glasses are smaller "to direct the wine to the back of the mouth so the sweetness doesn't overwhelm. Dessert wines generally have a higher alcohol content, making the small glass per-

fect for a smaller serving."

But whatever your preference, Leedle recommends all wine drinkers "have a good red and good white wine glass at the very least. It enhances the wine. It takes a \$9.99 wine and makes it taste like a \$19.99 wine."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLASSWARE.RIEDEL.COM

Lipman Brothers carries all lines of Riedel wine glasses, such as this Riedel Vinum Zinfandel/Riesling/Chianti glasses

Electrifying wine bottle openers

Submitted to The Democrat

The classic wine bottle opener should start worrying about being relegated to the list of obsolete tools. Today's versions boast high tech features and come in all sorts of shapes and sizes—each one more elegant than the next.

The first step in successfully opening a bottle of wine is to remove the outer foil. If you have a gadget buff on your holiday gift list who also happens to be a wine lover, how about a wall-mounted foil cutter? Just slip the bottle in the groove and press on the cutter to cut the foil.

The second step is to remove the cork. Picture in your mind an elegant dinner party with friends. The host, Steven, goes to open the first bottle of wine and the cork snaps in half. Now bits of cork are floating in the wine.

If Steve reminds you of anyone you know, why not offer them a lever wine bottle opener for Christmas so that they'll never have to experience this embarrassing situation again? Unlike traditional corkscrews, with a lever bottle opener, you simply press down on the lever and lift up the cork. It's that really simple! Plus, these types of bottle openers come in a wide variety of attractive models.

Is there someone on your gift list who does a lot of hosting? Treat him or her to an electric wine bottle opener! These fair-sized gadgets look somewhat like an electric pepper mill, and are just as elegant.

Simply place the gadget over the bottle,



SUBMITTED TO THE DEMOCRAT

Electric wine bottle openers are not only a foolproof device for opening bottles of wine, but they also make attractive decorations.

press the button and wait for the cork to be completely removed. It takes a bit longer, but the host will never have to worry about bits of cork floating in the wine ever again.

And lastly, the third and final step: serving the wine. Pour this delicious nectar into the appropriate wine glasses and enjoy among good company!

Tips to hosting a successful wine and cheese party

Submitted to The Democrat

Turkey with all the trimmings is wonderful, but sometimes a quiet get-together without all the fanfare is really what you want. In that case, a wine and cheese can be the perfect solution! It's a breeze to organize and makes a great last-minute event.

In a specialty cheese store, you'll find an array of mouth-watering cheeses. There is goat's cheese and ripened cheese, firm cheese and soft cheese, mild cheese and strong cheese.

In making your choices, plan on 4 ounces of cheese per guest. Don't worry, if you have leftovers, just offer some to your guests to take home. You can be sure, they'll be only too happy to oblige!

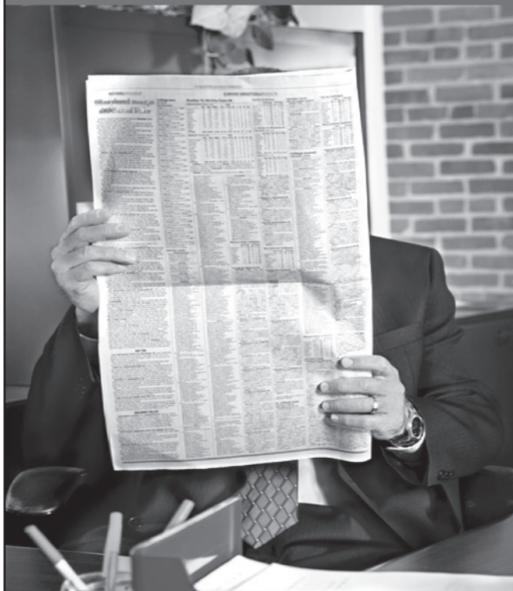
When choosing wine, vintage is important, but it's also good to offer variety. If you're hosting a lunchtime gathering, figure on two glasses of wine per guest.

Evening gatherings, on the other hand, are often longer, as guests will want to relax and take it easy, so figure on three glasses of wine for each guest.

To enhance the experience, each new bottle of wine should be served with the cheese it compliments best. The cheese itself can be served with light crackers. Crackers with a stronger taste should be avoided because they will alter the taste of the cheese.

Thinly sliced baguette also makes a nice accompaniment.

He Got the Word



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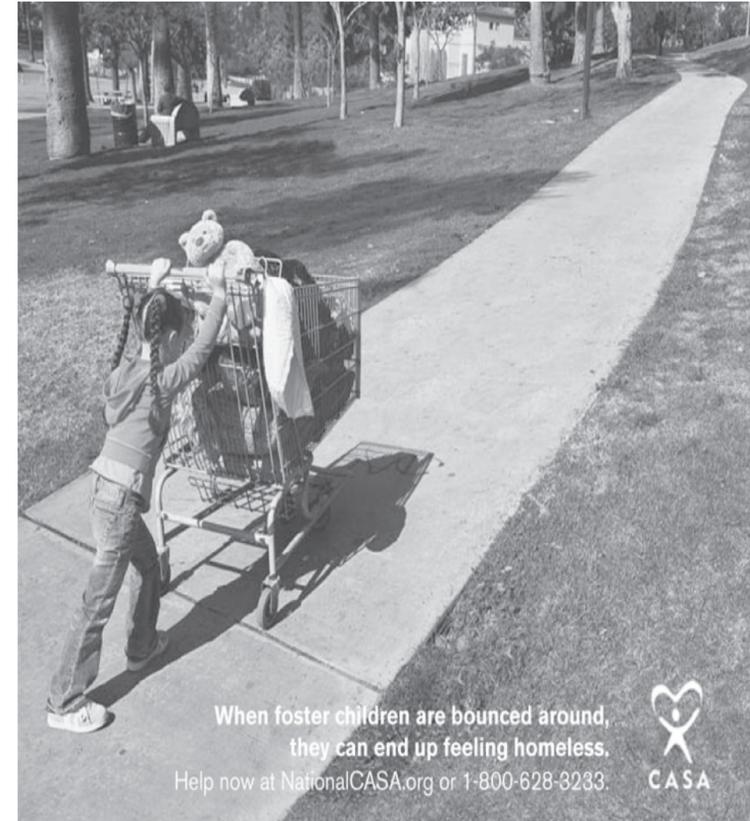
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Returning wineries to introduce new wines

By **KIMBERLY JORDAN**
Staff Writer

May 15.

Visitors to the Toast to Tennessee Wine Festival this year will see familiar wineries lining the tents at Nashville Shores.

There will be a total of 19 participants this year to share samples of their various products – Amber Falls Winery, Apple Barn Winery, Arrington Vineyards, Beachaven Vineyards & Winery, Beans Creek Winery, Century Farm Winery, Chateau Ross Vineyards & Winery, Del Monaco Winery, Grinder's Switch Winery, Hillside Winery, Highland Manor Winery, Holly Ridge Winery, Keg Springs Winery, Monteagle Winery, Mountain Valley Winery, Red Barn Winery, Stonehaus Winery, Sumner Crest Winery and Tennessee Valley Winery – will all be present at the festivities.

While there are no new venues, some of the long-time participants will be bringing new products for sampling.

Beachaven Winery of Clarksville, which will be making its seventh appearance at the wine tasting, has a new wine to share with guests. Manager Rebecca Knott said they will present Cynthiana at their booth

“It’s a locally grown grape right here in Clarksville. We’ve only had it a few months. Everyone is really into the locally grown products right now,” Knott said. The Clarksville Winery will also be hosting Jazz on the Lawn at its Clarksville facility on this day. Knott noted Beachaven enjoys coming to Toast to Tennessee because its “a great way to get our product out there without people having to come to our store.”

“We’re really excited to be here and hope everyone comes out to have a good time,” Knott added.

Becky Hamm, co-owner of Keg Springs Winery in Hampshire, Tenn., said “we haven’t missed a year yet” of the wine festival. Keg Springs will also be giving festival goers something new to taste with its red muscadine.

“Muscadine is only native to the South; it’s a Southern classic. This is a new vintage. It’s been out for about two-and-a-half years, but this will be the first time for this festival,” Hamm said.

For first time festival attendees, Keg Springs has an unique approach to guiding tasters to its booth. The winery has what Hamm called “booth babes” who



help distribute wine samples.

“We always say we have the cutest girls. It attracts a lot of people,” Hamm added. “We’re fun people. Festivals are supposed to be fun and we want people to know that. Yeah, wine’s pretty and wine’s sophisticated, but wine’s also fun.”

Something new to the festival this year that doesn’t involve wine will be some new faces

in the vendor booth area. Anita Spicer with the Mt. Juliet/West Wilson Chamber of Commerce said that a couple of the chamber’s member businesses will be setting up booths.

“We always have specialty food vendors and artisans and crafters, but this year we had some of our chamber members who expressed interest in having a booth, so we said let’s try it,”

Spicer said.

Dr. Shaun Bivens and Red Tattoo Parlor will both have booths with giveaways and information about their businesses at this year’s event.

So no matter if you are a first time visitor or a repeat attendee, there will be something different for the 2010 Toast to Tennessee Wine Festival.



Vendor line-up features returning favorites and new artisans

By **HILARY TREND**
Staff Writer

Of all the great combinations in life – peanut butter and chocolate, sun and sand, fall and football – wine and shopping are definitely a duo at the top of the list.

The seventh-annual Toast to Tennessee Winefest at Nashville Shores knows how to make the most of that combo and will not only offer 19 wineries from across the state, but also 13 artisan vendors and seven specialty food vendors.

Mt. Juliet/West Wilson County Chamber of Commerce’s Anita Spicer said pairing the vendors with the wine tasting offers attendees another activity.

“They can get free samples of wine and they can get free samples of food, listen to some music, take a boat ride. We like people to come and stay awhile. And this gives them a little shopping experience,” Spicer said.

And this year’s vendor line-up features both returning crowd favorites as well as a number of new artisans.

“There’s a couple [of crowd favorites]. Lipman Brothers sells Reidel wine glasses and CAO cigars. Their booth is always one of the favorites, not just for men but women as well. This is their seventh year,” Spicer said.

“Glassy DeZines, she decorates wine glasses, they’re hand-painted so her booth is pretty popular as well. This is her third year in a row.”

Tennessee Gourmet Owner Sue Sykes said this will be her seventh year as a vendor at wine fest.

“It’s a show that is close to home so that’s always a plus. Sales are always very strong. We’re fortunate because we bring both our product line as well as a couple other special product lines: Sweetwater Valley Cheeses and Gourmet Connection Meats,” she said.

“So between our products and the meats and cheeses, they’re a real good match for the folks that are happily tasting wine.”

Sykes said Tennessee Gourmet, based in Mt. Juliet, brings its full line of 14 products, everything from grilling sauces to pepper jellies.

“One of our new products that we’re really excited to take for the first time is a Snow White Peach Jelly. What kind of makes people really keen on it is the peaches actually come from Breeden’s Orchard here in Mt. Juliet,” Sykes said.



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Glassy DeZines by Cherie’s hand-painted and decorated glasses, shown above at the 2009 Toast to Tennessee Wine Festival, will return this year. This will mark owner Cher Easley of Florida’s third year at the festival.

“We pick the peaches, and the peppers that go into it, we also grow ourselves. It has a real wide appeal to people.”

Sykes said two of their products are in a neck-and-neck tie when it comes to a best-seller.

“We have an apple and spice grilling sauce called Sneaky. It’s just got a little bit of spice and that does very, very well. We also have a cheese spread that uses that same sauce that does very well.”

Spicer said she’s seen an increase in the interest of vendors who want to participate in the festival and having new vendors helps to keep things fresh.

“Some of the new vendors ... we’ve got a guy called Grumpy Old Men, and he does hand-turned bottle toppers and pens. Another lady called Twist, she has little beaded keychains and cool little beaded gadgets,” Spicer said.

“We’ve got a guy called Avec Amour. He’s doing hand-stamped metal jewelry.”

Attending for the first time is another Wilson County business, The Crystal Couture Store.

Helene Singer Cash said she and her parents opened the “crystal clothing for everyday-wear” business at the beginning of the year.

“We are locally-owned and operated. We create these garments by hand here in Middle Tennessee. It’s a big thing for us,” she said.

The festival represents one of several ways Cash said they hope to grow their business in the local community.

“We’re looking to do the Wilson County Fair, Lebanon’s Oktoberfest, activities where we can grow our homebase where we are,” she said.

“Also, we like the wine. That’s always a big draw,” Cash said with a laugh.

“We do a lot of custom logo work for different businesses, so

we do a lot of work with vineyards.

“It was just a great opportunity to bring our shirts that feature all different types of wine expressions to the community of people that want to share and partake of the wine.”

Cash said many of their products feature fun expressions, especially about wine.

“One says, ‘At my age I need glasses’ and it features three different wine glasses. One says, ‘Mommy’s sippy cup’ or ‘Grandma’s sippy cup’ and there are wine glasses above the expression. That stuff is always fun.”

And while Cash isn’t sure which product may be a best-seller, she did say one of their newest items are embellished aprons.

“They have the same embellishments and designs on them, so ladies that don’t necessarily want to wear all the sparkles out in public can wear these fun aprons at home.”

Cash said their products are available online at www.thecrystalcouturestore.com. Through the weekend of May 1, they were at the Black Lion in Opry Mills Mall.

“Water damage is an amazing thing,” Cash said, noting they’re thankful their warehouse and distribution center are located in Mt. Juliet.

“All things being equal, we’re thankful it’s only what’s in the Black Lion [that’s damaged] ... It could have been so much worse like so many other people. It’s a strange way to be grateful but we are.”

For a full list and description of the 2010 Toast to Tennessee Wine Festival vendors, see page XX.

Staff Writer Hilary Trenda may be reached at 444-3952 ext. 45 or by e-mail at hilary.trenda@lebanon-democrat.com.



DESIGNS FROM THECRYSTALCOUTURESTORE.COM

These are sample images from The Crystal Couture Store in Mt. Juliet, a new vendor at this year’s A Toast to Tennessee Wine Festival. The company makes “crystal clothing for everyday wear,” said Helene Singer Cash, who opened the business with her parents at the beginning of the year.

Wineries

Amber Falls Winery	Beans Creek Winery	Del Monaco Winery	Holly Ridge Winery	Red Barn Winery
Apple Barn Winery	Century Farm Winery	Grinder's Switch Winery	Keg Springs Winery	Stonehaus Winery
Arrington Vineyards	Chateau Ross Vineyards & Winery	Hillside Winery	Monteagle Winery	Sumner Crest Winery
Beachaven Vineyards & Winery		Highland Manor Winery	Mountain Valley Winery	Tennessee Valley Winery

Fine Artisans

Silver Leaf Jewelry handcrafted gemstone & pearl jewelry	Glassy DeZines handpainted/jeweled wine glasses	Lipman Brothers Riedel wine glasses & CAO cigars	Music City Silver handcrafted silver & beaded jewelry	Grumpy Old Men Pens handmade wine stoppers & pens
Silpada Jewelry sterling silver jewelry	Jerry D. Sawyer unique handturned wine stoppers	Designs by Pam wine bottle lights, wine tables, paintings	Just Write invitations, stationary, gifts for brides & babies	
The Crystal Couture Store clothing & accessories	Vintagecraft wine-themed embroidered items	Twist Inc. handpainted ball key rings	Avec Amour handstamped jewelry & gifts	

Food Vendors

Giuseppe's 1933 gourmet Italian pastas and sauces, soups, chilis and dips Tennessee Gourmet sauces, jellies, rubs, meats & cheeses	Willa's Shortbread shortbread cookies and cheese biscuits	Simonton's Cheese & Gourmet House gourmet cheeses and spreads	Wildtree all natural, nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods
Simplicity Gourmet fine tableware, cook-ware, china	Divine Art Toffee gourmet toffee	Xowii all natural nutritional drinks	

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