



January 2010

Hello Friends of Democracy!

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season!

The winter storm that blew into Virginia the weekend before Christmas dumped 24 inches of snow on the vineyard. This snow gives the little vines a nice blanket of insulation in which to hibernate but it also pulled down about 120 feet of our vineyard fencing. Repairs will ensue as soon as the temperature exceeds freezing.

Two more places to find Democracy wines! Screw Top Wine Bar at 1025 N. Fillmore Street in Arlington, Virginia. Just around the corner from Clarendon Common, this newly opened establishment is a combination wine bar and gourmet market featuring wines by the glass as well as flights and a menu of delightful treats just waiting to be paired with Declaration!

Orchard House B&B in Lovingson, Virginia is our first bed and breakfast outlet and will feature a variety of Democracy wines on a regular basis! Orchard House can actually be seen on our Village View Gold Apple Wine label. Built in 1874, the house and its surrounding property were once part of Village View apple orchard. The proprietors, Richard and Deb Bulissa, have created a warm and relaxing refuge in which to enjoy the beauty of central Virginia. We have stayed at Orchard House in the past and enjoyed the exquisitely decorated rooms of this old Victorian farmhouse, sitting on the front porch watching the sun grace the mountains and relishing the maple egg cups that Deb often makes for breakfast. Orchard House Bed and Breakfast is located at 9749 Thomas Nelson Hwy (Rte. 29) in Lovingson – which is about 30 miles south of Charlottesville or 146 miles south of Washington, DC. Phone: (434)263-7747 and website: www.orchardhousebb.com.

Remember – you can find other retail outlets by going to www.democracyvineyards.com and looking under Wines.

Democracy Vineyards Makes 2010 Debut at Virginia Wine Expo!

Our first festival of the year – featuring all four of our wines – Velvet Revolution, Declaration and the new ones – Forum [the new red blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah] – and Village View Gold [our slightly sweet apple wine produced with estate grown Ginger Gold apples] -- will be at the Virginia Wine Expo at the Richmond Convention Center from February 26 through 28. Attendees will find over 350 wines from over 60 Virginia wineries along with opportunities to sample from some of Virginia's top restaurants and specialty food vendors. The expo kicks off Friday night with the Virginia Governor's Cup Grand Tasting and continues Saturday night with Sparkling & Sweets, featuring Virginia sparkling and dessert wines along with dozens of desserts from some of the Commonwealth's best pastry chefs and chocolatiers. Throughout the weekend there will be special seminars on ports and madeiras, a competition between Virginia and French cabernet francs, wine pairings with Spanish tapas and much much more! The expo opens Friday at 4 p.m. with the seminar on ports and the grand tasting from 6

to 10 p.m. It is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. This sounds like so much fun, we're almost sorry we have to work!

Democracy and James Madison -- We are delighted to announce our participation in one of the most popular spring events – the **Montpelier Wine Festival** which will be held on **May 1 & 2**. Held annually on the grounds of Montpelier, the lifelong home of James Madison, the fourth President of the United States and the "Father of the Constitution," the Festival showcases distinctive arts and crafts; specialty food vendors; live music; "cooking with wine" classes; children's entertainment and rides; and tastings all day from over twenty five wineries. For ticket information and directions go to www.montpelierwinefestival.com

Volunteers sought! Obviously, festival season is upon us and we gratefully accept willing volunteers to help pour wines and serve customers! Free wine and other perks available! Check the December 2009 Democracy Vineyards newsletter on our website for additional dates and let us know if you can help!

December Open House – It was delightful to see so many friends of Democracy Vineyards at our mid-December open house in Arlington. This was the first opportunity we had to share our latest wines, Forum, and Village View Gold. Forum is a lighter red than Velvet Revolution but the Cabernet Sauvignon provides some lovely cherry notes and the Syrah offers a solid structure to the wine. The apple wine, at only 8.5% alcohol and 2 percent residual sugar, was particularly popular with those seeking a lighter semi-sweet wine. It also proved to make a rather tart but flavorful hot mulled wine.

Democracy on the Blogs

As we move toward improving our communications, we are venturing into the world of new media. (This is a big step for people in our age bracket.) As a starting point, we thought we would go to the blogs to see what people were saying about us. Here is a sampling-

“With the soup I had some toast, and I’ve been drinking (only on my second small glass, okay?) a red wine from Democracy Vineyards here in Virginia -the Velvet Revolution 2007 Reserve. It was a tiny bit more than I usually pay for wine, but considering today is the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, I couldn’t resist.” *(Well at least the writer made the connection with Eastern Europe.)*

“Another newbie, with very nice and personable owners I might add, is Democracy Vineyards....Be on the lookout for both of these new Virginia producers ...if you are in the Charlottesville area.” *(We are glad they think we are nice.)*

“(We) sampled the wines from Democracy Vineyards. This small winery is located in Lovingston - centrally located between Charlottesville and Lynchburg - beautiful country. The proprietors are Jim Turpin and Susan Prokop who both have "long histories in local, state and national political circles: - hence Democracy Vineyards. Their two flagship wines are blends, the white Declaration Reserve and red Velvet Revolution Reserve. The later is named after the Czech revolution in honor of Ms. Prokop's heritage....This is a nice wine - full bodied, smooth, with just a slight tannic finish. This is a wine for drinking now and priced to sell at \$15 - a great bargain.” *(Couldn't have said it better.)*

“Decked out in red, white and blue to commemorate the theme and inaugural offerings of [Democracy Vineyards](#), were husband and wife co-founders, Susan Prokop and Jim Turpin....It

was clear from their smiles and playful way with one another that Prokop and Turpin enjoyed telling their story as much as I enjoyed hearing it, so it was no surprise when they ended their tale with, 'We think wine should be enjoyable.'" (*We hope everyone does enjoy our wines.*)

We appreciate the positive feedback!

Wine pairing suggestion – Many of you have asked for ideas about what to serve with Democracy wines. The following recipe comes from Virginia Lamb. We have enjoyed roasts, sausages and soups from this woman-owned business in Clarke County and look forward to savoring this ragu with a bottle of Velvet Revolution. For information about Virginia Lamb go to <http://www.valamb.com>.

Lamb Ragu

Ingredients:

1/2 lb lamb, diced	1 small tomato, diced
1 tbsp olive oil	1/2 tsp dried oregano
1 shallot, diced	1 bay leaf
2 cloves of garlic, finely sliced	2 tbsp olive tapenade
1 tbsp tomato paste	Salt, to taste

1. Heat the olive oil to a high heat, then add the lamb and cook until it is well-browned. Remove and reduce the heat to low. Sauté the diced shallot and garlic with the bay and oregano until the onion is translucent.
2. Add the tomato paste, diced tomato, and cook until reduced to a pulp. Return the browned lamb and cover with water. Bring this to a boil then simmer, covered, for 1 hour or until the lamb is very tender.
3. Stir in the olive tapenade, season to taste, and serve.

She may not be young, tall, thin, blond or cute but...but -- What did Democracy Vineyards' owner have that the White House gate crashers didn't? An invitation. Soon after the hullabaloo surrounding the unauthorized entry to the White House state dinner for the Indian prime minister, Susan received an invitation to one of the many holiday receptions held by the White House for lobbyists of various types. Attendees passed through not one, not two but three different security checkpoints fully staffed with White House social office personnel armed with precise lists of names. Once inside, guests enjoyed glasses of champagne and h'ors d'oeuvres. In the East Room was a detailed white chocolate model of the White House complete with a small marzipan [?] recreation of Bo, the first dog. In addition to visiting with colleagues from assorted veterans and disability advocacy groups, and watching President and First Lady Obama greet the crowd, Susan spied Rev. Al Sharpton and televangelist Rev. Joel Osteen and his wife amid the assemblage. Regrettably, the camera on her Blackberry was not working properly so she has no pictures to post on her Facebook page.

Does this refer to wine or voting? "All the ills of democracy can be cured by more democracy." We conclude this month with a quote from Al Smith, the 1928 Democratic candidate for President who was defeated in a landslide by Herbert Hoover. He had sought the nomination previously at the 1924 Democratic National Convention, being nominated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt who saluted Smith as "the Happy Warrior of the political battlefield".

Cheers! Susan & Jim

www.democracyvineyards.com