



April 2011

Hello Friends of Democracy!

The mercury pushed past 80 degrees today and it is glorious to just relax in warm air and balmy breezes! Fabulous wine sipping weather! Of course, this is April - so it could be below 50 tomorrow. Still, the forecast for this weekend sounds fairly friendly so we hope you will consider taking a trip out to Winchester, Virginia!

Democracy Comes to the Bloomin' Wine Festival - Join Democracy Vineyards at the Bloomin' Wine Festival in Winchester on **Friday, April 15** from 3 pm until 10 pm and **Saturday, April 16** from 11 am until 6 pm. The event is located on the Loudoun Pedestrian Mall. We will be in the Feltner Wine Garden at the intersection of Boscawen and Loudoun Streets. Tickets are \$20 a person for one day and \$30 a person for a two day pass. For additional information, please visit, <http://www.thebloom.com/events/wine-arts-festival.html>.

Upcoming Events, Festivals and Pourings

- At the end of the month, we'll be at **The Reston Great Grape Festival** which takes place from 12 to 6 pm on **April 30** and **May 1**. For those of you in Northern Virginia, this is an easy festival to get to. For more information and ticket purchases see <http://www.uncorkthefun.com/reston-virginia/site-info>
- Also on **April 30**, Democracy Vineyards will be the featured wines at a **wine pairing dinner to benefit the Avon Breast Cancer Walk** – 6 pm at the home of Ed and Cathy Betts, 3111 N. 1st Place in Arlington, Virginia. Cost: \$50/pp. Reservations required -- RSVP to Cathy Betts at 703-786-9160 or bestbetts@gmail.com.
- We are pleased to be returning to the **Montpelier Wine Festival** on the grounds of President James Madison's Montpelier estate on **May 7** and **8**. For additional information and advanced ticket sales, please visit, <http://www.montpelierwinefestival.com/index.html>.
- We will also return to the **Front Royal Wine and Craft Festival** on **May 21st**. For additional information and advance ticket sales, please visit <http://www.wineandcraftfestival.com/index/index.php>

Release of Velvet Revolution 2009 and Declaration 2009 – We are delighted to announce the release of our 2009 Velvet Revolution and 2009 Declaration. The '09 vintage of Velvet Revolution is a Bordeaux style blend of 25% Cabernet Franc, 25% Chambourcin, 25% Petit Verdot, and 25% Merlot. Similar to our 2007 that was so well received, the wine is full bodied and pairs excellently with red meat and dark chocolate. Velvet Revolution '09 will sell for \$16 a

bottle just like the '07 vintage. The 2009 Declaration is a blend of two well known French varieties - Chardonnay and Viognier. The wine is a full bodied white with 67% Chardonnay giving it structure and is complimented by the crispness of 33% Viognier. The Declaration '09 will retail for \$15 a bottle. Look for these new wines at festivals or at local retailers that carry Democracy Vineyards wines. We have three additional wines coming out later this year. Details on these wines and their release will be in future editions of Democracy Vineyards News.

Last Call, Velvet Revolution 2007 – With a certain amount of wistfulness, we announce that there are only five cases left of Velvet Revolution 2007. On a crisp and warm Labor Day weekend in 2008, we joined Michael Shaps and Chris Hill in crafting this blend that won six awards, including a Gold Ribbon at the 2010 Virginia State Fair. This was our first wine and helped us introduce Democracy Vineyards to you and to our retail patrons. If you are interested in some of the last available bottles of this fine wine, please either e-mail, democracyvineyards@att.net, or give us a call at 434-964-6124.

From the Vineyard and Orchard -- Spring is finally arriving and the growing season has begun! We have bud break in the upper field among the Merlot, Petite Manseng and Petite Verdot! Considerable progress has been made in getting the vines tied up to the cordon wires. To get this completed in a timely fashion, this became an all hands effort with vineyard manager Ed Martin and vineyard consultant Chris Hill coaching owner Susan and General Manager Jim (see pictures) on how to tie up the vines properly. More experienced vineyard hands know that holding a batch of ties in your mouth expedites your movement from vine to vine and accomplishes this task more quickly. Establishing the vine cordon properly sets the basis for this year's growth but also for future canopy development.



Replacement vines will be installed the week of April 11 for those vines that failed to thrive in the initial layout of the vineyard. Because of the challenge of Virginia's climate, we are preparing for the regular spray schedule to prevent mold and mildew and we are adding a natural insecticide to protect against climbing cutworms. Finally, we will add another level of wire to the trellis system to manage this year's anticipated canopy better. Over in the orchard, the apple tree blossoms are out, making this one of the prettiest times of the year. Kevin Drumheller has already applied the first spray to the apple trees and the bee hives have been delivered to begin the pollination process on the fruit.

Tasting Room Update – Our water expert, Roger Nelson, has submitted the permit to the county for our septic and well system. Once this is completed, we will move to the next phase of structural analysis and final design. Our goal is to have the tasting room open – at least in some fashion - by Labor Day Weekend 2012.

Mark your calendars now for these June events. Details to follow in next month's newsletter.

- **June 3** – Wine tasting at Westover Market in Arlington
- **June 4** and **5** – Vintage Virginia Wine Festival at Bull Run Park
- **June 19** - Manassas Wine Festival
- **June 25** and **26** – Summer Solstice Festival in Amherst

"I like the noise of democracy" -- James Buchanan, 15th President of the United States

Cheers!

Susan & Jim

www.democracyvineyards.com