



February 2011

Hello Friends of Democracy!

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Democracy Wines – Need a “Forum” for your “Declaration” of love for your “Unum” and only? Want to start a “Velvet Revolution” in her heart or tell him he’s as good as “[Village View] Gold”? Our improved website – www.democracyvineyards.com -- now features a link to help you locate retail outlets near you using your zip code. This link can be found at the bottom of the page about our wines. It’s always wise to call a retailer first to determine what wines may be in stock. Check it out and make Valentine’s Day special with Democracy! Special thanks to Lisa McCade of McCade Designs for her work on redesigning and improving our website!

President's Day Weekend at the Staunton Wine Festival, February 19 -- Democracy Vineyards will be participating in the first annual Historic Staunton Foundation Winter Wine Festival. The event will be held on Saturday, February 19 from 11 am until 6 pm at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel, 24 South Market Street, Staunton, VA. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. For additional information, please visit <http://www.historicstaunton.org/>. Do you know which U. S. President has his Presidential library in Staunton, Va.??*

The Virginia Wine Expo - A Fabulous Three-Day Wine and Food Adventure - February 25, 26, 27 in Richmond -- The Virginia Wine Expo (VWE) is the mid-Atlantic’s premier wine and food event, highlighting the quality and diversity of Virginia wine from every region of the state. Attendees will enjoy gourmet treats from top restaurants and specialty food purveyors, creative and inspirational seminars, and will also receive a beautiful crystal wine glass to take home. Festival-goers will have many opportunities to taste wine, buy glasses and bottles for on-premise consumption and purchase bottles to go. The event is held at the Richmond Convention Center, 403 North 3rd Street, Richmond, VA. The Expo begins with an elegant Grand Tasting from 6 to 10 pm on Friday the 25th and continues on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 pm and from 11 a.m. to 5 pm on Sunday.

On Saturday at 11 am, Democracy Vineyards wine will be featured in a special chocolate pairing session with Timothy Gearhart, owner and principal confectioner of the exquisite Gearhart’s Chocolates. Gearhart’s was named one of America’s Top 20 Artisan Chocolatiers by Chocolatier Magazine so this is certain to be a delightful and delectable workshop! For additional information or to purchase tickets, please visit <http://virginiawineexpo.com/Home.aspx>

Virginia Wine Week Coming Soon – “Love by the Glass” the annual Virginia Wine

Week is scheduled for March 18th to the 27th. Look for additional details in next month's newsletter.

Democracy Returning to Montpelier -- Democracy Vineyards will again be part of the Montpelier Wine Festival, May 7th and 8th at the home of President James Madison, Montpelier. The site is on Route 20, four miles southwest of Orange. The event runs from 11 am until 6 pm on Saturday and 11 am to 5 pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$25 at the gate. For additional information, please visit <http://www.montpelierwinefestival.com/index.html>

In the Vineyard and Orchard – The tractor and sprayer have been moved snugly under cover for the winter to protect them from the elements. However, vineyard manager Ed Martin has been out battling the January cold and the February winds to prune the vines to prepare them for the coming growing season. You rock, Ed! Progress is being made on development of the tasting room and winery building along with planning that has also begun on our future expansion of the vineyard. We are looking at adding two to three acres of new grape varieties. Preparing the fields will take place in 2011 with a target date for planting of spring 2012. Our architect, J. Paul Lewis, has developed a site plan and our contractor Ronnie LeNeave is working with the county for the required preconstruction tests. Finally, Kevin Drumheller, our orchard manager, has been pruning the apple trees for next season with work on the Ginger Golds completed and an aggressive effort to cut back the Galas in order to foster productive growth and fruit development.

Virginia Winery Guides 2011 Now Available -- The 2011 Virginia Winery Guide, produced by the Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office, is now available. The guide has been updated this year to include the 34 new wineries in the state, including Democracy Vineyards, bringing the total number of wineries in Virginia to 190. Along with a detailed, topographic driving map of Virginia with the winery locations, the Virginia Winery Guide also has a comprehensive listing of all the wineries. This listing includes the location, hours, directions, and contact information for each winery. Those interested in receiving a copy of the 2011 Virginia Winery Guide can visit www.VirginiaWine.org/guide to submit their mailing address.

You Can Take Turpin Out of Lobbying But You Can't Take The Lobbyist Out of Turpin -- Democracy Vineyards' General Manager Jim Turpin brushed up on his lobbying skills by taking part in the Virginia Wine Council's annual Wine & Vine Legislative Advocacy Day on February 3rd. Participating wineries met with many legislators and legislative aides to discuss the needs of Virginia's wine industry. The General Assembly is currently considering a number of measures important to the wine industry including a tax credit for winery and vineyard expansions, increased funding for the Wine Marketing Office, elimination of the double taxation on wines shipped out of state, and clarifying the definition of hard cider. Todd Haymore, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and Matt Conrad, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry joined the participants for a forum on the current state of our wine industry and upcoming concerns for 2011.

Spring is Coming - Enjoy a Nelson Wine Weekend -- Spring is coming and this would be a perfect time for a little get-away to the Blue Ridge Mountains at Wintergreen? For \$150/weekend night or \$125/Sunday through Thursday, enjoy a two-bedroom condo on the ridge line with magnificent sunrise views of the Rockfish Valley. This top floor condo features sleeping accommodations for up to 4 people, full kitchen with microwave, coffeemaker, dishwasher, oven and refrigerator, cable TV and wood-burning fireplace. You can also order a bottle of Democracy Vineyards wines to await you on your arrival, along with two Democracy Vineyards wineglasses and a coupon book for a free jar of apple butter from Drumheller Orchards and free tastings or discounts on purchases at Hilltop Berry Farm and Winery, Cardinal Point Winery, Afton Winery, and Wintergreen Winery. To make a reservation, please contact us at democracyvineyards@att.net

We look forward to seeing you at a spring festival!

Cheers!

Susan and Jim

* The Presidential Library of Woodrow Wilson is located in Staunton, Virginia.