



**October 2010**

***Hello Friends of Democracy!***

***October is Virginia Wine Month*** – The rapid growth of Virginia's wine industry has made it one of the fastest growing agricultural sectors in the state. In 1979, there were only six wineries in Virginia. Today, there are more than 160 wineries, and even more vineyards, with growth escalating as fast as the state's advancements in wine quality and reputation. Democracy Vineyards is thrilled to be part of Virginia's wine adventure!

***River City Wine Festival*** – Join Democracy Vineyards at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Waynesboro River City Wine Festival this **Saturday, October 9 from Noon until 7 pm** and **Sunday, October 10 from Noon until 4 pm**. Located at 301 W. Main Street in Waynesboro, this event takes place alongside the 39th Annual Fall Foliage Art Show. More information can be found at <http://www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?AttrID=52737>.

***New Retail Outlet Well Known in Central Virginia -- The Store at the Boar's Head Inn***, a well known destination in Charlottesville, is the latest to carry Democracy Vineyards wines. If you stay at the Boar's Head Inn, you will find the relaxing comfort of first-class accommodations nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Situated on a picturesque 573-acre estate, their 170 guest rooms and suites create an inviting retreat. For additional information, please contact at [www.boarsheadinn.com](http://www.boarsheadinn.com) or 434-296-2181. Remember to check [www.democracyvineyards.com](http://www.democracyvineyards.com) for a full list of our retail outlets.

***From the Vineyard*** -- The grapes may be harvested but the work in the vineyard only changes (it never stops). We are continuing to spray, primarily fungicides, to control mold and mildew on the vines and foliage. The objective is to keep the leaves on the vines as long as possible (until the first frost) to strengthen the vines for next year's season. In addition, we have undertaken an extensive soil test to determine what might be used to enhance the nutrients in the earth. Finally, we continue to work on the infrastructure of the vineyard running additional catch wires to accommodate next year's growth.

Meanwhile, our 2010 vintage is taking shape thanks to Michael Shaps and the folks at Virginia Wine Works. Over the course of the winter and spring, we will be introducing a number of new wines, adding to the variety of our product portfolio.

Over on the orchard side of our operation, this has been a tough year for apples. The heat and dry conditions meant that most varieties were early and comparatively small. While the overall crop has been light, the quality has been good.

***Apple Wine Ready in October*** -- The latest bottling of Democracy's popular Village View Gold Apple wine will be available in mid to late October. The single varietal wine is made from Ginger Gold apples native to Nelson County. Last year's inaugural version sold out quickly.

The 2010 version will be available in time for the holidays and is a perfect compliment for either Thanksgiving or Christmas. Look for it in Democracy's retail outlets or contact us directly at [info@democracyvineyards.com](mailto:info@democracyvineyards.com).

***Democracy - Part of the National Wine Experience*** -- Democracy Vineyards will take part in the inaugural **National Wine Experience in Washington, DC on Saturday, November 20 from 7:30 to 11 p.m.** This will be somewhat different than the typical wine festival. According to its principal sponsor, USA Today, The National Wine Experience will be an "upscale consumer event in the evening at the Newseum, Washington, D.C.'s newest and most interactive museum. The event will feature wine from over 25 states and fine cuisine representing various regional Cooking styles from throughout the country as interpreted by famed chef Wolfgang Puck." At \$125 per ticket, the National Wine Experience is primarily directed at the hotel and restaurant trade. While there will be no direct sales at this event, participants – who will receive commemorative Riedel crystal wine glasses - will have the opportunity to sample several hundred American wines and enjoy gourmet hors d'oeuvres while listening to jazz as they explore the museum exhibits. Tickets must be purchased in advance as they will not be available for sale at the door. To buy tickets go to <http://www.nationalwineexperience.com/>



***Busy Fall Season for Democracy Vineyards***

– In addition to three festivals, Democracy Vineyards took part in the Circle Of Wine Writers Dinner at Keswick Hall on Sept. 8, where Jim chatted with Maureen McDonnell, Virginia First Lady [see photo at left]. Later in the month, Jim participated in the kick-off for Virginia Wine Month at Monticello and we both traveled to Richmond on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> for the opening gala for the State Fair of Virginia, where we were invited to pour our gold ribbon winning red blend, Velvet Revolution. Our Viognier, Unum, received a silver ribbon at the state fair as well.



**Hugs to our volunteers!** -- Our heartfelt thanks go to the many folks who helped us at festivals this fall. To our expert Reston Great Grape Festival volunteers, Bob Ramsey with Caihailian Vineyards, Bobby Lamb, and Lee Page – you really know how to sell! To our new and charmingly enthusiastic Virginia Wine Festival team of Leif Grotos, Nancy Starnes, and Scott and Donna Goltry – what a fun weekend your presence provided! And to the folks at the Yorktown Festival – Phillip and Sharon Milburn, Barbara Nachman and Don Willis – you made our first foray into that event such a delightful breeze! Our festival season is coming to a close but we hope you'll consider assisting Democracy in 2011!

**Declaration Sangria - A Big Hit** – We discovered something at the recent Virginia Wine Festival. Our white blend, Declaration, makes great Sangria which proved extremely popular to festival-goers! You can try this at home with the following recipe:

**Declaration White Wine Sangria** -- Prep Time: 5 minutes

**Ingredients:**

1 Bottle of Democracy Vineyards Declaration  
1/2 to 2/3 cup white sugar  
3 oranges (sliced) or may substitute 1 cup of orange juice  
1 lemon (sliced)  
1 lime (sliced)  
1/2 liter of ginger ale or club soda

**Preparation:**

Pour wine in the pitcher and squeeze the juice wedges from the orange, lemon and lime into the wine. Toss in the fruit wedges (leaving out seeds if possible) and add sugar. Chill overnight. Add ginger ale or club soda just before serving. If you'd like to serve right away, use chilled white wine and serve over lots of ice. **Additional ideas:** sliced strawberries, peaches, and a handful of fresh blueberries, raspberries, kiwi, and a cup of citrus-flavored soda pop.

**Little Known Facts About Nelson County** – We love Nelson. Like many communities around the country, it has its distinctive local flavor, quirks and eccentricities. Located between Charlottesville and Lynchburg, Nelson is known for its natural beauty and unique history, including its place as home of Earl Hamner, author of *The Homecoming* and creator of the television series, *The Waltons*. Some years ago, a bumper sticker hailed the county with the slogan: Nelson – Truth is Stranger than Fiction. While many places boast of being the first in something, Nelson is distinguished by two notable “lasts.” The last Confederate soldier statue erected in the Commonwealth was placed before the Lovingston courthouse in 1965. And, in February of 2006, Nelson was the last county in Virginia to get a traffic light.

*Cheers! Susan & Jim*

*Susan Prokop,*

*Owner*

*Jim Turpin,*

*General Manager*

[www.democracyvineyards.com](http://www.democracyvineyards.com)