

BENTON COUNTY WINERIES ACHIEVE GOLD RECOGNITION

Benton County is rapidly becoming a leading producer of high quality Pinot Noir and other fine wines. Benton-Lane, Cardwell Hill and Spindrift wineries recently participated in a major competition organized by Wine Press Northwest magazine. To qualify each winery must win a gold medal in one of the 30 major competitions held in 2007. All three of our local wineries achieved gold medal ratings and thus qualified with some 258 wines for a further high level competition.

Benton-Lane was the top rated Pinot Noir earning a double gold in the runoff competition. Close behind was Cardwell Hill Cellars in second place, also with a double gold. Spindrift was awarded a gold medal. All three of these wineries keenly practice sustainable agricultural practices and have achieved Salmon Safe and LIVE certifications.

The result of this and other competitions has demonstrated the fundamental growth of quality wine growing and wine making practices in Benton County. The area is developing a growing awareness amongst wine enthusiasts who are interested in destination wine tasting along with dining in fine restaurants and staying in upscale accommodations.

Benton Lane winery is located in Monroe, Cardwell Hill Cellars and Spindrift are both in the Philomath area. All three have tasting rooms and opportunities to meet with staff knowledgeable in wine making and wine growing practices. They are members of the Benton County Winery Association (BCWA) which has a map of all wineries in the area. Have a gold level experience tasting at Benton County wineries.

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