



## FRUITS OF VIRGINIA'S VINES

Enjoy tastes from 60 Virginia wineries, listen to various wine seminars, hear live music and peruse the wares of 130 arts and craftsmen at the **Virginia Wine Festival**. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 15 and 16 at Morven Park Equestrian Center in Leesburg. [www.virginiawinefestival.org](http://www.virginiawinefestival.org).

CINDY GREENBERG *Vine Gal*

# SOUTHERN OREGON

## An up-and-coming wine destination for connoisseurs

### PART TWO: Applegate and Umpqua valleys

**S**outhern Oregon is full of dreamers. This up-and-coming appellation in the southwestern part of the state comprises four smaller regions: Rogue Valley, Red Hill Douglas County, Umpqua Valley and Applegate Valley. It's home to more than 120 vineyards, 17 wineries, 3,000 acres of wine grapes and more than 22 grape varieties. As Kara Olmo, co-owner of Wooldridge Creek Winery and Vineyard in Applegate Valley, puts it, "It's almost like you can do anything here."

glass of wine to a paraglider who just landed in your vineyard?"

Last week, I wrote about wines from the Rogue Valley. This week I would like to share with you my favorite picks from the Applegate and Umpqua valleys.

Please note that many of the wines in this two-part series are made in very limited quantity and are not easy to find in our area. However, you can purchase them through the wineries' Web sites or ask your local wine shop to hunt them down for you. A better alternative, given the sheer beauty of the region and friendliness of the locals, is to get out to southern Oregon and explore the region firsthand ([oregonwine.org](http://oregonwine.org)). Retail prices are approximate.

### APPLEGATE VALLEY

#### 2006 Bridgeview Vineyards Blue Moon Pinot Gris (\$11)

A Very floral nose of apple blossoms and passion fruit leaps from the glass while gorgeous, full-fruit flavors of guava, kiwi and nectarine coat the tongue. Hints of citrus keep the well-balanced finish crisp and refreshing.

#### 2005 LongSword Vineyard Chardonnay (\$18)

This 100 percent chardonnay is fermented and aged completely in stainless steel so the pure, clean flavors of the fruit come shining through. Fresh green apples and nectarines are well delineated and blend in seamlessly with the citrusy notes on the clean finish.

#### 2004 Valley View Anna Maria Tempranillo (\$24)

This is a great structured wine with a nose of smoky, dark plums and red cherries. Peppery notes of black plum, cherry and hints of tar dominate the palate while sweet tannins provide structure on the lengthy finish.

#### 2004 Rosella's Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$28)

The smoky nose featuring Asian spices and dark plums is intriguing, but it's the complex, layered flavors of smooth black cherry, plums, mocha and pepper that keep me coming back for another sip.

#### 2005 Schmidt Family Vineyard Syrah (\$34)

A pretty example of syrah, with notes of black cherries, cola and

chocolate to tease the nose and flavors of blueberries, cherries and plums to satisfy the palate. Whispers of vanilla and pepper sneak in on the beautifully structured finish.

### UMPQUA VALLEY

#### 2006 Spangler Viognier (\$16)

I found my house summer wine. The seductive nose of acacia flowers, apricot nectar and just a whisper of ginger makes my mouth water. And the flavors of white nectarines, pineapple and mango don't let my tongue down. Notes of residual sugar provide just a touch of sweetness and make this my pick for the chaise lounge.

#### 2002 Henry Estate Pinot Noir (\$20)

A very pretty nose of strawberry perfume, red plum and a whiff of mint complement the well-integrated flavors of cherry, strawberry and red currant. The hint of red licorice on the finish is a pleasant surprise.

#### 2005 River's Edge Black Oak Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$24)

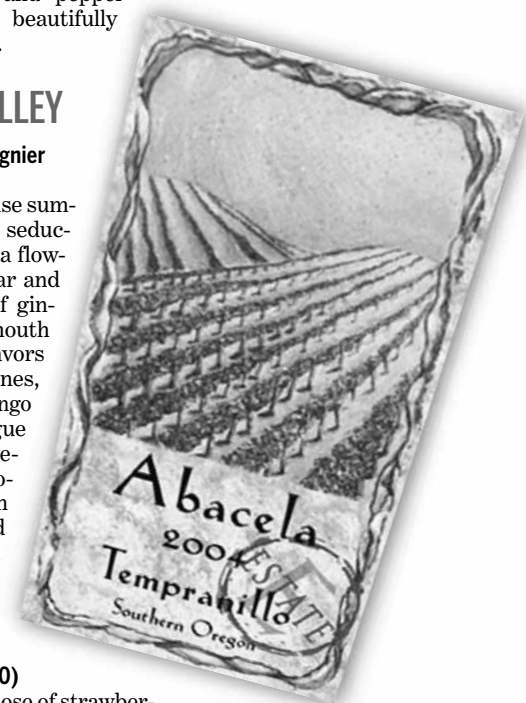
Less than two tons per acre of fruit go into this lovely pinot. It sports a charming nose of candied cherries, cloves and cinnamon and a mouthful of great fruit featuring ripe plums, cherries, Asian spices and orange peel. The elegant finish offers a touch of dark chocolate.

#### 2004 Abacela Vineyards and Winery Estate Tempranillo (\$32)

This sports a spicy nose of cherry, orange rind and dark chocolate. Rich flavors of blackberry liqueur, plums and crushed stones fill the mouth. Hints of pepper sashay in on the well-balanced finish.

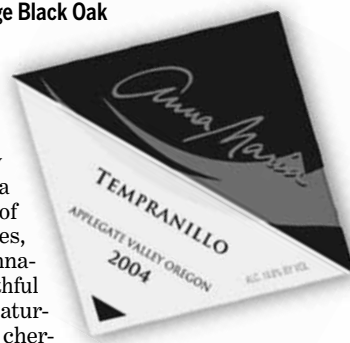
#### 2005 Girardet Wine Cellars Frostbite Gewürztraminer (\$20/half bottle)

This sweet-but-not-too-sweet dessert wine offers luscious flavors of apricot nectar, peach, candied orange and pineapple. Abundant acidity keeps it all in balance. A great way to end the evening.



The attributes of southern Oregon are plentiful and begin with the environmental stewardship of the people who have chosen to live and farm responsibly in this fertile region. Maria Largaespada, who gave up a 20-year run with a major pharmaceutical manufacturer to move to this bucolic oasis and run LongSword Vineyard with her husband, Matthew, expresses a great example of this philosophy.

"We moved to Oregon because it's who we want to be and not what we have to do," Maria said. "Our farming techniques are simple [sustainable]. It's a responsible way to farm. We're passionate about what we do — Oregon is full of dreamers. Besides, where else could you offer a



Do you have a favorite bottle of wine? E-mail [scott@vineguy.com](mailto:scott@vineguy.com).

