



California Vine Lines

winegrape industry news



California Association of Winegrape Growers

Winter 2017

Former-Assemblymember Bill Berryhill Selected to Lead Winegrape Growers

The California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) has announced the election of Bill Berryhill of BB Vineyards as chair. He succeeds Aaron Lange of LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyards, who served in the role for two years.

“Bill is an experienced leader, and as a former state assemblyman, uniquely qualified to serve as chair of the association,” CAWG President John Aguirre said. “We look forward to Bill’s active leadership and our new officers and directors, who will provide strong state and federal advocacy on behalf of our members.”



Wine Country Fires

The Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino county fires in October were the costliest in California history. 44 lives were lost and insurance claims exceed \$9 billion. The Assembly Select Committee on Wine and the Senate Select Committee on California’s Wine Industry held an informational hearing to discuss the fires and the impact on the communities and the industry.

The fires were devastating for workers and families. A full list of recovery services resources are available on line. Our hearts go out to those effected by the recent fires in Southern California as well.

After the Fires, Napa and Sonoma Look Ahead

Vineyards provided a natural fire break and only 1.6% of all Sonoma county vineyards and 2% on Napa county vineyards were within fire boundaries. Vineyards and wineries are working together to help the community recover. “Winemakers are farmers, and they take a certain amount of pride in helping each other out,” said Wine Spectator senior editor James Laube. “Whatever needs to get done will get done.”

For enthusiasts, the LA Times reports, “Don’t worry about the smoke.” Wine country is open for business.



The Drought Resumes?

According to Water Deeply, the latest research shows a second consecutive La Niña is in play this year. And it comes with stronger effects, likely including an expansion of the dry spell, which could be bad news for California.

Unfortunately, December looks like it will be completely dry across most of the West. A dome of high pressure has parked itself off the West Coast, diverting storms far to the North, into Canada. It is very similar to the “ridiculously resilient ridge” that contributed to California’s severe drought.

Angelinos and Wine

LA Weekly reports, there's never been a better, easier time to drink wine in Los Angeles than right now, thanks to numerous recent wine bar openings all over the city. Geeking out over wine is easier to do nowadays. L.A.'s recent wine bar explosion could be a watershed moment for a wine scene in a city that is less bound by tradition and more prone to exploration.

The reality is that everybody deserves a neighborhood wine bar. It seems as though the influx in L.A. over the past couple of years has just begun catching up to the outsized and growing demand for an easily accessible glass — whether you're in the mood for something reliable or something that pushes the boundaries.



As Labor Scarcity Grows, High-End Vineyards Embrace Machine Harvest

Shrinking labor supply, stalled immigration reform and ag worker legislation, increased demands for a quick harvest, and increasing labor costs have all contributed to the move to mechanized vineyard activities. Capitol Public Radio reports on the industry's continuing trend to mechanization. "The evidence seems to be pretty clear," said John Aguirre, CAWG president. "You can embrace mechanization and, for many growers, have better quality grapes coming out of that vineyard than you get today. That's a compelling fact and that's what's driving a lot of people to embrace mechanization."

Unified Wine & Grape Symposium

The Unified Wine & Grape Symposium is the annual premier industry gathering, held every January at the Sacramento Convention Center. The 2018 Unified Symposium will take place January 23 - 25.

Third generation winegrower and artisan winemaker Gina Gallo of E. & J. Gallo Winery will be the keynote speaker. The Unified Symposium, provides the best opportunity to find the latest innovation and business trends.

This year's show will focus on Cabernet Sauvignon to give attendees a glimpse of the winemaking process, from vineyard practices to winemaking, and a chance to sample Cabernet Sauvignon wines at different price points. On Wednesday January 24, legislators and staff are invited to the Unified Symposium Regional Wine Tasting from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please contact Michael Miiller to reserve your spot.



Save the Date

January 23 - 25, 2018
Sacramento Convention Center
Join us for a Regional Wine
Tasting on January 24th
from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF WINEGRAPE GROWERS

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