



Alto Vineyards

2005 Fall Newsletter



September 24th

2:00 to 7:00 - **Crab and B-BQ**

Festival featuring Dennis Stoughmatt and Creole Stomp as our musical guests. Food vendors for the event will be Broussard's Cajun Cuisine and Hickory Creek B-BQ and catering.



October 8th and 9th

12:00 to 6:00 we will be hosting our annual **Fall Color Festival**. Our musical guests for the weekend will be St. Stephen's Blues (8th) and Carter and Connelley (9th). Food catering will be provided by Broussard's Cajun Cuisine and 17th Street B-BQ.

*All of our events include a \$2.00 admission. All designated drivers and any person under the age of 16 may enter free

October 16th

1:00 – 7:00 - **NEW FESTIVAL at Nuenert!**

Nuenert, Illinois, We have been invited to participate in a musical event featuring The River Bottom Blue Grass Band, provided by the Bottoms up Restaurant and Tavern. There will be an amateur wine makers contest along with samples of their home vintages. We will be attending the event as special guests pouring samples of our wines and selling your favorite Alto wine by the glass. So join us in Nuenert for some great food, wine, and fun.



AWARDS:

We've done it again! After receiving the results from our Illinois State Wine Competition we are proud to announce that our Chambourcin has once again received the Governor's Award for the best Illinois red wine and garnered a Gold Medal at the Great Lakes Wine Competition. So we think it is fair to say that our Chambourcin has once again proven itself to be one of the nation's best. Along with the top awards received by the Chambourcin our other wines were awarded over 30 medals so far this year. But as our winemaker always says it's your judgment of our wines that really matters.

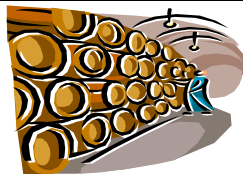


VINTNER'S VIBE CONT'D

VINE GUY:

It is now approaching harvest season at the winery and all of the hustle and bustle with harvest planning and preparation is here, most of us are enduring long sun-drenched days of hand picking and processing our beautiful bounty. This year proved to be somewhat dryer than usual until the last few weeks of summer due to remnants of Ivan and Katrina. We are hoping that the rain continues to hold off because too much rain has the effect of diluting the sugars and the flavors in the grapes and thus it makes a winemakers job all the less winning. Thus far, Mother Nature has embraced our vineyard with loving arms and this year's vintage should compare favorably to some of our best.

VINTNER'S VIBE:



As you all know Paul, our winemaker, doesn't boast much about the wines he makes but we've heard "through the grapevine" that he feels very excited about the awards his wines have won, and rightfully so, "Kudos Paul"! We currently have some 02'

- dry red wine left, but are quickly approaching the release of our 03's. Coming soon around the holiday season we will be releasing our 01' Norton, yes it's true, Alto Vineyard's has made it's first ever Norton. For those of you who aren't aware of this varietal it is Missouri's claim to fame. This grape possesses an almost chameleon-like ability to adapt to local growing conditions. A dark, almost blackish red color is universal. In Missouri, aromas of coffee and mint are common along with intense raspberry and even cassis flavors are detectable, similar to some of the Bordeaux wines in France. Paul modestly announced to all of us here that the new vintages are looking great and we are looking forward to your feedback on the new wines as well. Folks don't forget that we still have 02' Traminette available for those who still need to take home a national award winner, for those who have forgotten our Traminette was voted the best hybrid white wine in the country. Also, the Shawnee Hills Wine trail is still awaiting complete approval on our A.V.A. (American Viticultural Area), submitted by Ted Wichman at Owl Creek, for those of you that need refreshing an A.V.A. is defined by geographic and climatic boundaries instead of political ones to identify districts that are suitable for grape growing and producing higher quality wines, but in the meantime while we are awaiting approval, you can still expect quality wines from grapes grown down here in Southern Illinois.

**ALTO VINEYARDS-
CHAMPAIGN:**



As most of you already know, we have expanded Alto Vineyards north-ward into the Champaign/ Urbana area and have been operating up there for almost 5 years, and it just keeps growing. We offer live music on weekends featuring jazz and blues venues that draw hundreds out to listen to the music mix not to mention some come to enjoy the beautiful scenery that Alto-Champaign has to offer which includes our vine covered shade-house, beautiful landscape, and outdoor entertainment facility. We invite you to come visit our beautiful retail shop and sample our premium wines and look over our unique gift items and local artwork. We look forward to seeing you! If you have any questions about the up-coming events please call us at (217) 356-4784 or look us up on the web at www.altovineyards.net.

DON'T FORGET:



***On November 25th, 26th, and 27th we will be having our annual open house celebration. Come celebrate the season with our employees while enjoying mulled wine and appetizers. Our doors will be open all week from 10:00 until 5:00 and on Sunday we will open from 12:00 until 5:00. We look forward to seeing you there!**

***Come in and join our case club. We offer special discounts for those of you that can't get enough of our award winning wines. Come out and buy a case and become one of our preferred customers we're at 800 members and going strong.**

*** Come tour the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail! We are proud to welcome two new wineries on to the wine trail which are Hedman Vineyards located right here in Alto Pass and Blue Sky Vineyards in Makanda. We are now at seven wineries and going strong. Take a drive through the beautiful Shawnee National Forrest or take a hike through the Little Grand Canyon and over the Pomona Natural Bridge, if that isn't enough stay overnight at the Giant City Lodge, get up the next morning have breakfast at the lodge and trek through the Shawnee National Forrest on horseback, Giant City stables would gladly rent to you an equine friend, and when your finished experiencing the great outdoors stop by taste a bit of Southern Illinois!**