

2007 Fall Newsletter



September 1st and 2nd: Shawnee Hills Wine Trail Festival

Time: 12:00 – 6:00 pm

Music: Sat.: Bawn in the Mash

12:30 – 5:30 pm

Sun.: St. Stephen's Blues Band

12:30 – 5:30 pm

Food Catering: Hoggy's Southern Style BB-Q
and Broussard's Cajun Cuisine

September 8th: Firehouse Fundraiser

Time: 1:00 – 8:00 pm

Music: South Bound, 3:30- 7:30 pm

Games and raffle: TBA

Food Catering: Men and Women of the Alto
Pass Fire Dept.

September 22nd: Crab and BB-Q Festival

Time: 2:00 – 7:00 pm

Music: Dennis Stroughmatt and Creole
Stomp, 2:30 – 6:30 pm

Food Catering: 17th Street Bar and Grill
and Broussard's Cajun Cuisine



October 2nd and 3rd:

Time: 12:00 – 6:00 pm

Music: Sat.: St. Stephen's Blues Band,
12:30 – 5:30 pm

Sun.: Ivas John, 12:30 – 5:30 pm

Food Catering: 17th Street Bar and Grill
and Broussard's Cajun Cuisine

*All designated drivers and people under the age of 16 may enter our events at no charge.

*Case Club members that have reached 20% discount on case purchases bring your case club card for free admission into Alto Vineyards festivals.



Vine Guy:

-Another growing season transforms a bud into our bounty as we take tender care of the yield Mother Nature has provided. She has graced us with ripened clusters on the vine but has grown weary healing the wounds from this spring's past. Our Vine Guy has been vigorously working his way through our 10 acre vineyard only to find trunk damage to our Chancellor vines and significant loss of fruit amongst our other varieties, having to rely on the secondary and tertiary buds to produce fruit clusters for our wine production. For some, this harvest season might have dampened many hopes and dreams of an exceptional vintage, but for our winemaker, Paul, "there aint no mountain high enough". As the season fills the air with crisp, sweet smells of warm cider bellowing through the fall foliage, we raise our glass and say, "Its going to be a bright, bright sun shiny day". We look forward to this year's vintage and the many more to come.



Vintner's Vibe:

- We find our winemaker once again on the steps of our cellar door celebrating good news of great wine. As you know, the harvest season can be daunting but Paul is hoping to make the best of a less than normal growing season. He will be using 30% to 40% fruit from our 10 acre vineyard and other vineyards in Southern Illinois for wine production, in addition to juice bought from the east coast to compensate for the lack of fruit in the Midwest. As time draws nearer for the release of new vintages in 08' we want to share good news with you about our winemaker and his achievements in 07'. Our 2004 Chambourcin took a gold medal and

Vintner's Vibe Cont'd:

best of class in this year's 2007 Mid-American Wine Competition. Some might say that it's the grape that makes an exception vintage, but without a good winemaker the vintage just wouldn't be the same. Kudos Paul Renzaglia and keep making Alto Vineyards the most award winning winery in Southern Illinois.

In Champaign:



- As most of you remember we have a second outlet located in Champaign/ Urbana featuring "the finer things in life" ranging from local artisan jewelry and glass wares to fine wine and gourmet food items. But the fun doesn't stop there; we also feature outdoor music festivals throughout the months of August and September. Please browse our upcoming event schedule and make arrangements to attend one of our music events, you won't want to miss out, so come and stay awhile, Jim and his family would love to see you!

AUGUST:

Saturday, 11th - Blues Deacons (blues) 7:30 - 10:30pm

Saturday, 18th Candy Foster and the Shades of Blue (blues) 7:30 - 10:30pm

Saturday, 25th - Bruiser and the Virtues (blues) 7:30 - 10:30pm

SEPTEMBER:

Saturday, 1st - Tom Turino & Big Groove Zydeco (zydeco, cajun) 7:30 - 10:30pm

Saturday, 8th - The Impalas (blues) 7:30 - 10:30pm

Saturday, 15th - Shadows of Doubt (60s - 70s rock) 4:00 - 7:00pm & Candy Foster and the shades of Blues (blues) 8:00 - 11:00pm

Saturday, 22nd - Bruiser and the Virtues (blues) 7:30 - 10:30pm



On top of the World:

-Yes, this is the section of the newsletter where we like to brag a bit, however, modesty had always been our motto and we try hard to keep it that way. It has been a successful year for Alto Vineyards and we are proud to announce that in this year's **Illinois State Wine Competition all 16 of our wines won a medal**, thus making Alto Vineyards the second most award winning winery at our state wine competition, we came in a close second to Galena Cellars who took home two more medals with 18. There were 339 different wines competing for ranks in this year's competition and we came out on top yet another year. So, if you thought we did well in the Illinois competition wait, we've got more to share. It was just announced a few weeks ago that our **04' Chambourcin** took a **gold medal** and **Best of Class** in this year's **Mid-American Wine Competition** held at the Iowa Culinary Institute. So, there's much to be proud about and we will continue to win awards as our wine maker won't have it any other way. And, that's why we feel like were on top of the world!



Where will we be next?

- It might be hard to keep up with us this year as we will be traveling all over the state participating in various wine related functions/ festivals. If we happen to be in your town, look us up. We would love to see you. Please take note of our up coming travels, as we step out on the road to bring our wine to your neighborhood.

* Please note the travel schedule on the next page.



Travel dates 2007:

September 14th and 15th: Main Street Pig Out, Carbondale, Illinois.

September 15th and 16th: Art and Wine Festival at Carlyle Lake, Carlyle, Illinois.

September 15th and 16th: Vintage Illinois at Starved Rock, Utica, Illinois.

September 21st and 22nd: 17th Street Bar and Grill Championship BB-Q Cook Off, Murphysboro, Illinois.

September 22nd and 23rd: Great Escape Wine Festival, Quincy, Illinois.

September 29th and 30th: Rend Lake Wine and Arts festival at the Rend Lake Artisan Shop, Whittington, Illinois.

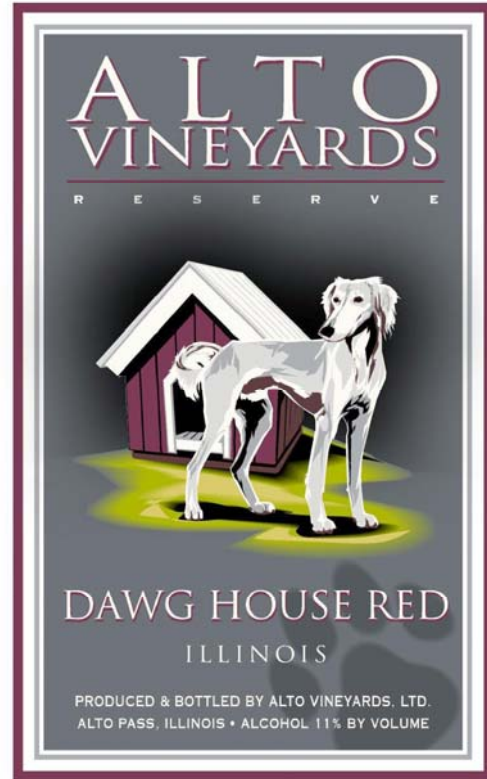
- Please call us or email us for details pertaining to these events.



Don't Forget:

-Just a reminder for those of you who want to come in early to stock up on your favorite bottle of Alto Vineyards wine please do so before September 1st. Most of our wines will incur a \$1.00 increase due to the effects of the cold snap we endured this spring, losing an estimated 70% of fruit used for wine production, as well as a substantial increase in material costs. We hope you will understand the rationale behind the increase and we appreciate your business as you are a valued customer and friend of Alto Vineyards.

-Please come and join our case club. We offer special discounts for those of you that can't get enough of your favorite award winning Alto Vineyard's wine. Buy a case and you automatically become one of our preferred customers. We are at a 1,000 members and growing each year.



What's up, DAWG?:

- For any alumni or students attending SIU, we are in the process of approving labels for a new red wine to be released this 07' season. We are excited to announce that Elissa, our Marketing Director, had a passion to pay tribute to SIU, her Alma mater, and the uniqueness of its mascot the Saluki, it might be a bit before we have it bottled, labeled and ready to go but in a few months it will be here and we call it the **DAWG HOUSE RED.**



Berry Good News:

- On a final note we would like to ask you to stay tuned for our up coming release of our Cherry Berry wine. Historically, we have prided ourselves in producing hand crafted wines made from grapes, but decided that it's time to add a little fruit to our flavor, so please call and ask about the release of our Cherry and Raspberry blend as it is months away from finished, but you won't want to miss out on a berry good time!