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What's new in the Grapevine this week?

- **Vote in Best of Bozeman poll**
- **Extreme weather impacts wine business**
- **Upcoming events**
- **Cheaper Tickets for Grand Tasting**

Vote in Best of Bozeman poll

October 1-31 marks the 3rd annual [Bozeman's Choice Reader](#) poll where Bozeman Magazine asks you to share what you like and don't like about all things Bozeman. From your favorite places to eat, your favorite bands in the area, your favorite spots and hiking trails, rivers for recreating, local celebrities, and ideas for the future, there is no shortage of people, places and things to weigh in on.

I hope I am not being too bashful here but when you go to fill out the poll, the Wine Gallery is in the "Chomping and Chugging" category and the question is Best Wine Retailer. (Go to the end of the list, I don't want to lose to Town Pump). In the "Nightlife and Libations" category there is a choice for best Wine List. We won that last year even though we are not a restaurant, but it is still nice to know we have a great selection at the Wine Gallery. The last category we are in is the "Shopping" category. Look for the question about best place to buy alcohol. We are not a bar or a liquor store but with our selection and knowledge, I hope the Wine Gallery will be in the running this year.

The Reader Poll is massive with over 200 questions for you to vote on! However, you don't have to answer *every* question. I just don't have an opinion about the best hip-hop group or the best late night bar snacks so I just didn't vote on those items. The poll is 100% online (go to bozemanmagazine.com and follow the links to the Best of Bozeman poll); sign in (or create an account if this is your first time voting) and begin looking at all of the options for Bozeman's Choice. ALL of the Bozeman's Choice content is reader added, meaning readers who are signed in have and can add any option to each question. If you believe your Real Estate Agent is the greatest, add his or her name to the Bozeman's Choice Real

Estate Agent question and share it so others can vote for that person as well. Don't see your favorite breakfast spot on the list? Add it!

The important thing is to vote. Small businesses like the Wine Gallery can use the endorsements. After all, our budget does not allow even a 30 second ad buy on the Super Bowl. Please pour a glass of wine and spend the 15 minutes to fill out the poll before Halloween! Thanks!!

Extreme Weather Affects Wine Business

According to the Associated Press, hail, frost and droughts have hit Europe's grape harvest hard, making it the smallest in 36 years. The quality of the wines, though, is expected to be excellent. The European Union's Copa-Cogeca farm union said Tuesday that the extreme weather means the harvest is expected to be down 14 percent, with some areas seeing a drop of as much as one third. That will cut wine production to a level not seen since 1981 at 145 million hectoliters.

The two biggest producers, France and Italy were particularly badly affected. In France, production will be down 18 percent, and in Italy, the biggest wine producer in Europe, it will have sunk by 26 percent compared with last year. Sicily was hit by a decline of 35 percent. The quality of the grapes is nevertheless expected to be very good across Europe, which should make for an excellent wine. The combination of good wine and lower quantities means that prices are also likely to rise. The European wine grape harvest has an automatic impact on the global wine market since EU production accounts for some 60 percent of worldwide output.

Closer to home, I have been watching the coverage of the recent fires in Napa and Sonoma. What I have seen looks like the aftermath of Hiroshima. Thousands of structures have been reduced to cinders and thousands of people are homeless. Living in Montana, we are familiar with fires, but our relatively sparse population is not as heavily impacted as densely packed areas in California.

My impression is that the fires are horrific but if there is a breath of relief to be had, the damage the wine industry is not nearly as bad as originally feared. By the time the fires had flared up Sunday night, almost 90% of the grapes had been harvested for this vintage. Further, the vineyards are not nearly as flammable as evergreens and eucalyptus trees, mitigating some of the damage for the wine business. Wineries themselves tend to have caves, concrete structures and plenty of cement around them so while they may not be fireproof, they are better protected than residential structures. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the damage is less than originally anticipated for everyone in the region.

This is also a wake-up call to climate change deniers. All the good science and research points directly to man caused increases in greenhouse gases as the cause for rising global temperatures. Every model shows the result of warmer global temperatures to be more drought, more fires, more and bigger hurricanes. The last two months have borne that out to us in spades. I have no political agenda to fulfill here. I believe the problems are plainly documented and the solutions need to be pragmatically implemented. We cannot keep burning fossil fuels to protect obsolete industries while decimating cities and towns, poisoning our air with wood smoke, leaving thousands homeless while destroying jobs and lives.

I guess it really brings it home when we see every aspect of our lives affected by man caused climate change. It isn't just the wine business I am concerned about-- it is each and every other human being in this world who is suffering from the intransigence and ignorance of a few. How many more apocalyptic disasters will it take to get our country to wake up and address this problem?

Upcoming events

****Here is your invitation to attend the Taste of Haven on October 21st at the Baxter Commons.** Come enjoy the gourmet foods donated by Bozeman's best caterers. The Wine Gallery will be there to donate and pour the best wines from Spain. You can be there to donate and support the work of Haven. If you don't already know the motivation for our community, it is to make the world a better place by sharing a common humanity with food, wine and blessings all around. Serve, protect and support by supporting Haven.

It may sound odd but I really wish we could put Haven out of business. Think about how that could happen. Check out the **Haven website** for reservations. After that, please call Veronika Sieben at 406.586.7689 to reserve your seat (or table) today.

****After having experienced the beauty and hospitality of the Madison Valley Ranch** over Easter weekend, I was delighted to be presented a chance to offer two more wine dinners at this gorgeous venue on November 10th and November 11th. The Madison Valley Ranch sold out every seat for our last dinner and they would love to have another congenial group come by for a great evening in November.

Jeanie and I as well as some other folks from Bozeman employed a strategy of staying at the lodge overnight last spring instead travelling back in the dark. Believe me, the accommodations are first rate. The good news is the Madison

Valley Ranch has a special deal for those who stay over (just mention the Wine Gallery dinner). It really can't be beat for a fun night away from the city. As a bonus, in the morning, we were served a delicious breakfast with some of the best coffee I've had in years.

If you just want a ticket for dinner, it is \$89 including everything. Call us for the wine dinner only option at 586-8828 and we will get you a seat. If you wish to book the dinner and lodging package, I would suggest a call to the Madison Valley ranch directly at 800-891-6158. Call soon, the last event sold out quickly.

Grand Tasting November 4th costs less!

Some people come by Attention Deficit Disorder genetically. I have acquired it from multitasking too much at the Wine Gallery. Last week we announced the time, date, price, and agenda. One error I failed to proof read out of the article was the ticket price. The ticket price is **\$79 per person** not \$89 like I printed last week. Everyone who has signed up so far has been happy to hear that and I am hoping that the rest of you will be too.

It's never too early to put some dates on the calendar especially when it comes to the **Wine Gallery's 13th Annual Grand Tasting**. Mark the date for **Saturday, November 4th** and get friends and family together to attend Montana's (maybe the USA's) best wine tasting of the year. We plan to have nearly sixty wines from all over the world. All will be rated **90 points or higher and priced below \$20**.

This is a great chance to buy wine the most efficient way: taste it before you buy it. With so many wines to choose from, you can find the exact wine that fits your palate. If you don't like the first sample, move on to the next and buy the ones you like. This is a great opportunity to fill your wine rack for the upcoming Holidays: get great values, and have fun doing it. Can you find one better!??

Our venue will be the **Hilton Garden Inn and we plan to start at 7 PM**. Tickets are on sale today for \$79 per person. That fee includes free parking, gourmet selection of food pairings, gratuity and a great time to be had by all. Please call us at 586-8828 or send an email to place your reservation to bozemanwinegallery@gmail.com . We already have people who have booked so don't wait too long to get your seats!