

The Maryland Wine Festival® Saturday & Sunday, September 18 & 19, 2010

The Maryland Wine Festival®, Maryland's premier event featuring fine wines from more than 30 Maryland wineries, is held annually on the beautiful grounds of the Carroll County Farm Museum. The Museum provides the perfect setting for a wine festival boasting great wines, gourmet foods, fine crafts, and top musical performances. This festival is your opportunity to meet the winemakers and sample a variety of distinctive Maryland wines.

The growth of The Maryland Wine Festival® parallels the growing wine industry in Maryland and the increasing public demand for Maryland wines. In 2009, The Maryland Wine Festival® welcomed eight new wineries to the festival: Far Eastern Shore Winery of Easton, Legends Vineyard of Churchville, Mount Felix Estate Winery of Havre de Grace, Orchid Cellar of Thurmont, Perigeaux Vineyards & Winery of St. Leonard, Running Hare Vineyard of Prince Frederick, Serpent Ridge Vineyard of Westminster, and Galloping Goose Vineyards of Manchester. More new wineries are expected in 2010. Guided by members of the American Wine Society and the Maryland Grape Growers Association, festival visitors can increase their knowledge of wine by attending a wine education seminar, winemaking demonstrations, and meeting the vintners themselves.

Winemaking began in Maryland at St. Mary's, where 200 acres of European grapes were planted by Governor Charles Calvert in the 1600s. A native insect, however, destroyed the vines and roots, as they did for all European grapes in America at that time. It wasn't until 1945, when Boordy Vineyards became the first bonded Maryland winery, that commercial Maryland winemaking began in earnest. In recent years, the creative re-use of farmland has evolved into growing grapes, and more new wineries have become established. Today, more than 350 different varieties of wines are produced in our state, with approximately 1,364,133 bottles made in 2008.

The Governor's Cup Award is granted annually at The Maryland Wine Festival® to highlight the best wines of the state. Endorsed by Governor William Donald Schaefer some 300 years after the first Governor of Maryland had planted his ill-fated vineyard, the Cup was first awarded in 1991. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded by a panel of experts who taste and examine the best of 350 varieties of Maryland wines. Best of class awards are given in five categories, and the highest scoring wine is awarded the Governor's Cup. The 2009 Governor's Cup Trophy winner was Black Ankle Vineyards' 2007 Crumbling Rock.

In early spring, the annual Maryland Wine Festival Poster Design Competition is held. The winning artist receives a \$1,000 prize, and their work is transformed into unique commemorative t-shirts, sweatshirts, posters and other souvenirs available for sale in the memorabilia tent. The contest, judged by the Board of Commissioners for Carroll County, is open to Maryland artists, age 21 and older. The 2009 winning poster was designed by John Kachik of Sykesville, Maryland.