



OREGON
WINE
BOARD

Oregon Wine Board
4640 SW Macadam Ave., Ste. 240
Portland, OR 97239
503.228.8336
Oregonwine.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michelle Kaufmann
michelle@oregonwine.org

Oregon's 2014 wine grape harvest is underway

Ideal growing conditions during the spring and summer give promise of record harvest

PORTLAND, Ore. Sept. 18, 2014 — Oregon's 601 wineries and 905 vineyards are delighted as the early outlook for the 2014 vintage is prosperous. Ideal growing conditions in the spring and summer have the state's \$2.7 billion wine industry poised for a potential record harvest.

"We're ahead of schedule by almost two weeks, and have been since bud break," said Bill Sweat, chairman of the Oregon Wine Board and owner of Winderlea Vineyard and Winery. "With the 30-day forecast showing slightly warmer and drier than normal conditions, 2014 has the promise of a phenomenal vintage and possibly a record harvest."

While most growers and wineries began harvesting around Sept. 12, some vineyards in Southern Oregon and the Willamette Valley have already finished. "We have finished bringing in Pinot noir and Chardonnay from the estate vineyards, with yields 25 percent higher than expected," said Michael Donovan, managing director for Irvine Family Vineyards.

Rajat Parr, co-owner of Evening Land Vineyard said harvest at the Seven Springs Vineyard in the Willamette Valley finished on Sept. 17. "This is my first harvest in Oregon but the quality of fruit was tremendous and has great concentration," he said.

On the Oregon side of the Walla Walla Valley, harvest is in full swing. "We're about 30 percent done," said Casey McClellan, winemaker and founder of Seven Hills Winery. "All my Merlot will be picked by Saturday. We're beginning to pick Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc this weekend with other Bordeaux varietals to follow in a week to 10 days."

The early harvest is largely due to ideal temperatures throughout the growing season, which expedited the ripening process. "It is interesting to note that preliminary data from many [weather] stations suggest that the warmer conditions are coming from higher minimum temperatures, not maximum temperatures," said Gregory Jones, Southern Oregon University professor and wine climatologist. "This reduces stress on the vines, accelerates ripening and allows the fruit to stay in harmony."

Southern Oregon is projecting harvest to be complete by early October. "The fruit is coming in heavy and fully ripe with beautiful flavors and balance," said Ruth Garvin of Cliff Creek Cellars and president of the Southern Oregon Wineries Association.

Farther east, the Columbia Gorge AVA is nearing the peak of perfection in terms of balance. "We are seeing the onset of the earliest harvest on record. We typically begin the second week of October, but I forecast us harvesting some fruit by Sept. 22," said Robert Morus, president of

Phelps Creek Vineyard. "In a typical season we aim yield to be 1.5 to 2.0 tons per acre, but for 2014 we're forecasting about 2.5 tons per acre."

About OWB:

The Oregon Wine Board (OWB) is a semi-independent Oregon state agency managing marketing, research and education initiatives that support and advance the Oregon wine and wine grape industry. The Board works on behalf of all Oregon wineries and independent growers throughout the state's diverse winegrowing regions.

###