

TRILLIUM RIDGE TIMES

by Fumie Thorpe and the Crew
at
Thorpe Vineyard
"The Little Winery on the Great Lake!"

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8150 Chimney Heights Blvd. Wolcott, New York 14590 * 315-594-2502 * www.ThorpeVineyard.com * Spring 2012

Spring Greetings! After having such a mild winter, we've kicked off our 24th year on April Fools' Day! Isn't it soooo fitting to the way we are? We cordially invite you to come visit our Wine Shop this season again.

Wine Travel Card

Here's something new this year: Thorpe Vineyard is now one of the destinations of the Wine Travel Card! And this is how it works: First you purchase the Wine Travel Card for \$15 from any participating businesses (a list is available at our winery); the card is valid until the end of 2012. Present it to the destinations while you travel. The offer varies depending on where you are --- it is accepted not only by the wineries but restaurants and accommodations in the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario and Niagara Regions as well.

Our offer here at Thorpe Vineyard is \$5 off on \$35 or more of wine purchase. And you can get that discount as often as you wish during this year. Other Lake Ontario Wine Trail members (Casa Larga, JD and Young Sommer) are also the destinations with their own special offers. So get the card when you travel our Trail!

You can purchase the Card online at: WineTravelCard.com. The website also gives you the list of the destinations and their latest offers. You can easily plan for

your next day trip or entire vacation. So get the card today, and discover the wineries and attractions in our region!

Sunset Tasting

We will be offering extended tasting room hours every Saturday during the summer. We've named it the Sunset Tasting --- it starts at 6pm as our regular day's business comes to an end, and lasts until sunset, weather-permitting.

We plan to offer a light snack with the wines, and you are welcome to bring your lawn chair to sit and watch the sunset over the Lake.

Come and relax --- that's what we want you to experience.

It will start around the summer solstice, and end at the Labor Day weekend. We will post the details on our Facebook and website as they become available. Hope you will join us!

FOODEX JAPAN 2012

I got an honorable duty from the New York Wine & Grape Foundation to attend FOODEX JAPAN 2012, near Tokyo, to represent and promote the wine and grape industry of New York State in March. It is the largest food and beverage expo in Asia (they call it "the biggest frying pan in Asia!") and this was their 37th year.



The New York Wine & Grape Foundation's booth at FOODEX JAPAN 2012. From left: Alan and Ed Chin of Ma Lung

Winery, Fumie Thorpe, and Andrew Balmuth of Nagano Trading Co.

The show lasted for 4 days and had about 2400 exhibitors from 75 nations and regions of the world. This year it was attended by more than 73,000 people from the industry (it was not open to the general public). I would estimate that our team at the booth of the Foundation poured the samples of



the fine New York State wines for more than 1500 interested visitors. New York State wines were quite unknown to most of them, but once they tried they were all impressed by the quality of NY products. I presented a few of my wines at the show, and was amused to find out that *Fialka* and *Maréchal Foch* were still the favorites of many tasters.



Fumie stands next to the shelf of the fine wines made in New York State.

It was also a great occasion for me to get to know so many fascinating people from different parts of the industry. I met an enologist who happened to know the staff at the Experimental Station in Geneva, New York. I also had a chance to chat with a viticulturist who was concerned about the urban heat island phenomena that seemed to affect how grapes grew these days in their vineyards in the mountain region of Japan. I also found that a young Japanese woman, who attended RIT, shares a common friend who moved away from Rochester and now lives in Maine. I came home with a handful of business cards from those who became "friends" during the trip.

A Year from the Earthquake/Tsunami Disaster

When I was getting ready for the trip to Japan for the trade show, I noticed that I would be there to spend an anniversary from the devastating disaster that had struck the nation last March. I

heard and saw the newscast, and often followed their media online. It totally became a daily routine to find the radiation reading observed in their air; however, I was aware that no matter what I saw or heard, I was here while their lives went on out there.

When I landed at Narita Airport, my father came to help me get to the hotel near the event location. Once I finished checking in, we went out for a light meal before calling it done for the day. We found ridges and dents on the brick sidewalks every now and then --- he wondered if they were still from the earthquake last year. I knew from the news that the event location was near the area where the ground kept sinking long after the major quakes subsided. We walked while trying to avoid stepping on those bricks.

The last day of the show was on Friday and I stayed at the hotel one more night before heading to my family residence. I was tired from picking up the booth at the end of the show. TV programs had all sorts of specials all week long as the anniversary neared. I went to bed around midnight. Then I woke up to something I hadn't experienced for a long time --- it was an earthquake. The whole building was shaking. It was 2 in the morning the day before the anniversary. I was sure it was one of the aftershocks. The quake didn't get any worse and soon the silence of the night returned. I went back to sleep.

The anniversary was Sunday --- for a working family, it was the only day everyone could take some time off. We got on a commuter train to pay a visit to a Buddhist temple. While we were riding, there was an announcement that

the entire railway system would come to a halt for one minute to observe the moment of the last year's quake. We walked around the grounds of the temple, had lunch then went back home.



There was the memorial ceremony for the victims of the disaster organized by the Japanese government in Tokyo at the time of last year's earthquake. The Emperor made an appearance accompanied by the Empress --- he just had a stent put in his artery and went back to the Palace to rest a few weeks prior to the ceremony. While it was being planned, he insisted to attend the ceremony despite his own health situation. His doctor allowed him to be there for 20 minutes. After observing a minute of silence, he came in front of the monument, bowed, made his speech then left with the Empress.

A year ago that day I went to the US National Weather Service homepage first thing in the morning as my daily routine. The entire West Coast to Alaska and Hawaii were under tsunami warning. I instantly felt something was terribly wrong --- Magnitude 8.9 (was said to be so at first). 8.9!! Then the whole world had seen the unthinkable. To Japanese people, perhaps the biggest slap on their face was that their decades of preparedness all came to naught, at least for those who in the hardest hit regions when confronted with this mega-quake.

Their winter was long and cold this year. TV news showed light snow in the northern Japan while people gathered for the anniversary. I came back here in the balmy weather and witch hazels were already in bloom at the bottom of the drumlin. It resembles the snow scene when their tiny yellow petals obscure the back ground marsh. We must not stop making an effort. I think of their cherry blossoms now in April wishing to send my prayers within.

The following articles are from Thorpe Vineyard's Monthly Online Newsletter. Not on the list? Visit ThorpeVineyard.com to sign up.

THE ONE AND THE ONLY...

As the New Year rolled in, Thorpe Vineyard on the Lake has become the one and the only Thorpe Vineyard in the world. It was a fun and exciting experience to have the satellite store on the Ridge. We met many new people, especially when we hosted the events out there during the past two seasons. In the end I decided that consolidating our efforts at one location would be a better choice for my operation. So there is now only Thorpe Vineyard here on the Lake again. Come out for a walk on the Chimney Bluffs then stop by for a casual talk with a glass of wine grown and made right here on the shore of Lake Ontario.

THE RED TAIL

Something big flew by right in front of my nose. --- That was the impression I got when I

walked out from the back door of the winery building one day. It went by so quickly so I couldn't tell what it was first. It was flying across the street then landed on a tree branch in the neighbor's yard. I was slowly walking toward the house while waiting for it to stop moving. I could tell it was watching me, too. I'm sort of a bird watcher, but couldn't figure out what kind of bird of prey it was. We kept looking as we wound up surprising each other.



Since then I realized the presence of the bird nearby. He often perched on the telephone pole right next to my mail box.

Or sometimes he was in the woods behind the vineyard. After seeing his streaked under parts through the binoculars a number of times, I was getting fairly confident that he was a young red tail hawk. Then came a rare stormy day of this winter, he was in the squall struggling to get to wherever he was hoping to. One moment he spread his tail wide to keep the balance finally showing me the entire rusty red tail. He gave up going against the winds and glided back into the woods.

He doesn't seem to hang around as much these days. As he grows up, perhaps his radius of activity expands and goes further for a prey. The days are getting longer and year-round robins appear in sight more frequently. I've started to look forward to a return of northern harriers across the street in coming days.

CONJUNCTION

As some of you already know, the brightest planet of our Solar System, Venus, and the second brightest, Jupiter, have been enjoying their rendezvous in the evening sky for a month or so. Now they are waiting to have their closest approach in the middle of March, between the 11th and 15th. You even don't quite need the clearest western horizon to see this as they are so higher up in the sky. Just look up to the west shortly after sunset to spot Venus. (If you know where she is, you can even find her before the actual sunset.) Then the mighty God, Jupiter, will emerge from the evening glow not far from Venus. The time is about right for the summer birds to migrate in; if it is a warm evening, you may hear wood thrushes and nighthawks in the brush. Here near the water there may be a chorus of frogs from the Bay.

After enjoying the brilliant conjunction in the western sky, don't forget to turn to the east. Now there is the red planet, Mars, half way between the eastern horizon and overhead. He is now the brightest in two years and visible all night long.

If you step out a little later when the bright pair starts to sink toward the western horizon, you will find Saturn rising in the east. He never gets as bright as his planetary siblings, but the subtle golden color always seems to have a calming effect. As the warm season is just around the corner, get out and enjoy the beautiful scenes our planets have to offer!



Thorpe Vineyard brand wines can be found at:

Wolcott Liquor & Wine Store: 315-594-9544
In downtown Wolcott

Lyons Liquor Store: 315-946-9102
In the village of Lyons on Rt. 14 just north of Rt. 31

The Liquor Cabinet: 315-589-5889
At the intersection of Rtes. 104 & 21 in Williamson

Andrew's Wine Cellar: 315-342-5850
In Canal Commons in downtown Oswego

Moyers Corners Wines & Spirits: 315-652-5799
In Kimbrook Plaza at Rtes. 31 & 57 in Clay

Marketview Liquor: 585-427-2480
In Henrietta Plaza on Jefferson Road

Country Club Liquor Mart: 585-586-7722
In Country Club Plaza just outside of East Rochester

Perinton Liquor: 585-223-4120
In Courtney Commons across from Perinton Square

Finger Lakes Wine Center at Sonnenberg Gardens: 585-394-9016
In the Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua

Sodus Bay Heights Restaurant: 315-483-4767
At Sodus Bay Heights Gold Club on Bayview Drive Off Rte. 14

Note: The varieties of wine carried by the Retailers vary. We suggest you call ahead to see if they have what you are looking for on their shelf.

Tasting Room Hours

April - June
Sat. & Sun. 12noon-6pm

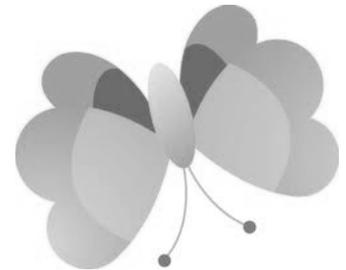
July - Labor Day
12noon-6pm

Sunset Tastings
on Saturdays through sunset
(weather permitting)

Sept. & Oct.
Fri-Sun 12noon-6pm

Nov & Dec
Sat. & Sun. 12noon-6pm

Visit www.ThorpeVineyard.com or
Facebook for the latest news & info!



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