

Local News

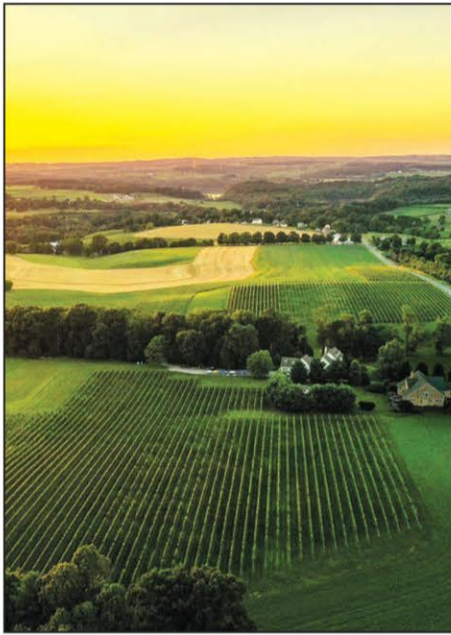
LIVING HISTORY



by Gene Pisasale

Raise a glass to fall: Wineries of the Brandywine Valley

By Gene Pisasale
Contributing Writer



Wayvine Winery and Vineyards in Nottingham, courtesy of Wayvine Winery.

The land on which some of these wineries sit has stories of its own to tell. The 1723 Vineyards in Landenberg has a direct link to the rich heritage of the region. The vineyard acreage was part of New London Township, chartered in 1723, before Franklin Township was separated from it. Benjamin Franklin once owned a portion of the farmland, along with adjoining property during the time he served as ambassador to France. The winery is run by the husband-and-wife team of Ben Cody and Sarah Daily, fifth-generation farmers with a dedication to working the soil and producing great things—which these days is a variety of fine wines. Beginning with an initial planting of three acres in 2015, the vineyards expanded to a total of 11 acres in 2018. The 1723 Vineyards offer a variety of wines, including vintages of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Chambourcin, as well as Blanc de Blancs and Landot Noir, Nebbiolo, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon for limited release.

The Stargazers Vineyard near Embreeville has ties to Pennsylvania history through its proximity to the famous Stargazer's Stone, the site of a temporary observatory established by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in 1764 as they delineated the border of Maryland and the Keystone State. First begun by John and Alice Weygandt in 1979, the vineyard was officially opened to the public in 1993. The winery changed hands in 2019 when Michael Vorauer and Jason Kirkpatrick took over operations. Stargazers offers their 2016 Cabernet Franc and Chardonnay Reserve, a Rose Gold, 2017 Riesling and Dry Riesling and 2018 Teroldego (an Italian red), as well as sparkling wines and nearly a dozen other varietals.

One vineyard takes its name from the origins of our state. After emigrating from Abruzzo, Italy in 1962, winemaker Gino Razzi spent 30 years in the wine industry before starting Penns Woods Winery in 2001. He later purchased the Smithbridge Winery in southern Chester County for his main location. The on-site tasting room opened in 2006 and a second vineyard was planted in Coatesville in 2012. Penns Woods offers a 2016 Proprietor Reserve red, a 2017 Merlot Reserve, 2018 Pinot Noir, 2020 vintages of Sauvignon Blanc, Traminette, Pinot Grigio and Viognier Reserve, as well as nearly a dozen other wines. They also have live music on location.

The Chaddsford Winery was started in 1982 and is well known to local residents and those who drive down Route 1 (Baltimore Pike) through southern Chester County. Chaddsford Winery is located next to the historic Barns-Brinton House, which dates to 1714. General manager Corey Krejcik and winemaker Gabriel Rubilar head up a team of 20 personnel, including their very own winery cats, Sawyer and Bailey. Chaddsford has numerous offerings which will please wine lov-

ers, including their 2018 Harbinger, 2019 Red Standard, as well as whites Presage, Sparkling White, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio, in addition to their Niagara Demi-Sec, Spiced Apple (a fall favorite), Sangria and Sunset Blush. The winery is a very popular spot for music lovers with their Summer Concert Series. Halloween fans will enjoy their Adult Trick or Treat event in October.

The Galer Estate Winery in Pocopson has earned a reputation for high-quality wines and entertainment. Owners Brad and Lele Galer started in 2005 with a seven-acre property, then expanded with the addition of the former Folly Hill Vineyard in Kennett Square. After a four-year reconstruction effort, they created a state-of-the-art fermentation room and an artfully decorated tasting room with a lovely bar, as well as the French oak barrel room. The winery has an outdoor deck which hosts live concerts, giving visitors a beautiful setting to watch the sunset and enjoy fine wines. Galer's vintages have earned considerable acclaim in the wine industry, with vari-



Chaddsford Winery in Chadds Ford, courtesy of Chaddsford Winery.



Chaddsford Winery cats Sawyer and Bailey, courtesy of Chaddsford Winery.



The 1723 Vineyards in Landenberg, courtesy of 1723 Vineyards.

ous offerings winning awards including the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the International Eastern Wine Competition and the Atlantic Seaboard International Wine Competition. Galer's Huntress Red, Cabernet Franc, Reserve Red-Pinot Noir, Albarino, Huntress Vidal Blanc, Red Lion Chardonnay as well as the Rose, Rose Sangria and Sparkling Chardonnay will satisfy wine lovers of all persuasions. Their wine tasting room is beautifully rustic, decorated with art work by Lele Galer, providing a nice atmosphere in which to enjoy their wine flights and hors d'oeuvres. Relaxing on their deck, sipping a glass of wine, listening to live music has become a favorite activity for many in the region.

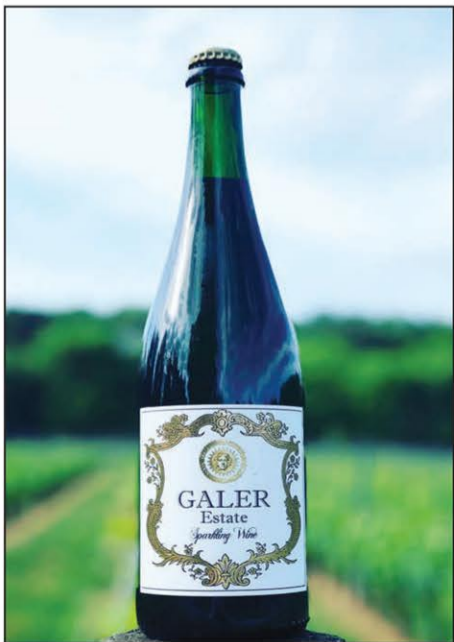
The Brandywine Valley has blossomed with numerous other wineries

over the years. Notable locations include Paradox Vineyards in Landenberg, the beautiful Wayvine Winery and Vineyards in Nottingham, and Va La Vineyards in Avondale, all of which offer delectable vintages for the wine connoisseur. So, if you're on a leisurely drive in the area and want an enjoyable way to spend the afternoon, take a tour on the wine trail which winds its way through the rolling hills of Chester County.

Gene Pisasale is an historian, author and lecturer based in Kennett Square. He has written ten books and conducts an historical lecture series throughout the tri-state area. His latest book is "Forgotten Founding Fathers: Pennsylvania and Delaware in the American Revolution." His books are available on his website at www.GenePisasale.com and on www.Amazon.com. He can be reached at Gene@GenePisasale.com.



Galer Estate Winery in Kennett Square, courtesy of Galer Estate Winery.



Galer Estate Sparkling Wine courtesy of Galer Estate Winery.



Plaque on the Stargazer's Stone near Embreeville.

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