

Quivira Vineyards wines debut in Michigan

Are you aware that as a metro-Detroit wine consumer, you have among the largest possible wine selections available to you? Wine lovers in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York or Chicago do not have bragging rights.

Occasionally, a few brands with small production are unavailable in Michigan. Until now, this was the case with the estate-grown wines from Quivira (pronounced Kee-vee-ah) Vineyard in Sonoma County's Dry Creek Valley.

Just making their introduction are the wines from a winery taking its name from a legendary kingdom of great wealth, believed by early explorers to have been in Northern California, in the area now known as Sonoma County.

Nobody relates the legend better than Quivira Vineyards owner Henry Wendt. "About 1940, the Spanish explorer Coronado on the expedition that discovered the Grand Canyon, befriended a wily Indian who described the extraordinary virtues of his homeland Quivira," he narrates. "Coronado spent the better part of a year searching in vain for the riches of Quivira. Eventually, under tor-


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— Henry Wendt, vineyards owner

ture, the Indian admitted that the story was fabricated.

"EVEN AFTER the confession, the legend of Quivira was in wide circulation in Europe. It remained an enticing mystery for nearly two centuries. To the attraction of a wealthy and civilized people was added the belief that a rich and active trade between China and Quivira existed. The belief stimulated the search for a northwest passage since the citizens of Quivira would certainly provide directions to China."

"The story inspired many explorers of the West Coast of America and was immortalized by all the great cartographers of the Age of Discovery."

The Quivira of today is a 90-acre



focus on wine

Eleanor and Ray Heald

wine estate founded in 1981 by international health care corporate executive Henry Wendt and his wife Holly.

"We are developing a premium wine business from the vineyard up to the bottle on the shelf," Wendt maintains. "The California wine business is evolving toward regional specialization. The Europeans have understood this notion for centuries. In California, regions such as Carneros and Dry Creek Valley will find themselves, with respect to variety, vineyard practice and management. We would like Quivira to be at the vanguard of this trend."

"Quivira wines are a reflection of the estate vineyards that set the tone and distinguish the wines," winemaker Grady Wann contends. "Second, ripe fruit with intensity and depth of varietal flavor is at the core of all Quivira wines. My goal in making these wines is to preserve the depth and character of the fruit."

Wann came to Quivira after six years at Sonoma-Cutrer Winery. At Quivira he is responsible for production of sauvignon blanc, infandel, cabernet sauvignon and a grenache-based wine.

SINCE HE MADE only chardonnay at Sonoma-Cutrer, Wann has spent his spare moments at home fermenting and blending red wines in his garage, conferring and tasting

WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK

1989 Quivira Sauvignon Blanc (\$10) has attractive apple, apple blossom, spice and herbal aromas with a nice touch of flinty, mineral elements in the style of a Pouilly Fume. The clean, crisp, fresh fruit flavors are complementary to oysters, soft shell crabs or grilled white fish.

1989 Quivira Zinfandel (\$12.75) is highlighted by blackberry, black cherry and spicy black pepper aromas. It is generously extracted with a full, complex,

lengthy finish. Serve it with grilled meats for a hit at your next outdoor barbecue.

WINE BULLETIN BOARD

To benefit Meals on Wheels, the London Chop House, in Detroit and the Seagram Classic Wine Co., will sponsor a Champagne Mumm reception and a four-course dinner featuring the wines of Sterling Vineyards at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 21. Cost is \$75 per person (\$40 tax deductible). Phone the Chop for reservations, 982-0277.


Semillon blended into the sauvignon blanc originates in a five-acre plot planted in 1983.

Twelve acres of infandel vines, some dating back to 1983, grace gravelly hillside. About five percent petite sirah is interplanted as a "field blend," creating a unique style.

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