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# Chehalem Mountain Wine Growers Utilize Top Notch Location to Showcase Their Wines

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At the recent trade tasting of the best offerings from members of the Chehalem Mountain Vintner's Association, we were allowed the privilege of drinking a lot of really good wines. The thing that surprised me was how many of the wineries pouring also belong to many other location specific organizations. It finally dawned on me that because of the many locations these wineries source their fruit from for a lot of their vineyard designate specifics and cuvees they will belong to a lot of different appellation organizations. Most of the wineries I have worked for made their wine from estate grown fruit. Nevertheless, it was a great opportunity to meet a few buyers and a lot of winemakers.

**Hawk's View** was the host winery and if you have not visited this facility put it at the top of your "to do" list. Jack Kemp has a beautiful space not to far outside Sherwood, OR. A modern facility; you see the minimalist functionality without feeling the sparseness usually associated with minimalism. There is a comfortable coolness to the entire space.

The food was top notch; a lavish antipasti with grilled vegetables, salumi, prosciutto and fresh mozzarella. A cheese plate that would make the dining room at the Ritz-Carlton envious and some lovely miniature quiches - it was great, with my only complaint being the lack of sparkling water (an accessory I require while tasting wine) and the geology seminar by Mike Hallock of Carabella was interesting.

The amount of Viognier I tasted that was being made in a style white wine drinkers will like was disturbing. I used to sell Viognier as the white wine for red wine drinkers. Now it seems as though a handful of Oregon producers want to make it taste as close to a cross of Chardonnay and Pinot Gris as they possibly can. Another trend I tasted was Riesling that was dry, and that's a good thing, but void of any character representing fruit spice or any other distinguishable flavor.

The Pinot Noirs were above average with some real standouts. Check [Enobytes](#) shortly to see the reviews on some of these wines. While the weather is good do Oregon winemakers and yourselves



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a favor and visit some local wineries. The first inaugural North Willamette wine tour that took place this weekend was a big success, largely due to the concentrated cooperative initiatives this groups leaders committed themselves too. If you did not participate this year, make sure you set the date for next year.

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