

Whitestone Winery

115 N.E. Main St

Wilbur WA 99185

Newsletter #7

June/July 2007

THE THERAPY ISSUE

“AAAAAAAAGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!”

(A Young School Boy)

Greetings from Whitestone Rock and Lake Roosevelt. The vines have sprouted green and another growing year is under way. The warm days find me now splitting more and more of my time between the vineyard and the winery. My farmers tan has a nice start and it looks like I am wearing socks all the time (this latter fact is quite amusing to my wife on the weekends when we go out and I am wearing a pair of Keens and shorts). One would think that my life is perfect, splitting time between working outdoors in a vineyard and indoors in a cellar full of wine, but that is not the case. I have an issue.

I have watched many of the finest psychiatrists from television and the cinema tell patients that they need to vocalize their issues in order to overcome the problem. Dear reader, as you have now started to read this newsletter, and as such, pondering what my issue (plural if talking with my family) is, I shall use your intellectual captivity for my own therapeutic purpose. I have a problem with snakes at work.

In between prairie dog peeking, most cubicle warriors would reassure me that all work environments have those co-workers who seem or are more devious than others. Alas, I have no co-workers. When I write of snakes at work, I write of the literal not figurative. I am very afraid of snakes in all shapes and forms: garden, bull, boots, wallets, and especially RATTLE SNAKES! When I see a snake, I jump, my heart skips a beat, and I utter a phrase that is similar to blessed fecal matter. If said snake happens to be of the *crotalus sistrurus* variety, well dear reader, paint me in knickers, and watch me run. Girl Scout troop 861 ain't got a girl with a set of pipes like mine. One such incident led a vineyard worker to quip about modern laws banning the use of children for labor. Said commentator no longer works for Whitestone. Many people do not know where their phobias come from or originated; my fear and loathing has a genesis, and it was the summer of '94.

The summer of '94 started off full of promise and adventure. I had just graduated from high school, and all that stood before me and escaping the family business was a summer in the vineyard. Those first few weeks were great. We laid drip lines along the young vines, and life was good, yes, life was good. We then covered everything in black plastic to help reduce weed growth...or so the theory goes. By the end of summer, we had weeds and snakes. Why? The plastic tore every time something touched it, meaning every time we mowed *rip* or we went through training the vines *tear*. The vineyard needs to be mowed twice a month and the vines trained once a month, May through August. Count the tears. All that was left were scraps and pieces of black plastic, which formed thousands of warm, moist, dark little caves... Guess what likes those three conditions? Everyday started with the question of, not if, how many snakes would we encounter? And they give PhD's away for ideas like putting black plastic in a vineyard. Summer ended, and that bright young lad left home for school a gray haired man, with a nervous tick and the shakes.

Since the plastic is gone, snakes in the vineyard have become a rare sight. But when we see one that rattles, after decapitation, we have this special recipe:

Rattle* Steak Marinade

**or flank steak if none of the little buggers are in your area*

¼ cup soy sauce

3 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons vinegar
1 ½ teaspoons ginger
1 ½ teaspoons garlic powder
¾ cup oil
1 grated onion

Marinate over night; grill to desired doneness

Dine in the Vines

On July 28th, Whitestone is hosting the first Dine in the Vines. We are opening up our estate vineyard to the public for the first time and hosting a special evening. Visitors will be greeted with appetizers and wine while learning about viticulture and the surrounding area. A full catered filet mignon dinner will be served to attendees while they sample through past, current, and future Whitestone wines. The seven member jazz band *6' Swing* will be providing live music throughout and all guests will receive a special goody bag to commemorate the evening. Tickets are \$95 per person and go on sale June 1; special consideration will be given to wine club members. *This event has limited seating!*

Upcoming Winery Events:

June 2nd Grand opening of the Coeur d'Alene Oil Olive Company's Spokane store, our newest retail partner

June 8th Grape and Grain, a charity wine and beer tasting event in Spokane

June 17th Taste Washington – Spokane

June 30th Compass Wine Shop in Anacortes, Michael will be showcasing Whitestone Wine

July 28th “*Dine in the Vines*”

Your Special Event: I do private tastings and parties, at the winery, vineyard, and at your location.

Weekly Wine Tastings every Friday and Saturday at the tasting room in Wilbur

Bonum vinum laetificat cor hominis

Michael Haig
General Manager/Winemaker

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Perfect Location, Perfect Wine