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Winery Harvests Marechal Foch Grapes; Harvest Moon Wins Gold At Wine Festival

by Michael Stanley
Staff Writer



A small crop of [Delaware](#) grapes are among those growing in the Owen Valley Winery's 3.5- acre vineyard located off of [Timber Ridge Road](#), south of [Spencer](#). (Staff Photo)

Harvest time came this past week for Anthony and Preston Leaderbrand at the family-owned Owen Valley Winery on rural [Timber Ridge Road](#), south of [Spencer](#).

August 28th, the hottest day of the summer for the [Hoosier](#) state, found Leaderbrand and his family harvesting the remaining 70 percent of the vineyard's Marechal Foch crop, but he first tested the grapes' Brix level, or sugar content.

"In the production room we have a style of wine that we're going to create and they always say, 'the wine begins in the vineyard' so we style the wine out here based on the Brix. The Timber Ridge is a 12-percent alcohol wine, so the Brix has to be 21. We basically go through the vineyard to get a measurement for what we're going to harvest."

The 3.5-acre vineyard grows primarily three types of grapes – Traminette, Marechal Foch, and Steuben. Leaderbrand noted that early summer rainfall left its mark on the Steuben crop. Bird damage has made its own impact on the vineyard's Foch grapes, utilized to make the winery's Timber Ridge Red. He said the winery recently received a delivery of additional Foch grapes from fellow Indiana Uplands American Viticultural Area (AVA) member Val Lyn

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Vineyards, allowing the winery to make Timber Ridge Red completely from Indiana Upland grapes in 2013.

“This year has been a rough year for the vineyard,” Leaderbrand said. “[Birds](#) will eat the whole cluster of the Foch, we have entire plants cleaned off.”



The winery's Harvest Moon white wine was a gold medal winner in the 2013 Indy International Wine Competition. The Traminette wine features a combination of delicate floral and lychee. (Staff Photo)

In the tasting room, the winery is again offering up another award-winning wine with Harvest Moon. The Traminette wine's combination of delicate floral and lychee helped it win a gold medal at the 2013 Indy International Wine Competition.

“We are proud to produce a gold medal-winning wine in the Indiana Uplands AVA with the state grape,” Leaderbrand said. We grow Traminette grapes in our vineyard and our Harvest Moon wine is made from Traminette grapes.”

The winery also plays host to many local artist, something Leaderbrand says patrons enjoy on weekends that often include free musical entertainment.

Bottles and Brushes by [Spencer](#) artist Leanna Arnold will be held at the Tivoli Tasting Room in Spencer on Friday, September 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and again on Friday, September 20. The annual Harvest Moon Festival willHowlingbe held at the rural winery on Saturday, October 26, from 12 for noon to 7:00 p.m., featuring music, food and wine.

“Owen Valley Winery is proud to support the arts in our community. We have a wonderful relationship with the Owen County Art Guild where we provide, free of charge, a place to hang members' art and host social events celebrating the artists' work,” he noted. “We also support local musicians and provide them a stage in the vineyard garden where they can play for the wide range of traveling folks visiting the winery.”

The country tasting room at the winery, located at [491 Timber Ridge Road](#), is open Wednesday through Saturday from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. The winery's Tivoli Theatre Tasting Room is also open Wednesday through Saturday from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. at [28 North](#)



Owen Valley Winery employee William Leaderbrand helps harvest the vineyard's Marechal Foch crop. (Staff Photo)



Seated behind the wheel of a golf cart,

[Washington Street.](#)

Anthony Leaderbrand of Owen Valley Winery utilizes a Brix scale to measure the sugar content of the vineyard's Marechal Foch crop prior to harvesting the grapes, which will be used to make the winery's Timber Ridge Red. (Staff Photo)

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