

NEWS SPRING • 2008

Spring has finally arrived in the Yakima Valley. The wind machines and smudge pots have been going nightly this past week. We've seen some record low temperatures affecting some of our tree fruit, but no grape damage. To watch our weather go to www.weather.wsu.edu. There you can get all the latest statistics. Data provided courtesy of Washington State University AgWeatherNet. *Data are copyright of Washington State University.*

Harvest last fall was fast and furious! Everything ripened so close together. We were done shipping by October 25th! The 2007 harvest in Washington State totaled 127,000 tons – up six percent from 2006 and 15 percent from 2005. Chardonnay was the top variety grown at 26,700 tons for 21 percent of total production. We are already hearing that Chardonnay will be in shorter supply in 2008. Ranked 2nd was Riesling at 26,000 tons or 20 percent. In 3rd was Cabernet Sauvignon with 21,800 tons or 17 percent. It is not too early to place your orders



especially for Riesling, Gewurztraminer, Viognier, Pinot Gris and Chardonnay. We are already starting to lock in our contracts.

We tried something new last year – we shipped some red grapes as “must”. The grapes were crushed directly into a tote and loaded into a refrigerated truck. They were able to soak as they traveled across the country. This allowed us to pick the grapes by machine during the cooler night and morning hours. The labor shortage has made it difficult to get crews together and in the vineyard at the optimum harvest time. You might consider this for your red grapes in 2008!

Quality wine starts with quality fruit. We pride ourselves in delivering superior products and responding rapidly to customers' needs.

We look forward to serving you in 2008!

Award winning wines are being made with grapes supplied by GD Williams Company. Listed are a sampling of those honored:

Beachaven Winery, Clarksville, TN

Chardonnay - Silver Medal - Indy International 2007 & Silver Medal - Wines of the South 2007

Cabernet Sauvignon - Silver Medal - Indy International 2007 & Bronze Medal - Wines of the South 2007

Syrah- Double GOLD Medal - Florida State Fair International 2006

Chateau Thomas Winery, Plainfield, Indiana

2006 Dry Riesling Yakima Valley, Washington - Double Gold 2007 Tasters Guild International Wine Judging