

Vineyard opens winery

Cambria, Minn. — Wine connoisseurs alert: Morgan Creek Vineyards opened its winery and offered its first vintages in May. Owners Georg and Paula Marti have produced about 2,000 gallons of French, German and American-style wines from their one-acre vineyard near New Ulm.

The state's newest vineyard is already the fourth largest grape winery in the state. The Martis offer five distinct wines: Redtail Ridge, a semi-dry red, and Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Delaware and Morgan Creek Myst, all white wines.

Minnesota has a good climate for grapes — the Minnesota Grape Growers Association estimates the state's commercial vineyards cover 100 acres. But harsh winters have slowed the development of a commercial grape industry and make for extra work for growers. Every fall the Martis and their four children pull vines off the trellises and bury them to prevent damage from winter cold.

Extra work hasn't deterred them from realizing their dream, however. "We've worked six years for this opening," Paula says. "It's very exciting, and yet feels so familiar because we've imagined the winery in our minds for a long time."

For more information, write to Morgan Creek Vineyards, Rt. 2 Box 214A, New Ulm, MN 56073 or email to: martiMCV@AOL.com.



Photo by Dan Lemke

Georg and Paula Marti (front and center) celebrate the grand opening of their rural New Ulm winery with a ribbon cutting and wine tasting attended by hundreds.

Courtesy of AURI.org

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