

# news in brief

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has granted \$7.2 million to the **National Grape & Wine Industry (NGWI)**. Spurred by three consecutive years of drought in California (2007-'09), the grant funds a five-year research project aimed at finding solutions for grape growers facing dwindling water supplies and increasing salinity. Wine companies, including J. Lohr and E&J Gallo, will provide further funding.

**The Wente family**, the fifth-generation owners of the Livermore Valley winery, has been awarded the **2010 Lifetime Achievement Award** by The California Exposition and State Fair for its contributions to the advancement of California's wine industry.



**David Beckstoffer** is the new president of the **Napa Valley Grape-growers Association**. Beckstoffer is president of Beckstoffer Vine-

yards; the firm cultivates more than 3,000 acres of vineyards in Napa, Mendocino and Lake counties. 🍷

**Larry Stone** has left Rubicon Estate to become the president of **Evening Land Vineyards**, a California-based winery focused on chardonnay and pinot noir from vineyards in Oregon's Willamette Valley, the Sonoma Coast and the Santa Rita Hills.

**Hugh Chappelle** has left Lynmar Estate to assume winemaking responsibilities at **Qui-vira Vineyards** in Dry Creek Valley.

**Richard Arrowood** has left Arrowood Vineyards & Winery, the company he started in the late 1980s and sold to the Robert Mondavi Corporation in 2000, to focus on **Amapola Creek**, the Sonoma County winery he founded in 2007. **Heidi von der Mehden** takes over as head winemaker at Arrowood, now owned by Jackson Family Wines.



**Gary Sitton** has joined **Clos du Bois** in Sonoma County as director of winemaking. He will also continue to work on Blackstone until a replacement is named.

**Brandon Lapedes** is now winemaker at **Armida** in Healdsburg, moving from Dut-ton-Goldfield.

**Lincourt** in Santa Barbara County has hired **Leslie Mead-Renaud** as head winemaker. She had been winemaker at Talley Vineyards since 2007.

**Jordan Fiorentini**, former director of wine-making at Chalk Hill Estate in Sonoma County, has been named winemaker at **Epoch Estate Wines** in Paso Robles.



**Stephanie Putnam**, formerly winemaker at Far Niente Winery, has joined **Raymond Vineyards**, the Napa Valley winery recently acquired by Boisset USA.

**Owen Smith**, formerly of Toasted Head in California's Dunnigan Hills, is now director of winemaking for **Weibel Family Vineyards and Winery** in Mendocino County.

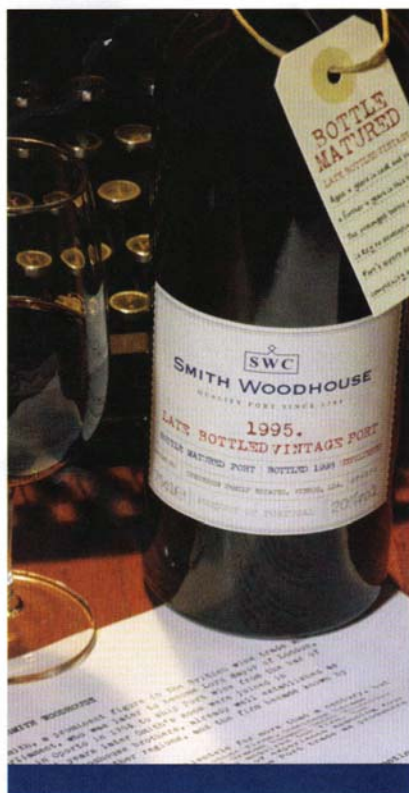
**Jerry D. Murray** has left Patton Valley Vineyard to head the winemaking program at **Van Duzer Vineyards** in the Willamette Valley. **Derek Einberger** is now winemaker and vineyard manager at **Patton Valley**.

**Linda Trotta**, winemaker at Gundlach Bundschu in Sonoma since 1989, has moved to Washington to make wine at **Swiftwater Cellars** at the Suncadia Resort.

**Celia Welch**, winemaker at Corra and consulting winemaker at Scarecrow and Hollywood and Vine, adds **Barbour Vineyard Wines** to her roster in Napa Valley.

**Bedell Cellars**, on Long Island's North Fork, has appointed **Richard Olsen-Harbich** as winemaker.

The **Institut National des Appellations d'Origine (INAO)** approved four new AOCs in July. In Burgundy, Coteaux Bourguignons will replace Bourgogne Grand Ordinaire and Bourgogne Côte d'Or. In the Rhône Valley, the Coteaux de Tricastin will change its name to Grignan-Les Adhémar, distancing itself from the Tricastin nuclear power plant, and Rasteau has been amended to include dry reds as well as fortified wines.



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