



# The VWA Vine

Summer 2024

## *Sip into Summer Tasting Pass*

Enjoy the season with the Sip into Summer

Tasting Pass, a mobile pass granting access to exclusive flights across Virginia's wine country selected for summertime sipping. Purchasing the pass unlocks a pass to explore a variety of wineries in the region of your choosing. From light and bright whites, to sparklings, rosés and ciders, your Sip into Summer awaits.

Click [HERE](#) to get your pass!

## *Who's My Legislator?*

The Who's My Legislator? service is an online tool where the public at-large can determine which legislators represent them. Just enter your home address or use map based navigation to see your Virginia House and Senate representatives, as well as those in the U.S. House and Senate.

Please click [HERE](#) to locate your representatives.

Reference materials and fact sheets will be provided this summer to assist with educating legislators on the impact of our industry!

## *Save the Date - VWA Annual Meeting & Conference!* *(Agenda & Registration Information Available Soon)*



*"Nine years ago we purchased Cooper Vineyards, ten years ago we planted our vineyard in the Monticello AVA. It has been a lot of hard work building upon what the owners of Cooper Vineyards aspired to. We*

*are thrilled to be part of the journey of the Virginia Wine Industry. I am dating myself, but working in this industry reminds me of the song from the late Tom Petty, "I Won't Back Down".*

*Dave Drillock, Owner, Fifty-Third Winery & Vineyard*



25 Years of Growing...Congratulations to Cooper and **Fifty-Third Winery & Vineyard** on commemorating a quarter-century of growing along with the Virginia Wine Industry!

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Charlottesville, Albemarle, and the Monticello American Viticultural Area have been at the epicenter of Virginia's recent viticultural expansion, even landing Wine Enthusiast's coveted "Wine Region of the Year" accolade at the end of 2023—a distinction that saw this relatively new wine region eclipse centuries-old winemaking destinations like Provence, France, and Lambrusco, Italy. Women are increasingly leading the way in the Charlottesville area's recent wine renaissance, helping shape an innovative, collaborative, and diverse future.

Check out **THIS VIDEO** from **The Local Palate** magazine!

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**New Study Reveals How and Why Consumer Drinking Habits Have Changed Since the Covid-19 Pandemic**  
by Oomiji

Click **HERE** to read the article and **HERE** to download the full survey report.

#### **Preferred Partner Member Highlight:**

**Waterloo Container** is a family-owned business started in 1980 by Norm and Bill Lutz to support the burgeoning wine industry on the East Coast. Today, they offer an extensive selection of glass wine and spirits bottles, most of which are manufactured right here in the United States. They also stock and source many imported wine, spirit, and specialty bottles. They offer a personalized packaging program that includes helpful and brand-building services like eight color UV ink glass printing and high-speed shrink sleeving. In-house repack services allow them to customize your packaging your way! We are excited to grow our relationships with members of the VWA.

*New Customers: 5% off glass / 10% off closures*

*Existing customers: Try a new product and get 5% off your first order of that product*

Questions? Contact George Hall (315) 539-3922 or **contactus@waterloocontainer.com**

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#### **Breaux Vineyards Welcomes A New Winemaker!**

Adam Gorgos was raised in Fairfax county and is coming back home to his Virginia roots. After interning at a few Middleburg wineries followed by a decade of winemaking outside of Virginia, Adam is,



*"thrilled to be back and ready to put my efforts and energy into getting to know my VA colleagues and making premium Virginia wines."*

Adam is newly married and in addition to his passion for wines, he is looking forward to the hiking trails NoVa and western VA offer.



## 2025 Governor's Cup Important Dates

Submission Window: October 28-November 22, 2024

Preliminary Judging: January 12-14, 2025

Final Judging: January 26-28, 2025

Governor's Cup Gala: March 13, 2025

More information to come!

### VWA Upcoming Events:



*July 23, 2024: VWA Education Committee Meeting, 10am, via Zoom*

Join a Committee!

*July 24, 2024: VWA Board Meeting, James River Cellars Winery, Glen Allen*

*October 16, 2024: VWA Board Meeting, 10am-12 noon, via Zoom*

*November 11-12, 2024: VWA Annual Meeting & Conference, Omni Charlottesville*

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VWA Job Bank - Post Your Open Positions!

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Afton Mountain Vineyards Welcomes New Owners



*"We put so much blood, sweat and tears into the winery focusing on wine quality and creating the caliber of wine experience that consumers want so we were so happy to find buyers like Brad and Yelena that share our commitment to sustainability and customer-focus." - Elizabeth Smith*

Thanks for all of your contributions to the industry, Tony & Elizabeth Smith.

Welcome, Brad and Yelena Dickerson!

Click [HERE](#) for an article by Frank Morgan.

The Virginia Wineries Association is one of the newest members of the Wine Origins Alliance!  
Learn more, click [HERE](#).

**SEND US YOUR NEWS!** We're always interested in hearing updates from our members: New staff, new programs, recent news, community service projects, awards, etc.  
Photos are encouraged!

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*Follow VWA on social:*



Virginia Wineries Association | 250 West Main Street | Charlottesville, VA 22902 US

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