



PRODUCERS OF FINE MISSOURI WINES
ESTABLISHED 1847

THE HELD FAMILY
PROPRIETORS

Stone Hill Winery

& RESTAURANT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Stone Hill's Cross J Vineyard Norton Captures Governor's Cup

(HERMANN, Mo.)—For the sixth time in the award's 16-year history, Stone Hill Winery has claimed the Governor's Cup at the Missouri Wine Competition, and they've done so with a true native American grape variety, which just happens to be Missouri's official state grape.

Presented each year to the Missouri vintner who wins "Best of Show" at the Missouri Wine Competition, the Governor's Cup is the state's most coveted wine award. Stone Hill Winery's 2007 Cross J Vineyard Norton captured the cup after winning "Best Dry Red Wine" at the State Fair and then defeating 11 other "Best of Class" wines eligible for the honor. Stone Hill Winery has won five previous Governor's Cups, including Late Harvest Vignoles in 1994 and again in 1999; Port in both 2001 and 2003 and Norton in 2002.

"I'm really happy it was our Cross J Vineyard Norton that won," says winery owner Jim Held. "That's my personal vineyard, and I've put a lot of work into it over the past several years. It's rewarding to know that all of our efforts, especially those of my son Jon, who has put a lot of time and attention into the soil management, has paid off in such a big way." Jon Held is the General Manager of Stone Hill Winery and oversees the winemaking and vineyard production teams.

Stone Hill's premier wine, the 2007 Cross J Vineyard Norton is a single-vineyard Norton produced from 100 percent estate-grown Norton grapes from the Cross J Vineyard. This small vineyard surrounds winery owners Jim and Betty Held's home on a stunning hilltop overlooking the Missouri River. The goal with this vineyard was simple: to produce the finest wine possible.

"They say every cloud has a silver lining," says Senior Winemaker Dave Johnson. "The disastrous spring frost of 2007 resulted in a very small crop of Norton grapes from our Cross J Vineyard. The few grapes we harvested, however, were very ripe and loaded with plush Norton fruit character. After aging in new oak barrels, the 2007 Cross J Norton shows vibrant fruit with delightful toasty oak overtones. I only wish we had more of it."

Stone Hill Winery captured the most awards at the 2009 Missouri Wine Competition with a total of 35, including the Governor's Cup and Best Dry Red Wine for 2007 Cross J Vineyard Norton; Best Sweet White Wine for 2008 Vignoles; and Best Late Harvest/Ice Wine for 2008 Late Harvest Vignoles. Additionally, Stone Hill won 13 gold medals, 14 silver medals and four bronze medals.

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