

WINE

Laurel Ridge is first American winery to medal at prestigious international wine competition

Updated: Aug. 11, 2023, 12:26 p.m. | Published: Aug. 11, 2023, 12:15 p.m.



Chasselas award

By **Michael Alberty | For The Oregonian/OregonLive**

Laurel Ridge Winery recently accomplished what no other American winery has before – win a medal at the Mondial du Chasselas competition in Switzerland. Susan Teppola, Laurel Ridge's owner and co-founder, said the unexpected silver medal “left me in tears.”

The news that Laurel Ridge's 2022 Chasselas Doré had struck silver was announced by the competition's organizers in late June at the Château d'Aigle in the Swiss canton of Vaud. Claude-Alain Mayor, the secretary general for the Association for the Promotion of Chasselas (APC), confirmed that Laurel Ridge is the first American winery to medal at the competition.

The APC started the competition in 2012 to showcase the quality of wines made with chasselas, Switzerland's most widely planted white grape variety. The wines are blind-

Approximately 9,000 wines have competed in the Mondial du Chasselas over the years, with the vast majority coming from Swiss producers. At the 2023 Mondial du Chasselas, Laurel Ridge's entry joined 739 other wines from Switzerland, Germany, France, Canada, England and the United States. Laurel Ridge was one of only two non-Swiss wineries to win a silver or gold medal in 2023.

For Laurel Ridge to succeed at this level of competition is impressive. In 2017, [Dennis Lapuyade](#), a writer based in Geneva, Switzerland, referred to the Mondial as the "Super Bowl of Chasselas," noting that "sporting analogies are particularly apropos" when upsets are involved. Laurel Ridge's 2023 silver medal definitely qualifies.

If you aren't familiar with [chasselas](#), don't worry. Even though the grape has been around for centuries, and more than 93,000 acres of vines are planted globally, it isn't exactly a household name outside of its ancestral Swiss home.

One tiny parcel of the world's chasselas acres was planted by the late David Teppola, Laurel Ridge's co-founder, at his Carlton, Oregon, farm in 1980. According to Teppola's wife, Susan, the cuttings came from [Charles Coury's](#) historic Forest Grove property that is now home to [David Hill Vineyards & Winery](#).

Advertisement

As a historical side note, there is evidence of German and Swedish settlers growing chasselas grapes, often described using its synonyms of sweetwater and Chasselas de Fontainebleau, on Forest Grove hillside slopes as far back as the late 1800s.

Today, Laurel Ridge's 43-year old chasselas vines are struggling. The single acre of own-rooted vines planted on Finn Hill is succumbing to grape phylloxera, the tiny aphid-like insect that stunts growth and sometimes kills vines by feeding on their roots.

Teppola estimated phylloxera has cut the number of producing chasselas vines in her vineyard by 50%. In 2022 that was enough fruit to make just 40 cases and nine bottles of the wine that nabbed Swiss silver.

The good news is that Teppola has been securing chasselas cuttings in a nursery. Lucas Robbins, who leads the winemaking team at Laurel Ridge, said they would plant enough vines this fall to boost the chasselas acreage up to approximately two acres.

Advertisement

This is excellent news for everyone who enjoys quenching their thirst with chasselas, the dry versions of which can be as graceful on their feet as Mikhail Baryshnikov in his prime.

The other night, I was fortunate enough to drink a glass of the hard-to-come-by 2022 Laurel Ridge Chasselas Doré (\$45 – 12.7%). It is an acidity-driven beauty with a crisp texture, aromas and flavors of tangy tropical fruit, German chamomile and the peachy qualities of plumeria flowers. I highly recommend tracking a bottle down before it disappears.

The Laurel Ridge team made a wine that holds its own with the best examples of chasselas in the world. Their international success also trains a spotlight on a grape that traces its vine roots back to the earliest days of the Willamette Valley's wine history.

That deserves a toast – with a glass of chasselas.

11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, 13301 N.E. Kuehne Road, Carlton, [laurelridgewinery.com](https://www.laurelridgewinery.com) or 503-852-7050.

-- Michael Alberty writes about wine for The Oregonian/OregonLive and Wine Enthusiast Magazine. He can be reached at m.alberty@gmail.com. To read more of his

Laurel Ridge is first American winery to medal at prestigious internatio... <https://www.oregonlive.com/wine/2023/08/laurel-ridge-is-first-america...>
Enthusiast Magazine. He can be reached at maibertyo@gmail.com. To read more of his
coverage, go to [oregonlive.com/wine](https://www.oregonlive.com/wine)

Advertisement

If you purchase a product or register for an account through one of the links on our site, we may receive compensation. By browsing this site, we may share your information with our social media partners in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#).



▼ About Us

[Our Journalists](#)

[About OregonLive.com](#)

[Contact The Newsroom](#)

[Technical Support](#)

[Search Our Archives](#)

[Advertise With Us](#)

[Subscribe to The Oregonian](#)

[Subscriber Services](#)

[Digital Subscription FAQ](#)

[Delivery Opportunities](#)

▼ Subscriptions

[The Oregonian](#)

[eNewspaper](#)

[Email Newsletters](#)

▼ Already a Subscriber

[Manage your Subscription](#)

[Place a Vacation Hold](#)

[Make a Payment](#)

[Delivery Feedback](#)

▼ Read More Top News

[Today's Top News](#)

[Politics](#)

[Crime](#)

[Business](#)

[Commuting](#)

[Weather](#)

[Education](#)

[Coronavirus News Home](#)

[Homes & Gardens](#)

[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Video](#)

[Environment](#)

[Tom Hallman](#)

[Special Sections](#)

[Here is Oregon](#)

[Sports](#)

[High School Sports](#)

[Ducks](#)

[Beavers](#)

[Trail Blazers](#)

[Timbers](#)

[Thorns](#)

[Recruiting News](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Travel](#)

[TV & Movies](#)

[Eat, Drink, Cook](#)

[Comics](#)

[Archives](#)

▼ Your Regional News Pages

[Portland](#)

[Washington County](#)

[Clackamas County](#)

[Clark County](#)

[Pacific Northwest](#)

▼ Follow Us

[Email Newsletters](#)

[News on Alexa or Google Home](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[RSS](#)

▼ Mobile

[iPhone, Android apps](#)

[Tablet apps](#)

▼ More on OregonLive.com

[Autos](#)

[Rentals](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Real Estate](#)

[Business Shopping](#)

[Post a Classified Ad](#)

[Sponsor Content](#)

[Sell Your Car](#)

[Sell/Rent Your Home](#)

[Post a Job](#)

ADVANCELOCAL

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) (updated 4/4/2023), [Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement](#), and [Your Privacy Choices and Rights](#) (updated 7/1/2023).

Cookies Settings



© 2023 Advance Local Media LLC. All rights reserved ([About Us](#)).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Advance Local.

[Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

YouTube's privacy policy is available [here](#) and YouTube's terms of service is available [here](#).

[Ad Choices](#)